

# New Yorkers Rally at Union Square



Statesman/Marie Huchton

This street mime, painted as the Statue of Liberty, fundraises for organizations helping the families of WTC victims.

BY CHRISTOPHER LATHAM  
Statesman Editor

Hundreds of people gathered at Union Square Park in Manhattan this Saturday for a vigil protesting the government's mounting battle

against Afghanistan.

The ceremony captured the anger, uncertainty, hope and anticipation of a city trying to rebuild itself from one of the worst tragedies in national history.

Dozens of police patrolled the massive crowd, looking for signs of tension on a day authorities at one point feared might have been targeted for another terrorist attack.

Save for a heated argument between a group of ralliers, who debated the reasons for the terrorist attacks, the event was without incident.

"We'd be speaking German right now if it weren't for the U.S.!" shouted one man, who refused to give his name. "I work at an airline," he continued. "The lives of those pilots and those passengers and everyone who died deserves justice!"

The debate, while small in scale, reflects a larger issue. Despite recent cries of national unity by the Bush administration, many Americans remain divided over how to respond to the Sept. 11

attack.

Some denounced U.S. military mobilization as the precursor to a bloody and unjust war fought to preserve American dominance in the Middle East. Others dismissed anti-war buffs as un-American and terrorist sympathizers. Most of those huddled around the core debaters, however, fell somewhere in between.

"I'm not saying I agree with the terrorists, but we have to understand why they did what they did before we start a war," said another man.

Police moved in to break up the conflict when yet another man began shouting anti-Israeli comments, and heated words gave way to screams and shoves. The argument lasted for more than a half-hour before being diffused at 6:10 p.m.

Among those watching the scuffle were people carrying posters and signs, or performing songs by the likes of John Lennon and Sting. A group of Tibetans sat and prayed for WTC victims by the half-masted



Statesman/Marie Huchton

Mourners left hundreds of candles and flowers at Union Square Memorial.

flag near the center of the park. They were too deep in meditation to notice the conflict.

Virginia Howell, who was walking with her husband and child, expressed dismay at the arguers.

"It's impossible to make sense of what happened by coming here," she said. "It was a senseless act. Better to just pray for the dead and pray it doesn't get any worse."

A steady flow of mourners has kept the park filled with

memorabilia since the World Trade Center attacks took place two weeks ago. Billboards and pamphlets calling for peace canvas much of the park, while candles and flowers lay at the base of the statue of George Washington.

Several volunteers help maintain the communal memorial. One volunteer, Kara, has tended flowers and lit candles every night for the past week. Some days, she

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# Polity Senate Begins New Term

BY TAMIKA JAMES  
Statesman Contributor

On Thursday September 20, 2001, Polity Senate met for what was supposed to be a vote to allocate money for programs and clubs on campus. The meeting started at 8 p.m. and lasted more than three hours with Senators debating last year's budget failure and a schedule for new elections.

With many new Senators on the board, budgetary information packets were handed out, with figures concerning what all clubs and organizations got last year, and what they could expect this year. These figures were disputed all night as the Interim treasurer, Shasha White, was challenged on the \$68,162 surplus she announced. Ms. White defended the surplus by telling Senators that she "made cuts" on different programs, and that Dr. Preston, Vice President of Student Affairs, based the surplus on an "over enrollment" of students. Dr. Preston's name was mentioned many times in the event that

Senators could not accept "inaccurate" figures. In addition, a formal invitation was extended to Dr. Peter M. Baigent, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, together with Dr. Preston, to address the Senate's budget concerns.

A letter written by Dr. Baigent last spring was given out to Senators concerning last year's budget dilemma. According to the letter, "Dr. Preston has not approved the 2001-2002 academic year budget as recommended by the senate sub-committee. This action reflects the considerable concern regarding: The proposed changes to the original document that result in increases to groups which appear to correlate strongly with the senate sub-committee's individual interests. The



Statesman/Christopher Latham

Polity senators meet to discuss this year's budget on Thursday.

interim budget is established where three months of budget (3/12th) is allocated." Senators and members of the gallery wanted more concrete information. Many clubs sat through the three-hour meeting waiting to be granted more funds, as they maintained that they have already exhausted the quarter allotted to them. With the figures in dispute, the Senate decided to devote

its upcoming October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting exclusively to the 2001-2002 budget.

Much time, however, seemed to be wasted in dispute among senators over the order in which the agenda should proceed. Natalie Hodgson, Interim Vice President, chaired the meeting, which included the re-elections of Senate Co-Chair Gina Fiore, and Corresponding Secretary Michael Imprixis.

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# SBU Student Takes Part in NSF's REU Program

BY PAUL CONRAD  
Statesman Staff

Last summer, Stony Brook student Sarah Flynn spent 11 weeks gazing into the desert sky of Tuscon, Arizona. She stared up at young, developing stars, analyzing the gaseous compounds jetting from their poles.

Have you seen First Contact? I got to climb on the VLA that you see in the movie," Sarah said, telling me about the Very Large Array (VLA), located in Socorro, New Mexico. It is part of a network of arrays spread throughout the world to chart our vast galaxy.

The journey that led to immense telescopes and cutting-edge research began her freshman year at Stony Brook University. As soon as she arrived in the fall of last year, she began looking for research opportunities. Sarah talked to her advisor in the Physics department, and began working at the Brookhaven Laboratory. While getting credit for her research at the Brookhaven Lab, she also began a search for summer research opportunities. Her advisor suggested the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Knowing that she wanted to do research in astronomy, she began the application process.

Sarah applied to ten different sites across the country, and was accepted to several, eventually deciding on the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Tuscon, Arizona.

On a daily basis, Sarah studied the radio waves emitted by proto-stars. The younger the star, the stronger the outflow of hydrogen gas. Within these outflows are trace elements, such as carbon monoxide, which can be used to judge the force of the outflow.

"I've always known that I didn't want a boring job," Sarah explained. "I wouldn't want to wake up in the morning, sit at a desk all day and then drive home. This experience reaffirmed that conviction."

She received a \$1500 per month stipend, enough for rent, food, and other necessities, while widening scientists'



Statesman/Christopher Latham

Sarah Flynn spent her summer in Tuscon studying radiowaves.

understanding of star formation. The experience also helped Sarah with her coursework back at Stony Brook.

"I hadn't taken any astronomy classes before this summer, but I learned a lot while at the observatory," she said. "I'm taking astronomy this semester, and I find that I'm not only ahead in class, but that the material is more interesting, because I understand its applications."

Many students wait until their junior and senior years to engage in research. Sarah Flynn started during her freshman year, and continues now as a sophomore.

"I'd encourage any student to talk to their advisor about research opportunities. I was able to get into the summer program because of the research I was involved in with my professor this past year," Sarah said. "The programs are very competitive, so apply to as many as you can."

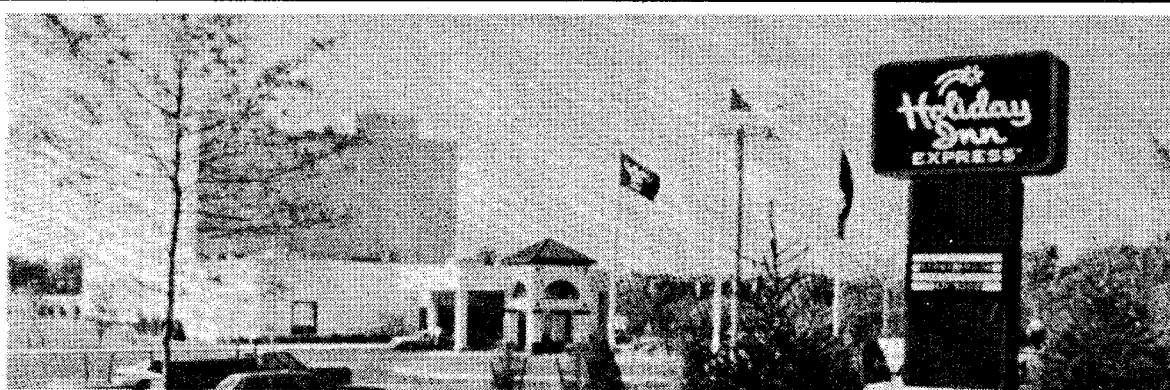
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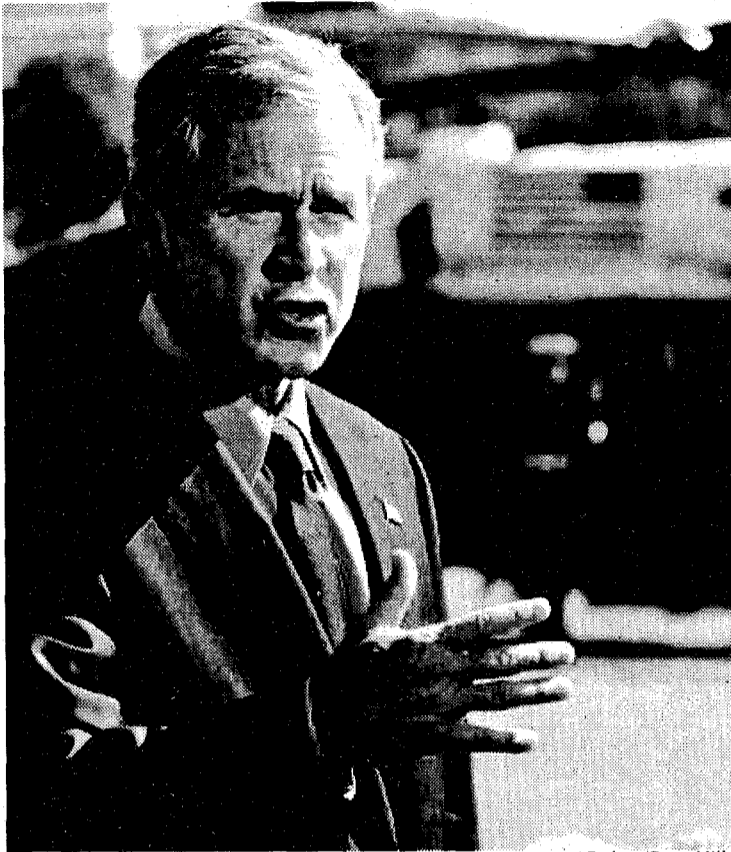
A Thought  
From  
Rabbi Adam



