

Ceremony Kicks-Off Black History Month Celebration

By ENEIL RYAN DE LA PEÑA
Statesman Editor

The month-long celebration of Black History Month kicked off yesterday with an opening ceremony in the Union Fireside Lounge. Speakers and singers all welcomed the coming month of February that pays tribute to the roots of African Americans.

Among the speakers were Polity Vice President Monique Maylor who is also a member of the Black Caucus.

"The importance of the ceremony is to let black students know that it is Black History Month," Maylor said. "It's something that we'd like to share with the entire Stony Brook community. . . it's not just a black thing, although it is referred to as Black History Month. It is a time to let everybody learn about black history, especially as it relates to the United States."

In addition, Maylor said that the month would teach people Black History beyond American slavery and Jim Crow laws, but about black artists and entrepreneurs that have shaped American history.

"It's more of a sense to

acknowledge our ancestors and our past," said Marjorie Eyma, Polity Treasurer and host of the opening ceremonies.

Maylor pointed out what one of the other speakers said today that there are few courses in the University that pertain to black history. The ceremony serves "to let people know that such and such things are going on and so you have the opportunity to learn."

Input from administration, staff and faculty is what Maylor wants more of on the planning of events during the month. "If it wasn't for the Black History Month Planning Committee and the student community, there wouldn't have been anything done. It would be nice to have faculty and administration and staff come out and actually like to be part of it."

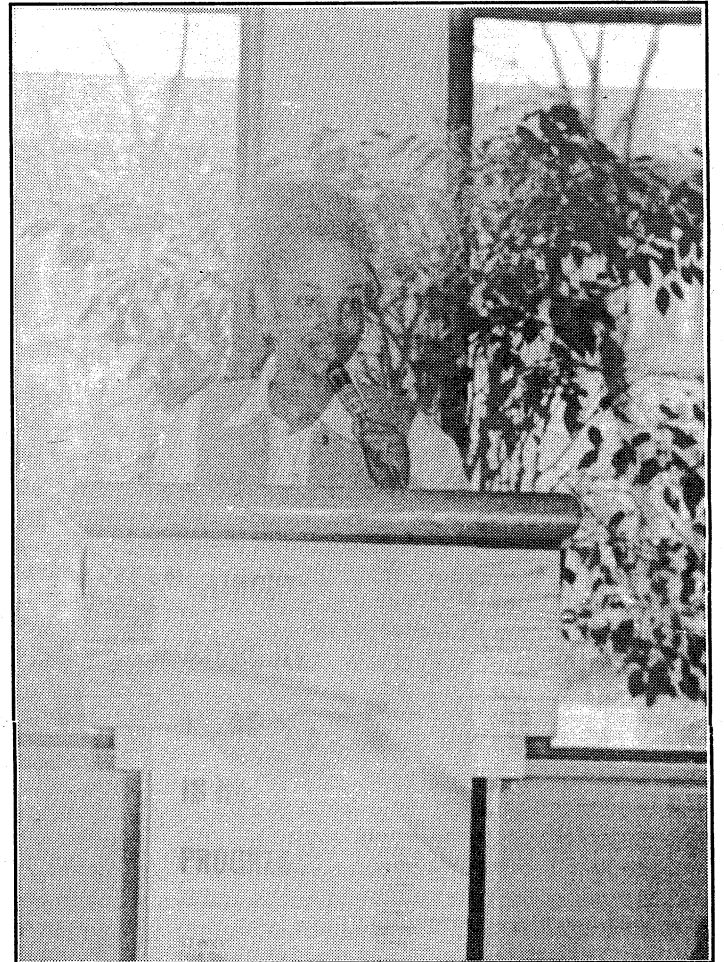
The many highlights of the month include the annual Black History Month Semi-formal on the 22 of February. This Saturday, a Stony Brook alumnus will be speaking on the "Exploitation of African Existence" in the UNITI Cultural Center at 2 p.m. A "celebration of

black love, with poetry and jazz" will take place at the End of the Bridge on Valentine's Day, February 14. Poetry readings will also be part of "traditional readings" on the 23 of February. A Tribute to Black Revolutionaries will be held in the UNITI Cultural Center at 8 p.m. on the 26.

The Black Caucus will be presenting skits concerning stereotypes of Black Americans on the 28. Times, venues, and other events can be found on the Black History Month calendar.

"It's definitely something that I

feel everybody can benefit from," said Maylor. "You can't live in a society full of ignorant people." □



Statesman/Nicole Rosner

Polity Vice President Monique Maylor speaks at yesterday's opening ceremonies for Black History Month.

