

28 Days Review

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The Stony Brook

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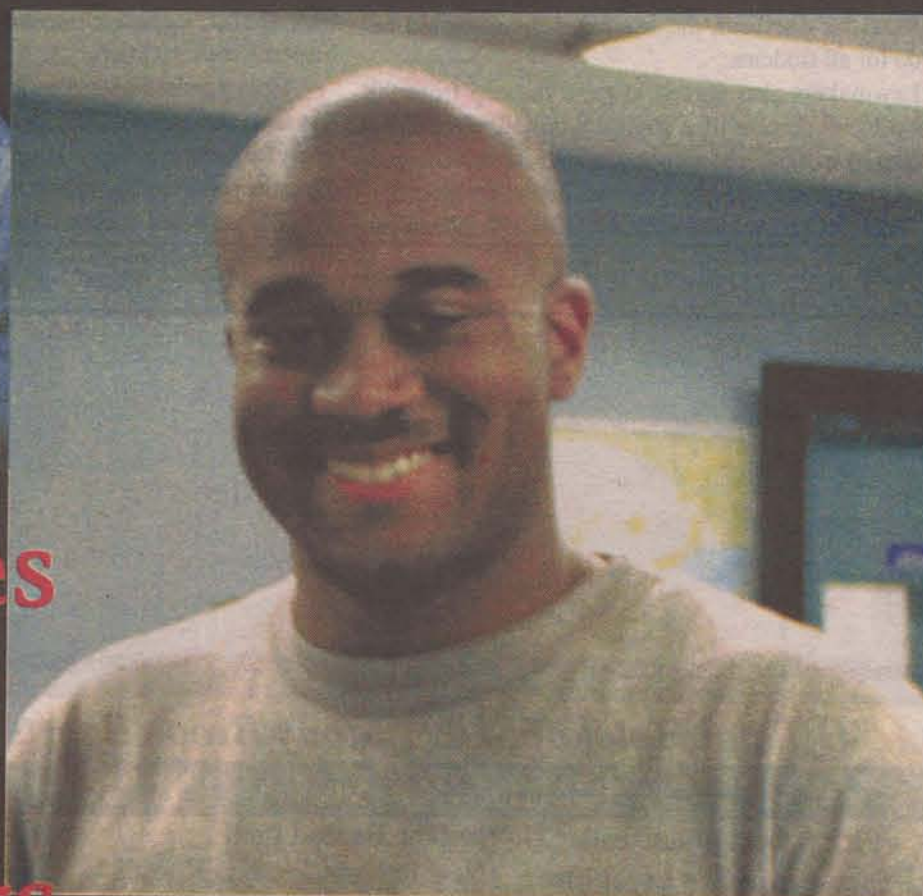
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MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2000

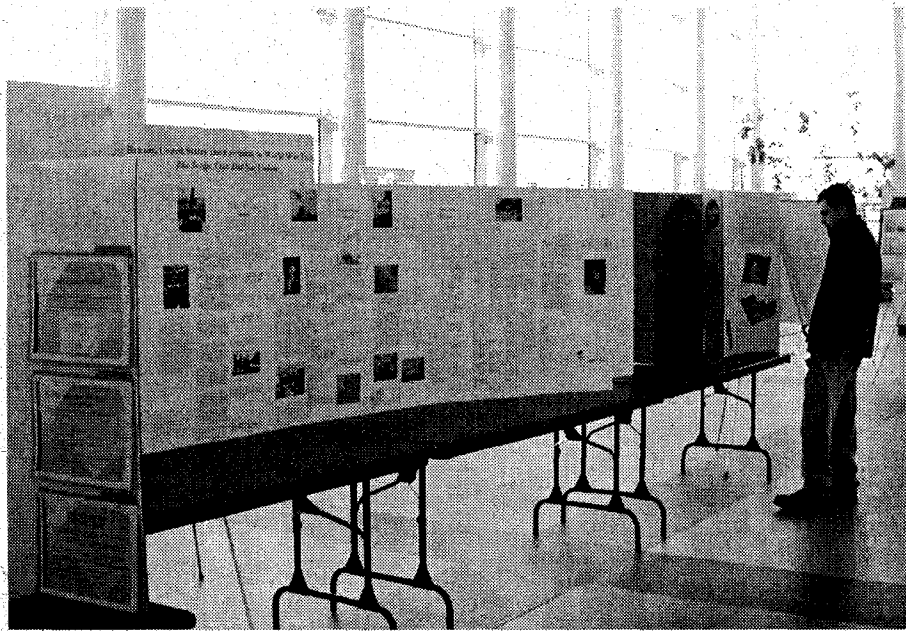
PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Underhanded Politics



Polity Candidates
Face Grievance
Board for Bad
Campaign Tactics

Student Research Honored



Statesman/Julie Mingione

The students' work was displayed in the SAC lobby.

