

Former SBU Staff  
Dies Tragically pg5

Exhibition Takes a  
Look at Death pg11

The Stony Brook

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# Statesman

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VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

# A Bus for the Hungry

NYPIRG  
"Stuffs a  
Bus" for  
the Poor



# Hugging, Not Hitting

## Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence

By JESSICA LEFFLER  
Statesman Staff

"Everyday, more than two million in this country are abused physically and emotionally in their homes... Battering is the single greatest cause of injury to women-more frequent than auto accidents, muggings, and rapes combined," said Lysandra Martin, a member of Nashim Echad. Domestic violence has claimed the lives of many innocent victims. Last Wednesday, the Center for Womyn's Concerns, Nashim Echad, and Omega Phi Beta sponsored the Domestic Violence Campaign in hopes that these frightening statistics will cease.

With numerous t-shirts strung across the walls of the Fireside Lounge displaying messages of peace, Stony Brook students began the campaign by viewing a powerful documentary, created by Lysandra Martin. It began with the sounds of screaming from a 911 call by a victim of domestic violence. Students, both male and female alike, watched intently as the documentary progressed. Amidst the cries of children and the battered woman, the husband could be heard shouting, "I'm going to hunt you down and kill you." Interviews by professionals in all areas informed viewers that domestic violence is all about power and control. Custody of children and control of the family money become vices that batterers use to force their spouses to stay. "The chances of being killed rise 75 percent when the woman wants to leave," offered Martin. In fear for not only their own lives, but the lives of their children, many women stay and live in constant terror. What is most frightening is that most people around the globe do not do anything to lessen the statistics of domestic violence. "More will die while the world sleeps," said Martin.

The program continued with a representative from the Brighter Tomorrow shelter. Rose Chicheta spoke about the impact that domestic violence not only has on battered women, but in society as well. She cau-

tioned that simple warning signs, such as a person wanting to change their partner's behavior or appearance, can predict more trouble later in the relationship. "We all make excuses for battery...he smokes pot, he had a rough day, I should have been more supportive...and after awhile an individual in this situation ends up believing it." Domestic violence strikes one out of four women and is solely about power and control. It is not only physically harmful, but psychologically as well. She proceeded to explain that boys who grow up in abusive homes are seven times more likely to become batterers later in life. If this does not end, more and more women will become victims of domestic violence.

When questioned about the legal issues associated with domestic violence, Chicheta explained that it is extremely difficult to prove that a domestic violence incident occurred, as most happen behind closed doors with no witnesses. 35 percent of police time is spent on domestic violence cases. Some women have been tried in court for killing their spouses during a domestic violence occurrence in fear that their partner would murder them. The battered women's defense was established in hopes to prevent women from being sentenced to prison for defending their own lives.

Unfortunately, this is not very effective. Batterers are usually mandated by law to seek rehabilitation, but it rarely works. Therapy is only effective if the individual wants to change, and many do not.

Domestic violence has claimed the lives of many innocent victims, men and women alike. Something must be done to ensure that women and men do not have to live in constant fear of their spouses. It is imperative that this widespread killer cease, and by holding their domestic violence campaign, students are showing a genuine interest in preventing this from continuing. "These hands are for hugging, not for hitting," is a message written on many T-shirts that were hung across the Fireside Lounge. It is a message which should be told to all.

## Results for the Fall 1999 Polity Elections

### Freshman Representative

Rohan Griffith	-90
Natalie Hodgson	-162
Kabeh Moghbelli	-47

### Referenda

Row A - Mandatory Student Activities Fee	-1061
Row B - Voluntary Student Activities Fee	-137