People tend to get too caught up with the pursuits of material success and forget about the spiritual side of life. Sometimes personal aspirations will lead one to believe that success comes only from the efforts of their own person, when the reality is that all blessings come from Hashem (G-d). This spiritual reality is most readily understood when one is faced with a challenge above and beyond the scope of their capabilities. For then it is clear: though we are committed to try our best, complete success is out of our control. In such a situation, one can only pray. For through prayer will be engendered G-d's blessing, and through G-d's blessing we will see the fruits of our labor. Now that the world is being threatened with war, there has never been a more auspicious time to pray. For when one knows not of what will be, the only thing to do is pray. It is no coincidence that all of this is occurring at the same time as the Jewish holiday season. Last week was Rosh Hashanah and this week the fast of Yom Kippur falls 6:39pm Wed. night through 7:25 pm Thurs. night. It is a solemn day in which one attempts to become a better person, a better Jew. For it is on this day that one realizes that we have to be a fitting person to merit G-d's blessings. Therefore, it is an intense day of fasting where one repents by a) enumerating the wrongs that they have done, b) feeling regretful for those wrongs and c) resolving to be better. Being that the task to self-perfection is beyond our capabilities, Yom Kippur is a day for prayer. For we can only do our best. We fast and repent- and pray that G-d will bless us with a sweet new year. Similarly, America must be a morally fitting country to merit G-d's blessing. For we must all become better people by increasing in acts of goodness and kindness. And, as our country demands justice, we'll pray that, "G-d bless America"

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# Bush Addresses Nation on U.S. Response to Terrorism



AP photo/Doug Mills

**Bush put the country on notice about the impending war.**

By GENE TULMAN  
Statesman Editor

In a televised address to the American public on Thursday, U.S. President George W. Bush

expressed global concerns for the victims of the terrorist acts that happened less than two weeks ago. Amidst clamorous applause, he verbalized a list of demands for the Taliban state in

Afghanistan.

Bush began his speech by emphasizing the national sympathy for those victims, whose lives were suddenly terminated. People showed their patriotism, waving American flags, burning candles, offering blood donations, and prayer.

He went on to explain how American grief transforms into anger, and into an eventual desire for some form of resolution. Bush supported the emotional progress, claiming that justice will be brought to those who were both directly and indirectly involved in these so-called crimes against civilization.

He made it clear that the citizens of the United States and other countries are united in a worthy cause, coping with and preventing terrorist attacks. Bush asserted that Americans could count on foreign countries like England in such times of need, alluding to NATO's view on international conflicts.

"America has no greater friend than Great Britain," he said. "An attack on one is an

attack on all."

Bush elaborated on the differences between Islamic and terrorist ideologies. He praised the goals of the Muslim population, criticizing the extreme determinism of the so-called loosely affiliated terrorist organizations.

He described the social living conditions in Afghanistan such as some conservative traditions like imprisonment of men whose beards are shorter than the accepted norm. Bush condemned the Taliban regime for harboring and supporting terrorist training camps, as well as those who are "trained in tactics of terror."

Bush listed an explicit collection of accusations and seemed fairly certain about Osama bin Laden's involvement in these terrorist attacks. He singled out the terrorist organization Al-Qaida as being directly responsible for the latest attacks on the United States.

Bush also verbalized a number demands to the Taliban government in Afghanistan. He ordered for the deliverance of all

leaders of Al-Qaida, release of all foreign nationals and closing of all terrorist-training camps.

Bush demanded for immediate response, alleging that if the Taliban officials do not hand over the terrorists, then they will share in the terrorists' fate.

"These demands are not open to discussion," Bush pointed out. "I will not forget the wound to our country and those who inflicted it."

He explained that these terrorists are traders to their own people, hating American freedom and hoping that U.S. citizens will grow fearful of them. Bush claimed that "every terrorist group will be found, stopped and defeated."

While closing his speech, Bush attempted to reassure the American public that U.S. efforts would eventually succeed. He reinforced the need for prayer and specifically pointed people to God.

"We will not tire, we will not falter, we will not fail," Bush said. "May God grant us wisdom, and may he watch over the United States of America."

## Field War: Turf vs. Grass

By ROHIT DAS  
Statesman Contributor

The issue remains as to whether a hybrid turf or natural grass will be used on the field of the new athletic stadium behind the Sports Complex. In recent debates concerning college campus stadiums, both options have been strongly supported and argued.

In 1998, Wisconsin State officials seriously considered installing grass in Camp Randall Stadium, a stadium in which the University of Wisconsin-Madison hosts various events, mainly football.

Some UW Athletics officials and football head coach Barry Alvarez favored a more refined artificial turf rather than a completely new installation of grass. They presented typical pro-turf arguments, such as worries over lost revenue, access to the field for other events, losing recruits, and preferences related to costs and expenditures.

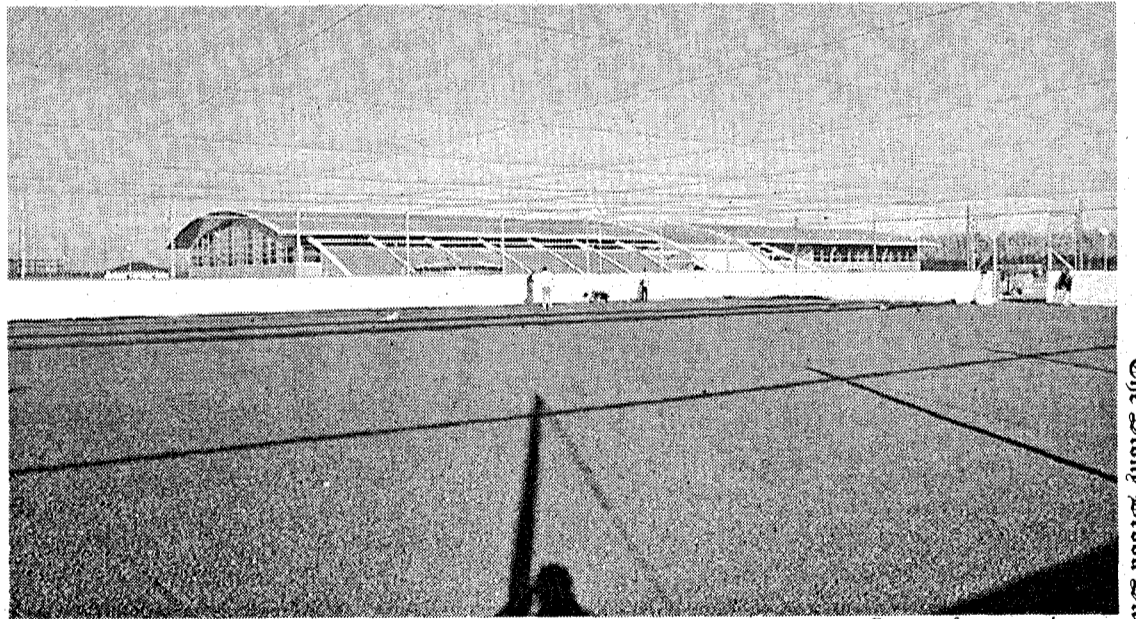
The athletic department at

UW-Madison affirm that although the cost of replacing the turf, which is approximately \$735,000, is similar to the cost of installing new grass into the stadium, the costs of furnishing and maintaining the quality of grass is unpredictable due to varied weather conditions. Consequently, it could cost 10 times more than the maintenance of new artificial turf.

Officials also argue that natural grass would severely limit the occurrence of non-football related events due to the potential damage that could be done to the grass surface. The lack of events would depreciate the revenue acquired by the university by approximately \$700,000 per year.

Officials cite that Madison businesses could lose up to \$2.25 million in profit for each concert that would no longer be held at Camp Randall.

The athletics department is concerned that since high school teams would not be



Courtesy of www.astroplay.com

**European soccer clubs use a hybrid turf in its training facility, but continue to use grass for its games.**

allowed to play on a natural grass field, potential in-state recruits could be lost. "Since establishing this high school-collegiate connection," Alvarez said, "I have never lost an in-state recruit."

Natural grass fields seem considerably more expensive than artificial turf surfaces. Nevertheless, opponents argue that turf fields also have their respective disadvantages.

One of the main concerns

of turf fields is the injury it causes to athletes, particularly injuries that do not normally occur on natural grass fields.

