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OPINION

Michael Phelps Deserves an Apology

It's good to see that even in the harshest of days, we can still find the time to berate others for actions that aren't any of our business. Wars, the economy, political unrest can all step aside. After all, how much can we fret about trillions of dollars in new government spending?

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A Conflict Continued

I was a little surprised to read all the criticism coming out against Israel in the last issue of the Statesman that was written in response to the January 26 opinion piece, "The Truth About Gaza." Kevin Young's response to Josh Glazer's original article mentions that casualties in the latest Gaza offensive are on the order of 100 Palestinian to every Israeli killed. To this I must respond; is there any ratio of casualties that becomes acceptable? Should we institute some international global standard to ensure that enemies are only killed in a 1:1 ratio to maintain fairness, and that all other conflicts be labeled "illegal"?

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Accounting for the Obama Administration

This week, the Obama administration faced two withdrawals from potential appointments; former Senator Tom Daschle from his nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services and Nancy Killefer from her nomination to be the chief White House performance officer. Both candidates cited tax related issues having brought about their withdrawals from nomination.

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Some student parking spots near Roth Quad have been converted to full-time faculty spots.

Samantha Burkardt / SB Statesman

Fewer Parking Spaces Leave Roth Residents Circling

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last semester, Roth Quad residents in Gershwin College had the comfort of knowing they would find a parking spot, but this semester, spaces were taken away and made into 24-hour faculty parking. Now students are having trouble sticking to the rules.

"The entire fall semester I never had trouble finding a parking spot," a 21-year-old Roth Quad resident majoring in humanities said. "But now as a student who lives on campus and is here most of the week, including weekends, I can't park in spaces that are open on the side strip because it's all faculty parking."

This student, a senior, requested to remain anonymous because she works in Roth Quad.

"If they could make it staff parking, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, like they have with resident parking, that would be much better," she continued.

Other students wouldn't mind to compromise with the time slots for parking.

"It is much more practical since residents typically spend more time on the school grounds than faculty," said Maria Nortesano, a senior and nursing major.

James O'Connor, director of Transportation and Parking Operations said, "Faculty, staff, and graduate students have described their research hours and their evening requirements to be near Computer Science, Life Sciences and CMM (Centers for Molecular Medicine). Their needs from their perspective were that they did need 24-hour parking because they work late hours and that was one of the main reasons

Continued on page 4

A Man and His Seaweed

By CAROL TANG
Contributing Writer

From a 7-foot wardrobe of folders upon folders stacked neatly in rows, 5-foot-tall Larry B. Liddle, 72, delicately removes an art portfolio filled with pressed specimen pieces from his herbarium collection. What a sculptor is to clay, Liddle is to seaweed.

For more than 40 years, Liddle has been researching, collecting and pressing a variety of seaweed specimens, turning a 3-D natural phenomenon into a flat work of art. Each piece is an explosion of colors, ranging from light pink to dark brown. Depending on the viewer, each piece is a new image every time.

"People see different things in them," Liddle said. And then he revealed another folder, filled with purple pom-poms, poinsettias, tree branches and dancing leaves.

When Leonard Barton, the director of the Bravura Arts and Objects Gallery in Southampton, first came to Liddle with the idea of a herbarium exhibit, Liddle thought, "This is ridiculous."

"I'm not an artist," he said. But as Liddle started gathering seaweed knee-deep in Montauk waters, he was inspired to present the seaweed specimens in a unique way, arranging them as

they would appear in the ocean and incorporating his own interpretation of nature.

"He has a propensity to prepare them in the most beautiful designs I've ever seen," said Christopher Gobler, a former colleague who taught a marine biology course with Liddle in 2004 in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Liddle's collection, a fusion of art and science on white matboards, was the highlight of an exhibit, displayed alongside other 19th and 20th century seaweed illustrations and objects in seaweed motifs. He sold 40 pieces at up to \$150, and former colleagues and students came from near and far to attend the opening night of his exhibit last year.

"I think that speaks volumes for the affection that Larry's former students hold for him," said Steven Tettelbach, Liddle's colleague who is currently a biology professor at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University.

But Liddle says he will not do another show.



Media credit: Larry B. Liddle

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New Staller Center Discounts Hope to Draw In More Students

By ANNIE FRIEDMAN
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 1 the Staller Center implemented a new discount that allows Stony Brook University students to purchase two tickets at half price on the first of the month for performances occurring during that month.

Faculty, staff and alumni also receive \$3 off each full-price ticket with their Stony Brook ID at the box office.

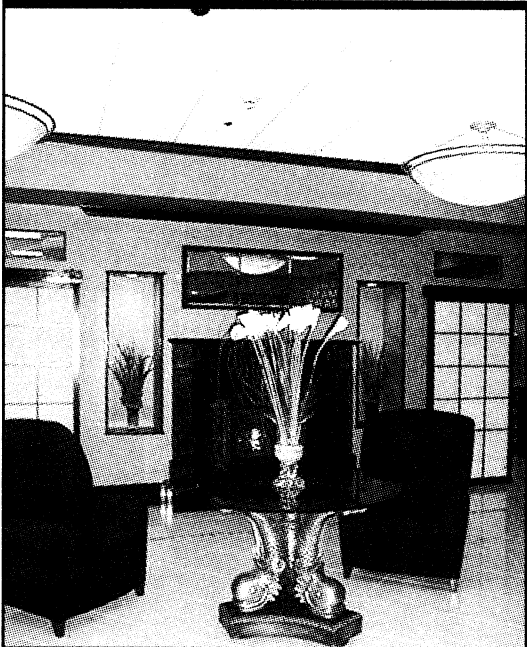
Previously students, faculty, staff and alumni were only allowed a discount on one ticket, according to Julie Rulon Greene, the coordinator of marketing and public relations for the Staller Center. Students also had to bring their friend with them to the box office to get the student discount in order to purchase tickets.

The discount is part of an ongoing effort to get students to come see a show and spark their interest in the arts, Alan Inkles said, director of the Staller Center for the Arts.

