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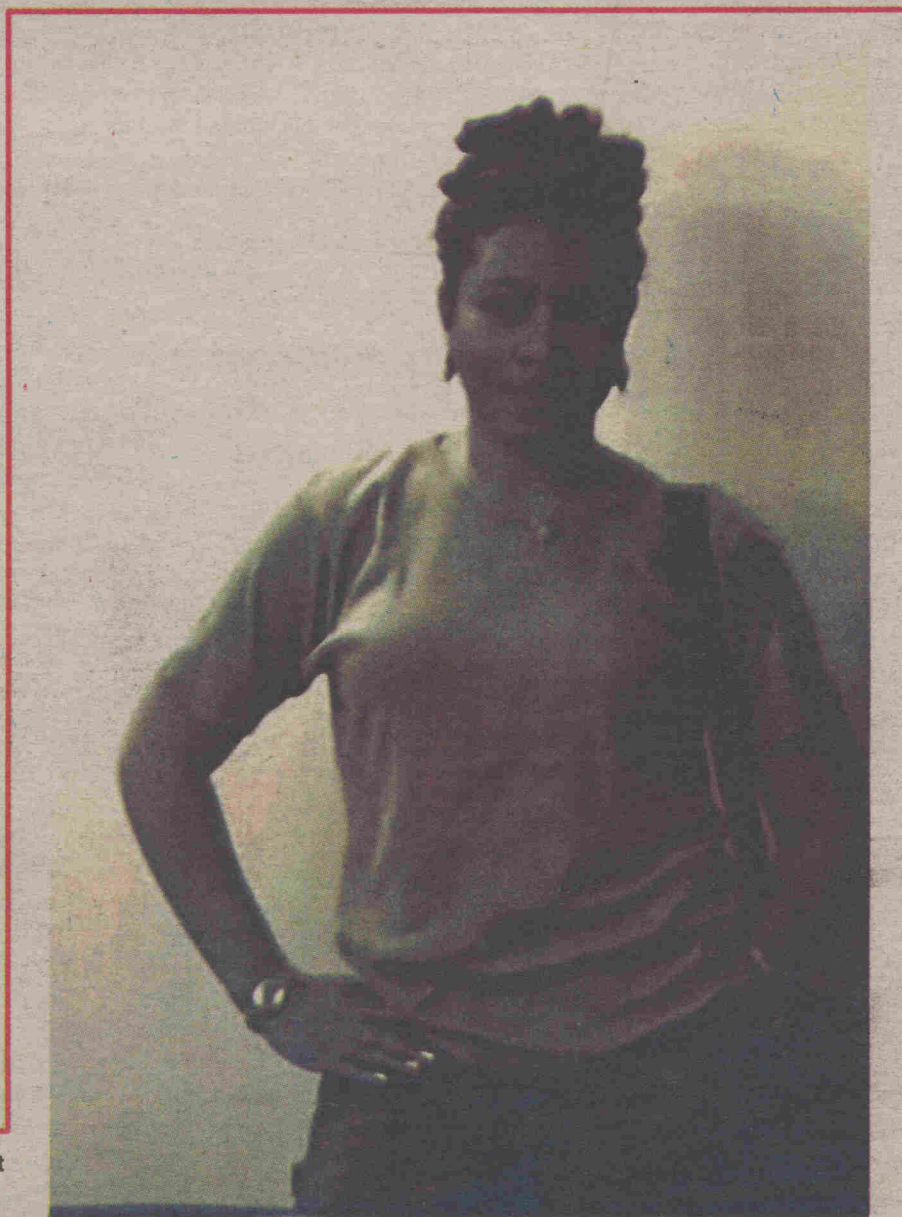
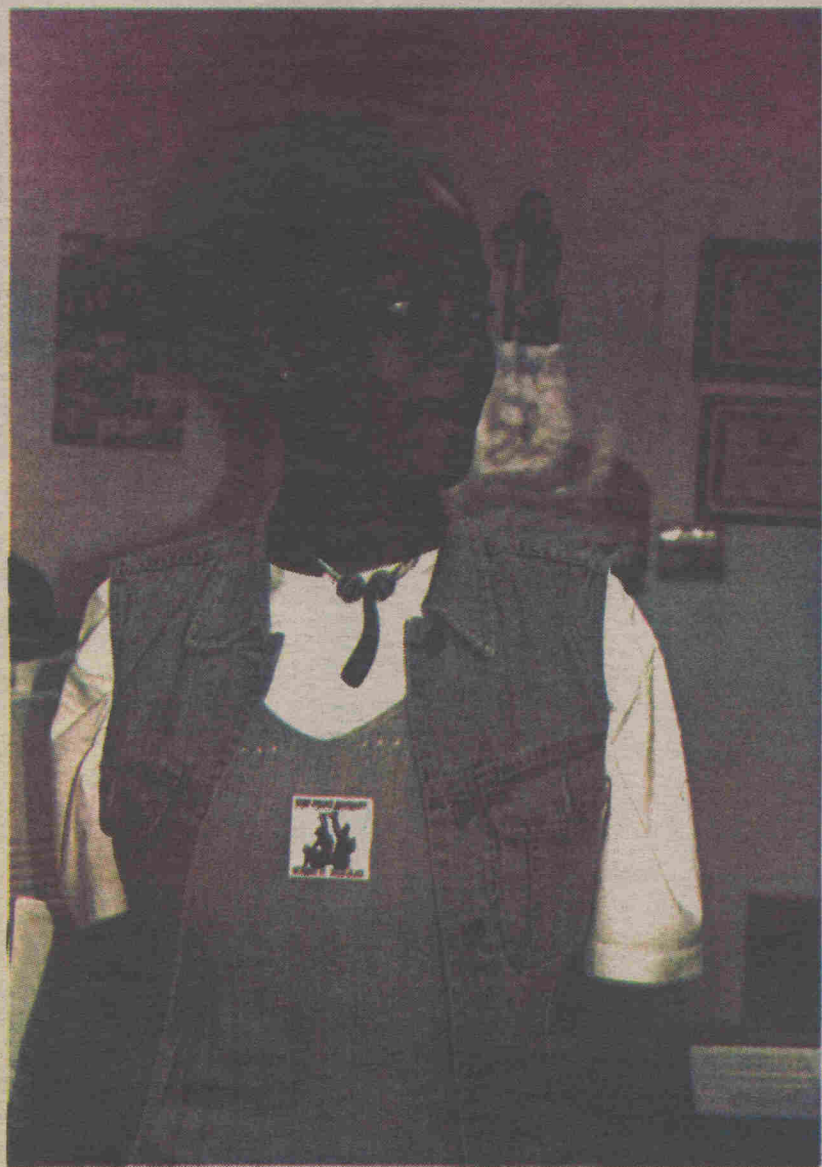
Statesman

VOLUME XLI, NUMBER 52

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1998

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Battle Royal



Above, Polity President Monique Maylor, Right
President-Elect Aneka Gibbs

Polity Leaders Throw Verbal Punches At Each Other While Defending Themselves Against Corruption Charges, Full Coverage Pg. 3

CRR

Facing Down the Charges

Maylor and Gibbs Agree on One Thing, the Other is Corrupt

BY JENNIFER KESTER &
PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editors

With allegations of corruption swirling in the wake of this year's election campaign, both this year's Polity president and next year's president-elect came out swinging to defend themselves in interviews this weekend—sometimes at each other. Both student leaders said that the allegations made against them are the result of political mudslinging.

Polity President Monique Maylor will face an impeachment hearing this Thursday along with Polity Treasurer Marjorie Eyma over charges that she embezzled money from student funds for her birthday party last November.

"They have nothing to go on," Maylor said. "They [the Senate] went out of their way to try and find things." The charges were very trivial, she said.

Maylor and Eyma have been accused by the Senate's impeachment committee of offering a service contract for disc jockeying Maylor's birthday party to Elvis Rodriguez. Rodriguez has sent a letter to Polity's Executive Director Steve Adams agreeing with the allegation.

Maylor accused Rodriguez of concurring with the accusations because Eyma had accused him of charging Polity too much for the parties that he oversaw. "People are holding grudges. He was just mad at her," Maylor said. She called Rodriguez's exact memory of the incident "convenient." Rodriguez was

unavailable for comment this weekend.

Maylor also defended the Polity Council against allegations that they were receiving kickbacks from organizations on campus that they had agreed to fund. "If Polity was that corrupt," she said, "I wouldn't need an outside job."

"By the time they start the impeachment hearings I'll be gone anyway," Maylor said.

Some Senators, including commuter Frank Santangelo, have said that the Senate would seek ways outside of Polity to have Maylor punished.

"That's typical of Monique, utter arrogance," Santangelo said about Maylor's suggestion that the Senate's action were for naught because of the near completion of the semester. "This is just the tip of the iceberg. The Senate body will see her in the fall at the District Attorney's office."

Maylor said, "I wish they'd do that so I can hire a lawyer and sue them for stupidly investigating me."

Aneka Gibbs, the incoming Polity president-elect, has not been silent about the allegations facing Maylor and the present council. She spoke at last week's Senate meeting about the corruption she saw in Maylor's administration. "It's kind

of late in the semester, but still I don't feel that if you do something wrong, you should be allowed to get away with it and I

hope that the situation will be wrapped up pretty quickly."

Gibbs would not promise,

"By the time they start the impeachment hearings I'll be gone anyway," Maylor said.



though, to look into Polity's accounting books when she takes office to see whether the allegations against Maylor are true.

Gibbs is facing numerous charges herself.

Gibbs was the subject of a student judiciary hearing last Monday regarding an altercation in early February. She was charged, along with several of her friends, in an assault on fellow student Natalie Washington. Washington charged Gibbs in jumping on her during the attack and that Gibbs was holding a belt as a weapon.

"They called me into a hearing but I didn't have a big part in it. I tried to break it up," Gibbs said, "I just received my letter saying that I was found not responsible [by student judiciary]. That was a situation where a couple of my friends got into an altercation with Natalie and I went down and tried to resolve it and somehow, my name got

mixed up in the scuffle."

Washington said, "As I see it, she shouldn't be head of nothing because she obviously does not have any ethics."

Washington said Gibbs was found innocent because of her influence over the board. "She has friends on student judiciary," she said, "It's just not rational that she could be found innocent. If I can't get a fair trial, then no one else can."

Gibbs denies that she had any influence over the judiciary board.

More serious for Gibbs, according to sources within the Polity Senate, may be charges that she is tied to another assault, involving a tazer gun, on another student who had made comments about her during a WUSB radio show.

On April 17, Derrin Maxwell, a host of "The Message," was attacked by three non-student males who allegedly entered his room and shot him with a Tazer gun in the chest. He was punched in the face repeatedly and was hit over the head with a chair. He was later treated and released from the University Hospital. The matter is under felony investigation by the Sixth Precinct of the Suffolk County Police.

Maxwell had questioned on air the results of this semester's Polity elections, suggesting that a purported Gibbs' friendship with several members of the election board was instrumental in her win over current Vice-President Diane Lopez. Maxwell also said that Gibbs did not have the qualifications to take the new post.

"The remark that I remember was he said that everyone who voted for me was an idiot," said Gibbs about Maxwell's comments.

Shortly after the radio show aired, Maxwell received a

Maylor Discusses Her Year in Office

As she sets to leave this campus for graduate school in physical therapy, Polity President Monique Maylor has found it hard to remain upbeat about her legacy as student body leader with corruption allegations swirling.

"I'm getting an ulcer," she says, "I can't get mad over these things." Maylor said that she had to stop attending all of the Senate meetings late this semester because of the charges continually made against her. "You can't work with them," she said about her senate colleagues, "They don't do anything."

Talking about her year as Polity president this weekend, Maylor was also unkind about University's view of students.

"I feel as though they don't take

students seriously," she said.

Maylor called on the Senate to stop investigating her, and instead spend their time on what she said were more important campus issues, including, she said, the housing crisis and recent allegations of money missing from the African Studies program.

Maylor was much happier with Polity's permanent employees. "The staff on a whole at Polity are excellent. From the executive secretary to the executive director. They keep us up," she said.

"I don't regret being Polity president," Maylor said. She had a hard time, though, picking out her happiest moments as student leader.