Richard Laskowski, Stony Brook's Dean of Physical Education and Athletics, contradicts this belief stating that "there is no significant difference in the number of injuries that happen on artificial turf and natural grass."

Dwayne Treolo, head

football trainer of the Louisville Cardinals, shares the concern. "I think you see a lot of tendonitis, back pain, other bumps and bruises and rug burns that you don't see on grass," he told the Digital Collegian in 1997. "When you plant and twist, you can obviously do that a lot better on grass."

Nick Saban, head coach of the Michigan State football

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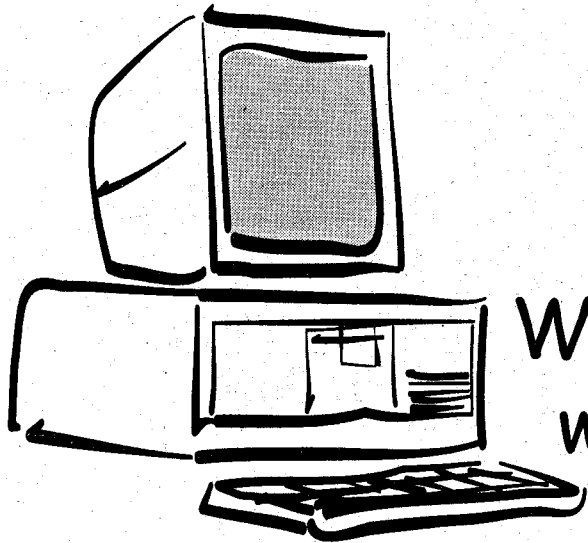
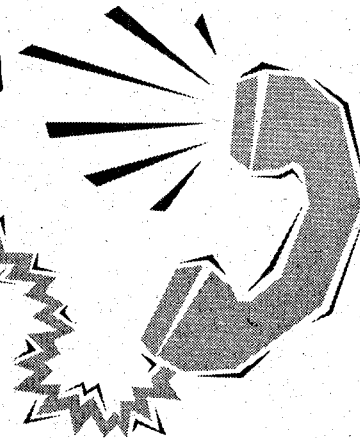
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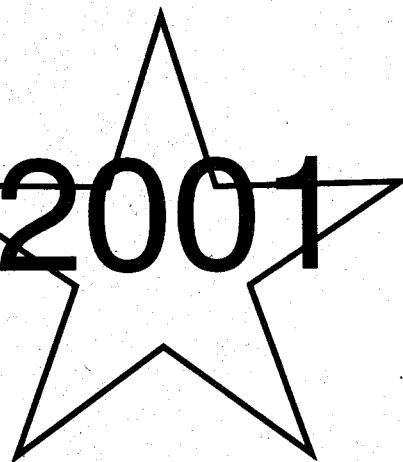


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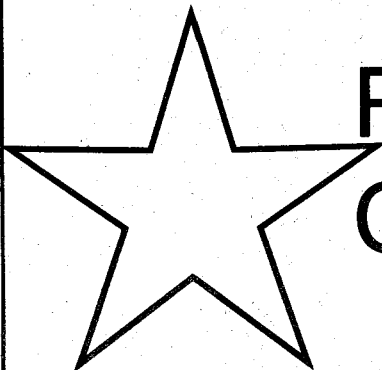
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## International

# U. S. Continues to Pressure Afghanistan for bin Laden

RALPH D'AMBROSIO  
Statesman Staff

The United States has made several requests to the Taliban, the Afghanistan government, to turn over Osama bin Laden to this country because it is believed that he is the mastermind behind the terrorist bombings of the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. The leader of Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammed Omar has refused any requests. However, the senior Muslim clerics of Afghanistan have issued a religious decree or fatwa that calls for persuading Osama bin

Laden to leave their country voluntarily. The Bush administration finds this to be unacceptable, demanding for Osama bin Laden to be turned over directly to the United States.

The Muslim clerics made these statements with the knowledge that a U.S. military strike may occur in the near future. This edict, delivered less than twelve hours after President Bush ordered military forces within striking distance of Afghanistan, included a statement saying that any attack on Afghanistan could result in a

holy war or jihad. An attack by "infidels," the United States, on a Muslim state, Afghanistan, that lacks its own defense, should cause all the Muslims of the world to come to Afghanistan's aid. Any Muslim cooperation would be punishable by death. The latter statement may have been directed towards the leaders of Pakistan who have been cooperative with the United States during this tragedy.

Afghanistan, despite the fatwa, has not given any indication that it intends to turn Osama bin Laden over to the

United States. Taliban officials at the Afghanistan Embassy, after the fatwa was released, said they would not hand over bin Laden to the United States. As far as they are concerned, bin Laden is a free man who can go anywhere unchecked. Omar, the Afghan leader, will make the final decision as to the fate of bin Laden.

There are political reasons as to why Afghanistan officials refuse to give up bin Laden. Bin Laden was involved in the Afghan resistance against the Soviet Union in the 1980's. After being granted sanctuary

by Afghanistan five years ago, he has provided the Taliban with millions in funds. Bin Laden has also trained several thousand Arabs to help the Taliban defeat the remaining resistance to its rule.

It should be noted that even opponents of bin Laden and terrorism in general, have asked the United States to provide proof of bin Laden's involvement in the terrorist attacks. Bin Laden, through a spokesman, has said that he is ready for a trial if the United States has evidence that would indicate his guilt.

## National

# Taliban and U.S. Military Face Off Amid Controversy

By MARC NEWMAN  
Statesman Staff

Over the past few days, international controversy over the recent terrorist attacks on the United States has witnessed several deaths, as well as massive and violent protests.

Taliban experts in Pakistan have sent reports to the United States that a spy plane has been shot down north of Kabul, the Afghanistan capitol. It is clear that no one was aboard this plane, but unclear where it came from. Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, confirmed the

downing to CNN sources.

Taliban forces also shot down a helicopter, belonging to the opposing Northern Alliance, according to a Taliban Information Ministry official in a Reuter's interview. This helicopter did have pilots onboard.

In the meantime, the United States activated another 5,172 reserve troops on Saturday, stepping up its biggest military mobilization since the 1991 Gulf War, according to the New York Times. President Bush has authorized as many as 50,000 part-time troops to be sent into the Gulf area.

Dozens of warplanes and eight B-52 bombers have deployed in the Gulf area near Afghanistan just yesterday, while the total count of U.S. aircraft in the area has now reached 350.

The U.S. Military has sought operations in Iraq's southern no-fly zone, Turkey and Pakistan. The Bush administration has hoped to smooth relations with Pakistan, seeking its full military support, and has reached out its hand by curtailing economic sanctions placed on the country in 1998 for its involvement in a nuclear arms race with India.

However, this move and the recent tragedies on American soil have not completely won over the opinion of the Pakistani people.

On Saturday, there were demonstrations in Pakistan against Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's decision to support the United States. Recent protests have taken place in Peshawar, described to be peaceful, unlike those over the past few days.

On Friday, large, and sometimes violent protests took place throughout Pakistan. After services at mosques on the Muslim day

of prayer, thousands of people protested in the cities of Peshawar, Islamabad, Quetta and Lahore.

Many of the demonstrations were small and started peacefully in cities closed to traffic. However, at least two people have been killed in some of the most violent protests among the strikes and demonstrations. Deputy inspector general of Karachi police estimated the death toll, in a CNN interview on Friday, referring to the protests that took place in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

## Metro

# Security Concerns Heighten at Empire State Building

By RALPH FRAMMOLINO  
The Los Angeles Times

The Empire State Building once again represents everything that is New York, which means it has become a place of fear and loathing, harsh words, threatened lawsuits and talk of a grass-roots rent strike.

As tenants of this city within the city adjust to the changed landscape of Manhattan, which has made their building New York's tallest again, many see their location as more precarious than privileged. The issue is safety.

Building managers tightened security immediately after the attacks last week, but some tenants are threatening to withhold rent checks unless it becomes tighter still. Other tenants want to leave for less conspicuous space, in part because long delays through new lobby checkpoints are keeping

customers away from the 102-story landmark.

"It's going to have to change otherwise there's going to be rioting downstairs," said attorney David H. Oswald, whose office is on the 45th floor. "People are waiting two hours to get in here."

Similar debates over security are going on in high-rise buildings across New York, not to mention at airports, skyscrapers, sporting venues, government buildings and public spaces around the nation.

At the Empire State Building, the frightening realities of the "New" New York are being kicked around in the same "in-your-face" manner of "Old" New York.

A spokesman for building operator Helmsley-Spear said a "handful" of tenants have asked to leave but most are satisfied with

stepped-up safety measures. He said the building is currently 98 percent occupied.

Since the attack, the building has been shut to tourists, packages have been X-rayed and its 20,000 office workers have been subjected to metal detectors. The security presence has grown from a staff of 23 to include 80 private guards, said spokesman Howard J. Rubenstein.

On Friday, management announced it would issue mandatory building ID badges to all tenants, Rubenstein said.

Even before the latest announcement, some tenants said they felt safe enough and were staying put. "If you're that afraid, you might as well lock yourself up in a bank vault," said Irven "Jack" Brod, 92, the building's longest continuous tenant. He moved his diamond business into the structure the year it opened in 1931.