"We want students to take advantage of the arts center and not

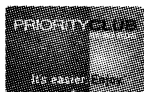
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A Man and His Seaweed

Continued from pg 1

"It got to be too intense," said Liddle. He spent several hours individually spreading each hair, being extremely careful to finish before the seaweed deteriorated to prevent the piece from molding.

Liddle received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1964. And it was his experience in graduate school and one summer course at Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution that inspired him to enter the field of marine botany, which was relatively unexplored at the time.

"One good experience can change your life," he said.

Liddle has now retired from Southampton College, Long Island University -- now Stony Brook Southampton -- after 30 years as a biology and marine science professor. Liddle helped design the newly renovated Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook Southampton.

But retirement can't keep Liddle from his passion. He has joined

the Prince of Songkla's University in Thailand as a visiting professor. "I live on campus," he said. "And I have a bicycle."

Liddle, a former president of the American Phycological Association -- phycology is the study of algae -- has accumulated a vast net of knowledge and experience that, along with his dry sense of humor, he brings to the classroom.

"He introduced us to a new field many of us didn't appreciate at first," said Mario Sengco, one of Liddle's former students who graduated in 1994 and became a marine ecologist. "We never thought there were so many different kinds of algae."

Sengco, who has a seaweed collection of his own, is also a researcher for the Smithsonian Institution, studying red tide. Red tide is caused by an excessive amount of algae in the water that causes the production of harmful toxins.

"Larry encouraged me to be the best that I can be and pursue a career in research," Sengco said. "We transitioned from student to mentor to being friends."

Brian Wysor, who graduated in 1996 and whom Liddle calls his

"little clone," as he teaches almost exactly the same classes Liddle taught, is now an assistant professor of biology at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

"He's an inspiration and a good friend, but I would say I was not a unique recipient of his encouragement," Wysor said. "Many other students would not have been turned onto seaweed if not for Larry."

Wysor, who will receive Liddle's entire herbarium collection this year, said he still gives his students the same advice on what he calls "Liddle life lessons."



Media Credit: Larry Liddle

POLICE BLOTTER (Week of Feb. 1)

Criminal Mischief

Report of windshield damaged in indoor sports complex lot

Larceny

Report of larceny theft of ID card in the student center

Marijuana

The smell of marijuana was found in Dewey College

The smell of marijuana was found in Eisenhower College

Aggravated Harassment

Threat received via cell phone in Dewey College

Harassing phone calls via dorm phone in West Apts.

New Staller Center Discounts Hope to Draw In More Students

Continued from pg 1

graduate without experiencing it," Inkles said.

During the fall of 2007, the Staller Center started the "First On Us" offer, which allows freshmen and transfer students to receive a free ticket to any performance listed in the season brochure.

Inkles said for each performance, a certain amount of tickets are put aside for the offer, but students rarely take advantage of the complimentary tickets.

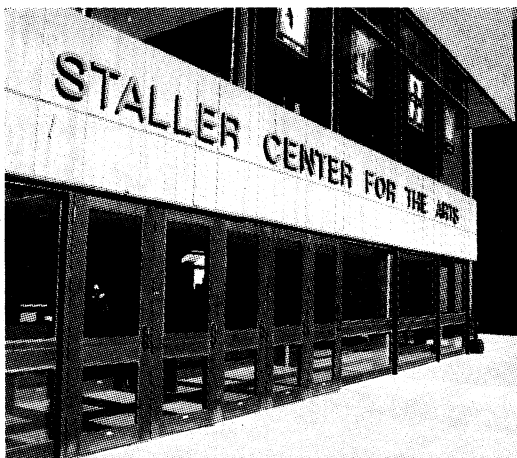
"About 250 'First On Us' tickets have been given out so far, which means 250 of the eligible freshman and transfer class of over 3,000 have taken advantage of the deal," Inkles said.

"While it's 10 percent and we are thrilled that they have taken advantage of it, there are still 90 percent of our freshman and transfer class that have not taken advantage of their free ticket," he said.

Each summer, the Staller Center hosts the Stony Brook Film Festival, which brings directors, actors and actresses together to meet with fans after movie screenings.

The Staller Center began offering movies after President Shirley Strum Kenny and Max Staller -- the center is named after Staller and his wife, Mary -- met to talk about how to keep students around on the weekends.

The Staller Center shows movies and live performances that aren't necessarily offered at local movie theaters and arenas.



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

"It's great to be able to see movies at a low price that aren't offered at most theatres," said Julia Donnelly, a sophomore.

As the efforts to draw students to the Staller Center develops, it will be easier for students to see shows, Inkles said, who acknowledges

the discounts in the end do cost the center money.

"There's nothing like hearing students applaud and laugh because we know they're going to come back," Inkles said. "And if we can't invest in our students, who can we invest in?"

For more information about the events at the Staller Center, visit www.stallercenter.com or stop by the Staller Center for more information.

Website Pays Students for Good Grades

By ERIKA KARP
Staff Writer

With tuition and the overall cost of living on the rise, many students are searching for new ways to make some extra money. GradeFund.com is a website that allows for students to get their hands on some cash. The only catch: get good grades.

"Our goal is to be the most important resource for students across the world to get a great education," GradeFund's mission statement said on its website. "We want students to have a friend who works tirelessly to help make a great education more affordable and more accessible."

Launched in early November by brothers Michael and Matthew Kopko, the site enables students to make profiles where they can upload their grades, send in transcripts and invite friends, family or even strangers to sponsor them. Sponsors can support a student or a specific cause and decide how much each grade is worth for as low as five dollars. Corporations can also sponsor students.

According to the GradeFund team, one of the biggest sponsorships is for pre-veterinarian students, from ZooToo.com. ZooToo is a networking site for pet lovers.

By just making a profile students can earn money. For each piece of information a student fills out they make ten cents, which becomes their seed fund. The site does, however, require students to earn at least \$100 before they are issued checks. In addition

there is a 5 percent transaction fee, which is to "cover our own costs and to offset credit card fees charged to us," the web site said.

