

Police Blotter
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SPAB Under
Investigation Page 5

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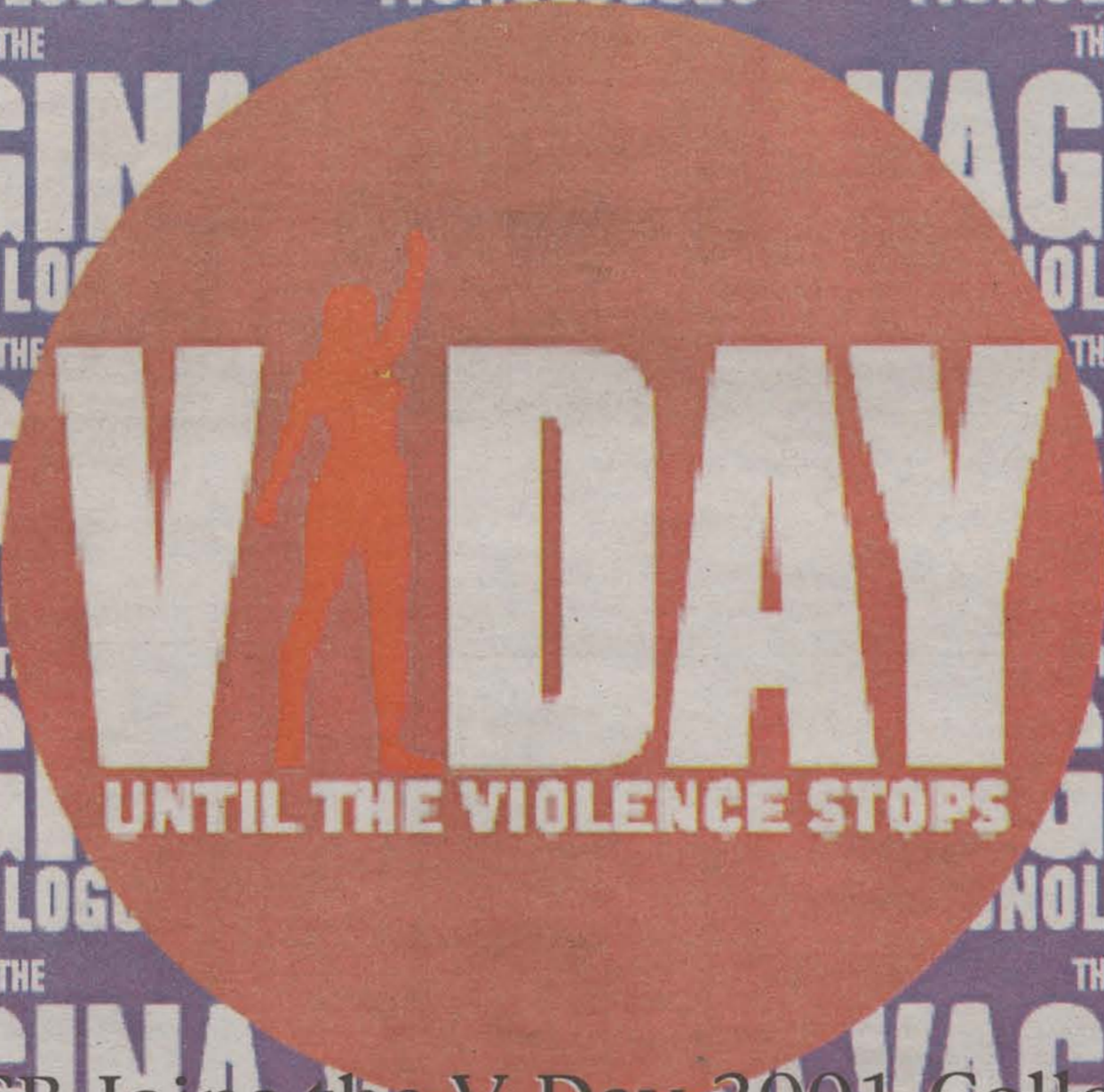
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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 47

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2001

PUBLISHED TWICE-WEEKLY

The Vagina Monologues



USB Joins the V-Day 2001 College
Initiative to Stop Violence Against Women

Police Blotter

Feb. 9, Friday
 12:57 pm Grand Larceny committed. A school bag with credit cards, a cell phone, and CD player stolen.
 1:51 am There was a noise complaint in Baruch college due to a loud party. Resident life staff notified and responded. All in order.
 2:48 am In Dewey College on Kelly Rd., report of glass bottle thrown at RSP employee.

