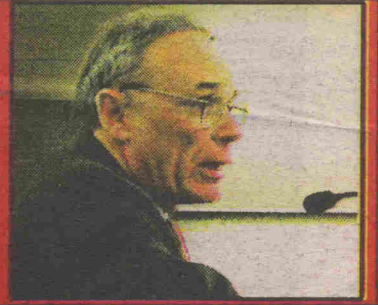


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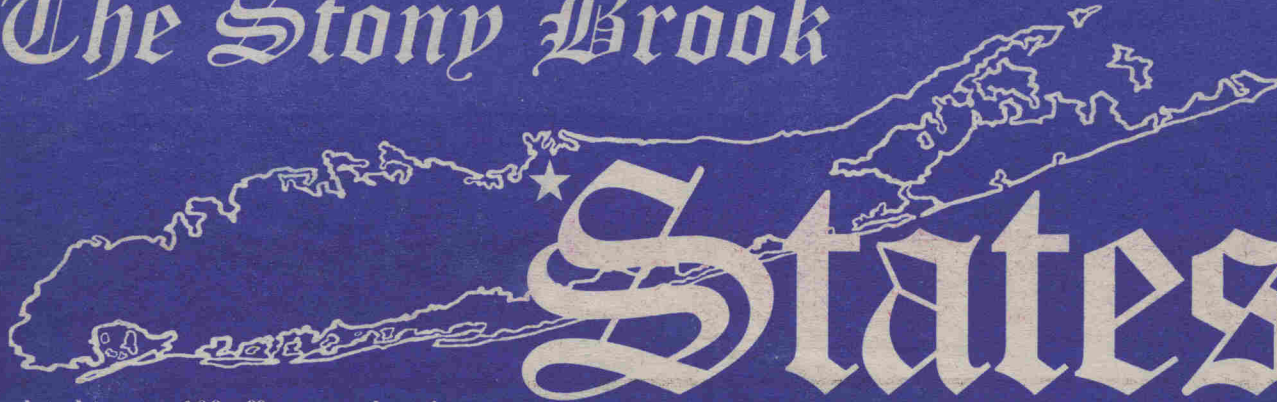
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Announces Coke
Contract to
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The Stony Brook

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VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 27

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Freedom Fighters



Josette Cole, Regina Bulani,
Margot Olvarria and Nieves
Ayress - all civil rights
activists - in a panel
discussion Saturday on the
fight against authoritarian
governments.

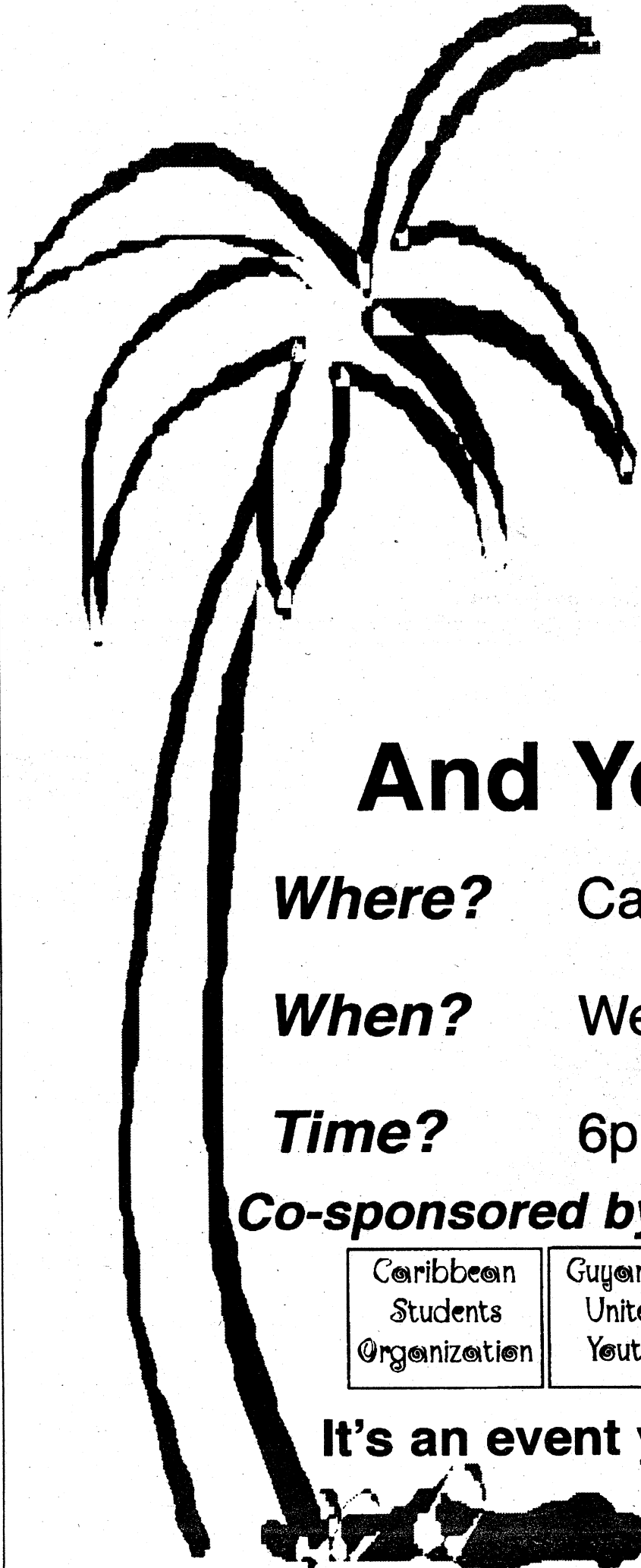
Women Activists Gather At University
This Weekend to Discuss Civil Rights