Kenny Keynotes LGBT+ Open House

By NADIA PERSAUD
Statesman Editor

University President Shirley Strum Kenny keyed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Alliance's Open House, last Thursday, addressing gay related issues in, as an LGBT+ member said, "A genuine manner." It was the first time that a President of the University spoke at an LGBT+ function.

According to Mitch Gough, co-chair of the LGBT+, the Open House was a success. He said, overall, the responses from those who attended were overwhelmingly supportive.

The content of Kenny's speech conveyed a message of multiculturalism through the advocacy of gay rights not only in the Stony Brook community but everywhere.

"She did not have to take the time out to come in the evening," said one student. "It was really interesting how she handled the open session with wanting to hear student feedback because normally you would expect an administrator of that stature to just get

up and lip service. She's a really personable administrator. What all this translates into as far as the gay community is concerned is that the President is supportive of gay rights."

Kenny opened up the floor for

that Kenny is an advocate of gay rights. She is up against a lot of opposition and yet she stands up for our rights," said another student.

However, Alana Samuels, co-chair of the LGBT+, cited unintentional

as, is more politically correct. Homosexual is a very cold, clinical term."

In addition, members emphasized the need for more classes that are gay oriented and a greater turnout at panels. Currently, Human Sexuality and Development classes are being held at Langmuir College.

The LGBT+ is holding a Northeast Conference on April 11-13. All are invited to attend and participate. Contact Alana Samuels or Mitch Gough at 632-6469 or visit the LGBT+ office located in the Union basement, room 045. □

"[Kenny] is up against a lot of opposition and yet she stands up for our rights,"

-said a student attending the event.

questions and comments. One student addressed the harassing voice mail messages specifically targeting lesbians and gays that were distributed last semester.

"It was interesting to hear her say that if she had known something about it, she would have done something. I was really impressed by her speech to our group considering we're a relatively controversial group. I feel

usage in terminology throughout Kenny's speech. "There is probably a list of words you should not use when addressing a gay audience," said Samuels. "Accident and choice are probably the top two words. The word homosexual is outdated in a political sense. It is used in a clinical sense. I think that today a homosexual is more than that. A gay, queer, lesbian, or whatever people identify themselves

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Remote Control Is On The Loose

By Rob Bonfigli

Tuesday, January 21

A meal card is reported stolen from the Student Union.

Wednesday, January 22

A purse was removed from a bookbag in the bookstore belongings area.

A briefcase was stolen from Earth Space and Science Building in room 220.

A black leather wallet was reported stolen in Javits Lecture Center.

A pocket book with \$100 in cash was reported stolen from the Indoor Sports Complex's Main Office.

Thursday, January 23

A harassing phone call is recieved by a student in Greeley College.

A credit card and \$10-\$15 in cash is stolen from a locker in the men's locker room at the Indoor Sports Complex.

Friday, January 24

A parking permit is reported stolen from the Administration parking lot.

\$120 is reported stolen from the ATM machine in the Health Science Center.

A verbal confrontation is reported taking place in Roth Quad.

A person is arrested with stolen property in possession.

A suspicious male is reported walking through Greeley College.

Saturday, January 25

A female resident reports receiving harassing phone calls at Irving College.

4:29 p.m.

A student was arrested for driving while intoxicated at Keller College.

A report of trespassing was filed at Irving College.

Sunday, January 26

1:16 p.m.

A microwave valued at \$150 is reported stolen from a kitchen in Benedict College.

4:52 a.m.

At Amman College a window worth about \$100 is broken in a lounge hall.

Monday, January 27

5:57 a.m.

A suspicious person is reported in Amman College trying to open doors.

9:23 a.m.

Phone calls of an anti-semetic nature were recieved in Humanities Room 165.

A sign that read "Africana Studies" valued at about \$300 was stolen off a wall causing \$100 damage in room 245 in the Social Behavioral Sciences Building.

10:40 a.m.

An ATM card was left in a cash machine and \$60.00 was removed from the account.

12:43 p.m.

A remote control is reported missing from Mount College.

Tuesday, January 28

12:41 p.m.

A cordless drill valued at \$129 is stolen from Irving College. stolen in Baruch College.

7:11 p.m.

A black and white blanket was \$220 is taken from a room in Toscanini College.

The Stony Brook Council will meet today from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m. in the Stimson International Living Studies Center penthouse. Please call Jill Wisneski at 632-6270 to confirm your attendance.