"The website does seem to be a great idea," Justin Brunot said, a student at Penn State who joined GradeFund a few weeks ago after seeing it advertised in an e-mail from the alcohol education program he was required to take. He said he has yet had the time to find sponsors but does plan on doing so in the future.

By changing Facebook profile pictures to a picture provided by GradeFund, members and fans on Facebook were eligible for 10,000 pennies giveaway as part of GradeFund's January promotion advertised on their Facebook fan page.

"I basically just joined in time to take part in the 10,000 pennies contest GradeFund held on Facebook and happened to be the lucky one to win it," continued Brunot.

The site's popularity is constantly on the rise due to resources like Facebook. As of Monday, Feb. 2, 13,968 students and 510 sponsors were registered on the web site, according to the GradeFund team. The following day the website's ticker reported over 14,000 students signed up.

As the site continues to grow there are a few things that GradeFund plans to do. According to the site, they are working on a search engine that allows students to search for each other as a way to further ones earnings. They also plan on having a job platform that will help continue ones success after they graduate from college.

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NEWS

Fewer Parking Spaces Leave Roth Residents Circling

Continued from pg 1

why it was zoned for 24-hour use."

O'Connor also mentioned that according to the parking pass purchases that were made, there were enough parking spaces that were left over to make parking for faculty. He said there are about 170 spaces available to buy and the number of passes that were purchased was well under 170.

Another reason why this section was changed to 24-hour faculty parking was to increase the number of parking lots that are in the surrounding areas. Parking Services is also trying to be environmentally conscious.

Not only do the students have to worry about those spots that were revoked, but

they also have the trouble of dealing with other students that have not bought parking passes who park illegally.

"You actually have to fight for spaces. We have to now park illegally and risk getting ticketed because of what other students are doing," said the anonymous senior. "We feel stuck."

O'Connor said Parking Services is conscious that students are not buying the parking hang tags and that the efforts have increased to make students stop parking illicitly. If students were to buy hang tags instead of trying to get out of paying the parking fee, those who work at Parking Services would have a better understanding of how many cars are on campus and where they can and cannot change certain zoning areas.

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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Michael Phelps Deserves an Apology

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

It's good to see that even in the harshest of days, we can still find the time to berate others for actions that aren't any of our business. Wars, the economy, political unrest can all step aside. After all, how much can we fret about trillions of dollars in new government spending?

Cultural news is interesting and important, but there are rational limitations. The recent report and photographic proof of Michael Phelps smoking marijuana is one of the most ridiculously blown out of proportion stories in recent years. The guy wanted to relax after putting his body through months of rigorous training and exercise and smashing all expectation by winning 14 gold medals in the summer Olympics. Can you blame him?

People forget about the DUI he received several years ago. He apologized and the issue went away after a probationary period. Now there is talk that he might lose his endorsements. One has to wonder how his newfound fame would suffer if he was caught driving drunk again. Would the punishment and public outcry be as harsh?

Phelps has done nothing wrong. This whole talk about him being morally mislead and setting a poor example is nonsense. The man's job is to swim and win, not to be the standard-bearer for ethical behavior in this country. Who are we to judge what the man does in his spare time? Choosing to apply this high ethical standard would make hypocrites out of many of us; reports show that 42% of American adults have used marijuana at least once. Three elected presidents, supreme court justices, numerous successful businessmen, artists and professionals have admitted to smoking marijuana, but we can still seem to justify berating a tired, young, successful athlete, who has been declared an American hero, for experimenting.

"Moralists" claim that his job is to set an example, particularly for children who aspire to the level of greatness and grandeur as Phelps. Outraged parents shout, "I don't want my son and daughter to grow up being a pot head!" Of course, because whatever star athletes do, your kids must also. If Mr. Phelps marries an Irish woman, does that mean that all your swimming sons must marry only women from the emerald isle? What if he becomes a vegan,

or decides to go on vacation to New Zealand? Does that mean that you and your children must follow his exact steps in order to emulate his swimming greatness?

Granted, the companies endorsing him do have cause to end their contracts if they wish, if it's written that this kind of behavior can terminate their deals. It's ridiculous that they would but if it's in ink, then it's their right and responsibility to appease their customers. Phelps can pander to them all he wants, but it likely won't alter their entrenched views of morality and marijuana and what they think athletes should be versus who they are.

There's so much wrong with "mainstream" America's addiction to attacking marijuana that there's not enough space in this issue to give a truly detailed argument. Regardless of what you think about the plant, the fact is that everything that Michael Phelps

does shouldn't affect public perception about him. It'd be one thing if he murdered, stole, or broke a law that actually hurt someone, but smoking a plant that has questionable negative effects - and certainly less than many other legal drugs - shouldn't be what first comes to mind when we think of someone so accomplished. It is Michael Phelps who is owed an apology from the American public, and not the other way around.



Michael Phelps
Media Credit: LA Times

A Conflict Continued Understanding Israel's Actions in Gaza

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

I was a little surprised to read all the criticism coming out against Israel in the last issue of the Statesman that was written in response to the January 26 opinion piece, "The Truth About Gaza." Kevin Young's response to Josh Glazer's original article mentions that casualties in the latest Gaza offensive are on the order of 100 Palestinian to every Israeli killed. To this I must respond; is there any ratio of casualties that becomes acceptable? Should we institute some international global standard to ensure that enemies are only killed in a 1:1 ratio to maintain fairness, and that all other conflicts be labeled "illegal"?

We should all admit that war is hell, and that even one civilian casualty is too many. However, to suggest that there are some proportionality of casualties that is acceptable denies the reality of war: casualties are the point and

civilian casualties are unavoidable. In World War II, Allied forces leveled entire cities full of innocent people because of some strategic military target that happened to be nearby. In the moral universe of 1940, this was okay, if regrettable, because defeating the Axis powers was the greater good. Americans must understand that to Israeli citizens, not only is their own safety and survival is also the greater good but ultimately necessary to achieve a meaningful and lasting peace. In addition, we must realize Hamas militants actively hide among their own people to purposefully increase casualties as a tactic of terror.

