

BLACKWORLD

Published Bi-Weekly by Students from the State University of New York at Stony Brook

February 25, 1999

ONE NATION

Volume 40, Number 1

Ms. Stony Brook 1999



By: Tischelle George

Sophomore Persephone Da Costa was crowned Ms. Stony Brook Friday after competing in the first annual Ms. Stony Brook pageant.

The pageant hosts, Maha Osman and Wayne White emphasized that this would not be a typical beauty pageant, where contestants were judged solely on the basis of their appearance. The definition of beauty for this pageant focused on inner beauty and appreciation of what that constituted.

There were seven contestants, of diverse backgrounds, talents, and interests. All of the young women represented an organization that they are a part of. For example second runner up junior, Claudine Stuart, who is president of the Commuter Students Association, was Ms. CSA. First runner up senior, Catherine Reid was Ms. Langmuir, and Da Costa represented the Caribbean Students Organization.

Each contestant participated in three segments that allowed them to express their abilities to the vocal S.A.C. audience and the judges who were Stony Brook staff, affiliates, and alumnus. The judging was based upon poise, posture, diction, eloquence, and congeniality.

The first segment was personal style, where the contestants came on stage to the beat of music that they selected. They wore individualized outfits, introduced themselves and answered questions posed to them by the hosts. From answering the questions the aspiring Ms. Stony Brook's revealed their past accomplishments and future aspirations. Both Da Costa and Reid commanded the audience's attention with their clear, confident voices.

The second segment, creative expression, allowed the contestants to show their varied talents. Three of the seven women played musical instruments. Freshman Sofia DeLaCruz, who was Ms. Minorities in Medicine, played the violin. Senior Anabelle Mejia, Ms. Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc., played the keyboard, and Stuart played the oboe.

Ms. Langmuir accentuated her powerful voice by performing "Grandmother," a poem by Maya

Angelou. Ms. Hendrix, senior Kamilah Francis also performed a notable Maya Angelou poem, "Phenomenal Woman."

Junior Tamika McIntosh, who was Ms. Black Womyn's Weekend, performed an original skit and sang "Tell Him," by Lauryn Hill. And Da Costa performed a modern dance routine, which exemplified her love for the art that she has been studying since she was five-years-old.

The final segment was formal wear, and the contestants who were each escorted on stage by a gentlemen, wore evening gowns and answered randomly selected questions that they picked from a glass bowl. Although the questions were challenging, all of the young women answered the questions thoughtfully and were articulate.

Da Costa was asked to describe what person has been the most important influence in her life, and to that she answered, her father. Da Costa spoke with pride and conviction about the type of man that her father is and why he has been such an important influence in her life.

Before the final decisions were made, all of the contestants received certificates for their performance in the pageant and the work that they do for the campus community. DeLaCruz and Francis received awards for congeniality, McIntosh and Reid were awarded for their eloquence and diction, Da Costa was awarded for her creative expression, Mejia was awarded for the community service that she does with her sorority, and Stuart was awarded for community leadership.

Earlier in the evening coordinators of the pageant Joyal McNeil and Sonjie DeCaires recognized and awarded various women on campus for their leadership contributions to the community. McNeil noted that the majority of organizations on campus are headed by women and that they should be acknowledged for their hard work and dedication.

After the crowning ceremony, Da Costa was swarmed on stage by her family and well-wishers. She was speechless, but managed to utter that it felt great to win.

Persephone DaCosta

IN THIS ISSUE

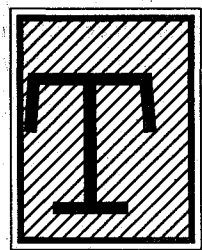
Campus Safety Improvements
Page 3

Creative Arts and Poetry
Pages 9-11

Return of the BLACKWORLD
Opinion Page
Page 8

USB Sports Reports
Pages 14-15

Quotable:



The political philosophy of black nationalism means that the black man should control the politics and the politicians in his own community; no more.

Malcolm X

In honor of Black History Month, the United States Postal Service commemorated Malcolm X with a Black Heritage stamp.

Black Businesses Come to Stony Brook

By: Tischelle George

Trailblazing into the next millennium, the Black Expo committee kicked off their second annual event with a night of live music, poetry, and performances.

The Stony Brook version of the Black Expo is an adaptation of the widely known event that occurs annually in the summer at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. Like the original, USB's Black Expo is designed to give all members of the campus community an opportunity to obtain information from positive African-Americans in business, social services, education and politics.

This year's Black Expo took place in the Student Activities Center lobby. Black vendors and professionals such as, 98.7 KISS F.M. and 100 Black Men of Long Island, were present to make this Expo a success.

Stony Brook student and President of the Black Expo committee, Monessah Lawson said, "We had a phenomenal turnout, and a diverse crowd."

To prepare students for the coming event, a count down celebration was held in the Uniti Cultural Center. The evening was coordinated by Jonnel

Doris, director of the Gospel Choir, and hosted by Joyal McNeil, activities chair of the Student Activities Board. The meeting room was decorated with black and white balloons and dim, red lighting. Polity's Audio Visual organization used a smoke machine and laser designs to add to the setting.

The festivities began with the Gospel Choir singing the Black National Anthem and an opening address by Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Fred Preston. Dr. Preston said the Black Expo is "about promoting economic enterprise of the Black community and entrepreneurship."

He said historically African-Americans have not been encouraged to achieve high economic goals and those that do, sometimes feel guilty about their own success. "Let's have more faith in our ability to accumulate wealth. Patronize Black businesses," Dr. Preston said.

"The idea is to have more of us become the boss and not the staff," he said. "It's important for us to have our own piece of the rock."

Derrin Maxwell, coordinator of the Indigo Experience, a poetry event, began the performances with five original poems that explored relationships.

The USB Gospel Choir then assembled on the stage to perform two selections. When the massive choir got up from their seats, they took half of the audience with them, but their uplifting performance still commanded loud cheers and applause from the remaining audience members.

After a short intermission that was led by the jazzy mellow tones of the band, guest poet Yvette Hubbard took the stage and summoned everyone's attention with her clear, eloquent voice. She recited poems about growing up in an impoverished L.A. Hubbard, Assistant Director of University Apartments, was born and raised in Los Angeles and moved to New York in 1993. The three pieces that she read "Where I Am From," "In The Mix" and "Take My Hand" have been published in "Focus" the University's feminist journal.

An open mic session followed the guest poet, and mostly featured poems, told by USB students. Nefta Mitchell, UCC Treasurer, startled the audience when she explained the inspiration for an original poem entitled "You Can't Hang." Mitchell began by relaying her experience last summer of watching a group of Black drummers perform in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and

a White drummer with locks, who just didn't fit in. The title of the poem refers specifically to the White drummer.

Four members of the USB Step Squad changed the flow of the evening by giving a short step performance, which preceded a moving original monologue by founder of the Stony Brook Unified Poets Society Ayodele Callisto.

Callisto's monologue was told from the perspective of Harriet, an old woman who had been a slave her entire life. Callisto projected the image of the slave by wearing a loose-fitting, yellow and blue, African print dress and matching head wrap. She also wore a black shawl draped over her shoulders and bent her back a little as she spoke into the mic with the voice of a woman several years her senior.

The evening was capped off with a presentation of awards to members of the Black Expo committee, and food by Island Sun Caterers.

Lawson, who will be graduating this year said, "I hope that when I do return to Stony Brook as an alumni that we will be celebrating the 25th Black Expo, because it's an event that should be continued."

How Safe Are We: Improvements In Campus Safety

By: Melvin Bennett

Campus safety has been an issue that has stirred our campus community. with the occurrences of numerous sexual assaults and vandalism, people have been questioning the extent of our safety. this semester has seemed to be running smoothly, but why? what has been changed in the system that has weighed down the number of occurrences? what systems has been implemented to assure our safety? Blackworld took the duty of getting to the bottom of this.

Last semester our school was displayed through the new york city media, as an unsafe school. up until these sexual assault incidents, stonybrook was looked at the like a school with high safety control. when we portrayed through the media as a unsafe school we knew that it was time for a change. what made the situation worse was that when us students found out that we were on television, they were proud. i witnessed one students making a phone call to their hometown aleting his family that we were on television. they totally forgot the situation at hand. we lost a little credibility that we needed to retain to stay within the higher ranks of american colleges.

When you think about campus safety, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Campus

police. they are the basis of 100% of our safety. since last semester our university police has been making moves to the best of their ability to assure us that crazy incidents such as sexual assaults will not happen again. i sat down with Mr. douglas F. Little, Deputy Chief, university police and community relations and he gave us the 411 on the status of our safety.

As the semesters continues the crime rate continue to drop. Mr. little says that he doesnt want his police force to be pat on the back for that because that is what they are expected to do. Regarding the three sexuals that were reported that was three to many. When i asked him if that was the reason for the improvements on campus, he replied "the improvements wasnt a reaction it was a coercion": this simply means that improvements were already being done but the occurrences just made more things to be done.

Changes have been being made on campus and our university police system that has very high prospects. 11,000 acres of land has to be accounted for on campus. the more alluminated the campus is the better one can see if danger is confronting them. a hundred new lights have been installed withing the campus to further alluminate it. forty four blue lights are to be added. seven have

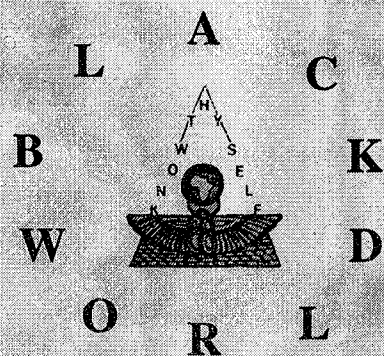
already been installed. How many blue lights are left to be installed? aw, come on, this os stonybrook. if you pay close attention to the roads and paths you should see the difference.

A program that Mr. Doug Little has sights for occuring in the near future is one called community policing. this simply means that he wants to disignate cops to a certain quad. This wil give the law wnforcement and the community a one on one relationship. that designated police officer would be involved in most of the evernts that go on within the quad. they will know people by their first names and attend ledge meetings. This should make the people of the community feel safer.

Another improvements. that has been within the systems is the hiring of eights dispatchers. it may seem like something of much importance but the less police officers answering the phones the more police officers that can be out serving the community.

there has been a frequent question among our campus concerning the path between tabler and roosevelt. why cant our administration tend to our needs and make it a primary route. the thruth is that they are tending to our needs by not making it a prime route because the severity of danger that we can be put in due to the steepness. that will never become a prime route.