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Tabler Quad Next to Be Renovated

By RAYA EID
Statesman Staff

Due to the recent completion of half of the Kelly Quad renovations, students who lived in Baruch and Eisenhower during the Fall semester, were forced to move into the newly renovated buildings, Dewey and Hamilton, respectively. The vacant dorms in Kelly are in the process of being renovated and will reopen at the start of the fall 1997 semester. One student, Matthew Edwardson who was involved in the move from Baruch to Hamilton said that "despite the

problems that always go along with moving, in the end everything turned out for the best."

The Quad renovations have been a difficult and costly process. According to Fred Tokash, director of Residential Operations, each quad will cost approximately 10 million dollars to renovate. Renovations will include new computer centers, new fitness centers, handicap accessible dorms, energy efficient lighting, new heating and hot water systems, floor coverings, new furniture and elevator renovations as well.

Next up in the renovation cycle is Tabler quad. Renovations for Tabler are expected to begin in May, following commencement and completed by fall 1998. Both Roth and Roosevelt Quads have already been renovated and reactions have been positive.

If all goes according to schedule, Mendelsohn will be renovated in 1999 and H-Quad, the final project, by the year 2000. According to Tokash, University President Shirley Strum Kenny, promises that all the quad renovations will be completed by the year 2000. □

LGBT Conference to Be Held

The Long Island College Coalition is proud to host the 3rd Annual Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Northeast College Campus Conference. This event will take place during the weekend of April 11, 12, and 13 on the Stony Brook campus.

The Long Island College Coalition is excited to bring the LGBT Conference to Long Island, continuing the tradition started by SUNY Albany three years ago. The 3rd Annual College Conference is designed with two main goals: to educate college students about current queer issues, and to unite the Northeast LGBT college organizations. This year's conference promises to have more workshops, programs and caucuses. The cost is \$25 and includes all workshops, buffet dinner, a dance and lots more! Only \$15 for L.I. high school students.

This is your chance to prove that there is a strong, active and supportive College Community on Long Island. To find out how you can get involved visit the Stony Brook LGBTA located in the Student Union Room 045A. Please call (516) 632-6469 or leave an e-mail address at PRIDE@ic.sunysb.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Men's and Women's Basketball Split Against Keene State

(AMR)-Rob Hartman (Fr., Queens, NY) came off the bench to score 12 of his game-high 14 points in the second-half in leading the Stony Brook men's basketball team to its 57-45 win over Keene State in an NECC game at the USB Spots Complex.

Hartman and Bobby Mahoney (So., Bronx, NY) combined for 20 of the Seawolves 27 second-half points. Mahoney finished with 10 points and nine rebounds, while Neil Edwards' (So., New York, NY) 10 rebounds and three blocks were both game highs.

Ryan Hooper had 11 points and

seven rebounds for the Owls (1 - 14, 0 - 10 NECC), who led 38 - 37 with 10:44 left. Stony Brook outscored the Owls 20 - 7 from that point, improving to 8 - 8 (5 - 5 NECC).

In the women's game, Kerri Martin hit a short jump shot in the lane with :11.2 left lifting the Keene State women's basketball team to its 49 - 48 win over Stony Brook.

Trailing 47 - 43 with 1:08 left, Keene State's Carrie Trudeau made a three-pointer and was fouled. She converted the free throw to tie the score at 47 - 47.

Stony Brook's Donna Fennessy (Jr., Wantagh, NY) was fouled in the act of shooting with :23.3 left. Fennessy made one of two free throws to set up Martin's game winner.

Beth Grys (So., Orchard Park, NY) led the Seawolves (6 - 12, 2 - 8 NECC) with 12 points and nine rebounds.

Trudeau and Lindsay Arnold paced the Owls (6 - 9, 2 - 8 NECC) with 12 points each.

Men's Basketball Wins Second Straight Overtime Victory, Making Them 7 - 8

(AMR)-The University at Stony Brook men's basketball team has a flair for the dramatic. In the last four games, the Seawolves have gone double overtime three times in order to decide the outcome of its contest. The last such game came last Wednesday night against the Bridgeport Purple Knights.

After building a seemingly comfortable 19-point halftime lead behind Rob Hartman's 20 first half points, the Seawolves could not prevent Bridgeport from climbing back into the game. Behind excellent foul shooting, the Purple Knights scratched and clawed and eventually tied the score late to send the game into overtime.

In the first overtime, Rob Hartman nailed his sixth three-pointer of the game to keep the Seawolves close and when Demez Carrington made a key steal and a layup with :39 seconds left in the first overtime, the score was again tied at 76 and destined for a second overtime.

The second overtime was much like the first, with each team trading baskets and free throws; each team struggling to gain momentum. Stony Brook continued to look down low for offense and freshman Dave Gounis was the answer. The 6 - 5, 210 pound forward dominated underneath the basket as he piled up most of his career-high 17 points and 12 rebounds in the extra sessions.