Critics claim that Israel is acting out of proportion to Hamas' crimes, which supposedly demonstrates the lack of regard for the well-being of the Palestinian people. This begs the question that, if Israeli government and military are so morally corrupt, hates Palestinians so much and cares so little

about international opinion, why haven't they completely leveled the Gaza strip already? Everyone knows they have superior, even nuclear and chemical, weapons. Israel has the tactical and financial upper hand and could, literally, end the terrorist threat completely and utterly without even breaking much of a sweat.

The reality is that Israel,

while not always acting in perfect harmony (and truly, what government or military ever has?), Israel has attempted to limit civilian casualties while maximizing the effectiveness of the military response. Critics forget, or neglect, the fact that Israeli military action is almost exclusively reac-

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Guidelines for Opinion Submission

Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words. Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.

A Conflict Continued

continued from page 5

tionary. Not many countries would show so much restraint as Israel has had, after being the target of almost continuous - and increasingly effective - rocket attacks from Hamas militants from Gaza. Despite calls and agreements for cease-fires, the Qasam rockets keep coming over the walls, targeted at Israeli civilians. Hamas technology is improving too, being able to stretch further towards the nation's capital and to high density areas.

I understand and respect international pleas which call for Israel to cool down its aggressive responses, but these people don't understand the political pressure on Israeli leaders to end the threat of suicide



783 Qasam Rockets Were fired into Israel in 2007
Media Credit: BBC

bombers and rocket attacks, which have become a daily reality, and dare I say inevitability, for Israelis.

These people don't understand the difficult moral decisions that Israeli leaders have to make when they order tank invasions of Gaza, particularly when they know that Hamas is using its own citizens as human shields. Craven Hamas fighters hide amidst their own, craftily building sympathy from the international community, who are largely ignorant of the self-destructive tactics of the terrorists.

Who then really has the ultimate moral responsibility for the deaths of innocent Palestinians: The Hamas terrorists who strikes indiscriminately and subsequently hides among their own people, or the Israeli soldier, who is trying to protect their own against this wanton aggression?

Do critics think Israeli soldiers, young men and women fresh out of high school, enjoy targeting mosque's and schools; knowing that they could be killing innocent worshipers and children? The obvious answer is that they don't, but the moral question has become, "if we don't target Hamas leaders and weapons caches, those rockets could be raining down on my own home, my own synagogue and my own family."

The question of morality is important, but inconclusive. While the mainstream media likes to portray the Israeli/Palestinian conflict as a Hollywood underdog story, reality couldn't be more different.

Difficult decisions are being made by imperfect humans and the result can never be optimal. We all hope and pray for

peace, but it takes two to tango. If Israel can't trust Hamas to keep their words on maintaining a temporary cease-fire, using

"Palestinians have much more to gain by cooperating with [Israel] than they have by fighting it."

the time to rebuild weapon caches, and to not send rockets and suicide bombers into Israel, than how can a long lasting peace ever be possible?

While it is official Israeli policy to support a two-state, peaceful solution, reality often rears its ugly head. Discussions of historical questions of land ownership are interesting, but ultimately unproductive. Palestinian terrorists blame Israelis for stealing their land, but what they are really angry about is economic disparity. They are indoctrinated to blame the Jewish "settlers" of Israel for their financial woes, which allows the political totalitarians to concentrate power under the banner of religion. The irony is that Palestinians have much more to gain by cooperating with the innovative and economically powerful country than they have by fighting it.

In only six decades, Israel went from a Zionist dream to a nation with a burgeoning high tech industry and one of the highest GDP per capita in the world. Free trade agreements with other nations have helped grow the economies not only of Israel but formerly hostile entities - Egypt

and Jordan.

There is nothing fundamentally different about the Israeli and Palestinian people that this type of economic growth cannot be mimicked and shared. However, the totality of the destructive mentality of Palestinian terrorists makes losers of all the Palestinian people. Hate and war is always unproductive and rarely necessary.

This is a hard pill to swallow for some, but we have to accept the reality that Israel, and the Jewish people, aren't going anywhere. Israel has much to improve, in terms of providing government reforms - it is still a nation without a constitution - and the United States isn't helping the matter in the way it provides foreign aid, essentially funding both sides of the conflict, but ultimately, the Israelis are doing a much better job at the "peace game" than their Palestinian counterparts.

Extremist attitudes have dictated the actions and mentality of the Palestinian people for too long, which is to the detriment of all. When the Palestinians are able to control their own extremists, by enforcing peaceful cooperation between themselves, build stable government institutions and forgive Israelis for living productively, than economic prosperity can ensure peace.

Correction: In the Feb. 2, 2009 issue of The Statesman, the opinion piece "President Obama is Forgetting Us" was attributed to Joe Labriola. The actual author is Sarah Millings. The article is reprinted on page 7.

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The Truth About Israel

BY SARAH RAHMAN
Contributing Writer

After reading the misleadingly-titled opinion piece on the "truth" about Gaza, I feel compelled to refute the "facts."

I do not pretend to be able to relate the history of the conflict in the Middle East in a mere half page, but to blame one side entirely only prolongs the problem. While pan-Arabism has not done enough to help Palestinians, it is inaccurate and biased to deny the existence of Israel's wrongdoings in Palestinian territories.

During the partition of Palestine in 1948, Arab parties and those living in the territories were not consulted. Thus it is not difficult to determine why there was a war in 1948. It is the same reason Central Africans and Kashmiris today continue to live among ethnic violence.

The idea that Arabs did not want Jewish inhabitants is absurd, history will tell you that not only did Jewish minorities live peacefully in Palestine prior to the creation of Israel, they lived largely in peace with Muslims in North Africa, Spain and Iran. In 1937, founder of Israel David Ben-Gurion declared, "We must expel Arabs and take their places." This is not a statement that an Arab in Palestine could simply ignore.