Can You Write?? BLACKWORLD Needs Writers!! No One Can Tell Your Story Better Than YOU!

**"KNOW THYSELF"**

TISCHELLE GEORGE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ASIMA CHAUDHRY
BUSINESS MANAGER

DERRIN MAXWELL
CREATIVE ARTS EDITOR

MELVIN BENNETT
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

TROY WOODLEY
PRODUCTION MANAGER

FIONA BAILEY
COMPUTER LAYOUT EDITOR

BRISSETTE GANTT
OFFICE MANAGER

JOSEPHINE ODURO
SECRETARY

JOY MAHABIR
FACULTY ADVISOR

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Athletic Media Relations
Krishna ben Al'lat
d l hartley
Dr. William McAdoo
Tiffany Woolfolk
WUSB F.M.

The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those shared by the Editorial board. Articles, viewpoints and poetry are the sole expression of the writer. All articles can be submitted to our office in room 072 of the Student Union, in our mailbox in the Polity suite in the Student Activities Center, or via e-mail at blckwrld@ic.sunysb.edu. Articles can be edited for length, clarity and grammar. The advertising policy does not necessarily reflect the editorial policy. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the BLACKWORLD staff.

Police Take Another Brother's Life

Forty-one shots were fired. Nineteen bullets struck and killed 22-year-old Amadou Diallo in the entrance of his Soundview apartment in the Bronx.

We're all familiar with the story by now. And even though the death or injury of one of our brothers or sisters at the hands of so-called law enforcement officials is becoming all too common, it still outrages our community that nothing is being done to investigate and nullify these types of situations.

The anger that stems from this case results from the eminent, deadly use of force by four, white, plainclothes officers who attacked the unarmed Guinean immigrant. The cops allege that Diallo fit the description of a rapist that they were tracking. Three of the four officers have been involved in previous shootings and were found justified.

The specifics of what actually happened on Feb. 4th are still under investigation. There are several versions that are circulating, but the truth about what happened that night lies with Diallo, who was buried in Guinea last week; the four officers, who are not compelled to answer prosecutors questions in a criminal case; and God.

While our community mourns with the parents who loss their son an entire ocean away, the officers involved have all been assigned to

paid administrative duty and have retained their badges and guns. Just recently one officer voluntarily handed in his gun.

When Abner Louima alleged that he was sodomized by New York City police officers in Aug. 1997, Mayor Giuliani suspended the police and the case went to a grand jury. The Diallo case is now being reviewed by the Bronx District Attorney. Police officials explained that although both cases involve questionable actions by the police, in Louima's case his injuries were obvious proof that there was improper behavior by the police. Because there are no eyewitnesses to what occurred before the shooting it is allegedly unclear whether the police were showing misconduct.

Since the incident began Rev. Al Sharpton has been at the forefront, marching and crusading to have a grand jury investigation and to end police brutality. His words and his efforts have touched many and have even comforted Kadiadou and Saikou, parents of Diallo, but it cannot bring back the young life that was taken away or his dreams for a better life.

Diallo wasn't much older than the average undergraduate at Stony Brook. He earned his money legitimately selling clothing, hats and tapes in the Union Square area. He worked 12 hours a day and was trying to save his earnings. He spoke of attending Baruch College. When will

the police honor their commitment to protect and serve? How many more of our brothers will have to be sacrificed? How many more mothers will shake with grief and ask WHY? And what are we going to do as a community to ensure that this man's life was not taken in vain?

In Harlem an organization of Black police officers held an informational meeting with local youth. The officers explained to the roomful of mostly young men, how to conduct themselves when they are approached by the police. One officer demonstrated with four volunteers, where everyone in a vehicle should place their hands when pulled over by a cop, (which is on the wheel, the dashboard, and the top of the seat in front of you). The reason for maintaining this posture is to assure the officer that you are not reaching for a weapon, which will prevent him from reaching for his weapon.

Because there are no eyewitnesses we don't know how Diallo reacted when he was approached by the four police officers. Maybe it would have been useful for Diallo to have had this training, but it would be even more beneficial if white cops weren't so trigger happy when they came into our neighborhoods, and dismissed the thinking that we all look alike, and are always cause for suspicion.

Tischelle George
Editor-in-Chief

**Please Address All Letters
To The Editor To The Stu-
dent Union, Room 072.
Letters Can Be Directly
Submitted To The
BLACKWORLD Office Or
To The Mailbox In The Pol-
ity Suite, SAC, 202.**

Reflections On The History of the Department of Africana Studies

By: Professor William McAdoo
January 27, 1999

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department of Africana Studies, I would like to bring greetings to all who are assembled here to participate in the opening ceremonies for Black History Month 1999. We are honored that the campus-wide Black History Month Planning Committee, under the leadership of its chair, Dr. Al Jordan, has chosen as this year's slogan: "A victory for one is a victory for all—celebrating 30 years of Africana Studies." For, indeed, our generation has witnessed, what earlier generations of AFS faculty and students could only have dreamed of: the birth of the Africana Studies Department at Stony Brook.

Let me say at the outset, that while we in AFS have been ready for elevation to departmental status for years, it took an enlightened administration under the leadership of President Shirley Strum Kenny, to bring this to fruition. It also, required the determination of students and our colleagues throughout the campus to facilitate this transition. The role of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), in the present context and over the last 25 years, has been critical to this historic transformation. But there has been both continuity and challenge; troubled days and years, and high points of struggle. And, in the words of one of our gospel songs, "I'm so glad, that trouble don't last always!"

All who enter the facilities of the AFS Department today are greeted by a prominent sign designating the "Department of Africana Studies," followed by the words of that great champion of Black liberation, Frederick Douglass: "Without struggle there is no progress."

So, it is only fitting on this memorable occasion that we take a few moments to review some important aspects of the history of the Department of Africana Studies, to reflect upon the struggles that have brought us here today, and that serve as the foundation for future progress. For we owe a tremendous debt to those who came before us—to the sacrifices of tens and hundreds of individuals whose names and roles are unknown to many of us—and we should know and remember the core values that motivated their quest to build a Black Studies Department at Stony Brook—for we stand upon their shoulders.

We were born in struggle. The Civil Rights Movement was in full force during the 1960's, as was the nationwide anti-war movement against the war in Vietnam. Social justice was on the immediate agenda of many young people. College campuses, nationwide, were aflame with activism, intellectual ferment, organization, and struggle to correct the inequities of this society and to bring the fruits of democracy to all people, regardless of race, sex, religion or social class.

A reading of the back issues of the *Statesman* for that period, demonstrates that the Stony Brook campus was no exception—it was a hotbed of social activism. In 1966 there were just two Black students on this campus, (Mel Brown and Karen Nimmons), no Black faculty, and only one Black administrator (Anre Edwards). Stony Brook was a "Lilly-white" campus. However, by 1966, a change had begun to occur in academe. Under pressure from student activists, and through recognizing that the systematic exclusion of people of color could no longer be justified or tolerated, many campuses around the nation began to establish mechanisms to recruit what were called "historically disadvantaged" students—Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans. New programs called "Special Opportunity Programs" emerged to facilitate recruitment efforts. Black Studies programs and departments were instituted.

Stony Brook's "Special Opportunity Program" was established in 1968. Fifty Black Students were brought to our campus through recruitment efforts at that time. But, although many Stony Brook administrators had bowed to the going trend to recruit "historically disadvantaged" students, they apparently did so under silent protest and without a sincere intent to see the "Special Opportunity Program" succeed. The promised funding for recruited students did not materialize. In other words this early effort was programmed to fail.

However, this initial group of Black students had brought with them a tradition of struggle growing out of the Black liberation and social justice movements of that day. So, in 1968, a new organization emerged on campus: Black Students United, (BSU). It was this student organization, and the struggles of its members, that ultimately gave birth to both Advancement on Individual Merit (AIM) and the Black Studies Program at Stony Brook.

In October of 1968, in what the *Statesman* described as "an extremely tense atmosphere," BSU met with university President John S. Toll, representatives of the student government, and involved faculty members. They intended to address "the funding foul-up in the 'Special Opportunities Program'" and to demand that the promised scholarships be provided to the recruited students. BSU not only made constructive proposals to fix the problems with AIM, but also demanded the establishment of a Black Studies program at Stony Brook.

By February 1969, with their ranks reinforced by additional recruits, and no longer willing to tolerate foot-dragging on the part of the Toll administration, BSU issued a series of five demands which not only laid the foundations for our present

AIM program and Africana Studies Department, but which reverberate even today in 1999. Given the historic significance of these demands it seems fitting to take a few moments to revisit at least the most important of them.

Noting the failure of the Toll administration to act in good faith regarding their grievances and "constructive proposals," BSU was quoted in the Feb. 11, 1969 issue of the *Statesman* that "After months of patience and good faith we the Black Students United at Stony Brook do make the following demands:

"A: BLACK INSTITUTE

We, the Black Students United at Stony Brook, demand a signed agreement by the Administration to provide the necessary resources to establish a Black Institute," a reference to the Black Studies program.

"The aims, definitions, courses, policies, organization and development shall be decided by a committee set up by the BSU composed of chosen faculty and outside advisors. That upon receipt of our proposal and signed agreement by the University... machinery shall immediately be set in motion so that the Black Institute will be established as a functioning unit by September 1969."

The aims of this new Black Studies Program were eloquently stated by BSU:

"1. That at this point of history, we feel that the Black experience should become part of the mainstream of [the] American Educational system for Black and White to promote better understanding between both peoples.

"2. To provide Black Students with [the] background and educational standing necessary for them to assume the role of leadership in their community, thus eliminating the social, economic, and political problems in Black America.

"3. That this be a degree-granting Institute in the areas of Black Studies.

"4. That this Institute enjoy a maximum amount of autonomy in the University system. (i.e., Governing body having power in the hiring of faculty, control of finances, etc., subject to the normal good governance of such matters.)"

The BSU document then goes on to their second demand regarding the transformation of the "Special Opportunity Program":

"Black Students United is aware that the "Special Opportunities Program" (S.O.P.) serves no purpose as it is set up presently, and therefore demand that to make it meaningful, the "Program" satisfy the following needs:

"1. Tuition, 2. Room and Board, 3. Insurance - health and medical, 4. Fees- (a) preliminary, (b) college, (c) books and materials.

