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Meet the Candidates
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The Stony Brook

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A photograph of a woman with short, wavy, reddish-brown hair. She is wearing a bright red blazer over a dark top. She is holding a microphone in her right hand and a small white card or paper in her left. She appears to be speaking at a podium or event. In the background, other people are partially visible, including a man in a white shirt and another person with long hair. The lighting is focused on the woman, with a dark background.

The
Lively
Arts

Award Winning Performer Rita
Moreno Speaks at Staller

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Subway Series Stops at Stony Brook

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook may be a long way from Queens and the Bronx, but this is not stopping the campus from hitching a ride on the Subway Series.

Rooting for the home team is taking on a whole new meaning as the Mets and the Yankees play in the World Series for the first time in over 40 years. Fans across New York are showing their excitement as flags adorn houses and cars and people walk around in Mets and Yankees gear. Even Hot 97 DJ Funk Master Flex showed his true colors, orange and blue, when he showed up to campus for last weekend's party sporting a Mets jacket.

In an effort to give the whole campus a chance to enjoy the games, the Commuter Student Association is showing the rest of the World Series on the huge screen in the SAC auditorium, an idea that CSA vice president Mike Bernardin says just hit him out of no where. "It came to me

Yankees

Mets

on Friday afternoon," Bernardin said. He rushed around to get everything approved and he only finished preparations on Tuesday, the same day the game showing began. He mentioned that the Asian Student Alliance was scheduled to hold a practice for a show in the auditorium Tuesday night, but they graciously agreed to team players by taking it to the Union bi-level.

Although the turnout was weak in the SAC on Tuesday, Bernardin said it was most likely due to a lack of advertising and that the next games would probably show a better turnout.

There wasn't a lot of people but those that were in the SAC made noise. While munching on the free food courtesy of CSA, the fans cheered and groaned as they rooted for their team. When Yankee Paul O'Neill hit a triple in the fourth inning of game three, some jumped up in joy as Mets fans groaned. Bernardin made his prediction: "Yankees in four!"

The Yankees led the series 2-0 after beating the Mets 4-3 in game one and then again 6-5 in game two. But the Mets came around to win

game three 4-2 only to have the Yankees beat them again in game four last night 3-2.

Most in the SAC did seem to be rooting for the Yankees. CSA president Andrew Murray is a Yankee fan and he has been one for a while. "I've been a baseball fan and a Yankee fan since the third grade," he said.

Storm Morales went to cheer for the Mets but he admitted to liking both teams. "They hype up the Yankees so much," Morales said. "The Mets have finally made it after all these years, they've made it so far." After predicting that the Mets will break the 14 game World Series streak, Morales explained why he was rooting for the Mets. "I go for the underdogs," he said.

Stephen Preston, who was not in the SAC watching the game, has his hopes on the Yankees but it has nothing to do with the team. "I want the Yankees to win because if the Mets win, the series might go to seven games and then I might miss the season premiere of the Simpsons," he said.

With all the hype surrounding the game, in came the controversy after game two saw Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens hurl Mike Piazza's broken bat in the Mets catcher's direction as he ran to first base. The bat broke with Piazza's swing, sending a bat piece hurling in the direction of the pitcher's mound. Intervention from both benches stopped a confrontation but speculations about ill feelings continue. However, no one made much of it in the SAC. "It was completely unintentional," Murray said. "Clemens didn't have time to look at Piazza."

Even the Mets fan agreed. "I don't think it was meant as a direct confrontation," Morales said. "Clemens didn't even make eye contact."

Even those who did not watch the game in the SAC were in the Subway Series mood. Andre Carberry said he is a Yankees fan. "The Yankees are the first team I ever watched play baseball," he said. "I love the tradition and the aura that surrounds them."



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Students watched game three of the World Series on the huge screen in the SAC auditorium. CSA will host the rest of the games also.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, October 26, 2000

Lights, Camera, Action

Rita Moreno Discusses Movies, Television and Theater at Stony Brook

BY TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

Dressed in a vibrant red suit that matched her spirit and passion, actress Rita Moreno enthusiastically graced the stage of the Staller Center yesterday during campus life. The auditorium which was filled with anxious Stony Brook students, administrators, high school and junior high school students, members of the community, old and young, all rose to their feet when the acclaimed actress appeared on the stage. This special event was part of the annual President's Lecture Series Celebrating diversity and tying in with the campus' celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.