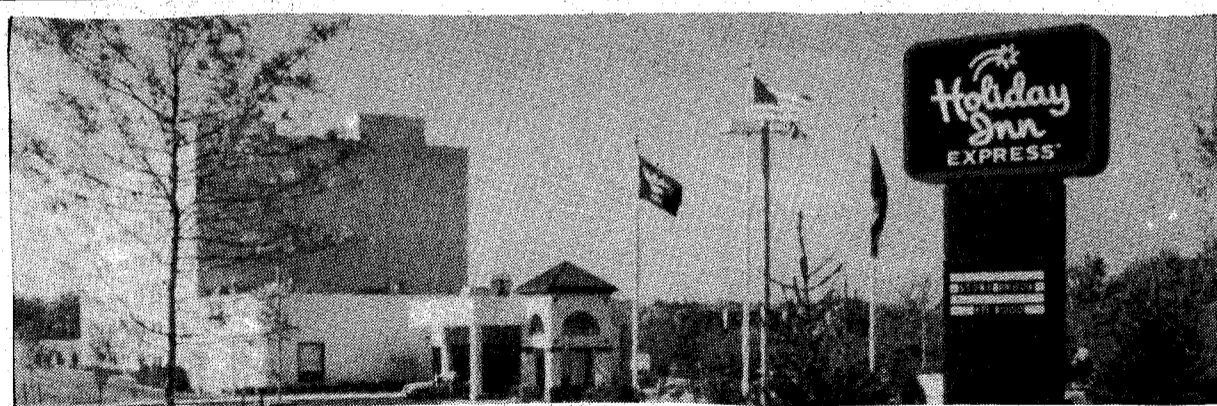
### Continuances

	Yes	No
Blood Drive (\$.50/semester)	1158	28
Committee for the Cinematic Arts (\$.50/semester)	1115	55
Newspaper Media (\$2.00/semester)	1062	90
Stony Brook Press (\$.25/semester)	1045	110
Student Activities Board (\$2.50/semester)	1071	90
Specula (\$2.50/semester)	895	228
University Response (Crisis Hotline) (\$.75/semester)	1042	89
Women's Rugby (\$1.00/semester)	948	197

### Increases

	Yes	No
Crew Team (\$1.00/semester)	936	207
Shelanu (\$.25/semester)	780	332

The elections were held on November 10 and 11, 1999. A total of 1572 votes were cast, with 1511 eligible votes counted.



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# SBU Feeds the Hungry

## NYPIRG Leads Efforts for Food Drive

By TINA CHADHA  
Statesman Staff

"Suffolk is the third richest county in New York State. Twenty L.I. soup kitchens feed 1,500 people daily. Over half of those served are children. A child dies from poverty every 53 minutes." These were some of the facts written on fliers handed out by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) volunteers to customers outside of Waldbaum's supermarket last week when the group started a food drive right in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

NYPIRG'S Stuff-A-Bus project is aimed to help the hungry and needy of Suffolk county. The project included a Stony Brook bus parked in front of Waldbaum's, located on Route 347, with a NYPIRG poster that implored people to "Help our Needy." The food on the bus, which was there from Monday until Friday between the hours of 12-6 and on Saturday between the hours of 12-3, was donated to the Greater Port Jefferson Pantry.

NYPIRG volunteers stood outside the supermarket and handed out fliers encouraging potential customers to donate non-perishable food on their way out. The fliers informed people of what the pantry needed and also statistics on homelessness and hunger on Long Island.

As customers left, they donated either food or money. "People stopped and read the fliers on the way in and donated



NYPIRG managed to raise \$7000 in food for a local food pantry.

Statesman/Ruth Chung

at least one thing on the way out," said Deborah Sticher, a volunteer and junior at Stony Brook.

"The majority of customers have been donating. There was a lady who even donated four bags of clothes," said George

Koutsouvanos, an intern at NYPIRG.

The project's ultimate goal is to literally stuff the bus with goods. "I wanted to use a university bus to show the community that students are committed to being an active part," said Rory McEvoy, the project leader of the Homeless Empowerment Project at NYPIRG.

Customers who donated food thought the idea was great and they were happy to be helping in any way. "It's nice and makes me feel good at the holiday season," said Michelle Kerk, a Waldbaum's shopper.

McEvoy accredits the idea for the project to Liz Kelly. Kelly, a NYPIRG board representative, heard about a similar hunger relief project over a Connecticut radio station. She suggested the idea to McEvoy who had been meeting with students as to what they should do for their project. "I didn't want to do another drive where students were donating money from Chartwells," said McEvoy, "I wanted to use volunteers from Stony Brook to give back to the community."

Michael T. Klien, director of Transportation and Parking Services, was extremely helpful in making this project a success, according to McEvoy. Originally the bus was supposed to be used for only two days but Klien felt the whole week would be much better and provided the drivers for the entire week.

Over the course of two weeks, McEvoy communicated with Klien and Kenny Lane, the manager of Waldbaum's, to arrange the dates. He then picked the Greater Port Jefferson

Pantry to be the recipient of the goods. McEvoy says they picked this pantry because its director, Mary Anne Bell, is a faculty member here at Stony Brook and she referred them to it. The pantry is non-denominational and does not bias against clients based on creed.

Many volunteers and organizations helped to make this project a success. "They were all very dependable and enthusiastic in taking part," said McEvoy. These organizations included Delta Sigma Phi, who did a similar drive the year before for victims of Hurricane Mitch. The other groups involved were Epsilon Sigma Phi, United Jewish Appeal, and the Commuter Student Association. The Living Learning Center at Douglass College organized the actual food baskets, which totaled 200, to be distributed to the hungry at the pantry. The remaining food will be warehoused for winter.

At the end of the week, McEvoy was pleased. A site estimate of \$7000 worth of food was collected, including 25 turkeys. "We had an amazing turnout. I had no idea how it would turn out but everything went smoothly," he said. "If next year is half as successful, I'd still be happy."

Customers and contributors were happy to help. "It's very important we all help the community and especially with winter and the holiday season coming," says shopper Marilyn Margulies, a resident of the Stony Brook area. "There's no excuse for the people of Long Island to go without food."



NYPIRG stored donated food on a Stony Brook bus.


