

Police Blotter

pg 8

USB Volleyball Coach

Resigns

pg 5

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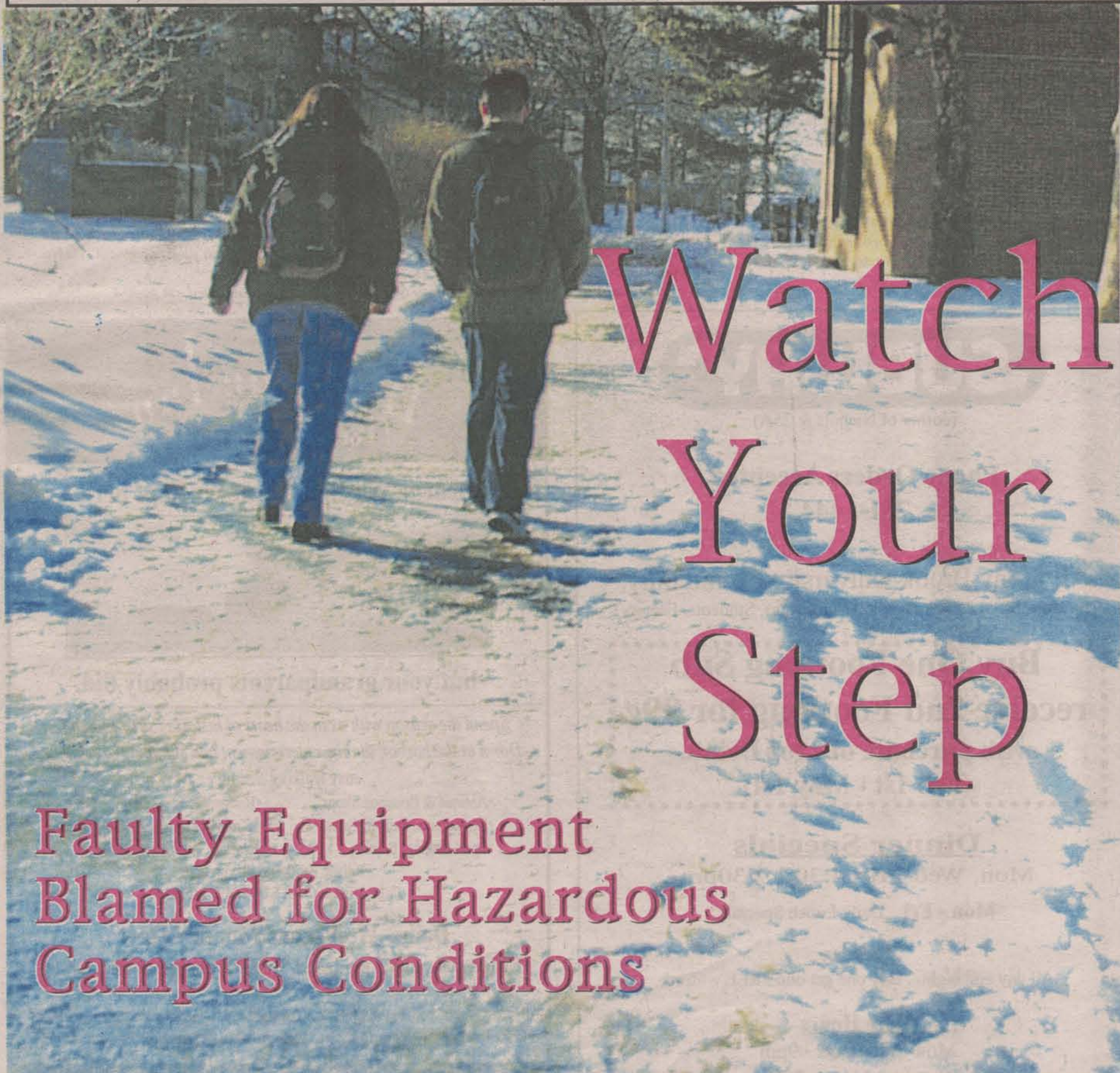
Statesman

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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE



Watch Your Step

Faulty Equipment
Blamed for Hazardous
Campus Conditions

Celebrating Black History Month

By ANDREW CHIU
Statesman Staff

The University launched its celebration of Black History Month with an opening ceremony filled with powerful speeches from faculty members, upbeat music, and creative poetry at the Student Activities Center yesterday afternoon.