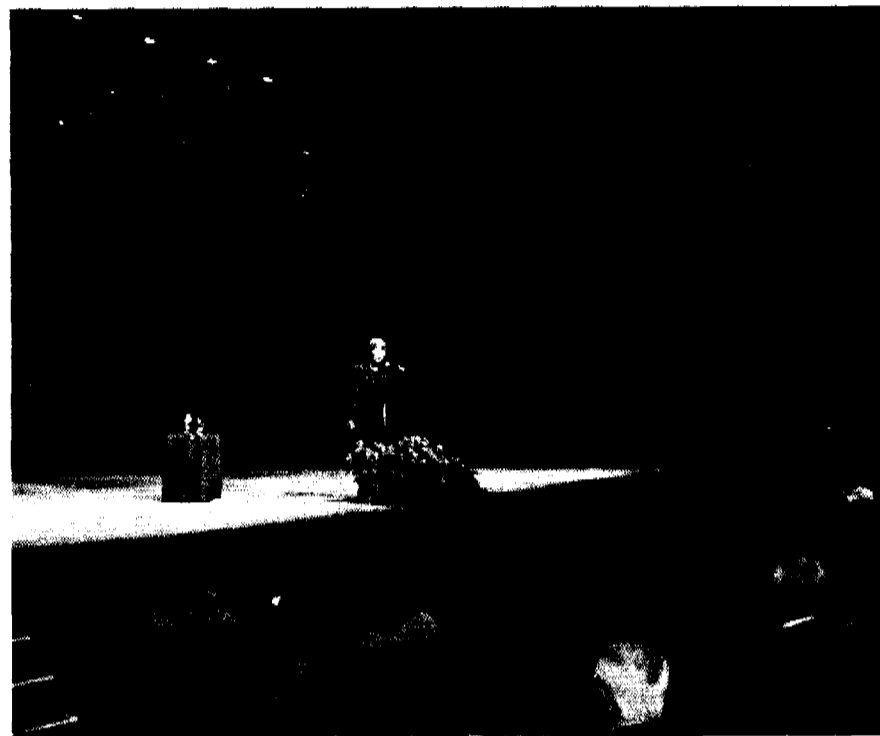
Introducing the performer was President Shirley Strum Kenny, who gave the audience some background information on Moreno's life. Moreno is the only female performer to have won all four of the most prestigious awards in show business, the Oscar, the Emmy, the Tony and the Grammy. She is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for this achievement. Born in Puerto Rico, as Rosa Dolores Alverio, Moreno and her mother immigrated to New York when she was five years old. At the age of thirteen she was performing in her first Broadway play and at seventeen she signed a contract with MGM studio. "Little did anybody know that this young woman from Puerto Rico

would grow up to set the new standards for women everywhere," Kenny said.

Getting right to business, Moreno let everyone know she was there to talk about the arts and the talk would be broken down into three parts, history of movies, history of television and history of theater. A bonus treat for the audience and extra fun for herself as she described, is at the end of each segment, she would do a small reading from that particular medium.

Moreno then went on to share some of her experiences in coming to America. "My very first American experience happened in the harbor," said Moreno. "I looked at that amazing lady in the harbor and though 'Oh my Goodness, this place is run by a lady.'" This was one of the many times the audience broke into laughter. The comedy continued when Moreno was describing her first few years in the country and the troubles immigrants have with the language. "The language was just nearly impossible," said Moreno. "I had never seen so many rules made to be broken...sometimes." She went on to imitate her mother's English which the audience found hysterical.

Moving on to the lecture she started with movies. "I'm going to tell



Statesman/DJ Maria

Oscar, Emmy, Tony, and Grammy Award-Winning Performer Rita Moreno lectures at Stony Brook.

you things you never know about movies that's fascinating," said Moreno. She described the start of the movie industry in the 1900's and informed the audience that it can be attributed to a small group of Jewish hat-makers as they originally started moving pictures. Moreno then went to talk about her first experiences in movies and the differences between salaries and actors' rights of that time. She reminisced about her first days on the MGM studios and meeting stars such as Judy Garland, Elizabeth Taylor and Clark Gable. "I thought I would die of happiness," said Moreno of the experience. After a few years however, Moreno's contract of seven years at MGM was dropped after just three and Moreno says her heart was broken. "My dream of becoming the next beautiful WASP star just didn't happen," she says jokingly. Moreno then found herself constantly being casted in b-movies, as a "Spanish Spit Fire" or as an American Indian in westerns. She did not give up though and would still go to the studios. It was, however much later while making the King and I that Moreno got her big break and met the man that would cast her in her best know role as Anita in the 1962 motion picture, West Side Story.

In the next part of the lecture, Moreno highlighted the importance of

television. Television helped show the world the injustices and prejudices suffered against African Americans during the civil rights movements. "Television also enriches and helps to educate inner-city kids and others who have no outlet for culture," said Moreno.