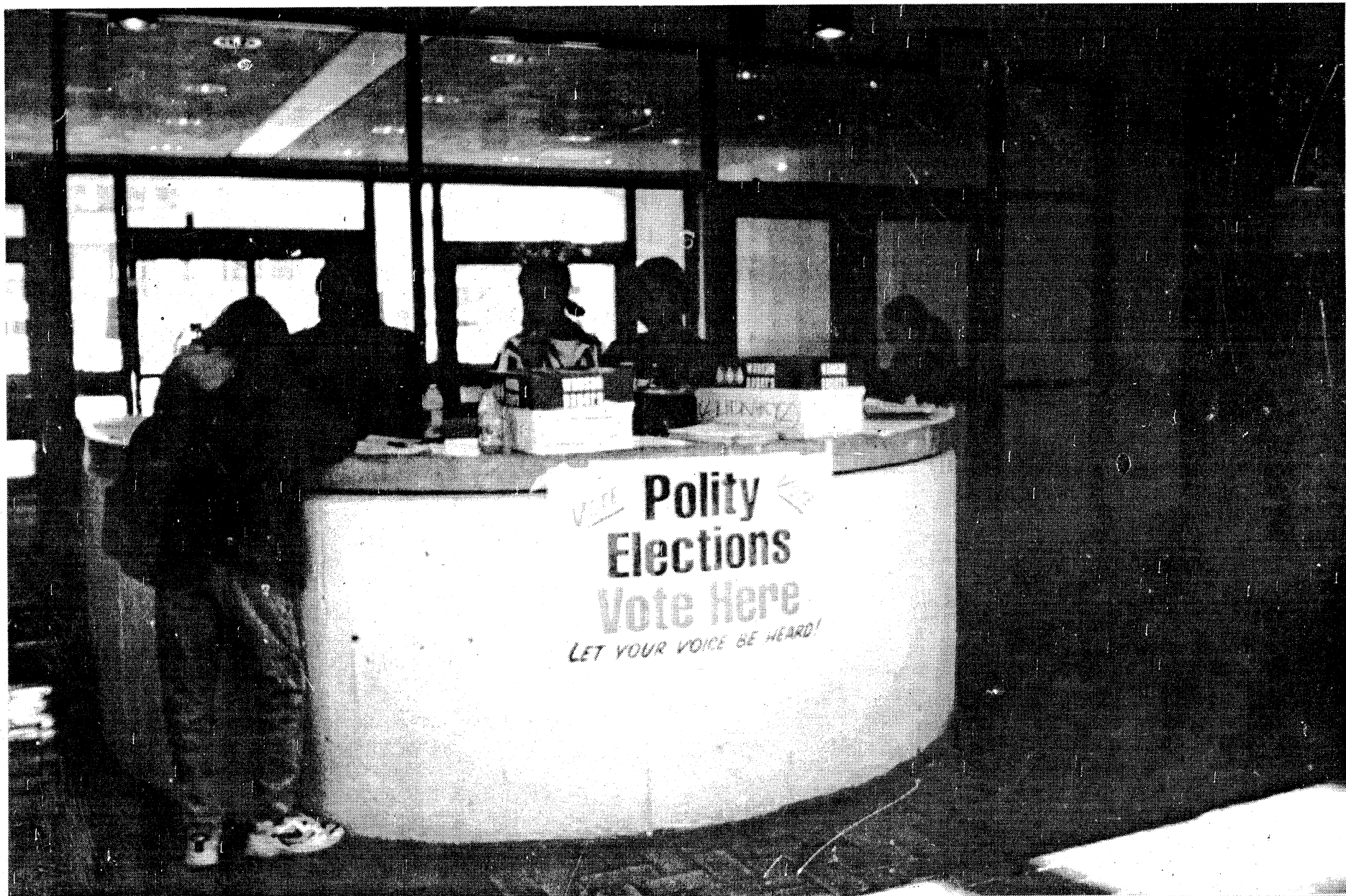
"I can't say what my biggest

accomplishment is because I'm sad about everything that's happened, I don't know where Polity's headed," she said referring to her successor, Aneka Gibbs.

When pressed, Maylor said that pushing through the part-time student activity fee, which would increase Polity's coffers, and her work on behalf of students caught in the housing crisis were her biggest achievements.

For now, Maylor said she is focusing on graduation and her future. "I'm thinking about beyond Stony Brook," she said, "All they [her accusers] are thinking about is getting me out of office."

—Peter Gratton



Students vote, above, in this year's Polity elections. Left, Marjorie Eyma defends her Council in questioning during last week's Senate meetings, right. In the background, Ken Daube of the Senate's Internal Affairs Committee listens on. Bottom left, Polity President-elect Aneka Gibbs. Bottom right, Commuter Senator Frank Santangelo.

threatening phone call, which he reported to University Police. The caller had asked Maxwell, according to police reports, "were you bad mouthing Aneka?"

Maxwell believes Gibbs is among those responsible for the attack, citing her relationship with USB student George Lindsay. According to one witness, Maxwell had been approached by Lindsay several hours before the attack, and that Lindsay was with one of the people that had assaulted Maxwell.

Lindsay, according to Maylor and others who attended a Caribbean Student Organization boat ride two weeks ago, was holding a stun gun on the ride. The boat had to be turned around because of the incident.

One of those on the trip, Maha Osman, a student activities board member, said that security had pointed out Lindsay as having the gun.

"The head of security pulled me aside and said that that guy [Lindsay] had a stun gun," Osman said, "the boat had to be turned around an hour and half early because of it."

"I don't even remember the incident," Lindsay said, "I think it was all rumor."

Both Lindsay and Aneka deny that they are dating, although they agree that they are acquaintances.

"I have nothing to do with all of this. I feel very upset that my name was all over the place. All I want to

do is to graduate and get my degree," said Lindsay.

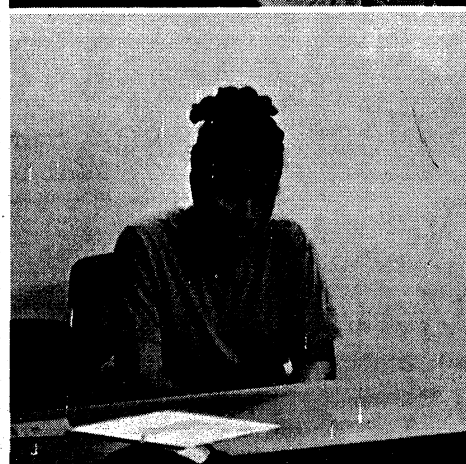
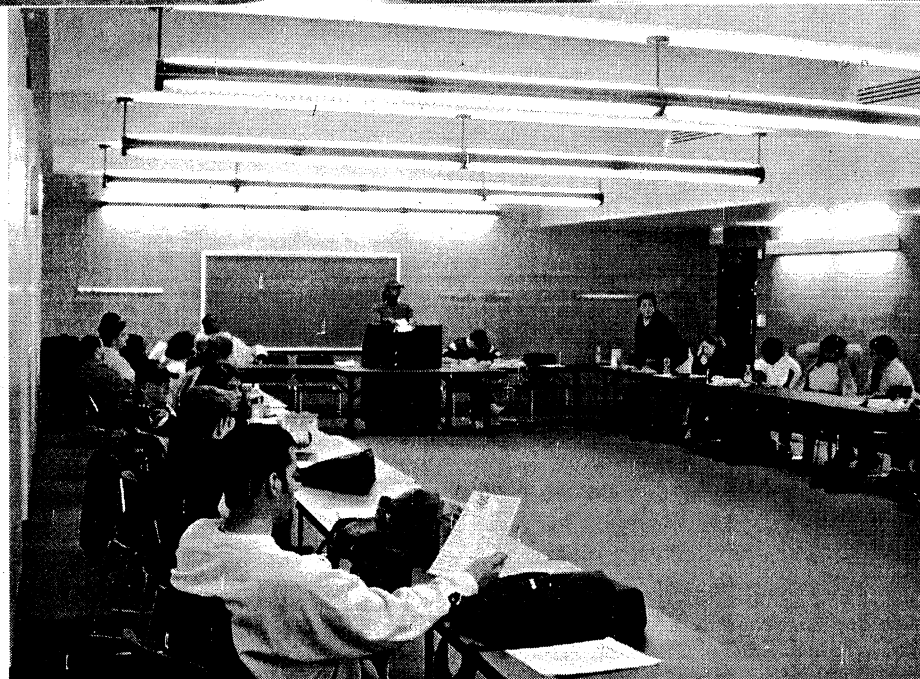
"I am not saying that George did or did not take a part in it

because I really don't know," Gibbs said.

Gibbs feels that all of these allegations are linked back to Maylor. "I feel that they [Maylor, Lopez and Eyma] are very unhappy that I won and they are holding onto the last straw to try to take me down," Gibbs said.

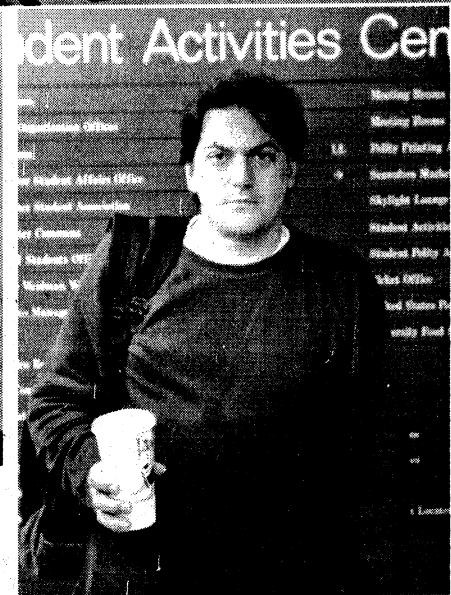
"I feel that they would go far enough as Derrin beating himself up. I just think that they are trying to do anything to get me out of office. I think that they will be trying till the day they leave and after."

Gibbs has accused Maylor of going to administration officials to try to keep her from office. "Monique went to Fred Preston [vice



president for student affairs], Gary Mis [director of judicial affairs], and a couple of other people," Gibbs said, "I got called into a lot of administrative offices and I was personally insulted by that effort."

For her part, Maylor has not



shied away from commenting on the affair. "Who else would jump Derrin?" she said.



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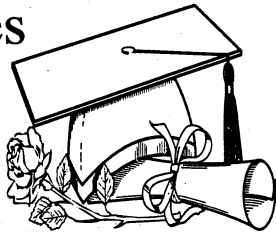
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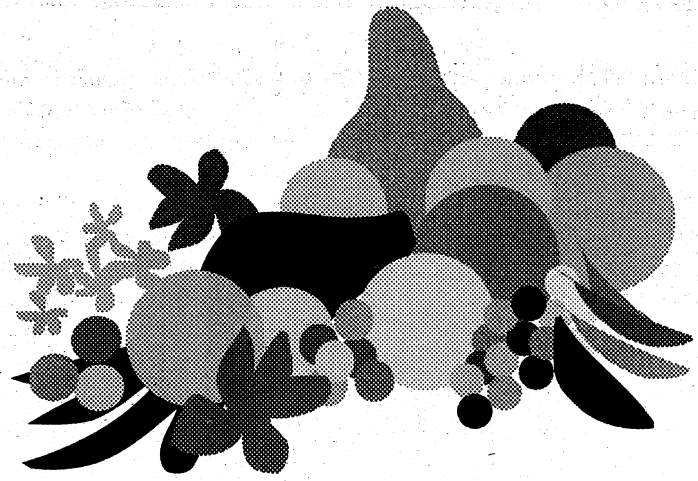
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Alleged Cult Seeks Campus Recognition

By PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editor

(March 12) Last week, an alleged cult operating on the University grounds was denied in its application to be officially recognized as a campus club.

Despite complaints lodged by parents about the group to the dean of students, and the University's belief that the organization is a front for the International Church of Christ, a group whose history has been marked by controversy, the club was denied recognition simply because they have not yet found a faculty advisor.

According to the University's registration policies and procedures for on-campus clubs, a group seeking recognition by the University must meet a number of guidelines, including a pledge to keep membership open to all students, completion of an application that must include contact information for at least four Stony Brook students involved with the proposed club, a completed constitution setting up the club's framework, as well as the choice of the campus advisor who has agreed to help the club. Campus Advance, the group in question, failed to meet the last two standards.

"The policy is that a University organization must have a University faculty member as a staff advisor. The reason that they were denied is because they didn't have one," said Tami Goodstein, assistant director for student activities.

The members of Campus Advance had tried to become an official club last semester under the name Alpha and Omega, and were denied then for similar reasons.

Clubs that are not recognized by Student Activities cannot reserve access to lounges and other building sites on campus.

"The group that I have received personal

Complaints about has been the International Church of Christ," said Carmen Vazquez, dean of students. Vazquez said that complaints from families about the group have included "cutting off [members] from their families. The element of time required to the group is significant," she said.

A source close to the administration told *Statesman* that at least two freshman were recruited by the group this year.

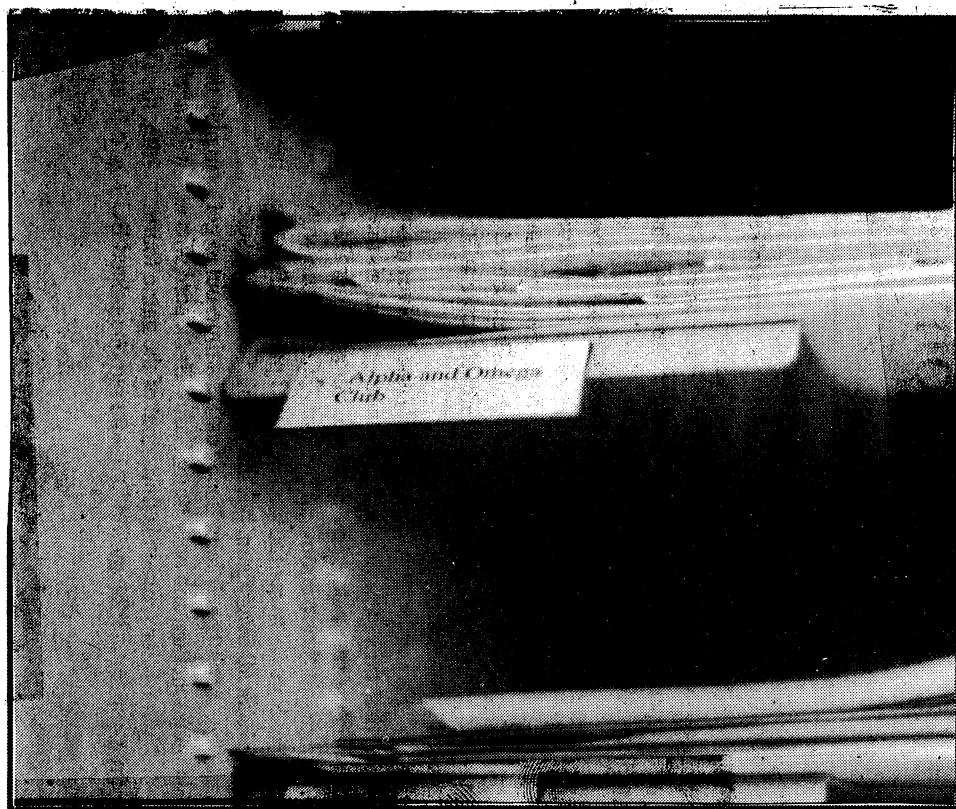
The International Church of Christ claims that it has 329 churches in 140 countries across the world. The group was formed in 1979, and was soon known as the Boston Church of Christ.

Calling themselves a "flickering flame in a universe of demonic darkness," as stated on their web site, the Boston Church of Christ has faced criticism at colleges across the nation for its methods of recruiting. Like many groups that have been accused of being cults, the Boston Church of Christ has been charged with drawing interest from students without immediately revealing the nature of their organization. In one published account, BCC members set up a volleyball net on the campus of Boston University, and called on student passerby's to join the game.