As the second overtime drew to a close with the score tied at 85, Stony Brook had possession and called timeout to set up a play. After the timeout, senior Brian Hennessy caught the ball with time winding down and faked his shot and went around his man to pull up and hit an 18-foot jumper to put the Seawolves ahead to stay at 87-85 with :9.5 seconds remaining.

Stony Brook had done it again — their second straight double overtime victory. With the win, they improved their conference record to 7 - 8 overall, 4 - 5 in the rugged New England Collegiate Conference.

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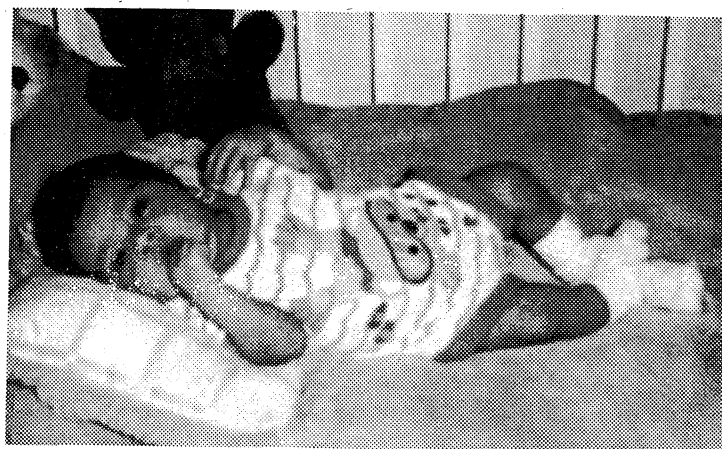
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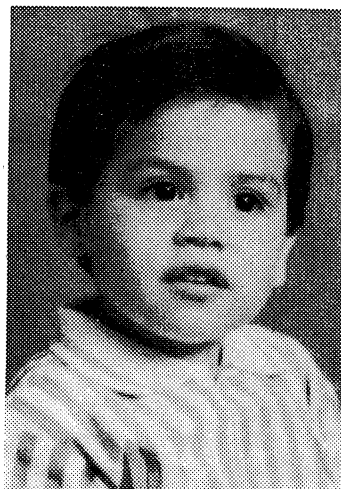
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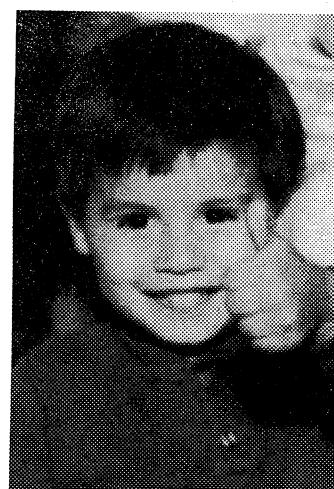
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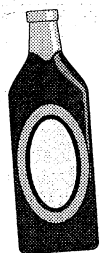
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EDITORIALS

Sorry, But You Can't Eat In Here

The new Student Activities Center does not seem to be frequented by many residents on campus. There is a very good reason why. Many of those residents who are enrolled in a meal plan cannot eat at the SAC because the meal plan isn't being accepted there.

Many of these residents haven't even stepped foot into the SAC because they figure, why bother, there's nothing there for me to use.

Even though the University knew approximately when the SAC was going to open, they never made any plans for it to be included in the bidding proposal process. That process involved choosing a food contractor based on what kind of figures they could give based on the dining area that existed before the SAC was opened. All of this was going on last Spring.

The Faculty Student Association couldn't include the SAC in the bidding process because they were not told until the last minute that they would also be responsible for that too. That is why the SAC cannot accept meal cards because the cost to run that dining facility would increase the overhead cost well above the \$682 students are paying now.

It is impossible to think that the University would have thought that the more than 4,000 residents students on the meal plan would not mind not being able to eat in the newest facility on campus. It is in fact called the "Student" Activities Center, is it not? That means *all* students. While it is very important that this was geared with commuter

students in mind, the University should have also thought about those residents who are on the meal plan.

We all know about the huge lines that form in most of the eating areas during lunch time. One more facility is not going to significantly alleviate that problem. Ever since the

SAC opened, lunch time doesn't look much different if you go to any of the dining areas that were open before. The mobs and huge lines are still there. Apparently, the SAC has not changed much. If it did we wouldn't be on lines for 10 minutes to get our food, another 10 to wait to pay for

the food and then another 10 minutes going in circles to find a seat.