Although Brod said he has no doubt the building could be a prime target for terrorists, he said the chances of a repeat of the World Trade Center tragedy are small. He also pointed out that the building withstood the impact of one airplane crash, when a misdirected B-25 bomber flew into the 78th and 79th floors in 1945, killing 14.

But other, less-carefree tenants don't want to take any chances.

No sooner had the building reopened after the attacks than Oswald's partner, attorney Andrew P. Brucker, distributed a letter asking tenants to withhold rent checks unless drastic changes were made.

Brucker called for scanning of delivered packages and designating entrances to separate the building's office force from the estimated 3.5 million tourists who visit or ride to the 86th floor

observation deck each year. Some tenants complain that tourists often wander the halls, hoping to catch a free view.

Brucker reserved his harshest words, however, for the private security guards hired to run the metal detectors--echoing the criticism of private workers at airport checkpoints. "I do not mean to degrade the staff, but these people are useless," Brucker wrote. "The most they can do is point tourists to the ticket booth."

Although building management says the private checkers are well-trained and supervised by retired police officers, there is plenty of unhappiness.

"I don't think it's effective security, I think it's symbolic security," said Dershowitz, who worked with his brother, Alan, to help defend O.J. Simpson on murder charges.

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## Editorial

# Journalism, Not Sensationalism

When a tragedy of such magnitude befalls a people like it did the United States on September 11, every facet of society is cut down and reshaped.

Even the media—the eyes, ears and voice of a free society—find it quite difficult to keep bias from creeping into their accounts. And yet they are the speakers of truth.

Members of the media, like other Americans, are also human beings who understand what it means to love, cry and lose. Being a journalist is simply their job, it doesn't mean that they are any less human.

And yet, they are faced with quite the conundrum—they must report the news without getting caught up in its surrounding emotions. So does that mean they must give up a part of their humanity while doing the job?

Discerning between the inherent patriotism felt by every American and doing one's job as an objective reporter of the news becomes the burdensome yoke shouldered by the media. Simple things like deciding whether wearing an American flag or a red, white and blue ribbon turn into pivotal issues debated upon by network presidents at ABC, NBC, and CBS.

Members of the media are called upon at times to become cold, callous and perhaps even inhumane. Removing themselves from the scene whilst reporting on the occurrences, and sentiments of the scene.

However this raises another question. Can networks and newspapers remain objective and survive in a capitalistic society where the consumer determines the product?

Though socked and sickened by the events, we demanded thorough, gruesomely detailed up-to-the-second coverage.

So therein lies the problem. Did they stay true to the credo and fulfill their responsibility as a shaper of public opinion or did they succumb to temptation, acting like nothing more than a cog in Adam Smith's great and glorious dream.

They are the voice of society yet, in an act colder than objective journalism, media moguls let it slide and fell victim to the bottom line. To them there was money to be made, as Americans en masse tuned in to news specials and 24-hour news channels.

CNN and MSNBC's ratings shot reached never before seen highs and news directors scrounged to fill the airtime with

anything and anyone relating to the tragedy. The growing tide of public sentiment, and more importantly the dollars chasing it, paved the way for sensationalism and biased reporting, intentional or not, to run rampant.

In an effort not to alienate the public and fall behind other networks, American flags and patriotic sayings occupied portions of the screen in almost every broadcast.

Footage of the planes crashing into the World Trade Center was obtained from every angle and shown repeatedly. We were horrified by the sheer loss of life and yet we the viewing public need to see the scenes depicting two 110-story buildings, crumbling to the earth like an addict who needs a fix.

While the media did not fail to offer accurate and detailed news, it did fail to keep its objectivity. And while sensationalism did not reach absurd heights, there was clearly an unnecessary repetition of scenes of death and destruction.

The media will have many chances to improve its coverage, however. America has only begun its war on terrorism. Now, more than ever, news services must live up to the responsibilities of the Fourth Estate. Hopefully, the need to inform will take precedence over the need to enthrall.

## Op-Eds

# Some Food for Thought

BY ADAM ZIMMERMAN  
Statesman Editor

If the usual editorial is a whole, think of today's piece as the sum of all parts. Some thoughts that have been going through my mind since the date which will live in infamy...

Tomorrow is primary day. Go to the polls. Here's hoping Rudy gets 8 million write-in votes in NYC.

George W. Bush's approval rating of 90 percent is the highest in presidential history. Second highest belongs to Bush 41, whose rating was 89 percent after we won the Gulf War.

Did we really win the Gulf War? Not yet. But we will soon.

Heroic Leader Nelson Mandela Comes to Stony Brook was Statesman's headline on September 10th, 2001. For those keeping score, that was 14 days, several years, and one lifetime ago.

There are still professors at Stony Brook who have yet to talk about the tragedy in their classes. I am in a class with one of those professors. I do not understand that professor.

A message to the aforementioned professors: we still need to talk about what happened. Sometimes the syllabus should take a back seat, at least for a few

minutes. This is one of those times.

This Saturday, I will attend my Dad's 50th birthday party. This Sunday, I will attend a memorial service. The father of an old friend from back home was lost in the tragedy. It will be an emotional weekend on several levels.

As one wise friend put it: an occasion to mark the celebration of life one day, and an occasion to mark the end of life the next.

I used to be dismayed when so many people here went home on the weekends. Now, when I think of everyone leaving to spend times with their Moms and

*Continued on Page 15*

# Wanted: Experts, not Loudmouths

BY ARIF RAFIQ  
Statesman Editor

Like most Americans, I have been hooked to the news coverage of the September 11 tragedy, and of — as CNN puts it — “America's New War”.

The most vital commodity today, as it was on September 10, is information. The 24-hour news networks, CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC, have provided 24-hour coverage of “America's New War”, “America United”, and “America on Alert”. Is this reasonable, let alone necessary? Have these news networks sacrificed journalistic integrity for the sake of keeping you and I glued to the television? I think so - and that's why I've turned my TV off.

Face it, things have been static over

the past couple of days. There haven't been any additional attacks, developments in the investigation made public are minimal, and no significant actions have been taken by our military. Right now our country is in a state of mourning and our leaders are preparing our government's response to the attacks on our two most important cities.

Despite all this, the 24-hour news networks are desperate for people who will talk and bear a semblance of intelligence.

In the case of MSNBC's Chris Matthews, that semblance of intelligence is only evident in the fact that his eyes blink. The rest of him — from his loud, obnoxious voice, to his hideous toupee — is a sight and sound only the courageous or the blind or deaf can handle.

MSNBC, for reasons unknown to me, had Lester Holt, one of their second string anchors, interview Matthews on issues regarding bin Laden and the Taliban. Matthews, albeit an accomplished columnist, journalist, and presidential speechwriter, is not an expert on Central Asia and the Middle East. He's simply a host of a program on that very network. Most of Matthews' answers to Holt's questions included phrases like “I don't know, but...” or “Maybe, but...”. Not the kind of assurances we need from our sources of information.

Let's be grateful for the experts.

Fox News had a panel of accomplished foreign policy veterans including James Baker, Henry Kissinger, and Richard Holbrooke. These

*Continued on Page 15*

## Feminist Rants: Know Thy Enemy

By MARIE HUCTION  
Statesman Editor

It would seem logical that all of America's leaders would band together in this chaotic time to offer the country a sense of unity and purpose. Rather than continuing to fight among themselves, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, would put aside their ideological differences and work to rebuild America's shattered sense of self.

In contrast to this logical conclusion are the latest pronouncements of "Religious Right" icon Jerry Falwell. In his latest interview on Pat Robertson's 700 Club, Falwell espoused his views on the tragedy in New York City. Brace yourself.

Falwell blamed feminists and liberals for the tragedy in New York.

"Throwing God out successfully with the help of the federal court system, throwing God out of the public square, out of the schools. The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked," he said. "And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. The pagans and the abortionists and the feminists and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), People for the American Way; all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen'."

That Falwell is using this opportunity to attempt to further hatred of liberals is inappropriate, but the blame he lays upon specific groups is utterly ludicrous. Abortion providers and homosexuals can no more be blamed for the attacks than any other group outside of those individuals who actually took

part in the hijackings. Just like the American people cannot blame all Muslims for the actions of a very few terrorists, Americans cannot blame a single, completely uninvolved segment of the population.

Falwell places the blame on "heretics" such as abortionists, feminists and homosexuals, all of which had no involvement in or influence upon the catastrophe. He reasons that his conservative Protestant God has been angered by the activities of such "heretical" groups and thus punished the American people. Killing thousands of innocent people has served as a warning of the evils of an increasingly secular society. Falwell's audacity to trivialize a national trauma and use it as a platform for his right-wing conservatism is sickening.

His comments are specifically designed to fracture the sense of unity that America currently feels. He's using people's fear as a mechanism for engendering hatred and divisiveness. Pat Robertson agreed with him wholeheartedly, which shows the narrowly hypocritical and self-serving view that some right-wing politicians are currently taking. President George W. Bush's admonishment of Falwell's comments shows that even Washington considers Falwell's statement offensive to the American public.

Using God and people whose lifestyles do not conform to his norms as scapegoats for a national crisis serves to discredit Falwell in the eyes of the nation. Unfortunately, it might also create further tension and hatred among followers of the far-right. The last thing America needs right now is a rash of hate crimes (directed at either Muslims or feminists) to disrupt the delicate rebuilding process which has just begun.