Students, faculty, and staff assembled under the theme of "Each One Teach One: Threads of the African American Community," as part of Stony Brook's Year of Community.

In a vibrant display of energy and talent, the Stony Brook Gospel Choir kicked things off by performing the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," by James Weldon Johnson. They also performed another selection in which those gathered joined in clapping to a gospel tune.

But the meeting was equally focused on learning about the historical oppression of blacks in America's past. The effects of these injustices are still felt today.

"The history of slavery has stamped black people as inferior, lacking in virtue, and lacking the capacity to be their own masters," said Rose Leung, a senior counselor at the University Counseling Center.

"The challenge is for us to overturn these notions as they play out in everyday life still, and to learn to accept the original proud history of blacks and the black family prior to and despite the ravages of slavery."



Statesman/Ruth Chung

The Stony Brook Gospel Choir performed at the kick-off celebrations.

William McAdoo, chair of the department of Africana Studies, stressed the impact of black history when he repeatedly cried out about the, "unfinished business," of our time.

McAdoo referred to Amadou Diallo as, "a symbol of unequal justice which still haunts our

community and our society." McAdoo added that, "One out of every three black males between the ages of twenty and twenty-nine are under the control of the criminal justice system. Unfinished business."

Continued on page 4



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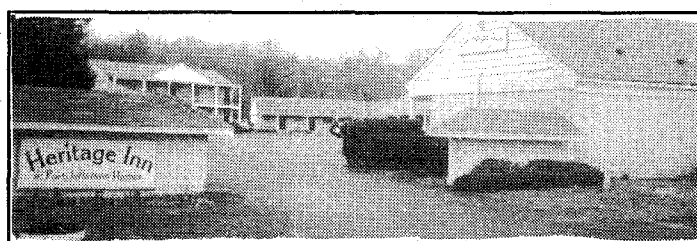
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 3, 2000

'Snow' Fun for USB Employees

Workers Say Inefficient Machines Create Danger for Students and Themselves

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

After fielding complaints from resident students about the lack of snow removal around the residence halls, Stony Brook employees are shoveling the blame onto administration.

"Our trucks are nothing but a bunch of rust buckets," said one grounds employee, who did not wish to be named. "Most of them are shot, they're 15, 16 years old, the plow pumps leak fluid, so when you let them sit overnight, you come in the next morning and the plows don't raise," he said. Plow pumps are the devices attached to the front of trucks that control the plows. Lack of fluid and age render the plows almost inoperable, as they cannot be turned from left to right, nor can they be raised or lowered.

The unnamed source also had complaints about the cabs of the trucks. "The trucks have no mufflers," he explained, "and when you start them, the cabs fill up with smoke and carbon monoxide...it makes you sick." He said that this contributed to the incidents of employees vomiting after driving the vehicles.

The integrity of the salt spreaders was also commented upon by the source, who explained that one is 15 years old, and the other is seven years old. "The older one can't even carry a full load because the springs are too weak. We had to have guys shoveling sand off the back of the truck by hand," said the source.

The employee went on to say that unsafe conditions in the residential areas were the result of not allowing employees to stay for overtime to work and clear away snow. "They would rather spend money on shrubs than pay for overtime," said the source.

