

Statesman

Volume XXXIX, Number 39

Monday, February 19, 1996

First Copy Free

Polity Charges Statesman With Insensitivity

By BEN VARGHESE
Statesman Staff

Last Wednesday's Polity senate meeting started with Polity president Annette Hick's Report discussing the legislative conference that will be held next weekend, Feb. 23 - 25, in Albany.

The conference will teach students more about what the budget cuts will entail on a federal and state level, as well as educate students on how to lobby. Hicks also mentioned of a lobby day to be held the following Monday, and hopes that everyone will cooperate and stress the importance of it at their Leg meetings.

However, following the report, the meeting aberrated from their original agenda when Andre English, a student at the meeting that night, approached the Senate and charged *The Stony Brook Statesman* of misrepresentation of persons in the Police Blotter of the February 8th issue of the newspaper.

The Blotter stated that "7 black males were knocking on the doors at the first floor of Schick College and the individuals were gone upon the arrival of the police." English said, "why would they [Statesman] point out it had to be seven black males? No other place in the paper does it point that out. Now some people might say that this is a minor infraction; that we're blowing this out of proportion. But *Statesman* has a history of this, and they continue to do it... they continue to make attacks on people of color. We're trying to take a stand. We're not going to let this happen anymore..."

Stacy Harris, another student at the meeting, also had much to say on the issue. "All they did was knock on someone's door; it wasn't a crime; a serious crime; I mean they could've

put "seven residents in Schick"; use your discretion



Polity President Annette Hicks at Wednesday's Polity Senate Meeting.

... if this paper didn't have a history of continuous bigotry, we would not have to be here tonight... your responsibility

is to be sensitive as well as true when you report what you have to report," said Harris.

Many of the guests as well as senators argued the idea that on many accounts, *The Statesman* has emphasized the words, "black male or female" but does not identify the ethnicity of a non-black person. On the front page of the Feb. 8th issue, it says, "A Central Islip man was accused of sexual assault and arrested..." They said it made no mention that the man was caucasian.

The Statesman editors added that the reason for the non-ethnic identifications was because they did not know the true identifications. The Blotter stated "seven black males" because that's what the report said. A positive identification was supposedly

established.

The Police Blotter is published by information released solely by Campus Police, which allows *the Statesman* access to the various incident reports reported by students around campus. The writer of the Feb. 8th blotter was Eneil Ryan De La Pena, Acting Associate News Editor of the *Statesman*. "Well, I didn't know it would offend anybody... I'm still new to the *Statesman* and I don't know all the rules. But I wrote exactly what the police report stated," he said.

Thomas Masse, who at the time, was Managing Editor to *Statesman*, said that it was all an editing error. The police report did say seven black males, but he said that it should have been edited but was accidentally overlooked. Masse was then asked if *The Statesman* had a prior history of this occurrence.

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Forum Tackles Fears Surrounding Homophobia

By IRENE STALZER
Special to the Statesman

A forum on gay, lesbian, and bisexual rights entitled "The Diversity Project: Stop The Hate" was held on Thursday in the Health Sciences Center. It was sponsored by the HSC Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Coalition, and the LGBTA.

"Our purpose is for people to be aware of what lesbians and gays encounter on a daily basis in their lives," said Denise Jelley. Jelley, co-chair of the HSC Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Coalition is a second year undergraduate student in the School of Social Welfare.

"We want to enforce an environment where

intelligence outweighs ignorance," Jelley said. "An environment where lesbian and gay sexuality would be affirmed and valued."

The table that they set up on Level 5 of the HSC, near the Windows Cafeteria, was full of fliers, pamphlets, and information sheets dealing with a wide variety of gay and lesbian issues. Buttons and bumperstickers were also on sale for \$1.00 each. A television at one end of the table played the video, "Homophobia in the Workplace," hosted by Brian McNaught.

People who came to the table were asked to sign a petition. The petition is going to Governor George Pataki to show support for gay and lesbian rights. Those rights should not be considered as special rights, but equal rights. The petition was asking Pataki to support a clause that would allow sexual orientation to be a nondiscrimination law at the state level.

"Our purpose is to open up minds and educate," said Andrea Romano, co-chair of the HSC Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Coalition. As an adjunct faculty member in the School of

Social Welfare, Romano holds lectures on heterosexism and homophobia. According to Romano, Francis Brisbane, Dean of the School of Social Welfare, believes strongly in making graduate students in the School of Social Welfare attend these lectures. They are the only school on campus that has such a policy.

"There have been a lot of bias related incidents on this side of campus," Jelley said. One major problem seems to be the anti-homosexual comments that are continuously being written on the bathroom walls of the hospital. Pictures of some of the graffiti were on display Thursday. According to the display, the HSC Maintenance personnel are requested to paint over the racial and homophobic slander every 12-15 weeks.

"I have been receiving a lot of disturbing questions and comments lately," Romano said. One that particularly upset Romano concerned a man who came up to her and asked if there was a treatment plan to help gays become straight.

According to Romano, there are 10-20 consistent members of the HSC Lesbian, Gay, and

Bisexual Coalition. These numbers fluctuate, however, because people are reluctant to go to meetings sometimes. Their members are mostly from the Health Sciences Center, but students and faculty on the other side of campus are more than welcome to join.

The organization is committed to increasing homosexual visibility in a variety of ways. They are also committed to documenting all acts of bias against homosexuals at the college, and fostering a sense of community between lesbian, gay and bisexual people by providing a chance for them to come together to talk to and support one another.

One of the activities the organization is currently involved in, said Jelley, is addressing the fact that many of the posters they put up to announce their meetings are being taken down, destroyed, or thrown away by others. The organization has brought these problems up to Gary Mathews at Affirmative Action, and are currently waiting for a reply.

Meetings of the HSC Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Coalition are every other Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the School of Social Welfare on the second floor of the Health Sciences Center. The next meeting will be held on February 22. All are welcome to attend. □

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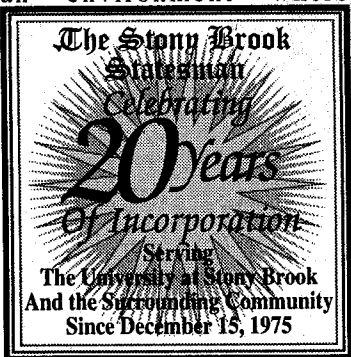
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Monday, February 19

President's Day. Classes
in session.

FSA Flea Market. 8:30
a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Stony Brook
Union Bi-level. Call 632-
6517.

Black History Month

Campus Calendar

Arts Fair. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00
p.m. Fireside Lounge, Stony
Brook Union.

