

Blackworld

VOL. VIII, NO. II

A SUNY STUDENT PUBLICATION — UNIVERSITY AT STONY BROOK, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 16, 1979

Residence Life

New Committe to Review Minority Concerns

By Josephine Darby

The office of Residence Life has been the center of a lot of attention this semester. There have been scandals involving RHD's and of course the "tripling" problem. Some of the buildings are falling apart and others are infested with insects — Stage XII fits both categories.

In the midst of the already "confused" state of affairs in Residence Life, an office that has been called the most inefficient on the campus, a committee emerges to help eliminate some of these problems. The committee is the "Minority Concerns Committee" and is primarily interested in issues that affect the general welfare of resident minority students on campus.

The committee is a branch of residence life and is chaired by Roth Quad director, Hamilton Banks.

* * *

The committee met last Wednesday in Bill's Cafe in Mount College, where I interviewed Mr. Banks and

a few other members. I asked Banks about the purpose of this committee. He replied, "There was a need to address the minority student problems on campus so we formed a committee as a part of a task force within the department (residence life), to specifically address those needs. It was intended to be made up of people in the department who were interested in working on these kinds of priorities and also with other minority groups on campus."

Residence Life has come under attack by other minority groups that feel there are not enough minority student staff members in the dorms. Banks explained that, "In the past, most minorities have not felt a part of the campus community, (working with the legislature on the buildings) and let's face it, a lot of people have been chosen in the past by a popularity vote, and most minorities are not known around campus because they aren't usually

involved in building activities. Therefore, they don't get the support to get selected. We feel the possibilities now are much fairer but still, a lot of minorities are not concerned or aware that while this position may not provide much, it does look good on your resume when you need it." Banks went on to say that they need input from other groups on campus. "One of our main priorities for this year is to see that minority groups participate."

Other members of the committee are Virginia Acevedo, the secretary; Carolyn Buck, RHD of Gray College and Ellen Shannon, RHD of Gershwil College. They went on to talk of their accomplishments last year and their goals and objectives for '79-'80. They say that so far they've set up orientation sessions for minority students interested in applying for RA/MA positions; encouraged the Residence Life department to focus on issues of concern

to the minority resident population; set up professional and student staff training workshops and finally, hired more minority students for staff positions in the residence halls.

This year the committee plans to work closely with Aim, Africana Studies, and the office of disabled and the foreign students. The members of the committee also hope to initiate alternative programming in residence life; increase the bond between the various minority student groups; focus on issues of sexism; focus on problems faced by disabled students; form a support group for minority student staff concerns and set up an E.E.O. committee to educate, facilitate and protect the rights of students in regards to applying for student staff positions. The committee wants all groups to get involved, "Help them help us . . . We can't help the students if they don't help us help them."



ON THE OUTSIDE . . .

The chill of winter is finally here. Friday weather calls for cold and cloudy skies. Temperatures to reach the high 40's.

ON THE INSIDE . . .

Alvin Ailey comes _____ page 6
to Stony Brook

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News Briefs

National

Once a citadel of segregation, Birmingham, Alabama, now has its first black mayor. Councilman Richard Arrington defeated Frank Parson by a narrow two-percent margin.

The keys to Mr. Arrington's victory were a heavy turnout among blacks, who account for 44.6 percent of the city's voters, and a small but crucial crossover vote by whites in a few enclaves near the business and professional centers of town.

However, in the white working-class neighborhoods of this largely industrial city, Mr. Parson's warnings that the election of a black mayor would result in increased crime clearly had an impact.

Mr. Parson, a 38-year-old lawyer, while denying that he was "fanning the flames" of white reaction, acknowledged in an interview with the *New York Times*, that the shift from white to black control of Atlanta's government was an issue in the campaign.

As a result, a newspaper publication advertised a warning that the election of a black mayor would increase the city's crime rate. The advertisement, headlined, "A Tale of Two Cities," linked Atlanta's crime problems to its black mayor and police chief.

The election of a black mayor marked a shift in the racial arithmetic introduced in Alabama by the 1965 voting rights act. Since that time blacks, of necessity, had aligned behind moderate or liberal white mayoral candidates on the theory that a black could not amass a majority. But the consistently higher turnout among black voters made it possible this year for Mr. Arrington to win with a massive black vote.

Politicians however, say that Arrington may have inherited a divided city.

International

Troops of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian government have again invaded the border of the neighboring country Zambia and killed about 60 Zimbabwean Guerrillas and three Zambian civilians.

The attack, the third since talks began in London nine weeks ago, was one of the bloodiest since the transitional bi-racial government took effect last year.