Statesman/Ruth Chung





# Pre-game Rally

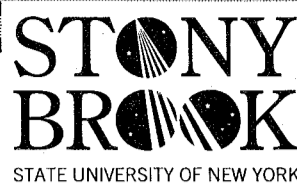
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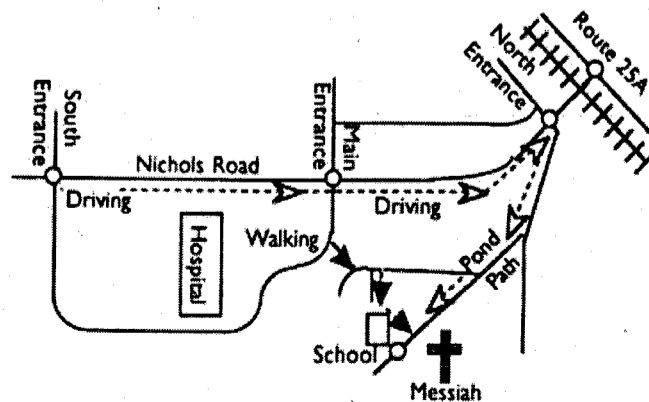
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# A Tragic Tale

## Former SBU Employee Dies in an Accident

By JULIE BLOCK  
Statesman Contributor

George J. Meyers, Assistant Vice President for Presidential Initiatives and Deputy to the President at SUNY Stony Brook, remembers how shocked he was when Sylvia Geoghegan, pronounced Ga-hagen, had said for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday she wanted to go skiing at a resort in Breckenridge, Colorado that offered skiing for the handicapped. But on November 7, two weeks before her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Geoghegan, a quadriplegic woman employed by SUNY Stony Brook, was crushed to death by a mechanical malfunction in her lift-equipped van.

"It was like a cloud passed over the campus when we all realized that she was no longer going to be here," Stephanie Patterson, a friend and co-worker of Geoghegan's said.

In Patterson's office, hangs a watercolor seascape that Geoghegan painted for her after a skiing accident that left her paralyzed in 1979. Sylvia Geoghegan was more than a quadriplegic who could paint though. She was a woman who inspired everyone around her, from the SUNY Stony Brook faculty members who worked alongside her to the cleaning staff and people in the Humanities cafeteria and the students whom she helped.

Geoghegan, who graduated from SUNY Stony Brook with a bachelor's degree in psychology and who resided in Coram, worked at SUNY Stony Brook from March, 1993 until May, 1998 as an Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, assisting handicapped students and faculty on campus, before going to work for the Office for Diversity and Affirmative Action.

"She was a very complex woman. She was an artist. She was a strong advocate for people with disabilities. She was a civil rights advocate. She had very definite ideas and she stood by those ideas," Patterson said.

Patterson, who took over Geoghegan's job at the Disabled Student Services when she left in 1993, continued, "She was also an extremely spiritual person. She was an inner healing minister and she would have prayer groups so she was really many faceted and she knew many people because of the many interests that she had."

Patterson said Geoghegan was so loved that at her wake there was a line that wrapped around the lobby and it "took people 30 - 45 minutes to come and pay their respects that evening."

Patterson, who met Geoghegan in 1990 when they both worked on the Suffolk Placement Network, an organiza-

tion that assists people with disabilities find jobs, described Geoghegan as a "beautiful, stately woman" whose "regal appearance" was accompanied by a humble personality. Her 5 foot 10 frame required that she have a large powered wheelchair and when she entered a room, Patterson explained, "her presence would not only physically fill the room but spiritually as well. Like a queen riding around on her throne. So that you would never forget her once you met her. Interestingly enough, she was very soft spoken."

Christina Vargas Law, Associate Director of Office for Diversity and Affirmative Action, and a co-worker of Geoghegan's, recalls this modesty. "She was the type of person, who if you said, 'You're so inspiring,' she would look at you and say, 'What are you talking about?'"

Meyers, who worked with her on the ADA advisory committee, said, "People took from her much more than they could possibly give her and it was always amazing to me how she was that way despite what seemed to be tremendous disadvantages with regard to mobility."

Geoghegan, whose art teacher had once tried to discourage her from working with watercolors, excelled in water-

colors, proving her teacher wrong. "If you wanted Sylvia to do anything, you would just tell her she couldn't do it," Patterson said.

"She loved to garden before her accident and it was a great hardship for her to no longer be able to garden and I think that was one of the reasons why she painted so many flowers," Patterson said.

To honor her, friends and family will be holding a memorial on Saturday, November 27, as well as the birthday party she had wanted to have, in the SAC from 4-7 p.m. Plans are underway to auction Geoghegan's paintings and the proceeds will go to the Sylvia Fund, a fund set up by her family, to help individuals with disabilities on campus.

There will also be a memorial held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the SAC auditorium for those who could not attend over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Patterson does not cry when she thinks of the death of Geoghegan. She said she feels like Geoghegan's spirit is finally free. "I was doing my power walking the night after she died and I felt so strongly like she was walking with me, but just walking way ahead and laughing because she now could walk faster than I could," Patterson said. "She is totally free now."