Feb. 10, Saturday
 2:47 am Two suspicious males spotted trying to get into Cardozo College. Gone upon arrival.
 2:56 am In Hamilton P Lot, noise complaint against five cars playing loud music. Gone upon arrival.

10:42 am A stray puppy found with tags in SAC loop. Currently trying to notify owner.
 1:12 pm Suspicious bicyclists found in Mendelson and H Quads. Advised to leave campus.
 3:56 pm A smell of marijuana in Benedict College. Suspects dissipated upon arrival.

Feb 11, Sunday
 12:05 am A medical emergency in Toscanini College was due to a swollen right foot a sports injury.

11:08 pm Fire alarm ignited accidentally in Chapin. Student burning old papers.

Feb 12, Monday
 1:26 am Vandalism occurred in Javits

Lecture Center. A smashed window with the approximate costs of \$50.
 2:04 pm Threatening phone calls produces aggravating harassment in Harriman Hall.
 2:18 pm In UH garage, A fight occurred between a parking attendant and customer. Dispute controlled.

2:28pm Petit larceny occurred in the Student Union. Permit stolen from vehicle.

Feb 13, Tuesday
 7:45 am A physical dispute transpired between employees

1:10 pm A call leading to the University Hospital 19th Fl. A patient was found smoking in the lounge.

10:01 pm There was petit larceny in Hamilton College.

Feb. 14, Wednesday
 1:39 am Suspicious males found screaming in Roth Quad. Gone upon officers arrival. Area patrolled.

2:53 am In Toscanini College, Female treated at the scene by SBVAC. Refused

further treatment.
 11:52 pm In Roth Quad, Reports of fraternity pledging. Area patrolled. Suspects unfounded.
 1:23 pm Male worker fell from scaffold. Transported to UH via EMS.
 1:58 pm In Hamilton College (RHD

office) female found with chest pains. Transported to UH.
 2:51 pm ENCON vehicle struck by object that fell off a truck in South Drive.
 Feb 15, Thursday
 3:20 pm 2 skateboarders reported in the Math Physics building. Gone upon arrival.

Feb 16, Friday
 12:57 am Suspicious person in Roth Cafe. Gone upon arrival.
 1:45 am Aggravating calls in Greeley College.
 4:14 pm Disturbance in North P Lot. Approximately 15 people gone upon arrival.

Blotter of the Week

10:42 am A stray puppy found with tags in SAC loop. Currently trying to notify owner.

Amount Smoked per day	Average Cost per day	Cost per week	Cost of Smoking			Amount saved 4 weeks after stopping
			Cost per month	Cost per year	Cost per 10 yrs.	
1 pack	\$4.50	\$31.50	\$135	\$1620	\$16,200	\$126
1 1/2 pks.	\$6.75	\$47.25	\$202.50	\$2430	\$24,300	\$189
2 packs	\$9.00	\$63.00	\$270	\$3240	\$32,400	\$252
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 19, 2001

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A Thought From Rabbi Adam

Imagine that you had a billion dollars. What would you do with it? You would probably want to help others, right? Now, let's imagine that you belong to a specific cultural group that has undergone a major cultural holocaust. And, as such, your people, to no fault of their own, know very little about their own roots. Yet they are all interested in learning more, but just do not have the opportunity. Wouldn't you, as a conscientious billionaire, invest your millions into helping your people? Well, this is exactly what billionaire Michael Steinhardt is doing for the Jewish people. For he established Birthright, an organization committed to treating every Jewish person ages 18-26 to a free 10 day tour of Israel. Four to five generations ago, the Jewish people were a people of the Book. A people who knew who they were and where they came from. Now, after 120 years of pogroms, a Holocaust that wiped out 1/3 of the population and assimilation, very few know anything about their Jewish roots. For some, to take the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity would be to satisfy a curiosity. For others it would be like quenching a thirst. But whatever the reason- even if it's just because you like to travel- billionaire Michael Steinhardt and Birthright want to send you to Israel, for free. You're eligible as long as you are Jewish and have never gone on an organized tour of Israel before. Registration ends March 7th. Departure is scheduled for after finals. For more info, and to apply, just send the following to RabbiAdam@hotmail.com:

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The Premier of Vagina Monologues at USB

By TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

In the past Valentines Day has been a celebration in which women received gifts such as flowers and candy to feel good about themselves. Now, at the turn of the century, February 14th bears another important day for women, V-DAY. V-DAY is a day on which women around the world give gifts to themselves, gifts such as realizing their power and self-worth and not being trapped in silenced any longer.