The refugees created in 1948 have been refused resettlement by the Arabs, and they have been refused the right to return by Israel, in defiance of the United Nations. Palestinians have the right to self-determination, and one can logically conclude that if refugees resettle, they are ultimately giving up their homes and exacerbating the goal of statehood.

The truth is, Israel fears that by allowing the refugees back to their homes and farms, Jews will become the

minority. As legitimate as that fear may be, why should Arab countries have to deal with millions of refugees because of continued Israeli settlement? Is international law not structured enough?

As for the resistance movement, it has not existed nor was it created in some vacuum of Arab anti-Semitism. It is a response to occupation. Gaza is an Occupied Palestinian Territory, and as the occupying power, Israel has the legal responsibility to provide for food, medicine and clothes to the impoverished.

Although Israel claims to have left the Gaza Strip, it blatantly controls Gaza's airspace, land borders, and sea entries to the point of collective punishment. Women and children were not allowed to leave during the recent airstrikes. Israel is ultimately responsible for the slum-like conditions in Gaza. Israel currently prefers the Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas to Hamas, even though Abbas subscribes to his successor's party Fatah, whose charter calls for the elimination of Zionism in Palestine.

The three-week long war on the Gazan people which ominously began the year remains the most unnoticed of ironies. Once again, the American government has decided to support the call of waging war to achieve peace.

Israel will not allow the Gazan refugee population to leave, even though many originate in what are today Israeli cities of Sderot and Ashkelon. These refugees did not decide to squash themselves into the open-air prison of Gaza, they were pushed by settlement, violence and military might. It is simply delusional to blame the Arab governments for inherently exclusive Israeli policies. To paraphrase in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., you will not find peace without the presence of justice.

Break The Downward Economic Spiral

BY DONALD A. MOSKOWITZ
Contributing Writer

The current administration and Congress are striving to implement elements of fiscal and monetary policies that will turn around our economy. Talented people are hard at work trying to address these problems.

President Obama has made some wise choices to fill key positions in his administration, including members of the economic advisory team. These people have distinguished themselves in their fields of expertise and hopefully they will perform admirably well during the next four years.

The appointments include a plethora of former or current politicians, campaign aides, career bureaucrats, economists/finance people, academics and former generals. And they

all have one thing in common: None of them is a current or former CEO or high level executive of a major corporation.

Given the state of our economy and the problems in the private sector, I believe it would be wise to have a proven, high level, business executive on the Obama team. Maybe the new Secretary of Commerce should have a business background.

We have to employ all available resources, including business executives, to break the downward spiral of our economy. We should spend the entire \$825 billion economic recovery money on creating jobs in the private sector, not government or quasi-government jobs, and not waste any of it on tax cuts, which have proven to be ineffective in the current economy.

President Obama is Forgetting Us

BY SARAH MILLINGS
Contributing Writer

President Obama has worked hard to get the \$900 billion stimulus passed; he's given speech after speech touting the state of the economy, the necessity of stimulus, the efficacy of the bill. But in all the radio addresses and public speeches, I fail to hear the single concern that's most important to our generation: How are we going to repay it?

The answer deceives us by its simplicity -- deficit spending, borrow from China or Japan. But that doesn't answer the question: How are we going to refund this money? Thousands of us are getting our degrees on college loans. And it's painfully clear to us that someday, after graduation, we will have to find work and begin the grueling job of repaying our loans. It's a hard reality, but it's worth it in order to finance our education.

A little-discussed burden of our generation is the debt our parents' generation is leaving to us. The national debt is coming due, and it's nearly \$11 trillion that will need to be repaid in 15 or 20 years, on our watch. We are the workforce that must compensate for the recent excesses of our government.

So while we applaud President Obama's good-faith efforts to jump start our economy, we're understandably skeptical about the cost of this stimulus. We realize that something has to be done about our economy. And sure, some of those 3 million jobs will come to us. But 3 million jobs at the price of \$900 billion? That's...\$300,000 per job? Can it be done more cheaply, Mr. President? How long will we be able to defer paying this debt? How much will taxes be raised to cover this expense? Give us some

answers, President Obama.

During the campaign, President Obama often declaimed the failed policies of the last eight years. He needs to remember that among those failures were a deficit-financed war in Iraq and an ineffective \$700 billion bank bailout. Not to mention the sizable federal debt that Bush inherited and passed on undiminished. So, for change, what about a government that takes practical steps to get us out of debt? And for hope, what about a plan, a real plan for reducing our deficit and helping the economy without expensive loans?

But no, according to the latest reports, President Obama is satisfied with just passing the bailout and leaving it to our generation to pick up the tab. He's already onto Economic Solution No. 2, a bank to buy the worst of the assets in the economy, the ones that no one else wants. All of course, at a multi-billion dollar cost. And has President Obama explained to us what the price of this will be? How many more millions must we pay in taxes? How is this going to affect our economy in 2015? And 2020? And 2025?

All we get is silence from the Oval Office. President Obama is so busy fixing our parents' problems that he's forgotten to address our vital concerns.

We need more from President Obama than silence. We need answers, solid answers on how long we'll be able to defer paying this loan, and how the interest on this \$900 billion will affect our budget, and how, exactly how, he plans to repay it.

Please, President Obama, be frank with our generation. Spend if you need to on the economy, but give us the hard, clear details about the cost. We deserve to know. That's change we can believe in.

Accounting for the Obama Administration

BY MICHAEL VALENTE
Contributing Writer

This week, the Obama administration faced two withdrawals from potential appointments; former Senator Tom Daschle from his nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services and Nancy Killefer from her nomination to be the chief White House performance officer. Both candidates cited tax related issues having brought about their withdrawals from nomination. This, coupled with the recently confirmed Treasury Secretary's failure to pay his taxes, has casted doubt over our new President's ability to correctly judge character.