University Counseling
Workshop, "Addicted to
Love?" Recognizing
addictive relationships. 4:00-
5:15 p.m., 4 Mondays (March
4, 11 & 18). University
Counseling Center, Infirmary.
Free; preregistration is
required by February 14. Call
632-6720.

Diabetes Support Group.
2:30 p.m. Conference Room
084, 12th Floor, University
Medical Center. Call 444-
1202.

Seawolves Women's
Basketball vs. Sacred Heart,
5:30 p.m. Sports Complex.

Returning
Student
Organization
General Interest
Meeting at 6:30
p.m. in Room
237, SB Union.

Seawolves
Men's
Basketball vs.
Sacred Heart. 7:30 p.m.
Sports Complex.

Thursday, February 22

Freshman Committee
General Interest Meeting at
6:30 p.m. in Room 226, SB
Union.

FSA Flea Market. 8:30
a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Stony Brook
Union B-level. Call 632-6517.

Cancer Support Group
for Patients, Family and
Friends. 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Level 5, Physical Therapy
Department, University
Medical Center. Free parking.
Call 444-1727.

Prepared Childbirth
Courses. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
University Medical Center.
Preregistration required. Call
444-2729.

S.A.I.N.T.S. General
Body Meeting. 8:00 p.m.
Room 237, Stony Brook
Union. 632-7080.

Tuesday, February 20

Black History Month
Arts Fair. Live jazz band will
perform. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00
p.m. Fireside Lounge, Stony
Brook Union.

Hillel Foundation,
Jewish "Coffee Talk." 4:00 -
6:00 p.m. Room 157,
Humanities. Call 632-6565.

Intermediate Black and
White Photography. 7:00 -
9:00 p.m., 6 Thursdays. \$90/
students; \$110/non-students;
includes membership,
equipment, chemicals and
waste disposal fees. Stony
Brook Union Photo Lab. Call
632-6822.

Returning Student
Organization General Interest
Meeting at 1 p.m. in Room
231, SB Union.

Mentor Program,
"Financial Aid and
Scholarship Information
Workshop." Ana Maria
Torres. 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Academic Affairs Conference
Room E-3320, Melville
Library. Call 632-7080.

Basic Photography. 7:00
- 9:00 p.m., 6 Tuesdays. \$90/
students; \$110/non-students;
includes membership, tools,
equipment, chemicals and
waste disposal fees. Stony
Brook Union Crafts Center.
Call 632-6822.

Stony Brook Fencing
Club. 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Main
Arena, Sports Complex, Call
Leon Moy, 588-3956.

Alpha Epsilon Pi sister
group meetings in Room 157,
Humanities at 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21

Marine Sciences
Research Center Seminar,
"Groundwater Models for the
Peconic River Basin and the
BNL Sites," Brent Lindquist,
professor, applied
mathematics & statistics.
Noon. Room 120, Endeavour
Hall, South Campus. Call
Bruce Brownawell, 632-9695
or 632-9411.

Friday, February 23

Section XI Wrestling.
8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Sports
Complex. Call 632-9271.

Minorities in
Engineering and Applied
Sciences Job Fair. 10:00 a.m.
- 6:00 p.m. Stony Brook
Union Ballroom.

Department of
Linguistics Colloquium,
"Disagreement in the
Classroom: Implications for
ESL," Janie Rees-Miller. 3:30
p.m. Room S-207, Social &
Behavioral Sciences. Call
632-7777.



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Polity Charges Statesman With Insensitivity³

From POLITY, Front Page

"When I joined the Statesman in Spring 1994, the editor at the time was Richard Cole. And a number of people would assert that he was a racist because of some of things he had written in his column. And the name of that column, was "Against the Tides." But regardless of whether or not the things he said at that time were or weren't racist, a lot has changed since then. I don't think anything has happened in the last couple of years that anyone could say that was racist or biased or anything else. We're pretty straightforward... it's always been our intention to have the most objective, professional news in the Statesman as possible."

In addition to this issue, Polity Secretary, Keren Zolotov brought up yet another charge against the Statesman. She said that the paper made another repulsive remark, but this time, aimed at Polity President Annette Hicks.

The Statesman published a photo of Newt Gingrich, and adjacent to it was a top-ten list of what the photo depicts. Number 8 was "Annette

Hick's fiancée."

Zolotov addressed the Senate by saying that this "was offensive to Annette Hicks." She also mentioned that the Statesman has complained about the front page of last October's issue of *The Press*, which depicted members The Press already urinating on the Statesman's door. She said that the Statesman should be more observant of their own publications before the Statesman starts censoring others.

Scott Lewis, Sports Editor of *The Statesman*, was the writer of the top-ten list and had much to say in rebuttal. "As it says below the top-ten list, it was satire. It was a joke. In the top-ten list itself, we had one of our writers played around with. To me, when you're a president of a student organization; in a position of such power, you have to expect to take pot-shots. It's a joke... I would like to see Annette Hicks get a little humor because she needs it... and I think the thought process of Polity is a little messed up if they think urinating on a door, which desecrates something belonging to the school, compares to joke on a top-ten list."

Kelvin Innocent, a Council member

of the Senate, said he was a witness to the incident and said that they weren't all Black. "The people knocking on my door at that time in the morning were not all black and some were female... I'm not saying that these are the same people who knocked on the door of the people who reported it. I don't think there was racial intent if every single article was reported exactly how it came. But if it was done by choice, then there's a problem," Innocent said.

The Polity Senate members, following the discussion, voted to have the Acting Managing Editor be present at the next meeting.

Joshua Prevora, a Senate member made the motion. "The reason I'm making this motion is because we don't know exactly what was going on through their [Statesman] minds... by having them come down before the Senate lets them know the seriousness of this." □

Man Arrested After Helicopter Chase

A Bayshore man was arrested after having been clocked by Suffolk County Police of driving in excess of 100 mph in a stolen car on Stony Brook Road, last Sunday, according to Suffolk County Police.

Keith Butler, 21, of 64 Rose Avenue in Bayshore led police on a chase from Portion Road and Route 112 in Medford to Stony Brook Road in Stony Brook. According to Suffolk County Police, the chase began after Butler broke a gas pump at a gas station on Portion Road and Route 112.

While fleeing from police, officials said, Butler was clocked at driving at speeds in excess of 100 mph. According to Suffolk County Police, because of the speed at which Butler

was driving, a helicopter also followed Butler to apprehend him.

Butler was arrested after crashing into a fixed object. No other information of the accident was available.

Police said that while the pump was still connected to the car, Butler drove off, causing damage estimated at \$250.

Butler was driving a green '95 Volvo wagon. Butler was arraigned Monday. He was charged with 3rd degree criminal mischief, 3rd degree criminal possession and driving while intoxicated.