V-Day started in 1998 as a result of Eve Ensler's Obie-Award winning play, "The Vagina Monologues." In the monologues, Ensler interviewed hundreds of women from around the world about a subject they were not accustomed to talking about, their vagina. Their discussion expanded to the abuse women suffer by simply having a vagina. These stories of rape, domestic abuse, genital mutilation and incest brought women's issues to the forefront and prompted a group of women in New York to join Ensler. This was the beginning of V-Day, a movement to end violence against women.

This year SUNY-Stony Brook along with over 200 universities nation wide took part in V-Day by putting on two performances of "The Vagina Monologues." The shows were held in the Union auditorium, starting with the preview performance on Tuesday the 13 and the actual performance on Wednesday the 14. The sold out shows raised approximately \$3000. All proceeds will go to the Wo/Men's Center, a resource on campus dedicated to raising awareness about important gender issues. "I think it was a real good idea SB took part in V-Day," said Farah Belizario, a performer in the show, "because there have not been any women's issues dealt with directly on this campus, except for the opening of the WO/MEN'S center, and the play goes hand in hand with that."

Lauren Garlick, the director of SB's rendition of "The Vagina Monologues," assured that the play wasn't geared only for women. "It really isn't a play to put men down," said Garlick, "but to celebrate men who know how to celebrate women." It's also a piece to show that women can be remarkably supportive of one another when they recognize their beauty and energy."

The show began with eight women performers chanting and singing the words "every fruit has its secret, involved, intuned, invisible," to music written by one of the cast members, Laura Conroy. In the center of the stage, two cast members, Svetlana Fisher and



Lauren Garlick

Cast members Lily Brennick, Stephanie Felmlly and Lina Nguyen get ready for their big performance.

Lina Nguyen performed a modern dance. The dance entailed pulling each other back and forth which symbolized a mother/daughter relationship and the intense love women are capable of giving.

Following the opening scene, Belizario, Figer and Nguyen gave the audience a background of how "The Vagina Monologue," came about. They discussed the phonetics of the word vagina and how unsexy, ridiculous and negative it sounds.

As each performer took center stage, they told a new story based on the women's lives who spoke to Ensler. The topics were universal to all women along with the entire audience. "I was glad I went to the show," said Sharon Paulino, a senior, "because it showed me that the concerns I had had were shared by other women too."

Some of the topics that evoked the most response from the audience were about how some women don't know where their clitoris is, never reach an orgasm, or never even look at their vagina.

The play then touched upon several serious and

moving issues such as genital mutilation and rape. During these stories, the performers would inform the audience about statistics and factual information, like how every year about two million youngsters get their clitoris removed. They also vividly described how brutally the Bosnian women were repeatedly raped for days.

The play switched gears when a new addition, angry vagina, played by Belizario took center stage. Angry vagina vented to the audience about everything she was "pissed off about". Subjects such as tampons, thongs and gynecologist visits where doctors stick cold ducklip-like instruments in women and expect them to relax their vagina, were on her agenda of complaints. This act full of raw language and honest and colorful descriptions had the audience laughing in hysterics. There were also several ensemble pieces done by the whole cast in the SB play that were only performed by three women in the original. Garlick said she wanted the entire cast in the ensemble pieces because they dealt with universal issues that were meaningful for each one.

After the play the cast members stayed on the stage and addressed any questions the audience members had. Directly following the question and answer session, the Wo/Men's Center held the "Vagina Dialogues," where audience members were encouraged to share their experiences and thoughts. Some examples of questions that arose were: why weren't more birth control and safe-sex issues included in the play? And why were there only two lesbian characters?

Since the monologues and dialogues last Wednesday, Garlick has received a lot of letters and feedback from audience members, on and off campus. "It's important that the play reached out to the community," said Garlick. As for the cast, Garlick said they worked so beautifully together, they became friends, sometimes just wanting to talk and share with each other rather than rehearse. "As director of this particular play," said Garlick, "I had an opportunity to work with the cast in a very personal way, and it has allowed us all to reach a deeper understanding of ourselves."