Many students on campus are not happy with the SAC and this is only one of the reasons why. Something must be done and fast before the building is left there with no one wanting to use it.

Avoid the Grass

The area in front of the new Student Activities Center, which was once covered with wire fences is now an open area where students can walk through while going through class. There's an area in front of the SAC that actually has grass and trees in it, making that area look a lot more pleasing.

Everyone complained about the rocks which covered

some of the area surrounding the SAC, and asked that it be replaced with grass. While that hasn't happened as of yet, everyone should try to preserve that area where there actually is grass so that it can keep looking as good as it does now. When people begin to start walking on the grass to use as a short cut, it begins looking like a path of dirt.

That area is going to be great come spring time, because it will be the only place that students will be able to sit in and read a book under a tree or hang out. Those type of areas aren't exactly in abundance in the academic mall. There should be more like them in the future, but for now we should preserve what we have.



The Stony Brook
Statesman

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Second Contract Victories for TA's and GA's

By Scott West

The Teaching Assistants and the Graduate Assistants of the Graduate Student Employees Union have settled their second contract, at last. A General Membership Meeting of TA's and GA's will be held February 6 at 7 p.m. in Javits Lecture Hall 109.

A 'yes' vote of the signed membership is required to approve the contract. Ratification will be determined by a vote of the signed membership of the union through voting by mail. Ballots were sent out January 27, and are due back to the GSEU Albany office no later than February 21.

TA's and GA's who have not received a ballot in the mail can still vote if they sign a union card. If your department does not have a steward or has run out of cards, you can still sign up at the February 6 General Membership Meeting.

Some TA's will be surprised to find ballots in their mailboxes this week. Some will be upset that they have not received a ballot. Everyone will have the chance to vote and to become informed and active

in their union. Of course, TA's and GA's should vote. The settling of the new contract represents a step forward for graduate employees in the SUNY system and the culmination of two years' work.

The new contract is not a cure-all. It enhances the rights gained for graduate employees in the first GSEU contract of 1993. That contract was a weak one by the standards of a typical labor union. However, the GSEU is not a typical labor union.

Many factors figured into the difficulty of completing the first contract negotiations. In the first place, graduate employees, hired on a year to year basis, are virtually temporary employees. Continuity, which is very important for leadership, is difficult to maintain. Secondly, the State used a legal technicality to exclude Research Assistants from the union; and therefore, cut the potential membership of the GSEU in half. Finally, SUNY had fought against the unionization of graduate employees for so long, about 12 years, that its final agreement to negotiate was a major victory

in and of itself.

In the first GSEU contract, TA's and GA's won employee health insurance, wage increases, and a grievance procedure. This new contract builds on those strengths, particularly in the area of health care, as well as improving conditions in areas like parking.

Health insurance for TA's and GA's will improve, particularly in the area of service. As of August 15, 1997, TA's and GA's will be able to choose a gatekeeper from a list of network physicians. People can still decide to go to the campus health center, but the infirmary will no longer be the sole primary care provider. Prescription coverage is doubled to \$1200 per year. Full coverage for doctor's visits is extended from 10 to 15 per year, with improved coverage for further visits, among other improvements.

After two years of stagnation without a contract, wages are moving up again. TA's and GA's will receive a \$275 dollar bonus this semester, a \$350 bonus and a 3.5% wage increase in Spring 1998, and

another 3.5% wage increase in the Spring of 1999 in the proposed new contract.

The grievance procedure has been expanded in scope and simplified in process. Although the contract cannot be entirely enforced by formal grievances alone, no contract ever is. Activism solves problems eventually.

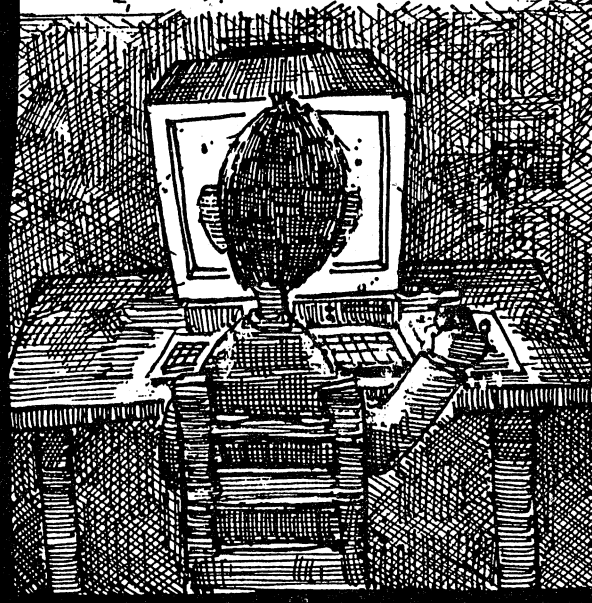
After two full years without a contract, most unions are lucky to end negotiations where they began. Our sophomore contract actually improves upon the first and proves that the GSEU has staying power.