"In addition to this, BSU also demands the final approval in the hiring of the director(s), and all persons responsible in the governing of this program. BSU will also have representatives on the board of the S.O.P. in all matters pertaining to administration, governance, etc."

The text of demands from the BSU, next addresses Stony Brook's admissions policies:

"The members of Black Students United is intensely aware of the unjustifiably small percentage of Afro-Americans and Puerto Ricans included in the student, faculty, and administrative bodies of the State University at Stony Brook. Any people, any institutions which professes to be just, recognizes this deficiency, unintentional or otherwise, to be intolerable, and its continuation to be reprehensible.

"Black Students United addresses itself to the immediate rectification of the under-enrollment of African-Americans and Puerto Rican students on the following basis:

"1. The society of which [the] State University at Stony Brook is part has systematically denied to Black peoples the education which has been their right and due.

"2. Black students [who are] qualified and motivated to attend Stony Brook University, do exist in greater numbers than present enrollment figures presume to indicate.

"The correction of this deficiency is required, and guarantees beneficial results for the University at Stony Brook, the Black community, and the society as a whole. The Black Students United hold that the principles of justice and equality warrant and demand that by September 1969, African-Americans and Puerto Ricans constitute no less than 25% of the total admissions at the State University at Stony Brook."

Clearly, there has been continuity and change over the years at Stony Brook. We are still wrestling with problems relating to the recruitment and retention of "historically disadvantaged" students. Stony Brook's record on hiring faculty, staff, and administrators of color has been dismal at best. But there is absolutely no doubt or confusion—nothing nebulous—about what was meant by the terms "historically disadvantaged" 30 years ago—neither in the mind of President Toll or in the minds of the members of BSU. Why should there be any confusion about this today? The target groups were African-Americans and Puerto Ricans, and these groups joined together to fight for the recruitment of the "historically disadvantaged."

BSU ended its list of demands, with what might have been considered by the Toll administration, as an ultimatum:

Continued on Page 12

Did you know that AIDS is the leading cause of death for Black women between the ages of 25-44?

Free--Anonymous--Student HIV Testing & Counseling Is Available at the Student Health Service (SHS) The 2nd Monday of Each Month From 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Spring Semester Dates:
March 8 April 12 May 10**

A NYS Dept. of Health counselor will meet with you to discuss any HIV-related concerns that you may have and provide your choice of an oral or blood drawn HIV test. No names are taken; everything is done through a number given to you at your first appointment. The Student Health Service will not receive your name so it cannot appear on your student medical records.

For more information go to the SHS Center Resource Room in 217, call 632-9338, 6682, 6689 or the NYS Dept. of Health at 1-800-462-6786.

Whitman College Presents Obsidian Theater

By: Krishna ben Al'lat

What is OBSIDIAN THEATER? Is it some catchy phrase used by the conservatively misinformed (and misinforming) B.E.T. used to draw people into their new theater? Is it a more radical spin-off from Spike Lee's 40 Acres and a Mule company? No, it is none of those things. OBSIDIAN THEATER is an independently established program by M. Austin III for Black History month. The program was held in Whitman College.

In OBSIDIAN THEATER, which is named for the hard, black substance that is often used as a gemstone, Austin showed three independent films that encompass the varied aspects of Black history in the Diaspora. The films were shown February 19th at 9pm and Feb. 20th at 5pm. The first film was Quilombo, also known as "Brotherhood of Death."

Quilombo takes place in colonial Brazilian history, approximately during the 17th and 18th centuries. It centers around the long-lasting rebellions by African slaves against the Portuguese, Dutch, British, and Spaniards. These Black women and men fought the said European colonialists for over one-hundred years by taking their liberation into their own hands. They accomplished the latter with each successive rebellion and slave-raid. Free Africans would release their other sisters and brothers from the bondage of slavery, then take refuge in the hills and mountains of Brazil.

One frequent way of liberating other slaves was to ambush European colonial enslaving parties that had recently sailed ashore from Africa, upon Brazil. These ambushes would mainly result in decapitation, and dismemberment, enacted upon European colonialists. This aspect of collective revolt in colonial Brazilian history later paved the way for the Haitian Revolution.

The interesting thing about the African people who liberated themselves

was their unrelenting desire of equalizing their liberation with holding onto their traditional African cultural norms. When one looks at the way they fought and their educational and spiritual ceremonies, this can clearly be discerned. Also, the presence of many female leaders of liberated African groups, exemplifies the continuing aspect of traditional African culture.

The next two films that were shown were directed by John Singleton. "Rosewood" was presented along with the well acclaimed "Higher Learning." The movie "Rosewood" is a factual portrayal of how white people respond to an affluent Black community. For the most part the movie does justice to the epic historical situation thereof, for the layperson and those who know nothing about the actual Rosewood. But the beauty of the film is in its direct awareness and level of atrocity which still can be seen in elements of police brutality, European or American military intervention in African countries etc. . . . The sad part about "Rosewood" is that it can only portray one incident out of hundreds.

"Higher Learning" is a satirical movie that takes place on a university campus, so I am sure many of us university students can relate to at least that part of the movie. But though the movie is satirical in nature, it presents the audience with a full-blown view of the inevitable effects of the Black-White division. It places the Black radical Ice-Cube, along with Busta Rhymes, against the White Supremacist-racist, skin-head group, and Omar Epps, along with Tyra Banks, in the middle.

But what Singleton actually did in the movie "Higher Learning," was to place both Black and White people, in a serious situation of what has been termed "The Race War," and made it humorous. In effect, "Higher Learning" is the lighter or more pleasing side to a dark tragedy.

Ramadan: Learning Through Self-Sacrifice

By: Asima R. Chaudhry

Ramadan, the month in which the holy book called the Quran was revealed to the Muslims, is a time of celebration for Muslims around the world. The Quran is used as a guide for mankind, and also provides clear signs for guidance and judgement between right and wrong.

During Ramadan, which is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, every qualifying Muslim, is required to fast from dawn until dusk. During daylight hours, a fasting person abstains from all food, liquids, inhaled substances, sexual activity, and nutritionally related medicine. In addition, fighting, arguing, lying or committing any other sins are forbidden.

Ramadan is the month to visit the poor, the sick and needy, to share their sorrows. It is believed that the food, sustenance and the earnings of a believing Muslim are increased during this holy month and they are blessed. The beginning of Ramadan is considered to be a time of mercy, the middle is forgiveness, and its last part is freedom from hell.

Every Muslim over the age of puberty, who is sane and healthy enough to abstain from eating during daylight hours, is required to do so. Those who are exempt, are children, the permanently sick, the elderly, and those who are too weak, and the mentally challenged.

Muslims learn many lessons

during Ramadan. They learn what it means to be hungry, so they feel more compassionate for the poor. They learn to control innate urges and passions, and clear their minds and thoughts for serious remembrance for Allah. They learn to restrain their anger, and train their habits towards prayer, forgiveness, self-sacrifice and good behavior.

According to Yahiya Emerick, when a person denies themselves of something that they crave, they are elevating their mind and showing that their reason and will is stronger than their cravings. In this way thinking becomes clearer and we learn that we are indeed, not governed by our lower self. Through this we gain a greater awareness of

ourselves and are able to have a closer relationship with God.

The end of Ramadan occurs when the cent moon has been sighted, twenty-nine or thirty days after fasting began. Following the sighting, Muslims celebrate one of the two most important holidays in the Islamic year; Eid ul Fitr, or festival of fast breaking.

Muslims are expected to give a small donation to an Islamic center. This act is called charity of fast-breaking, and it enables each mosque (Muslim place of worship) to provide meals for the poor, allowing everyone to partake in the joys of Eid.

WUSB Reggae Marathon

Amsterdam News

Reggae is again making history. The genre, which broke out from the island of Jamaica to be acclaimed as progressive, politically conscious and spirited, will be celebrated during a marathon radio broadcast which began Dec. 30, 1998 and continued until Jan. 6th.

The unprecedented radio feat was hosted by Long Island's largest non-commercial station, WUSB. Anchors for the music marathon are radio personalities Kibret Neguse and Lister Hewan-Lowe, two producers who regularly broadcast from the 90.1 FM setting as Clappers International.

The pair invited more than 100 individuals who represent personalities and recorders of reggae. In the past, numerous guest radio personalities have rotated their unique programming by helming selected blocks of time. While many focused on promoting their individual music collection, some have contributed valuable historical profiles and interviews which laud the program as distinct.

There is no radio station in New York that programs reggae as their format. With intermittent blocks allocated from brokered agreements, reggae gets small doses of exposure from low-wattage stations. Many program the music at odd hours. Some stations have patronized the beat by delivering a bouquet package format which includes calypso, Indian music, Haitian music and other Caribbean originated music.

WUSB, in conjunction with Clappers, first started by extending their own time shift during the holiday schedule.

"This is the best time of the year to get radio time because few people really want to work; they would rather party," Neguse said.

Reggae, which has always been forced to vie for airtime, found an in with audiences who tuned in and responded by phoning in their approval.

The response proved encouraging to station operators, who have since extended the time from three days to seven days in 1997 and in '98 approved an extra 24 hours.

In 1997, Clappers International added a new feature to the broadcasts by inviting a global audience. Reggae lovers from Japan, Italy, France and Germany logged on at www.wusb.org and were able to share in the happenings.

A worldwide eavesdrop-listening line enables easy access at 516-689-1662. And while much of the programming is not promoted with details, the listenership has grown to expect any one of their favorite recorders from any region in the world to participate in the marathon.

One of the outstanding aspects of the WUSB event is that various voices from radio stations across the country may also participate. In the past, HOT 97's Bobby Condors, WRKS's Pat McKay and the predominant, brokered radio producers who are only heard on low-wattage frequencies join in to share the beat.

WUSB 90.1 FM Special Programs for Black History Month, 1999

For more info about these and other special programs on WUSB 90.1 FM call 632-6498, or visit their website at www.wusb.org

Thursday, February 25

Fifteen years ago, WUSB FM. began airing a program called **THE AFRICAN BEAT**. Overtime, the program evolved into the *Global Rhythms* show. For Black History Month 1999, host Chris LaPorta will return to the show's origins in the modern grooves and roots and bones of the "African Beat" at 7 pm.