Page 3

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Conferring Power

Veteran Activists Meet at University to Discuss the Plight of Women

By JUSTIN BELKIN
Statesman Staff

Women activists from across the globe who have faced the most repressive of regimes gathered this past Saturday at the University to discuss the progress of the empowerment movements in a day long conference.

The conference, the second of its kind held, included four different panels consisting of international civil right advocates, professors from Stony Brook, victims of oppressive governments, and undergraduate Stony Brook activists.

The panels focused on women in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, young women today who advocate for human and civil rights, the trials and tribulations of human rights victims in authoritarian countries, and the relationship between women's rights and human rights. Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny attended the conference, saying the event was held here because Stony Brook "has one of the most diversified student bodies in the country."

The purpose of the event, said Temma Kaplan, director of Women's Studies at Stony Brook who moderated most of the conference's events, was to "tell people that the civil rights movement didn't end in the 60s." She also said that the movement just had another name, for example human rights, but that the movement was still one of social justice.

The conference took place just less than a



Statesman/Peter Gratton

Anannya Bhattacharjee, former director of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence and founder of the Sakhi for South Asian Women and Yukari Yanagino of the New York Asian Women's Center speak Saturday on the relationship between the rights of women and its relationship to the human right's cause. Below, University President Shirley Strum Kenny calls attention to the successes of the Womens Studies Program as part of her introduction of the conference. Yanagino said that it "the best conference [she] had ever attended."

week after International Women's Day and coincided perfectly, Kaplan said, with Women's History Month. The event, she continued, should serve as "a reminder and a shot to the arm to rejuvenate the passion and solidarity that was so prevalent during the period between 1975 and 1985" which would become known as the Decade For Women.



Temma Kaplan

"It is a struggle which continues today," she said, "the seeds of women's rights were planted with the involvement of women in the Civil Right's Movement. It was this war for equality that historically all repressed people have felt in one way or another, that bounds them together to a common cause."

Belinda Robnet, author and professor at the University of California at Davis, spoke during the first panel discussion about events of the Civil Right's Movement, when women were able to find leadership positions at the grass-roots level, she said, and were responsible for organizing support and educating African Americans to vote.

"It was the women that bridged the gap," Robnet said, "between a national vision and the local activism that was necessary to achieve" the goals of the Civil Right's movement.

Jodie Lawston, a senior and president of the Stony Brook Center for Womyn's Concerns, who shared the panel with Robnet, said that she became involved with women's issues after learning

about the treatment of women overseas, particularly in the work place.

"Once your eyes are open to such human rights violations, you can no longer see the world in the same way again," she said.

Two-thirds of all African Americans, she said, live within 50 miles of a toxic waste site. It is this environmental racism that Angela Brown, founding director of the Youth Task Force, told the crowd should be at the forefront of modern-day activists' concerns.

Dollie Burwell, Environmental Justice Advocate and Aid to Congresswoman Eva Clayton of North Carolina agreed. "Our children and our families are suffering. We women must organize." While the issues have changed since the initial struggles of the feminist movement nearly thirty years ago, she said, new leaders should continue to adhere to the adage, "think globally, act locally."

It was towards the end of the conference that attendees heard the most emotional and horrific tales of human rights abuses. Nieves Ayress, a Chilean activist, described the torture and rape she suffered at the hands army personnel after being imprisoned in a church after the 1973 coup d'etat of President Salvador Gossens by General Augusto Pinochet. She was arrested, she said, simply for being a woman and for supporting the previous president.

When asked how she survived, she said "I would sing."

Tara Nyack, a senior studying Political Science, said that the conference was helpful in highlighting the discrimination that still plagues women worldwide. "I think women are looked down upon as second-class citizens, she said. "Men alone cannot solve all the problems of the world. Women and men must work together, making use of their strengths; to solve the problems of world inequality."

POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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March 21, 1999

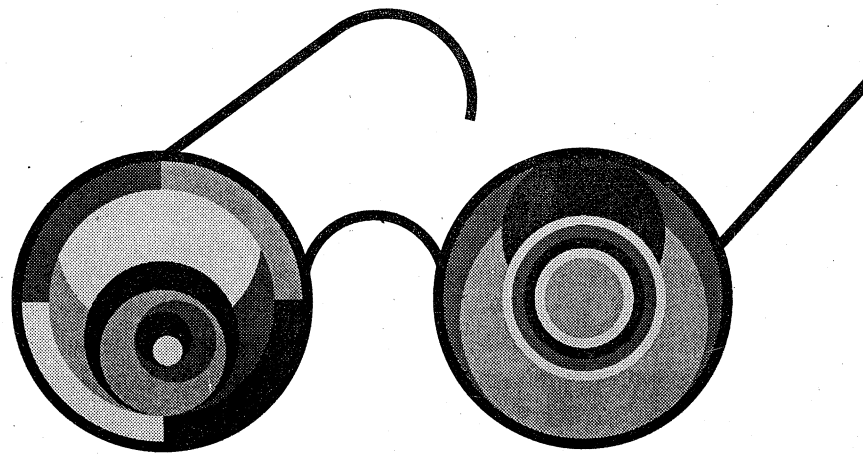
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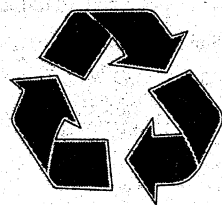
POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 15, 1999

POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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In order to be a referenda group on the Spring '99 ballot
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or Majority vote of the Polity Council or Senate.

Petitioning begins **Monday, March 8, 1999.**

Pick up petitions in the SAC, room 202

Petitioning Deadline is Friday, March 12, 1999 at 4:30 p.m.

Referendum groups only. Deadline for Majority vote by
Polity Council or Senate is **Wednesday, March 17, 1999 at 10 p.m.**

For information call Nicole @ 2-6460

Press: Don't Expect an Apology

Stony Brook's Alternative Newspaper Stands by Writing Despite Defunding Threat

By MICHAEL KWAN
Statesman Editor

Amid rumors of the imminent defunding of the Stony Brook Press, the saga surrounding the Stony Brook Press' Arts Editor Marlo Del Toro, author of an article about last month's Ms. Stony Brook Pageant, was taken to the Polity Senate last Wednesday.

Critics charge that Del Toro's article "No Shirley Here," published in the February 24 edition of the Press, is riddled with factual errors and is racially biased.

Commuter Student Association Senators Persephone DaCosta and Claudine Stuart, both contestants in the Ms. Stony Brook Pageant, took to the Senate their concerns about Del Toro's article. DaCosta had openly said that she would call to have the Press' funding taken away at the Race in the Media panel that was moderated by Del Toro, two weeks ago. She did not follow through on her threats though, asking only that the Press print a formal apology.

"I was really hurt by this article. I though it was a personal attack to every contestant in the contest," she said.

Stuart agreed. "This article was based on attacking the students," she said.

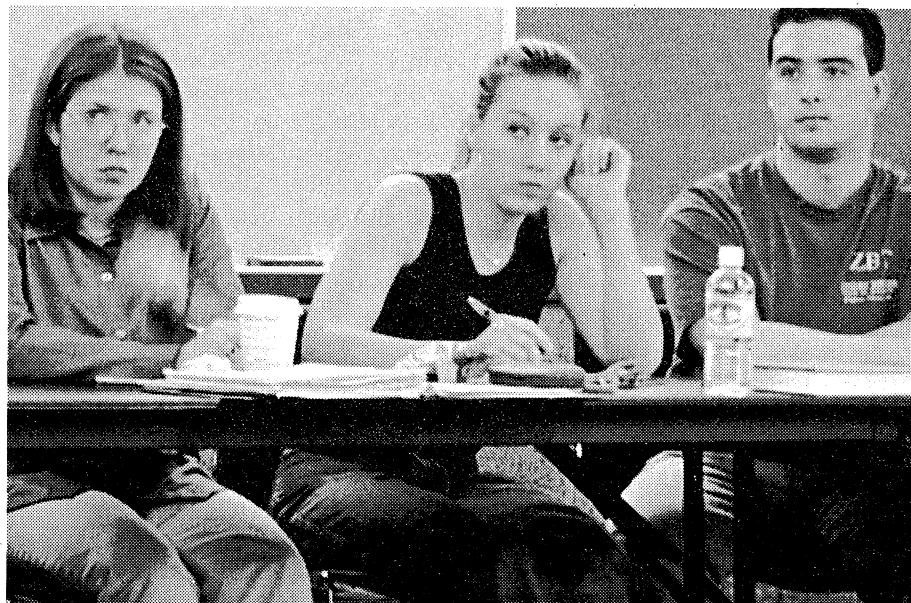
This is the second time in two years that the Press has had to defend itself before Senate. Last spring, then Executive Editor David Ewalt was called before the Senate to answer questions

about a front cover that it ran the previous fall. The cover featured SUNY Trustee Candice DeRussy in a sadomasochistic outfit and was run in connection with an article criticizing DeRussy's stand on a conference on women's rights held at SUNY New Paltz. At that time, College Republicans called for the freezing of the Press' budget. The move failed and the Press was only asked to print an apology.