The GSEU represents almost 4,000 TA's and GA's in the SUNY system, about 850 work at Stony Brook. The GSEU can be reached at 2-7729 or SBS 404N. Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are a TA or GA and have not received a ballot to vote in the contract ratification, call us. If you want to become a steward, and represent the union in your department, let us know.

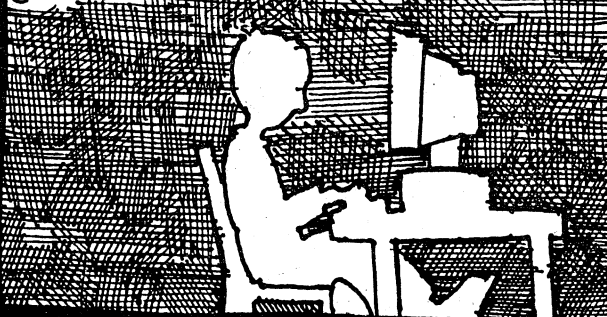
The author is a Staff Employee of the Graduate Student Employees Union.

op-ed (by r.jay magill, jr.):

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Can I Get a Receipt?

There are usually a few well placed ads regarding a woman's choice for abortion in various newspapers, including *The Statesman*. There are also a few smaller ads in fine print for couples willing to adopt a child from a college student who is unwilling or unable to keep a baby, but not willing to choose abortion as a viable option.

Adoption used to fall into the idea

of children being abandoned on doorsteps in baskets. Now it has become big business for adoption agencies. If couples don't opt for the newly popular medical treatments such as in vitro fertilization or the GIFT program (similar to in vitro), adoption is another way for a family to have children. When a parent gives up their child for adoption, they don't

give a receipt to the adoptive parent to return the child, nor can it tell where the child came from.

When a birth mother gives a child up for adoption, they have the right to attach a contact veto to the adoption, which prevents the child from knowing who they are or where they came from. In addition the child does not

have the right to meet their birth parents in the future. However, statistics from Confidential Intermediary show that 95 percent of birth parents who are contacted by their child welcome the contact.

Currently, there is a debate on whether adoptions records should be open for the child to find out such necessary information such as a family medical history.

"The opponents to opening the records are the opponents of abortion, the Catholic conference, the National council on adoption. . . in New York state we don't have enough support by the adoptive parents for open records," said Joyce Bahr of the Manhattan Birth Center, who is also a birth mother. In some states, such as New Jersey when the adoptive parents work with the adoptees and birth mother, the State Department and Social Services encourage open records.

"As far as a women's rights issue, adoption is big business. It exploits women through coercive measures, today a little more subtle than in 1966 when I was coerced to give up my child. . . attorneys are making money so I think they want to package adoption as it is, as closed," said Bahr. Some attorneys may think that couples will be more willing to adopt if records are closed because it poses less of a threat. Adoptive parents may fear that if their adopted child wishes to meet their birth parents,

they may leave them or love them less.

According to Bahr, "there should be more concern about informed consent as a women's issue and more emphasis on women keeping their babies."

There's always a trend in society, whether it's safe sex, no sex, or



According to Eve

By Brooke Donatone



abortion. I know a girl who decided to keep her baby at 17 years old. She obviously couldn't stay out all night for her senior prom or go away to school and write home about all the frat

parities she went to. She's missing out on a major portion of her life to raise her daughter, not to mention that her daughter isn't being raised in the best situation being that her mother can't afford to give her everything she needs.

Women are often told they are too young to raise a child. If a young mother or couple feels ready to keep a child and are able to they should be encouraged to. However, many teenagers who do become pregnant are too young to keep a baby. Would adoption have been better for this child?

Bahr conceded that women she's talked to all over the world discuss giving up their child as unnatural and the consequences as unavoidable.

"There's still a message in our culture that adoption is the best thing that you're doing. But if adoption should be presented as only another option, never as the best thing. When you're relinquishing a child you don't know if it will be the best thing for you or for the child," said Bahr.

Thirty years ago when a teenager got pregnant and she sent away to another state to give birth. She received little support from her parents and no support from her boyfriend who wanted to sleep with her but not suffer the consequences with her. Today, fathers seem to play a more supportive role with their girlfriend in the adoption process. "In our times fathers really weren't there, today they are," said Bahr.