By GUY GRANDJEAN
Statesman Staff

Stony Brook honored undergraduate research with a ceremony, giving students awards and fellowships for their work.

Students came to the event and displayed their work in the SAC lobby. The displays

covered all fields of academic study from science and engineering to elaborate art work as part of the University's annual Celebration of Undergraduate Achievements. The event, which was held on Apr. 12 and 13, was sponsored by Undergraduate Research and

Creative Activities (URECA), a campus department that awards summer fellowships and small grants followed by bi-annual events to showcase student work done as part of the fellowship.

Stony Brook was one of ten universities nationwide selected by the National Science Foundation for a Recognition Award for the Integration of Research and Education (RAIRE) which awards funds to promote activities that engage undergraduates in research and research related activities. The purpose of the event was to promote undergraduate research and give students a chance to show off their work which would otherwise go unseen. It was also intended to inspire first year students and to demonstrate the possibilities of studying at the University. The students were not restricted by any particular criteria and as a result were able to produce original and cutting edge work.

Students were also given the incentive of a variety of prizes including \$250 cash and free gallery space provided by Gallery North in Setauket. The awards were given by a set of prestigious judges from each of the respective fields. The undergraduates also

hoped to get their work published in professional journals, an accomplishment achieved the previous year by students Meredith Crokes and Sheri Henz.

This year's winners included the "mini-baja automotive design team" with team leader John Thomas Cameron who picked up an award in the Engineering and Applied Science section and a Battelle Summer Research fellowship. The team won for their advanced walking robot design. Mina Park received the Gallery North Award for Outstanding Project in Art for her painting and Kevin Garcia received the David Kahn Award for Outstanding Project for his sculpture. These represented just few of the many awards received by students. It was fitting that the overall high standard of the display was merited by an anonymous donor, who was so impressed with all the work, he gave each participant one hundred dollars. Shirley Strum Kenny emphasized in her introduction to the hard work put forth to produce the works. "Such undergraduate excellence could not be achieved without the faculty who have guided the students' efforts," she said. "Students and faculty alike are to be congratulated for their outstanding work."

NY Legislators Approve Bigger TAP

State legislators agreed Thursday to increase Tuition Assistance Program grants for college students in New York and to make more of them eligible to get the aid.

The deal reached by the legislative conference committee on higher education would increase by \$80 million on TAP spending in the 2000-01 budget, up from \$575 million in the recently concluded 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Under the agreement, maximum TAP grants for freshmen and sophomores would go up to \$5,000 from \$4,125. After one year, the maximum grant would be \$5,000 for all students.

Lawmakers also agreed to raise the cap from 90 percent to 95 percent of a student's tuition, essentially reducing by half the amount economically disadvantaged students would have to pay to attend public colleges.

TAP would be available to households with income up

to \$80,000 a year, up from the current \$50,500 after deductions. Tuition would be tax deductible and the amount the state provides for each tuition grant would go up from the current minimum of \$275 to \$500.

In addition, the maximum "upper cut" - grant reduction for juniors and seniors - will be lowered from \$200 to \$100 a year.

"It's a good day for college students in New York. Many will see hundreds of additional financial aid dollars," said Blair Horner, legislative director of the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Horner praised lawmakers for raising the maximum cap on tuition assistance but said "poorest students will still have to pay for going to college." He advocated that the state cover the entire public college tuition for poor students.

TAP is the state's largest aid program for higher education.

About 250,000 students currently qualify for the grants.

Other issues resolved by the legislative committee on higher education include:

- Spend \$10 million on "opportunity programs" - a series of initiatives designed to help students cope with college. That would raise spending back to 1994 levels.

- Raise funding for child care programs in SUNY and CUNY systems by \$4.2 million.

One issue still under discussion Thursday was how much the state will spend to help SUNY and CUNY hire additional full-time faculty. Assemblyman Edward Sullivan, who headed the legislative conference committee on higher education with Sen. Kenneth LaValle, said funding would be "more than last year, but we don't know how much yet."