### National College News

## Tragedy at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - A towering, 40-foot pyramid of logs erected for Texas A&M's traditional football bonfire trembled and then came roaring down early Thursday, crushing at least nine students to death and injuring 28 others.

After an hours-long, campus-wide sweep, at least five students were still unaccounted for. At least three of the injured were in critical condition and a wave of grief settled across the campus of 43,000, some 90 miles northwest of Houston.

Rescuers used sensitive sound-detection equipment to listen for moaning or tapping from the enormous pile of collapsed logs, and heard scratching noises that led them to believe there were victims trapped.

"We take it one log at a time," said Kem Bennett, director of a state rescue unit. "They're wired three together in stacks, so we have to cut the wire and move them one at a time. So it's a lengthy process."

Shocked students gathered at the scene, holding hands and praying while the rescue went on. Workers tapped on logs and ordered spectators to be still so they could hear if anyone was still alive.

Officials had no explanation for the collapse and said engineers would examine the site.

Sixty to 70 students were on top of the logs trying to build up the stack up when it suddenly gave way, university officials said.

Faculty adviser Rusty Thompson said students told him there was no hint of a problem until there was "noise and chaos."

"There was just a sudden movement," he said. "Five to seven seconds and it was on the ground."

University president Ray Bowen said six students were killed. Bennett said he saw at least three more bodies in the wood pile.

"I've never seen anything like this," said student Patrick Freshwater, who helped clear away the logs. "It's something you don't ever want to feel. I went to my class and there was nobody there. The teacher wasn't even there, because no one can go to class when this is going on."

The bonfire, meant to build excitement for the football game against archrival Texas, is a beloved tradition at Texas A&M and attracts tens of thousands of spectators.

Since the tradition began in 1909, when the school was still an all-male military academy, the bonfire has been canceled only one other time: in 1963, after President Kennedy's assassination.

This year's bonfire was to have been lighted on Thanksgiving, the night before the big game.

Bowen said this year's bonfire would be canceled and added he was not sure if the bonfire would be permanently abolished.

"It's a very important tradition to us," he said, "but those decisions must be made at a calmer time."

Although the project is run by students, engineers and non-student adults are always at the site, said Thompson, the faculty adviser. The students cut the logs to lengths of about 10 feet and build the pile themselves over several weeks. Cranes and tractors lift the logs, which are then tied together with baling wire.

The structure, which this year would have included about 7,000 logs and reached 55 feet, is designed to twist inward and collapse on itself as it burns.

The stack also collapsed in 1994, but no one was in-

jured. A second was built and ignited that year.

Both students and alumni have strong opinions about the bonfire.

In the past, a group calling itself Aggies Against Bonfire has urged the abolition of the annual event, saying it wastes resources, pollutes the air and contributes to dozens of injuries and alcohol-related arrests each year.

Dallas Cowboys special teams coach Joe Avezzano, who was an assistant coach at A&M in the 1980s, said the ritual should go on. "It is part of the tradition and history," he said. "Thousands and thousands of people have been involved over the years, and that may be underestimating it."

But Sallie Turner, editor of the student newspaper *The Battalion*, said quite a few students "say it's not worth it."

She added: "Bonfire is one of the most sacred traditions to Texas A&M's campus. It's one of the status symbols of our university. People say this is historic because this is the end of bonfire."

Senior Kay Barrington suggested that this year's bonfire, at least, go on.

"My feeling is they won't get any closure if they just take it down. We could get it built again in five days, because you know, they died to build it," she said. "They wouldn't want to just put it away. They'd want to burn it."

Thursday's accident was the third disaster related to Texas A&M this fall.

On Sept. 18, five people were killed in the crash of a plane used by an A&M-connected skydiving club.

On Oct. 10, six students walking to a fraternity party not far from campus were killed by a pickup truck whose driver had fallen asleep, police said. One of the victims was from Texas A&M. (AP)

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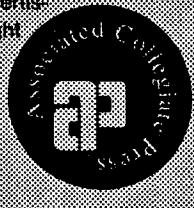
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# Don't Tell Mommy

Elementary school may be a distant and fuzzy memory for many of you but a federal law may cause those memories of detention and being sent to the principal flooding back. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act used to be a law protecting the privacy of students. The law stated that universities and colleges were not allowed to notify parents in the event that their child violated any drug or alcohol codes. But an amendment to the act made a year ago reversed this clause. Now your school could have the option of ratting you out if you break drug or alcohol laws and you are under the age of 21.

This is a tricky situation. Blasting against the legislation could be suggesting that a parent should not be notified in the event that their son or daughter spends their weekends in a drunken stupor. That is not something that you can responsibly condone across the board. However, supporting it is like asking for the vast majority of students to get spanked by mommy or daddy and get in trouble for something that is a staple of

college life, whether or not administrators want to believe it and regardless of the harm it can cause.