For the final part of the lecture, Moreno talked about theater. According to Moreno the unique thing about theater is that there is an intimacy found in it that is not in other performing arts. "From the moment the curtain rises the audience becomes one with the actor as you and I have already," said Moreno. "There is a tension, curiosity and sense of expectancy that cannot be witnessed in a movie house or front of a television screen." At the end of the discussion Moreno read a dramatic passage from the classic Death of A Salesman, and closed with a powerful message. "And that ladies and gentlemen is theater," said Moreno.

Following the lecture, Moreno answered some questions from the audience. She gave them advice such as don't let anybody tell you you can't do something, and you always have to study. For the minorities in the audience she said, "You can not afford to feel sorry for yourself, Don't victimize yourself, just focus and follow your vision."



Statesman/DJ Maria

Rita Moreno signs autographs and talks to fans after the lecture.

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"Meet the Candidates"

University Democrats Introduce Democratic Candidates for Supreme Court, Congress and More

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook's polling site became even more political yesterday as the University Democrats organization hosted Meeting the Democratic Candidates in the Union bi-level. The forum was introduced by former Polity president and University Democrats president Andrez Carberry who described the democratic stance as being kind towards students and higher education. "The democratic party is consistently behind us," Carberry said.

Carberry introduced Steve Englebright, incumbent to the state assembly, who has been a mainstay in the political arena for 18 years. The part time professor said that he has opposed tuition hikes and he referred to universities as the place

where students formulate dreams. "I oppose barriers to access that dream," Englebright said. The assemblyman also said that he opposes efforts at making education difficult for people to pursue. "Higher education is under assault," he said. "Efforts are underway to make it impossible for students to work and go to school." He then referred to the eight semesters policy which says that students will not be given on campus housing if they are on campus more than four years. "What is this, the Army," he asked.

Englebright then introduced Michele M. Woodard, candidate for justice of the Supreme Court. A native Long Islander, Woodard explained why she was running. "I am running because my grandmother told me to," said Woodard, who has had 20 years legal experience. She



Steve Englebright

explained that her great grandfather had come to Long Island on a slave ship and that he raised eight children and told them all to do the best they can do. "You can imagine what that meant back then," Woodard said. Running under the working families and liberal party, Woodard said she hopes to win. "I hope to be a public servant again."

Next up came Marcia Lauffer, who claimed that she has never been involved with a political campaign before. She said that she is a supporter of Hillary Clinton for Senate and has been ever since the first lady came to her house. "She put everyone at ease with her compassion, eye contact and warmth," Lauffer said. "She made it her business to find out what people are concerned about." Lauffer went on to say that of all issues she is particularly passionate about a woman's right to choose. "This will be confirmed only with Supreme Court justices that are also pro-choice," she said. Lauffer went on to mention some of Clinton's accomplishments including teacher training corps and scholarships for teachers that commit to teaching in high risk schools. "She is a bright, compassionate and dedicated lady," Lauffer said.

Chelsea Baylor spoke on behalf on Reggie Seltzer who is running for Congress. Baylor described Seltzer as an ordinary woman on an every day basis but as someone to watch out for when she is mad. "When she gets angry, there is no one more impressive," Baylor said. At 50 years old, Seltzer decided to go to law school and she practices as a pro

bono lawyer for environmental cases. Baylor said that her candidate is in favor of common sense gun control and abortion rights and that she is concerned about senior citizens who have to make a choice between medicine and food. "She is not politics as usual," said Baylor, who said that Seltzer favors term limits. "She said that she wants to go up to Washington once so she can speak her mind," Baylor said.

A graduate of SUNY Oneonta, Richard Ambro said that he has come from a long line of politicians. His father was a Congressman and his grandfather was a city assemblyman. "I am the fourth generation committed to public service," he said. Ambro explained that he is a good candidate for Supreme Court justice because of his 15 years as a legal aid attorney and because he is in court every day. "I think I have the temperament to make a good judge," Ambro said, "and I hope you remember me on November 7."

Running for second senatorial district, Tom Cleere noticed that not much has changed since his days at Stony Brook. "I still had to park three miles away," said the 1993 graduate. Cleere admitted that he was not politically minded while a student at USB but he said that he wants to be a public servant now. "I'm not interested in the prestige," he said. "I want to listen to the people in my community and make it a voice in Albany." Cleere talked about his opponent, Jim Lack. "I don't want anyone to not know who the state senator is." Carberry later



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Above from left to right: Ira Raab, Tom Cleere, Marcia Lauffer. Below: Chelsea Baylor, Bill LaMarca, Richard Ambro and Sandra Sgroi. Michele Woodard is not pictured.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, October 26, 2000