Fred Tokash, director of residential operations, is in charge of residential groundskeeping. He said that the



Statesman/Ruth Chung

Residents are concerned about the lack of snow plowing in places like Tabler Quad.

allegations concerning employee overtime were unfounded. "We did ask people to stay," he said. According to his records, approximately 15 employees stayed well into the night during the snowstorm on January 25th. The day after, 10 employees stayed on overtime, he said.

Tokash also explained that there are three vehicles assigned primarily to the residential grounds. One is a 1986 model, one is a 1987, and one is a 1995. "Each vehicle is inspected annually, the all pass inspection," he said. When informed of the allegation that toxic fumes are making ground employees ill, Tokash expressed surprise. "I would think that if any driver of any vehicle saw this, that they would report it to their supervisor," Tokash said. "I am not aware of such a problem, no one has come to me."

Ed Byrne, who handles maintenance for residential operations, also said that he had never been approached by anyone about such a problem.

As far as other snow removal device, Tokash said that Stony Brook has two salt spreaders. "Both of which, during the recent storm, were broken. One was fixed, and one is waiting on parts," he said. Tokash added that grounds crews were shoveling sand to compensate for

the inoperable machines.

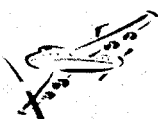
"Our primary concern is to allow students access to the academic core," Tokash said. "We also need to make sure the handicapped residents are safe. Once we've established that, we do the parking lots. They're the hardest to clean since there are always cars there," he said.

However, many students do not feel that the University has done an adequate job clearing pathways in the quads. "I slipped already," said freshman Rowena Ancheta, a Toscanini resident. "The job they did removing the snow really wasn't good enough."

In response to allegations of inefficiency, Tokash said that he had not received any calls concerning unsafe conditions in the residential areas. "Unless someone reports a problem, we're not aware of it. If someone calls, we'll go out and sand," he said.

Tokash maintains that the staff has done its best to make the campus safe for residents. "I wouldn't change our priorities," he said. Each time the snow comes, we try to do a better job than the last time. I think we do a reasonable job."

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Black History Month Celebrations Begin

Continued from page 2

"And we know that the great struggle for liberation which our ancestors have passed along to us is our unfinished business," McAdoo continued. "We stand here on the shoulders of others who have made a great sacrifice for us...we celebrate our mothers and our fathers, our grandparents, our ancestors, for they have answered the call. How will we answer the call today? Unfinished business."

Another emphatic speech was made by Carla Mollette-Ogden, assistant professor in the department of political science. Mollette-Ogden quoted Carter J. Woodson as having written, "The same educational process which inspires and stimulates the oppressors with the thought that he is everything...depresses and suppresses at the same time the spark of genius in the Negro."

Woodson started the first Black History Week, "To recognize the information about Africans that has been altered, dismissed, or even ignored, and began to celebrate the achievements of Black Americans," according to Robert McGrath, interim provost.

This first Black History Week was in February of 1926, the week containing the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass

and Abraham Lincoln. This week was expanded to Black History Month beginning in 1986.

Several others also spoke at the ceremony, such as Aldustus E. Jordan, chair of the Black History Month Planning Committee; Shirley Strum Kenny, president of the University; and Carlos Vidal, associate professor in the School of Social Welfare.

The ceremony also had a poetry recital by Derrin Maxwell, a Stony Brook alumnus from the class of 1999. Maxwell said his piece was a "quilt" containing lines from many different pieces, a spontaneous recital of whatever he felt was pertinent to black history.

This was a creative analog to the 2,000 Stars Quilting Project, coordinated by Melissa Bishop, campus web developer. The project aims to produce a number of Friendship Quilts comprised of signature blocks from Stony Brook students, faculty, staff, and members of the surrounding communities.

Leung put forth her ideas of what our nation is becoming. "The reality is that we have to confront a more complex, 21st century; America that's becoming a nation of minorities."

Leaving the Court

Volleyball Coach Resigns Amid Controversy

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

After 19 years, Theresa Tiso is exiting the court as coach of the women's volleyball team, just as the University at Stony Brook mark their territory in Division I status.