It's always difficult to make a decision, let alone one you may never regret. But it's a lot more difficult to make a choice when it's not your own.

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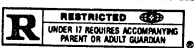
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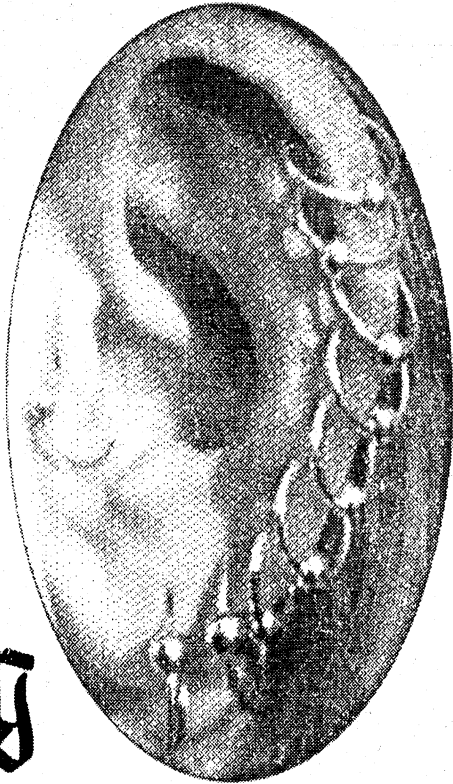


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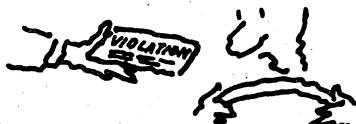
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FEATURES

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & STUDENT LIFE

Thursday, January 30, 1997

Beware of Magazine Sweepstake Scams

By NATALIE CASALE
Statesman Staff

Students are being targeted by various sweepstakes companies that are trying to scam them into subscribing for magazines they do not even want by getting their credit card numbers.

Recently, I got a postcard in the mail that read "We're going nuts trying to reach you, Please call us at this toll free number." There was no name of any company on it or what it was concerning. I proceeded to call the number since it was free of charge. A man answered the phone and still would not tell me what this was about. After about five minutes, I finally found out that I was the proud winner of the sweepstakes. I was quite reluctant to stay on the phone longer but I did. The man told me I won a vacation, a diamond Quartz watch and a free subscription to three magazines.

Here is the catch. He told me that I had to subscribe to a fourth magazine for a third of the standard price—\$2.63 a week. However, he did not tell me how long I would have to pay this money. He then asked me for my credit card number just for verification. After he got this information,

he explained that I would have to pay this for the next six months. This comes out to a total of \$63.12 for a one year subscription for one magazine. This is illegal.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, "To show eligibility, you may be asked for your credit card number. . . Legitimate sweepstakes do not need your credit card number to award a prize." I called the National Fraud Information Center where an telephone agent told me, "If they ask you or your credit card number, they are definitely crooks."

This also happened to Alexandra Belanich by a random telephone call. One day, Belanich received a telephone call from the sweepstakes telling her she won the exact thing previously mentioned. She also would receive subscriptions to magazines and then was told she would have to pay only \$64.14. Belanich was asked for her credit card number for verification. "I thought they needed it to verify who I was because that was what they told me, but I was wrong," Belanich said. After she gave the number, she was informed that it would be eight payments of \$64.14. Belanich argued that she could not afford this ridiculous price but

the company refused to cancel her "order."

"I was so upset," Belanich said, "I called back and screamed at them until they agreed to cancel it and then called my credit card company to make sure they wouldn't accept this charge."

Many credit card companies have warranties that do not allow charges when the customer is not informed of the price until after the charge card is given.

The Federal Trade Commission explains through the World Wide Web that many magazines sweepstakes try to scam people with these things:

- You may receive an official-looking letter that instructs you to call an '800' number.

- You may be asked to send hundreds of dollars by overnight services to "prepay takes" or make a "refundable deposit" or cover shipping and handling costs.

- You may be asked for your credit card number for verification.

These fraudulent companies get your telephone numbers through such credit cards as MasterCard, Visa and American Express. However, if you have a student credit card, beware because these companies are after students more frequently. Many colleges sell

their student credit card lists ignorant of their fraudulence. "The companies sometimes go after students because they think they are naive and quite often they are," said a representative at Suffolk Consumer Affairs.

Many fraudulent sweepstakes companies do not accept oral cancellations of the subscriptions. If one wants to cancel their order, they must write a letter stating the cancellation. This must be done in a limited period of time. To cancel a magazine sweepstakes subscription, the Federal Trade Commission explains what should be done:

- When the sales agreement arrives, in the mail, find the cancellation notice, which may be very difficult to find.