Friday, February 26

"The First Four Decades of Recorded Blues: The 1950's" on *Blues with the Feeling*, at 9 am. Ed Davis looks at the rise of the electric blues with the music of Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson and others. (Part 4 of 4)

The Last Poets were recorded live at The Juke Joint in San Diego where they brought their unique blend of music, education, spoken word and revolution. At 4:30 pm

Rockin'Iration at 7pm connects **Malcolm X** with the dub.

Sunday, February 28

The Electric Music of Miles Davis. During Miles Davis' career, perhaps no period was as productive, or caused more controversy, as his first electric period. It's been over thirty years since Miles and his band plugged in and the world is still trying to catch up. Join us for a special six hour extravaganza focusing on the *Directions In Music* Miles charted during this period. Turn it way up between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. On Jazz On The Air with hosts Mr. Edison and Ted Schreiber.

Paul Robeson--a speech given in Los Angeles on art and integration, coupled with an interview with Elsa Knight Thompson of KPFA. At 1 p.m.

One Man's Rage

We as blacks or minorities will forever be oppressed, but we don't want to identify our oppressors because that only brings controversy to the situation. Everyone looks at society and determines who has been trying to pin them down, whether it's people from your race or not. For I, the situation is somewhat profound. I have chosen a road that seems to put I and I at the bottom of the pile from the start. I have chosen to follow the religious beliefs and guidelines of a religious group, rastafarians.

This movement has been derived in Ethiopia from the oppression of blacks. Any one that doesn't show respect shall be shunned. I knew that I was going to have a hard road in life, because the person that means the world to me and more had a hard time accepting what I was trying to become. My mother loves me for who I am and whatever road I choose. For that reason I will continue to love her for eternity. Physical appearance has been the basis of the bias throughout out my humbling experience and for that I must vent.

I vent my anger towards all that have misjudged my way of life and have toyed with me because of its

insignificance to them. Who are you to tell me how to live my life and what guidelines to follow?

My soul is presently being held captive — pinned down and deprived of the nourishment of mother earth. I had to give up a lot to gain a lot. My soul is disrespected every time I am present at yet another humbling experience. For they will never know about me or what my soul is all about and what it stands for. Jah is my strength and my pride and I will be forgiven for what I have put my soul through.

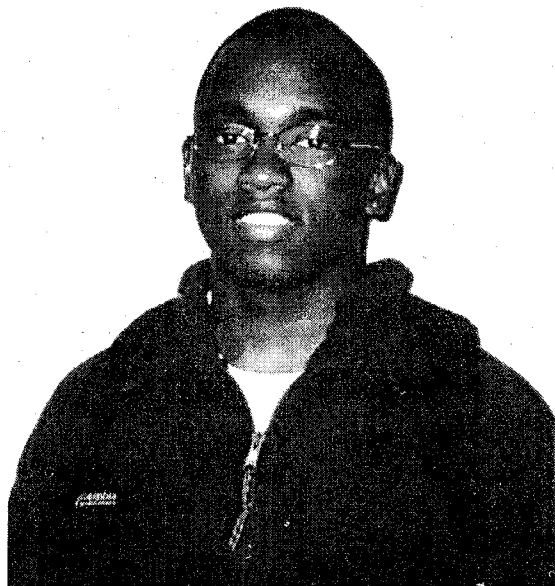
How dare you question my foundation? How dare you step your sorry ass into my path toward divinity as if you had knowledge! How dare you try to understand and attack with your so-called understanding not knowing that I have an "overstanding."

Animosity and virulence has built up toward all that have took the sacred things and bauble them without apprehension. Their intentions were to pull and tug, like these symbols of Ethiopian foundation were rugs. Vengeance...

Your Voices, Our Voices

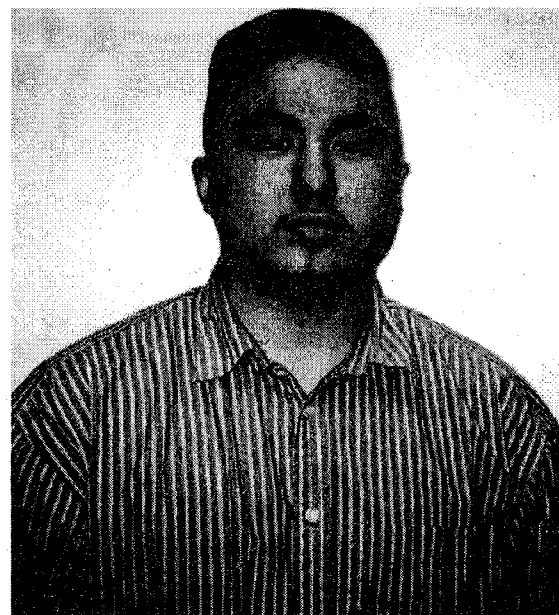
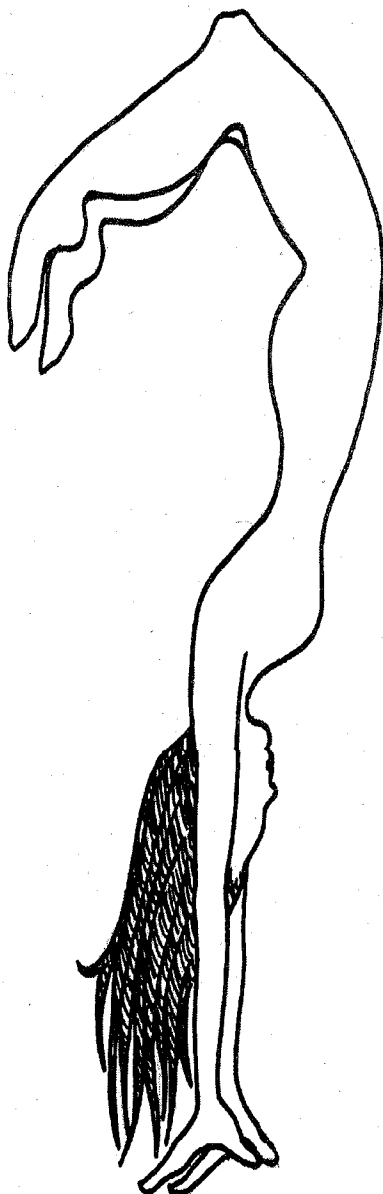
BLACKWORLD OPINION PAGE

What is your reaction to the shooting of African immigrant Amadou Diallo, who was shot 41 times by four, white N.Y.C. police officers?



Dentonio Worrell/AMS & PSY major/Senior

"I am really saddened by it. I think it is an outrage, especially since the attorney is saying that their [the police officers] were justified, when it's apparent that their actions were out of rage."



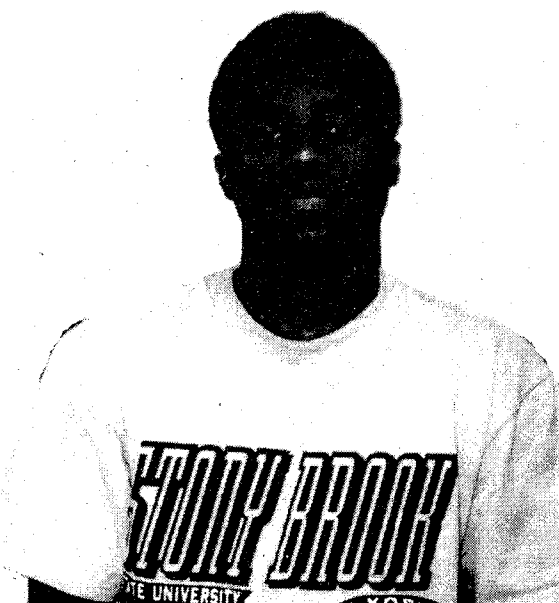
Ricky Chan/BUS major/Sophomore

"I can't believe that 41 shots were fired at an unarmed man. I'm not sure what the motive was, but I don't believe it was justifiable."



Jessica Scianna/POL major/Senior

"Regardless of the race or nationality of the person that was shot there was no reason for the use of excessive force. Even though they haven't come out and explained why they did what they did, I don't think there is any excuse. Police brutality is an issue that effects EVERY citizen."



Junior Dorsainvil/BUS major/Sophomore

"It is amazing and quite frightening that police will go to such an extent to apprehend a man. Forty-one shots fired--19 actually hitting him-- is an absolute excess use of force, especially when fired at an unarmed man. That's ridiculous. Police are needed, but the excess force should not be tolerated."

"The Mourning"

By **Derrin MAXwell**

"I bring you dreams" he said. Floating in on a cloud of hope. The crowd need not move his image just seem to pass through them. To him they were empty because to them he was full of it and none included felt it necessary to mask either opinion. Oh but all seemed to succumb to her substance. She sat, legs crossed at the ankle of course to be thought of as a fair lady. Sugar and spice. She had heard much of his away life and felt that his collage was cluttered with too many pieces. But he was broadly honest. Baggy jeans attempt to fit the size of his aura. He stepped in through the beads in the doorway, he saw her, his soul spoke to her. Eyes contact across the rumors. They say that he spoke to these women in the mist of their midnight blues.

During late night tele-pathic calls he played the threads of tension in their conversations silence like a science. Hue-man-ipated the colors of their feelings through their A T & T connection, appearing unto them as a humble reflection charading in relating to their insecurities.

He said, "Now, I don't know what you've heard, but I'm the man I've been waiting for. Been waiting all my life to be this much me so why should I let what you think you see or what gossip your ears so eagerly receive uproot the reverie of this newfound me. "For the sake of avoiding confrontation she agreed and became the next flower to grow amongst his weeded intentions.

Willowed only by clouded thoughts of her dominance. They stayed in contact.

She kept things shady, based upon his reputation. She fostered a few, what he thought to be, unnecessary expectations. She had been here before and didn't like the food. Much less the way it was served. Pouring her own heart out to dine on her own pride. It was his way to go with the flow of things and things wouldn't flow her way if he continued to come like that. They were to meet at six thirty. She knew he would be there and he was late. As was she but more importantly

her soul wasn't protected. At least not from him. She sat alone by the window. Soaking the wooden table with anticipation's of broken talismans of their affections. Her heart, was stuck in her throat but she still couldn't say what she felt. He was bringing her dreams. Sugar and spice. A baby was coming. Floating in on a cloud of hope.