Seawolves Edge off Arch Rivals in Season Finale 56-54

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT
Statesman Staff

The first thing one sees when walking into the Seawolves locker room was a banner posted with pictures of some Albany players. This was snatched down and destroyed by center Jill George (#35) after Stony Brook defeated Albany, 56-54, in one of their most exciting games of the season.

In the final home game of the season, USB not only conquered their biggest rival but made history. They recorded their 13th home win which was the second most in school history. The 1986-87 squad won all 14 home games.

Center Jill George definitely had the right to be

excited with the win. She consistently tormented the Great Danes in the post tallying 17 points and eight rebounds on 7 for 8 shooting. George attacked right out the gate dropping 11 points in the first half. "That's all you think, you got to score, score, score," she said.

The battle between the two teams was close from the opening tip-off since the Seawolves had their troubles offensively. But their frontcourt kept them in it with George's scoring exploits and help from freshman forward Danielle DeGiorgio (#13). DeGiorgio had 11 of her 13 points in the first half. Stony Brook went into the half with a 28-27 lead.

However, Albany came out aggressively to start the second half scoring a couple of quick baskets and

Continued on page 7

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SPAB Under Investigation

Apparent Irregularities Found in Records

PAUL O'FLAHERTY
Statesman Contributor

The investigative committee formed by the Polity Senate considered apparent irregularities in the records of the Student Polity Activities Board (SPAB) in meetings held Feb. 9 and 14.

The most prominent irregularities were SPAB's submittal of three separate signature cards to the Polity Council and its lack of official meeting times.

Signature cards contain the names and signatures of a club's president, vice president, and treasurer. Under Polity rules only these three members can approve allocations by a club. The committee presented minutes showing nine different people interchangeably approving allocations throughout the Fall of 2000. "Every other club on campus is limited to one signature card," said Chris Balk, a member of the committee.

In considering these irregularities, the committee has expanded the focus of its inquiry. "New evidence was brought to the table that we were unprepared for. Though the original job of this committee was to just look into the speaker allocation, it is in the investigative rules [of Polity] to look into everything having to do with violation of rules" said Gina Fiore, committee chairperson.

Originally, the senate voted to form the six-person committee to investigate SPAB's \$250 allocation to David Muhammad, a minister in the Nation of Islam. Muhammad was to give a lecture on the evening of Feb. 7. The event was cancelled after a member of Polity discovered flyers advertising it with a statement on the bottom to Allah. Polity

cannot fund events with overt religious or partisan content.

Besides SPAB's lack of official meeting times and its submittal of three signature cards, the committee also considered the following apparent irregularities in SPAB records:

SPAB's failure to report vote counts on allocations of money; Allocations made to Office Max (All Polity clubs must use the Polity print shop). Allocations of money to individuals (Under Polity rules, only organizations can receive allocations from Polity clubs, except for reimbursements).

Polity President Jonnel Doris said that to his knowledge, the lack of vote counts was limited to the Muhammad allocation. He also said he knew of no allocations made to individuals. About Office Max allocations Doris said, "At that point Polity Print Shop was under construction. Building [legislatures] use Office Max. Clubs use Office Max all the time."

Polity Treasurer Renee Johnson, executive director Stephen Adams, and the Student Union and Activities liaison generally approve all club allocations.

When asked if there was any difference in thoroughness between SPAB records and those of other clubs Doris said it might be hard to tell. "Everyone already knows what's going on," Doris said. "For other groups we don't know the details." He explained that the offices of the Polity treasurer, the executive director, and the Student Union and Activities liaison, were all adjacent to the offices of SPAB. "The procedural stuff that happened, I spoke to them and they understand that there's a problem. I don't think it was intentional," Doris said. "Things may have been overlooked.

It's not something to blow out of proportion. If you run a red light, you don't get the death penalty."

During the meetings, many members of SPAB and the Polity Council expressed their disagreement with the committee's investigation. "SPAB has a job to do. They're a programming board. [The committee] should be making a list of suggestions," said Kaedrea Jackson, Polity vice president.

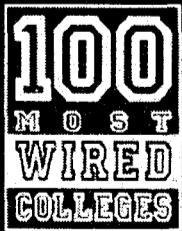
Doris said, "We have the meal plan, we have academic buildings falling apart, we have the eight semester rule. Is it that much that we're going to use this to pull us apart or are we going to actually do something for our student body? At least we're discussing something. Unfortunately it's not something very positive."