Police said a grand jury would have to decide on whether to charge Butler for grand larceny of a motor vehicle. □

Bookstore Refuses Refund Offer From FSA

It's fairly common knowledge that Wallace's, the West Campus bookstore, generally charges more for books than does Stony Books or other local retailers.

Yet, many students go to Wallace's because it's conveniently located on campus and they usually have certain items the other retailers don't stock, e.g., lab packets and Stony Brook merchandise. In some cases, the students are obligated to shop at Wallace's.

But, in some cases, students are not obligated and probably would be better served not to shop there.

In the January 31, 1996 minutes of the Faculty Student Association Retail Services Committee, the following notes regarding textbook price comparisons were recorded [Note: emphasis added]:

Textbook price comparisons between Wallace's and Stony Books were *less than desirable*. Stony Books prices were cheaper on *every title included* in the comparison. Differences ranged from a low of .50 to \$6.00 per title. FSA specifically approached Wallace's with a proposal to reimburse students with receipts for the \$6.00 difference in price. (FSA would have absorbed \$4.00 and Wallace's would have absorbed \$2.00.) Wallace's *refused* stating that the majority of students would become *disgruntled* by the reimbursement, because they failed to retain their receipts.

Oh, yeah? How "disgruntled" does Wallace's think you are now, now that they know you just screwed them?

For those who don't think \$6.00 is a lot of cash for a student, think again. Maybe you can't buy anything with it in Wallace's, but most students can find a good use for it.

But, that's just scratching the

surface.

A student told me that Wallace's had been selling *last year's* lab packet for a certain lab course. The only problem was that the lab packet is not the same this year. Yet, Wallace's, ever trying to make a buck, had some packets left over from last year and didn't want to lose a cent on them, so they sold them to unsuspecting students who later had to waste time and money returning the old packets and buying the new ones.

But wait, there's more!

A number of texts come packaged with solutions manuals or study guides; that is, two or three books are wrapped *together* in plastic. That's how you purchase it at Stony Books. One example from last year is the CHE 131-132 text. The pack of books came in one bundle for about \$70.

At Wallace's, I was told, the books were sold separately and the main text alone cost about \$70. (I wonder if that made FSA's price comparison list?)

So, the next time you shop at Wallace's (if you ever do again), be aware of what their selling you and at what price — and at what cost.

Oh. By the way, if anyone at either Wallace's or ARAMARK tells you that FSA sets the prices, forget about it. FSA receives a contractual 10 percent commission and FSA sets *maximum* prices, but FSA does *not* set *minimum* prices. For more on this and resells and refunds, tune in next week.

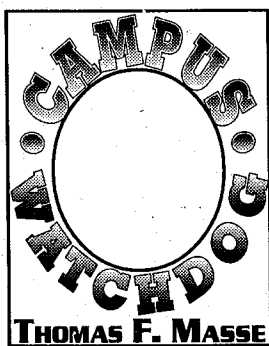
I hope some students at the Health Science Center let me know how Matthew's is doing.

BACK TO THOSE LOANS (FINALLY)

As I first mentioned in Campus Watchdog ("Where's My Loan Money?" *The Stony Brook*

Statesman, Jan. 29), a whole flock of students were without the loan money they expected. They were told they would have to wait 6 weeks until the Pell grant and Tuition Assistance Program funds came in. They still have 2 or 3 weeks left.

Not long after the column was published, I received a letter from



Cathy Rehman, the bursar, and Ana Maria Torres, director of financial aid. Since that letter, we have been unable to meet for a number of reasons, so I will base this section on the letter.

Rehman and Torres claim that my assertion was incorrect. "In reality, the Business Office takes pending (confirmed) TAP, Pell and campus-based aid into consideration to issue any loan refunds to students after their account is settled."

If that is true, why do I still have a number of students telling me that their accounts are settled with the exception of "pending" Pell and TAP, but have yet to receive the rest of their loans?

I also mentioned that Stony Brook was entitled to retain loan proceeds for 21 days after issuance through electronic transfer. Rehman and Torres: "...the Business Office is not withholding funds to that legal limit. Instead, as a service to students, refunds are being issued within seven days of receipt of the loan for students who meet all eligibility requirements such as correct enrollment and loan amount."

Why, then, do I have a letter from my bank dated Jan. 23, yet I didn't receive my last check until Feb. 9? That's more than seven days, and my bank claims that the transfers, being electronic, are

nearly automatic. More important, there are many other students *still* waiting.

My last desperate appeal was "Does financial hardship mean anything to anyone in that building?"

Rehman and Torres: "Yes! The people in this building... do their utmost to assist students.... Special hardship cases are handled with care on a personal basis..."

Why, then, when I picked up my first check, did one young woman leave the check disbursement windows in tears after all but begging someone inside for her money that she needed to pay her rent? All I heard from inside was "Sorry, there's nothing we can do." Not even a referral to speak with anyone who *might* be able to do something.

In all fairness, as of Feb. 5, Financial Aid had processed 5,743 Stafford loans and processed 2,777 refunds totaling \$3.6 million. More than \$48 million of financial aid is processed each year.

LETTER NUMBER ONE: BARBARA As I said, if you write to me, I will respond. And so to Barbara:

There is a number of places to go for answers to those difficult scheduling questions. Judging by your letter, the first place to go is Student Services in Admin. Regarding familiarizing yourself with Stony Brook, try New Student Programs in Humanities, Room 102.

As for getting involved in student life, try Polity or Student Union and Activities on the 2nd level of the Union, the Division of Athletics, or come down to *The Stony Brook Statesman*, Room 057 in the Union. You can get more information about fraternities and sororities at Student Union and Activities.

Statesman publishes a calendar of events on Mondays, Happenings has one every issue,

and you can locate one on Stony Brook's WWW page (<http://www.sunysb.edu>). While none are "complete," we all do the best we can. No, there's not a "Secret Society of SUNY," but there are places with more people who know what's going on than others.

Here's a list of phone numbers to get you started [see box]. I hope you find the answers you're looking for.

As for your complaint about the plowing and poor condition of the campus, I feel your pain. The response I get when I ask about it is more of the same about tight budgets, etc. Collectively, we ask, "What will happen to the budget when the University gets sued for millions of dollars in a negligence case?" Stony Brook — SUNY in general — pays the price and refuses to count the cost.

Did I hear someone say "Class Action"?

UNTIL NEXT WEEK

What's that? I think I hear the phone ringing.

If you have an item for *Campus Watchdog*, write to Thomas Masse, *The Stony Brook Statesman*, P.O. Box 1530, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Or call Tom at 632-6479 or at 595-8741. If you can't run with the Big Dog, stay under the porch!