But the move to resign was not a choice that came easily for Tiso. "I love Stony Brook," she said. "I really don't want to leave." However, with unmet needs both for the team and for herself, Tiso felt she was left with few other options.

She explained that with the move to Division I, many changes were taking place within the athletics department - changes that she wanted for the volleyball program as well. In addition to her attempts at trying to receive a full-time position as an assistant coach and a salary increase, Tiso wanted her team to have access to better facilities. At Division III status, Tiso said that both games and practices were played in the main arena of the Sports Complex but with the move to Division I, volleyball repeatedly found itself in the Pritchard Gym.

The main arena of the Sports

Complex is fairly new, built in the early nineties. The second largest indoor facility on Long Island after Nassau Coliseum, it has seating for up to 6,000 people. It stands in sharp contrast to the older Pritchard Gym, which can only hold 1,700 spectators.

Concerned that a lessening of support for volleyball would follow, Tiso felt that it was time to move on. Last fall she began her position as director of the coaching certificate program at the School of Professional Development.

Richard Laskowski, dean of the athletics department, said that he was sorry to see Tiso go but that he



Courtesy of Stony Brook

Theresa Tiso

done in the department, only men and women's basketball, women's soccer and lacrosse were able to get top billing in Division I. "Hopefully in the future all sports will be given every possible support," he said.

Sandra Weeden, director of athletics, is also sorry to see Tiso

stems from a renovation project which took place last year when the arena floor was redone. "The polyurethane coating took an extra long time to dry, so volleyball was forced to play two games in the Pritchard Gym," Weeden said. "They did not get to play in the main arena during August, September, October or November because we couldn't give volleyball priority over basketball," she said.

But while Weeden said that they were trying to compromise between the overlapping seasons, Tiso contends that she was treated disrespectfully. "It's not so much what happened but how it happened," Tiso said. "The changes were never discussed with me and a successful program means having a dialogue."

But while they may be on opposing sides, both Weeden and Tiso regret the problems the resignation has caused. "I just want this all to go away," Weeden said.

Tiso said that she does not want to hurt Stony Brook in any way. "Stony Brook has done a lot for me," she said, "I care about the volleyball program more than anyone, I built it."

As for the team itself, Weeden is confident that the change will not harm them in spite of the fact that a new coach has yet to be appointed. "Division I coaches change all the time and young adults are resilient and adaptable to change," she said.

Tiso said that she has no idea about the future of the team and that the resignation is proving to be an emotional move for her. "I'm just trying to learn from this," Tiso said. "Adversity will always hit you over the season. You just have to move on."

"The changes were never discussed with me and a successful program means having a dialogue."
- Tiso

understood her position. "Unfortunately, we can't have all the sports be top programs," he said. "We don't have the financial support for that." The dean said that in spite of his gratitude towards Tiso for what she has

resign. She said that she had a great tenure during her years at Stony Brook and that she was successful at stepping up competition.

But she claims that Tiso's dissatisfaction within the department

Stony Brook Uses Goodwill

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

If you have an old t-shirt or worn sneakers that you are thinking of getting rid of, Ed Wilson wants you to think twice.

Wilson, who handles donations and procurement for Goodwill in the New York area, has placed seven donation bins on the Stony Brook campus to solicit such items.

"It is such a large campus and with so many students, I figured there must be unwanted merchandise that Goodwill can benefit from," he said.

Stony Brook is the first college on Long Island to team up with Goodwill, a non-profit charity with 175 different chapters in the United States, to help the organization gain more donations.

The bins, located in H Quad; Mendelsohn Quad; Roth Quad; Tabler Quad; Kelly Quad; Schomburg Apartments and Chapin Apartments, were placed on campus in early December, right

before the winter break.

Last Thursday Wilson had to send over a crew to pick up the overflowing bins. "I consider it a successful venture," said Wilson, who is now implementing a similar system at New York University. "It is excellent for Goodwill."