It is as if tax negligence is a prerequisite to hold office in the Obama administration. How could we even have considered trusting an almost \$1 trillion dollar stimulus package to a man who could not even pay his own taxes? Even if treasury Secretary Geithner's failure to pay \$35,000 in back taxes was accidental - which is doubtful - why should we entrust the largest economy in the world to a man who cannot even handle his own finances? I can only imagine what he will say when he makes a mistake in office. "I didn't know" is not going to cut it in these difficult economic times. If any one of us regular citizens failed to pay our taxes, we would not be offered to serve in the Obama administration, rather the IRS would

ensure that we would be serving hard time in jail. Perhaps Obama or the Secretary of the Treasury can explain why there is a double standard for 'ordinary' citizens and the political elite.

President Obama's lack of judgment was also shown with the appointment of former Senator Thomas Daschle to be the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Department. Senator Daschle violated the public trust when he did not pay his sizable amount of taxes. As a Senator, it was his job to appropriate funds to run the government, which means levying taxes. It is hypocritical of him not to contribute to the government spending to which his constituents, themselves, had contributed. It's amusing that politicians claim to be worried about the large deficit when a former Senators is helping along deficit spending, through legislating government spending and tax fraud.

Although these officials were wrong, what upsets me most is that President Obama would nominate these people in the first place. During his campaign he called for more accountability in Washington, but by the nomination of these men, accountability was disregarded. The new President with all the powers to properly investigate potential candidates picked ones who were tainted. That does not sound like the "change we need" to me.



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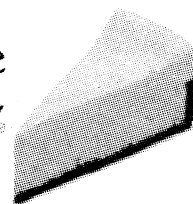
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STALLER CENTER: MAIN STAGE

Wolf Packs Them In

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

The Staller Center winter/spring film series started with a bang on Jan. 30 with the 7 p.m. screening of "The End of America," a documentary based on Naomi Wolf's book of the same title.

Obviously modeled on Al Gore's environmental documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," "The End of America" centers its discussion of Bush-era politics in a lecture given by Wolf to an appreciative audience.

Using media footage from CNN, Fox, and MSNBC, in addition to videos by private citizens, Wolf and filmmakers Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern explain the

"Ten Steps" a country takes on its way to imminent fascist dictatorship.

Wolf, a well-known activist, journalist, and feminist, author of "The Beauty Myth," detailed these ten steps in her book "The End of America: A Letter to a Young Patriot." She then went on a tour with this book and part of this tour formed the basis for the documentary.

The documentary itself presents little in the way of new information. Truly, it seems that "The End of America," which screened on the Main Stage, was made for those of us who have been living under the proverbial rock for the past eight years.

Highlights of the documentary included one of a kind footage from a protest

in Minnesota, where police arrested over 200 people in a park that was near a protest but not a part of it.

Despite such interesting points, as well as some poignant notes on how similar the policy of the last administration are to those of 1930s Nazi Germany, most of "The End of America" focuses on the image of Wolf on the stage, delivering her lecture in a bright red skirt suit and stiletto heels, while playing with her abundant hair.



Media Credit: oregonstate.edu
Naomi Wolf, the basis behind "The End of America."

Wolf, like Gore in some ways, is enthusiastic and moralistic at the same time. Yet, unlike Gore in "An Inconvenient Truth," she delivers no truly stunning images or information.

The Staller Center was more packed than usual for the screening, and an overwhelming number of people stayed for the Q & A with Wolf and Sundberg.

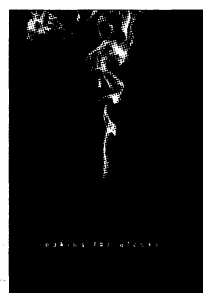
As is wont to happen with most Q & A sessions, most people who were called on did not have an actual "question" to ask, and Wolf and Sundberg did not allow for many questions by making their responses unnecessarily repetitive and detailed.

Perhaps the one hopeful element of last Friday's screening was the pervasive feeling that if such films can be made, and such crowds come to see them, the maybe, just maybe, we haven't reached the end of America just yet.

BOOKS

"Looking For Alaska"

By FRANK POSILICO
Assistant News Editor



Media Credit: Google Images

Looking For Alaska

By John Green
256 pp. Puffin.

"Looking For Alaska," John Green's thrilling coming of age story captivates you from the first page. Miles Pudge Halter is inspired by a quote from poet François Rabelais – "I go to seek a Great Perhaps" and believes that there is more to life. He heads off to a prestigious Culver Creek boarding school in search of that "Great Perhaps." Once there, he rubs elbows with the prankster roommate Chip Martin, also known as "The Colonel," and the deeply disturbed and sexy Alaska Young. Alaska and the Colonel, both master pranksters, drag Miles into their world and show him a "Great Perhaps" that he never believed possible.

Green's characters are some of the most realistic teenage portrayals that I have ever read. The winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature, the book is divided into two parts. The "before," which consists of 128 days leading up to the "after." The first half of the book, although somewhat sluggish, builds anticipation for what is to come; what will happen after the 128 days.

The second section of the book is hard to describe without giving away a

major plot element. However, it deals with Miles and the Colonel who both become obsessed with trying to find out what happened.

Green's teenagers are deeply flawed and reading the story from Miles' perspective makes it feel like you are reading one of the many biographies that Miles loves so much.

John Green succeeds in making you love and sympathize for his characters especially with the most hilarious "almost, but not really" sex scene in a book that I have ever read.

The question that this book asks of everyone is taken from the last words of Simón Bolívar, "How will I ever get out of this labyrinth of suffering?" That question is what drives the novel, and at the end, Miles, and the reader, have a pretty good idea of the answer.

Although not the best novel ever written, it is definitely one of the best written. John Green does not just stop with books, he has a blog at sparksflyup.com and YouTube videos done with his bother. Indeed, the "Nerd Fighters," have become an Internet phenomenon.

The movie adaption of "Looking For Alaska" is set to be released in 2010 and will be written and directed by "The O.C." creator Josh Schwartz. The title of the movie is also rumored to be "Famous Last Words."

Green has also written "An Abundance of Katherine's," and "Paper Towns," two books that also successfully mirror the humor and wit of "Looking For Alaska." He is also currently writing the script for "An Abundance of Katherine's."