Meanwhile in London, the Zimbabwe Guerrilla leaders, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, continue to strain talks with Britain officials about negotiations and regulations of the coming elections.

In essence the guerrillas want more of a role for themselves in the transitional period which Britain hopes will last only two months, and they want adequate guarantees that their candidates will have a fair chance in the new elections, which are to be supervised by a British governor.

They are also demanding that refugees be brought back to the country in time to vote and that guerrilla troops be integrated immediately into the Rhodesian Army. "We need this coming together, this reconciliation before the election," said Mr. Nkomo, warning that if the peace was not soundly based, "The British governor might find himself in that country not for two months but for two years."

Blackworld

A SUNY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Blackworld, an independent student publication of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, is published on the second Monday of every month during the academic year, beginning in October and ending in May.

The business and editorial office of Blackworld is located on the bottom level of the Student Union building on main campus.

The business office currently does not have specific hours of operation. Phone is: 246-7061.

Blackworld is distributed free of charge but cost 15 cents each when taken in quantities of 35 or more.

Blackworld is published by Blackworld club, a non-profit, polity funded organization, and is in no way the spokesman for or affiliated with the University administration or with the state.

Blackworld, Room 071, Student Union, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York, 11794.

Perspectives



Photo by Winston Scully

David Herzog

By Telar Deng

Q. What made you run for president of Polity, and what are the things you want to achieve during your term of office?

A. There are a number of reasons. There were many things that were disturbing me about the way the student government was being run; as far as communications is concerned. The average student on this campus isn't being involved internally in Polity, and doesn't really know what is going on in the student government. They really don't know how much money is being allocated to specific clubs or organizations, and they don't know how much is available to them. My goal was to set-up communication between the students and the student organizations and explain to students what is really going on on-campus as far as what things are available to them. We have 10,000 undergraduates and if we could prove to the students that we really need to be involved for the organization to run, then we can get a lot more done, not only within Stony Brook, but statewide. There are a lot of rights that the students have to fight for, and we need everybody's support in order to achieve these goals. I would like to see everybody on the campus know what is going on. But through the *Statesman* you don't get a basic outlook of what the student organization is all about. So we are setting up a newsletter right now that will tell people about the budget, what money is allocated to different clubs, and what clubs are available. Right now we are recognizing clubs. We students on this campus need to know where approximately \$700,000 is going. That is a lot of money and there is no reason why students shouldn't know where it is . . .

Q. Recently there were two student rallies in front of the administration building to protest the administration's lack of response to the essential needs of the Africana Studies Department and of dormitory life on campus. Do you think the administration is failing to perform its required duties?

A. The problem in dealing with the administration is that you have to cut through a certain amount of

red-tape. What is red-tape? It's when you confront the administration with students' problems and they tell you "Yes, we will look into that" or "We will set up a committee to deal with that." But you will never get an answer. The administration has to realize that we pay their salaries. I know it's a crazy way to look at it, but they are not really looking into the needs of the students. For instance, the rally you had was geared towards getting more funding for Africana Studies; what came out of it? The problem we are confronted with is that promises turn out to be idle, there has to be some kind of communication set up so that the administration realizes that we are here for a purpose, we are students. We want to have the best education. The student government does not have time to organize rallies, we would rather be spending our energies heading toward positive areas, more positive pathways. Now Dr. Schmidt has told me that "you can't complain about these little things, you have to get into real problems of communication. He thinks for instance the problem of Africana Studies, and security harassment are little problems; he thinks closing up a campus business is a little problem. But to students on this campus all of these problems are very important, and they have to understand that in order for us to set up communication, they have to take care of our needs. They just have to understand. The administration is not living up to what they are supposed to be doing.

Q. When the problem of the Africana Studies Program was being negotiated by the staff of that program with the administration, it became clear in the process that only minority students were involved. Why was there not a Polity representative present and why did the rest of the students not participate? Does it mean that Africana Studies is not an academic discipline, important to all students on Stony Brook campus?

A. The problem that I see on this campus, is that instead of all the groups on campus getting together and fighting together, it seems there are a lot of specific issues and people have special interests in specific issues. They tend to say "I am gonna deal with this issue this way" instead of reaching out and trying to get all the constituents to back them. As far as the "Minority Rally," I thought it was set up perfectly. It was very strong; the speakers were very strong and if it was better publicized on campus I think there would have been a lot more support. The last rally we had was geared toward opening the Kelly Coffee House. People who do not live in Kelly said "it does not concern me." If the people on this campus realize that if we stand up together we can get a lot more done. I am trying to get communications set up with BSU and LASO. I spoke with Carlton, the president

Continued on page 3

H.E.W. to assist minorities in graduate studies

In a press release issued last week, HEW Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris announced the award of nearly \$8 million to 108 colleges and universities to assist minority and women students in graduate and professional study.