The blowing air sustained him above all others doubts on the stability of his character. He'd only sail to forecast seas & sons. But he knew no water would break. Morning was coming. The flowers would grow and she would soon be happy. No matter how dim the moment, she would smile again. As he made his way to her all was silent. It was uncommon to be so on a night like this. But there were other issues of importance that fell heavy on his heart like the hush over the room as he entered. Sharp roars of thunder resound with his feet finding the earth beneath him on every step. His anger bled all over the walls of the room. Midnight was drawing near and she was patient to participate in his masquerade. He was late. As was she but something in the window initiated her distraction from the moment. Something in his hand gave clue that she wouldn't be staying.

Clinched fist, he sat, eyes contact across the rumors. She gazed with hints of fear in her frown. His lips firmly pressed against each other. His chin began to tremble much like his hand before he said to her "Listen, I know." She engaged in no such charades and began to serve his truth cold. They were both late. Her confession she served on a vengeful dish, it was that she confided affections and sacred space in the hands of another man. Worst, her lover born not of the same blood as he but to a degree due to mutual history had earned the right to call each other brother. His heart began to bounce off the cavity of his chest. His gums began to ache as his teeth chattered his eyes began to bleed and he frowned. He was still until his clenched fist came down and found the table in the way of his fury. He screamed and cursed out his rage, eventually he called her out of her

name and truth be told he felt no guilt for that. She took it. Besides, she saw something in the window and something in his hand said she wouldn't be staying. Truth ran through her robe of guilt and insisted she bare herself. He arose only to leave and she screamed. "No!!! There is more I must tell you, there is more you must know, I cannot let you go out into the world as is!" She grabbed his arm. She remembered the state of his hand as he entered but she remained centered and first affirmed her love for him. "I love you." He took it lightly. She was late as was he but hers might have been on behalf of one those who chose to call him friend. She said "This child might not be of your dreams, it might not be of this we who manifest this conception." He swiftly snatched his arm away, feeling she should no longer stay he lifted his fist high into the air and opened it, to reveal sweaty palms that once sealed in his faith in her. He extended his arm and opened his fingers revealing he had no more. She bled, her case. Regurgitating reasons and rationalizations for her actions in her other half's absence. She cried of how Mr. right now understood, how he knew how to hold her, what to say, what to do when her tears came down. She cried of he was there and how her man was here the rumors were. He stood and stared with no sympathy because it just never felt right to feel sorry. His trust was broken and his heart began to buckle beneath the weight of their betrayal. And as the reality of it all fell upon him in that moment he turned his back to her. Leaving her there where her tears stained the table. Her blood stained the chair where she sat. Her screams, forever ingrained in the minds of all who were left in the room that night. Even the lights would remember when turned off. Before he started off she fell to her knees wrapping her belly impregnated with sinful passion, deception and confusion. She reached for him. He turned and waved his hands for her but just outside of her reach. And in from the window outside something reached and touched her. The sky opened.

Patches clusters of brightness much to the likeness of rainstorm lightening lifted the lies from her loins. Outside was dry. No water would break. His anger bled all over the walls of her room. But had not stained the entrance to her soul and love could not simply Passover. She had consumed of his trust in vein. She ate of his grace and never blessed it so it would never sit well in her stomach. The late hour didn't help their cold hearts heal the wounds, more importantly her soul wasn't protected. Outside of the window calls for help were made, for nothing in his hands could keep her here. It was no longer in his hands, it was no longer in his heart to but he held her. There in the walls of this room, her place of torment is where they would bury this nightmare. For it would live forever in reminiscent times between their hearts. So they don't think back. By now the night was leaving the city. The motion of his hand through her hair danced the dark of mourning into the orange sky that will soon again entice the night. Wiping yesterdays anxieties on the welcoming threshold of tomorrow. An endless one that they were to spend apart but forever together in mourning. When the flowers would grow, and he would soon be happy. No matter how dim the moment he would smile again.

leisure
language
the
theme
music
of
thought

INCOMPLETE...

BECAUSE SHE WAS IN MY CIRCLE
IT WAS ASSUMED THAT I WOULD SHARE MY IDEAS

SQUARE MY IDEAS DUPLICATE THEM &
MAKE THEM OURS. 2 FOR 1.
BUT STRANGELY HER PLANS
SEEMED TO ONLY FORWARD HER
PROSPERITY. WHICH WASN'T
EQUITABLE.

IF I'M MISTAKEN, PLEASE SHOW ME
A RECEIPT FOR YOUR RECIPROCATION
OR ELSE I CAN'T
EXCHANGE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES.

SHE WAS CARELESS & PROBABLY LEFT IT AT
THE REGISTER.

MANEUVERING EXCUSES THROUGH A CROWD
OF
BROKEN PROMISES UNNECESSARILY ON YOUR
TOES

SO SAVE THE SCIENCE OF YOUR SONG AND
DANCE.

CAUSE NOT EVEN YOUR HYPOTHESIS ON MY
MUSIC WAS WELL DRAWN OUT.

BUT YOU WERE QUICK TO COMPASS
CONCLUSIONS TO MY BIORHYTHM.

SHE CREDITED MY MIDNIGHT CRESCENDOS
IN OUR AUDIOVISUALS EVEN WHEN THE
COMPOSITION WAS ANTI-CLIMACTIC.

IN FACT I'D PROBABLY SPEAK THROUGH
SAX-IF-PHONETICS WASN'T WHAT I WAS
TAUGHT TO PLAY WITH.

SHE TOOK MY WORDS FOR GRANTED BECAUSE
I HAD A WAY WITH THEM AND
WITHOUT HERS WITH ME SHE'D GROW ANGRY
AND

BLOW SMOKE THROUGH THE BRICKS WE LAID

Asima R. Chaudhry

ORNAMENT

You dress me up like a doll
You take me to the mall
Sometimes I feel so small

I'm the sparkling diamond on your side
I'm your "SHOW and tell" in kindergarten
I'm the polo insignia on your shirt

You tend to make empty promises
I choose to loose myself in them
But they seem so real, your kisses

You take pride in the color of my eyes
But never bothered to search the depth of my soul
I keep forgetting that I'm just an

ornament....

ESTABLISHMENT.

FRANCHISE ISOLATED ME FROM OUR PACK OF PROMISES.

THEY WERE TOO EXPENSIVE.

SO NOW MANY MAY CATCH ME LOOSY.

MY SINGLE STATUS PUTS ME IN A CLASS BY MYSELF.

SO I TEND TO BE A BIT SELFISH WITH MY NOTES.

SERENADE MYSELF WITH SAD LOVE SONGS IN THE
SHOWER.

SUBMERGING MY SENSES IN WATER,
WASHING OFF THAT AIR ABOUT YOU
WHICH SUFFOCATED MY IDEAS.

IT'S HARD TO BE GENIUS

WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS (ALWAYS) IN YOUR PANTS.

YOU OFTEN STRADDLE MY MEMORIES

TRYING TO HITCH A RIDE ON MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT,

TO SEE IF YOUR HEART WAS ON COURSE.

FRET NOT.

YOU'RE CABOOSE BOUND.

BECAUSE FALLING BACK IN LOVE WITH YOU IMPLIES ME
FALLING OFF TRACK.

BUT MY FEELINGS NO LONGER BUBBLE FOR YOU AND
THEY DO TREAD AN ABYSMAL ROUTE

YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO FOCUSED ON OUR
RELATIONSHIPS EXPOSURE.

AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT BE BLOWN UP.

SO ORIGINALLY WE INTENTIONALLY SECLUDED
OURSELVES BELOW PUBLIC-SEE LEVEL.

IT WAS THE LOW THAT LEAD YOU TO LOSE SIGHT OF
THINGS.

AND THE RIDE WAS TOO SMOOTH FOR YOUR NATURE.
EVERYTHING UNDER WATER WAS A STRAIN ON YOUR
EYES.

YOU SEA-HORSE.

TIME WAS LAPPING US AND

YOUR 300M HOOFES KEPT US FROM THE 1/4 M.
COMPLETION.

WE WERE IN SEPARATE LANES AND YOU WANTED MORE
SPACE.

I THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO GET TO THE SAME
POINT.

OUR TRAINING FORESHADOWED THE FINISH.

SHE WAS SHORT WINDED BUT ALWAYS SPOKE OF THE
LONG HAUL.

THE BENEFITS OF TRAINING TO TRUST WERE JUST
ACROSS THE LINE.

BUT SHE'D NEVER CROSS.

RESEMBLED A BROKEN RECORD BUT WASN'T FIT TO MAKE
THE TAPE.

THOUGH IT'S OVER, MY HEART PUMPS TEARS IN VEIN
AND I BLEED OUR SORROWS.

SO NEW FRIENDS DON'T CURTAIL THEIR KINDNESS EVEN
WHEN IT PRICKS ME.

GOTTA LET IT OUT.

NOW THE WOMEN I DATE OF LATE ARE MUCH MORE
FAMILIAR.

MORE LIKE RENDEZVOUS WITH FATE.

BUT WHAT'S STRANGER,

I TREAT STRANGERS BETTER THAN THOSE WHO KNOW
ME BEST.

MAYBE BECAUSE THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO
REQUEST ME TO DUPLICATE MYSELF FOR THEIR LACK OF

DERRIN MAXWELL

In place of Saturday morning cartoons, she put the child that ran wild in her eyes to rest
 my boy wanted to sleep over! Older youths reproduced themselves as
 sexy shortly after sunrise. [I] awakened from slumber to lumber [and] jack hammer for
 session number two (because the night before, well, was the night before).

This morning after our coupled square dance ensured that circles would collide.
 I hide behind discretion lovely like snails do from rumor salt shakers spill over
 self/right/ous shoulders. Lucky me - her logic takes precedence over the feminine
 imminence and immanence of emotion. We motion sound to silence, summon sunlight to
 shadow through like/movements of thought. We keep it light/hearted and level/headed.

Our stark bodies feel freer in the dark/nests of seclusion.

[We] Left our children to frolic in amusement parks. Her little girl played
 gaily. The unchained melody of her sing/song swing/song never drank or kinked,
 no matter how many front/flips or tricks she performed. Execution gymnastic - no I never
 give out 10s but ... fantastic like the /73 knicks and strawberry licorice! She was nearly
 nubian nadia komeniche in the /76 olympics.

During tangents, she noted parallels that ringed true for us; she covered areas like
 pie/squared. Circumstance referred me to varied points along her curves. We flirt with
 death by mere breath so we live and let love out in its absence. Absence becomes
 substance only by those who believe in it. So we leave each other no indication of
 when we'll return because we never left.