This year, Student Polity President Aneka Gibbs told the Senators that she too did not want to see the Press defunded. "I think it would be taking it too far to do something like this. Two wrongs don't make a right," she said.

For their part, editors at the Press continue to stand by Del Toro's article and see the measures threatened by DaCosta as an infringement on the freedom of the press. "I think its unfortunate that Persephone perceived this as a personal attack," said Press Executive Editor Michael Yeh, in an interview the next day. "That was not the intention. Marlo had a legitimate point to make and she had the right to criticize the event as she saw fit. If Persephone wants to write a letter or an article I would be happy to give her a chance to make her statement; however, the Stony Brook Press has nothing to apologize for."

Staff member John Guiffo, who was managing editor under Ewalt, said he was standing behind Del Toro as



Statesman/Ruth Chung

Senator Claudine Stuart, center, voiced her concerns of Del Toro's article before Polity last Wednesday.

well. "One of the essential things in a free society is to be able to say and do what you want without worry about repercussions from the government," he said.

A majority of the Senate disagreed though. Junior Representative Andrez Carberry, motioned that the Senate make a request for an apology from the Press -and Del Toro in particular- to each of the contestants of the pageant.

"It's beyond me to believe that we as students are funding a newspaper

that is not accountable to the students," he said.

Although the motion would go on to pass by a vote of 17 to nine, with nine abstentions, some members of the Senate disagreed with the Polity's intervention. "We can't be mad at someone for giving their opinion," said Senate co-chair Maryam Jadali.

Stuart, however, said that she feels that a good precedent was set by passing the motion. "I think it shows that we are concerned about the students," she said.

New Coca Cola Contract Signed

By MICHAEL KWAN
Statesman Editor

The University signed a ten-year contract with Coca Cola recently, which will create a scholarship fund, while giving Coke a monopoly over campus soft drinks.

"We think this is a win-win situation," said Vice President for

Administration, Richard Mann, during the report he gave to Polity Senate last Wednesday. While Mann, could not reveal certain aspects of the contract, at the behest of Coca Cola, but did say that the University will be receiving at least \$5 million per year from Coca Cola, for scholarships.

The money that the University will receive will come in two forms, money coming directly from Coca Cola, for the University's endorsement and exclusive contract, and commission coming from the sale of Coca Cola products.

"It's going into a combination of academic and athletic scholarships," he said. According to Mann, the breakdown of where the scholarship money would go will be roughly 45% academic, 55% athletic. He noted though, that this is only an interim arrangement, until the move to Division I is complete, suggesting that there will be a change in that arrangement as soon as the athletics department begins its fund-raising efforts. According to NCAA rules, the money for athletic scholarships has to be raised from private donors.



Statesman/Ruth Chung

Vice President for Administration Dick Mann announced the contract before the Polity senate.

Town Meeting Explores Campus Diversity

By MICHAEL KWAN
Statesman Editor

The question of exactly how diversity effects the way people relate to each other and the community as a whole was brought up in two town meetings last week.

The meetings were held as part of the Campus Community Initiative, the aim of which is to write a formal statement that will define what each member of the University community can expect from the administration and each other.

"It's important that we try to create community here at Stony Brook," said Lisa Montgomery, assistant to Vice

President for Student Affairs Fred Preston, "The initiative in and of itself will not make a difference."

The statement that will come of the initiative will specifically state "the values and goals of the University community: what all students and faculty may expect of the university and what the University may expect of them," said Montgomery

The authoring of the statement will be completed by a committee formed by Preston, which Montgomery will chair. The committee involves members of every part of Stony Brook's community, consisting of Norm

Continued on page 11

Hi:
I'm 25 and still living at home. I like it but I often get frustrated with my parents and younger siblings. I could move out (I make about \$40,000 a year), but I feel like it's an expense I could just as well avoid by staying where I am. I don't want to rent, because I feel like it's throwing money down a hole. But I'm also not sure I want the commitment of home ownership.

-Maryland

As always, the answer is in the thoughtfully crafted compromise: Move out, and make your parents pay your rent. That way you can sponge off them indefinitely without having to trifle with other people's habits and needs! The alternatives are so, I don't know, extreme: regressing to where your personality, tastes and opinions are less well-formed, and are therefore more adaptable to family life; coming to a complete developmental halt, and embracing quasi-adulthood (tip: focus on the money one saves when one's parents assume one's expenses); or growing up enough to see that "free" is merely another word for "on someone else's tab," and that perhaps it's time you started paying yours.

