

MPB Takes Home B-Ball in Polity Tournament pg 15

Blurring the Lines, a Look at *Arte Poetica* pg 5

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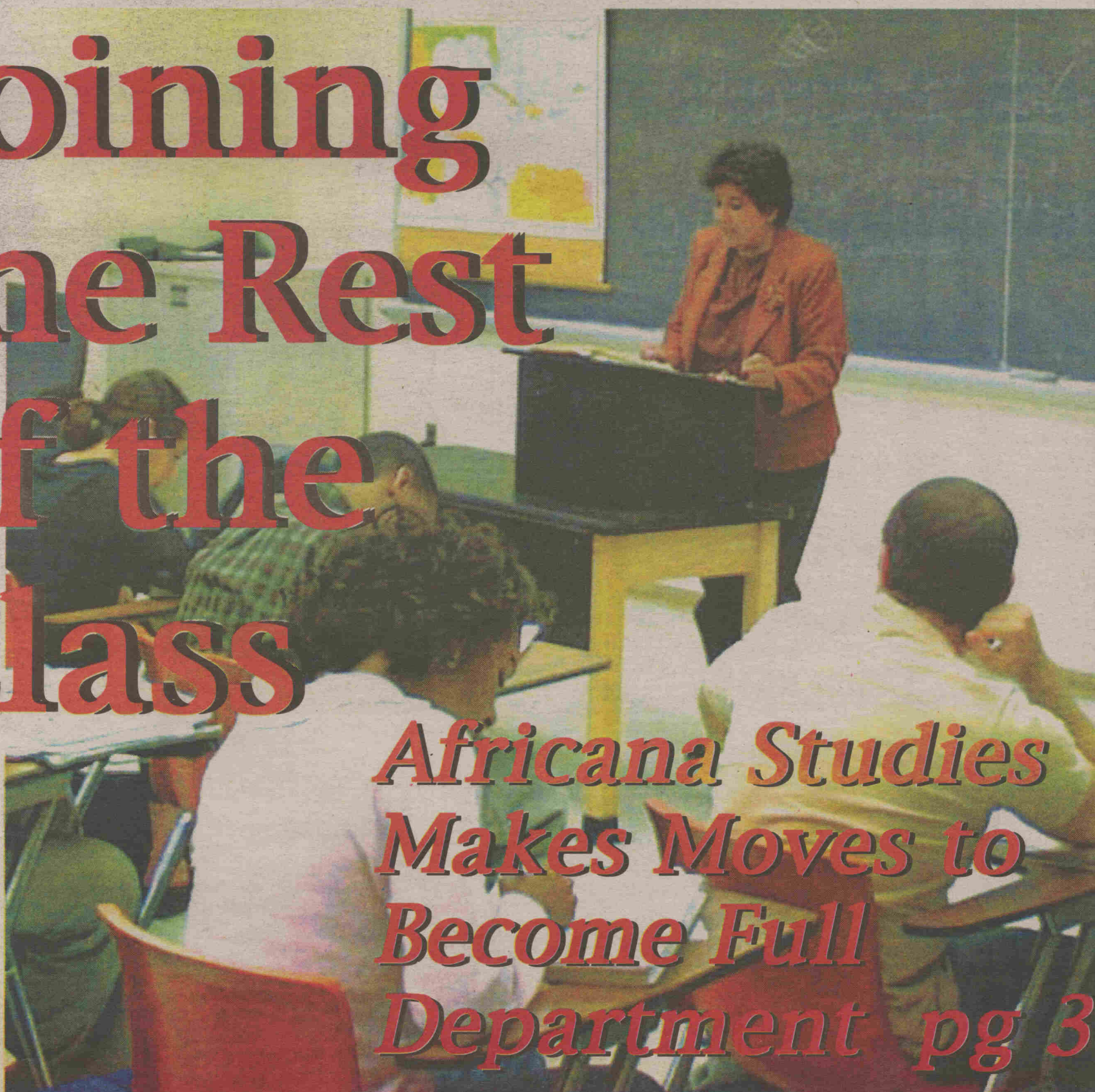


# Statesman

VOLUME ~~XLI~~, NUMBER 52

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

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# Joining the Rest of the Class

*Africana Studies  
Makes Moves to  
Become Full  
Department pg 3*

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# Calling For A New Respect <sup>3</sup>

By SHELLY LATE  
Statesman Staff

In its 30th year on the campus, the Africana Studies Program, with recommendations from the University president and an independent review board, is applying to become a full department in a process to be concluded early next month.