"Minorities and women traditionally have been under-represented in graduate and professional fields," Harris said. "These grants will help substantially to alleviate the imbalance."

The Graduate and Professional Opportunities program funds were awarded to postsecondary institutions in 38 states and the District of Columbia for use in the 1979-80 academic year. Of the total, \$6,772,100 will support 324 continuing and 550 new fellowships. The remainder, \$1,114,286, will be used by 50 of the institutions for recruiting, counseling, special orientation, and other student services.

Minorities and women planning to teach at the postsecondary level and those planning careers in other professions of national importance are eligible to apply for the fellowships. Selections are made by the participating education institutions.

Each fellow receives a stipend of \$3,900 for a 12-month period of study and the institution receives an allowance in the same amount to cover the cost of tuition and fees. Both the stipends and the institutional allowances are pro-rated for courses lasting less than 12 months. If the course is of longer duration, the student is eligible for a continuing fellowship.

The awards announced today will support fellows in approximately 50 areas of study ranging from law, engineering, and architecture to the social, physical, biological, and medical health sciences.

The following is a list of the institutions in New York state that were awarded grants:

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AMOUNT OF AWARDS	AREA
New York Law School	5	\$ 39,000	Law
Rensselaer Poly. Institute Troy	6	46,000	Engineering
SUNY, Albany	3	23,400	Computer Sci.
SUNY, Binghamton	6	46,000	Atmospheric Sci.
			Computer Sci.
			Management Info.
			Systems
Columbia University, NYC	5	39,000	Engineering
			Political Sci.
Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons	4	15,600	Occupational Therapy
Cornell University	24	187,200	Physical Ther.
Ithaca			Engineering
			Applied Biology
			City Planning
			Human Service
			Studies
City University of New York Graduate School New York	30	234,000	Chemistry
			Engineering
			Speech & Hear.
			Sociology
			Political Sci.
			Law
Hofstra University Hempstead	4	31,200	

ATTENTION

YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED TO THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE THIRD WORLD GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION (TWGSO)

TWGSO IS A NEWLY FORMED CLUB. ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS ARE INVITED.

PLACE: GSO LOUNGE OLD CHEMISTRY
TIME: 4 PM
DATE: Monday, November 19, 1979

Refreshments will be served.

For more information contact:

Linda Martin

246-6737

Continued

of BSU, and I spoke to the president of LASO. As far as the rally is concerned, I was not invited. They had a number of people they wanted to speak, though I would have liked to speak. Carlton knows that I supported them, and I was there (at the rally). I wanted to go there and negotiate but I felt left out and that is not the way I want it done in the future. I want the people on campus to realize that I am here to do a job.

Q. The Stony Brook University was sued by a student who was kept from graduating because she did not fulfill the 45 upper-level credit requirements. The court decided in favor of the student. Is it a student's right to challenge University requirements? Is Stony Brook right to adopt a 45 upper-level credits, which I understand is not common for the SUNY system?

A. I know the lady who sued the University. I had been sitting in on the committee of academic standing over the summer. I wanted to get a basic idea of what the committee is all about. When you come into this school you get an undergraduate bulletin. That year the lady had been admitted as a transfer student and she received the wrong bulletin. Now every year rules change, it shouldn't be. Something which is going to change shouldn't be written in a big bulletin. Nothing is really explained to the students. So many people get thrown out of the school due to academic dismissal because they did not know. There is no communication. Is it her fault that she was given a wrong bulletin? The University is appealing the decision, which means that they lost in court; they

are going back to court trying to win. They knew that she would have to stay in school by doing that. They knew that if the appeal did go through and she lost, she would have lost the whole year. They made this appeal because it would look bad for them to lose. Why 45 credit upper-level requirements? The master plan of Stony Brook is geared towards being one of the largest scientific technological forces in the U.S.A. The more difficult they make this school the better quality they have. They make it more difficult for students to get their diplomas.

Q. "At one point BSU used to get \$30,000 from Polity, now it's only \$8,000. Polity keeps cutting the budget of BSU because of its (Polity's) mismanagement of funds" (Quotation from last month's interview with the president of BSU.) What are your comments?

A. The activity fee has been \$70 and the budget has been consistently between \$650,000 and \$700,000. BSU might have been receiving \$30,000 seven or eight years ago because there were less organizations that were asking for money and there were less clubs. Inflation has gone up every year and the student activity fee has remained the same every year. People are asking for money or raises, but we can't give them a raise because our budget stays the same every year. There are other ways of receiving funding. A club can go to SAB to get speakers. There are also many ways of throwing parties in conjunction with UGB. BSU can receive funding from other organizations within Polity. About mismanagement of funds, the way the budget is prepared is a rush process.