When did you cut the apron strings? Maybe it was when you turned 16 and you got your driver's license or at 18 when you were able to buy cigarettes and lotto tickets for yourself. But for many of us, the transition to college was the major turning point in our lives that formally separated us from our parents. Even though you were just a freshman, that first year in college probably signified to you, your parents, and the outside world that you were now an adult. So doesn't this new law sort of make a mockery of that transition?

Many of us take total and complete control of our college education. Who consults their parents in making their schedules? Does your mom or dad drop you at school everyday? Does anyone pack your lunch? Many of us even pay for our tuition without a check from a relative and that includes books. Having said that, is it fair for our parents to be notified when we do

something wrong?

It should come as a relief to you that officials here at Stony Brook seem to be leaning toward the side that will generally maintain the respect of a student's privacy. Peter Mastroianni, who works at the campus counseling center, said that it is his belief that these cases should be looked at on an individual basis. And Gary Mis of campus Judicial Affairs, said that the discussion phase that can or cannot allow this policy on our campus will welcome student input, which as you can imagine is less than generally supportive of such a measure.

Despite what the University may claim about the low instances of drinking on campus, ask any student about it and they will tell you that it is indeed widespread and id's are certainly not checked at dorm doors to ensure against underage drinkers. If they do put this law into effect, the administrators charged with the duty of notifying parents are going to be so busy that they will need a drink themselves.

## Commentary:

# The Rip-Off of the Millennium

BY GUY BASSIS  
Statesman Staff

What are you going to be doing on December 31, 1999 at midnight? Are you one of those people who had this night planned a long time ago and put a deposit down just so you could have a place at some hot party? Do you plan to just hang out with a few friends and get drunk long before Dick Clark shows his face on top of Times Square? Maybe you planned a romantic evening with your special someone (taking into consideration that you haven't broken up since the arrangements were made). Or maybe you are the type of person who likes to celebrate New Year's Eve with your family. Well, whatever you'll do there is a good chance that you will be ripped off!

Get ready for the biggest rip-off of the 20th century - New Year's Eve 1999. What is all this millennium hysteria but an opportunity for industries to charge outrageous prices for their products and services that would normally cost MUCH less. The hype is so big that from this point on there's no turning back.

People are being brainwashed to hand over lots of money for simple things such as a cruise or a mere candlelight dinner in New York City. It's all around us; every company or business has some sort of "deal" for the millennium and people fork over the money without even thinking. This hysteria is not just in the United States; it has become a global event. The entire world is sick with millennium fever.

What is the hysteria all about? Why is everybody so excited? Yes, we are ending the 20th century, but that's all we are doing! Nothing better or worse will happen on January 1, 2000. The worst case scenario will be New York City without power for an hour or so.

My question is, how come people are willing to spend enormous amounts of money just to be at a party or in a special place on Earth when the clock strikes midnight? I guess people want to do something that they will be able to remember and brag about when they are 70 years old. They want to be able to tell their grandchildren that they were on

top of the Eiffel Tower when the 21st century began (of course they had to pay \$3000 for that night but that's besides the point). I guess when you are dealing with future memories price really has no limit.

The question is if we will all remember what we were doing at midnight on December 31, 1999. We all know exactly where we were when we heard that Princess Diana had died, but are we going to remember exactly what we were doing on New Year's Eve 1999? Do you remember what you did on New Year's Eve five years ago? What makes you think that this New Year's won't just simply fade back into your memory, only to be mixed up with all the other memories of past New Year's Eves?

I am sure that at the end, when all is said and done, this New Year's will be a memorable one. I think we are all in store for exciting things; especially if the infamous Y2K bug is for real!