According to Peter Mastroianni, a health educator at Student Health Services, the University does not have specific numbers about how many students have been approached and recruited by any cults on campus.

We have no reason to believe that it is widespread," he said.

We are aware of cult activity on campus in several buildings," Mastroianni said, "We get calls from family members asking what they can do."



Statesman/ Tee Lek D. Ying

Earlier this semester, Alpha and Omega, now known as Campus Advance, still had a mailbox in the Student Activities Center. Campus Advance will soon be reapplying to become an official University Club. (see story below)

A former member of the group, and a student, who did not want his identity revealed, told *Statesman* that he has friends in the group, and characterized Alpha and Omega, now Campus Advance, as "a cult."

Vazquez highlighted the difficulty that a University faces when it receives a complaint that a cult has been operating on its campus. "Two things are important," she said. "Everyone has a right to belong to what they believe

in, but I believe that rights and responsibility must come with informed decisions." Vazquez wanted to make clear that any information that leads students to believe that the International Church of Christ, Alpha and Omega, or Campus Advance are recognized clubs by the University is inaccurate. "It's important for students to know that this group is not registered at Stony Brook at this time."

Campus Advance can still reapply to become an official club. The group learned earlier this week that its application was denied by the University, but their application can be re-submitted if and when they find a faculty advisor and have completed a constitution for the club.

As long as Campus Advance meets the University's guidelines, the administration can have little to say about the new club.

We'll have to review [any new application] in its totality," Goodstein said. "They must meet the general provisions in the registration policy, as well as state and federal law."

Tracy Shelton, a lawyer with the New York Public Interest Research Group, said that the University may be able to deny the application based on recent case law involving colleges that wanted to remove fraternities off of their campuses. "There are things they can do, they will have to go through certain procedures and the University would have to prove that the organization is harmful to students," she said. "But psychological harm is a murky area in the law."

The University, for now, is making plans to have further workshops in cult awareness to educate students and staff about the affects that cults can have within the community.

"It's not the biggest problem on campus in terms of numbers, but we are concerned because of how deeply people are affected," Mastroianni said. "it destroys their lives."

Campus Advance Leader Responds to Charges

By PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editor

(April 27) A month after a *Statesman* cover story told the campus about an alleged cult operating on the campus, its leader denied the allegations made in the article, saying his group is "just friends trying to live by the Bible."

The leader called the charges made in our earlier article "ridiculous," but declined to be interviewed if his last name was released to the public. The group leader, whose first name is Ivan, said he feared that his family would be worried and that he had concerns about his own privacy.

"We try to help students implement the Bible in their lives, we don't twist anything," Ivan said.

Ivan said that he was "shocked" by complaints that families had made to administration officials that they were being cut off from their children, and that the element of time required by the group was significant. Ivan denies that his group is a cult and takes its members away from their family and school work.

"My family is very important to me," Ivan said. "I go back every weekend."

"I concede that maybe some [members]

may not be close to their families though," he said.

Ivan said that members of the group may have arguments with their family because they are attending a different church.

The group Ivan heads on campus, Alpha Omega, is a subsidiary organization for the International Church of Christ. The ICC claims on its website that it has over 329 churches in 140 countries.

Campus Advance had come under scrutiny by the campus administration earlier this year after they had applied to become an official University group. The group was unsuccessful in their application because they failed to find a faculty advisor.

Ivan said that Campus Advance is still trying to find an advisor and will eventually reapply to become an official organization on campus. University clubs can reserve access to lounges and rooms in campus buildings, although Campus Advance can hold their meetings in these areas if they are not already taken up by other students.

"They're recruiting only through invitations, and they are not identifying themselves as who they are," said Jim

Connors, a resident assistant in O'Neill college, about Campus Advance's activities on campus.

Ivan admits that he does not always name the group he is from each time that he talks to students. "It would be pretty weird if I went up to somebody and said 'Hey I'm with the International Church of Christ - come study the Bible with me,'" he said. "We're not trying to hide anything, though."

Ivan said that when he approaches students on campus, he invites them to the group's weekly Bible talks. "If they want to come, they come," he said. Ivan acknowledges that "some things are hard to swallow and some people may feel that they are under pressure."

Campus Advance's membership, which is now at ten or eleven members according to Ivan, spends more time together than just these meetings, and Ivan admits that they are not within the religious mainstream.

"For us it's not something we do on Sunday," Ivan said. "The church for us is every day."

Raising A Tide Against the Violence

By Peter Gratton
Statesman Editor

(April 6) In an effort to combat the image of women as victims of violent crimes, members of the Stony Brook community took to campus roads last Wednesday calling for an end to Sexism and the crimes it breeds. The Center for Womyn's Concerns organized the "Take Back the Night" march to highlight the problems of rape on college campuses.

The march, which began at the Student Union and ended with a vigil at the Uniti Cultural Center in Roth Quad, brought out a crowd of 200, despite the rain.

"The march is to heighten awareness, making people aware that rape is a very common crime," said Terry McLaren, the secretary for the Center for Womyn's Concerns.

The vigil in years past was held outside, but organizers believed that the rain and lack of privacy might drive away potential speakers. The emotional high point of the vigil is when victims of rape, seen only by the light of the candles in the room, step forward from among their crowd and share their stories. Those who step forward are promised that no one at the event will reveal their stories elsewhere.

"People had said in years past when the event was outside, everyone would disperse right afterwards. The Uniti Cultural Center gave a place for people to be together and talk. It gave them a sense of closure," said McLaren.

June Ginty, a member of the organization Parents of Murdered Children, was the first to speak at the vigil. Her daughter Kathleen was killed in 1994 by her ex-boyfriend. Ginty spoke about her regrets as a parent unable to stop the death of a loved one. "There is nothing I can do for her now," Ginty said, "but I feel that there is a lesson here."

"If you don't feel safe, you have to speak loud so people can hear you," Ginty said.

To show how quickly violence can strike anyone in the audience, Ginty held up a picture of



Above, the march succeeded despite torrential rains.

Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

her daughter at a party just six hours prior to her murder. "Nobody has the right to abuse you in any way. You have the right not to take it," Ginty said.

After Ginty, victims of rape stepped forward to share their story. All were emotional, and many needed a hug and support from CWC members to finish their stories.

Marjorie Ornstein was one of those who stepped before the audience, and agreed to have her name published. Ornstein, who describes herself as a

"survivor" and not a victim of rape, said she spoke to help others come forward, in addition to psychological release it gives her. "Anytime I tell it - it's like telling a secret," Ornstein said.

Other speakers told the audience about the frustrations they had with University police in reporting the crimes that happened to them. Several agreed that the University's annual crime report underestimate the number of sexual assault occurring on campus, a charge that the University police does not necessarily dispute.

Assistant Director of University Police for Community Affairs Doug Little believes that despite his force's best efforts, women do not always step forward to campus police to report rapes that have happened to them. "It is one of the most under-reported crimes," Little said. "It is a problem in our society, not just at the University."

However, Little denies that the University Police purposely keep rape statistics low. "I get very upset when people say we keep things under wraps," Little said.

McLaren tried to draw a middle line between the concerns of victims, and the position of the campus police. "The problem is on both sides. As much as the campus police may want to report it, victims don't always step forward. But as people said at the event, victims aren't always received well. They don't always seem to be taken seriously."

Little said that the University police continue to take extraordinary steps to protect the identity of victims, by not releasing their names to the media. In addition, Little said that it is important for rape victims to at least report the crime to police, if they are unwilling to press charges. This allows the victim to receive needed medical attention, and to be able to press charges against their attackers at a later date.

"We do our best to get victims to press charges," Little said, "The person may rape again and again."

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University Adds Security After Series Of Break-ins

By ALEXANDRA CRUZ
Statesman Editor

February 23

University Police is still on the lookout for those responsible in the burglaries of the Physics and Chemistry buildings. According to

Doug Little, assistant director of University Police for community affairs, campus police believe it is the same group of people responsible for thefts in both buildings.

The two burglaries, which

occurred earlier this month, happened within weeks of each other, and police estimates place losses at \$34,000.

In the first burglary, officers responding to the scene found signs of forced entry in a 4th floor lab of the Graduate Chemistry building. A computer workstation, a digital camera, software, and two storage devices were taken. In addition, it was later reported that two computers, worth \$8,000 were stolen from another part of the lab. While there were no signs of forced entry at the second crime scene. University Police said they believed the burglaries occurred at the same time.

The second theft, this time in the Physics building, cost the University almost \$4,000 as a laptop and a monitor were stolen. During this burglary attempt three rooms were broken into, but items were only taken from two.

"We feel confident that it is a group that is committing these crimes," said Little. "We feel confident that we'll have an arrest."

Although University Police has said that security has been stepped up, three additional burglaries have

occurred in the Physics building, and combined over \$7,000 in computer equipment has been stolen.

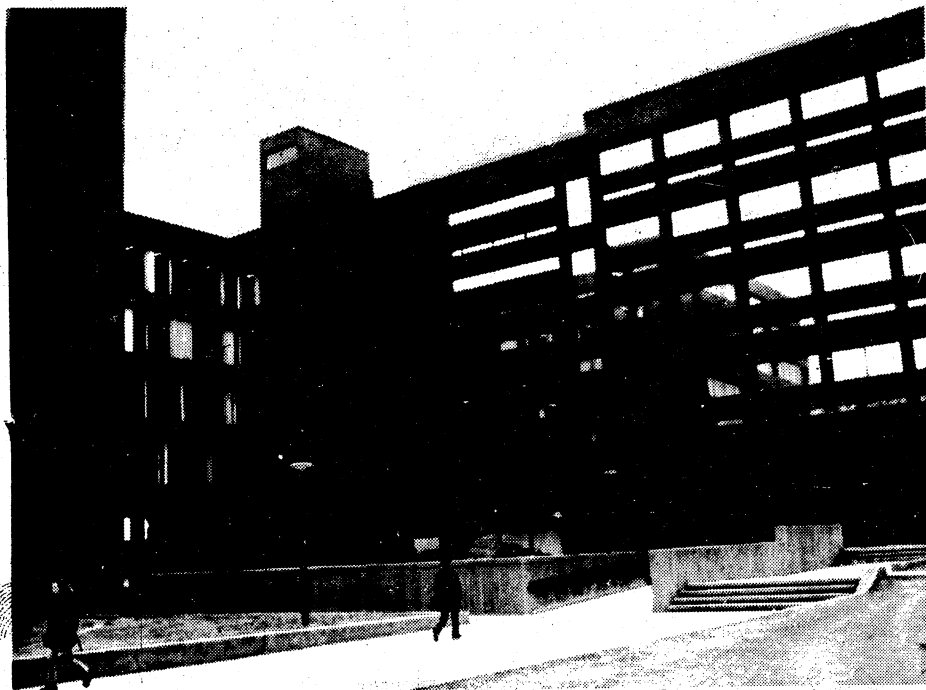
Due to the thefts, University Police has been forced to increase its patrol of the campus. According to Little, foot patrols will be increased and a group of non-law enforcement security personnel will be hired. The non-law enforcement security personnel will not be able to carry guns.

According to Little, there is an ongoing investigation and University police are cooperating with Suffolk County detectives who are also working on the case.

"These are crimes of opportunity that don't take long," Little said. He said he would like more involvement from the community in terms of community watches.

Little said the robberies are even more troublesome because of the lost information that was on the equipment stolen. "The thing that bothers me the most is the tragedy of the lost data," said Little.

Anyone with information concerning these series of burglaries should call Crimestoppers at 2-TIPS, (632-8477). Crimestoppers is offering \$1,000 to anyone with information leading to an arrest. □



Statesman/ Tee Lek D. Ying

Thefts in the Physics Building have cost an estimated \$41,000.

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Editorial

Yet Again, It's Time to Say Goodbye

As the semester winds to a close (and frankly, it couldn't come sooner) we're forced to say good-bye to those who have helped us through numerous issues. This marks the last issue for Alexandra Cruz, our News Editor. Then again, who are we kidding. We've tried twice before to say good-bye to Alex, but she keeps coming back. Maybe we should change the locks next time. As well, we *think* we're saying good-bye to our Features Editor, Diana Gingo. Don't ask. We have two words though - we're sorry.

Without them we wouldn't have been able to pull off half the issues we put out in the past four months. This semester we've reported on some of most

important issues facing students this year, from corruption in the Polity Council to the presence of cults on our campus to the death of President Kenny (don't worry, that was just our April Fool's edition). We've also been honored to report on some of the major events that have happened this semester, like Stony Brook's 40th birthday celebration. In doing so, we hope to alert our readers to the happenings of Stony Brook. Sometimes, we even like to think that students get something out of the articles we write. However, we also hope the administration has taken note of the articles and the

editorials. We remind them that we help represent the entire community: This is what we care about.

For all of you who were waiting with baited breath, we're happy to report that Peter Gratton (also known as *The Press'* lackey) will be rejoining us as Editor in Chief for at least the summer issues. Maybe we can even convince him to stay longer. And no, despite all of our editorials and articles, the Physics Bandit still hasn't been caught. What does that tell you about the Administration?

Don't miss us too much. We'll be back next semester, red-eyed and grumpy, as usual.

What's Wrong With the System?

BY FRANK SANTANGELO
SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN

Arguably there are those that will shout that students ought to have the full right to control their own money when the same are allocated through a club. Indeed, this sounds plausible. However, when does—or should one—suspect abuse? And demand change?

We will look at two organizations. The first is a club (Commuter Student Association), although its E-Board will readily argue that they represent several thousand students and therefore should be elevated above that of a club. The second will be our Polity. This is a not-for-profit corporation that has, among other things, myriad clubs under its jurisdiction. In sum, it receives tens of thousands of dollars to monitor other clubs.