"We have everything to become a department," said Associate Professor William McAdoo, the director of Africana Studies, "We have the faculty, we have the administrative lab, we have the budget resources."

The Africana Studies program began its application process after completing a self-study earlier this year, reviewing its activities during the past five years, upon a request from University Provost Rollin Richmond. An external review committee, made up of academics outside of the University, was selected by Richmond to examine the program's credentials.

The external review committee conducted an on-site evaluation of the program in April. The committee later issued its report "vigorously" recommending that the program be elevated to department status.

Last month, Paul Armstrong, the dean of the College of Art and Sciences, sent a request to Hugh Silverman, president of Arts and Sciences Senate to hold a vote on the African Studies proposal to become a department. The vote will take place on October 12 at 3:30 p.m., on the second floor of the Melville Library in the Javits Conference room. The meeting is open to the public.

"This change of designation will in my view only recognize a reality that has existed for many years," Armstrong wrote in his request.

If the Arts and Sciences Senate endorses the change, it will then move on to the University Senate for final approval. Because the College of Arts and Sciences holds a large number of positions on the University Senate, the endorsement of the Arts and Sciences Senate should mean acceptance by the University Senate.

Armstrong and McAdoo agree that the African Studies program will need not additional funds to become a department. The change is being requested in a move for respect by the program's faculty and students.



Courtesy Africana Studies

Dr. William McAdoo, an Associate Professor in Africana Studies, speaks at a protest held by students in April.

"A department is more permanent and stable and has higher prestige than a program," McAdoo said. The transition, he said, will boost the morale of the faculty members in the department and will attract more students to pursue Africana Studies at Stony Brook.

The Africana Studies Program was established in 1968 and is a undergraduate unit with both a major and minor in the discipline. Many of the classes in Africana Studies are crosslisted with other programs or departments, including Women's Studies, Political Science, and History.

"They just don't focus on Africa," said Danny Martinez, a Social Sciences major of Dominican descent who has taken a number of courses in the program.

"Through this department I've learned and gained awareness of my own culture," he said.

The program last applied to become a full department in 1985, a process ended, McAdoo said, because the program lacked the support of the University administration at the time.

However, McAdoo is now optimistic that the program's second attempt will be more successful. McAdoo also has a more positive view of the current University administration, headed by President Shirley Strum Kenny. He called Kenny's support for Africana Studies' departmental status "an enlightened approach."

In addition, there is more support campus-wide for the proposal this time around. Student groups led two protests at the administration building this past April calling for an increase in the number of affirmative action programs at the University, not missing the opportunity to show their support for the Africana Studies program. At an April 22 protest which ended in her office, President Kenny gave her endorsement or the change in status before the mass of students.

McAdoo confirmed that he does not yet anticipate assistance.

"We feel that most of our colleagues know that it is the right thing to do," he said.

-Peter Gratton, Statesman Editor, contributed to his story.

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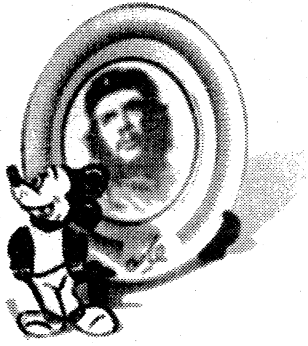
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# An Interview With the Artist



Untitled With Out of Focus Che, a 1995 silver gelatin print (28" X 13") by Liliana Porter

The following selections are from a conversation that took place in July in the studio of Liliana Porter. Porter was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and has lived in New York City since 1964. Her work has been shown in a number of international exhibitions. In 1980, she was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work is represented in the collections of major art museums from around the world, including The Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York city. Porter serves as a professor of art at Queens College.

Howardena Pindell is a professor of art at Stony Brook and a recognized painter. This interview was made available by the University Art Gallery; its full text can be found in a catalogue there.