Dear Tell Me About It:

I'm married to my second husband, and my 13-year-old son from the first marriage lives with us. For some reason, my son's long hair has always gotten on my husband's nerves. He teased and harassed my son about it constantly. I recently returned from a week-long business trip to find son sporting a crewcut short enough to make the Marine Corps proud. My husband had dragged the boy to a barbershop and forced him into getting his beloved hair cut off. Now my

son is near tears whenever my husband declares the crewcut is "what he'll wear from now on." He says it's none of my husband's business because he's not his real father, and I feel I'm being shoved into taking sides. Do you think my husband went too far?

-Michigan

I think your husband is taking the expression "messing with his head" a tad literally. Here's a clue, ma'am: By waiting till you were away, your husband made it clear he knew he was going too far. But make no mistake, this has nothing whatsoever to do with hair. This has to do with your husband's need for dominance, and he's satisfying it by the most weaselly means available: The more he belittles your already fragile adolescent son, the bigger he feels. Bully for him.

You resent having to take sides, but if I were you, I'd resent the SOB who feels entitled to "tease and harass" your son. You're a mother; your first obligation is to your child. Which means ding ding ding, no sleeping through this part-your current, former or any future husband comes a not-even-close second. An adult can, presumably, take care of himself; a child needs an advocate, and if his parent won't stand up for him, who on earth has he got?

That's why a healthy affection for your

son should have been a requirement for any prospective husband.

Whoops.

This adversarial stepfather, by harassing your little Samson, has now taught him that adults are arbitrary and cruel, that any small attempt at individuality is grounds for ridicule and that home is not a safe haven for him. By not putting a quick end to the harassment, you've taught him that he's facing these unpleasant truths alone. Surprise surprise, he's rejecting his stepfather.

How long before he blames you for bringing this guy home? The last thing you want—any of us wants—is a full-blown teenager with nothing but spite for the adults in his life. And a driver's license. Ugh.

Un-teach this. Now.

If your husband can't grasp the difference between a father, who tries to correct errors for the good of his child, and a bully, who feels entitled to correct anything any way he damn pleases, you have two choices: He changes, or you leave. When Samson's out of the house, you can capitulate to this guy till death for all I care; right now, though, your son is 13, he's on the ramp to Deeply Screwed Up and he's gaining speed. You must step in. Insist that your husband accompany you to parenting classes. If he goes, it's a good

sign; if he improves, even better. If he's not willing even to try, what does that tell you? What does that tell your son?

Dear Carolyn:

I'm a 20-year-old college student who's been interested in this girl for almost a year. She's always been flirty with me (lots of arm squeezes and hugs, touching my knee and laughing after I tell a joke, etc.) and even came over to my house for dinner (at her suggestion).

But she has a boyfriend of three years, whom she doesn't mention very much. Should I tell her how I feel, make a move, move on? Help!

-Philadelphia

You like her? But you're not sure if she likes you? Pushing the envelope, are we. You have two choices. You can go with one of your suggestions, and force a resolution—or you can gradually, sweetly show more interest in her and see if she maintains the pace. The boyfriend question is hers to answer, and she'll answer it when she's ready. Unless she's ready to cheat: That's an answer unto itself.

Dear Carolyn:

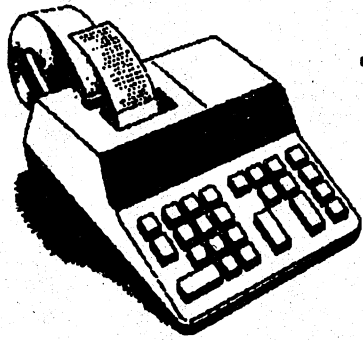
What do you think about asking people out by e-mail?

-Los Angeles

Depends on the date. But to a lot of people, e-mail is the wonder drug for weaklings—and we all know what the appearance of weakness does for your mate potential. Just call. No matter how dreadful, it beats shooting oneself in the foot.

If you would like to write to Carolyn, please e-mail: statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu.

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Are They on Coke?

Some More Reasons Why Thinking Minds on this Campus Should Hate the Athletic Department

Maybe Pepsi is right when they say they are the choice of the new generation because if we choose Coke, the future holds a world filled with jocks and cheerleaders in charge. After recovering from that frightening thought, you may notice from the absence of 7 Up, Pepsi One and Tropicana orange juice now that Stony Brook has an exclusive contract with Coca Cola, barring the sale of any non-Coke related product.

SBU has dived in for another long term commitment that may get it into trouble (Chartwells, need we say more), promising to sell Coke, and nothing but Coke for the next ten years.