# Bell Atlantic Mobile

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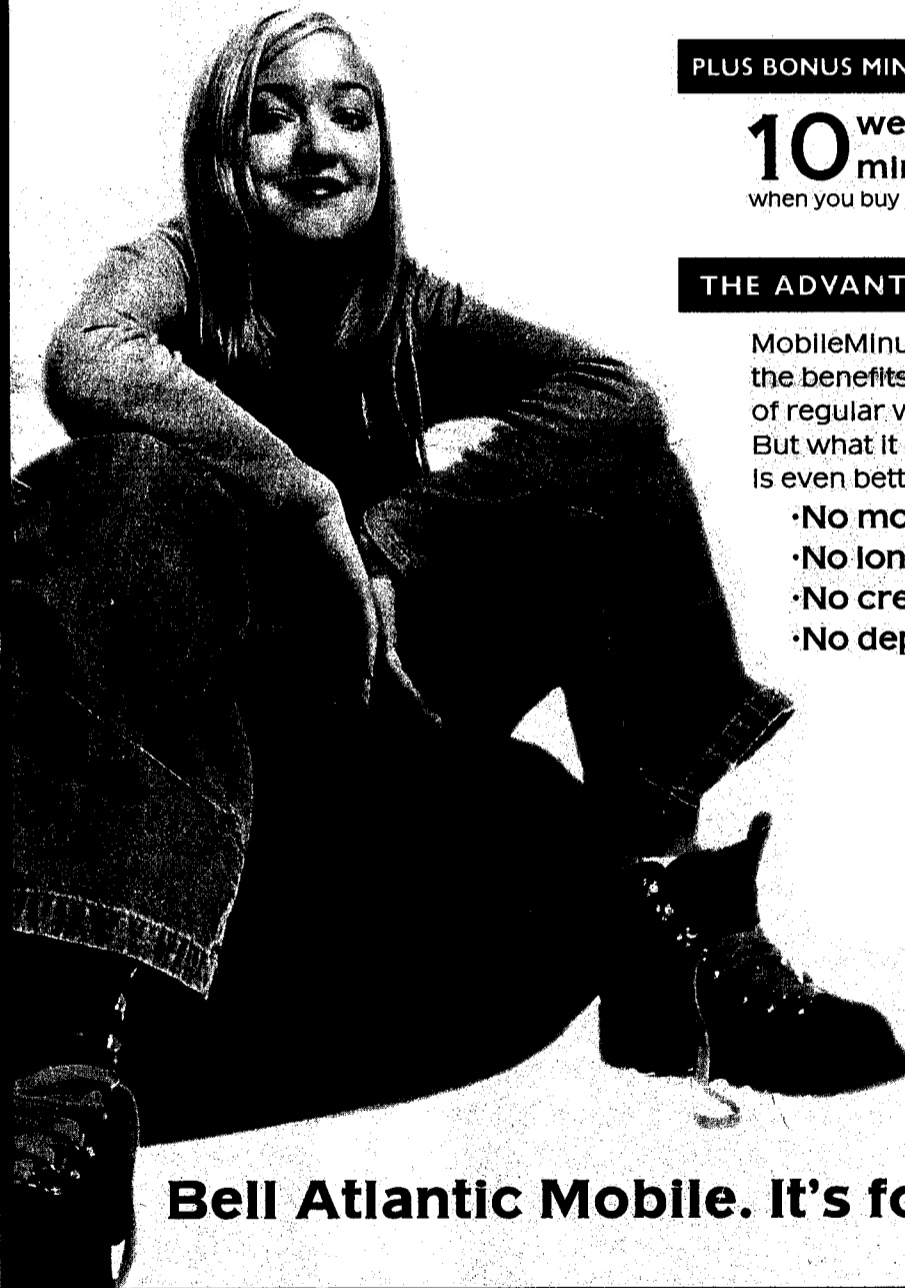
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The Spring Brook Statesman Monday, November 22, 1999

# Defining the MPB

By DAFINA ROBERTS  
Special to the Statesman

Since the beginning of the fall semester, I've been bombarded with questions concerning the purpose of the Minority Planning Board, MPB. Some students have asked me: So what is the point of MPB? Isn't there enough programming by minorities for minorities on this campus?

When MPB began back in the

80s, there were very few racial minorities on this campus. The Board was created in response to a predominantly white Student Activities Board. Student leaders of minority organizations coalesced to form a programming board that would sponsor activities for minority students. As the racial demographics on this campus have changed, the role of the MPB has come under question. According to

the statistics provided by Institutional Research, in Fall '98 ethnic minorities made up 37% of the undergraduate population. One white student mentioned to me that "minority students run this campus." I don't completely agree with this statement. Though many organizations sponsor activities that celebrate their own culture, the diversity of cultural events on this campus does not automatically challenge institutionalized racism. Racism not only maintains itself by keeping minorities ignorant of themselves and their history, but also

walk into any dining area, look at groups of students at each table and see racial self-segregation at work. And seriously, one DEC K course (American Pluralism) is not going to open the eyes of students. We, the students, need to teach each other about our different experiences and live diversity in our everyday lives. Our events should reflect our stories, but we first need to push beyond our comfort zones.

This academic year MPB decided to make our theme "Broaden Your Horizons"—which is something that our organization,

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"Though many organizations sponsor activities that celebrate their own culture, the diversity of cultural events on this campus does not automatically challenge institutionalized racism."

through keeping other ethnic minorities ignorant of each other. In addition, there are other types of minorities beyond racial ones, and I completely disagree that these minorities "run the campus."

Let me ask you the following questions to exemplify how race works on this campus and how other forms of oppression are prevalent within our "community." How many events have been cosponsored by African American and Asian Pacific American organizations that address how racism affects both groups? How often do you see Latino, Southeast Asian American and white students attending the same cultural event? How many cultural organizations have taken a stance against homophobia? How many womyn's organizations have explored how sexism manifests itself in terms of race, class and sexuality? How many events are sponsored on this campus that address abilism and how many able students have attended such a program?

