

Associated Press
Israeli army soldiers sitting atop tanks in a trench secure the area of a new position in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

U.S. pressures Arafat on terror crackdown

By Beth Gardner
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM — U.S. envoys urged Yasser Arafat to take harsh measures against Islamic militants in meetings and a phone call hours before a suicide bomber detonated explosives yesterday outside a Jerusalem hotel, further rattling terror-weary Israelis' nerves.

In Arafat's boldest move yet against militants, Palestinian police put Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin under house arrest late yesterday. Hamas has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks, including deadly weekend suicide bombings in Israel.

Palestinian security officials said Yassin, a quadriplegic, was told he would be allowed no visitors except for relatives, and his telephone lines would be cut.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he urged the Palestinian leader to arrest 36 suspected terrorist leaders, while other Israeli officials dismissed Arafat's arrests of 151 people in recent days as a show.

Arafat countered that he was determined to break the terror networks in the Palestinian territories, but Israeli military strikes and sieges were making the job impossible.

"They have to cool down to give me the chance," he told ABC News.

Israel's air force struck Palestinian targets Monday and Tuesday, but there were no Israeli strikes yesterday in what Palestinian officials said was a lull aimed at allowing Arafat to act.

An early morning explosion outside a central Jerusalem hotel showed his task was far from finished.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy said the bomber may have gotten nervous and detonated the explosives strapped to his body and packed with nails and bolts too early. The attacker died and two bystanders were lightly injured.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the blast — a chilling reminder of a wave of weekend attacks that killed 25 people — in a statement faxed to The Associated Press.

"This operation is only an introductory and rapid response to the crimes of the Israeli enemy," the statement said. It identified the dead bomber as Dawoud Ali Ahmed Abu Sawi, of Artas near Bethlehem.

■ Sharon urges Shimon Peres not to quit Israel's unity government. | INTERNATIONAL, Page 9

Truong sentenced for Snyder Hall assaults

By Lynne Funk

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | lafunk@psu.edu

The 23-year-old former Penn State student who pleaded guilty to entering the dorm rooms of 12 female students and indecently assaulting six of the women in September 2000, was sentenced to serve 11 1/2 months in county prison Tuesday, and could still face deportation.



Truong

Hung "Tim" Truong was sentenced before Centre County Court Judge David E. Grine to serve 11 1/2 months and up to 23 months of probation.

District Attorney Ray Gricar said he was satisfied with the sentence Truong received.

"It's the sentence that I asked for," Gricar said.

Truong's defense attorney, Joe Amendola, said the sentence he received was fair considering the charges brought against him.

"I think we feel the sentence was

appropriate considering the numbers and nature of the charges against him," Amendola said.

Early in September 2000, Truong was arrested after he entered 12 female dorm rooms and indecently touched six women in them. Truong's lawyer said alcohol was a factor.

"It's unfortunate that a young man went out and got drunk — it doesn't change the fact he did what he did," Amendola said.

The threat Truong originally faced was being deported back to his native country of Vietnam.

Immigration and Naturalization Service would have been able to automatically deport Truong if he had been sentenced to more than one year in jail, Amendola said.

Although Truong faces less than one year in a Dauphin County jail, the possibility of deportation still exists.

The sentence always has a minimum and maximum sentencing time period, Gricar said.

"He'll spend 11 1/2 months in jail and when he gets out, he'll spend the next 12 months on parole," Gricar said.

Now, Truong's stay in the United States is over. See TRUONG, Page 5.