On April 15 the CSA held its annual elections. I recall being told that current President Christine Sadowski had exclaimed once that over 5000 students had voted for her and this in itself represented her voice on behalf of commuter students. Interestingly, on April 15 only fifteen commuters had voted for her! YES, 15. And 13 had voted for her opponent. Sadly, the election has been called into question.

The CSA Board had not publicized its elections and one might suggest that the organization was more interested in protecting status quo. Moreover, on the day of elections the Board had reopened

nominations and President Sadowski was stumping at the polling site. Additionally, the ballots were counted and without being checked against the student roster were destroyed—shredded. Suspiciously two-thirds of the Board were reelected. Does this suggest something? Yes, it's about money; arguably to some degree.

It is not surprising to note that the Polity Council has increased the CSA budget by \$10,000. You recall that CSA had attempted to break away from Polity without much success—and rather than permit that body to go forward the wheel was oiled. Enter Vice President of Student Affairs Fred Preston. He has appeared before Polity Council speaking about the CSA plan. Executive Director Stephen Adams had told Preston that there were concerns with CSA filing—or a lack thereof—of proper receipts. And then there was the matter of \$500 worth of candy that was stolen from their office. This did not include the fact that money was short from the sale of fund raising candy.

Let us not waste time speaking about M&M Peanut candy as there are more pressing issues for notice. Should we consider, save the Commuter Spring Fest and Opening Week Activities-- (which are arguably manufactured by the maternal concerns of the Commuter Student Affairs office)-- the few

outings that the club coordinates for the commuter students? We would be irresistibly drawn to conclude that those affairs served a small portion of students i.e. the groupies of CSA.

At the Polity Senate meeting on April 22 the budget was discussed and voted upon. Notably CSA President Sadowski noted on the record that "she [had] loved Polity," to which Chairperson Lopez replied, "You saw the budget?" The CSA president answered in the affirmative. A resident student then became alarmed that the CSA budget had doubled while the Residence Halls were given only a meager increase. I surmised that Fred had suggested the increase. I was alarmed and stated that this increase "can be absurd, and even frightening to consider [it]; it is something that should be addressed."

Be rest assured that it is! My fellow senator Ken Daube is currently working on a plan that will split CSA into two groups: programming and political. We are certain that this will make a difference. To date the CSA elections have been passed along to the judiciary. Polity Council had also frozen their budget until new elections were to be held and questionable financial matters allayed. Preston was told of the freeze and released it. He then threatened Polity with its own budget freeze should they attempt to secure CSA's budget. One can only conclude Preston's political agenda. And I, for one, care. He is another matter only to be shelved until next semester.

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Misery Index

compiled by Peter Gratton

The University's Free Lunch Program

A little tired of the slim pickings that Aramark offers at the Bleacher Club? Find the cultural food at Roth cafeteria more than just a bit unappetizing? Students all over campus have at one time or another expressed their disgust at the less than gourmet meals offered on campus. The image that Aramark cannot prepare a decent meal at a *very* fair price is completely wrong. It's just that students are on the wrong meal plan.

Administration officials, however, are on the meal plan of choice. Students may pay an average of \$1100 for the pleasure of eating Aramark's dining hall food. The administration official's rate is much better: Absolutely no cost for Aramark's catered food that, rest assured, is much better than what you'll find in the Student Union deli. Bet this: somewhere right now an administration official is scoffing a free catered meal at student expense.

Everyday, weekend or weekday, the University is throwing some luncheon or gala that few, if any, students are ever invited to. Usually, a number of administration officials attend, and are catered to by the best catering that Aramark can provide. On special occasions, the University goes all out and orders catering from some gourmet restaurant off campus. Even administration officials, it seems, get tired of Aramark's food every once in a while.

From employee appreciation lunches to patent award winner luncheons to meetings for special guests (corporate CEO's etc.) the University seems to delight in making up occasions for which to have free meals for its administration. Our personal favorite: last year's Green Team

luncheon where the University spent thousands of dollars on food and plaques for each of the teams to celebrate volunteer work in gardening around campus. We're willing to bet it would have been cheaper for admin. to have hired professional gardeners than all of the money wasted on that luncheon. And the gardeners would have done much better work.

In any case, we are just a bit tired of administration officials inviting local politicians and corporate spokesmen for free meals at our expense. Ah, admin. officials would say, it is these people that help support SUNY Stony Brook. Nobody seems to want to provide free meals, though, for any of the students on campus, who provide real financial support on this campus through tuition.

The elitism that administration officials have in regards to who they give free meals to showed well earlier this semester during a series of "dine with your dean" lunches. Students were invited to meet with the deans of their colleges for lunch - provided that they show up with their own meal. We're pretty sure that if the dean was meeting with a corporate leader, then that executive would not be forced to brown-bag it to their offices.

The favorite stomping grounds of the administration for their more small scale events is the University Club located on the third floor of the Chemistry Building. With wonderfully patient waiters and a good view of the campus (and decent food) the University Club is the best place to eat on campus.

For their big gala affairs, the administration usually holds their free meal-a-thons in the lobby of the Student Activity Center, where locked out



Courtesy of David Ewalt/The Stony Brook Press

Somewhere on this campus some administration official is probably having a free meal. Above, President Kenny, Ken LaValle and Thomas Egan cut Stony Brook's 40th Birthday cake. Despite its size, not one piece was offered to students hovering outside the SAC. Happy Birthday indeed.

students can see through the glass the free buffets being passed around at their expense.

We therefore propose that the committee at the Faculty Student Association now deciding next year's student meal plan consider our own modest proposal: Interested students would be able to vote each day for a special cause that they think should be honored with a luncheon, with free food of course. Students need not be that creative, choosing to honor anyone from former University presidents

that ran off with student's money to campus newspaper editor in chiefs that will never again be invited to admin. luncheons. Once they have decided on their honoree, students can then attend a large gala event in the Student Activities Center - with guests from local corporations and political parties. And best of all, they can then put it on the University's tab. After all, if administration officials can enjoy free meals out of our tuition, why shouldn't we?

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Finally we look at Polity. By far this organization is not perfect. We can see from the current news that a few members have gotten themselves into a pickle. Stealing? Yes. Lying? Yes. Do we care? Yes! And it is our job as involved students to do just that. This Thursday we move towards impeachment without reservation. And it is possible that we may be looking into our incoming president in the Fall based on current allegations. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE A GANGSTER MENTALITY. It is a sad set of affairs, our system. Notably, Polity presidents choose the judiciary! Interesting.

Just how does the Polity work? For

starters it operates on a 1.6 million dollar budget. (Are there hungry children in Suffolk County?) WHAT has Polity done to relieve the pressures (or growing pains) of this improving campus. They take trips. And spend thousands on those trips. They throw parties and charge outrageous fares and spend too much money on second rate AV. And the clubs? Sadly they get the short end of the stick! How many cultural clubs got money from bigger organizations e.g. CSA. What about this great money machine of polity? Would not a proper financial management program reduce the need to channel money through out our student body? WASTED TIME; WASTED MONEY!

There is a major problem with the

governing affairs of Polity. The Executive Director and his staff work directly for the Council. Absurd. Tell me just how an employee audits his boss? dear god, "they shoot horses, don't they?" We must work to end this crazy governing body that is currently established. We must start with separating the Council from the Executive Director and his staff.

Fred Preston has not been a help; he is a part of the problem. He has become too complacent. And we must rid ourselves of the burden. Perhaps we now need a breath of fresh air: Ms. Carmen Vasquez. Refreshingly honest; and this is something that we need.

Protesting the Law By Tying the Knot

(February 16) Where were you? Running late for class, snacking at a campus eatery, or simply strolling through the academic mall, when you caught a glimpse of the "bride and groom" wandering around campus last Thursday.

Today, same-gender couples are not allowed to legally marry in any state, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationship, and no matter how much their families need the protections, benefits and responsibilities that come with civil marriage. For this reason, February 12th was announced as the National Freedom to Marry Day by the National Freedom Marry Coalition, a group of national gay and lesbian organizations and allied non-gay groups.

"Marriage is an important personal choice and a basic human right. The decision to get married belongs to the couple, in love not the state," said graduate student Alana Samuels, the "groom" Samuel said "Legally, religious and civil marriage are two separate institutions. Though many faiths perform same-gender marriage ceremonies now, they have no legal recognition as civil marriages. The state does not dictate which marriages any religion performs or recognizes, and religions should not dictate who gets a civil marriage license."

Throughout the day on Thursday, well-wishers congratulated the couple on their marriage, only to be informed that "it's not legal, if we could, we would." The well-wishers were invited to show their support of same-gender marriage by "tying the knot." According to the Freedom to Marry web page (www.fim.org), "tying the knot" entails knotting ribbons around trees, lamp posts, buildings, door knobs, and car antennae. Supporters tied a knot around their ring finger or arm, or decided to wear a knot on their lapel.

At the moment, the Supreme Court of Hawaii is deciding the fate of same-gender marriage. Due to some recent legislation, their decision will not automatically affect the rest

of the states. "If it is in fact approved, same-gender couples who travel to Hawaii to get married and return home to their home state will expect to have their marriage recognized at home, just as others do," said Melanie Clemens, the "bride" and a SUNY Stony Brook student. "Even the New York Times said it would be 'absurd, demeaning and unconstitutional', if a marriage lawfully recognized in one state is considered 'absolutely void' in another."

New York's attempt to legislate a ban on gay marriages was defeated in 1997. Nine states, including Florida, Maine, and Virginia, have adopted similar legislation in 1997. Bills introduced in 14 other states, including California, New Hampshire and Texas were blocked. According to Evan Wolfson, the director of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the election-year passage of an unconstitutional federal anti-marriage law in 1996 will not stop the struggle or success, nor will it end the backlash.

The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, created what some homosexuals have called a radical caste-system of first-class and second-class marriages. Under DOMA, same-sex marriages are denied the same legal protection and recognition as found with different sex marriages.

"DOMA's blatant violation of constitutional principles of federalism, non-discrimination, and respect for lawful marriages shows the anti-marriage law to be, not just gay-bashing, but, in the words constitution bashing," said Samuels.

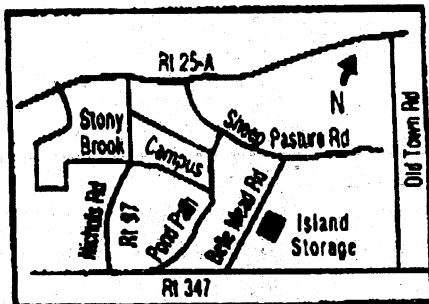
For more information on the National Freedom to Marry Day or how to start a Freedom to Marry chapter in your area, you may contact the coalition at their official website: www.freedomtomarry.org, or contact any of the coalition members: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Human Rights Campaign; the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force; Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the American Civil Liberties Union; Gay & Lesbian Advocates



Melanie Clemens and Alana Samuels dressed in wedding attire for this semester's Tie the Knot day.

and Defenders; the National Organization of Women; Parents, Friends, and families of Lesbians and Gays; the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, as well as hundreds of non-gay and gay local and stated partners across the country.

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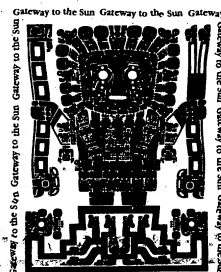
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SB4/23

University Holds First Black Expo

Representatives from Major Corporations Turn Out to Offer Advice and Job Opportunities

By KEVIN KEENAN
Statesman Editor

February 9

President Shirley Strum-Kenny and other top level University administrators, along with staff and numerous students, turned out for the first annual Black Expo, entitled "Emerging Leaders of the 21st Century." The Expo, which was held in the Stony Brook Student Activities Center yesterday, was an open forum where people of all different races, religions, and backgrounds came together to meet and talk with successful Black business men and women.

"The outcome of this event is definitely positive. Hopefully, next year the number of attendees will triple in size," said Monessah Lawson, chief executive coordinator of the Expo. "We are providing Stony Brook students with great insight into the talents and skills required to be a leader in the 21st Century."

Several prominent New York and national based corporations were present at the event to offer students advice on technological skills and job opportunities. The coordinators of the Expo hoped that by providing positive minority role models, students in minority communities would be encouraged to work towards acquiring high level corporate positions.

"Everyone's looking for a job," said Candace Crouch, vice president of the Expo executive board, "this is not just going to benefit black people, it's going to benefit everyone that attended today."

The companies present at the Expo ranged from large computer corporations such as IBM to art companies such as Unfold Magazine and JEO Art. Each of these companies provided pamphlets, counselors, charts, graphs, and often videos to familiarize students with the demands

of high-tech employment.

"Many students don't realize the demands that entail a career in the corporate world," said Sandra Bulti from New Image Media. "Hopefully, events such as this one will provide some enlightenment."

Several computer corporations, presumably following the example set by Charles Wang's Computer Associates, were present at the Expo to establish a pool from which future employees can be drawn. Dale French, manager of software and engineering at Pitney Bowes Corporation, says that her Connecticut based corporation is looking to build a relationship with Stony Brook University in order to attract Computer Science majors. "We want students to be familiarized with our company, and we want to familiarize ourselves with the campus and the Computer Science programs here," she said.

After the Expo, students and administrators proceeded to the auditorium in the Student Activities Center for a program consisting of a performance by Stony Brook's Gospel Choir and speeches by prominent black men and women concerning their histories, triumphs, and difficult times.

University President Kenny spoke to the audience. "Having such an expo is an excellent idea," Kenny said. "The encounters that students had today with the various corporations enabled them to get a sense of the direction in which technology is headed. And, that's simply great! I hope that this event continues to be held every year."

Several students expressed their astonishment that President Kenny showed up for the event. According to sophomore Tamika McIntosh, "It was very surprising that Kenny decided to attend, but I'm glad that she did and showed her support for the



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

Students expressed surprise at President Kenny's attendance at the Black Expo, held yesterday.

black community here at USB." Junior Troy Woodley says that he too was surprised that Kenny showed up, but feels that is "imperative" for administration to attend.