TELEVISION

What People Really Watch During the Super Bowl

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT
Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

Who watches the Super Bowl for the game? It's really all about the commercials. This year's commercials were pretty amusing, but last year's ads take the cake. But from the E-Trade babies to the Bud Light commercials, there was still plenty of hilarity to be found.

The best commercial of the night was the Career Builder ad. It points out events that indicate when it's time to find a new job. The narrator of the commercial gets repetitive but it's a big factor as to why this commercial is so hysterical.

You see a woman pull her car into a parking lot with a frustrated and depressed look on her face. "It can be hard to know when you need a new job," the narrator begins. "As a rule if you hate going to work it may be time." The woman grabs her steering wheel and starts to scream.

The next scene is of a man sitting in his cubical at work with a frown on his face when the narrator says, "If you hate going to work and your co-workers don't respect you,

it may be time." An older co-worker of the man sitting in his cubicle walks by and says, "Hey dummy," as the man hangs his head and looks even more depressed than before.

The narrator starts from the beginning again at the scene with the woman in her car, to the man in his office, to a woman



Media Credit: YouTube.com

A scene from careerbuilder.com's latest commercial.

riding on the back of a dolphin laughing with joy as he says, "If you hate going to work, your co-workers don't respect you and you always wish you were somewhere else, it may be time."

The ad begins again and the next thing you see is a man in a business suit standing on a side walk with his shoulders slumped and his head hanging down crying as the narrator adds, "... and you cry constantly,

it may be time."

As expected, the commercial starts at the beginning again. The next view is of a koala with big glasses on holding a coffee cup saying, "Oh dear!" as a fist bursts into the frame, punching him in the face. The narrator says, "... and you day dream of punching small animals, it may be time." You guessed it... the commercial starts over and adds a man wearing nothing but a Speedo, clipping his toe nails, and laughing on his phone while sitting in his cubicle as the narrator says, "... and you sit next to this guy... it may be time."

This time the commercial doesn't start at the beginning. Instead it goes into a different scene that shows a man sitting in a big leather chair wearing a fancy robe. You can tell he's a wealthy man because of the gold bars that are on a cart behind him. The man is sipping on a drink and he laughs, "It's gold!" The narrator says, "If you make loads of money, it may not be time."

The commercial begins again as the narrator starts to say, "But if you make loads of money, you hate going to work, no one respects you, you wish you were somewhere else, you cry constantly, you day dream of punching small animals, and you sit next to this guy... it's probably time." I will definitely

think of Career Builder in the future if I have any of these work problems.

One of the better commercials during the night was the Bud Light Meeting commercial. The commercial opens up and you are able to see a meeting going on in an office with about 10 employees sitting around a big table. There are a lot of papers in front of everyone and in the center of the table is an ice bucket full of Bud Light.

One employee is leaning back in his chair and another is talking about how her Bud has "drinkability" when they should be discussing how to meet their budget. One person suggests they cut back on marketing, another person says they could eliminate bonuses and then the last employee says, "How about we stop buying Bud Light for every meeting?"

All the employees look at him with an "Are you serious?" stare, and the next frame is the man being thrown out of the four-story window of the office. "It was a joke!" he yells back at them.

If you were unable to see these commercials during the Super Bowl or any of the other ones, don't worry. All of the ads are on YouTube and the ones from last year are as well.

Enjoy! I know I did.

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The School of Journalism presents a duo at this "My Life As..." featuring Dan Slepian, a Stony Brook University alum ('92) and former president of SBU's Student Government. Dan is an award-winning investigative producer for NBC News "Dateline." Accompanying Dan will be retired NYPD homicide detective Bobby Addolorato.

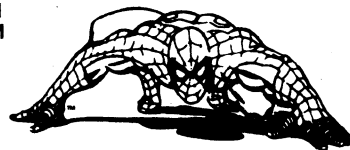


Slepian and Addolorato will discuss "Murder at the Palladium," the riveting story of a television investigation that led to the release of two men - after 14 years in prison - wrongly-convicted of murder. Watch the Dateline story and hear from Slepian about his experience producing the project.

And what's it like from the other side? Addolorato talks about dealing with the press on a big case.

For more information, contact the School of Journalism at
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Track and Field Remains Impressive

By Mike Fodera
Senior Writer

Last Thursday afternoon provided a thrilling continuation of the indoor Track and Field season. Three runners took first place honors, two ECAC qualifying times and two IC4A qualifying times at the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Indoor Championships, also known as the METS.

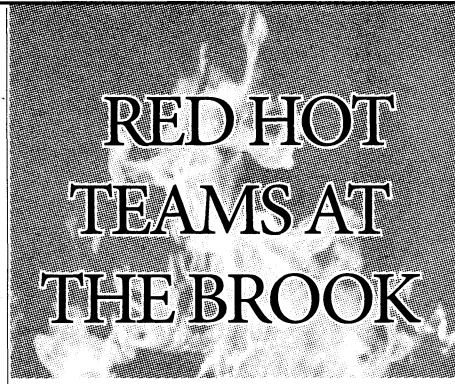
Heading the list of successful runners at the tournament, and continuing her domination in her events was sophomore Lucy Van Dalen, who broke her second record in this young season. Lucy took first place in the women's 1000-meter event in a time of 2:47.34. Her time was four seconds faster than the original record back in 2005 set by Sarah Herbert, a native of Bristol, England, and also qualified her for an ECAC birth.

The second ECAC time came from junior Laura Huet, who finished second in the mile run with a time of 5:00.74. The runners were neck and neck the entire race with Huet challenging first place spot but ultimately fell short by only three seconds. The next first place finish for the women came from the likes of the distance medley team relay that consisted of Huet, freshmen Justine Noel, from Brooklyn, New York, and Hayley Green, from Wellington, New Zealand, and sophomore Carolina Cortes, from Woodmere, New York. The team would go on to take first with a time of 12:12.45. The team was mostly unchallenged throughout the length of the race.