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Application Deadline: Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22, 1979)

This program is designed for minorities, as defined by the Federal Government: American citizens who are Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Blackworld

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1979

Page Of Opinion

Response to rally by Deputy President

During a rally staged in front of the administration building on October 5, a group of students presented to University President Schmidt, a petition regarding the status of Dr. Leslie Owens and support for the Africana Studies Program.

In response to the petition, Deputy to the President, Sheldon Ackley, sent the following reply:

We are in full agreement with you that Dr. Owens is very valuable as Chairman of the Africana Studies Program. We were surprised and disappointed to receive his resignation, and we have urged him to withdraw it. The University has taken no action to accept it, and Dr. Owens is currently serving as Chairman of the Program. We hope very much he will continue to do so.

Provost Frank Myers has been working closely with Dr. Owens to deal with the needs of the Program. I am sure you are aware that he has found a solution for the Program's request for additional space. The Program will be in that space by the time you receive this memorandum. That was perhaps the greatest single source of difficulty for the Program, and its solution should be a great aid.

I believe all the other specific requests that had been forwarded to Dr. Myers by Dr. Owens have now been dealt with. This does not mean that the Program has all the resources it wishes; no Program does in this period of shrinking resources. The Africana Studies Program is dealt with in just the same fashion as are all other departments and programs. Dr. Myers is very supportive of the Program and will be doing his best to stretch resources available to the Division in order to support Africana Studies.

I am particularly disturbed by the implication of the petition that there is "a deliberate attempt on the part of the parties concerned to undermine the merits of this program." Such a claim impugns the motives of many unnamed staff members. What would be much more useful would be identification, if it is possible, of a specific action on the part of a specific staff member which would show that he intended to harm the program. We are not aware of any such evidence, and we would have to be convinced that there is such evidence at hand. If there is, it is the responsibility of you and the other petitioners to bring it forward. Without such evidence, such allegations are exceedingly harmful and entirely unjustified.

We at Blackworld, feel, however, that the allegations made on the part of the University's black faculty and students were justified — if for no other reason than the inaction on the part of the university to supply Africana Studies with the proper materials. It is true that AFS has gotten more office space, but the university must live up to its promises in other areas. Only then can we be convinced of the university's sincerity.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?
SAY IT THROUGH THE
BLACKWORLD PAGE OF
OPINION.

Editorial

In the last two issues of Blackworld we tried our best to make this paper everything you wanted it to be. But a newspaper cannot be produced with a staff of only two or three dedicated people. Instead, it takes a large staff of conscientious, productive, and innovative individuals working as a collective.

It is not by design that the last issues have been relatively small in length. The fact of the matter is that many students that either promised to work with the paper, or at least promised to submit work for the paper, handed in excuses instead of their assignments. Some never even bothered with excuses and instead just never made an attempt to live up to their promises.

Therefore, in response to decreasing funds from polity, unreliable "free-lancers," and an apathetic student body, the future of Blackworld looks dim. The situation is certainly a precarious one. We have already been forced to cut production to one issue per month. The next step is to cut production completely.

A good paper cannot be produced in a day by a few people. Instead, it takes the collective work efforts of many. The future of Blackworld is in your hands — It's your move, what will you do?

Letters

Aim to do what?

The Advancement on Individual Merit (AIM) Program, here at Stony Brook is beginning to lose its flare in the eyes of many AIM students. The uncoordination of the financial aid segment and the scarcity for understanding help in the advising segment, are enough to make a student say "forget the useless help," and do it on his own. The program was advertised as being "designed to promote the individual academic growth of each student and offering a variety of services to meet academic, financial and personal needs of participating students." This may be what is down in black and white, but mandatory, remedial classes, we all don't need and don't get credit for. Many of the problems include limited advising, which is not encouraging — a student stops participating when there is no help; a very limited staff, which gets smaller every time you turn around; a rationing of financial aid, which may leave you hungry; and never a check when you are supposed to get one. These are not examples of promoting individual academic and financial aid. There is definitely more harm here than help.

I would not wish to see the AIM program terminated, but I also hate to see students deprived of services promised them through a program that is as important as AIM. I do not think that this is fair, and I know that AIM was not designed to work this way. There are only a few benefits left in the program, but not enough to suffice the many needs of the students in the AIM program. I hope the staff of the AIM program recognizes the program's faults and the seriousness of the problem because there are too many students depending on the AIM program who are also very vulnerable to the mistakes of this half-winged state program that is playing with our futures.