The donations placed in the bins will go to the organization's plant in Astoria, Queens, where they are sorted and washed.

Aside from clothes, Goodwill also accepts household appliances, books and toys.

Initially, the bins were only going to be available on campus in December and May, when students would be packing to head home after finals.

Director of Residential Operations Fred Tokash said that the bins, which are maintained by Goodwill, will probably stay on campus year round. "Unless they become a source of vandalism, we will leave them in their present locations," he said.

He added that the bins would be beneficial for those less fortunate. "It's a good community



Statesman/Ruth Chung

One of the Goodwill bins is in H Quad, in front of Gray College.

service for residents and all of the community, so if you have extra clothing there is now an opportunity to pass it off to somebody who can use it."

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Editorials

Disrespecting Undergrads

Can you remember back to the days when you were a freshman in high school? Besides voice changes and hormonal zits, you may have lived with the ever present fear that you would be harassed by the big kids, the seniors, the popular crowd. Hopefully, most of us got through relatively unscathed. In fact, there may even be a few of you that worked that same intimidation trick when you were the big kid on the block.

But then you get into college where age distinctions are blurred and just the fact that you are in an institution of higher education earns you a certain amount of respect. Besides, what's a sophomore, junior or senior when people rarely graduate in four years?

Well, surprise, those distinctions don't blur as much as you might hope that they do. Maybe you don't feel inadequate next to the superseniors but chances are you do feel defective compared to the graduate students.

There is an alarming trend abounding where the treatment doled out to grad students is in sharp contrast to the crumbs thrown to undergrads. Just this semester alone, a professor of a history class was overheard patronizing her class of

undergrads for having an "inadequate conception of the term America." What does that mean? The professor, who barely looks a day over 22 herself, went on to say that this is a trend she has noticed among other undergrad classes she has taught. A bit of an unfair sweeping generalization, don't you think?

Have any of you needed to order a course packet from Budget Print Center, the place across the street from the train tracks? In addition to the hassle of having to give them three days notice before you actually receive your photocopies, you have to actually go there to order. Unless of course, you are a grad student. Then you are granted the privilege and the convenience of ordering your materials over the phone. A small point? Not when a large majority of undergrads are on campus without a car. It may not be a far walk, but it can seem like quite a trek when the temperature dips below the freezing point in the sun. And it should be noted that chances are, most grad students have their own transportation. Is it fair to assume that grad students have more on their agenda than an undergrad? Another unfair sweeping generalization.

To be fair, it wouldn't be right to dismiss the fact that graduate students are the ones who make

a name for their school and just looking at one is a testament to the hard work they put in. Many of them look malnourished and as if they haven't seen a pillow in weeks. Their individual work and research is what garners the university grant money, acclaim and prestige. There aren't many undergrads making strides in the medical field or writing masterpieces of literature. But their time just hasn't come yet.

Aren't they the scientists, writers and historians of the future? Weren't grad students once undergrads themselves, trying to follow a path of study while getting all the extra fluff out of the way?

And while graduate students undoubtedly work hard, don't undergrads work equally as hard? A undergraduate does not have the luxury of getting their tuition tab picked up by their department. Many undergrads have to work two and three jobs just to pay University bills.

Perhaps graduate students don't go around knocking the books out of the arms of undergrads or giving them wedgies in the hallways but the lack of equal respect needs to be checked. To be in a university at any level means a certain amount of drive, ambition and brains, no matter what level you are at.



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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 3, 2000

Stony Brook Day!

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

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LAST CALL TO SIGN UP!

To sign up, contact the Office of Student Activities, 219 Student Activities Center, 632-9392, or the Office of Public Affairs, 632-6129

Come to the following Info Sessions:

- Today, Feb 3, 4:30 - 5:30pm, SAC 311
- Mon, Feb 7, 10 - 11am, Provost's Conference Room, 407 Administration

Join us and "Represent" because the future of our University depends on all of us!