Stressing the importance of the investigation, Fiore said the investigation is necessary. "The committee's investigation is in the student's interest. SPAB is entrusted with a large chunk of the student's money, and when you have that kind of responsibility you have to be accountable to certain rules that ensure it is spent in a correct way."

The Polity Council consists of the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary as well as senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman representatives. Each are elected annually by the student body. The Polity president appoints the members of SPAB. Former president Andrez Carberry appointed the current members of SPAB, according to Doris. SPAB plans events and activities for the student body. It reports directly to the Polity Council.



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The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus.

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Editorials

Freedom of The Press

Anyone that opened up Newsday late last week may have been temporarily confused as to what country they were living in. Stories of a country forgetting the Bill of Rights and using their power to bully rather than to help another country filled the paper. This is just a reminder: we do live in the United States.

First, we saw New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani trying to pretend yet again that he knows something of culture in general and art specifically. Rudy is crying that an exhibit titled *Yo Mama's Last Supper*, a take on Da Vinci's *Last Supper* showed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, is anti-decent and anti-Catholic. Why he continually sticks his nose in every place it does not belong, who knows, but someone ought to fill him in on a little secret: it is anti-Catholic to cheat on your wife. Many would agree that it is not decent either. Luckily the artist is as outspoken verbally as she is artistically. She criticized the mayor for trying to form some sort of moral task force when his own morals are seriously out of order. How much longer until his term is up?

Of course the biggest news to close the week was that our new president George Bush

launched an attack on Iraq. The only people that were more surprised about the strike other than the Iraqis themselves were the people of the United States, who are still trying to figure out if Bush knows that he does not have to copy everything his daddy did. Bush said that the bombings were necessary for "defensive reinforcement" and simply "routine." That's scary that it is "routine" to put 11 year olds in the hospital. It is going to be a long four years.

While violations of freedom of expression and bombing countries without trying a little something called "negotiating" certainly falls under the troubling category, it was news that originated from our very own campus that was the most disturbing of all.

Newsday reported that members of the Secret Service came on to campus, down to the Student Union basement and took the managing editor of the Stony Brook Press away for questioning. The feds were apparently alarmed for the safety of the president by an editorial the paper ran which read as a letter to Jesus. The author asked Jesus to please "smite" George W. Bush, preferably on live television. The letter was quite funny, telling Jesus that if he was too busy to

get the job done, another Biblical figure could do it instead, as could a crazy mortal. It was hard to read the letter as anything other than a joke.

Newsday reported that a faculty member is responsible for tipping off the Secret Service. Isn't it sad that a member of this so-called "community" would jeopardize the integrity of a student with something so serious. It is even sadder that a faculty member of this great institution is too stupid to know a joke when they read it.

At this time the Statesman would like to pledge its full support of the Press and the content of any and all of their issues. The same holds true for every other student-run campus publication. We would like to remind everyone, particularly the cowardly faculty member whose identity remains a mystery, that we are protected by the first amendment.

We can't blame the election of Bush for all the bad turns the U.S. has taken since he took office. But if this is a forbearing of what the country will become, maybe we should consider yet another recount. If further events cause your memories to fail, just keep remembering that this is the U.S. But what a poor state we are in.

Commentary:

A Good Day For Stony Brook

By HARLISHA KALMANSON
Statesman Contributor

On Feb. 13 600 faculty, staff, students and alumni all gathered in South P lot for the annual Stony Brook Day in Albany. Stony Brook day began seven years ago and has continued to be a tradition, but has grown since the first trip.

I was impressed with how many people were heading up to Albany and so were most of the people who attended the trip.

Stony Brook Day is a day when Stony Brook has representatives to voice opinions, issues and concerns to the senators and legislators.

I was looking forward in meeting our designated representatives, yet this did not happen. In all of the rooms my group which was made up of

undergraduate students, not one of the actual assemblymen were there. They all had other meetings or were called out of the office during our specified meeting time.

One of the main concerns that students told them about was that we have such a high percentage of graduate students teaching classes, teaching assistants, yet here we were telling representatives our issues. "I felt like we didn't get heard or speak to any of the senators," said Jaki Carter, a sophomore.

Yet at the same time there was such a large turnout of people this year than in the past that I think Stony Brook really showed that we care, and all of the people who did get their voices heard made a difference in one way or another. By coming together and being as one, everyone who

participated showed that this did make a difference. Just by the number of people and how drastically the number has changed from the first year, Stony Brook Day has taken a stand and has a voice.