—Cathleen Wright

Blackworld

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Voices

is

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In-Depth

Indifference

By Hassan A. Khaalig

It has been said, and rightly so, that the Stony Brook students, specifically the minority students, have been continuously ignored and their interest misrepresented by the Administration. In fact, not too long ago, a rally was organized in front of the Administration building to express the sentiments of all the minority students here at Stony Brook. Most of us present at that rally believed that it was a success and went our separate ways once it was over.

As this editorial is being written, it is November and the question arises, how much progress has been really made since that rally on Friday in late September. In retrospect, it seems that the loud "revolutionary" demands expressed so eloquently by each speaker at the rally, remained at the Administration building. The emotional and physical togetherness of purpose felt by the people at the rally, appears to have subsided only to re-emerge at the Friday night disco. In short, the rally which was supposed to have been a beginning, now looks in actuality to have an end.

Traditionally, minority students at Stony Brook have reacted to their predicament only when they felt directly threatened by the continuation of certain policies by the Administration. The crisis over Africana Studies is an example of this. Otherwise life, as we know it, for minority students at Stony Brook continues as normal. This attitude or situation that minority students find themselves in is best described by the word "indifference." Webster's dictionary defines "indifference" as, "feeling no interest or anxiety; apathetic." This word is a very significant one.

The word does not really imply a *strong* like or dislike for a particular issue. It gives one the sense of a sort of inbetween view of life, best summarized by the phrase, "I don't give a damn." If one casually looks at the different minority organizations on campus (with the possible exception of the Caribbean Club), one is immediately struck by the sense of apathy and a general lack of participation by minorities for their own organizations. Of course these organizations should not be blamed, however, considering the number of minority students attending Stony Brook and the number that actively participate in these organizations, it nevertheless places the responsibility on all of us.

At a recent Cultural Night, given by the Caribbean Club, minority students displayed tremendous talent in the form of music and poetry. This undoubtedly showed that there is a tremendous amount of talent among minority students at Stony Brook that is just waiting to be exploited. We have a newspaper on campus called *Blackworld* whose major function is to bring together the different talents of the minority population for a coherent and productive means of expression. Yet, participation in this endeavor has been almost non-existent. We must all remove the shackles of indifference around our minds. Success only comes from continuous work and involvement in the affairs that affect us both directly and indirectly. In the words of Al-Hazz Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X):

"This generation, especially of our people, has a burden, more so than any other time in history. The most important thing that we can learn to do today is think for ourselves. If you don't do it, you'll always be maneuvered into a situation where you are never fighting your actual enemies, where you will find yourself fighting your own self."

ACTION/Peace Corps

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246-5936/7

campus bulletin

CHESS CLASSES

The Gordon Heights Youth Center is forming a Chess class for beginners. For further information and registration call 698-3254.

SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES

Classes in SENSO AIKI JUTSO will be available at St. Michael's Center. The teacher is an eighth (8th) degree Black Belt in this art. The classes will be open to anyone over 16 years of age if they are accepted and agree to abide by the precepts of the art. The teacher is Master Richard Behrens. Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The charge will be \$5.00 for each two hour session. Any organized community group can inquire about a rebate.

Classes can also be arranged for \$1.50 or less (depending upon class size), with the minimum age of seven (7) years old. The teacher for this art, which is called CHUCH CHAO (form resistance), is William B. Intini. Mr. Intini, is a Master Instructor with 20 years of experience.

A second (2nd) degree Black Belt in the art of JIU JITSU will teach at St. Michael's Center if a class of 10 students over five (5) years old will be attending. The rate for this training is \$4.00 per hour. Any organized community group interested in a rebate that would help their fund raising activities should inquire prior to registration to the class.

For further information call 698-3254.

KWANZA CELEBRATION

Kwanza is being planned for December. All interested in the planning and/or participation of this event should contact the Gordon Heights Youth Service Program at 698-3254. We will be focusing on the Kwanza principles such as: unity, self determination, collective work, responsibility, co-operative economics, purpose, faith, etc.

New Graduate Organization is Born

All third world students are encouraged to join TWGSO, a club that has so far gained recognition in many of the graduate departments on campus.

When asked what specifically the new club is set out to accomplish, Sam Guobadia, a graduate student in the Economics department, explained that "In the educational sphere we plan to arrange time for speakers and movies that will add to the educational experience; in the area of cultural activities we plan to have cultural and ethnic performances which will serve to raise our cultural awareness of the various scientific and educational contributions of people from different countries. Above all, we feel a strong need to work closer together to identify common problems and needs, which I believe we have the potential to deal with."

TWGSO is currently not a GSO funded organization, but plans are currently being arranged and they hope to be funded in the near future.