[We] bank thank you's let them appreciate [and] allow spirit to accrue. Individuals
 who's intentionally invest interest take worthwhile withdrawals without worry, wait on
 nothingweigh imbalance with joint accountability, find stability in uncertainty with no
 uncertain terms, tempt death with permanent statements that its terminal state is temporary
 (no, we don't go on dates! plan ahead on calendars in a manner of speaking, improvise
 for the moment with feeling - jazzed spontaneity).

We want someone to promise yesterday because no one can promise yesterday/s
 sorrows. So we borrow today and put sorrows off until tomorrow. [i] used to snag big
 game bass with bass, now i selfish. We don't need no hooks, no love or no open third
 eyes, i see like hawk-eye. [i] got poison/tipped arrows aimed at messenger angels who
 once proclaimed:

"You're the type I want to marry, but not right now."

i/m that type, so i word process feelings into f^{uu} you fonts for frontiers, capitalize
 on lower case single letters - d I underlined undermine your script.

Sweetie, we on our own respective paths. Sure, take my math' but don't be mad
 when you hear:

dooooo dooooo dooooooo

We're sorry...

the number you have reached.

H-U-S-B-A-N-D

has been disconnected.

No further information is available."

BARBIE I-DOLL

I remember the time when I was 4
 I was playing on my grandma's yellow-
 green shag carpet
 I was playing with Barbie—She was my
 queen! !
 I had chewed her feet, so her shoes
 wouldn't fit, but that was o.k.
 I loved her anyway.

I remember the time when I was 4
 Taking Barbie into my grandma's
 bathroom
 Looking at the reflection in the mirror,
 wondering
 Why Barbie was not me, why did I not look
 like her?

I remember the time when I was 4

d I hartley

In my grandma's bathroom, I
 Unwrapped the blue and white paper
 off the
 Ivory soap
 I got my pinkwithgreenflowers rag
 And turned on the silver faucet,

I remember the time when I was 4
 When I looked in my grandma's
 bathroom mirror
 And took my pinkandgreenflowers
 rag and scrubbed
 My brown face
 Waiting for a peek of that peachy-
 apricot that I

Admired so much,

I remember the time when I was 4
 When I looked in my grandma's
 bathroom mirror
 At my purpley red face

I remember the time when I was
 When I tried to wash off my race

I remember the time when I was 4
 Looking in my grandma's
 bathroom mirror
 As a teardrop stung my burgundy
 cheek

I remember the time when I was 4
 When I realized that Barbie; I could
 never be...

Ida B. Wells, Journalist, Activist, Feminist

By: Brisette Gantt

February begins the month in which we celebrate the triumphs, experiences, and legacies of African-American people. During the '90s, Carter G. Woodson created and promoted Negro History Week. This period in February was chosen because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In 1976 the month-long celebration was implemented, and is a time for Americans to reflect on both the history and teachings of African-Americans. Many consider this a 'Black thing', but I believe in addition to it being a self-learning experience, you can share that experience with people of other races. Make a commitment to learn about at least one Black person who has made a significant contribution to American society during this month. That's twenty-eight days to research and learn about your heritage.

In writing this article I wanted to learn about someone whom I knew little or nothing about. I also wanted to highlight an African-American woman, since so many notable females are left out of discussions in this man's world. I hope

you will learn as much from reading this article as I did from writing it.

Ida Wells-Barnett (1862-1931) was born to an enslaved cook and carpenter in Holly Springs, Miss. She later became an affluent anti-lynching leader, suffragist, journalist, and speaker.

At age 16 she was left with the responsibility of raising her siblings after both her parents died of smallpox. With the help of her community, Wells attended Rust College, afterward finding employment as a teacher in rural Mississippi and Tennessee.

In May 1884 Wells sued and won a case against a railroad company for forcefully removing her from a segregated ladies' coach. The incident served as a catalyst to a more determined Wells.

Using the pen name Iola, she wrote articles for Black-owned newspapers. As part owner and editor of the Memphis Free Speech and Headlight, she spent much of her time writing about the poor conditions for Black children in local schools. In 1892 after she denounced in her editorials the lynching of three of her friends, the newspaper office was mobbed and destroyed by local Whites.

Wells began a crusade to investigate the lynching of Blacks in America, especially in the South. Black men were regularly lynched, usually after accusations or suspicions of raping White women. Wells argued that lynching stemmed not from the defense of White womanhood but from Whites' fear of economic competition from Blacks.

She subsequently traveled throughout the United States and England, lecturing and founding anti-lynching societies and Black women's clubs. She also wrote a book entitled Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases about the subject.

In 1893 Wells carried her fight for equality to the Chicago World's Fair, then remained in Chicago and helped spawn the growth of numerous Black female and reform organizations. Wells participated in the 1913 suffrage march in Washington, D.C. and was one of two African-American women to sign the call for the formation of the NAACP. Hence, she was one of our first notable Black feminists (notice the hyphenated name: a practice that many women today still do not adhere to).

She founded what may have been the first Black woman suffrage group, Chicago's Alpha Suffrage Club. Many Black women at that time, and still some women today, feel they are obligated to choose one struggle over the other. That is, to put all efforts into the cause for Black liberation, without giving thought to the women's movement. Wells realized that the major systems of oppression are interwoven, and that she must fight on all fronts simultaneously to attain equality. Wells married Ferdinand Lee Barnett, a lawyer and editor of the *Chicago Conservator* in 1895. In 1910 Wells was a founder of the Chicago Negro Fellowship League, which aided newly arrived migrants from the South.

In 1895 she published a book about the prevalent lynching episodes in A Red Record. Her autobiography, Crusade for Justice, was published posthumously in 1970.

Ida Wells-Barnett lived a long life and continued her fight for justice until she passed away in March 1931, in Chicago, Illinois.

Healthy Relationships Start Within

By: Fiona Bailey

First and foremost I would like to remind all Stony Brook students that this is black history month. It is especially important for Stony Brook students to take the time out to pay tribute to the many prominent historical black males and females of our past.

It is the 1999 spring semester and I'm sure many of us have begun to battle to assignments and readings for our classes. Some of us make even have less time to keep up with their academics mainly because there's that special someone in there life that they spend most of their time with.

The year is still new and I'm sure some of us are still trying to remain faithful to the New Year's resolutions we made earlier this year. One of my New Year's resolutions was to make sure that Stony Brook students are informed about relationships. I'm not talking about the relationship that you may have with a family member or close friend; I'm talking about a passionate relationship you may have with someone you're committed to or just someone you enjoy handling your business with.

After this year we will be entering the new millennium and as a young black woman, I'm definitely interested in maintaining a healthy

relationship with that special person. 1999 is a new year, for new attitudes, and new things to be accomplished and I'm sure most of us would agree with that.

These are some tips that might improve your relationship with that special someone:

First thing's first, **you have to respect yourself in to be respected.** It's hard for people to be concerned about you if you are unable to show concern for yourself. Most people tend to treat others in accordance to the way they want to be treated. It is vital that you keep in mind how important you are as a human being, mainly because knowing is the first step to understanding and eventually you'll begin to apply.

If you are in a relationship or plan to be in one, it is best that you at least pretend you have just as much value as anyone else, because you should by all means get the respect you deserve.

Second of all, **always keep in mind that you're in school for your**

education and not for a vacation. It's easy to get caught up with your emotions and forget that there is a time

Once it is established that your academic maintenance comes first, eventually things will begin to fall into place.

Third of all, **try not to assume anything.** Things may not always be the way they seem. Being in a relationship with someone usually requires having an open mind. We can't always get all the information we need to formulate a valid conclusion, therefore it doesn't make sense to try to complete a puzzle when there are missing pieces. That does not mean you should completely trust people, it just means that it is to your benefit to be cautious— not paranoid—about things you can't or may not ever know the complete truth about. Some things are only meant to be known within due time.

Last but not least, **always learn from your mistakes.** A wise man once said, "Once bitten twice shy", in other words you might be a little hesitant to make the same mistake twice. Life is too short, therefore it shouldn't be wasted by making unnecessary mistakes.

In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a great semester and many more to come. Hopefully this year everyone will try to love him or herself and as a result, show love to others.



for everything. Sometimes you get so caught up with the dramas of a relationship, they tend to lose track of the school assignments. It is important to remember that most of the time that we're in school, it should be time dedicated to our academic studies.

AFS Reflections continued from pg. 5

"We expect to receive notice of the approval or rejection of the TOTAL of our demands by the President of the University, and other members of the Administration by February 17, 1969. This reply will be presented in the [Women's] gymnasium where reservations have been made to serve this purpose. The date of the public presentation will be Feb. 17, 1969, at 8 p.m., before the members of BSU and other concerned students."

President Toll met with three representatives of BSU (Hope Notice, Donald Davis, and Robert Calendar) on February 10, 1969—a week before the announced deadline and submitted a written response to the BSU demands, which was printed in the February 14, 1969 issue of the *Statesmen*. His response was conciliatory in tone and he agreed to attend the public meeting arranged by BSU. Clearly, among his concerns was to prevent the possibility of conflict and student uprisings. At the same time, the Council for Student Affairs (CSA) strongly endorsed the establishment of both the Black Studies program and the establishment of the AIM program to replace the "Special Opportunity Program."

This historic meeting, called by BSU, took place in the then-Women's gym and attracted a crowd of 1,500 students. The meeting was tense and representatives from student organizations said that "if the demands didn't come through, the school would be closed down." The *Statesman* reported that, in response to the BSU demands, Dr. Toll outlined plans for the institution of a Black Studies program, and the reporter further noted that the president explained that a Black Studies program "involving courses and leading to a degree in Black Studies, could be established if approved by the appropriate University procedures." Toll gave general support to BSU's demand for recruitment of Afro-American and Puerto Rican students without committing to the 25% figure. Concerning the financial aid demands for "Special Opportunity Program" students, Toll stated that "this is entirely consistent with the university's aims — aid based on financial need."

Given their experiences with the University administration of that time, BSU members were not at all fooled by promises to address their demands. One BSU member noted, following the February 17th meeting, that; "After BSU applied a little pressure, the administration went on record to live up to these commitments. However the administration has made similar commitments in the past, and presently the situation remains ambiguous."