AP

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 17, 2000



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Why the Seder: A person is to spiritually re-experience the exodus from Egypt by telling the story of the Israelite's redemption from bondage (the Haggadah), eating matzah, drinking 4 cups of wine, and eating the bitter herbs (maror).

Why matzah and not leavened food: When G-d came to lead the Israelites from their bondage, it caught everyone by surprise. Such was their rush to flee Egypt that they didn't wait for the dough to rise before baking. Therefore they ate cracker-like matzahs instead of bread. Hence matzah is the food of spiritual sustenance. For by eating matzahs we strengthen our faith that G-d will never forsake us, and, if we call out to Him, He will come to our aid. For more info pick up a *Passover Guide* at the library main entrance. To participate in a beginner's Seder, call Rabbi Adam at 246-6144.

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Bad Politics



Statesman Archives

Polity Candidates Face Grievance Committee for Accusations of Inappropriate Campaign Tactics

Calvin Coleman, Polity vice president candidate (above) and his opponent Andrew Murray (right) are accused of stealing each others campaign posters.



By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

There were many reasons to grieve in the SAC last Wednesday when candidates running for Polity elections, as well as senators who found fault with the actions of the election board, brought their complaints before a grievance board.

The less serious of the gripes came from commuter senator Lauren Storms who objected to the election board's approval of posters made by vice

presidential candidate Wendy Lau. Playing on the name Wendy, Lau, who was not at the meeting, made posters depicting Dave Thomas from the Wendy's fast food chain, telling voters to vote for her. However, the posters, which drew laughter from those in attendance, did contain a disclaimer noting that Lau was not endorsing the company.

But not all of Lau's posters showed such a disclaimer. She also produced a separate poster which asked for donations to be sent to L. Ron Hubbard, author of the book "Dianetics" and an

active member of the church of scientology. Commuter senator Dave Klein was angry at the posters, saying that they were a gross misuse of Polity funds. "She is asking for money be sent to a cult!"

Storms questioned how they could have been approved. "I have nothing at all against Wendy," Storms said, noting that she barely even knew the candidate. However, she did say that she took issue

Continued on page 5

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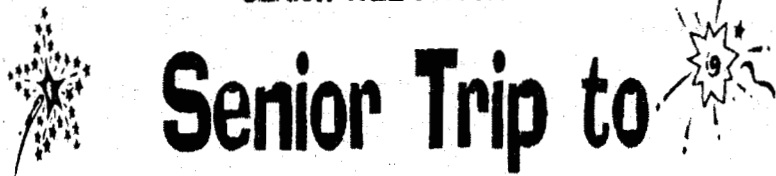
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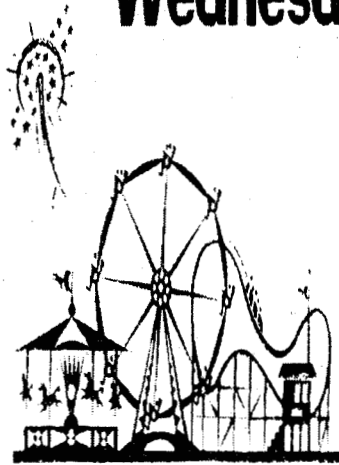
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
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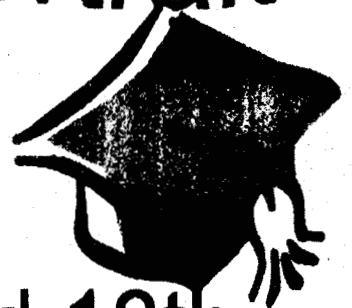
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Something to Grieve About

Continued from page 3

with the election board that approved such a poster. "It's just one more way to prove the inadequacies of the election board," she said. "Even if it was just a joke, Polity rules say that it is illegal to directly or indirectly raise money for an outside organization." The senator plans on bringing this case before a grievance sometime this week.

But other Polity rules may have been broken and with more serious consequences. Presidential hopefuls Calvin Coleman and Andrew Murray traded grievances, claiming that each of the other's campaign crew tampered with their opponents' posters. Murray claimed that he saw one of Coleman's campaigners leaning against one of his posters. He also alleged that his posters were torn down and in some spots, Coleman's posters were less than the 150 feet away from the polling sites, a violation of Polity regulations. When Coleman was allowed to speak, he expressed anger that his campaign was being accused of engaging in illegal activity. To rebut the charges, he then accused Murray's campaign of doing the same.