Editorials

Fight for Their Rights

Many times over in this space, we have urged our fellow students to start caring about something. Long accused of being apathetic, Stony Brook is proving that it is well deserving of this insult as there are barely any students that show up for anything. Just recently, there has been an embarrassingly low student turnout for major events that are not only important but helpful to know. First it was the Polity debates where no more than 30 students showed up to find out the platform of the next Polity president or freshman rep. Then there was Meet the Candidates, sponsored by the University Democrats just yesterday during campus lifetime. Save for members of the student media, about two students showed up for that. Only two. It was hard to tell whether or not it was pathetic or just plain embarrassing. About ten democratic

candidates for various positions came out to say what they plan to do as our next lawmakers and only two people came to see. Certainly we are not a campus full of republicans, are we?

Maybe sitting around listening to politicians tell you what they will do with your vote is not your idea of getting involved and staying informed. You want a more hands-on approach, you say? How's this for hands on:

With the recent horrific beatings of the Mexican day laborers in nearby Farmingville, numerous groups have been showing up in support for these workers and their rights to earn a living. Not to be left out, members of the sorority Sigma Lambda Gamma and fraternity Phi Iota Alpha held a meeting about Labor Rights last night in the SAC. They invited immigrant workers to speak about their experiences and to

implore the help of students. Working with an organization called The Workplace Project, the groups are seeking to empower Latino workers.

You want to hear about empowering? One way is to make sure that they are paid the wages they are owed. something contractor Kevin Sutton of Farmingville does not believe in. Sutton apparently owes thousands of dollars to a number of immigrant workers, dollars he is refusing to pay. To put the pressure on, The Workplace Project is organizing a protest where else but in front of this thief bigot's house.

How is that for getting involved? If that is the sort of involvement you have been looking for, show up at 27 Granny Road, Farmingville at 8:30 am on Saturday November 11. If nothing else it is sure to be more exciting than a bunch of politicians in suits gabbing. But it is equally important.

Commentary:

Protesting Against Police Brutality

By CHRIS LATHAM
Statesman Staff

Last year over 10,000 people flooded the streets in over 60 cities across the nation. They marched against the violence, oppression and hypocrisy that has invaded their lives and taken their loved ones. On Sunday, October 22, they came out again. These were the supporters of the Sixth Annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation. Promoted on campus by Bold Hope and the Feminist Majority, six Stony Brook students joined the protest.

12:30 p.m. I exit the train station to see the masses gathering at 14th Street and Union Square. Over a hundred people are already on the scene. I was unable to ride the Long Island Rail Road with those leaving from Stony Brook. I hope to meet up with them at the rally. As per the instructions of Anna Ortega, the head of Bold Hope, I remember to dress all in black.

As I push through the crowd, a fringe of dark blue becomes visible. It's a police barrier, behind which stand over forty members of the New York Police Department. Their clothes are the only thing that's uniform about them. Though mostly white, a few Asian, black and Hispanic officers are on hand. Some stand stoically, apparently summoning all their might to suppress their emotions. Others openly criticize the event through side comments with their compatriots, and still others

engage in friendly conversation with the protestors.

12:45 p.m. Toward the makeshift stage, a circle of women stand solemnly. As with everyone else, they are clad all in black. Setting them apart are the black translucent shrouds covering their faces. They are the Women in Mourning and Outrage. They are mothers, sisters, lovers and friends who have lost someone to police violence. The names of their dead are called out to the deep boom of their gong.

Colorful banners are spread out and hoisted for the police to see. They are many and varied, representing youth against police brutality, Asians for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, South Asians against police brutality, and others. Most of the officers show no response.

1:00 p.m. The rally officially begins. A tall lanky youth with dirty blond hair pulled back in braids takes the stand. He wears a black tee shirt with a stick figure picture of a cop shooting a pedestrian, and a caption warning, "Danger: Police in Area." He mumbles his name, but not his cause.

"People are coming together in cities across the country to say that we're not going to stand for police brutality anymore," he said, followed by a list of the organizations supporting the rally. The Direct Action Network. The Global Peace Core. Jamaicans United Against Police

Brutality, and many more.

He also warns us to be cautious around the police guarding the rally, explaining how just last night, witnesses say officers hassled those believed to be involved with the event. Apparently the incident occurred in the Sound View section of Brooklyn, at the same building in which Malcolm Ferguson was shot.

After the lanky youth steps down, Carol Taylor, the nation's first black flight attendant, and an adamant civil activist, approaches the microphone. She remarks at the hundreds now gathered around her with pride, but says it's the quality, not the quantity, of the people present that matter. "It is delightful to see so many young people here," she says. "You are the future, and you must be protected."