Ronald Manning, Health Science Center director of Health Initiative for Underserved Communities, was present to speak about his past in athletics. Manning, a former Chicago Bulls draftee, told students that they "will not play sports forever and should always strive to get an education."

Student response to the event was

mixed. Lawson indicated that she ran into several obstacles when organizing the Expo which reveals that some members of Stony Brook community were opposed to it. "A lot of the signs advertising the event were torn down, and racial comments were written on some. But, overall, people have been very supportive of this event."

Sunshin Fungcal, president of the Gospel Choir, summed up the event perfectly. "Black Expo is a very special event. It stresses black culture a lot but it is also about learning. It was a first and hopefully not a last." □



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Semester in Review

Then One Day Ants Crawled Out Of My Wall

By RAYA EID
Statesman Editor

March 30,

Four weeks ago, Stony Brook student and O'Neil College resident Billy Tsolakidia, reported a leak in his room

that was penetrating through his wall adjacent to the bathroom showers.

Initially, Tsolakidia witnessed some ants crawling on his desk. When he

attempted to find the source of the ants, he found that a portion of the wall beneath his desk was cracked, leaking water. The ants, he said, were in mounds frolicking in their new home.

Resident Hall Director of O'Neil College, Mattilde Punnet, put an emergency request in the day Tsolakidia reported the problem to her. Nothing was done.

Tsolakidia and his roommate, Stratis Banannis, expressed what an inconvenience it has been for them to reside in their room. "We're cornered into one side of the room," Banannis said. "We have become so accustomed to the ants, that we even named them," Tsolakidia added.

After approximately four weeks of several emergency requests, complaints, phone calls, and visits to the Division of Campus Residences, a maintenance employee was sent to evaluate the room on Thursday, March 26.

Tsolakidia, a maintenance employee who evaluated the room

said that the only thing that can be done is to plaster up the wall repeatedly, but the main problem would not be taken care of until the building is renovated in two years.

However, when Maintenance Secretary, Mary Leggio at the Division of Campus Residences was questioned about what is being done about the inconvenience of the problem for the residents, she said, "It's not that we're ignoring them, but the problem is bigger than what we originally thought."

Ed Byrne, Assistant Director of Residential Operations, was called in last Friday to remedy the situation.

"I want to do something now to get the problem under control," Byrne said. However, according to Byrne, the situation is larger than he, too, anticipated it to be.

Both Tsolakidia and Banannis are seniors expected to graduate this Spring. "I didn't expect my last semester at Stony Brook to be like this, I'm really disappointed," Banannis said. □



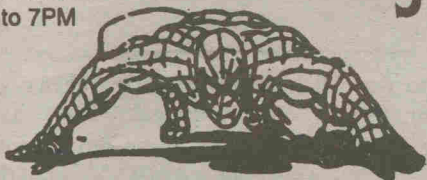
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The cracked wall, in the center of the above picture, still has water leaking after 4 weeks.

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The Statesman Literary Supplement

Spring 1998



*Thorny is the way to the pure red rose
Amidst patches of bramble, but for those
Who know its value, it is worth the prick,
For it is the sweetest flower to pick.*

*Each bud is a new beginning; its color, fire
Its crimson heart is buried thick in the briar
To touch its velvet skin entangled within its leaves
To travel along its stem, to feel the kiss it breathes.*

*Its strength lies in a passion that grows like the vine
The sweet blossom was plucked from for this love of mine
The rose is a promise when we are apart
So think of me then and take my rose to heart.*

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Early Frost

*Snowflakes nestle undisturbed
Hidden in your soon white beard
Your winter is upon you
So soon I'm amazed
The heat of mid-summer chilled
The fruit all prematurely withered
Your smile so sanguine
Frustrates my sorrow
So short can a life be
Like a snowflake melted
Dripping like a tear*

*driving through Maine at 4 a.m.
the snow covered landscape
hides the earth beneath it
a brown rabbit stares out
accussingly
at the intrusion
at the interruption
at the destruction of the perfect
white blanket*

Just to the Point Where You Can't Touch the Sandy Bottom

*You tell me your everyday
and ask how I can expect more
I want your fears
I want your anguish
I want you to surrender and be vulnerable
to lay down your shield and sword
take your armor off leaving it at the lakeside
I want you to walk out into the water
Just to the point where you can't touch
the sandy bottom
and let me hold your hand*

Illusion

*There is a place where I'd like to be buried!
On the shore of the calm and mysterious sea
Where no one would be freely allowed
To disturb my wonderful and trouble-less sleep.*

*I'll join with the forces and the powers of god
I'll visit the places no human was ever to see
Won't forget my origin and existence
In order to become in one with my will and dream.*

*The silence and perfection of place drives me crazy
The beauty of picture seeks no soul to resist
To the influence of the beautiful nature
And to forget everything that ever exists!*

breathe

*It's so perfect, so well rounded
So complete—you have it all!
And doesn't all comprise contentment?
Yet with all, you still want something
when you have all
and all is yours?*

*And yet there's something wanted
Not quite missing, for it's there,
The world says so, says you have it
Everywhere—like air—yet missing,
But then why would you still want it?
and now need it
now it's needed*

*Something missing—is it air?
All around you—don't you own it?
Breathing yet can't breathe without it.
Is what you have not what you want?
Or is it need, now you don't have it
Not just want, can't breathe without it
Even though it's still right there.*



Yin Yang

*Two youths casting shadows
On a brick wall sun-splashed amber
His eyes are nervous wide
Her hair long black silk
Unconsciously they sway
Like cranes in the wind
Now close now apart
Magnetic push and pull
The sunset knows what they resist
Their shadows are made to kiss*



Stretch Marks

As I wait for the bus in the morning, I watch her silhouette through the lace curtains in her bedroom window. I see her brushing her hair, which looks blood red through the holes, but I know it's auburn; she separates it into three semi-even sections, and twists it into a fat braid that falls just below her shoulder blades. By the time she finishes the braid, my bus comes; it pulls away before I have a chance to look back. She takes the late bus.

Homeroom is after second period. My last name is Black; I'm at the top of my homeroom's list, in room 288. Her name is Loni Avalez—a sophisticated, European model-type of name—so her homeroom is next door to mine, in room 287. I sit near the door, so I see her pass on her way there. On some days, when she passes, if I close my eyes I can almost smell her apple shampoo and the Noxzema cleanness of her skin. And I love the way she nonchalantly wears overalls or some huge tee-shirt.

At lunch she sits with one of the more popular freshman girls. They sit close, whispering intimately. They eat celery stalks with peanut-butter, and drink whole milk. When she finishes her lunch, Loni goes to the library—just like the smart kids. I've never had an excuse to follow her.

Gym class is the only class I have with her. I moved to a locker in the rear of the changing room when I noticed that Loni changed in the unused shower stalls. I wouldn't hide my body if it looked anything like hers; she has firmly rounded, B-cups, which

are the perfect size for her body-type. During body toning I watch her sinewy arms and legs, the way her muscles stretch across her skeleton. As I do my tummy crunches, I watch her lunging in front of the mirror; our teacher spots her as she steps forward and squats, then lifts and stands straight. Her sweat works like the glycerine that body builders rub on themselves; she's so healthy-looking.

I stopped staying after school with my friends, when I realized that Loni goes home on the three o'clock bus. Now I watch her flip through the book for her Parenting and Child Development class; she tucks stray strands of hair behind her ear and glides her tongue along her lips, as she skims the text. We get off at the same stop; I make sure she gets off before I do. I like to watch her waddle the 20-feet to her house. Since her mom works late, she has to let herself in. She holds onto her stomach as she bends down to get the key out from under the mat. When she goes in, I turn and head home.

I always wondered what Loni did on Friday and Saturday nights. Usually my boyfriend Jamie picks me up, and we go to a party or to see a movie. But this week I got my seasonal cold—like clockwork—the last week of March, every year. So I sat in bed for five days: coughing, sneezing, dripping, drooling, and looking not too appealing. I watched Loni's house on Friday, but after her mom came home the house was still. I read some Sandman comic books and listened to the *Clueless* soundtrack.

That night I went down to watch TV with my parents. On 20/20 there was a special about girls who vomit to stay thin. My dad asked if I would ever do that, and mom said that of course I wouldn't, would I? I smiled and went upstairs, because I know they don't need me around to have a conversation about me. But my mom, she called to me, "You wouldn't sweetie, would you?"

"No, mommy." Mommy, mommy, mommy. She doesn't know anything about me: she even had to ask me what my birth date was when we went to the gynecologist's office in the fall. Thank God for doctor/patient privilege.

Friday night, I decided to go to bed early. On Saturday I didn't go downstairs to watch TV, or do anything else. I watched Loni's door, and I crayoned in my *Cinderella* coloring/activity book, like I always do when I'm sick. At five o'clock an engine revved outside; I looked out my window and saw a boy climbing off a motorcycle in front of Loni's—it was Erik.

She came to the door to stop her mom from trying to kill him. After her mom went in, Loni started posturing and waving her arms. I opened my window a crack, but I couldn't make out their mumbled bickering. When she started pointing to his bike, I figured she was telling him to get out. But he yelled, "Fine," clear as day, and then said, "Okay, I'll sell it." I shut my window and stopped watching then, because I know I would fall in love with any man who was willing to give up his passion for me.

Jamie is a great guy. He's sensitive and sexy and gorgeous. He got an early acceptance to Boston College, and a full scholarship. Next fall he'll be four hundred miles away from here. I'm going to be stuck in community college and Loni will be starting her job. I think I'm going to major in nursing, or psychology, and Jamie is going for a degree in British Literature. His favorite movie is *Dead Poet's Society*. His favorite word is 'macabre,' and his second favorite is 'juxtaposition.' He likes to put "I'll always love you" next to "I'll miss you next year."

Loni went into labor the night of the senior prom. I heard that her boy was stillborn, and the obituaries had his name listed as Cameron. So, I guess Erik sold his bike for nothing. Jamie said he thought it was a shame that Erik sold that cool bike.

Jamie left for school on Monday, and he said that he might come home for Thanksgiving. I called him Friday to tell him that I had missed my period. I said, "The home test had a little blue plus-sign." "How'd that happen," he said. "I thought you told me you had it covered." I didn't say anything, and he didn't either. After a minute he hung up.

Troubled soul

*Standing on the platform waiting for a train,
Thinking about something that happened yesterday,
Starring at the glassy surface of the air
And realize that everything is full of matter.*

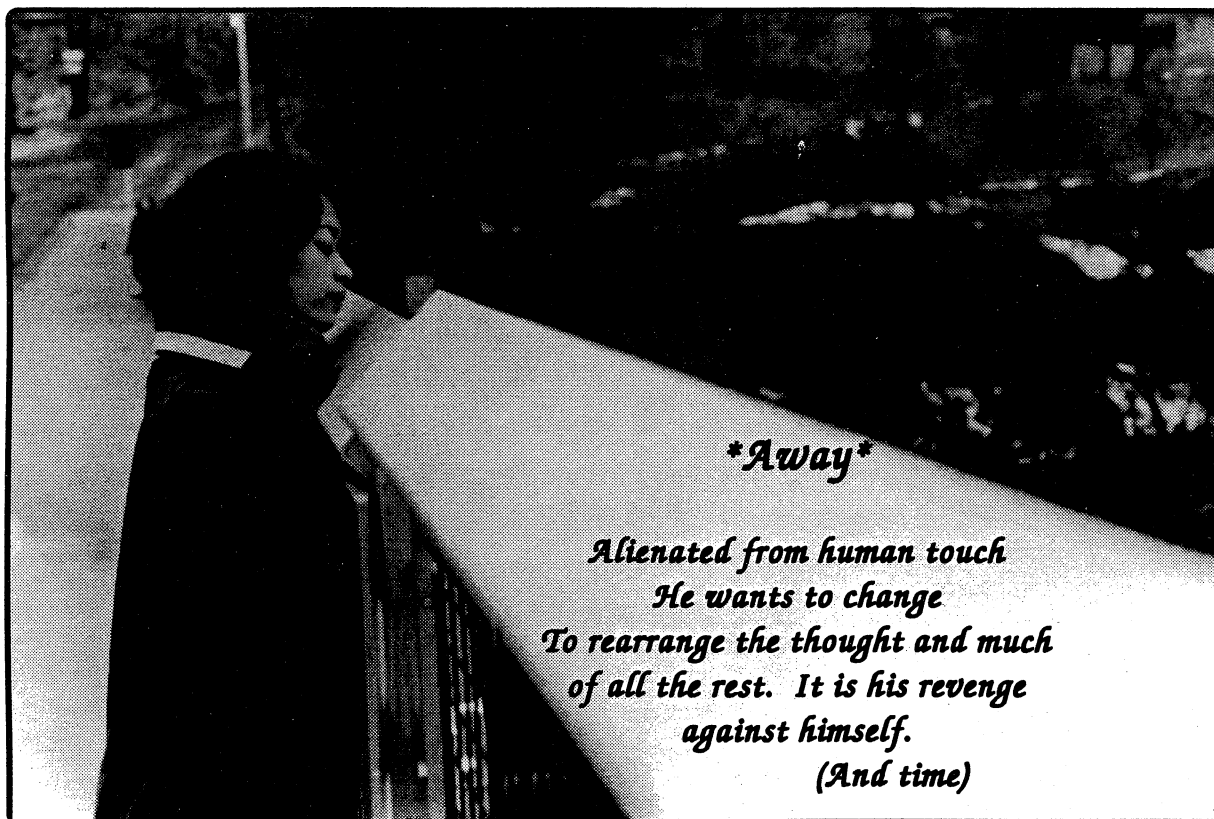
*Every little thing that we create or say,
Every senseless word that was born in pain,
Every wave of the soul that never found shore,
Someday will discover its storm.*

*Everything seemed as it was meant to be,
As if I had to be there and throw my sight that way,
And there she was playing with my vein,
Dancing bare when blood appeared on the string!*

*Two crazy creations of woman and man,
Just like love and hate will always prevail,
We will always wait for something!
That will never, never, never be there!*