An editorial in the *Stony Brook Black Voice*, the first Black student newspaper on campus (and the precursor to *BLACKWORLD*), noted in April of

1969, that it was "obvious that the administration intends to procrastinate as long as possible, ultimately establishing a watered down, white-washed, version of the original meaningful concept of a Black Studies program." The writer further noted that: "The university is adept at using every [and] all bureaucratic bags to hang us up, and divert our attention from our legitimate demands." He finally admonished his brothers and sisters to "show courage in the face of violence, [and the] lack of understanding, and oppression, but never to surrender."

The reference to violence pointed to the racist hostility heaped upon Black students at Stony Brook. Organizations like the Aryan Students United (ASU), a Fascist organization, harassed and threatened Black students with impunity. One BSU member editorialized: "There is one obvious fact to all Black students on this campus. That fact is that some of the student body would rather not have us around." He goes on to

***BSU made demands
that shaped the
Africana Studies
Department today***

tell of phoned death threats and other overt acts of racism. Conditions in the surrounding Long Island community were equally inhospitable.

By March 1969, AIM had replaced the "Special Opportunity Program," but the old problems of funding incoming students remained. It was not until September 1969 that AIM came under the supervision of a full time staff, headed by its new director, George Bunch.

By May 1969, the Social & Behavioral Sciences Curriculum Committee, (which included a number of BSU members) approved the establishment of the Black Studies program, and instituted a search for a director. In September the Black Studies program at Stony Brook was finally opened with Dr. Anny Mae Walker as Director.

In October 1969, the BSU "liberated" the study lounge in O'Neill College to establish Stony Brook's first Black Cultural Center, (the precursor to the U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center. During this period, BSU also asked the Student Council to join in calling for a moratorium on construction on the Stony Brook campus, since minority groups had been illegally excluded from work crews in violation of state anti-discrimination laws. They were active participants in the anti-war movement. BSU activism also extended to the surrounding community where they participated in the fight for welfare rights and fair employment practices.

The two decades following the establishment of the Africana Studies Program at Stony Brook were times of

intense struggle for resources, legitimacy, and survival. Resource-starved and seemingly unappreciated by successive administrations, AFS nevertheless persevered and grew by means of extraordinary efforts by its dedicated faculty, and the enthusiastic support of its students.

In 1984 AFS experienced its first five-year review. After a comprehensive on-site review, a team of external reviewers chosen by the Administration, recommended for the first time that AFS be elevated to departmental status. In their report to Vice Provost, Graham B. Spanier, the external review team noted in part:

"Our over-all reaction is positive. We were impressed by the

quality of teaching and scholarship which the Africana Studies Program has developed—all the more so in light of the special difficulties and constraints under which the Program has labored since its inception at Stony Brook. We feel there is no question that this Program fulfills important intellectual and pedagogical needs in this and any university with claims to national status. We feel that the members of the Africana Studies program have correctly identified these needs and are pursuing them with dedication and effectiveness."

The reviewers went on to say: "We are particularly impressed with the strong response Africana Studies has

Continued on next page

Career Placement Tries to Attract Minority Students

By: Josephine Oduro

In past years the University's Career Placement Center has had relatively few minority students use its services. To correct this problem, the center has developed several strategies to attract more students of all ethnic backgrounds.

"We realize that there is a problem with minority job placement and we are combating the problem very aggressively," said Tim Luzader director of the Career Placement Center.

A new constructed entrance has increased the turnout of students of all ethnic origins. From 1996-98 the center had 19,881 student contacts, which has since increased by about 30-35%. "It is extremely important if not essential that students get in here physically and attend a workshop, go to career counseling, use our computers," said Tom Tyson associate director of the Center.

Although minority students make up only 37% of the population, the center realizes the need to inform minority students of the many services that they offer. In an effort to extend its services the center provides information sessions which cover topics ranging from resume writing to employment interviews. Several minority organizations have taken advantage of this opportunity, such as Scholastic Achievement Incentives for Non-Traditional Students (S.A.I.N.T.S.) and the National Society of Black Engineers.

One of the reasons students generally don't use the Career Center is because of lack of information. "I've never used the Career Placement Center until now my last semester here," said Charles Kang a senior and Biology major. "Part of the reason why students don't take advantage of the center is because of procrastination."

"In the last 2 1/2 years there has been an increase of minorities coming to the Career Placement Center," said Luzader. He believes that the largest contributing factor in the increased number of minority students using the center is the employment of student assistants who share the same backgrounds.

In 1997-1998, the center employed 26 student assistants, 13 of whom were African American, four Latin American, and nine of Asian American descent. "There is enough of a mixture to present an openness to students of all ethnic backgrounds" said Tyson.

The center also distributes magazines and handouts that are aimed at minorities such as *Black Collegian* and *Hispanic Business*. The center has increased its listing of internships and companies that target minorities. These include the Multicultural Advertising Internship Program, The Ron Brown Commercial Service Fellowship Program and The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

The Career Placement Center was known as the Career Development Office until three years ago. It also provides a Career Network, which allows students to look through a database of Stony Brook Alumni contacts in a variety of fields. The center also presents university job fairs, which give students the opportunity to meet prospective employers.

"It is critically important when entering the world of work that students thoroughly research prospective employers, said Luzader. "One component of an effective investigation is identifying minorities within that organization and seeking such information as career placing opportunities and the organizations commitment to diversity."

AFS Reflections Continued from pg. 13

evoked among its students. From all indications, faculty in this program devote more time and energy to undergraduate teaching than is the norm throughout the University."

The reviewers were impressed with the multi-racial character of students who enrolled in our courses, fully 60% being white and the remainder students of color. This accords with the principle set forth a decade and a half earlier by BSU, which held that both black & white students could and should benefit by exposure to Black Studies.

In response to the external reviewers report, Vice Provost Graham Spanier, in his April 9, 1984 report to President Marburger and the Provostial Council, noted that "The [external review] Committee recommended that the

designation of Africana Studies as a department was warranted... I Support this recommendation and will urge the Provost to change the status from program to department."

However, the Marburger administration ignored the recommendation to elevate AFS to departmental status without even a formal reply to the recommendations. President Marburger simply let the matter die in infancy. But his overt hostility to Africana Studies was clearly demonstrated in the infamous 1985-86 "Dube affair," when Marburger denied tenure to a South African professor, who was a highly valued member of our faculty, based upon external pressure by bigoted interests outside the University. In the process,

President Marburger not only violated the tenets of academic freedom, but he also helped to smear AFS, sacrificing our unit on the altar of political expediency, while at the same time ruining the career of Professor Earnest Dube.

But again, I say, "I'm so glad that trouble don't last always." A new administration, under President Kenny, has brought forth a new day at Stony Brook. On November 2, 1998, the University Senate voted unanimously to support our proposal for elevation to departmental status, and was conferred on November 16, 1998.

Further, we have been authorized to develop a Masters degree in Africana Studies, and we are moving expeditiously to bring this graduate

program to fruition.

So, we rejoice today in the knowledge that Africana Studies has persevered through storms and dark days—yet, working, often without encouragement —except from our students, a few colleagues and BFSA—working toward the day when we would take our well deserved and legitimate place among departments at Stony Brook. We have kept faith with those who came before us, upon whose shoulders we stand—our brothers and sisters of the Black Students United. We still embrace the core values which guided their worthy efforts. And we look forward to even greater achievements in the future.

Yes! "I'm so glad that trouble don't last always!"

USB Sports Reports

STONY BROOK MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook men's basketball team ran its season-best winning streak to three games with two conference victories last week. Last Wednesday, the Seawolves defeated New Haven, 70-61 before knocking off Albany last Saturday, 65-63. The win over Albany was the 100th victory at Stony Brook for head coach Bernard Tomlin. He is just the second men's coach in Stony Brook basketball history to achieve this feat (Joe Casligle, 135 wins).

Against New Haven, the Seawolves took a 38-18 lead into the half and were able to fend off the Chargers in the second half. Freshman **Achilleas Klepkos (Thessaloniki, Greece/14th Lyceum)** led Stony Brook with 17 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to notch his fourth double-double of the season. **Junior Steve Pratta (Queens, NY/Northfield Mt. Hermon (MA))** added 16 points and four assists.

In Coach Tomlin's milestone win over Albany, Stony Brook trailed 33-26 at the half and 51-41 with 9:20 remaining in the game but rallied with a 14-0 run over the next four minutes to take a 55-51 lead.

Junior Mike Sales (Tinley Park, IL/Chicago Christian) tallied six of his game-high 20 points during the run that gave the Seawolves the lead for good. Sales scored 16 of his points in the second half and pulled down seven of his game-high 10 rebounds in the second stanza. Pratta recorded all 16 of his points in the second half including two free throws with seven seconds remaining which iced the game for Stony Brook. Sales' 20 point and 10 rebound performance was his first double-double of the season and fifth for Stony Brook. The win was Stony Brook's sixth in its last seven games and improved its record to 10-14, 9-6 in the NECC.

News and Notes: Stony Brook will play its last three games in Division II on the road, facing UMass-Lowell on Wednesday at 7:00 PM, and Albany on Saturday at 8:00 PM. The Seawolves will then conclude their final season in Division II with a game against Sacred Heart on February 23rd at 7:00 PM.

STONY BROOK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook women's basketball team improved to 7-17, 6-10 in the NECC with two conference wins last week. The Seawolves defeated New Haven last Wednesday, 63-52 and then followed that performance up with a big win over Albany last Saturday, 58-49. The win was Stony Brook's first ever victory over Albany since both schools moved into the ranks of Division II.

Against New Haven, the Seawolves led 31-25 at the break as they connected on 52.0 % of their shots from the floor. Freshman center **Cortney Ray (Stow, OH/Slow)** scored nine of her game-high 13 points in the opening stanza to lead the Seawolves effort. Stony Brook stretched its lead to as many as 13 points midway through the second half before holding on for the 11-point victory. The win snapped the Seawolves three game losing streak. Senior guard **Mary Schelp (New Hyde Park, NY/Herricks)** posted another outstanding all-around day scoring eight points, pulling down a career-high six rebounds, dishing out five assists and recording five steals.

In the big win over Albany, Schelp was again the key catalyst, scoring a season and team-high 13 points to help the Seawolves snap a six-game losing streak to the Great Danes. Stony Brook took control of the game from the outset and took a 27-17 lead into the half. Albany rallied at the start of the second half as the Great Danes went on a 12-0 run to take a 29-27 lead. That lead was short lived however as Stony Brook rallied with a 13-2 run of their own to take a 40-31 lead with 10:37 remaining. Albany cut the lead to six with 3:39 left to play but Schelp scored the Seawolves final four points to ensure the victory. Ray and redshirt junior **Lauren Ruane (Richmond Hill, NY/St. Francis Prep)** each joined Schelp in double digits in scoring tallying 11 points apiece.