By BHUMIKA BALGOBIN  
Statesman Staff

## Club Spotlight: LGBTA

LGBTA is an acronym for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance. The LGBTA was founded in 1974 to increase awareness about gay and lesbian issues on campus and to provide an outlet for gay and lesbian youths and adults. I interviewed with the two co-chairs, Samantha and Lowell, about the LGBTA and its impact on Stony Brook.

Q: What are some of the activities sponsored by the LGBTA?

A: The LGBTA usually has panel where we try to educate students about sexuality and people with differences in sexuality. We answer any questions that students may have. These panel discussions are the most effective way to educate students about people with LGBT lifestyles and related issues. The panel discussions take place about 2-3 times a week. We also have campus wide events, such as movies or guest speakers.

Q: What are some new events that you have planned for the 2001-2002 academic year?

A: We will be observing Hate Crimes Awareness Week from October 8th to the 12th, which is also known as National Coming Out Week. October 11th is Coming Out Day, in memoriam of Matthew Shepard, the man brutally attacked in 1998 because of his sexuality. We will commence this week with a showing of the movie "Boys Don't Cry" in the SAC Auditorium on October 8th at 8 pm. On October 9th we will be holding a rally at 7 pm in front of the Student Union, followed by a candlelight vigil at 8 pm. Guest speakers will facilitate discussion on how we, as a community, can stop the hate. The month of November is also Diversity of



Statesman/Christopher Latham

The LGBTA poster has been signed by members for decades.

Lifestyles Month. There will be multiple panel discussions in classrooms, residence halls, and local high schools.

Q: How is the LGBTA different from other clubs at Stony Brook? What do you provide to your members that other clubs are unable to provide?

A: The LGBTA is the only club that has students that share a common difference. We are also one of the most diverse clubs on campus. We deal with more personal issues than other clubs and we tend to provide more of a support network to our members. We also hold a very vast amount of office hours so that we can have people in the office to talk to members of the Stony Brook community whenever they need to talk to someone.

Q: What does the LGBTA mean to you?

A: The LGBTA is a very important part of our lives. We have dedicated our lives to LGBT issues. We are active in the LGBTA, and politically as well.

Q: Why did you join the LGBTA? When did you join?

A: We both joined the LGBTA as freshman and we joined because it is a

Continued on Page 15

## Tales from the Crib: A

### Chronicle of New Motherhood



Statesman/Erin Duenas

Sabrina, daughter of Statesman Editor Emeritus Erin Duenas.

By ERIN DUENAS  
Editor Emeritus

The site of those hands gripping her legs tight made my stomach turn. They zeroed in on the spot with a quick dab of alcohol and then the needles

approached each of her thighs. I braced myself for the screams as her face turned bright red and her expression of pure innocence turned to one of utter pain. I wanted to cry right along with my poor little baby as she got not one, not two, but four shots at her two-month check up.

Okay, so maybe it wasn't quite so dramatic. But it was hard to watch my daughter Sabrina get her injections. The worst part of it was that I was an accomplice. Like most babies her age, Sabrina is a squirmer. To avoid a flailing arm from knocking the needle off its intended target of flesh, the doctor asked me to hold her arms above her head.

I felt such waves of guilt as she looked at me with a sort of amused confusion on her face, wondering why I was holding her arms. To make it worse, she never took her eyes off of me, even when the tears started to flow, and I panicked in the fear that she was going to associate me with the pain.

The guilt did not subside, even when I picked her up and her cries quickly died down to a whimper. In the end, I think that trip to the doctor hurt me more than it hurt her.

If I had any doubts before, those feelings of guilt proved once and for all that I am indeed a parent.

Sabrina's doctor, who I actually like very much in spite of the momentary feelings of hate I felt at the sight of her with needle in hand, warned me the month before that my baby was due for four shots at her next visit. I spent the following weeks dreading the appointment and thinking if there was a way to postpone it or avoid it altogether. One shot is bad enough, I thought to myself. But four? I wondered how I could let someone hurt that beautiful little baby of mine, especially when I learned that the shots would be administered two at a time, two in each leg, with the help of a nurse. Maybe I could get sick, I thought. Maybe I can request just one

shot. I felt bad, very bad.

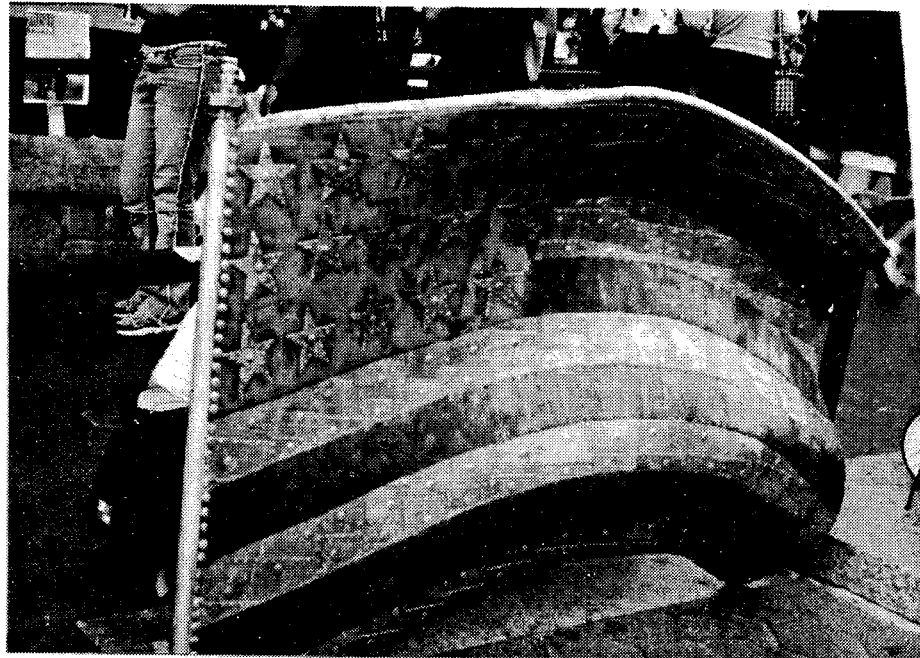
But then the logic kicked in and I remembered what the shots were for. One was for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, the second for polio, the third for Type B hemophilia, which could lead to meningitis and the final one for pneumonia. I reasoned that a morning of her tears was worth it to avoid such dreaded diseases. Besides, as my mother pointed out, better to have them now when she was too little to remember. But the guilt barely subsided.

I had heard it before, that guilt and constant wondering at what is right for your kids is as much a part of having a baby as changing diapers. I am learning just how true that is. I am confident that letting Sabrina get shots was the best choice for her. After all, who doesn't want a healthy baby?

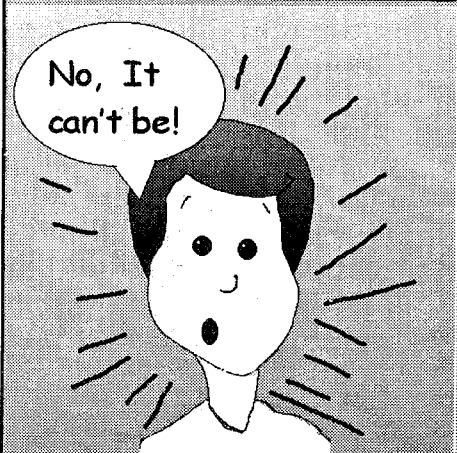
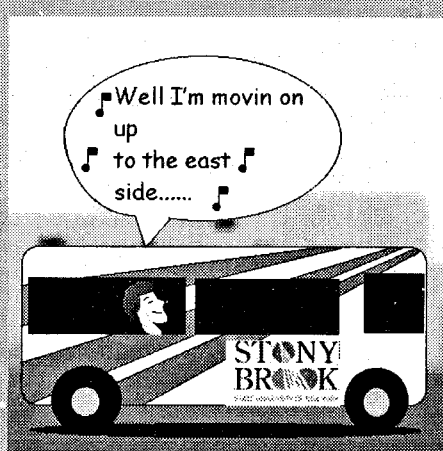
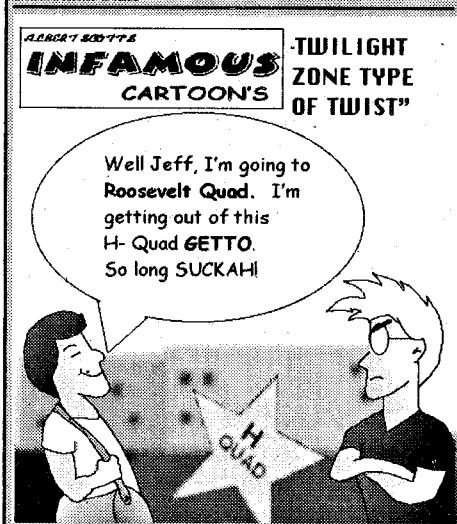
But this did not make me feel any better when the doctor casually remarked that Sabrina will need shots again at her next visit. Four of them!