*The circle of our life events,
Will always revolve on the axis of faith,
But the most amazing feature of our strange lives
Is that life dares not to care, and we still have to survive!*

*Standing on the platform waiting for a train
In hope to ride and fly away
Fly away to the future! That is all we've got!
Fly away to the stars, because there is nowhere else to hide!*



Madness of thought

*I'm dying inside. My senses decaying
Covered with rust it's sensitive surface
This denial of self is helplessly flowing
Through veins and conscious of the fierce due to thee!*

*Realization of need and possession of sorrow
Were meant to arise in the passionate love.
Above the united obsession to follow,
And to drown in the stream of the essence of life.*

*The calmness of note arrives at the nighttime
The addiction to sound and melody's drug
I have to inject, in order, to swallow
Whole absurd and fakeness of visual lust!*

Content

*She sat there,
legs crossed, lost
in a sea of
long, slender blades
of grass.
I gazed upon her
ever so cautiously.
She ignored me;
I hoped she would.
I watched as she led
the orchestra of
cicadas
in perfect harmony-
hidden from the rest
of the world as they
always are.
I watched as she
inhaled the sweet,
morning air with
such joy, such affection-
as if each breath
were her child.
I wondered who
she was,
why she was there-
if she was there.
I wanted to know
everything about her-
Where had she been?
What were her loves?
Where was she going?
All the time, she
sat there, looking
into the clear, blue
sky, waiting for nothing
to happen.*

The Walking Dead

*We exist among you anonymous
Pale imitations of life
We the walking dead
What you call life is mere abstraction
We know oblivion like an old friend
The ebb and flow of your lives
Only deepens our isolation
Brothers and Sisters are we
Unrecognized
Kindred in separation
We float through existence
Aping your motions
Denying the void
Embracing the void
Sometimes we become visible
Try to speak but have lost the skill
We know you can't hear us
We are the living dead
Constantly fading deeper
Into the background
We fulfill the role of bit-players
Props for other people's lives
See us now before we've lost shape
Take a moment to watch us fade
Then go on
That's the way of things.*



Jaws

*Men are like sharks
a feeding frenzy occurs
everytime there's a wounded
fish in the waters*

*Actually, he told me that he
would gladly be my rebound person
that he would do that for me
I guess I should thank him.*

Away

From the terrace, Harper saw the indications of midday in Sand Pedro. Older men, leather faced and stoical pushed wheel barrows made of wet, blackened wood, filled with mangoes, bananas, or coffee beans along the bumpy street. Aged women, draped in liquid red and yellow blankets and bare footed, sat in chairs made of the same dark wood, beside baskets of sliced mangoes and watermelons. Young Guatemalan girls with straight, black hair that looked like charred kindling stood beneath the shoulders of the older women asking in their tiny, airy voices anyone passing by if they would like to buy a bag of sliced fruit. Occasional tourists, with huge turtle-shelled backpacks pumped through the village, gladly stopping for the little girls.

"Quierren un mango? Quierren un mango, amigos?"

"Ah, si mi amor bonita. Aqui? Es esta tu madre? Los mangoes se parecen muy ---- (ripe)."

Most of the tourists seemed to speak Spanish nearly fluently. They rarely ever looked lost, or even uncomfortable. Harper had been able to pick up a great deal of Spanish, but was far from fluent. He spoke to very few people, if to anyone at all.

A letter from Harper's sister should have arrived the previous day. She sent the letters on the first Thursday of every month and although it was impossible to precisely predict the airtime of any parcel from the U.S. to Central America, it rarely took longer than two weeks for mail to arrive. Although Harper hadn't worn a watch for months, the church bells rang every Sunday alerting him to the passing weeks. It was the second Tuesday in May and as long as his sister had sent the letter on the right day, it would be waiting at the Post Office.

A metal ladder hung down from the edge of the terrace. There were only four rungs and they were all peeling with moist rust. Harper's hands had become tight and calloused from having to grip the sticky metal bars for three, or four trips up and down the ladder a day. The soft leather of Harpers' sandals was well worn and curled tightly around his tanned feet and dirty toes as he started down the ladder.

The walk to the post office was nearly a mile, straight up a slightly inclined road. With each step, the balls of Harper's feet sank into the wide cracks of the hot pavement. The sun's rays surged down powerfully from behind and Harper unfolded his shirt collar to shield his burning skin.

The small Guatemalan restaurant, the "cocinas, smelled of spicy black beans which lay in boiling water on the stoves, waiting to be served. The dark skinned, dark eyed descendants of the Mayan Indians and the 16th century Spaniards proceeded with their daily routines. It seemed as though their eyes would produce different images and their minds, different thoughts. San Pedro was their past and present and it gripped them tightly, and pulled them into the earth like the roots of a garden flower. The old men whose muscles had become tight and unwavering decades ago and whose bodies remained thin and agile swinging hoes and raking the thick soil, knew nothing of laziness, or of irresponsibility. They lived and they survived. Harper had never thought of survival. America was paved with superfluities, with its endless rows of packaged food in towering SUPERmarkets, its fine automobiles and intricate mansions. Only eight months ago, when Harper had left New York, had things begun to change for him.

Thin alleyways formed between the few restaurants and artistry shops, past the outer boundary of the street. The area spread out into tiny communities of cream colored stone huts and square plots of rich, black soil and grass that shone bright green against the bland stone. Tiny naked children with large bellies and light skin giggled and walked awkwardly in and out of the houses. Women sat, bare-breasted, nursing infants wrapped in brightly colored, hand woven blankets and scarves, staring expressionlessly up towards the sky, or down at the ground.

It had been nearly eight months in Sand Pedro, but the village had become no more Harpers's home than it had been on the first day he arrived. He had forgotten the feeling of "home." Even forgotten the desire to find it. He knew the feeling of his bed, of the rough sheet clinging to his body in the dark, the distinct softness of the yellow pillow that squeezed beneath his skull every night. But that old feeling and sense of understanding that goes inarticulated of "home," had vanished completely.



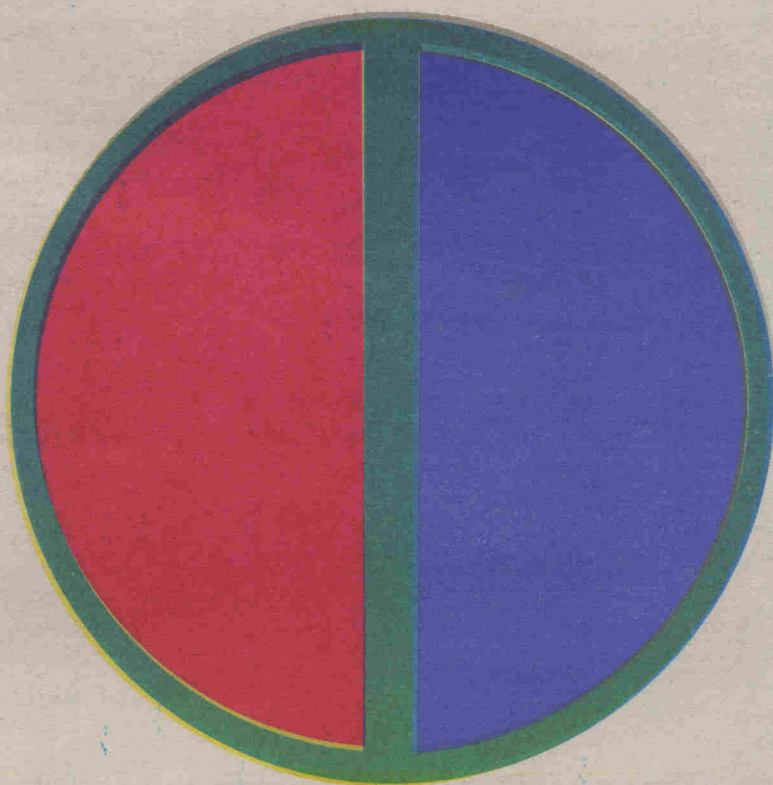
The Oil Lamp

*The old city lays before my dreaming eyes
Sunlight pours in through my window
White pine table brass oil lamp
All in gold*

*The sky smiles on the old city
It's blue benedictions upon her glory
Domes and spires in light green copper
All in gold*

*A starling woke me up this morning
Perched on the tiled roof outside my window
Singing iridescence emerald jasmine specks
All in gold*

Because Every One Counts



Thank You!

Mindy Abraham
Nicole Akin
Josh Alpert
Natan Altman
Pouran Avjudenpour
Michael Baharestami
Albert Baravarian
Avi Barzideh
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Semester in Review

Students Elect New Blood for Polity Council

Polity turns over a new leaf as outsider defeats incumbent VP for Pres

By GINA FIORE
Statesman Editor

(April 16) With only eight percent of the student body having voted, Student Activities Board Chair, Aneka Gibbs won the position of Student Polity President over current Polity Vice President, Diane Lopez. 566 students voted for Gibbs, while 423 cast their votes for Lopez.

"Everyone thought it would be a close race, but it was one of the most spread out in the election," Gibbs said. "I'm looking forward to working with the Polity officers."

This year's election featured some frantic campaigning during the two day voting period, with almost all of the major candidates handing out flyers and posting up signs advocating their positions on various issues. One candidate even went so far as to scribble his name and his hopeful position in chalk around the campus.

It seemed to work, as Polity Secretary Sayed Ali won over his challenger, Junior Victoria Ortiz, in a 511 to 441 split for the position of vice president. Ali said that he felt he had been ostracized by other members of the council who felt he was supporting Gibbs' bid for the presidency.

For Secretary, Luis Trujillo came out on top over his opponent, Jermaine Beckford. Trujillo won by a mere 15 votes, beating Beckford 455 to 440, in what was one of the closest races in this year's elections.

The same could not be said for the race for Senior Representative Juniors, Christopher Grant and Robert Clark both ran for the position, with Grant beating Clark soundly, 237 votes to Clark's 158.

The easiest race of the elections was for Junior Representative, Andrez Carberry who ran unopposed, winning solidly by 184. His only

competition were the eight write-in votes that were received.

Calvin Coleman and Abigail Lindsay both ran heated races for the sole Sophomore Representative spot. Coleman came out on top,

"I was very disappointed with the turnout. I thought at least 2,500 students would have shown up,"
-Commuter Senator, Ken Daube, on the low voter turnout for the Polity elections.

winning the close race by 17 votes.

Three Commuter Student Association Senators ran against each other for the one student spot on the Stony Brook Council. All three failed to go through the regular channels of placing themselves on the ballot, so each of them relied on write in votes to get them through on top. CSA President Christine Sadowski won the spot, beating Senators Ken Daube and Frank Santangelo. Another write-in race was the election for United States Student Association (USSA) representative. This was won by Tung Lai (Lisa) Pan, who received 55 write-in votes. She was the only one who received any votes in that category.

In referenda voting, all three organizations

seeking funding won. *Statesman* won it's request for new referenda, as did the Men's Rugby team and the Cultural and Advocacy Interests budget category. In addition, students voted to make the part-time Student Activity fee mandatory for all part time, undergraduate students. This vote was close, with 341 students voting yes, while 298 students voted against the measure.

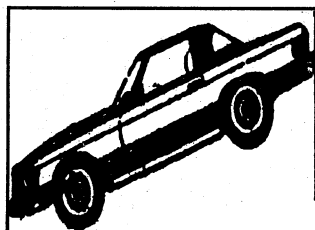
Many students were happy with the way the elections turned out, though some wished that more could have been done. Senator Neal Patel said, "I think the election went well. I think if we had more time, we should have advertised platforms on 3TV instead of fliers. We should have had another debate or forum as well."

As in past election voter turnout was low. Daube said, "I was very disappointed with the turnout. I thought at least 2,500 students would have shown up. However, I was pleased with the people who were elected."

One of the main themes of this year's elections were the rumors of corruption within the current Polity Council, and the willingness to do something about it. This was the most obvious Wednesday night, at the first Senate meeting after the election. Current President Monique Maylor, was accused of misappropriating and keeping money from campus group that was already approved to have received the money.

The funds were intended to go to the Roth Quad Regatta for new life vests and a new canoe. Instead, CSA Senator Santangelo accused Maylor of purposely keeping the funds away from the group, after the Senate had overridden the Council on their decision to veto the request for money. The Senate decided to appoint a council to look into the allegations.

Both Maylor and the Roth Quad Regatta President, Ryan Muldoon, were unavailable for comment.



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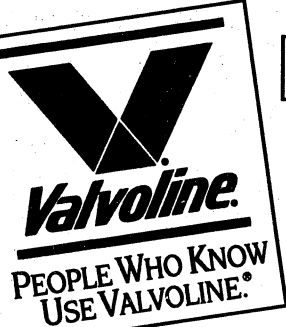
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Our Favorite Blotter Moments

Monday, January 26

January 14; 10:51 am

A grand larceny was reported when a student's car was missing. However, the car was later found to have been repossessed by the leasing company for the vehicle.

Thursday, February 5

February 1, 7:35 am

A workstation computer, 2 storage devices, a digital camera and \$15,000 worth of software were stolen from the 4th floor of the Graduate Chemistry building. The total value of the items was over \$25,000.

February 2; 1:38 p.m.

A man said that he was lowering down a Motorola radio from the roof of the Roth Quad down in a bucket to a loading zone below. Reportedly when the man came down the stairs to get his radio he found that it had been stolen. The estimated cost of the radio was \$600.

Thursday, February 12

February 3; 8:00 a.m.

An unknown prankster made phone calls to registrar's automated class registration system and started to add and drop a student's class schedule. The prankster apparently knew the student's ID# and PIN #.

February 3; 12:15 p.m.

A resident in an unknown location shoved his way into another victim's room who lives next door. The victim asked him to leave the room, but the resident refused. The resident picked up the victim's chemistry book and tore off the cover. They continued arguing for 20 minutes. The resident then stole the book, which was worth \$92.50. The residents have had ongoing differences in the past.

Thursday, February 19

February 11; 4:49 p.m.