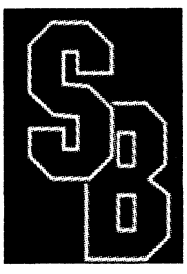
For the men's competition, junior Daire Bermingham took steps in proving he's the runner to beat in the mens'

events. Bermingham took first in the 1,000-meter race by clearing the finish line with just under .41 seconds in front of the second place runner. This time of 2:29.36 qualifies Daire for the IC4A Championships. Also qualifying for the IC4A's was the men's distance medley team, concluding the noticeable for both mens' and womens' medley teams. The mens' team took second in the meet with a team including juniors Alex Felce, Tim Hodge, Brandon Leung and senior Merlon Pinnock, who hails from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The team finished second by just .32 seconds with a time of 10:14.55.

Next up for the Seawolves track and field team is the Giegengack Invitational this weekend when they travel basically down the block to New Haven, Connecticut.



- Mens Basketball has won 4 out of 5 games. Muhammad El-Amin has averaged 17.2 points and Tommy Brenton has averaged 9.4 rebounds over the streak.
- Stony Brook Hockey has won 17 out of 20 contests. Angelo Serse had two hat tricks over the weekend.
- Womens basketball has won 3 in a row. Kirsten Jeter has averaged 17 points over the streak.



Football Announces



Recruiting Class

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
Brett Acre	TE	6-4	240	Coalinga, Calif. (Coalinga/West Hills Coll.)
Michael Bamiro	OL	6-8	345	Tobyhanna, Pa. (Pocono Mountain West)
Matt Brevi	WR	6-2	210	Tampa, Fla. (Armwood/Ft. Hays State)
Casey Callahan	LB	5-11	220	Tampa, Fla. (Armwood)
Myles Campbell	WE	5-11	170	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (John Muir)
Frank Conti	DL	6-1	250	Lake Grove, N.Y. (Sachem North/Nassau CC)
Michael Coulter	QB	6-1	205	Yorba Linda, Calif. (El Dorado/Santa Ana Coll.)
Brian Crew	OL	6-4	320	Galt, Calif. (Galt/Sacramento City Coll.)
Drew Evangelista	K/P	5-10	175	Cedar Grove, N.J. (Cedar Grove)
Julio Geronimo	DL	6-2	279	East Orange, N.J. (East Orange)
Cameron Hall	WR	6-5	210	Laguna Hills, Calif. (Laguna Hills/Orange Coast Coll.)
Scott Hernandez	OL	6-6	322	Fort Worth, Texas (Juan Seguin)
Taj Johnson	DB	5-10	179	Upland, Calif. (Upland)
Elias Martinez	DL	6-5	244	Long Beach, Calif. (Millikan)
Eddie Mateo	RB	5-9	193	Bethlehem, Pa. (Freedom)
Chris McMillan	WR	6-5	185	New York, N.Y. (Bishop Ford)
Major Mobley	WR	5-11	165	Mt. Laurel, N.J. (Cherokee)
Adam Nowak	LB	6-2	220	Philadelphia, Pa. (Father Judge)
Vincent Polo	RB	5-11	161	Wantagh, N.Y. (Wantagh)
Alex Probasco	DL	6-2	250	Manhattan Beach, Calif. (Mira Costa)
Craig Richardson	LB	6-1	236	Revere, Mass. (Malden Catholic)
Ian Solomon	OL	6-2	316	New Rochelle, N.Y. (New Rochelle)
Kenny Tulloma	LB	5-10	227	Long Beach, Calif. (Long Beach Polytechnic)
Rich Vitale	LB	5-8	176	Higganum, Conn. (New London)
Phillip Vournazos	OL	6-2	290	Buena Park, Calif. (Western/Long Beach City Coll.)

Stony Brook announced a recruiting class of 25. Here are Head coach Chuck Priore's comments:

"With the combination of losing the number of seniors we had and our increase to the full 63 scholarships for an FCS program, we were able to examine our program and take care of our needs from the bottom up. We have been able to plug in some players in January to help our immediate needs as well as bringing in a group of freshmen that will be very important to the class."

"Having the full scholarships this year helped us to bring in a real freshman class for the first time. Now we can start redshirting some kids and get some fifth-year players in our program. That was a major thought in our recruiting process this year. Now we can take a player that we can project into the future and not necessarily have them be an impact player right away. We can allow our strength and conditioning program to put them in position to be a great player."

-Head Coach Chuck Priore

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 5, 2009

STATESMAN SPORTS



Seawolves Take Down Maine Black Bears for 4th Win in Five Games

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

After the long trip up to Orono, Maine, the Seawolves held a 37-29 lead at the end of the first half.

Unlike last week's game against New Hampshire when Stony Brook held a nine point lead at the break and ended up losing by 11 after a rough second half, the Seawolves were able to hold on against the Black Bears.

Stony Brook used a strong shooting second half from the floor and

free throw line to defeat Maine 70-59 and move back to .500 in conference play. The win improved the Seawolves overall record to 13-10.

The Seawolves used a 12-2 run late in the first half, started by a Chris Martin jumper and capped by a Demetrius Young layup to go from trailing 24-23 to finding themselves up 35-26. Martin's jumped with 4:26 left in the half gave the Seawolves a lead they would not relinquish.

Leading scorer Muhammad El-

Amin once again led the team offensively, scoring 22 on 7-11 shooting, including 4-5 from three-point range. El-Amin also had four rebounds and an assist.

For the game the Seawolves shot 25-64 (39.1%) for the game, including 11-25 (44.0%) in the second half.

Young, the senior forward from Sacramento, California, continued his strong play, scoring 17 points and grabbing six rebounds in 26 minutes. He added two steals and a block.

America East	Conf	All
Vermont	7-2	16-6
Boston U.	7-2	12-9
Binghamton	6-3	13-8
Albany	5-3	13-8
Stony Brook	5-5	13-10
New Hampshire	3-5	8-12
UMBC	3-7	9-13
Maine	3-7	8-15
Hartford	2-7	6-17