# Union Square Park Rally for Peace:

By MARIE HUCTION  
Statesman Editor



By ALBERT SCOTT  
Statesman Staff



By KRISTOPHER LEE  
Statesman Staff

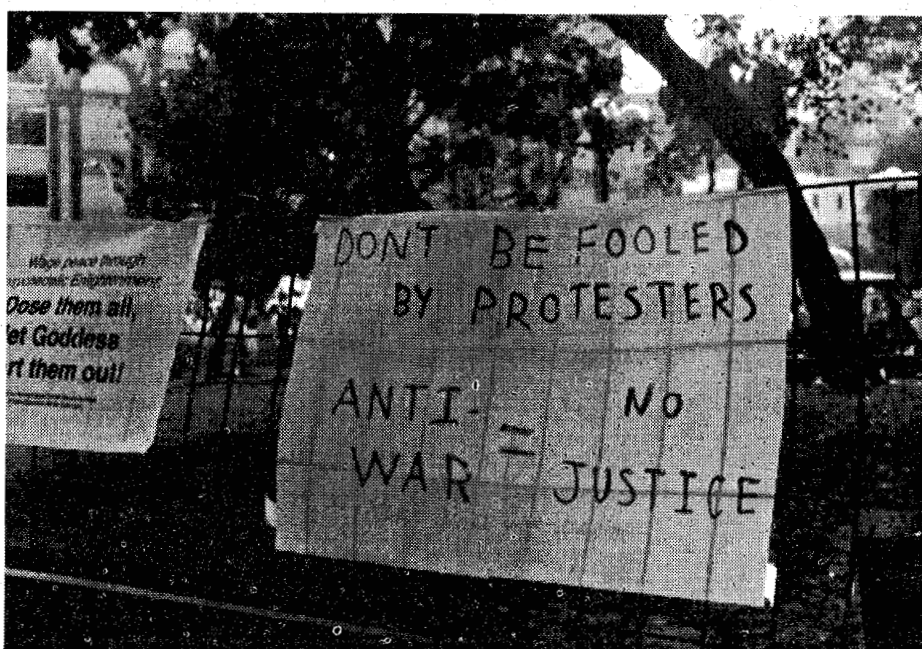
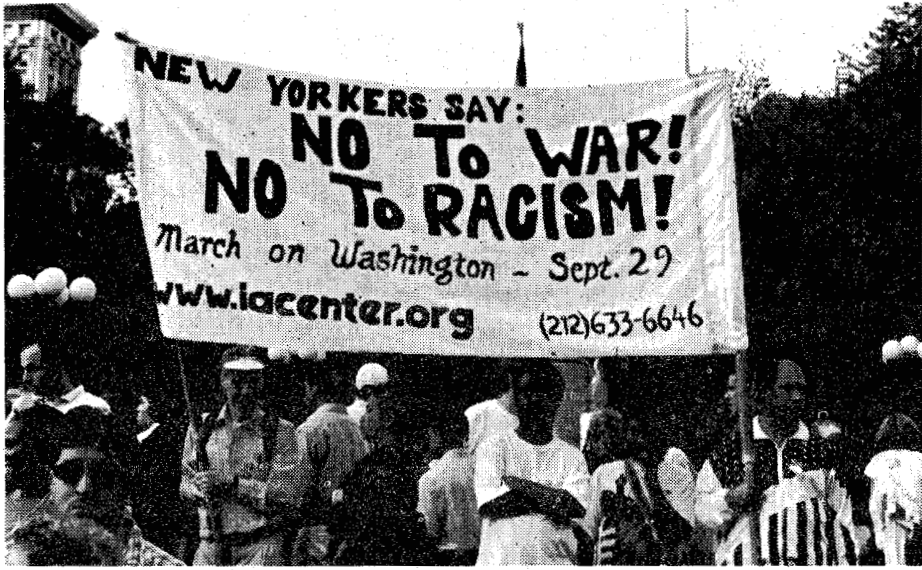


## Freshman Follies: Cellular Calamity

Monday, September 24, 2001  
The Stony Brook Statesman



# Challenging Race, Religion and Patriotism



The Stamp Brook Statesman Monday, September 24, 2001

# Veteran Rockers Live Release Fifth Album

By RYAN SOBEL  
Statesman Editor

Live has always been a band with a message. In their earlier albums, the message was one of spiritual enlightenment. The veteran rock quintet

firmly believed that their music was the best outlet for all of their confessions.

This was part of what made Live so attractive to music fans in the mid 1990s. Not only did they provide a refreshing, new alt rock sound, one other than "grunge" (a

word that was becoming more annoying than Steve Urkel), they had something intelligent to say.

Now, fresh off the September 18 release of their aptly titled fifth album, Live proves that they still wish to appeal to the intellectual part of the listener, not only the rhythmic.

Oozing with a sense of newfound contentment with his existence, Live frontman and lyricist Ed Kowalczyk virtually abandoned his spiritual proselytic mission. Instead, he tries to provide a more tangible subject for his music—the search for love.

Aside from the lyrical content, the album, as a whole, features 14 tracks that range from softer, pensive moods to a more aggressive, hard beat. Throughout this new variety of sounds, V still manages to apply the latest dosage of Live dogma.

The first single off the album, "Simple Creed," has already earned a great deal of airplay on the radio. The track is the first taste of a new style that Live seems to have adopted for a few of the new tunes, having worked extensively with the hip-hop maestro, Tricky. The verse is almost rap-like in delivery, while the chorus features Kowalczyk's typical, roaming, high-pitched vocals.

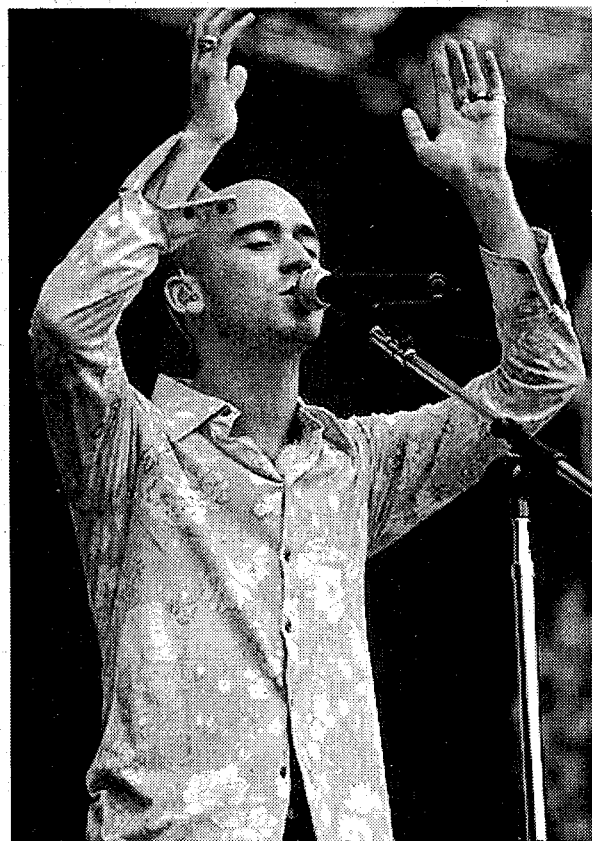
In addition, Live has just finished shooting the video for "Forever May Not Be Long Enough" (and neither is the title). The track is a highly produced track that features an Indian backdrop and a return to Live spiritualism. The chorus, however, leaves a bit to be desired. Fans got their first taste of the song when it appeared on the Mummy Returns soundtrack.

"Deep Enough" seems to

be the single that the band is most proud of. In fact, the first batch of records in stores has a limited edition hip-hop remix of the track. The message for "Deep Enough" provides an almost tongue-and-cheek view of relationships. Heavy guitars lace the song in an attractive manner similar to "I Alone," the hard rock hit off the band's multiplatinum, sophomore release *Throwing Copper*.

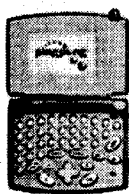
In light of the recent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C., Live released the piano ballad "Overcome" as an anthem for emotional strength. Once again, Live wishes that people take comfort and find emotional stability in their music, much in the way they do. The track is a far cry from their most famous ballad, "Lightning Crashes," featuring only Kowalczyk's soaring lyrics, a piano, and a strings section.

In a way, Live's latest release *V* is a step forward for the band lyrically, providing tracks richer in emotion than spiritualism. Musically, however, much of the album lacks the continuity and catchiness that allows the listener to listen from start to finish. Listen with caution, as the "track skip" button will be used often.



Courtesy of www.friendsoflive.com  
Live's lead singer Ed Kowalczyk preaches a less spiritual message on *V*.