- Sign and return the cancellation notice by certified or registered mail to provide proof of your mailing date or photocopy the notice.

- When you send the cancellation form, contact your bank or credit card to stop unauthorized payments.

If your contract is beyond the cancellation period and you have paid in full, the company is not required to refund your money. If you fail to meet the company's payment plan, you will be contacted by collection agencies or threatened with legal action and a bad credit rating.

There are various sales techniques to the scams. Sometimes you receive a phone call or a postcard. First, the phone agent tells you what you won but it soon turns into a sales pitch. The person usually seems sickeningly excited about your prize. The person usually does not identify themselves or the company they work for. They may inform you that they are representatives of credit card companies or magazine publishers. They will also encourage purchases without telling you the total amount. The company representative will tell you the subscription lasts many years when, in fact it lasts much less than that. According to the Federal Trade Commission, "They may say they are 'approved' or 'regulated' by the federal, state or local government; in fact, no governmental body actually approves magazine-selling operations."

Many people are scammed by these types of operations each year. There are places to call to help rectify these scams. If you have been victimized by a telephone magazine scam, notify your State Attorney General or local consumer protection office. People can also file complaints with the Federal Trade Commission. The address is: Correspondence Branch, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580. The FTC does not help individual cases but can help to locate patterned behaviors. Victims can also file complaints with the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060.

As more and more people speak out about these magazine scams, the government can take action. So, if this happens to you, write down as much information about the phone call and file a complaint. □

Feral House Tells the Life of Ed Wood

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

One name is synonymous with the low budget, striving to be more than they are movies of the '50's and 60's: Ed Wood. Or Edward D. Wood, Jr. as he always clearly stated it.

Many people were first exposed a few years ago to the wacky ideas of Wood, via Tim Burton's flick simply titled *Ed Wood*. Starring Johnny Depp, the film was hailed as a masterpiece in its filming style and acclaimed for its highly comedic moments. What people were unaware of was the reference book Burton used for his movie, Rudolph Grey's *Nightmare Of Ecstasy: The Life and Art of Edward D. Wood, Jr.* Published by Feral House Press, the first run was feverishly consumed by Wood's loyal cult following and demanded another slew of pressings.

The first thing that is noticeable in the book is that Grey opts to not tell the story of the man, but lets the people who really knew him tell the story through well sorted out quotes. From Maila Nurmi (a.k.a. Vampira) to his wife, Kathy, everybody offers pieces of info as to what it was like to work with, know and love the man behind such bizarre films as *Plan 9 From Outer Space* and *Glen or Glenda*.

Plan 9 is widely labelled the "worst film ever made" and Wood the "worst director of all time." Of course, people say this once the man is dead and can't defend himself, but, ironically, these titles have brought on a whole new crop of fans sparked by the curiosity. Wood's works have been huge influences on many of today's film makers and, even, musicians. Glenn Danzig named his label Plan 9 from the movie and wrote "Vampira," a tribute to one of Wood's acting group.

It's also quite interesting to see the differences between what really happened and what Burton switched around for convenience to keep his movie at a more accepted time length. The true beauty of this book lies in the obscure photos that Grey collected to make this much more than just a story about an imaginative director, making this a visual documentary and testament to the man. The other gem is the list of projects that Wood had worked on, but were never completed. There's tons more to tell, but that's what the book is for.

Grey gives us every nook and cranny into Ed Wood. "No punches were pulled," as Wood would've said.

Nightmare of Ecstasy gives us a glimpse at a man who was truly dedicated to his work. He lived for it and didn't let any obstacle get

in his way. Even after his demise, his films continue to be analyzed and appreciated by new generations who weren't fortunate enough to know the man directly.

Feral House has also expanded to release music, as well. New releases include a *Swans* live and unreleased collection album on vinyl, Adam Parfrey and Parfrey with Project Monarch. Also in the works is a book and CD entitled *Lords of Chaos* focusing on the notorious black metal scene.

Feral House has also recently released *Burzum's* latest release, *Filosofem*, domestically. The label has done an excellent job in transferring the book style format case of the early runs of the import into a normal size digipak. All of the artwork remains intact and the lyrics are included in several languages. Currently serving for murder, band leader Varg Vikernes is having more success now than when he was a free man. An integral character in the whole Norwegian black metal scene, *Lords of Chaos* will surely explore Varg's persona and activities much more than anybody has thus far. Like its artists, Feral House focuses on the bizarre, and certainly not what the mainstream, curious parties and open minds should write:

FERAL HOUSE
PO Box 3466
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