1:15 p.m. A woman calling herself Emmanuelle recites a poem, titled Hurricane. "I am a hurricane," she says. "My husband is a member of a secret society. Educated black men. I am a strong black woman, but sometimes I need a man to watch my back. So I try lookin' like a homeless vagabond. And I remember the sorrow filled voice of the minister from Mississippi, screaming no justice, no peace. I hear Coretta Scott King and Betty Shabazz ask why they had to lose their men. "I am a hurricane," Emmanuelle's

continued on next page

Standing Up Against Violence

continued from previous page

quivering voice forces out.

Up next is Chief Seal Blackfoot, of the Global Preservation Peace Walk, from the Pine Ridge Reservation. His tweed suit resembles that of the average New Yorker, if not for the brightly colored Native American design lining his blazer. "We have to wake up sometimes," he says. "The white police beat us up on my reservation too."

"I was beat down, my teeth knocked out and my nose broken. Us dark races are not enemies. We are all one people. All human beings. Please," he said, "let's all stand up for justice."

1:30 p.m. Three more poems are recited. The first, titled Cop Shot, doled out the long list of those killed by police violence in New York City. Next a 16-year old South Asian girl recites a rap poem expressing the outrage she feels about police brutality, inspired by the shooting of Amadou Diallo, an immigrant from the highlands of Guinea, shot 41 times by the police last year. Another young speaker from the Communist Party performs the final poem.

Next an Asian youth named Ian Sharoma speaks on behalf of the David Wong Support Committee. Wong is a Chinese national who came to the U.S. in the early 1980's. He was imprisoned in Suffolk County, New York for theft in June 1984. It was his first offense. On March 12, 1986, an inmate was stabbed to death. Through a complicated process Wong was convicted of the murder. No murder weapon and no blood was ever found on

Wong. No witnesses ever saw Wong and the victim together before the murder. Wong, many inmates and those who fight on his behalf say he is innocent.

1:45 p.m. The lanky youth returns to introduce Sekou Diallo, the father of Amadou Diallo. Speaking softly, he thanks the crowd for their support and encourages everyone to "fight for justice." Though brief, his presence captures the crowd.

The youth returns to press the plight of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Jamal, an African-American journalist on death row in Pennsylvania, was convicted and sentenced in 1982 for shooting a policeman. The officer was involved in a violent altercation with Jamal's brother. Many feel the prosecution demanded the death sentence on the basis of Abu-Jamal's political beliefs, and that there were over 17 constitutional violations during his trial.

Next a speaker for the Mexican Union Workers recounts how he was arrested in New York for supporting his fellow union workers in a protest. A speaker for the Jamaicans Against Police Brutality campaign follows him. He attests that "racial profiling, homophobia and brutality against African Americans are forms of social control." He informs us that there is a problem with police aggression in Jamaica, claiming that there are nearly 150 cases of unjust deaths caused by Jamaican police. "Your struggle is our struggle," he says.

2:00 p.m. The youth calls for a "positive,

spirited, but peaceful" movement up Sixth Avenue. He warns us not to speak with any police for our own safety. The Stony Brook contingent merges with what someone labels "the youth squad." The mass begins to march, and I finally get to speak with the rest of the Stony Brook crew.

I meet Jared Halpern, a junior, and Nadia Farooqui, a freshman. Halpern says he saw the fliers around campus. He says came to support any efforts against police brutality and to learn more about the issue. Farooqui expresses similar sentiments. "I wanted to be a part of something that stands against an injustice that's been going on for a while now," she says.

3:00 p.m. We've been walking for an hour with a crowd of hundreds. We march to chants of "Hey Rudy, just face it, your cops are racist!" and "Police murder must stop." "Hire teachers, fire cops!" I glance over to the moving police barricade. The NYPD forms a lethargic blue line, sauntering alongside the protestors. Nancy Rich, president of the Feminist Majority, overhears two cops making jokes. Something about "Italians for Mumia," she says.

I notice one particular officer, with a shamrock on his gun holster. He seems

particularly distanced. As I walk towards him, he shoots me an unwelcoming glare, so I give it ten minutes before I approach him. I ask him his name. "Hanson," he says. I ask him how long he's been on the force. "Four years," he says, hesitantly. I ask him what he thinks of the protest. "As long as there's no trouble," he says flatly, after a long pause. End of interview.

4:00 p.m. We march from 14th Street and Union Square to 45th Street and Times Square, and back down to 42nd Street. Rappers perform on stage to a stirring chorus of "I've got the rotisserie, ready to roast another pig?!" A portly black cop bops wildly to the beat.

Diallo's father takes the stage again. Like before, his words are soft, but his message powerful. He is followed by a lengthy barrage of speakers, promoting everything from the Stolen Lives Project to the Communist Party.