IMPORTANT PHONE #S

Alumni Affairs	2-6330
Bookstore	2-6551
Fac-Stu. Assoc.	2-6510
Financial Aid	2-6840
New Student Svc.	2-6710
Polity	2-6460
President's Office	2-6265
Provost's Office	2-7000
Returning Students	2-6828
Statesman	2-6479
Student Health Svc.	2-6740
Student Services	2-6858
Stu. Union & Act.	2-6826
Veterans' Affairs	2-6701

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 19, 1996

Polity Seeks To Punish *Statesman*

At the last Polity Senate meeting, charges of impropriety were leveled against *The Stony Brook Statesman*. Concern was expressed that this paper was not dealing properly with issues of race in its Police Blotter section.

Cited as a case in point was the Thursday, February 8 compilation by Eneil Ryan de la Peña. That edition of the Police Blotter contained a reference to an incident which reported "7 black males knocking on the doors at the first floor of Schick College...."

Issues of the February 8, *Statesman* were passed around and Senators were queried as to whether "they should stand for this." What "this" was was never made specifically clear.

Ostensibly, the concern was the specific reference to "7 black males." But it wasn't specified whether *The Statesman* was being overtly racist or simply insensitive. Was it just the writer or the whole organization that was being called into question? The point is critical, because the severity of both possible charges are, indeed, quite different.

The Statesman was also accused of having had a "history" of this sort of thing. Vague. No other specific examples of "this sort of thing" were brought before the Senate and it wasn't made clear what this "history" consisted of. Was the "history" manifested solely in the Police Blotter section or was it the editorial section, or opinion page or -God forbid- the sports section.

Members of the Senate and

attendant students had also noted, in concordance with the main complaint, the tendency of the Police Blotter to be specific as regards to race when referring to African-Americans.

But it should be noted, for the record, that just the week before in the Thursday, February 1 edition of *The Statesman* Police Blotter compiled by Alexandra Cruz, a reference was made to "... an unknown white male..." and as of yet no complaints have been registered.

The problem brought before the Senate in the form of the blotter was a gaff. The matter is simply summed up as an editorial error. It is **not** the policy of *The Statesman* to include the race of persons in the blotter. It is acknowledged as a mistake and apologies are extended to all who might have taken offense.

It is true that items in the Police Blotter are provided by a member of the University Police. Still, it is the fault of the editors not to have edited out the race descriptions.

It was a shame, however, that Annette Hicks (Polity President, for those who don't know) took the opportunity of this legitimate claim from a concerned student, to advance her own vendetta against *The Statesman*. Actually, it was Keren Zolotov, Polity Secretary who did Hicks' bidding when she voiced the opinion that *The Statesman* was in need of Senatorial discipline for a piece of satire run on Monday, February 12. The piece in question was a picture of Newt Gingrich and an accompanying "Top Ten List". Number eight read "Annette Hicks'

fiancee." Not too bad if you consider that number ten took a shot at our own crack columnist, Senior Staff member David Samuel Shashoua who still reigns supreme (sorry Annette) as our most favorite subject of satire.

But, regardless, Polity has no real authority as concerning the operations of *The Statesman*.

Which brings us to the question of what it is that Polity wishes to do. The editors can do nothing but bear the blame for our own sloppy editing but bowing down to roughly four- dozen inefficient members of Polity is out of the question.

The integrity of this paper as a serious vehicle for the dissemination of news was called into question. The most damning, and mindless, criticism came in the call for the students of the campus to turn to The Press for their news, further adding incredulity to what was at first a serious point.

You would think, Polity has enough real issues to worry about as our student government than to be wasting time discussing our satirical "Top Ten List".

In the future, those who wish to complain about *The Statesman*, are invited to address those concerns directly to *The Statesman*, being that no one but *The Statesman* decides what goes in its pages. The quickest way to effect change on the paper is to become staff and give your and ideas input directly. Come straight to the source, and **Let Each Become Aware!**

"Talk without effort is nothing."

- Maria W. Stewart



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The Stony Brook Statesman, the newspaper for SUNY at Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication that is produced twice-weekly during the academic year and bi-weekly during the summer. Statesman Association, Inc.'s offices are located in the lower level of the Student Union.

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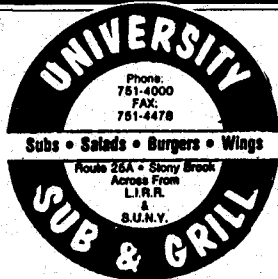


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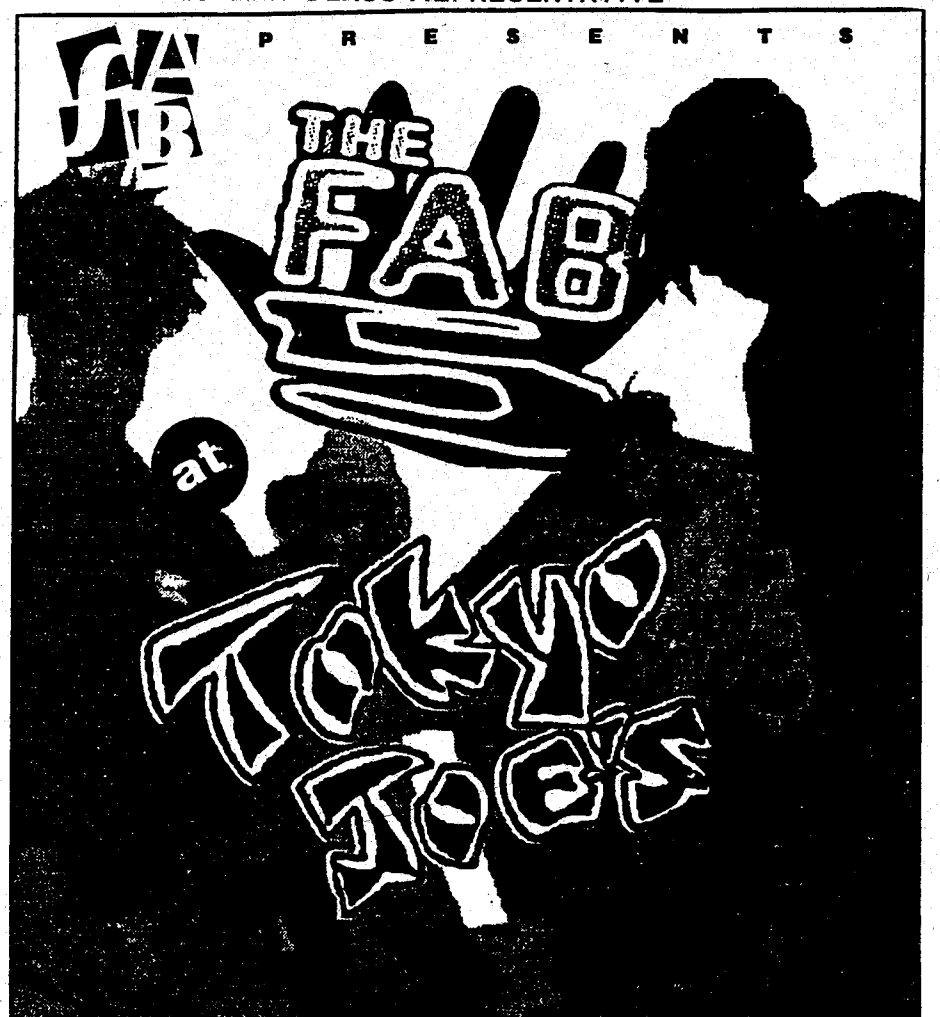
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Statesman Features