I, in no way, shape or form, am implying that such events and coalitions have not taken place on this campus. (It surely has and I commend all student organizations for their efforts). I am only saying that it hasn't taken place on a mass level. This is why two men cannot hold hands and kiss each other in the middle of the SAC lobby. This is why there continues to be date rape on this campus. This is why you can

many student leaders and the general student body need to do. The Board is working on rewriting our constitution so that it explicitly states our stance against not only racism but against sexism, homophobia, abilism and other forms of institutionalized oppression. Our goal for this semester was "Building Community," which involved getting different minority organizations to learn about each other. We hope that next semester we can implement our second initiative, "Exploring Diversity." By setting up the initial contact between organizations, we hope that these organizations will work together so that the campus can learn about and appreciate the lives and struggles of traditionally marginalized people.

I wrote this article because the Board would like to know how you feel about the campus "community," student activities and MPB's role on this campus. We are having a town hall meeting December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 p.m. in SAC 304. I encourage all to come and voice their opinion. MPB wants to help fight alienation and apathy on this campus but we need student leaders and the general student body to commit to this cause. We students, cannot create a campus "community" until they start not only tolerating diversity but investing in it.

Roberts is the executive chair of the Minority Planning Board.

<sup>1</sup> Based on \$250 billion in assets under management. <sup>2</sup> Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1999; and Lipper Analytical Services, Inc., Lipper Director's Analytical Data 1999 (quarterly). <sup>3</sup> Morningstar Variable Annuity/Life, 6/30/1999. Of the 6,332 variable annuities tracked by Morningstar, the average fund had total fees combining annual expenses of 0.84% plus an insurance expense of 1.26%. TIAA-CREF expenses are subject to change and are not guaranteed for the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services distributes CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2776, extension 5509, for prospectuses. Read them carefully before you invest or send money.



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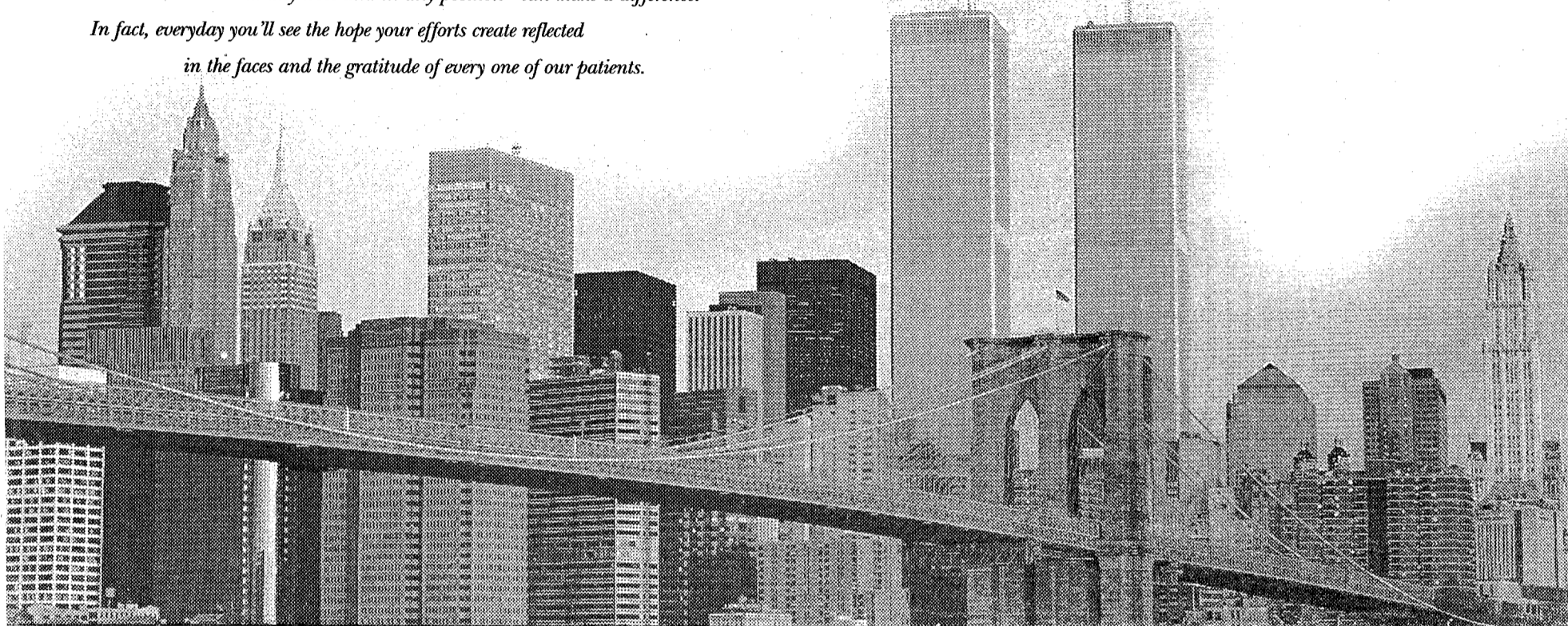
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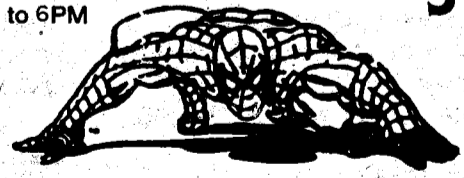
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 22, 1999



# Death in the Air

## Art Exhibit Deals with Dying in America

By TINA CHADHA  
Statesman Staff

Huge, blue, headless bodies softly bounce in place through the air, emitting a ghostly yet calming sense to the viewers. The bodies, although a little eerie, look soft and hugable. These figures, called *Floating Columns/In the Bardo* are the works of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. On display between November 18 and 19 at the Stony Brook Union Art Gallery, the exhibition was part of the *Transforming the Cultures of Death and Dying in America Symposium* sponsored by the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook.