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Stop by the Blackworld office, 071 Student Union, or call 246-7061.

Arts & Leisure

Dance



Alvin Ailey

If you're one of those students who seems hopelessly convinced that Stony Brook is just not the place for fine arts, cheer up, things may just be turning brighter.

It's rare when nationally famous talent manages to find their way to the ends of Long Island, and when such anomalies do occur students should have as much fun as they can, while they can.

Well, it just so happens that one of those rare treats is approaching. This coming Sunday, the Alvin Ailey Dance Ensemble, nationally acclaimed as one of America's most exciting dance groups, will perform on campus in the Fine Arts Center.

Single admission rates are \$11, front; \$9, middle; and \$7, rear. Inquiries about this event may be directed to the Fine Arts Center, box office, 246-5678.

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Book Review

A "sexist" evaluation of the Movement?

By JUNE JORDAN

At the end of the 1960's, American mass media rolled the cameras away from black life and the quantity of print on the subject became too small to read. As a result, the number of books published by and about black people has been negligible since the beginning of this decade. For this reason alone, Michele Wallace's "Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman" is ready-made for commercial exploitation. Its destiny, so far, has been further assured by nearly unprecedented promotion and publicity.

June Jordan is an Associate Professor of English here at Stony Brook. Her latest book is "Things That I Do in the Dark," a collection of poems.

Before the book's publication, Ms. magazine departed from its routine policies and published its January 1979 issue under a cover featuring a close-up photograph of a black woman's face — the face of Michele Wallace. It was accompa-

nied by an announcement: "the book that will shape the 1980's." Shortly afterward, her publisher mailed out a four-color fold-up heralding Miss Wallace's book as one that "could change history." These were claims of singular portent.

You might well imagine that anything so described must serve some urgent purpose. But whatever the motives behind this media launching of the book, they nowhere seem to mesh with the urgency that underlies today's renewed political coming together of black men and women.

"Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman" is divided into two rather short, somewhat repetitive essays. In the first, Miss Wallace subjects the "Civil Rights Movement" and the "Black Power Movement" to a sexual analysis of black male and female relations. She asserts that male chauvinism on the part of the black leadership led to the dissatisfaction of black women and a consequent "end" of the movements. She asserts that black male preoccupation with white concepts of manhood de-emphasized "patriarchal" priorities such as re-

sponsibility for family, engendered adolescent macho posturing such as the riots of Watts and Detroit, and led to Black Panther-style confrontations with white power. For black men, Miss Wallace says, sex with white women was proof of their freedom.

About black leadership, she writes: "One could say, in fact, that the black man risked everything — all the traditional goals of revolution: money, security, the overthrow of the government — in the pursuit of the immediate sense of his own power." And, "The black revolutionary of the 60's calls to mind nothing so much as a child who is acting for the simple pleasure of the reaction he will elicit from, the pain he will cause, his father." And: "It is interesting to note how various male leaders are recouping in the aftermath of their abominable failure to effect any changes in the lives of the masses of Black people."

Alternating with such fierce and freehand generalities are other pronouncements that reveal an astounding ignorance, at best: "The most highly organized group the

movement had to offer was the Black Muslims." (Note: The Muslims are the one group that made a special point of not being a part of any movement that was pre-eminently activist or that advocated confrontational strategy vis a vis white violence and privilege) Or: "Like Martin Luther King, Baldwin was an anachronism come the 60s." (Note: If true, this last would mean that the eight years preceding the 1968 assassination of Dr. King spoke no more than a seismic and national habit of hallucination.)

Here is Miss Wallace on the function of white women for the black leader of the 60s: As his Americanization became more and more total, he was conditioned to define his rebellion in terms of the white nightmare. He accepted as appropriate the white man's emphasis on his sexuality... the notion of the black man's access to white women as a prerequisite of his freedom was reinforced."

At one point Michele Wallace refers to movement struggles from 1963 through 1965 in this was: "It wasn't the spectacle of the evening news so much as the appearance of

Book Review continued.

a strangely related phenomenon that, more than anything else, made us aware that a new day was coming. Black boys at New Lincoln [her private school] started dating white girls." Her peculiar revisions of history are further marred by such obvious errors as giving 1968 as the date when the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee became nationalistic, though its black position paper was actually issued in 1966. Throughout, her arguments rest on glittering declarations like this one: "But the contemporary black man no longer exists for his people or even for himself."