Monday, February 19, 1996

Folk Rock Lives, Thriving In Its Niche

By MICHAEL KIMMEL
Special to The Statesman

As a musical genre, folk rock sounds anachronistic. From Bob Dylan electrifying the Newport Folk Festival crowd in 1964 with a high-wattage "Like a Rolling Stone," to those laid-back L.A. types like the Eagles and Byrds, many a pop star has mined traditional folk styles to jump-start an electric career.

No longer a defining genre, folk rock is more of a niche, a corner of the pop market kitty-cornered with "singer-songwriter" at the edge of pop respectability. But it thrives out there on the margins — as these three recent releases attest.

Elliot Murphy

Elliot Murphy has become somewhat of a cult figure. Emerging on the scene about 20 years ago, this Long Island native always evidenced enough darkness and irony to avoid the cloying bathos of many singer-songwriters. Fifteen albums later, and now transplanted to Paris, Murphy remains a compelling songwriter and

creative storyteller. Here's what *Rolling Stone* once wrote about him: "Of all the sensitive singer-songwriters who have borne the career-killing weight of the new



Photo / Red House Records

Guy Davis

Dylan's mantle... Elliot Murphy is perhaps

the poetic-folk-rocker who's carried it with the most grace and the least notoriety."

Take his most recent record, *Sellin' the Gold* (DejaDisc). Murphy carefully crafts his songs around clever lyrics and just enough tasteful rock frills around the song's edges to make it interesting. On "Love to America," the album's single, his vocals drop to a half-spoken gravelly sound, more like acoustic Lou Reed. On "Everything I Do," he trades softer and more earnest lyrical duties with Bruce Springsteen, creating a sweet duet.

Murphy's too smart for him to ever get too popular, but he's too good to fade into obscurity. Singer-songwriters proliferate, but few are as good as Elliot Murphy.

Guy Davis

Acoustic Delta-blues need to be rediscovered by each generation. In the 1970s, Taj Mahal virtually singlehandedly held aloft the flame of the Rev. Gary Davis, Big Bill Broonzy, Robert Johnson and Blind Willie McTell. The re-release of Johnson's complete works a few years

back created a new surge and a new generation of musicians have rushed in to grab the torch. Keb' Mo's stunning debut last year is now followed by Guy Davis's *Stomp Down Rider* (Red House Records), a live recording by a young master of the various genres of delta, slide and stride, and acoustic-blues styles.

Son of the marvelous actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Guy Davis has already earned a well-deserved local folkie following. While Keb' Mo' composed original songs in traditional styles, Davis returns to original compositions by Johnson, McTell, Broonzy and others and infuses them with a new enthusiasm.

Davis approaches acoustic blues with a reverence and respect for both the music and its animating emotions. Sure, he has that same twangy gravel in his vocals, and the same raucous guitar style that marked the original progenitors of the style. Nothing watered down or prettied up here. And that, of course, is precisely

See FOLK, Page 8

Bongload Produces a New Cash Crop

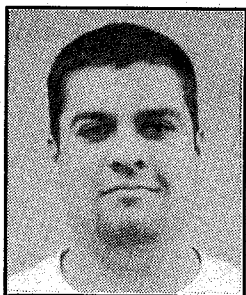
You may ask yourself, "What is Bongload records?" and, more importantly, "Who cares?" Right?

Wrong.

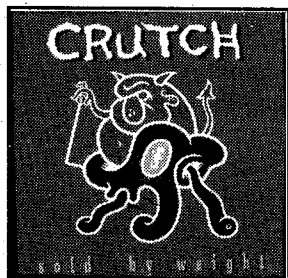
Bongload Records has produced the albums of artists such as Beck, Foo Fighters, Toadies and Wool — and their newest projects look to be just as promising. So, sit back and take this all in. I can't wait to get started.

Sold By Weight, which hit the streets on Jan. 9, by Crutch — out of Southern California — has revolted marvelously against the "accepted realm." Any album that begins with an audio that says, "Let the wild ruckus begin," is too tangy to pass up. These guys trudge their way along the divider of punk and metal, bringing with them a defined (or even hysterical) pissed-off-generation-X rebuttal to the pop-rock movement.

"On Line" takes me back to those days when ratty black T's and Jack Daniels reigned between (and during) the sets of



TURN IT UP
&
PASS IT ON
RON STRAUSS



Motorhead and L.A. Guns. Marten Bradley (guitar/vocals) rages from his wheelchair — yes, I did say "wheelchair."

Despite this, his chord work is supreme and his sense of humor is intact, commenting: "I don't drink, but I do like to go to the bathroom and masturbate."

"Spines Mine" is only one of the rubies on this sparkling ring. It offers some crunchy bass rhythms from James Forbes, Jr. This song really finalizes the notion that these guys really can jam. "Head In The Park" will jolt you into a

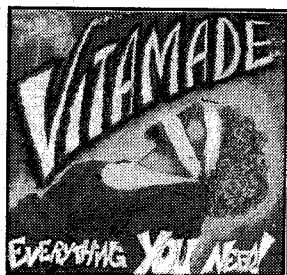
frenzy, pumping it up and breaking it down, with some Megadeth-esque guitar action and killer drumming by Darin Talcott. I must suggest that people with psychological disorders refrain — or at least save it for the pit, because you'll wreck everything

in the immediate area (including yourself). "Limp Twich" sums up everything that they are really about. The pop-rock jingle gets right down to the meat. The message: "F— you and this

whole pathetic rock 'n' roll show."

In other words, they just want to party and thrash it out — the kind of attitude that launched *Supernova*, *M.O.D.* and *Anthrax* into the musical cannon. "Ghost Of Bill Graham" is by far my ultra-fav. The title rules and there is so much going on in this tune (I almost had a stroke) that my blood vessels took a vacation and pure hysteria took over.

Without a doubt, this is one of the best new albums of 1996. Every song is a winner. Don't let



this one pass you by.