A female student reported that while waiting for a bus in the South P-Lot, an unknown male student approached her and started a conversation. The male claimed that he was a photographer and proceeded to show her nude photographs of other women and said that he would pay her \$25/hr. to pose nude for him. The woman refused and boarded the bus upon which the male followed her and proceeded to follow her to class. Upon exiting the class the man was still there and tried again to start a conversation. The man is described as odd-looking, with two scars on his forehead wearing gritty looking clothing.

Thursday, February 26

February 20; Time Unknown

An unknown male pulled up a chair to where a student he had previously harassed was sitting in the Commuter Lounge of Melville Library. The suspect asked the victim, "Has anything changed your mind?" at which point the victim asked the suspect, "What do you want from me?" At that point the suspect got up and left in the direction of the Graduate Chemistry Building. The victim had previously been approached by the male beginning last December when she was by the pay phones in Melville Library. Later on when she boarded a bus, the suspect said hello to her. Victim got off the bus and was walking to her car, when the suspect said "I'm sorry I'm following you." She turned around and continued walking to her car, when he said "No, wait." Victim got in her car and drove off.

February 22; Time Unknown

A resident in Baruch College received a message on her phonemail that said, "You fuckin bitch, I know your sitting there on your ass, pick up the phone." She woke up to find the individual who left the message standing over her bed. The matter was referred to Student Affairs.

Thursday, March 12

February 27; 5:45 a.m.

University Police received a call from two frantic parents, who said that their child had left to attend classes and hadn't returned. The student was found studying in an unknown building. He said he was staying in the library over the weekend.

March 3; 11:40 a.m.

A Mendelsohn Quad resident received a threatening phonemail message. The message, which said "I'm going to fuck you over for the bottles," was a part of an ongoing dispute from last semester. The recipient of the phone mail message supposedly put Nair in the caller's shampoo bottle. The matter was reported to Student Affairs.

March 8; 1:36 a.m.

Overcrowding in the Student Union developed as 700 students attempted to attend an SAB event. People who had previously complained about not being able to get a ticket to the sold out event were then found on line with tickets.

Monday, March 30

March 23; 9:40 p.m.

A student was watching television with two friends when a father of a female he knew entered the room with a baseball bat and allegedly accused the person of harassing his daughter. The father said, "Step outside or I'll drag you out." The student claims that he did not harass the man's daughter.

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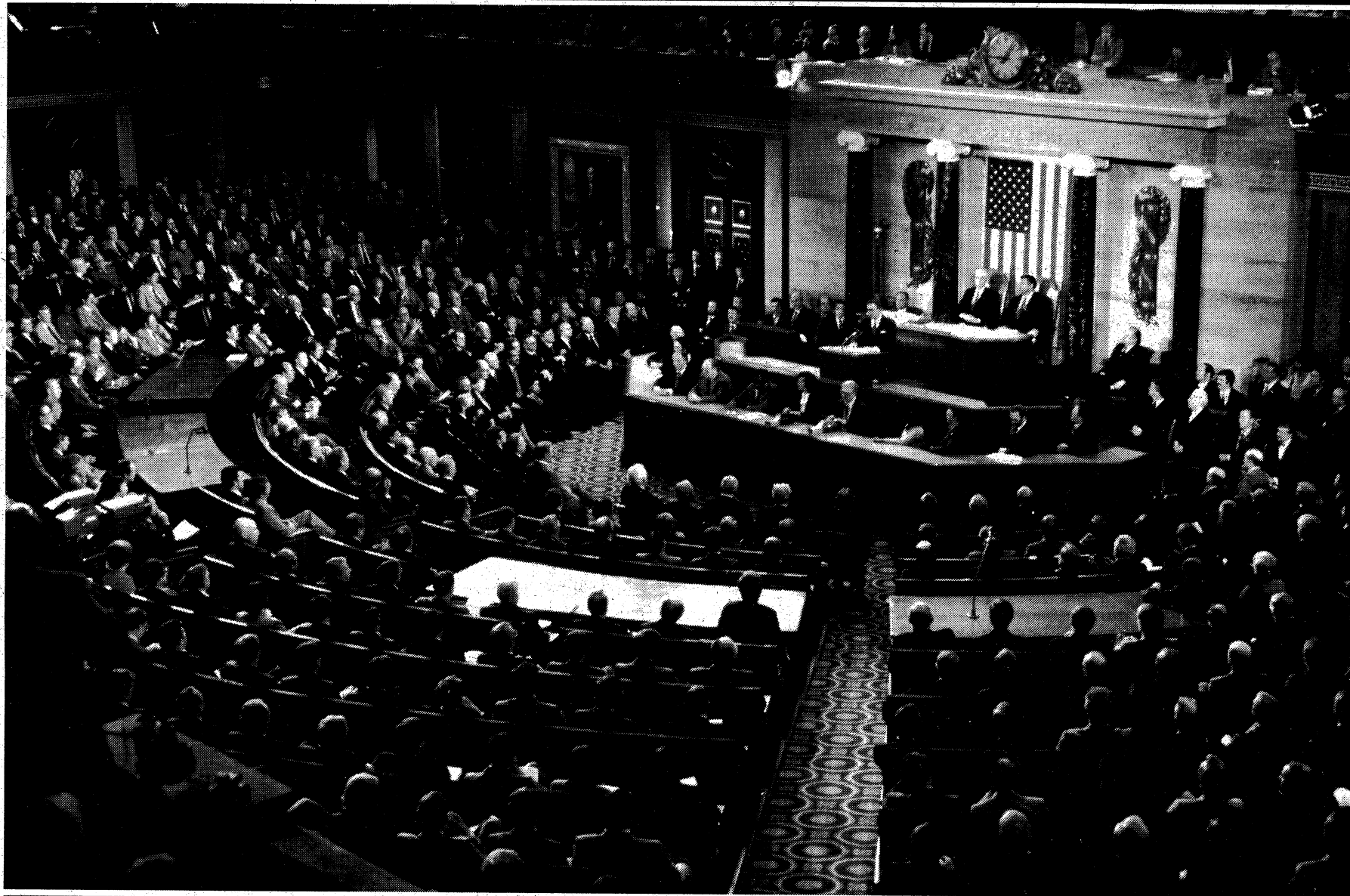
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Former Haitian President Visits Campus

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor
SEIDEL BETHUNE
Statesman Staff

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the former Haitian president who was ousted from his post by a military coup in 1991 and who then regained power with the help of U.S. military, spoke Tuesday at the Student Activity Center

about the need for continued peace in his country.

Aristide was invited by the Concerned Haitian League, the Haitian Student Organization, and the Peace Studies Center, finally successful in bringing Aristide to the campus after three years of trying. Wilson Douce, a member of the Concerned Haitian

League called the event a "great expectation that came through...it's kind of a victory for all Stony Brook students."

In a speech prepared by the National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, President Shirley Strum Kenny introduced Aristide, who's entrance erupted applause from the crowd. "Aristide has been honored and recognized worldwide for his commitment to non-violence, peace, and justice," Kenny said.

The program, entitled "The Man and the Vision, From Misery to Poverty," was directed at addressing the problems of poverty and its repercussions. Aristide illustrated through various stories that as long as poverty and hunger exist, a future of peace and stability in the world is threatened. "Peace is not simply the absence of war," Aristide said, "there is also security in having what you need to live."

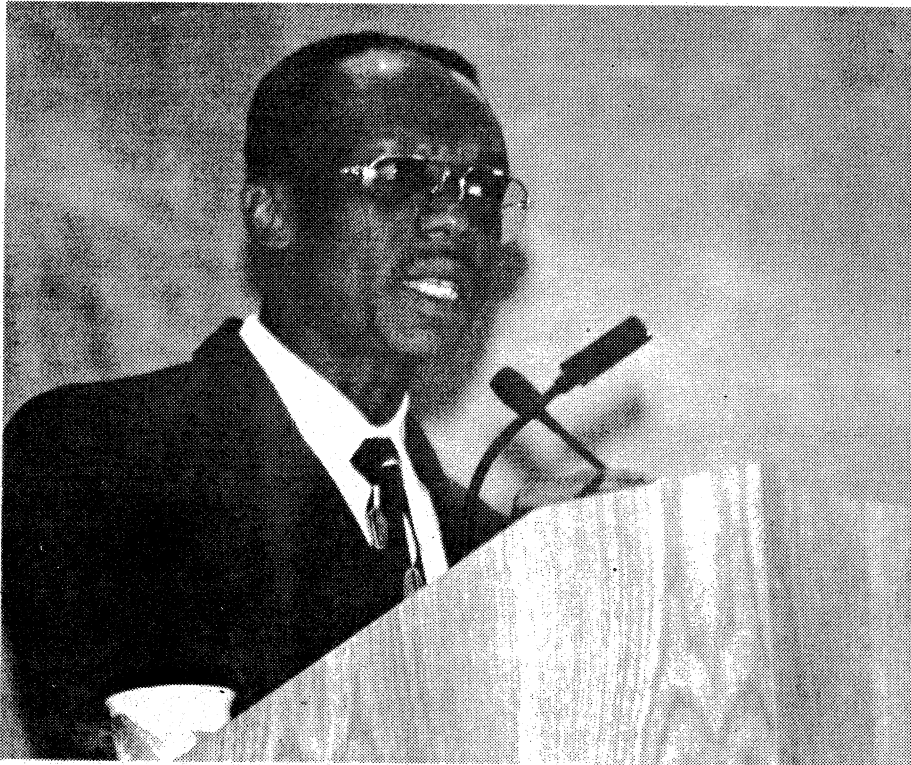
He also made some suggestions as to possible solutions to the problems. The former president addressed the students of the audience and said, "You are the seeds of the 21st century. Sending a message to you is like sending a message into the 21st century." After leaving his office as Haitian president, Aristide formed his Foundation for Democracy, which he hoped would alleviate the staggering poverty and illiteracy found in Haiti. The goals of this foundation include creating forums for dialogue with regards to Aristide's political philosophy, reducing Haiti's 85 percent illiteracy rate, and

promoting co-operative economic initiatives such as granting loans with low interest to women, and investing in agriculture to be able to have food for the hungry. Aristide encouraged the audience to listen closely to the poverty stricken masses, to find out from them how to best help the poor. "Listen to the people," Aristide said.

After his speech there was a question and answer period which was moderated by University Professor Les Owens. The crowd was able to write questions down and submit them to be answered by Aristide. Most of the questions inquired about the peace initiatives that Aristide is looking to implement.

Aristide was then presented with awards. The Peace Studies Center, the Concerned Haitian League, and the Haitian Student Organization each gave Aristide an award based on his accomplishments.

Approximately 350 people showed up to the event including students, faculty and staff, all anticipating the speech of the former president. Each had a different reason for attending the program. Senior Marjorie Fleurancois said, "I was extremely overwhelmed and satisfied by the way he answered questions, and the way he gave a sense of hope to us people as Haitians and other nations also." Kevin Cavanaugh, a freshman, said, "It was a real privilege to see the former president of Haiti. I came here out of personal interest. I am very glad that I came."



Jean Bertrand Aristide

Statesman File Photo

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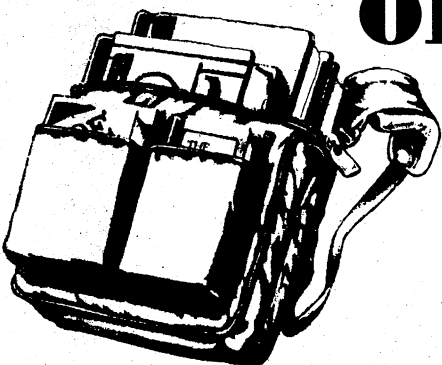
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IMAGES OF THE YEAR



Clockwise from bottom: Workers install pipe for the Wang Asian American Center; Demonstrators at the Take Back the Night march; MPB Concerts Chair, Karen Ramos, with friend at the Homeless Thanksgiving Dinner; SBVAC brave the rapids of the Roth Regatta; Seawolves return to Sports Complex after the Homecoming football game.



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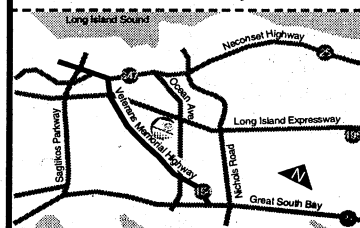
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Alternative Paper Faces The Pressure

Kenny, Others, Take Aim At Campus Publication For Cover Art In November Issue

By GINA FIORE
Statesman Editor

January 21

Both the cover and editorial comment in the November 26, 1997 issue of *The Stony Brook Press* has been deemed "anti-woman" and "anti-Catholic" by Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights President William Donohue and SUNY Trustee Candance DeRussy, the topic of the editorial.

DeRussy, a trustee who was appointed by Governor George Pataki in 1995, was blasted in the editorial for her conservative views on a recent conference at SUNY New Paltz that dealt with women's sexual freedoms. Her objections to the gathering resulted in combined criticism from the SUNY Board and the threat of unemployment to New Paltz President Roger Bowen.

Lashing back, the *Press* put DeRussy on its cover by placing her head on the body of a leather-clad woman. In the subsequent editorial, she was accused of "using her position and influence... to push her neo-Christian political agenda down the throats of New York's less religious extreme, more intelligent academia."

"The initial response to the cover and editorial was positive and we had no idea that it would illicit such a response," commented *Press* Executive Editor David M. Ewalt.

About a month after the initial issue was run, DeRussy began to protest about the content of the editorial and the picture on the cover.