As the audience grew restless from the back and forth poster banter, the

meeting's leader Andrez Carberry ended the discussion about the posters. "Since neither side has an eye witness, the issue is a moot point," he said, pointing out that they would not be able to rule on it without them. One of Murray's associates, Michael Bernardi, then handed over a disposable camera containing pictures he believed would work in favor of Murray.

"hanging out with too many of those people from CSA who were white." By his own admission, Murray called the students a "ghetto college kid." Soon after, Coleman and approximately eight of his friends went into the Commuter Student Association office, seeking out Murray to talk. The police were called and Coleman's crowd dispersed. "There were a lot of people in the little CSA

But regardless of whether he wins or loses, Murray is still planning on changing how things are run in Polity. "I knew this was going to be an uphill battle from the beginning because it is more of a popularity contest than anything else," Murray said, "but my goals can be done as president or not." He said that he was tired of the cliques that pervade the campus, including within the government and he still wants to do all he can to get students involved.

Murray will find a partner in Storms. "I really want to get things changed before next year," she said. She complained about a number of the organization's practices, including the rule against negative campaigning, which prevents a candidate from pointing out any wrong doing by their opponent. She also mentioned a ruling made on Apr. 7 which stated that it is "inherently biased" to have a member of either the Council, the Election Board or the Senate serve on a grievance board. On Wednesday's meeting, one council person and two election board members were on the grievance panel. "It's a crock and inherently unfair."

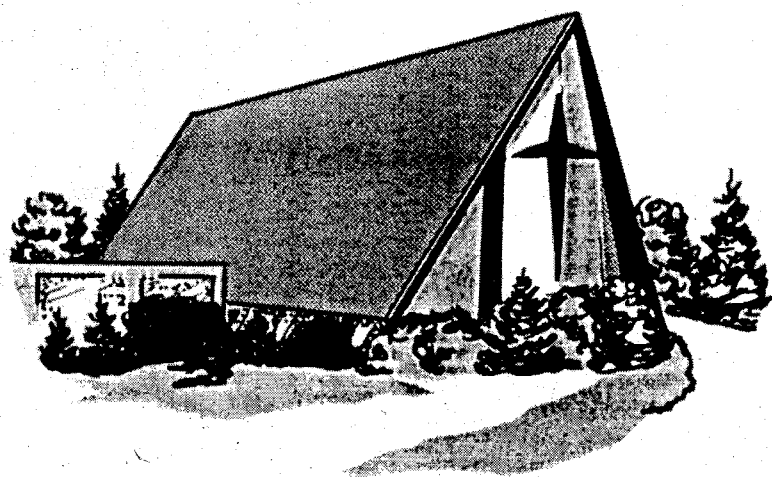
Echoing Storms' sentiments, Murray said that he will still work for change whether he is elected or not. "I'm going to be watching and my goals can be done," he said. "They have awakened a sleeping giant."

"In addition to poster problems, things got personal between the two candidates, at one point prompting a call to University Police."

In addition to poster problems, things got personal between the two candidates, at one point prompting a call to University Police. Murray explained that while he was campaigning, he handed a flyer to a friend of Coleman's. This friend allegedly preceded to call Murray the "losing candidate." The argument escalated when Calvin's friend allegedly called Murray a "sellout" for

office," Murray said. The police never arrived, calling 10 minutes later saying they could not find the location.

When the board posts their decisions regarding the grievances on Monday, the final results of the election could be affected. The rules of the grievance board say that if one party is found guilty of violating rules, a certain amount of votes will be subtracted from their tally.



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Dirty Politics

Considering the kind of juicy details we receive regarding politics on the federal level, namely those details involving our president and his romps with interns in blue dresses, it should come as no surprise that politics on the lower level can be just as low-down and dirty. After Wednesday night's grievance hearing for last week's Polity elections, it is clear that Stony Brook politics are no exception to this rule.