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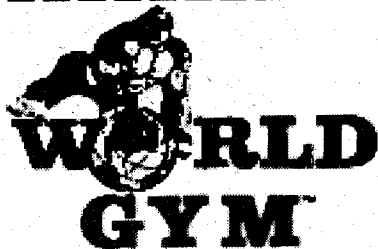
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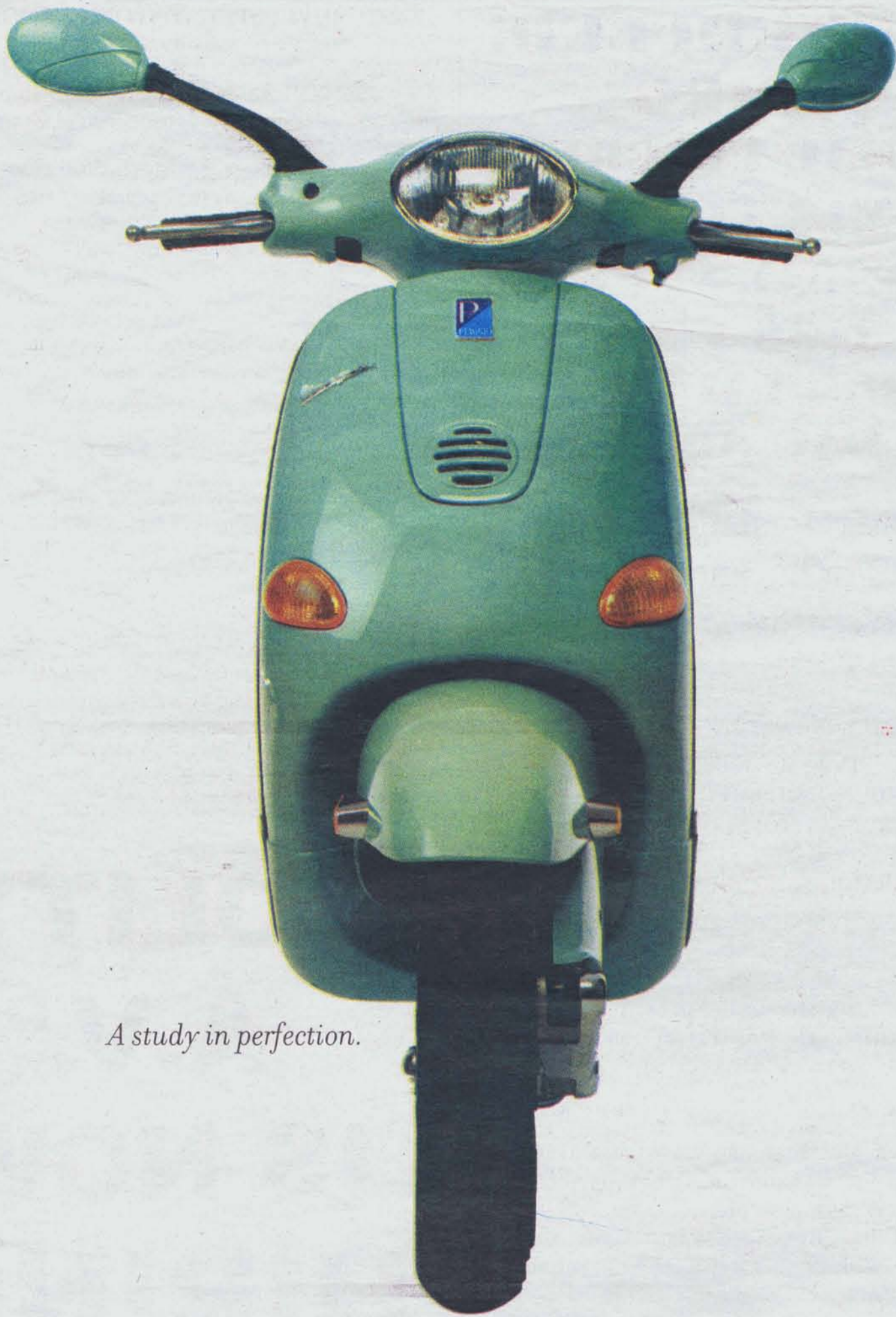
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### DIVERSITY AT STONY BROOK.....

*Essay Contest*

#### 2001 Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat "Leadership in a Multicultural Community"

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat brings together a diverse group of 60 Stony Brook students, faculty, staff and administrators who will focus on this year's theme "Leadership in a Multicultural Community." The Retreat will be held on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Harrison House Conference Center in Glen Cove, N.Y.

The goal of the 2001 Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat is to act as a spark to stimulate not only discussion but also action on the Stony Brook campus. Discussion topics will be centered on multiculturalism, leadership, and global citizenry. The Retreat is designed to be a learning experience that enriches all who participate.

The Planning committee invites essays from students who would like to be considered to participate in the year's event. Authors of the selected essays will be invited to attend the Retreat to share their ideas with a larger audience.

Applications are due by 5pm on October 10. Forms are available from the Department of Student Union and Activities, 266 Stony Brook Union; Student Activities Office, 219 Student Activities Center; Student Polity, 202 Student Activities Center, and the Graduate Student Organization, 227 Student Activities Center. If you have any questions, please call Marcia Wiener 632-6820 or send e-mail [Marcia.Wiener@sunysb.edu](mailto:Marcia.Wiener@sunysb.edu)

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**MEN BURP 4.7 TIMES PER DAY WHILE WOMEN BURP 2.1 TIMES PER DAY.**

**8% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NOT WATCHED T.V. IN THE LAST WEEK.**

**COLLEGE STUDENTS DRINK, ON AVERAGE, FEWER THAN ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE A DAY.\***

**ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR AMERICANS HAS APPEARED ON TV.**

**3.9% OF WOMEN DON'T WEAR ANY UNDERWEAR.  
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\*SOURCE: CORE INSTITUTE 2000

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# Turf or Real Grass?

Continued from Page 3

team, echoed Treolo's thoughts. "The trend right now is for the programs to go back to safer grass," Saban also told the Collegian. "The perception out there is that grass is safer."

Studies documented by the NCAA show that 37.8 injuries occur per 1000 plays on turf, while 35.7 injuries occur per 1000 plays on grass.

Nevertheless, critics of turf claim that it is not the frequency of these injuries that underlies the main concern, rather it is the severity of them.

The fear of getting hurt on turf fields has led to the concern of several football coaches over losing recruits. "I think AstroTurf is a negative in recruiting," Northwestern head coach

Gary Barnett said. "Kids don't want to play on AstroTurf."

Proponents of natural grass claim that the fear of getting hurt on the part of high school football players drives them away from programs that play on turf fields, where injuries are perceived to be more commonplace as compared to grass fields.

Arguments from both camps will not likely stop in the near future as economic and safety factors have drawn a thick line in the sand. "When you are down a touchdown with 2 minutes left in the 4th quarter, the type of field your playing on won't decide the final score," head coach of the Pennsylvania State football team Joe Paterno said. "The talent and efficiency of your team will."

# Praising Police

Continued from Page 6

Dads and siblings, I am no longer dismayed.

How fortunate we are to still be able to go home on the weekends.

Today, I started an internship with the Stony Brook Police Department. To put it another way, I started an internship with the Stony Brook Heroes Department.

In a perfect world, we probably wouldn't need police officers and firefighters. But I think I'd still want

them around anyway.

The Finest and Bravest make this a more perfect Union.

Were she alive today, Betsy Ross would be a very proud woman. We have found new strength in Old Glory.

When I grow up, I want to be a baseball player for the New York Mets. It sure would be fun to play baseball. But it would be even cooler to wear the hats they now don't during every game.

Happy Birthday, Dad. See you this weekend.

# Uninformed Media

Continued from Page 6

intelligent folk resisted attempts by sleepy eyed Fox reporters Jon Scott and Linda Vester to place the situation as it was some sort of gang fight consisting of "us" verses "them". When Vester stated that the streets of Pakistan were full of massive violent protests and that possibly Pakistan could not be trusted, Holbrooke came back angrily and dismissed her exaggerations.

He stated that Pakistan, as Afghanistan's neighbor to the south, is in a more perilous situation than the United States. And its leader, Pervez Musharraf, has taken great risks in being so helpful to the US. In addition, he and Robert Kaplan reminded viewers that the

protests in Pakistan were much smaller than previous protests on other smaller issues, and that most Pakistanis support their leader and the United States.

Perhaps we are in a state of war. But the reality is that we must define the enemy clearly. It is obviously not Pakistan. It is obviously not the millions of Afghans on the brink of starvation. The government of Iran is not involved as some foolishly contend.

Our leaders in Washington have a clear picture of who is responsible, but it appears that some of these sleep-deprived news anchors do not. To Chris Matthews, Linda Vester and their counterparts I say: "Get some sleep and let the specialists do the talking!"

# Club Spotlight: LGBTA

Continued from Page 7

place to talk and be social. It is a place to be comfortable with whoever and whatever you are. The LGBTA is also often referred to as a "safe space" for anyone.

Q: Has the LGBTA experienced discrimination from students on the Stony Brook campus?

A: We had a bias crime with the army that is now resolved. We frequently have pamphlets for healing thrust under our door.

Q: When are your regular meetings held? When are your regular office hours?

A: Our meetings are held every Thursday at 8:30 pm in room 045A in the

Student Union basement. Our extension is 2-6469 and our office hours are held Monday from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, Tuesday from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Thursday from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and Friday from 12:40 pm to 2:00 pm. We are always available, if anyone would like to contact us.

Q: What do you want people to know about the LGBTA?

A: It's a club that's not only for the LGBT community, but also people who support it and friends and family. We also welcome people who are victims of hate crimes and also offer sympathy and support for anyone that just needs someone to talk to.