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Wednesday, January 19, 2000

8:41 am A strong smell of marijuana was detected Margaret Sanger College. Two males were found sleeping on couches in the lobby.

7:36 pm A driver was arrested in the North P Lot for driving with a suspended license.

Thursday, January 20, 2000

3:42 am A plumbing condition in the Schomburg Apartments caused a minor flood. When beeped, the building coordinator did not respond.

6:26 am A smoke detector was set off by a cigarette in Douglass College. No damage was reported.

7:01 am A broken steam pipe in the basement of Schick College burst causing massive flooding in the mens bathroom. Fire safety was called to the scene.

2:24 pm Individuals were seen jumping on the Roth Quad Pond and were gone upon police arrival.

10:19 pm A bat was reportedly seen flying around a dorm room in Wagner College. The report was unfounded.

11:50 pm Three official Stony Brook signs were found and confiscated in a dorm room in Irving College.

Friday, January 21, 2000

10:22 am A laptop valued at \$1,300 was reported missing from the third floor of the Student Activities Center.

6:36 pm A black labrador was herded from the SAC Main Lobby and transported to the police station where it was later claimed by its owner.

10:19 pm A woman fell on the stairs in the Fine Arts Lobby and apparently injured her leg. The woman was taken to University Hospital.

Saturday, January 22, 2000

3:23 am A fire alarm was sounded in Cardozo College. It was a false reporting as there was no smoke or fire present in the building.

9:05 pm A computer and meal card were stolen by unknown persons in Irving College.

Sunday, January 23, 2000

12:19 am Suspicious persons suspected in a prior burglary were reported on the premises of Gray College. The individuals were later identified as Stony Brook residents and guests.

10:25 pm An Ammann College resident reported harassment.

Monday, January 24, 2000

4:37 pm A possible homeless person was seen in the Melville Library Central Reading Room. The report was later unfounded.

Tuesday, January 25, 2000

Blotter of the Week Tuesday, January 25, 2000

9:48 am An individual in Old Engineering walked into a plate glass window and refused medical treatment.

9:29 am A Drieser College resident and her boyfriend were reported harassing her roommate.

Wednesday, January 26, 2000

4:47 am A fire alarm was pulled in the basement of Cardozo College. Upon police arrival, no smoke or damage was detected.

6:05 pm A male was punched in the face in a stairwell in Hendrix College.

Thursday, January 27, 2000

7:47 pm The smell of an illegal substance was detected but unfounded in Douglass College.

8:26 pm Four bottles of beer valued at \$48 were stolen from The Spot.

Friday, January 28, 2000

2:50 am A white vehicle ran over a campus sign, with damages approximately at \$500.

4:56 pm A bat was caught and then freed after flying around a room in Wagner College.

Monday, January 31, 2000

9:23 am A female was found with a possible broken ankle in front of Earth and Space Sciences.

8:01 pm A female Toscanini resident with abdominal pain was transported to University Hospital.

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

1:09 am A fire alarm was pulled in Hand College. However, no smoke or fire was detected.

1:18 pm The smell of marijuana was detected in Gray College.


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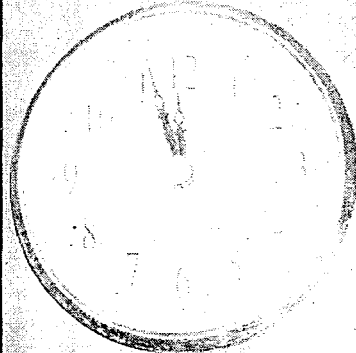
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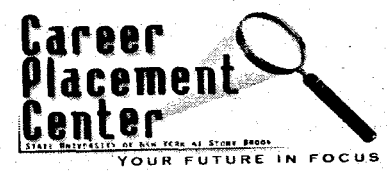
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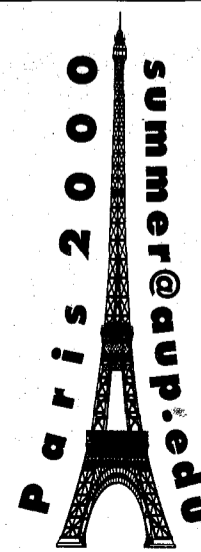
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Features