This beverage monopoly will give SBU a hefty sum of money to sit on in exchange for going in for the long haul, a sum of over \$5 million a year. Don't worry though, the money is not going to Polity so they can waste some more student money. Rest assured that it is going towards a much more distressing cause: scholarships.

What's so scary about \$5 million in scholarship money being added to our budget? Well, nothing save for the break down of the funds. According to Richard Mann, the vice president for Administration, 45% of the

scholarships will be academic and the rest, a whopping 55%, will be devoted to athletics. That's right, the athletes on campus will take precedence over the rest of us in academics, being eligible for more financial help based on their ability to sink a basket and tackle a running back, instead of their ability to write a paper or split an atom. What is this school coming to?

Apparently Division I fever has seeped through the walls of the Pritchard gym and its surrounding building and into the Administration offices. As if anyone cares, SBU is going Division I meaning that our sports teams can enjoy more funding and more publicity at a school that is usually, and rightfully, noted for its excellence in the realm of math, science and medicine.

Speaking of medicine, administrators should go see their doctors for even pondering this idea and this totally unfair discrepancy. We are not knocking our school's

athletes. We recognize the hard work that goes into getting tutored to maintain half way decent grades, hitting a ball really far, wearing plastic pants and jerseys everyday and going to slam a few beers at night. But as for the rest of us that have to read ten chapters of our textbooks, write papers without the help of tutors and have no natural athletic talent, we will be getting jipped. But hey, at least we will be able to cheer on the Seawolves while watching their games on television.

We should take some heart though because according to Mann, this arrangement is only temporary until the bright minds in athletics can brainstorm and think up some ideas for their own fund-raising. But with this sweet little arrangement we can't see why they would rush to gain independence from this crutch. They will have a steady flow of funds for the next ten years to bribe the better athletes here in the name of robbing money from the rest of us in academics. This is a fine message SBU is sending out. You have a better chance of getting a scholarship to attend classes here if you can swim fast but you better pray they throw you something even if your GPA is a 4.0. We will keep you posted as SBU continues its track down this downward spiral.

Why I Miss Frank Santangelo

By NEAL PATEL
Special to the Statesman

The members of the Polity Senate recently formed a Constitution Committee to revamp its present constitution.

I think that the purportedly new constitution is no different from the old. The individuals that are responsible for the new Polity Constitution have failed to mention anything about separation of powers.

Having separation of powers in the constitution among the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch in student government is just as important as having checks and balances in the U.S. government system.

We must first talk about how one becomes a member in the Polity Senate. Members of the Polity Senate are individuals elected by their college Leg or the Polity Executive Council. They cannot be elected by the president or vice president. I strongly believe that members of the Polity Executive Council should not be

But In the Meantime, I'll Talk About the Polity Constitution

members of the Polity Senate nor have any voting power. The Polity Senate should be limited simply to individuals elected to the college legs. Here are some other items I would like to see in our new constitution:

1) The President shall protect the integrity of our student body, and oversee activities of committees of the Polity Executive Branch such as the Student Activities Board, Minorities Planning Board, Elections Board, Student Association for the State University of NY, etc...

2) The Vice President shall set the agenda for members of the Polity Senate to work on. Currently, the Vice President chairs the Polity Senate meetings. This must end. The Senate shall elect their own presiding officer. The Senate clerk shall not be a senator, but appointed by the presiding officer of the Polity Senate. The clerk shall have no voting power in the Senate.

3) The Polity Senate shall have

the sole power to impeach the President, Vice President, and other civil officers of the Polity Executive Council on charges of bribery, treason, and other high crimes and misdemeanors against the student body. The members of the Judicial Branch shall preside over the impeachment of the Executive Branch. The Judicial Branch shall be impeached and removed for violation of the Polity constitution. The Polity Senate shall also have the power to censure, reprimand or expel its own members for engaging in misconduct.

In addition, Polity should not be incorporated but simply a student government that represents students' concerns. If we do that we will perhaps protect the interests of the students of this institution. We will be honest in what the Student Polity Association was enacted to do.

In conclusion, the new Polity constitution needs more work before it goes on referendum later this year. We should not give one branch of government more power over another branch of government.

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Speaking Out on Domestic Violence

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

After ten long years absent from public view, Hedda Nussbaum appeared in the SAC auditorium last Monday night to discuss the years of abuse she suffered at the hands of her husband, Joel Steinberg.

The image of her face—hair unkempt in a blue bandanna, downcast eyes distorted and swollen from repeated blows—became an emblem of the horrors of domestic violence. But when her story became front page news some ten years ago, it offered a grim reminder of its possible consequence as it claimed Lisa, their six year old daughter, whose life was cut painfully short after a fatal blow from her father.