The lanky youth returns for a final time. He thanks the crowd for their support and urges everyone to continue the fight against police brutality and institutionalized injustice.

5:00 p.m. My train back to campus departs from Penn Station. I overhear two students discussing the rally. "Something about cops," one of them says. Exactly.

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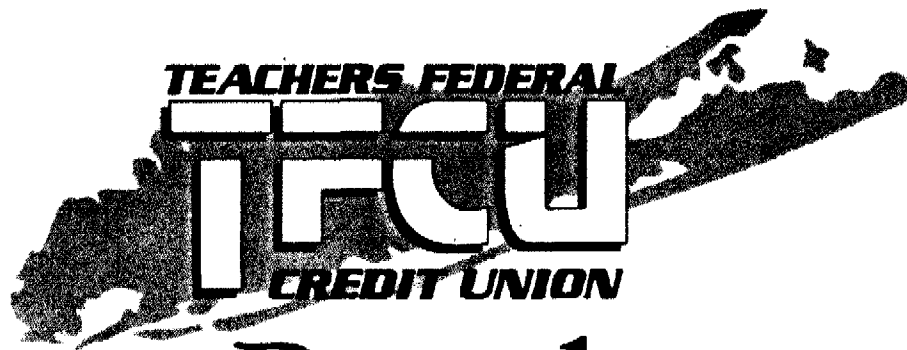
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Democratic Party Candidates

continued from page 5

recounted what happened when he met Lack while participating in Lobby Day a few years ago. He told us to actually leave and that he doesn't care about the student vote," Carberry said. It was a familiar story to Cleere. "That is a story I hear a lot and it is not just students it is a lot of other groups," he said. "I will bring honesty, integrity, hard work and intelligence to the position."

Ira Raab is also running for Supreme Court justice. Raab applauded the audience for coming out to learn more about the candidates. "The

"The public doesn't know who we are," Raab said. "They just vote republican or democrat and they don't know any background."

public doesn't know who we are," Raab said. "They just vote republican or democrat and they don't know any background."

He said that the judiciary is important. "The Supreme Court determines what your rights are," he said. He reminded that within the next four to eight years there will be four vacancies on the Supreme Court bench.

Saint James resident and district court judge Sandra Sgroi was the first female town attorney. She is active in her community as the president of the Rotary Club and the director of both the Veteran's Youth Program and the Guide Dog Foundation. Running under the liberal, independent, working families ticket, Sgroi explained what it would mean to her to be elected. "It would be an honor and a privilege to go to the Supreme Court," she said.

Nassau County's Bill LaMarca is also running for Supreme Court and he has been practicing law for 31 years. "I have seen cases of every stripe you can imagine," he said. He has worked pro bono for women in matrimonial disputes and he has also served on the Board of Education in his area. "I have learned that there are not just two sides to every story, there are five," LaMarca said. "I don't make a decision until I have all the facts." LaMarca said that he aspires to go to the bench to promote law. "I believe law is the bedrock of our civilization," he said. "The Constitution is one of the best things man ever conceived."

After endorsing Al Gore for the presidency, Englebright finished the discussion by saying that it will be a different America if George W. Bush gets into the White House. "Be cautious as you approach the ballot box," he said.

For more on all the candidates, watch out for the election issue of Statesman on November 1.