It ain't Gatorade, it's Vitamade and this little gem is the perfect power-booster. Their newest LP, *Everything You Need*, lives up to its hype. These dudes are really pissed, combining the intelligence of Soundgarden and the blunt-evilness of The Rollins Band.

"And You Lose" has a nasty badlands feel. It's total outlaw

material and completely Darwin-esque. Tim P. (guitars — no other information given for the purpose of national security), R. Pasquale Stompanato (drums) and Mess (bass — again no more info for same reasons) will have you slamming your head against the stage in punk aggression while maintaining a subtle and flowing hook in "Smug." "Golden Boy" is one step below black-metal, as well as a fine social filter. You won't find any Ph.D.'s floating around in this circle, it's pure cage and fist motivation. "Last Believer" creeps into the album with a modern-rock sound that WDRE/92.7 FM would blow an artery over. I also think that Frank Black would dig this one. It's right up his alley.

Vitamade offers well-rounded punk, thrash and hardcore elements. This candy-cane appeases the sweet-tooth in all of us who desire variety within the "heavier" side of the music world. It also hit stores on Jan. 9.

Lutefisk has recorded an 11-song LP, *Deliver from Porcelain: Theme & Variations*. This eerie exploration harps on the

undefined and unmarkable styles that can exist. *Monster Magnet* and *Skinny Puppy* (at certain times) come into mind when I crank up this puppy. "Hug Me" offers pure confusion and lively guitar segments from Dallas (not to be confused with the porno-babe) and Quazar (guitar/sound effects) has provided a fine collage of melodramatic technological distractions. Natalie Wood (guitar/drums) and Frosting supply the dessert to fill out the meal. "Aero Sol" and "Doctrine" rank among my favorites.

Lutefisk, who's currently touring with Geraldine Fibbers, is preparing for a new video for "Scorching And Clean," off the current album, a new single called "Tin Man's Cue" and is already compiling another album.

That's it for this week. Special thanks to Karl and Dorian at Girlie Action, who are now officially my favorite people. There is just too much good s— going on over there. And, a fat shout out to me. I became 23-years-old today (and a fine festival of beer today will be).

Next week: *God Lives Under Water*, *Jars of Clay* and *Walt Mink*. □

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Folk Rock Lives

Folk, From Page 7

what makes it so alive and still compelling.

Jo Carol Pierce

Of course, women were early entries into the folk-rock circuit, in part because the genre allowed so much room for singer-songwriters to ply their sensitivity. But women such as

Bonnie Raitt, the Indigo Girls and Liz Phair have pushed beyond the boundaries of mawkish sentimentality and sweet harmony, expanding the entire genre as they made more space for women who cut loose. Jo Carol Pierce's brilliant *Bad Girls Upset by the Truth* (Monkey Hill) extends those boundaries even further.

Long a staple on the Austin

country-folk-rock circuit (her ex-husband is Jimmie Dale Gimore), Pierce's debt is a coherent song-cycle, a kind of country-folk rock opera, in which Pierce feigns a sweet sexual innocence in order to turn the double standard on its head. Her mission in life is to understand, as she narrates, "What are these boys FOR and what am I supposed to do with

them?" Plaintively she asks God and Jesus, the way any self-respecting country girl in Lubbock, Texas would do. And she follows their teachings to meet and please as many as she can, a sexual mission of mercy so to speak.

Of course, the boys are far more confused than she is. "What are you supposed to do when you hit high school and find out that you're a bitch if you don't and a whore if you do?" she asks in her naive twang. The answer is simple: ignore them and stick with your mission.

Alternating between hilariously understated spoken narrative and clever little country-folk ditties, Pierce has created the first song cycle of a post-feminist era. It is smarter than most albums out this year, and probably more fun than anyone should have listening to a record. Don't miss it. □

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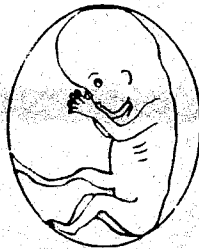
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D-II Blues Continue In Wasted Weekend⁹

From Woes, Back Page

opened a 42-38 lead on Gibson's tray at 18:45. But Albany (12-14, 9-11) went on a 16-4 run and built a 57-48 lead to cruise to the win, 79-65.

Gibson once again led all scorers with 14 points, Comer added 13 and Orlando Reid netted 10 points.

Ron Duckett did not play due to his ankle injury.

Freshman Bobby Mahoney, who won the Midnight Madness Slam Dunk Contest, played his finest game as he torched the rim for eight points.

"We have a solid core of young players in Bobby Mahoney,

Kendall Richards and Larry Gibson who will be back next season," said Tomlin. "Lionel Saunders and Devon Gibbs also add stability to our returnees."

"This has definitely been a learning experience and we will be looking to add players to make the

right mix for 1996-97," said Tomlin.

Stat Stuffers: Albany has been the toughest opponent winning 18 of the 22 games in the SUNY rivalry... Gary Comer

moved into fifth all-time in three point field goals, he currently has 58... all eight of Eric-Austin Johnson's field goals has been of the three-point variety this season... The stingy stats crew at Albany awarded just five assists to Stony Brook on their 23 baskets... Just how tough is it to move from Division III to Division II—Albany head coach Richard 'Doc' Sauers will suffer his first ever losing season in 40 years of coaching the Great Danes... Robert Horst had a huge fan club on hand at the game in Albany as they drove up from nearby Red Hook, NY... The Seawolves close out their first season of D-II ball with a visit from the Pioneers of Sacred Heart University this Wednesday at 7:30 at the Sports Complex. □

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 19, 1996

The Silent Killer Within: The AIDS Epidemic

Irony can indeed be cruel.

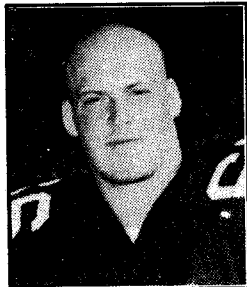
To those who followed the boxing career of Tommy Morrison, it was shocking, yet not altogether surprising when it was revealed to the world last weekend that he had tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

It served as a reminder that this killer disease is literally kicking ass and taking names. Tommy Morrison is just another sports name on the ever-increasing HIV list that includes, or has included, among others, basketball legend Magic Johnson, the late tennis great Arthur Ashe and the late middleweight boxer Lamar Parks.

Morrison, he of the bone-crushing left hook and the "Glass Joe" chin, had long been noted more for his antics out of the ring than for his prowess inside the squared circle. Besides his three arrests for assault in the past five years, his unavoidable "Great White Hope" persona and his acting role in *Rocky V* (as "Tommy Gunn"), Morrison's affection for women was particularly legendary.

Maybe it's fitting that his uncle is the late actor John Wayne. After all, it was a movie star lifestyle for the former "Toughman" competitor.