Held in a small room in the SAC, it was clear from first walking in that the meeting was causing tensions to grow thick and tempers to wear thin. The majority of the grievance pleas revolved around the most hotly contested race, the one for president. Andrew Murray, the last minute candidate who had to collect 400 signatures in less than 24 hours to get his name on the ballot, traded accusations with Polity Vice President Calvin Coleman, who up until the addition of Murray was running uncontested. Among the many charges leveled was that both parties and their campaign crews were guilty of tampering with the posters of their opponents. Murray claimed that Coleman's campaign crew tore down his posters in some spots and hung up posters for his opponent in their place, among other violations of Polity rules

Race For Polity President Turns Ugly

governing candidates' posters. The grievance board said that it would be impossible to make a ruling on such accusations because there were no eye witnesses. Coleman was annoyed at these charges and when it was his turn to speak, he leveled the same sort of statements against Murray and his campaigners, apparently more to defend his campaigners than to legitimately file a complaint. Because neither side could produce an eye witness, the board ruled that the point was moot but on other issues pertaining to poster tampering, Murray and those who filed grievances in his favor produced a disposable camera containing evidence they believed would prove their points. The board will announce their decisions on Monday after they have viewed this evidence.

But what cannot be proven through evidence is the more disturbing aspect of the grievances mentioned. The race turned dirty when racial insults were thrown, and

unfortunately, both sides appear guilty.

Murray alleged that after a confrontation with a friend of Coleman's, he was called a "sell out" because Murray, who is black, hangs out with people from the Commuter Student Association, an organization primarily composed of white students. Coleman did not acknowledge the comment other than by chucking to himself but he did say that Murray retorted by calling his insulter, who was also black, a "ghetto college kid," an accusation that Murray admitted to.

People are human and it should not surprise anyone that when threatened and angry, they kick where it hurts, in this case, in the race. But these comments are indicative of a more serious problem.

What's the point of screaming that the campus is so diverse if people are getting judged based on the race of the people they associate with or how they dress? And especially in a presidential race, shouldn't we be judging people on their credentials? But we are going to try to remain ever hopeful. We won't be corny and ask why we all can't just get along, but we will pray that these words were said purely out of anger, and not because of racism or prejudice that just might pervade through this "diverse" campus. We can only hope.

Misery Index

Compiled by Jennifer Kester, Statesman Editor

Too Bad They Didn't Let Him Run Again:

The reign of current Polity President Andrez Carberry has been one of the best seen at Stony Brook. No scandalous laundering of money for birthday parties and no accusations of assault. Instead, we have had a leader who is respectful and articulate. Let's hope our next president will be able to fill his shoes.

Follow the Aroma of the Donuts: Polity presidential candidate Andrew Murray stumped the University Police on Wednesday when he called to report that 15 individuals were threatening him. He told the officer that they were in the Commuter Student Office in the SAC. Police had to call back 10 minutes later to get directions because they were confused about the location of the office. Luckily the student was not injured. For future reference, if one is ever in that situation again, mention that the CSA Office is right near the cafeteria that sells the individually packaged donuts.

Learning From Our Forefathers: A recommendation was made to have the National Organization for Women oversee the Polity Elections. However, some members of the grievance committee and the election committee argued it would not be needed. Did we mention that those members of the grievance committee are the members of the election committee?

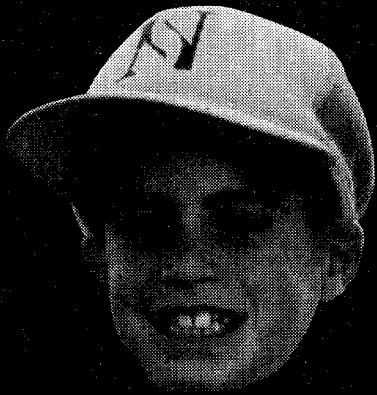
Letter to the Editor: R.B.: We are Sorry

To the Editor:

"Do you agree with the Statesman?" Yes, the Christian Fellowships on campus I spoke with that were involved with sharing the message of God's love for us through the "Do you agree with RB?" campaign, agree that perhaps chalking buildings may not have been the wisest thing to do. We do care about the aesthetics of the campus and have already organized a clean-up crew which has removed remaining RB flyers and building chalk. We are thankful for the opportunity to interact with fellow students on an issue we feel to be of prime importance.