Americans die in airstrikes

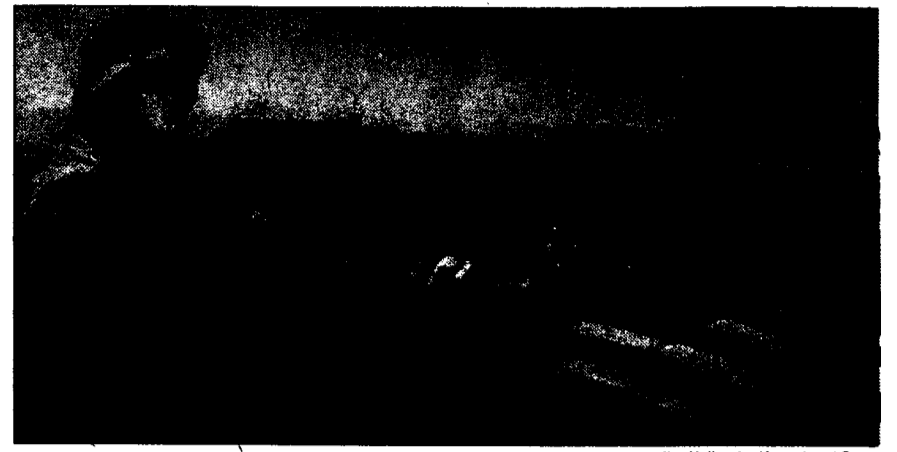
By Chris Tomlinson
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TORA BORA, Afghanistan — Outside Kandahar, three American servicemen were killed and 19 others wounded when a B-52 bombing strike they had called in went astray yesterday and hit near their position. Five anti-Taliban Afghan fighters were also killed and around 20 wounded.

Anti-Taliban forces battled guerrillas loyal to Osama bin Laden with tanks and mortars, fighting their way through remote mountains toward a cave complex where they believe the terror suspect is holed up.

Up to 1,500 tribal fighters pushed down a valley in the White Mountains toward Tora Bora camp as American B-52s pounded the area with 250- and 500-pound bombs, setting off orange flashes and plumes of smoke in the forested mountains.

Anti-Taliban commanders said their troops advanced to within a mile of the anthill-like cave complex in eastern Afghanistan, sending the Arab, Chechen and Pakistani fighters of bin



Jim Hollander/Associated Press
U.S. Marine Cpl. Brad Luschnski, 22, mans his machine gun at his "fighting hole" at a forward position at the U.S. Marine operations base in southern Afghanistan.

Laden's al-Qaida network scurrying to higher ground.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem said U.S. special forces were in the area helping direct airstrikes and gathering intelligence. He said Afghan fighters had already entered some caves in the area

searching for al-Qaida members.

Commander Amil Shah said al-Qaida fighters had nowhere to run, with escape routes into Pakistan snowed in.

■ Factions sign post-Taliban government agreement. | OPERATION, Page 7

All lit up



Adam R. Harvey/Collegian
Santa Claus gives a jovial wave in front of Delta Sigma fraternity, 508 Locust Lane. Their house tied for first place.

Holiday lights make for festive fraternities

By Corianne Iacovelli

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | cmi111@psu.edu

There were no hats, no gloves and certainly no snow, but oh, there were lights. Despite the warm weather, holiday spirit filled the fraternity district last night during the fourth annual Interfraternity Council Holiday Lighting Contest.

Thousands of sparkling lights covered the houses and lawns of 25 fraternities as they vied for the title of most holiday spirit.

A panel of judges traversed from one house to the next, led by event organizer Mark Krull, IFC community relations chair.

"The holiday lighting contest is a good way to combine community outreach and brotherhood, with some friendly competition to spread holiday cheer," Krull said.

The hours of dangling from ladders, makeshift scaffolding and

hanging out windows paid off for the three contest winners, who will receive plaques of recognition. There was a three-way tie for first place between Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, 417 E. Prospect Ave; Delta Sigma fraternity, 508 Locust Lane; and Phi Delta Theta fraternity, 240 N. Burrowes Road.

"This is such a positive thing for the State College community, a nice thing that townspeople can take a walk around and look at. These guys are good kids," said Mike "the mailman" Herr.

Herr was one of the five judges, a panel that included Judy Albin, associate director of student activity; Scott Phelan, director of fraternity and sorority life; Mark Sherburne, assistant athletic director; and Cindy Moslak, associated student activities.

Some houses featured music of the season, hot chocolate and candy

canes to delight the judges on their journey. Others, such as Theta Delta Chi fraternity, 305 E. Prospect Ave., were holding holiday celebrations.

"We're holding our philanthropy tonight," said Brian Bertges (freshman-chemistry). "Under our tree are presents that we've collected for local needy kids," he said.