Unfortunately, real life doesn't guarantee happy endings. Unfortunately, that movie star lifestyle, as Morrison said at his press conference last Monday, "will one day cost me my life."



CUBIE SPEAKS
SCOTT LEWIS

"There was a three-year period in my life that I was out of control," Morrison said. "I never had to chase the women, they were always there. Apparently, it was my downfall."

It was only four years ago that Johnson brought AIDS into the national spotlight when he announced that he had contracted HIV and was retiring from professional basketball. It became apparent that AIDS was no longer a disease that was relegated to just the gay community; now it was everybody's problem. If Magic Johnson, heterosexual, married and athletic, can get HIV, evidently anyone could—and can.

But at that point, AIDS discussion among people was considered taboo. The consensus among young America was to sweep it under the rug and not talk about it. "I don't need to wear a condom because it doesn't affect me," has been the overwhelming thought process for too long.

It's way past the time to terminate that mode of thinking. HIV equals RIP and

there is no sexual activity that is worth your life.

Both Morrison and Johnson have admitted that promiscuity was the likely cause of how they became infected with HIV. There are probably many more high-profile athletes that are currently carrying HIV and don't even know it. Soon there will be another sports star or celebrity holding a press conference to announce that they too, have HIV.

It is a deadly cycle that we can only pray to god stops.

A few years back Pro Basketball Hall-of-Famer Wilt Chamberlain claimed to have slept with over 20,000 women during the 1970's and early 80's. If HIV was around back then and Chamberlain had contracted it, it easily could have meant 20,000 women who were directly infected with the virus. And that doesn't even include all the men the women later slept with and so on and so forth.

Irony lies within this story on all levels.

Johnson returns to basketball two weeks ago and shows there is life after HIV. Then, one week later, Morrison's plight goes public and AIDS awareness once again catches the nation's attention.

Morrison, reknown for his female conquests, is forced to retire from boxing because he didn't practice safe sex every time he engaged in intercourse. His expected life span has dramatically decreased in one week's time

But it kills. No sugar-coating it anymore. If you don't practice safe sex you are taking your life out of your hands and putting it into the hands of a killer.

"As I found out, this disease doesn't discriminate," Morrison said. "It doesn't care who you are and it doesn't care what color you are." I had a chance to be a role-model and I blew it."

You're wrong Tommy Morrison, you are a role model. You're my role

model. I'm going to follow your example and learn from your mistakes. Because, though I have drastically curtailed my own heterosexual carousing in the past year, I too have ignored the call for AIDS awareness and I know for a fact I am far from the only one. Sex one time without a condom is one time too many. It sucks, but that's life — or death.

Hopefully, this will open other's eyes as it has opened mine. The only defense against this killer is knowledge. But knowledge without application defeats the purpose. Maybe sex with a condom isn't as good as sex without, but I'll be damned if it isn't better than dying. If you have to, treat intercourse like it's a war — and the next time you are called to battle make sure you come armed. Because dying in this war is anything but honorable. □

"The only defense against this killer is knowledge. But knowledge without application defeats the purpose. Maybe sex with a condom isn't as good as sex without, but I'll be damned if it isn't better than dying."

-Scott Lewis

because of his over-indulgence in a sexual lifestyle.

Another bit of irony is that the homosexual population, of which group HIV was most prominent from the beginnings of the disease, is down in the percentage of individuals who have acquired HIV. On the other hand, the heterosexual population, once thought to be immune to the "gay disease," is up in the percentage of people who have contracted the killer virus.

The final, and alas, the most pertinent piece of irony, is the actual transmission of HIV. Here we have sex, the one thing that almost everybody loves to do. It's fun, it's exciting, and if you love the person you are engaging in intercourse with, it's the most incredible thing in the world.

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Strong Finish for Women's Basketball

From STRONG, Back Page

experience of this year under our belts, next season we will have established ourselves in the NECC."

You can go home again: This weekend was a homecoming for several members of the Seawolves program. Head Coach Beckie Francis returned to her nearby hometown of Albany, for the first time as a head coach yesterday. Francis starred at Germantown High School in the area and was a standout at Colgate ... Freshman forward Beth

Grys, got to see her family for the first time in two months as they made the trip to LeMoyne from Buffalo, the nearest Stony Brook plays to Grys' home this year. ... Junior guard Anh Dominy got to go to her hometown of Albany, where she was the starting point guard at Albany High. ... Stony Brook will close out their home season, their first in Division II this Wednesday, as they host Sacred Heart the second best team in the NECC. Tip-off is set for 5:30. □

AIDS Memorial Quilt Display will be held in the Indoor Sports Complex on March 21-23. Volunteers are needed. For more info, call 632-6339.

Francis Under Fire of Player Criticism

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wouldn't be fair to evaluate her after just two, especially under the circumstances" of the new Division II schedule and the number of new players on the team.

"When you lose, you tend to point the finger outwards," Laskowski said. "I think when the team starts winning in a year or two, you'll see people's attitudes starting to change."

Laskowski expressed concern that none of the players had discussed the problems with Francis or had gone to him. At least two of the players, however, said they would approach the dean after the season.

Laskowski said that Francis and the team is performing, more or less, as expected. "We knew we were going to take some lumps when we made the move," he said. "This is definitely a year for growing." Laskowski said the answers to most of the Seawolves' problems lies in scholarships.

He pointed out that the women's team is performing comparably well to this year's men's team which is suffering the same D-II growing pains but came into the season with many returning players. Last year, at the D-III level, both teams finished near .500. It was Francis' first season.

Francis could not be reached for comment. □

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Statesman SPORTS

Monday, February 19, 1996

Strong Finish for Women's Basketball Season

By JASON YELLIN

Special to the Statesman

ALBANY, NY — If this past weekend's trip to upstate New York was a sign of things to come— then there is a bright future ahead for the Stony Brook women's basketball team.

Following their early season growing pains, playing with nine new players including seven freshmen, the Seawolves have won two of their last three games including a split of upstate rivals, LeMoyne and Albany.

The Seawolves spoiled LeMoyne's chances of a post-season berth by virtue of their 56-52 win in Syracuse. The Dolphins, who finished third in the NECC last year, have won in excess of 20 games in each of the past two seasons. "We have shown improvement all season," said second-year head coach Beckie Francis. "For us to complete a season sweep of LeMoyne and knock

them out of the playoffs is a very big stepping-stone for our club."

The Seawolves dominated the first half, building a 31-21 lead at intermission spearheaded by 10 points from sophomore co-captain Donna Fennessy. USB closed the half on a 11-3 run.

In the second half, Stony Brook held off a Dolphins attack which featured a roster of players all over five-foot-seven-inches tall. LeMoyne used a 19-2 run from the 15 minute mark to take a short lived lead at 44-43 with 7:06 remaining in the contest. Amy DeMasi's basket at 6:42 put the Brook up 45-44 and they never trailed again.