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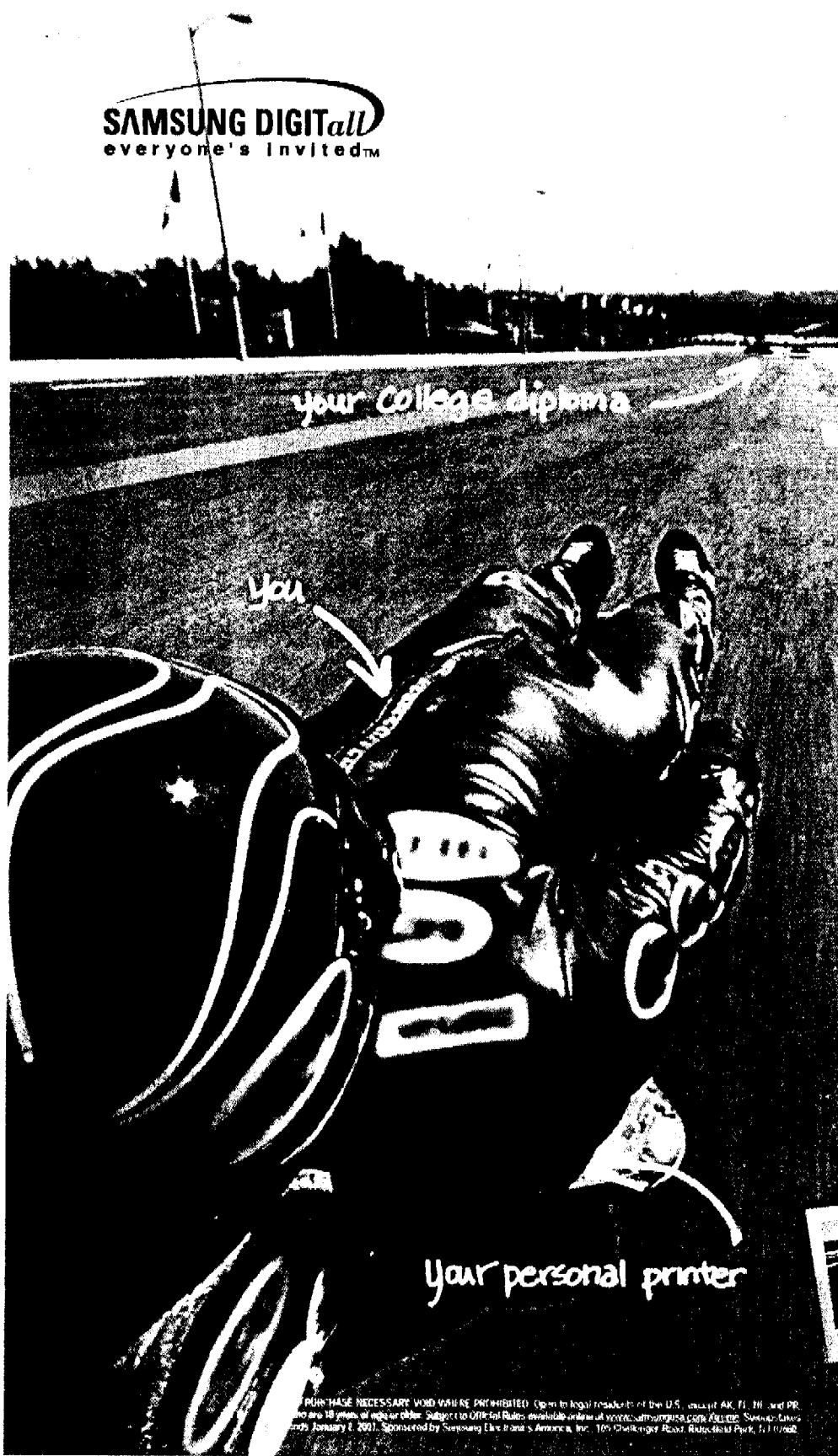
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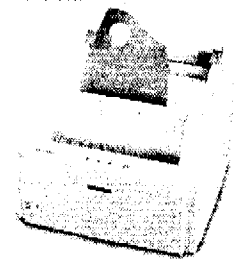
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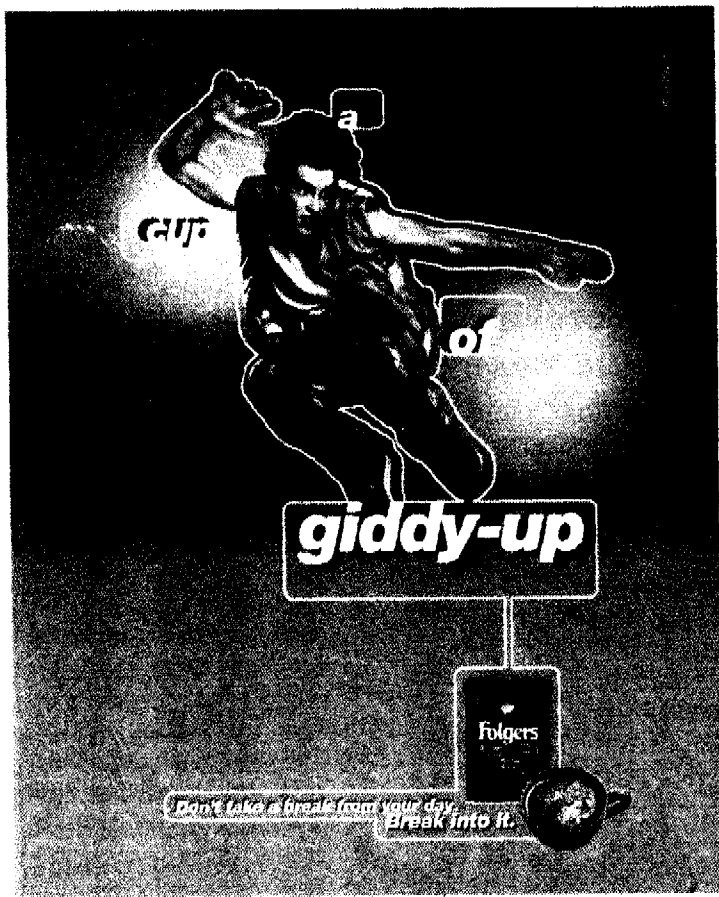
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, October 26, 2000



Rock Throwing Protected

Columbia University says literary scholar Edward Said broke no laws when he threw a rock toward an Israeli guardhouse on the Lebanese border in July.