Roger Harrison, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)

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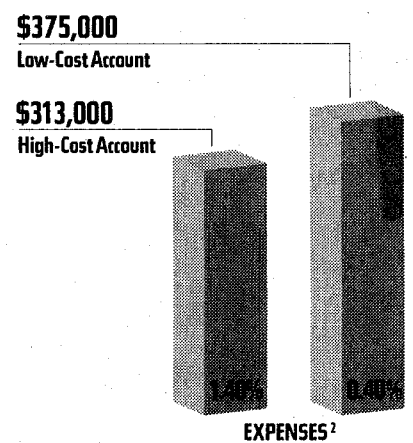
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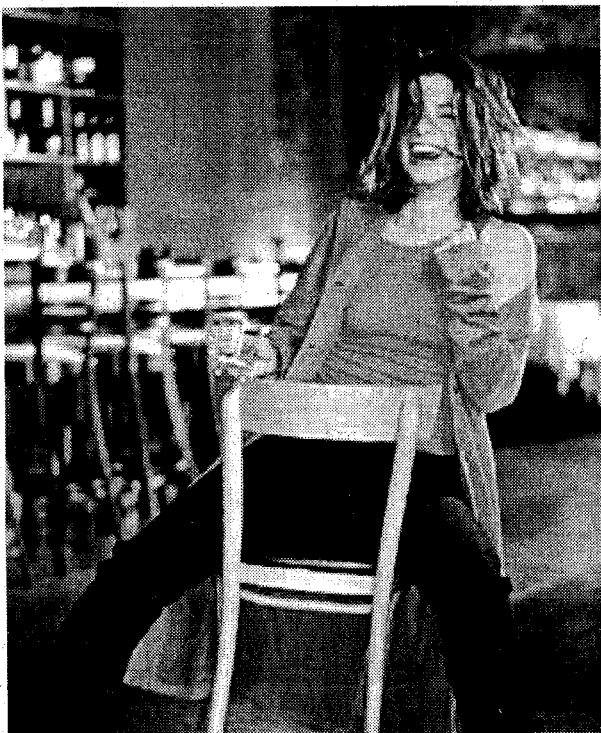
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The Stamp Book Statesman Monday, April 17, 2000



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Sandra Bullock stars in 28 Days.

28 Days Goes Beyond the Hype

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

These days, it's often difficult to find a movie that isn't a rehash of an older one, only with bigger names, more sex, and more violence. So when a movie as refreshing as *28 Days* hits the theater, it's a good idea to lay out the \$9.

There has been a good deal of hype surrounding this movie, which opened up this weekend, and a lot of it is misleading. The trailers all feature Sandra Bullock, everyone's favorite girl next door, and talk about her being the "life of the party." Though there are some memorable "party girl" segments in the film, the true story line follows Gwen

Cummings (Bullock) during her time at a rehabilitation clinic. Gwen is ordered by the court to spend 28 days in the center after she steals her sister's wedding limousine (intoxicated) and crashes into a house.

Despite the small role, Elizabeth Perkins does a nice job of portraying Gwen's sister, who has had to bear the brunt of Gwen's antics since early childhood. Their relationship is established through a series of flashbacks and limited interaction.

The rehab scenes are not a mere chronicling of wacky recovering-druggie antics. Though that element is plentiful, a strange realism permeates the entire film, and the different patients, while amusing, are complex and symbolic. Viewers

are introduced to the teenage heroin addict (played wonderfully by Azura Skye), the old alcoholic man, the homosexual substance abuser...essentially, everyone and everything that can be typified is typified, but for some reason, the effects are not typical. Call it movie magic. Instead of a cast of boring stock characters, each actor is given a chance to make their character shine. This convention extends past the characters into the organization of the clinic, the scenery, and the dummed soap opera "Santa Cruz," with which all the patients become obsessed.

The scenes may be close to home for many in the 17-25 demographic. Director Betty Thomas (*Doctor Dolittle*, *Private Parts*) definitely did her research. Everything, from the hazy party scene at the beginning of the film, to Gwen's inebriated limousine ride, to the flashbacks she has while in group therapy, appears believable. Sandra Bullock does not look, or act, like a typical Hollywood lead during every scene - rather, she wears a leg brace for much of the movie and spends a good deal of time acting wasted. Realistic also is Gwen's abuse of Vicodin, a prescription painkiller that has recently made it's way into the socially accepted intoxicant list. Gwen and her boyfriend lead a typical New York City lifestyle, members of a party scene that rings of familiarity during the film. In short, *28 Days* is easy to relate to.