Unable to talk about her daughter's death due to impending litigation in a civil suit Nussbaum is bringing against Steinberg, she chose instead to talk about the horrific abuse she suffered at the hands of the man she loved. Typical of most abusers, Steinberg's abuses first began as mental. Nussbaum, who currently works with battered women and is trying to publish a book about domestic violence, talked of his charisma, intelligence and "sparkling eyes," all of which played a role in his eventual total control over her. Nussbaum said how he "preyed on her

vulnerabilities" which included a low self esteem, and how this led to her isolation from family, friends and the rest of the outside world. She felt that nothing she did was ever good enough for him. He critiqued everything she did and she felt she could never live up to his unattainable standards of perfection.

The physical abuse did not begin until three years into the relationship. Nussbaum described his first physical attack and how he was so apologetic after it happened, taking her into his arms and giving her loving attention. Although she noted how he never actually said that he was sorry, she believed that the incident drew them closer together and that it was isolated.

She soon found that this was nothing more than hopeful thinking and that "it always got worse." After losing her job from taking too much time off to avoid questions about her black eyes and swollen face, Nussbaum became Steinberg's personal secretary for his law practice. She then went on to suffer years of abuse with beatings coming daily. Over the years, Nussbaum had her knee broken, her spleen ruptured, her lip split, broken ribs, chipped teeth and gouged eyes. Punishment for not coming when he called could be submersion in an ice cold bath or banging her head against a wall, after which Steinberg would force her to clean up the blood. It got so bad



Statesman/Ruth Chung

Hedda Nussbaum spoke at the SAC Auditorium last Monday.

that she could not eat or leave the house without his permission and she expected nightly beatings from an exercise bar. Her mind had become so clouded by the abuse and by the freebase crack the couple occasionally smoked that five different attempts to leave always found her back with him, only to endure more abuse.

The audience was extremely sympathetic to Nussbaum's story and

they listened with rapt attention as she cautioned the women in the audience on signs to look for in a potential abuser. As she explained the psychology behind the women who all too often find themselves in similar situations, Nussbaum implored the audience to support the women when they finally mustered the courage to leave their abuser. She told them to "support her, don't blame her and listen to her while helping her."

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SBU Softball Hopeful for Good Season

By CHRIS FRANKIE
Statesman Contributor

After two years of progress, the Stony Brook Women's Softball team hopes to make more improvements during its last in Division II.

"We have high expectations," said Coach Diane Hobin.

The Seawolves, who had just one win three seasons ago, have dramatically improved under Hobin, with a record of 13-24-1 overall, and 8-8 in their conference last season. The team's goal is to finish in the top three in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference, with at least a .500 record, which according to Hobin is "very achievable."

Heading the pitching staff will be Cassie Rupp. Rupp, who is expected to do the majority of the pitching, was the MVP at the nationals for junior colleges two years ago. Returning to the mound is "strikeout queen," Stephanie Spader, who broke the Seawolves' all-time and single season strikeout records, and tied the school's all-time shutout record last year.

Victoria Menchise, who moving from second base to shortstop, will be shoring up the infield. "She's a vocal

leader," Hobin said. The rest of the infield, seniors, Philomena Yarusso and Angela Yarusso, are also "leaders in their own respects," she said.

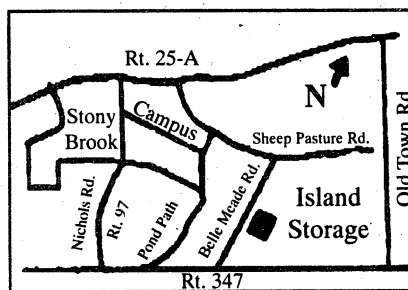
The Seawolves' home opener will be at 2:30 p.m. on Mar. 24 when they face up against Dowling. "Dowling's a very good team," Hobin said, "It will be a good test for us."

During the spring break, the Seawolves will head to Florida to challenge Florida Tech and Florida. "We played three Division I schools down in Florida," Hobin said about last year's trip. This year she hopes to up it to four or five opponents for a total of eight to 10 games.

Stony Brook's switch to Division I next year will bring numerous changes to the program. One thing that will change is the recruiting. "We have a kid coming from Montana," said Hobin. The competition will be "more intense," and they plan to "start a little bit earlier." She also said that she would like to increase the number of games on the schedule.

The step up to Division I is not necessarily going to be an easy task, Hobin said. "It might be a year or two before we get into it."