News and Notes: Stony Brook will play its final three games as a Division II team on the road. They will face UMass-Lowell on Wednesday and Albany on Saturday. They will then end the season with a trip to New York to face Division I Columbia on February 23rd.

STONY BROOK ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MIKE SALES JR. MEN'S BASKETBALL TINLEY PARK, IL/CHICAGO CHRISTIAN

Sales averaged 14.5 points and 11.5 rebounds helping the Stony Brook men's basketball team to a 2-0 mark last week. Sales scored nine points and added a season-high 13 rebounds in the win over New Haven and then added his first double-double as a Seawolf tallying a season-high 20 points and adding 10 rebounds in the win over Albany. Since Sales moved into the starting lineup, the Seawolves have posted a mark of 7-4.

STONY BROOK SWIMMING AND DIVING REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook men's and women's swimming and diving teams both gained victories over Adelphi last Thursday. The men's team recorded a 42-26 win while the women's team picked up a 38-24 win. The win ran the men's record to 11-6 while the women's team improved to 10-10 on the year.

The men's team was led by Ted Watabe (Sr., Brentwood, NY/Brentwood) who placed second in the 200 free and Igor Veloshin (Fr., Brooklyn, NY/Sheepshead Bay) who placed first in the 100 IM and second in the 50 breaststroke. Other individual winners for Stony Brook were Tom Gotsch (So., San Luis Obispo, CA/San Luis Obispo) in the 50 backstroke, Ed Cannon (Fr., Rochester, NY/Brighton) in the 200 free and Damien Hepburn (Fr., Trinidad) who took first place in the 50 fly.

The women's team was led by Eleni Michailaros (Fr., Lake Katrine, NY/Kingston) who took first place in the 50 breast. Laura Bartlett (Fr Orchard Park, NY/Orchard Park) who was victorious in the 50 fly, Naomi Edwards (So., East Stroudsburg, NY/East Stroudsburg) picked up a win in the 100 IM, and Liz Dannebaum (So., Farmingdale, NY/Farmingdale) won the 20 free.

The Seawolves will next be in action this Thursday when they compete in the MET Championships held at the College of New Jersey.

STONY BROOK TRACK & FIELD REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook track and field teams competed at the CTC championships last weekend. The men's team finished in third place out of 14 teams while the women's team finished in 4th place out of 14 teams that competed.

The men's effort was led by Jason Murphy (Sr., Bohemia, NY/Connecticut) and Steve Sayegh (Ir., Mahopac, NY/Mahopac) who won the 3,000 meter run and the 55 meter high hurdles respectively. Murphy posted his fastest time of the season with a time of 9:16.64. Sayegh recorded Stony Brook's fastest time of the season in the hurdles blazing to a time of 7.89. The 4 x 800 meter relay team also picked up first place with a time of 8:19.31.

Mike Thompson (So., Centereach, NY/Centereach) placed second in the 5,000 meter run with a time of 15:53.64. The distance medley relay team also took second place for Stony Brook with a time of 11:10.42.

The women's effort was highlighted by Laura Cottrell (Sr., Niskayuna, NY/Niskayuna) who came from behind to win the 1,000 meter run in a time of 3:10.19. Lisa Vellucci (Jr., Staten Island, NY/Tottenville) placed second in the 1500 meter racewalk with a season best time of 7:38.75. Also contributing to the effort was the distance medley relay team which also finished in second place in a time of 13:35.49.

News and Notes: Both the men's and women's track and field teams will next be in action this weekend when they compete in the NECC Championships held at Southern Connecticut.

STONY BROOK BASEBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook baseball team began its 1999 campaign last weekend with three games against Longwood College in Virginia. The weekend did not go as well as the Seawolves would have hoped as Stony Brook dropped all three to the Lancers. The Seawolves dropped a doubleheader last Saturday, falling 12-6, and 9-6. Stony Brook then lost 54 on Sunday.

Senior Tim Loyal (Valley Stream, NY/Valley Stream Central) started the first game of the doubleheader on Saturday and was handed the loss as Longwood downed Stony Brook. Brad Foster (Fr., Commack, NY/Commack) and Matt Salmon (So, Commack, NY/Commack) were the hitting highlights in the Seawolves season opener. Foster was 2-for-4 with his first home run as a member of the Stony Brook baseball team. Salmon finished the day going 3-for-4 at the plate. In the second game, junior transfer Mike Kinney (West Islip, NY/West Islip) earned his first start and gave up four runs in the loss. Junior Chris Manna (Garden City, NY/Garden City) rapped out three hits and drove in two runs for Stony Brook.

After dropping the first two games, the Seawolves then tried to exact revenge with a single game on Sunday. It was not to be however as Stony Brook fell by the one-run margin.

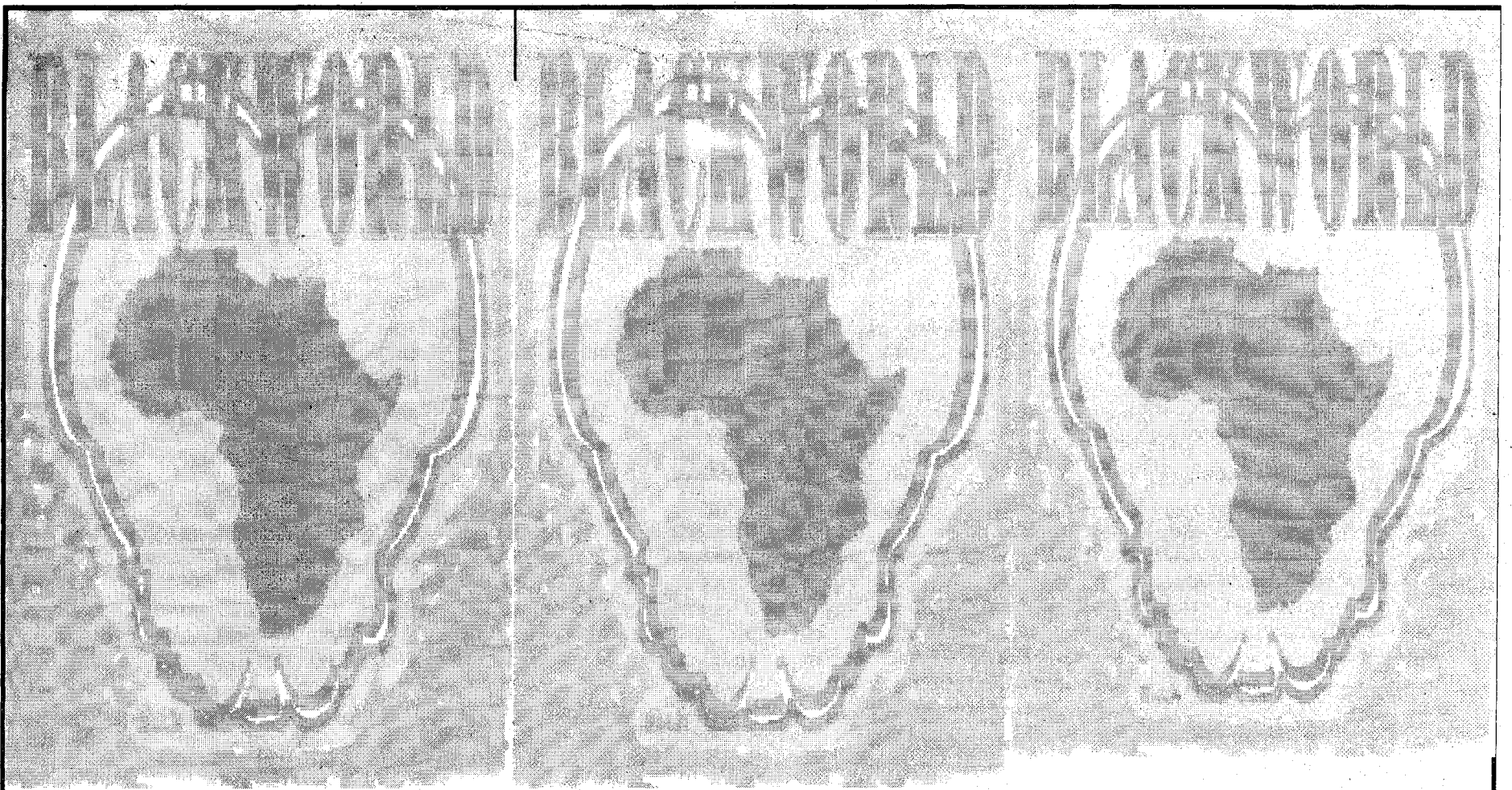
The Seawolves went ahead 3-2 in the sixth inning after Craig Ansman (Jr., West Islip, NY/West Islip) ripped an RBI double and Manna followed up with a two-run single. After Longwood's three runs to take a 5-3 lead, Stony Brook rallied in the ninth. Freshman Alex Trezza (Middletown, NY/Pine Bush) pushed across another run with a sacrifice fly, nearly missing a three-run home run. That was the only tally for Stony Brook in the ninth and fell to 0-3 on the year.

STONY BROOK MEN'S TENNIS REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook men's tennis team hosted the first ever Stony Brook Indoor Men's Tennis Invitational. The Seawolves finished in first place with 12 points defeating Bucknell (11 points), Hofstra (9 points), Boston College (8 points), FDU-Teaneck (7 points), Kutztown (6 points), Seton Hall (6 points), and Concordia (2 points).

Junior Tae Byon (Flushing, NY) led the way for Stony Brook winning the Flight A singles crown. Byon defeated Andre Annigeri (Boston College), 6-3, 6-0. Byon then combined with teammate Daniel Antonius (Sr., Stavanger, Norway) to place second in Flight A doubles. They were defeated by Bucknell, 6-3, 6-2 in the finals.

Stony Brook will next be in action this weekend when they face Army and UMass on Saturday beginning at 3:00 pm.



To All Students of Color and
All Interested Persons

BLACKWORLD NEWSPAPER is looking
for **WRITERS, ARTISTS, COPY EDITORS,**
and **GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTERS**

CALL 632-6494 for more information