"It is a wonderful day for Stony Brook, we actually got to meet assemblymen and senators and let them know the importance of continuous support of Stony Brook and our initiatives," said Jonnel Doris, Polity President.

It truly was an experience and I urge anyone who would like to have the same experience to find out about Stony Brook Day 2002 and definitely go.

As President Kenny said, "We made our mark in Albany and this is the beginning of an annual event that will get bigger and better each year."

Seawolves Win Over Albany, 56-54

Continued from page 3

stealing the momentum. After a Stony Brook timeout, the USB women regained their composure and came up with some defensive stops led by a couple of timely steals by Jessica Burch(#11). Burch, now 12th in the nation in robbing opposing teams, also had a key assist and fast-break lay-up during 7-2 run that seemed to hand the momentum of the game back to Stony Brook.

Despite George's consistent effort, the second half belonged to freshman Theresa LoParrino(#12). LoParrino overcame a poor shooting effort in the first half and nailed two huge three-pointers. She also calmly sealed the game by connecting on two free-throws with 14 seconds left; keeping her head after missing two earlier free-throws. Despite LoParrino's shooting difficulties Coach Roberts stuck with her and told her to continue shooting. "The sign of a good shooter is they keep shooting. So I told her [LoParrino] keep taking those shots if she's open," Roberts said.

With rivalries come familiarities. Coach Roberts explained that her team initially had trouble getting adjusted because Albany knows their plays. "The last time we played them they knew our plays. We go 'Five' and they'd go 'Five'," she said. Now Coach Trish Roberts decided to call the plays from the bench. She gave signals so Albany could not pick up on the calls.

With the entrance of both teams into the America East Conference, the rivalry is just in only beginning to boil. Coach Roberts is a new addition to the fire but she found out how serious it was quickly. "When I took over the team last year everybody was talking Albany, Albany, Albany and I didn't know what the big deal was," the women's head coach said. She learned about it personally when she overheard Albany's coach saying that if they didn't win another game this year, they must beat Stony Brook. "Then I realized how important this rivalry was," she said and out came the bleeding lettered "Kill Albany" signs.

Coach Roberts compared the SUNY rivalry to those of Michigan and Michigan State; Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

Another major obstacle was playing without the team's leading scorer and rebounder, Sherry Jordan(#15), the 17th leading scorer in the nation. Although the loss was catastrophic to the team, they have gone on to win three straight games. "It amazes me," Coach Roberts said. "When she comes back full blast she going to make the team that much stronger."

Stony Brook plays its final two games of the season on the road and has the opportunity to finish 18-10 overall, having already guaranteed back-to-back winning seasons.