The most interesting aspect of this movie is its script, which meanders through the world of rehab without a specific sense of direction until the movie is almost over. It is not your conventional Hollywood romp through the world of a 20-something dealing with earth-shattering issues.

The comedic element is accentuated during the movie trailers, but *28 Days* is not strictly a comedy. Like those preachy 80s movies that everyone loves, the film's end leaves the viewer with mixed feelings. Yes, the overriding theme is comedy, but the film confronts the very real problem of alcoholism and substance abuse in the world of young urban professionals. All in all, *28 Days* makes for a worthwhile night at the theater. Go see it instead of going to the Bench.

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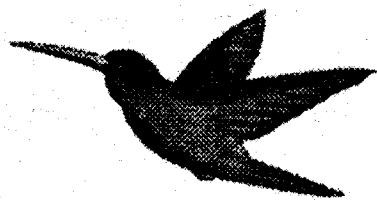
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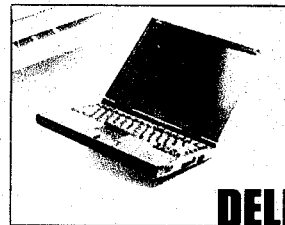
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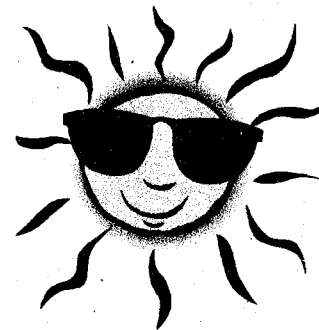
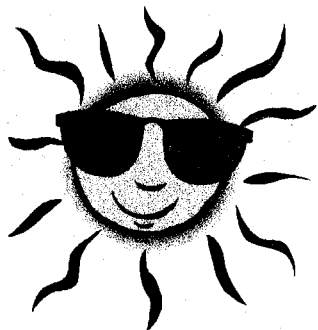
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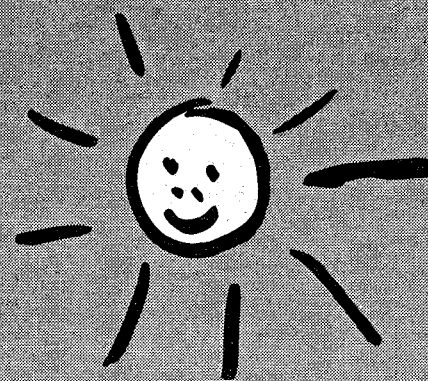
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The Statesman is looking for submissions for its annual literary supplement. Short stories, poetry, artwork and photography are all being accepted. Deadline for submissions is April 25 and can be dropped off in room 057 in the basement of the Student Union. For more info, call Kat at 632-6479.



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Features

Dancing Stars

Dance Theater of Harlem Brings Its Young Students to Staller

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

Few dance troupes have attained the sought-after status that the Dance Theatre of Harlem enjoys. Founded in 1968 by Arthur Mitchell after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Dance Theatre of Harlem has spent 30 years educating young men, young women, and adults about the world of dance. The troupe has broken ticket-sales and box office records at a multitude of performances.

On Saturday, Apr. 29, at 8 p.m., the Staller Center will be hosting a performance by this well-traveled, widely acclaimed, and distinguished ensemble. The show is sold out.

Arthur Mitchell, a former principal dancer, had the vision for the troupe as his personal commitment to residents of Harlem. He still functions as director. Since its formation, the group has flourished, and now boasts a roster of 36 dancers who perform dozens of works, a feat comparable to other high profile dance companies that have been in existence much longer than three decades.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, though, operates as a dual entity, and nourishes its community as it entertains. The company was established so that all children and adults, regardless of socio-economic background, could learn about the world of dance and be given the opportunity to perform.

The company sponsors The School of Dance Theatre of Harlem, which auditions children from ages 7-17 for entry into their program, and are subsequently offered professional training if they are considering