In the second essay, Miss Wallace writes, "I think that the black woman thinks of her history and her condition as a wound which makes her different and therefore special and therefore exempt from human responsibility." Presumably such a hateful perspective explains her mention of Ruby Doris Smith Robinson as merely "a powerful black woman in S.N.C.C." when in fact, she was elected executive director in 1966; it may also explain her arrogant derision of Angela Davis as a "Do-it-for-your-man" non-heroine of those times or her reference to Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth as women "whom no man in his right mind would want except, perhaps, patient Old Uncle Tom" or her allusion to Fannie Lou Hamer as simply someone who had "spunk."

En route to that assessment of black women, she offers her theory about "the superwoman," to wit: We (black women) have internalized myths that depict us as incredibly resilient/strong/aggressive, and possessing social and economic advantages over black men. Consequently, the resentment black men bear toward us because they, too, accept these myths, seems to us partly justified, and we, in response to our own guilt, defer to black men, abdicate our own fulfillment and possible contributions to our people. Whatever its merits, this is hardly a new idea.

Back in 1968, Frances M. Beal, a black woman and a member of S.N.C.C., composed an essay dealing with hurtful aspects of black male and female interrelations. "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female" emphasized three points: that Black Women would not "exchange a white master for a Black master," that "the ideology of male supremacy was divisive and backward and had no place in the Black Movement" and that "having babies for the revolution" and "walking three steps behind your man" were concepts counter-productive to the rightful struggle of black people. Frances Beale presented this document at a S.N.C.C. staff meeting (mainly black males) in 1968, and it was then adopted as the official S.N.C.C. position on women. The paper was subsequently published in various anthologies and in a 1975 issue of *Black Scholar* that was devoted altogether to black women.

In any event, it is not easy to follow the "superwoman" argument because Miss Wallace dots her essay with frivolous and distorted observations: She remembers having, in her own childhood, "only an establishment of poverty and oppression thinly veiled by a few trips to

Europe, a private school education, and some clothes from Bonwit Teller"; elsewhere she writes that the fury of black people against whites is "water under the bridge"; then, "As we can see . . . there was some low-key directionless complaining and grumbling among black women in the 60s. But they put more energy into their fight against women's liberation than into anything else." Later, talking about unmarried black women who have children, she says, "It certainly can't be for love of children." And in conclusion to all of this, she writes: "The black woman never really dealt with the primary issues of the Black movement. . . . She forced herself to be submissive and passive. . . . But then, suddenly, the Black movement was over."

You do have to concede champion qualities to Miss Wallace's capacity for the unsubstantiated, self-demeaning, ahistorical pronouncement. And from her total account of things, it is really hard to tell who is supposed to be more contemptible: the black man or the black woman. Nor can I even guess what she is for what she respects.

The author was 12 years old in 1964. Obviously, then, none of the pivotal generalizations about the 1960's derives from her own experience. From where, then? Don't ask me: there is not a direct quotation from an interview that she conducted with a living black man or woman in the entire book. Her conclusions make clear that such people as she may have queried were only strangely related to the cataclysmic, nation-convulsing events that she presumes to analyze. How else can you explain her staggering reduction of the Civil Rights Movement of Black Nationalism, to an "issue" of interracial dating.

I mean, a whole lot of people died. And everybody who was there — black women, black men, and white men and white women — all of the freedom fighters who came together to create an irreversible, revolutionary moment, all risked their lives. It was not casual.

A similar need for collective affirmation for political resistance, by black people is no less important today than it was when Birmingham became an international name for horror: The Bakke decision, Proposition 13, Sears Roebuck's lawsuit against Equal Employment Opportunity programs, the Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum case pending in the Supreme Court — these are a few clues to a swift and radical reversion to national policies of systematic exclusion and disablement of black life.

Then how does it happen that the book I have been reading, the book "that could change history," is nothing more nor less than a divisive, fractious tract devoid of hope and dream, devoid even of a competent scholarship that would signify respect for the subject so glibly undertaken?

Why did Michele Wallace write this book? And, I wonder, how does it happen that this book has been published — this book and not another that would summarily describe black people to ourselves, and to the other ones who watch us so intently.

It is something to think about, indeed.

This month's feature Poet is Vincent Odamtten, a graduate student from Ghana. Vincent is in the English Department.

Voices Voices Voices

Voices, the name given to Blackworld's poetry page, will be a permanent addition to the paper.

Blackworld encourages students, faculty, and staff to submit poetry for publication that is no longer than 200 words. All poetry must be typed according to the way it should appear in print.

Poetry should be addressed to: Poetry, Blackworld, Room 071 Student Union Building, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York, 11794.

EARTHBIRD'S SONG

*. . . keep the cleft
no wider than sighs*

the song of thigs

flautist playing

earthwoman's cries . . .