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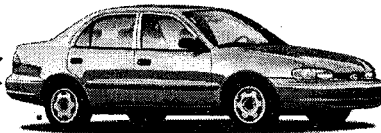
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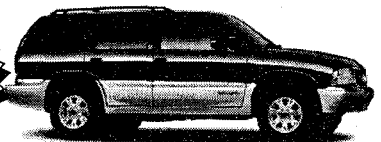


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### 1999 Chevrolet Blazer LS 4 Door

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Red - 4.3 Liter V6 Engine, 4 Spd. Auto Trans, AM/FM Stereo w/Cassette, Tilt Steering, Cruise Control, PW, PL, Dual Airbags, 4 Wheel ABS Brakes, Cloth Interior, Fiberglass Running Boards, Pwr. Sunroof, Rear Liftgate, 32k Miles. Stk. #5095T

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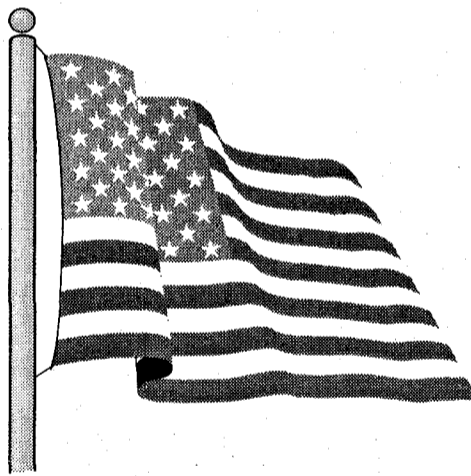
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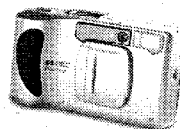
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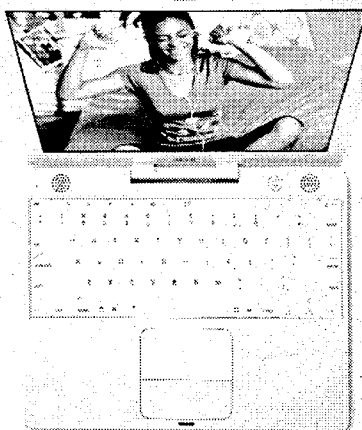
  
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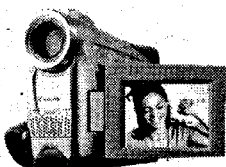
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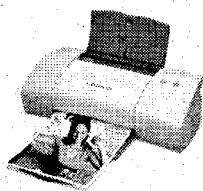
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, September 24, 2001

# Union Sq. Vigil

*Continued from Page 1*

leaves the park and heads straight to work.

"I'm never tired when I'm here, but I'm exhausted when I go," she said. "I do this because it gives me hope."

An elderly man who called himself Joseph said he was a retired army officer who helped with the WTC search and rescue mission before police started turning volunteers away. He said he had been coming to Union Square every night since he stopped volunteering six days ago.

"I just couldn't wind down," he said. "I'll come back tomorrow and the next night, too. I'll come back as long as it takes for me to feel right again."

# Senate Meeting

*Continued from Page 1*

New Senators complained that rules of procedure were not adequately explained to them and hinted on the lack of organization of the proceedings.

Overall, all Senators wanted answers regarding the facts about the budget, to avoid a deficit, and prevent last year's failure from occurring again. In addition, at the very end of the meeting, a schedule was agreed upon for Polity elections, which will take place next month.

# NFL Preview

*Continued from Page 20*

quarterback in Brad Johnson, and Vikings have the trio of Randy Moss, Cris Carter, and Dante Culpepper. As for the Lions and Bears, well every division has its bad teams.

## NFC WEST

The Rams have upped their defense to one with a bit more competence (to say the least) and should be strong once again. The Saints opted to go with young quarterback Aaron Brooks to lead them. With Ricky Williams primed for a break-out season and a great defense should be competitive once again.

The 49ers took a big hit in losing Jerry Rice and more importantly Charlie Garner, but still have a great offense. It's their defense that is questionable. Rookie quarterback Chris Weinke, who might need some years to get assimilated to life in the NFL, leads the Panthers.

Don't forget about the Falcons. Young rookie sensation Michael Vick can be a great leader and with injury-prone quarterback Chris Chandler, expect him to take the helm at some point in the season. They also have a great healthy running back in Jamal Anderson.

So, regardless of what occurs this year, you can be sure of another great season of pad-popping, helmet-crashing, fantastic football drama. So get the chips and dip ready, call all your friends, and enjoy a game.



*Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com*

Charlie Garner will be the Raiders' 3rd down running back.

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# St. John's Rallies to Beat Seawolves in OT

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT  
Statesman Editor

Almost two minutes left in the Seawolves season opener at DaSaliva Memorial Field in Queens, and they would have ended a seven-game losing streak dating back to last season. Instead, St. John's tied the game with 1:46 remaining, scored on their first possession in overtime, handing Stony Brook their first loss this year.

Halfway through the second quarter, Red Storm freshman quarterback Kyle Lauver trucked five yards into the end zone for the first score of the game. Stony Brook never stopped fighting though. The special teams blocked the extra point and a new offense behind new offensive coordinator, Mike McCarty, didn't wait to strike back.

Junior quarterback Scott

Bard, who hasn't seen considerable time in his collegiate career, threw his first touchdown. He fired a 57-yard touchdown pass to Londre Blocker with 2:56 left in the first half to tie the game at six. The score was 6-6 at halftime after kicker Michael Soto failed to convert the extra point.

Stony Brook gave themselves a chance to win their second consecutive season opener early in the fourth quarter. The defense blocked a St. John's punt attempt and senior linebacker Eric Martinez picked it up and returned it 11 yards for a touchdown.

But, late into the fourth St. John's pounded their way into the red zone and the Red Storm's Marc Saracino connected with Matt May on a 3-yard touchdown pass that sent the game into overtime tied at

13 at the end of regulation.

The Seawolves got the ball first in the sudden death period and when straight to the air. Then St. John's Chieduh Normah picked off Bard on the 5-yard line. The Red Storm took two shots at the end zone, then on third down Tom Gavenonis kicked a 20-yard winning field goal through the up-rights and continued St. John's tradition of dominance over Stony Brook.

The interception in overtime was just a personification of the reason why the Seawolves lost the game. The offense was plagued by turnovers for the entire game. Stony Brook fumbled the ball seven times, five of which were recovered by St. John's.

It's difficult to put points on the scoreboard without the ball. Turnovers allowed St. John's time of possession to reach 37:53.



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

The USB defense blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown.

The new offense may not yet feel comfortable with each other in game situations. There are seven new players in the starting lineup for SBU. They have a new coaching staff with McCarty and Corey Holland as the offensive line

coach. SBU is also implementing a new spread formation under McCarty, which involve using four wide receiver sets, opening up the field for potential big passing plays.

Even in losing there were bright spots and positives SBU took away from the game. Bard, who completed 13-25 passing for 176 yards, found a favorite receiver in Blocker. Blocker hauled in nine receptions for 133 yards.

The defense was lead by junior Aden Smith. He fought his way to nine unassisted tackles and helped hold the Red Storm to 247 total yards despite the time of possession and 83 plays for St. John's.

The Seawolves look for their first win at Albany next Saturday and will play their first home game against Wagner on October 6.

# NFL 2001 Season Preview

By ALI KHAN  
Statesman Staff

Just between summer and winter lies a season known as fall. Cool brisk air, vibrant leaf color, and as all sports fanatics know, the culmination of the football season.

Here I offer my take on the ins and outs of every division and tell you what to look for in the upcoming season. Since the NFL season has already begun, let's not waste any time and get started. Beginning in the AFC:

## AFC EAST

This division should be easy to review. Jets fans, I'm sorry, but under new coach Herman Edwards, and with the loss of college sensation Santana Moss in the offseason, don't expect this team to go far.

In this division, I see the Colts and Dolphins running away with it, and for opposite reasons. The Colts have an overpowering

offense (led by Peyton Manning, Marvin Harrison, and Edgerrin James) and the Dolphins have a speedy defense.

The Bills take a major hit with the loss of Doug Flutie (who I felt was better than Rob Johnson all along). As for the



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com

Marvin Harrison hopes to help the Colts get to the Super Bowl this year.

Patriots, Bill Belichick is treading on thin water in his second unpromising season with the team.

## AFC CENTRAL

This division isn't as clean cut as the AFC East. Here, expect a slugfest between the Titans, Super Bowl champ Ravens (who now have pro-bowler Elvis Grbac at the helm), and the Jacksonville Jaguars (who are quite explosive if they stay healthy).

I don't see the Browns and Bengals (now led by ex-Seahawk Jon Kitna) making too much noise. However, expect Corey Dillon to have another Pro-Bowl caliber season

for the Bengals.

## AFC WEST

This is probably the strongest division in the NFL. The Broncos are my early season pick to win it all. The Raiders with ex-49ers Charlie Garner and the great Jerry Rice have vamped up an already efficient and powerful offense.

My surprise pick for the season is the Chargers (led by Doug Flutie), who may go far this season with an already powerful defense. The Chiefs under new head coach Dick Vermeil are trying to implement a Ram-like offense, while the Seahawks beefed up their defense with pro-bowlers John Randle and Levon Kirkland. Don't be surprised if three teams from this division make the playoffs (pending a normal playoff schedule).

## NFC EAST

Giants fans, be thankful that the team is in a weak division, not to mention that you own the Eagles. As for the Eagles, McNabb should lead his team back into the playoffs.

Expect the Redskins to be a big disappointment (again). The Cowboys just aren't the team that they used to be and will need a few rebuilding years to be back in contending form. The Cardinals are gonna be, well the Cardinals.

## NFC CENTRAL

This is gonna be an exciting division to watch in the NFC. Expect quite a battle between the Vikings, Packers, and Bucs. Brett Favre is healthy and looks to be in his usual good form.

The Bucs have their dominating defense and a new