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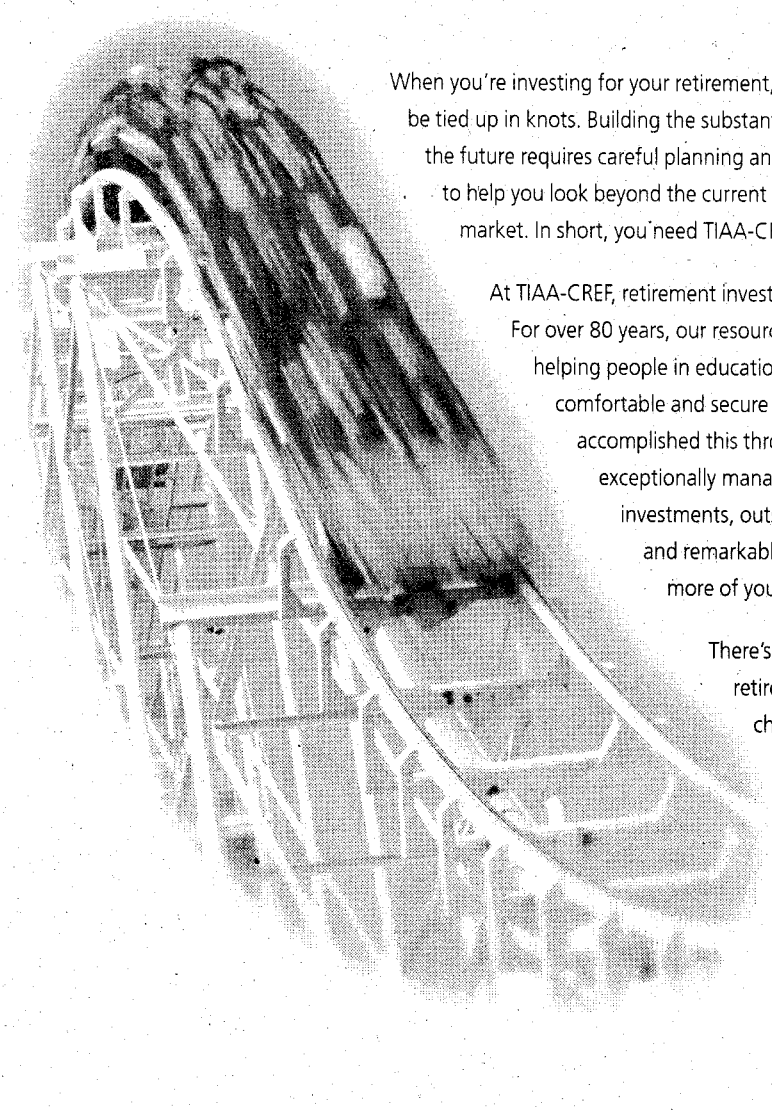
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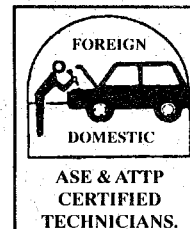
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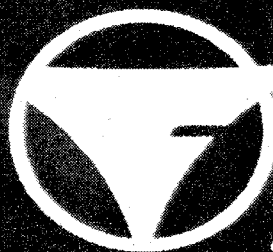
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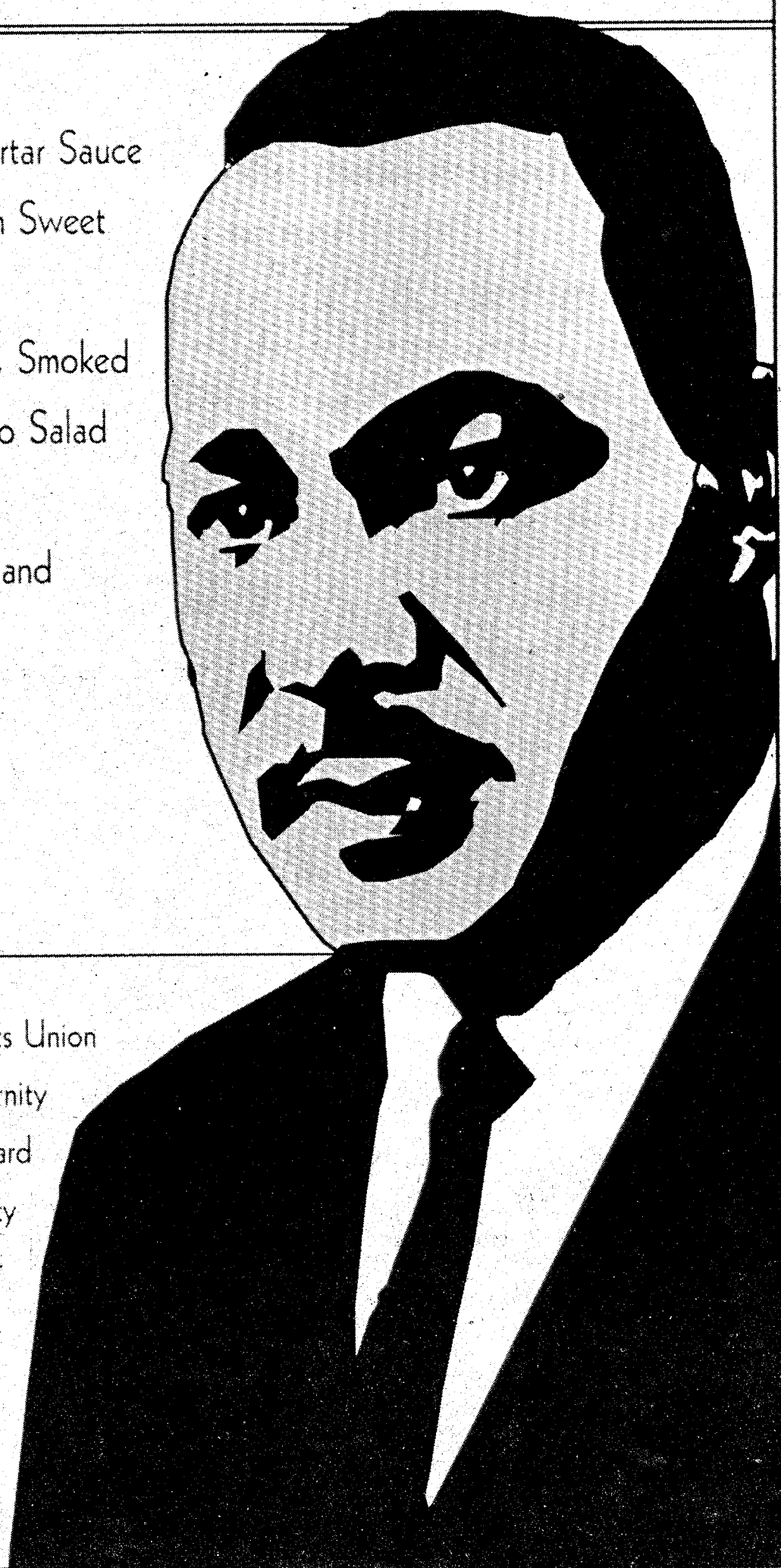
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Features