Lauren Ruane converted a clutch three point field goal with 50 second left to give USB a commanding 53-47 lead on the way to the 56-52 win.

"I'm very pleased with this win," said Francis. "It

was important that it was a strong team effort. Amy DeMasi played a very good game and showed team leadership that has helped all season long."

DeMasi led all Stony Brook scorers with 16 points, Fennessy added 12 and Ruane chipped in with 10 points, six assists and four steals. "Lauren's defense has been great," said Francis. "She is leading the NECC in steals and has usually held the opposing team's leading scorer to half of their average."

In this game, not only did the Seawolves keep LeMoyne's top scorer, Emily Anspach, to half of her points, they held her to one-quarter of her points. USB limited the six-foot-one-inch, NECC Pre-Season Player of the Year to just four points and six rebounds.

On Sunday, Stony Brook traveled over the Albany for

the second meeting with their SUNY, NECC rival. Earlier this year, the Lady Danes topped USB 59-46 at the Sports Complex. Revenge was on the Seawolves mind, as they entered the RACC in our state capital.

Stony Brook started the game confident, but fell 57-46, a score that is not indicative of how tight the game was.

The Seawolves began the contest without leading scorer Fennessy, who was battling the flu, and built a lead as large as six midway through the first half. The game went back and forth before USB took a 30-28 lead into the locker room. Dawne Thomas led USB in the half with eight points.

Stony Brook came out blazing in the second half and increased their lead to as much as eight as freshman Marissa Battaglia, seeing increased playing time,

converted a turnaround from the left block. That basket put USB up 44-36. "Marissa had a great weekend," said Francis. "We had to look to her for some key minutes and she made a large impact." Battaglia scored eight points in 24 minutes.

The Lady Danes then opened the flood gates and ended the game on a 21-2 run to come away with the 57-46 win. Stony Brook's lone hoop in the final eight minutes came from Lauren Ruane at 2:52 to stop a 12-0 run.

Ruane and Thomas topped the scoring ledger with 10 points apiece while Beth Grys hauled in 10 rebounds.

"This weekend shows we have a lot to look forward to next season," Francis said. "The win over LeMoyne was a very big and important win. We held Albany down for most of the game and with the

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D-II Blues Continue In Wasted Weekend for 'Wolves

By JASON YELLIN

Special to the Statesman

ALBANY, NY — Despite dropping a pair of games at LeMoyne and Albany this past weekend, Stony Brook's men's basketball team has made strides in its first season at the Division II level that will help it next season.

"We got a very solid weekend from some of our players who will be returning next season," said head coach Bernard Tomlin, who did not have a losing season in his first four at USB. "Playing in this league (NECC) is very challenging and we found out the caliber of play this season."

Stony Brook (8-17, 5-14) lost at LeMoyne 62-50 and at Albany 79-65. "The losses are tough to take," Tomlin said. "But the last two games were lessons for us and hopefully will prepare us for next year."

In the LeMoyne game, Stony Brook rallied from a deficit as large as 12 in the second half to cut the lead to six, 42-36 with 9:08 left as Lionel Saunders scored on a lay-up.

Stony Brook held tight,

but the Dolphins (20-5, 16-4), featuring three players six-foot-seven-inches tall and the second leading scorer in the NECC Adam Stockwell (21.3 ppg), outgunned USB. LeMoyne posted an impressive .519 shooting percentage including making 58 percent of their shots in the second half.

Sophomore Larry Gibson continued to close out the season with a strong performance as he led the Seawolves with 13 points and six assists. Senior tri-captain Gary Comer added 11 points off the pine.

Leading scorer Ron Duckett (18.0 ppg), tallied just four points as he was hampered by an ankle injury.

Against Albany, a team Stony Brook has not beaten in their last six meetings, the Seawolves and Danes played a back-and-forth contest that could have swung USB's way. The Seawolves led for much of the first half, with their largest lead standing at eight. Saunders, had a good half with six points, four rebounds and two assists. In the second half Stony Brook

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Francis Under Fire of Player Criticism

By THOMAS F. MASSE

Statesman Staff

Rumor and controversy has found its way back to the women's basketball team. Nearing the end of Beckie Francis' second season as the team's head coach, an accumulating mass of criticism is being directed at the former Buffalo assistant.

The team, at 6-17 before the weekend, is having its worst season since it went 1-13, coached by current Athletic Director Sandy Weeden, in 1978-79. However, the Seawolves are competing in their first NCAA Division II season in the New England Collegiate Conference — one of the most powerful conferences in D-II.

Furthermore, most opposing players receive full scholarships, up to \$15,000 per player — a signal in collegiate athletics that indicates higher quality athletes. By comparison, Stony Brook has awarded only a few scholarships — all \$1,000 or less. The Seawolves also have nine new players on its squad of 13, most of them underclassmen.

Still, criticism of Francis is coming in hard and fast, and from unlikely sources: the players.

"She's not a head coach," said one disgruntled player who asked not to be identified.

[Editor's note: While major newspapers generally name player sources who speak against their coaches, teammates and organizations, Stony Brook athletes are not getting paid millions.] "She doesn't know how to work with the players. Most of them don't like her."

The player cited numerous incidents in practice and game situations in which she believed Francis made blatant coaching errors. Specifically, the player said that practices on or before game days are too physically demanding or are not constructive considering the game schedule.

The player also complained that Francis calls for game substitutions at the worst times. "She'll pull people out for no apparent reason. She doesn't explain anything to us."

Another player remarked, "There's too much Buffalo on the bench." She was referring to Francis and assistant Brooke Smith, both of whom came to Stony Brook from Division I SUNY-Buffalo. "Just because something worked up there doesn't mean it will work here. They're trying to coach us like we're a different team and we're not."

Richard Laskowski, dean of physical education and athletics, viewed the situation differently.

"Buffalo has a good program. You can't be upset with that," he said. "If we had wrestling here and we brought in Dan Gable and his assistant from Iowa — one of the best programs in the country — would people say we had too much Iowa here?"

"[Francis] isn't used to losing," Laskowski added. "They had a very successful program at Buffalo.... She won't stand for it."

The second player also indicated that team morale was very low and that most have only personal reasons for still playing. "We're out here for each other," she said. "Not for the coaches, not for Stony Brook. Just for each other."

In the most convincing and damaging criticism, a number of players claimed that eight of the 13 current players will not return to the court next year if Francis remains as head coach.

Though Laskowski was outwardly disturbed by the news, he asserted that Francis has two years left on her contract and will remain as head coach at least until then.

"She has a four-year contract, and we will evaluate her performance at the end of those four years," Laskowski said. "It

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