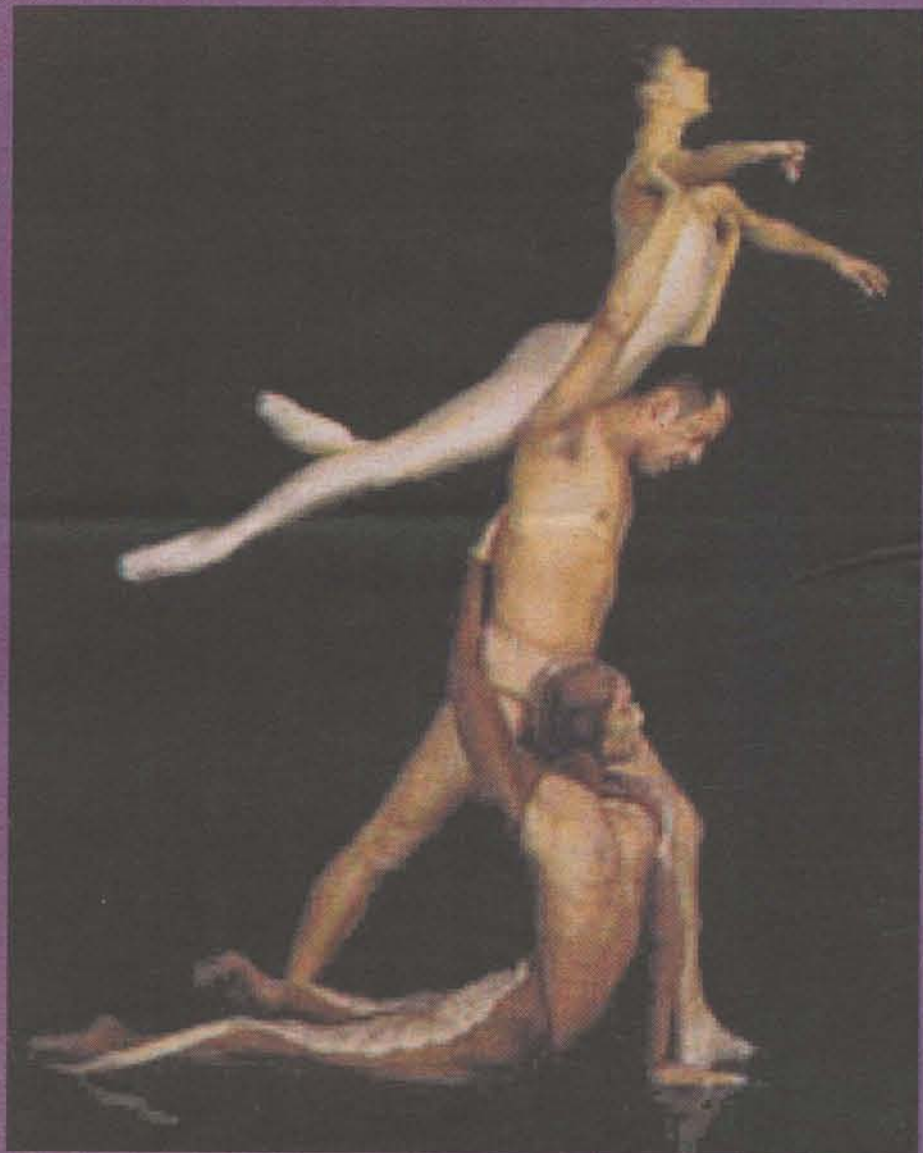
dancing as a career. Though the school is not free, scholarships are awarded to needy or promising students, and grants are available from government agencies to subsidize the cost of dance training. The school's three-year professional training program has produced many successful graduates.

Community outreach does not end with the school. With a program called Dancing through Barriers, the Dance Theatre of Harlem pursues its goal of erasing stereotypes and bridging gaps between cultures and economic status. Young people of various backgrounds are invited to attend dance workshops, master classes, and are instructed in costume design and music selections. The Dancing through Barriers endeavor has yielded successful results, and the Company has established sites outside of its birthplace,

including the cities of Detroit, Miami, Washington, D.C., and London, England.

The troupe has toured the globe, hitting such countries as South Africa, Russia, Turkey, France, Brazil, and Egypt. They were the first American ballet company to perform in the Soviet Union as part of a U.S. cultural exchange initiative. Members have danced before British royalty. The Dance Theatre of Harlem's television credits include productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and an NBC recording of *Giselle*. The group was awarded a Cable Ace Award for *Fall River Legend*, which was deemed best performing arts special by the selection committee.

Few would dispute the claim that the dancing world can often be cutthroat and competitive. The Dance Theatre of Harlem stands as an altruistic success, one serving the dual purpose of entertainment and education.



Courtesy of the Dance Theatre of Harlem

The Dance Theatre of Harlem will perform at the Staller Center on Apr. 29.