The display depicted blue bodies, without heads, hands, or feet, hung from the ceiling by the shoulder using plastic monofilament, or fishing line. The standard foundation for most of the bodies were blue tee shirts. Sedgwick says she used this material because, "Cotton is the most available." The other textures Sedgwick employs, such as silk, paper and soie mariee are because she enjoys them. "It's pleasurable to work with dif-

ferent textures and to experiment with them," she said.

Sedgwick is a writer and literary critic by profession and a self-taught fiber artist. Fiber art is an art form that uses cloth or paper media. Sedgwick began working with fiber three years ago when she learned that her previously-treated breast cancer had metastasized in her spinal column and had become incurable. At the same time she was drawn to Buddhism, and this also influenced her work.

Some of the bodies had a colored patch on right side of their chest, representing the loss of Sedgwick's right breast due to cancer. She says she used a patch because, "It shows the violence of the illness and at the same time ornamenting, and healing."

One body had an image from an x-ray of Sedgwick's chest pasted on it. Another figure had a picture of a woman's upper body drawn on it with a breast missing. Sedgwick said this was done on silk and it is a *milagro*, which is a Mexican religious object. "A



Statesman/Michael Kwan

The installation was in the Union Art Gallery last Thursday and Friday.

milagro is used to cure you, if your elbow hurts and you get a milagro of an elbow it is supposed to make you feel better."

Sedgwick said that she employs the human form in her work because, "I wanted them to be recognized as ones self and at the same time different to see as ones self. When you have a sickness it makes it hard to recognize your body." She says she did not assign a gender to the bodies because, "I want other people

to relate to them."

Sedgwick attributes her use of the color blue to her, "...love [of] the color indigo. And it has to do with a Japanese influence. Indigo is important in a lot of native textile traditions." The technique she uses, *shibori*, like tie dying or folding paper is also a Japanese process.

What is most unique about Sedgwick's work is its accessibility. She said, "I want people to touch my art, to feel it."

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# Blessid Performances

## Blessid Union of Souls Perform with Tsidi! Leloka



Campus Lifestyles  
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Strains of music, the cheering of students, and the

Staller Center this past Friday. Tsidi! Leloka and Blessid Union of Souls put on a show unparalleled at SBU this semester.

The opening act, Tsidi! Leloka and her seven piece band, was phenomenal. Leloka, who is renowned for her powerful voice and evocative music, offered the audience free passage on her "musical journey." The band performed some traditional African pieces, and Leloka often gave a brief history of a type of music before launching into a song. The opening act also encouraged audience participation, attempting to teach those in the Staller Center some of the finer points of her native dialect. She also admonished those assembled when no one had heard of her native country in South Africa. "This is a University, right? How's your geography?" she questioned. "This is a SUNY school," yelled one audience member, to the amusement of the group. Leloka appeared happy to perform, and tried to get the audience involved as much as possible, encouraging them to clap and sing. The audience was ready for Blessid Union of Souls after the intermission, and the band blasted onto the

stage happy and energetic. The audience composition was varied, and included older residents of the neighboring town, denizens made up a small percentage of the ticketholders. All in all, about 400 tickets were sold, and another 200 were given as promotions. The Staller Center holds 1,049.

It was unfortunate that a smallish number of Stony

Lead Singer Elliot Sloan was an enthusiastic performer.



Statesman/Kar Fulgieri

Also interesting was the fact that the show really was a full fledged performance, one that included set changes when a keyboard would be moved onstage for Sloan. The lighting was fantastic and the sound quality in the Staller Center is commendable. The venue staff was prepared and efficient, and the concert ran smoothly.

At the end of the show, the band brought up a local sixteen year old who was celebrating her birthday. He then invited her to dance and sing while the band performed its latest and most popular single, "Hey Leonardo (She Likes Me for Me)." Friends of the girl were also invited on stage, and the energy in the Staller Center was evident during the final song. Blessid Union of Souls performed the Beatles classic "Revolution," which is featured on their CD, *walking off the buzz*, and then launched into a unconventional sample of another hit single, "I Believe."

After the concert, the band generously stayed in the Staller Center to sign autographs and take pictures with fans. Fans left the show excited and happy, carrying Blessid Union T-shirts, CDs and keychains. It was an event that any SBU student would have enjoyed.



Courtesy of Randi Ehrlich

Blessid Union of Souls performed their hit single from *walking off the buzz*, entitled "Hey Leonardo."