"To my knowledge, the stone was directed at no one; no law was broken; no indictment was made; no criminal or civil action has been taken against Professor Said," Jonathan Cole, the university's provost and dean of faculties, said Wednesday in an open letter to Columbia's student government and the student newspaper, the Columbia Daily Spectator.

The letter did not reprimand Said, an outspoken advocate of the Palestinian cause. Instead, it said his actions were protected by the university's principles of academic freedom and noted that: "If it were not for Professor Said's well-known political views this would not have become a matter of heated and ongoing debate." Said did not return a phone call to his office on Thursday.

The scholar and former adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was photographed in July among the daily throng

then showing up at the Israeli border to celebrate Israel's May withdrawal from south Lebanon by stoning the new fence separating the countries.

In a statement at the time, he said the crowd he was with threw the stones only to see "whether ... they could reach the barbed wire."

"For a moment I joined in: the spirit of the place infected everyone with the same impulse, to make a symbolic gesture of joy that the occupation had ended," Said wrote. "One stone tossed into an empty place scarcely warrants a second thought." He did not know there were media present, he said.

Some critics were not satisfied with Said's explanation. Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, wrote to Columbia President George Rupp saying that Said's actions warranted "clear repudiation and censure from the Columbia University community." AP

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Statements of Freedom

Exhibit Explores What it Means to be Free

By JESSICA LEFFLER
Statesman Staff

Historical events, both positive and negative, are portrayed in many ways. Wars, violence and patriotism are common themes for various forms of fine art. The sight of bloodshed and political criticism become etched in the minds of people everywhere. These forms of expression can convey important, universal messages of hope and freedom. For two weeks, these strong statements of freedom currently line the walls of the Stony Brook Union Art Gallery.

Two Artists' View features the works of Belenna Mesa Lauto and Ruben Dario Cruz. In celebration of Stony Brook's Hispanic Heritage Month, these two internationally known artists visited the campus on October 17 for an artist reception,



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Mesa Lauto's *Betrayal* shows images of Cuba. A red, white and blue flag is displayed next to a black and gray flag, riddled with bullet holes and with a picture of Fidel Castro (inset).

which was sponsored by the Department of Student Activities, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda and the Women of Sigma

Lambda Gamma.

Using authentic images of the people of her native land, Mesa Lauto portrays the destruction of Cuba by power-hungry dictators, specifically Fidel Castro. She believes that "life is filled with interruptions and photos, being the closest documentary of life are represented." Focusing her works on "aspects of human existence and how diverse experiences-social, political, or personal- affect who we are, how we see the world, and who we become," Lauto creates images which generate sincere emotion from the audience. Her signature appears to be accenting one part of a photograph with symbolic colors. For example, in "American Patriotism," images of the flag are accentuated by three bars of red, white and blue. A true yearning for freedom seems to be the theme.

Genuine feelings of anger and frustration are displayed in "If You Were Blind". Cuban dictators are lined up in a row and a black bar conceals their eyes. Lauto wanted people outside of Cuba to know of "dictators who challenge humanitarian issues through contradiction and inhumane power". Displayed on the bottom of the painting is the phrase:

"If you were blind
There would be no sin in that
But we see, you say
And your sin remains"

Featured in such places as New York, Massachusetts, Columbia, and France, Lauto's works expose the feelings of those people who dream of a life of freedom and democracy.

Ruben Dario Cruz received his Master's degree in communication from New York Institute of Technology and has worked as a photographer, printer and gallery director. Works such as "Exposed," "45 Heads," and "Trickster" are depicted with vibrant color. Using oil on paper and computer graphics, Cruz's main focus is on people, faces and abstract drawings of animals. His belief that "religion is consciousness-shifting reality" guides his works. Depicting nature in his art is based on the idea that "natural disasters are an attempt to communicate information regarding dynamics of being." He closes his personal statement with "those who ignore spiritual growth suffer consequences of their neglect."

Located on the second floor of the Stony Brook Union, the Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 12pm to 4pm. The "Two Artists' View" exhibition runs until October 31.



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Cruz's *Trickster* shows an abstract drawing of an animal done in vibrant color with oil on paper.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, March 2, 2000