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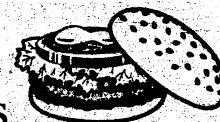
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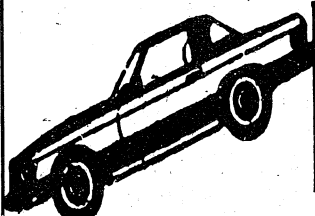
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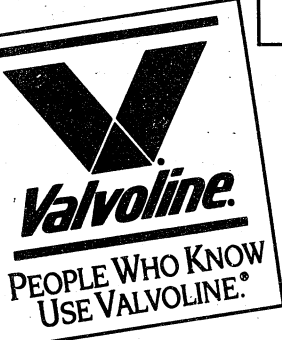
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"Community" Meeting Held

Continued from page 5

Goodman, a sociology professor, Veronica Gonzalez, a graduate student, Sunitha Singh, an undergraduate, Carmen Vazquez, the dean of students, Brian Delong, of Campus Residences, Jolyon Jesty, from the department of medicine, and several others.

"We hope to involve students and staff in defining what we think is a community and what we could do together to make it a better community," Goodman said.

The Tuesday meeting began with questions by the panel, which consisted of Delong, Gonzalez, Goodman, Montgomery and Singh, directed to the audience. Montgomery asked the first question: "Do we need to improve the sense of community at Stony Brook?"

The overwhelming answer from members of the audience was yes.

Students present said that there is a need for more events, along the lines of Homecoming, to foster a sense of community. Conversely though, some said that ethnic events, parties in particular, have

created isolation between groups. "We have so much diversity, but it's all segregated. All groups have separate programs," said one student.

The competition between clubs has prohibited the University from having a single unifying event. "Each club wants to have a major event; with every club wanting a major event, you don't get a major event," said Preston.

Stony Brook's history, or rather, lack of it, was also attributed to being contributing to the little sense of community here. Goodman and Deputy Chief of Police, Doug Little, pointed out that SBU is only 40 years old, and that it does not have the same kind of traditions and history that older schools have. They called for the building some of these traditions.

Many of the participants, in group discussions that were held later, were hopeful that some change would come from this meeting; however, some were cynical about any change actually occurring. Senior Victoria Ortiz said, "I think they do it for PR purposes, they're really not listening. But we can hope."

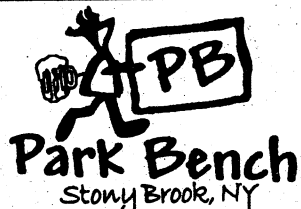


Committee members Veronica Gonzalez, Norm Goodman, Sunitha Singh, and Brian Delong (left to right), will take part in the writing of the statement on Campus Community.

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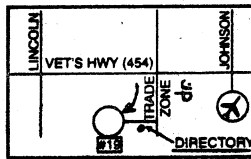
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 15, 1999



Features

More than Just Art

Shirley Strum Kenny Festival Opens

By MICHAEL KWAN
Statesman Editor

The Shirley Strum Kenny Arts Festival officially opened Thursday with a street fair in the Student Activities Center Lobby.

"Anything that gives students the opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities really has to be appreciated," said Fred Preston, vice president for student affairs, "One of the things that always amazes me is how talented our students are."

The afternoon-long event featured an art show, poetry display, palm reading, pop corn, and caricature drawings.

Preston started by talking about his own experiences as a performer in his youth, and went on to say that the festival "gives us the opportunity to see a dimension of our students that we don't normally have the opportunity to see... It is a very rich way to see the tremendous diversity of our



Statesman/Michael Kwan

Students could have their palm read (above), and buy pottery made in the Union Craft Center (below) during the street fair last Thursday.

student body."

Graduate Student, Jason Samuels was the first to perform on stage, singing pieces that he will be featured in his cabaret show this Thursday. "It was kind of nice to sing for the festival," he said. "One of my friends who's organizing the festival found out about it [his cabaret show] and said 'Hey Jason, would you like to perform as part of the students arts festival?' I said, 'I'm already singing these songs, why not?'"

Rounding off the first set of the afternoon's performances was Nicole Marsh, one of the festival's organizers, who performed a piece that she choreographed herself, to the Will Smith song "Men in Black," and Saad Sarwana, a stand up comedian.

"I'm glad about the way it turned out," said Janelle Stanton, the festival's other organizer, "A lot of people are having fun."

The festival was opened the previous night with the Greely Coffeehouse, a gathering at Greely College which featured comedy, poetry, dance and drama. "The coffeehouse is always successful,"

said Marsh.

Other events last weekend included an art exhibit in the lobby of the Staller Center, a jazz and tap concert put on by Katherine Kramer, the Gala Concert featuring Jessica Moore, a poet, writer and musician, and Talking Broadway, a show featuring performers from the Broadway musicals "Miss Saigon" and "Titanic."



A Poetic Meeting



Statesman/Peter Gratton

Aleksander Plonski, above, reads his poetry last Thursday night at the Harriman Cafe. Poetry readings are held there each Thursday as part of the Cafe's new expanded hours (open Mon-Thursday until 11 pm). Others at the meeting delivered the poetry of more famous authors, or simply chose to express themselves through guitar playing.