Each house was critiqued on its creativity, style and overall appearance on a scale of 1 to 10. Point deductions were taken if the lights were any color except blue or white and if lights were used to emphasize the fraternity's letters.

"Does that count as a big red light?" Herr asked, questioning the use of an illuminated Santa Claus on the roof of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, 409 E. Fairmount Ave.

When the judges approached Pi Kappa Alpha, they were greeted by the fraternity members' depiction of the season. See LIGHTS, Page 5.

Variety of holiday gifts available in State College

By Jennifer Brooks
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

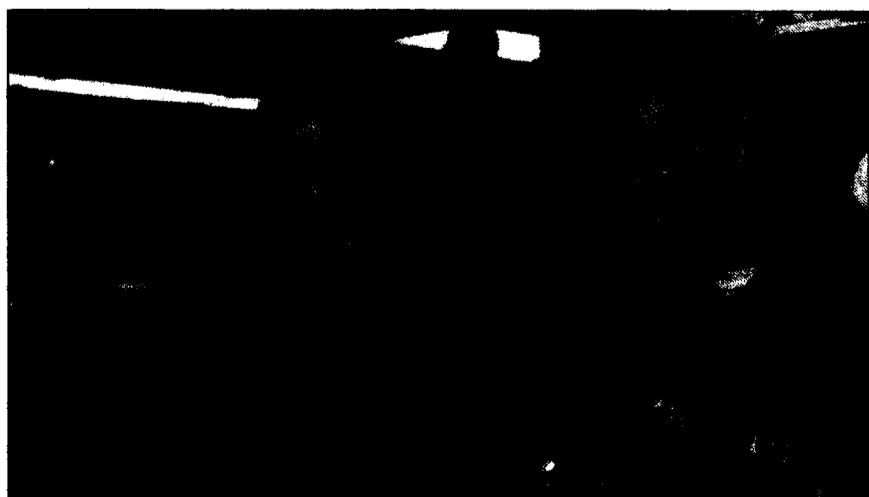
It's the season for long lines, holiday music and that one person who's impossible to find a gift for. There are, however, many popular gift items this season that might be ideal for that person.

The Microsoft Xbox is one of the most popular gifts this holiday season, said Chad DiGennaro, the sales manager for Best Buy, 1650 N. Atherton St. The X-Box is a game system that also can be used as a DVD or CD player. It has its own hard drive, so no memory card is required to save player information.

Similar to the X-Box, the Nintendo GameCube is another popular gift for someone who's looking for a video game system, DiGennaro said. The GameCube is Nintendo's first game system that uses CDs instead of cartridges.

Both the GameCube and the X-Box may be hard to locate, however, DiGennaro said.

"We can't keep them on the shelf," he added. "If you're not here the day they



Garrick Baskerville/Collegian
Christine Caruso (senior-education) and George Allen Butler (senior-MSIS) shop for gifts at Old State Clothing Company, 310 E. College Ave.

come out, you're probably not going to see one."

Warm winter wear also is a popular holiday gift, said Nicole Houze, manager of Metro, 324 E. College Ave. Many different types of sweaters are popular, especially long sweaters, Houze said.

"The warmer, the better," she added. As far as jewelry goes, horseshoe necklaces are what is selling for the holiday season, Houze said. Earring and rings, in general, also are very popular presents, she said.

See GIFTS, Page 5.

Inside

Sharon urges Peres to stay

Israel's foreign minister defused a government crisis yesterday, rebuffing calls to pull his moderate Labor Party out of the ruling coalition to protest stiff measures against the Palestinians. | INTERNATIONAL, Page 9

Feds capture Anthrax fugitive

A fugitive suspected of mailing hundreds of fake anthrax letters to abortion clinics was captured by federal authorities yesterday. FBI officials said Clayton Lee Waagner was caught in the Cincinnati area. Apprehended by the U.S. Marshals Service, he was among the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives. | NATIONAL, Page 8

CATA bus fare to increase

Starting next year, students riding CATAs Centre Line will need an extra quarter to make it to destinations outside of the downtown area. On Monday afternoon, CATA's board of directors voted to increase its base bus fare from \$1 to \$1.25, starting in August 2002. | LOCAL, Page 2

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