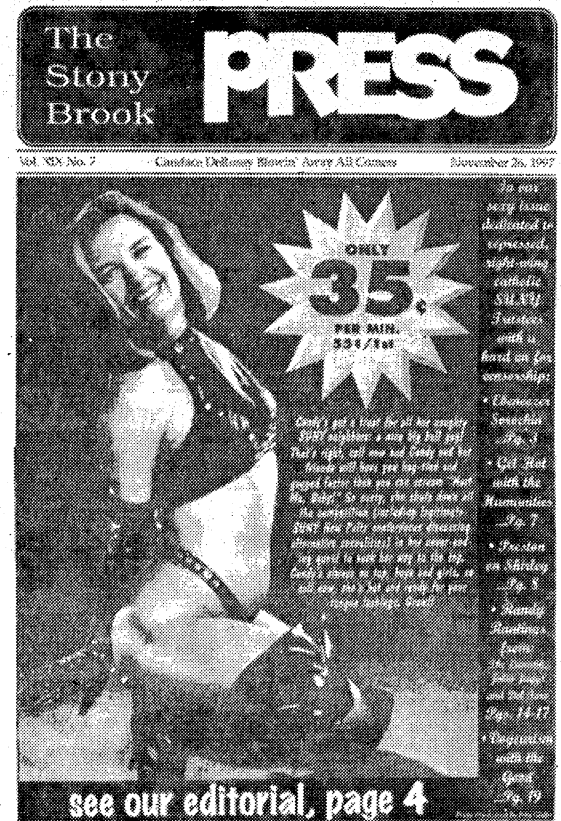
DeRussy charged the *Press* with an "attack on her religion" and "rejecting civil, rational debate," in the January 14 issue of *Newsday*.

Also coming to the aid of DeRussy was Donohue, who responded by saying that "the Catholic League would like to see New York State officials contact Dr. De Russy expressing their support for what she has done and empathy for her situation."

Kenny has also commented on the situation, having been quoted by *Newsday* as saying that the *Press* has "engaged in an unfortunate, irresponsible and inappropriate exercise of the press." However, she will not be taking any action against the paper, although Polity has the option to review the paper's funding.

The *Press'* editorial board members have stood their ground, saying that, "Our editorial position, which we stand behind, is that DeRussy attempt's to silence the voices of SUNY New Paltz students, and by extension, all SUNY students, are gross violations of the first amendment."

When asked to comment on the matter, deRussy replied, "I do not wish to dignify the matter any further but am happy with the strong stance that President Kenny took and am thankful for it." Donohue was not available for comment.



The editors of *The Stony Brook Press* recently faced criticism for their November 26 issue, above.

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Riot Erupts at Michigan University

21

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) Police early Saturday morning fired tear gas on a crowd of Michigan State University students who had gathered to protest an alcohol ban at a popular field for tailgating.

Dozens of police officers were in riot gear and some people were injured after being hit by the tear gas canisters, WLAJ-TV reported. Six people including a firefighter were treated at Sparrow Hospital for minor injuries, most relating to exposure to tear gas, spokeswoman Sheryl Smith said. Six people were treated on the scene for tear gas-related injuries, ambulance workers said.

The students converged on downtown East Lansing, apparently to protest the ban of alcohol on Munn Field. The students set a bonfire downtown with flames 10 to 15 feet high just after midnight. More bonfires were set as the night wore on.

East Lansing Police Chief Lawton Connelly said some protesters threw bottles and rocks at police and four or five students were arrested.

As of about 8 a.m., East Lansing and Michigan State police dispatchers said the protests had been squelched and the blazes under control. Both departments were expected to release statements later this morning.

In a written statement, the Associated Students of Michigan State University known informally as the student assembly said they are angry they weren't consulted before the administration imposed the ban. Munn Field is where most tailgating takes place before Spartan football games.

As the protest turned violent, bars prevented patrons from leaving. But later in the evening after the bars closed, people were allowed to go home. At 2:30 a.m., people were still in the streets chanting the school's colors and "We want Munn."

University police last month announced that alcohol

would be banned from Munn Field. Police had said the field had developed a tradition for parties and binge drinking and the use of alcohol had gotten out of control in recent years. Authorities had said tailgating was not banned, only alcohol.

One student, Maryelle Whitlock, said she was opposed to the school's decision to ban alcohol at the field, but thought things got out of hand early Saturday. "I think the protesters are taking it a little too far. We're just trying to have fun," she said.

University police Capt. Tony Kleibacker said four student groups were invited to meetings discussing solutions for Munn Field, but only representatives of one group attended.

Dave Rudolph, a senior at the school who participated in the protest, said the students first gathered about 9 p.m. and then moved toward downtown East Lansing. He said the first round of tear gas was fired by police without warning after the bonfire was lit.

"Had we gotten a warning before they shot the tear gas, the crowd would have dispersed," Rudolph said. East Lansing Police Capt. Stephen Chubb said police warned the crowd each time before tear gas was sprayed.

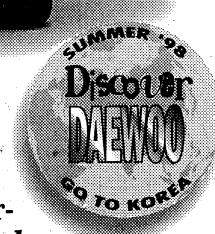
One bystander, Mike Hayes, of DeWitt, said he was disgusted by the protesters. "These people are just hedonists. All they want to do is get drunk," he said.

When police dispersed the crowds downtown, people congregated at a student apartment complex. More fires were set in the streets, and police sprayed more tear gas. As a light rain began to fall about 5 a.m., one large fire still was burning and more than 200 people were outside the apartments.

In September, a post-football party near the school that also turned into a riot resulted in two police cars being damaged and the arrest of four people. A couch was also set on fire during that confrontation. And in 1989, more than 3,000 brawlers ransacked homes as outnumbered police looked on during the school's infamous Cedarfest riot.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, May 4, 1998

CSA Petitions to Separate from Student Polity

By ALEXANDRA CRUZ
Statesman Editor

The Commuter Student Association, which represents more than half the University's students, began initial maneuvers early this week to create its own student government.

If approved by the student body, the CSA will be able to declare its independence from Polity and collect its own funds from commuter students. Currently, CSA is under the umbrella of Polity, the student government for all students. If CSA begins to collect the activity fees of all commuter students, two separate student governments would be formed - one for residents and one for commuter students.

CSA began petitioning this past Monday in order to get signatures from 1400 commuter students, the amount necessary to ensure a place on the April 7 and April 8 Polity election ballots. Although the ballot entry was approved by the full Polity Senate last night, CSA will continue to petition in order to guarantee that the their proposal is available for students to vote on. It remains to be seen what role the University administration will have in this matter, and whether they are able to block the CSA's maneuvers to break from Polity. Marjorie Eyma, Polity treasure said, "It's not a senate or a council decision, it's a decision by Dr. [Fred] Preston. It doesn't mean anything until Dr. Preston says it's on the ballot." Preston is on vacation this week, according to his office, and was unavailable for comment.

CSA President Christine Sadowski said that Polity has ignored the needs of commuter students for far too long, which she points to as a main reason they want to break away. Representation is a big issue she said because the Polity Council was made up of all resident students at the time of elections. This past semester Polity President Monique Maylor became a commuter, but Sadowski said that is not enough.

"It's not like we were appointed out of nowhere," said Eyma. She said that all students had the opportunity to choose their council through the election. She said that commuters did run last year but lost. "That's not my fault. I only had one vote," she said.

Sadowski said that issues such as getting a polling site at South-P, keeping the commuter lounge in the library, getting representation for both resident and commuter students on every University board were accomplished because the CSA fought for them.

Another reason Sadowski said she feels Polity doesn't represent commuters is because she said that only \$5 of the \$82.75 student activity fee paid by all undergraduate students goes to commuters. The CSA received a total of \$26,000 in the form of line-budget and referendum money this year. If the CSA is separated from Polity, CSA said it would charge \$37.50 less than what the current Student Activity Fee is. That would give a savings of \$75 to commuters in comparison to residents.

"Unfortunately, a lot of the things that should have commuter involvement happen when there are no commuters around," Sadowski said. "I had the chair of the SAB [Student Activities Board], on campus saying point blank that no activities are commuter related."

"CSA said that all they get is \$5," said Diane Lopez, Polity vice-president. She said this is

false. "Commuter students get a whole lot more. There are commuter students who are member of NYPIRG, SASU, USSA and many of the cultural organizations.

"They talk about unity and they want to have two governments," said Lopez. "That's not unity. It's dividing students, not unifying them." She said that by creating two governments, the CSA is doubling the process and doubling the time clubs need to take in order to get funding.

Matthew Mahoney said, "There is no unity. Smaller government works better. Things are not so manipulated, things are easier." He said that currently "There is a very limited number of people running things."

Sadowski said that clubs would be eligible to get funding, but they would be voted on by commuter students. According to the CSA, SUNY Buffalo currently has 7 separate student governments and they are not experiencing any problems.

"I don't feel it would add a division between commuters and resident students," Sadowski said. "It would encourage Polity and CSA to work together rather than 40 senators bickering as they do now in Polity."

Eyma said, "I don't think there's a real problem outside of senate." Eyma said that she feels commuters and residents interact together

and that no gap exists between the two groups. "No one walks around being labeled a resident or a commuter," Eyma said. "Everyone is just a student."

Sadowski said, "Honestly, now that its put on the ballot, I see a good chance of it going through because we'll be saving commuters money and because they'll receive better representation than in the past. We hope the commuters come out and vote for it."



CSA President Christine Sadowski

CSA Bid Pulled From Elections

One of the most surprising features of this year's Polity Elections was the absence of the most controversial aspect of the ballot The Commuter Student Association (CSA), which had voted to break away from Polity and form their own, separate student government for commuters, was not featured on the ballot.

Vice President for Student Affairs Fred Preston, removed the issue from the ballot at the last moment over what he called "misleading wording that could confuse the students."

"The wording wouldn't give the students voting on the measure a clear enough understanding on the consolidation of the fees,"

Preston said.

CSA President, Christine Sadowski, while still hoping her group's independence from Polity, was optimistic about the future. "What we plan on doing right now is sitting down with the incoming Polity Council to work out our problems for right now. Looking down the line, we're going to continue to push for our Independence."

Preston was unclear whether the issue would be on the ballot for the Fall or not. There were specific issues that they {CSA} had, and we're working on those issues and concerns for next year," Preston said.

-Gina Fiore

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Features

Senior Art Show Features Diverse Works

By LARS HELMER HANSEN
Statesman Staff

The University Art Gallery is closing off its spring season with a Senior Art Show marked by its diversity and quality. The diversity is due to the 19 different artists featured and the quality to natural talent and skill.

One of the best examples is "Untitled Composition" by John Maffucci. An alien with a ray gun or an aerial view of Hiroshima after the bomb, Maffucci's large colorful painting has many possible interpretations.

"I got the idea for a design and I went with it. Pretty much nonobjective painting. Just free-form," said Maffucci.

Although nonobjective, his work certainly received attention. President Shirley Strum Kenny presented the President's Purchase Award to Maffucci for his futurist oil painting.

His ceramic art teacher is equally impressed with his work. "I think there's a strong relationship between John's painting and his ceramic murals," said Professor Toby Buonagurio. "He takes a painter's sensibility and non-objectively carries it to the ceramic mural aspect of his work."

Along with his award-winning painting, three of Maffucci's wood-framed ceramic works are on display. "I really found the material easy to work with, it lent itself to anything I wanted to do with it," Maffucci said. "It's just all about things I think and dream. I

draw them out, then I work them out to come out in the ceramics work."

In addition to Maffucci's artwork, visitors to the gallery can see Lori Mendez's three small color photographs and computer-generated images entitled "Transitions," which won the Provost's Purchase Award. Mendez's painting, "Jarred," is notable for its realistic rendering of wood-grain and reflections vaguely reminiscent of the Dutch painters of past centuries. Her other works include "Closer," a photographic piece.

Gilbert Abad won the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts Purchase Award for "Untitled I," which consisted of black-and-white photographs with architectural themes. His four photos are studies of light and shadow as well as perspective.

Prakriti 'Brook' Shah, a biology major, expresses her wordless perspective on art through her cryptically titled sculpture "Trans—."

"I just found pieces, these are not carefully planned things," Shah said. "I was obsessed with this shape...I thought that if I butcher it, it makes more sense and there's a line that can be followed even without being delineated."

Shah, 21, is uncharacteristically tight-lipped when asked what she is trying to say with her sculpture. "I think that's for people to figure out, not for me to explain," she said. "It depends on how you want to interpret it. My own meaning to it is limited."

Psychology major Heather Berlin has three paintings in the show. Berlin, 22, said she was inspired by the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe and the watercolors of Helen Frankenthaler.

"I am trying to integrate art and psychology," said Berlin, a Stony Brook resident. "I think there's a lot that goes on between the two. A lot of art has a psychological impact. It comes out and you don't realize it. I found I could express more through painting. I love color and emotion. It's soft. I really enjoy it."

The senior says she is trying to express an organic life force in her work. "It's sort of a feeling. They have this flow and I'm trying to represent it with color and subtleties," Berlin said. "A euphoric feeling. It's



Statesman/Lars Helmer Hansen

Alaine Kim Ranieri's work "Symphony Of Color."



Statesman/Lars Helmer Hansen

John Maffucci's dream inspired "Untitled Composition" won the President's Purchase Award.

something growing. It's an energy that's inherent in everything, in people, and in nature. Energy flowing, it's kind of alive."

Those who attend the show can be further energized by the watercolor still-lifes "L'Arancia" and "Revelation of Reality" by Alaine Kim Ranieri. Other works to look out for include Benjamin Marlin's oil paintings, Michael Li's etchings, Barbara Bilotta's stained-glass style paintings and Gerard Ladd Jr.'s infrared photographs. Also featured is Heather Baron's green and blue acrylic on canvas painting entitled "Portrait in Nature." Anna Chamberlin-Palaia contributes three works in different media. Brian Berry has four photographs in the show, including the two piece "Self-portrait as a Fairy" depicting the artist in a tutu and wings.

Svetlana Ballot's "Russian Flashcards" is not only a display to see but are also to touch. "People think they're interesting, but they are afraid to touch them because of this museum-like atmosphere," said Ballot, 29, a native of Omsk, Siberia. "People should know it's okay to touch them."

"It's really an exaggerated statement," said Ballot, a studio arts major about her work. "It's really grotesque, but it just has a point. There's so much information, you cannot know everything, so you just pick out pieces and they stick in you head."

Located on the ground floor of the Staller Center for the Arts, the University Art Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call Rhonda Cooper at 632-7240. The Senior Art Show will be running until May 14.

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