Sharing African Identities

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

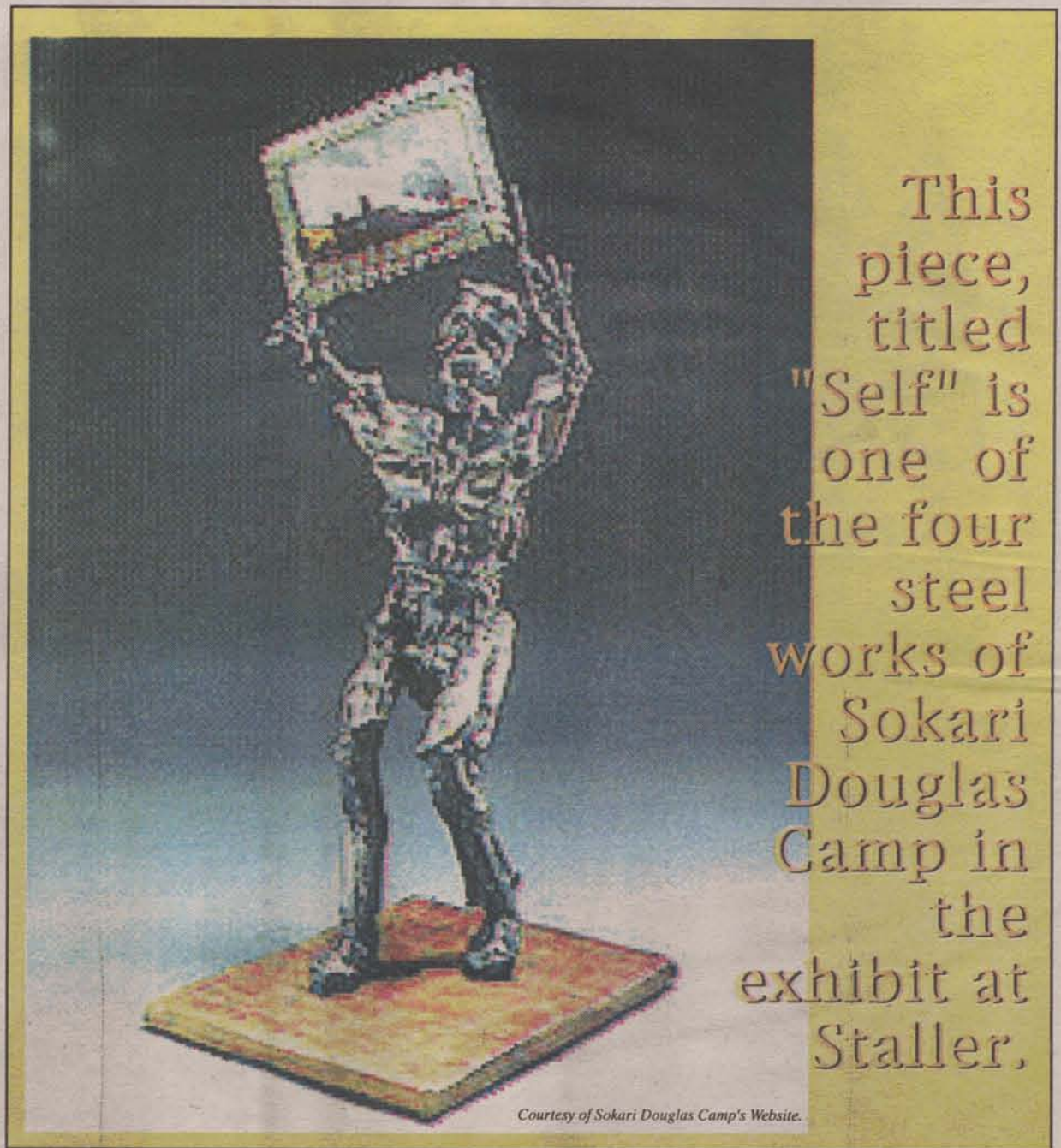
When art works from Africa first appeared in the west, the pieces were regarded as little more than oddities from a mysterious and foreign land. Few real attempts at appreciating them for their own artistic qualities were made. It wasn't until established artists such as Pablo Picasso cited African pieces as inspirations to his own work, including the ground breaking Cubist movement, that this view began to change.