THE WOUND

*Recurring memories
as fingeritches
travels up through short forest
of hair
to the wound
scar-tissue spreads evenly
(finger-felt . . . probe)
across knee—
cap hiding damage
The memory of which
we keep deep
within our minds
to save the pain
hidden never so deep
under the layer
of tissue seeming so
secure
(woman, the vanity of your ophimism)
smothered in the empty
spaces between the laughs
which kept our
minds revolving
around*

EMPTY PHRASES

*the tissue deceives
it is thin
thinner than the reality —
thin fabric of our paper
lives marked
with the scrawls of
our hidden frustrations
going through the motions
of a grinning madness . . .
at the final
act
when the tissue
breaks
THEN the show begins.*

Sports

THE SCORE BY Allen Tate

"The Score" is a new Blackworld feature. The sports scene will be covered from here at Stony Brook to the national level. An event or personality will be discussed with the black perspective in mind.

STONY BROOK BASKET BALL

Well, we won't have to wait much longer. I, for one, have been waiting. You have probably been waiting. I know they have been waiting. It's almost here. Are you still pretending you don't know what I'm talking about? The basketball season. THE BASKETBALL SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Thanksgiving, basketball style, arrives for the Stony Brook Patriots' basketball team on November 17th. They play their first game against the Republic of China team from Taiwan. Why will this be a Thanksgiving of sorts? Because the Patriots will either get "served" or they will slice some turkeys. Stony Brook fans hope for the latter.

The team, captained by Mel Walker and Heywood Mitchell, should be an exciting one to watch. They will play a running offense and a scrambling, hustling defense. The coaching staff led by head coach Dick Kendall, with assistants Jim Vooklan and Bob Adams have been working the team hard in practice. As almost a daily observer of practice I have seen the improvement.

The players themselves are a mixture of seasoned veterans and new talent. The captains provide leadership and experience. They are proven players. Look for a big year from Walker. Three other members return from last year's 24-3 team. They are Joe Grandolfo, Danny Murray,

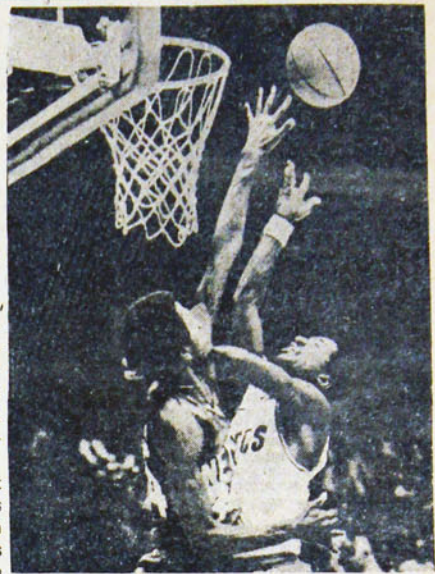
and Paul Santoli. Grandolfo, nicknamed "Crash," is the team's best defensive player. Another player who returns after sitting out a year is Mike Crooms. If the team is to be successful running they'll need greyhounds like Crooms. Another greyhound who seems to invent ways to score is Keith Martin. In practice he tells his teammates to "Watch Keith" when he is about to take off. Maybe we can all take a clue from that. Three new players, Rich Mulave, Steve Robinson, and Eugene Treadwell must have read textbooks for aspects of their games. Mulave has picture perfect form on his jumpshot, Robinson executes textbook passes, and the 6'7" Treadwell has aggressiveness Vince Lombardi would admire. Treadwell is the team's physically strongest player. You can call him Eugene, "Huge," "G," "T" or sir, but make sure you call him in time for the games. Stable backups are Rick Isom and Mike Pollack. They make things happen under the backboards.

The upcoming game is the first game of what appears to be a tough schedule. The team hopes they will be tested and tough if a post-season tournament bid arises. The team also hopes there will be people in the bleachers cheering them on.

For Stony Brook (basketball capital of Long Island and parts unknown) the wait won't be much longer now.

OTHER SCORES . . .

It's been a good fall for Stony Brook sports. All the football and soccer teams have done is win, win, win. Congratulations to the coaches and players . . . Basketball fans don't forget the men's junior varsity and men's varsity teams. Black athletes play important roles on both



teams . . . With all the varsity practices and intramurals, namely volleyball and badminton — Is the gym ever free anymore? Give us a break! . . . The crew up at Kelly C cleaning up in intramural football. Keep it up.

Hats off to brother John Tate, who for the SECOND time went over to South Africa and whipped a white South African. Look for the government to add boxing to the list of things it's illegal for a black South African to do.

Coming up in the next issue . . .

The December issue of *Blackworld* will contain the most valuable information you could every hope for. It's a special section, and it's called,

The Job Market For College Graduates

. . . Don't miss it!