Voodoo in the Union Art Exhibit Celebrates a Haitian Art

By CAROLE SIERRA
Statesman Contributor

Leogane, Haiti; this is where Veronique Leriche-Fischetti began her imaginative drive that would influence her art, by exalting an often stigmatized religion: Voodoo.

Leriche-Fischetti's art work will be on display at the Union Art Gallery from Feb. 12-23, in celebration of Black History Month. The exhibit, titled "Haitian Voodoo Flags and Dolls", focuses on Leriche-Fischetti's own cultural heritage.

"Some of the ideas came to me after waking up from a dream," Leriche-Fischetti said. The exhibit reveals a strong cultural expression fused with contemporary art.

For the past three years Leriche-Fischetti has been pursuing her expression of culture through art. She is also a full-time student at Nassau Community College.

Her husband James Fuschetti, a photographer and painter, encouraged her to express herself through art. "She used to write me letters with little drawings around them, I knew she had the potential," he said. "Her art is not bogged down by the media or other influences, it comes from her."

Haitian Voodoo is a mixture of West African religions and Catholicism, brought from French colonialism in Haiti and other parts of the Caribbean. It originally began in Africa as a form of ancestral worship.

Playful dolls and intricate flags are a main theme in the exhibit. They portray many images from the voodoo religion and Haitian culture. The flags come from Leriche-Fischetti's personal collection of Haitian



Statesman/Carole Sierra

Leogane in Haiti is where artist Veronique Leriche-Fischetti got her inspiration for her voodoo art.

ethnographic art. Most of the dolls were recovered by Leriche-Fischetti after children threw them away; others she bought at thrift shops.

"I like dolls," Leriche-Fischetti said. "I like to bring them alive after children get rid of them." Her art is deeply rooted in Haitian life and culture. One doll featured in the exhibit has a tree growing in front of it. In Voodoo, healing is practiced through herbs and plants. The tree represents this.

"Natural medicines are important in Haiti," Leriche-Fischetti said, referring to the piece. "There might be one hospital for 20,000 people in Haiti."

Leriche-Fischetti's work captures the colonial mix of religions that have occurred in Haiti. Damballah, a Voodoo figure that corresponds to the Catholic St. Patrick, is featured in the exhibit. Leriche-Fischetti portrayed him in green and white with a sowed in green snake wrapped around the doll.

The faces on some of the dolls are painted in white. This symbolizes the different tribes in Africa that paint their faces during ceremonies.

Other inspirations for Leriche-Fischetti's work came from childhood memories of her mother taking her to religious ceremonies, and wandering around Haitian temples to observe paintings and drawings on the walls.

Some students did not think that the exhibit was an accurate representation of Haitian culture. "She has her own explanations for everything, but I grew up in a Christian household in Haiti and voodoo was seen as negative."

Other students said that it is an exemplary exhibit for Black History Month. Mike Cortez, a junior at the exhibit opening, said "She is a black woman expressing her experiences, so it is good for Black History Month."

The negative stigma that surrounds Voodoo has not stopped Leriche-Fischetti from expressing her art form.

"Some Haitians here [in U.S.] refuse to accept Voodoo as part of their culture, because they have changed by coming to America," Leriche-Fischetti said. "You can't hide it because it is deep inside of you. It's part of our African heritage."



Statesman/Carole Sierra

The dolls used in the exhibit are ones that the artist found discarded by children. The flags are from her personal collection.