But African art is much more than the muse for socially accepted artists. Often incorporating imagery and symbolism that speaks volumes about history, cosmology and culture, African art is just beginning to get the recognition it deserves. It is slowly being viewed as an important contribution not just to the art world but in the often silent history of Africans everywhere.

A walk through the University Art Gallery in the Staller Center suggests just this. In honor of Black History Month, the exhibit "Distinguished Identities: Contemporary African Portraiture" shows works that are all masterpieces in their own right. They run the gamut of emotions with works done in mediums as various as bronze, steel, acrylic, canvas and digital prints.

Upon entrance into the gallery, one is drawn to the left towards the cast bronze piece "Dancing Mum." Done by Bright Bimpong the work depicts a round and robust bald woman assuming the graceful pose of a ballerina with a baby on her back. Her eyes are closed and her face assumes an air of serenity and peace. On her back, the baby is alert and active with its eyes wide open and its hands flailing into the air. The piece suggests a certain beauty in motherhood and the figure's dance like pose looks as though she is about to take a bow.

Particularly striking within the exhibit is the series of photographs done by Seydou Keita. In black and white, they show different Africans in the 1950's in various poses, each alluding to a different emotion. A stand out in the series is the piece "Untitled (Big Man With His Daughter)." To call this photo anything less than beautiful would be a disgrace. It shows a huge mountain of a man dressed in layers of robe that helps emphasize his substantial girth. The robe's light color contrasts sharply with the darkness of his face, which is twisted in the sweetest grin. This bespeaks the man's joy with the tiny object in his arms. The object is a chubby baby with curly hair and hands and feet flailing in contentment. The look of serenity of the father's face is matched



Courtesy of Sokari Douglas Camp's Website.

This piece, titled "Self" is one of the four steel works of Sokari Douglas Camp in the exhibit at Staller.

only by the look of joy on the face of his baby girl.

Using imagery that is recognizably African, artist Acha Debala had a series of digital prints done in vibrant and exciting colors. The piece "Song for Africa," depicts geometric patterns that are reminiscent of kente cloth. This cloth and its patterns have become symbolic of themes of "Africanness," originating from the kingdom of Ghana as part of the dress of the royalty. There are recognizable images within the piece including faces and the African symbol of life, the Ankh.

The work of well known artist Sokari Douglas Camp is also included in "Distinguished Identities." Working in steel, Camp's work is well known and a popular favorite. Her work tends to be hands on, including spinning mechanisms and other movable

objects that have delighted audiences in museums such as the Smithsonian. In "Standing Woman," there is a doll-sized woman in African dress holding a bag. She has designs burned out of her dress and she wears jewelry. Camp also has the piece "Woman Shopper with Pram and Two Children." Camp's work speaks about her own experiences. Schooled in England, in her art she tries to mediate between the western world she grew up in and the world where she can find her roots.

The show, which will run until March 4, includes a number of other pieces all worth viewing for a glimpse into the African experience. The show's reception is Saturday, at 6:30 pm and some of the artists are expected to be on hand. Although the show deals with an African theme, it allows all viewers to catch a glimpse of a piece of their own history, world history.