Porter's work can be seen at the Gallery until October 24. The Gallery's hours are from Noon - 4:00 pm Tuesday through Friday and 6-8:00 pm on Saturdays.

**Howardena Pindell:** What brought you to printmaking as a sort of basic starting point?

**Liliana Porter:** I started art school very young. I was about 12 years old, and I was in love with this boy who was a great printmaker. I studied printmaking just to impress him.

**Pindell:** Your father was a film-maker..When I look at your work, it looks very much like "compositing" which is when filmmakers shoot isolated characters acting out against something very empty, and then they mix the two. When I look at your "Dialogue" pieces or any of the pieces where you have the isolated figures interacting, it seems very cinematic.

**Porter:** It's true. Actually, at the moment, I am finishing a short film. I never though I would get into this! For me, space is a very important factor. In a way, space is almost the subject. The emptiness probably represents that part that we cannot define and that we are trying to come to terms with.....

**Pindell:** I selected some of the pieces in this show from your mail art series. Do you want to explain what that project was about?

**Porter:** That was a time of conceptual art, in the sixties. There was this awareness that art was too elitist, so in order to avoid making another "marketable object," an alternative was to create exhibitions by mail: disposable art. My first mail exhibition was a printed page with the image of wrinkled paper and a note that said: "to be wrinkled and thrown away." I liked the idea that by following the instructions, there would be a superimposition of the real wrinkles with the printed ones. The thing and its image would merge....

**Pindell:** Do you want to talk a little about the influence of photographers on your life?

**Porter:** My photography started with the wrinkled paper in 1968. I wanted the images to look as real as possible. So, in order to do these prints, I used photographs and translated them into photo-etchings. I still was thinking with the mentality of a printmaker. Then I started working with photo-silkscreen. I began using photography as a medium to bring images as objective as possible to the canvas, the wall, or the paper...

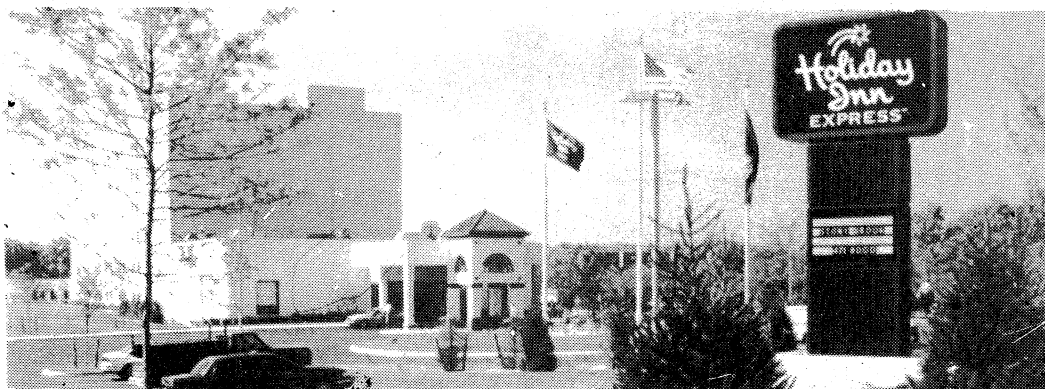
**Pindell:** A number of catalogues mention the influence of minimalism on your work.

**Porter:** I've been called a minimalist because my work was so spare. I don't know if that's true. People think because there is nothing, it's minimal.

**Pindell:** When I look at your work, I think of words as well as images. It's as if I'm reading the work like I'd read a sentence or a poem besides reading it visually. Your pieces feel as if they have more of a literary base than the works of some artists.

**Porter:** Probably it is true. I think of the idea first, but then the visual presence is very important because that's the way I choose to say it. I'm thinking in terms of ideas and of words but they will be forms. It's difficult for me to answer that because I'm not aware of how I do it.

Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 24, 1998



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# Blurring the Artistic Lines

*Porter's Exhibit Challenges Differences between Images and Reality*

By KEVIN T. RICE  
Special to the Statesman

Stony Brook students can visit the Staller Art Gallery and enter another world, one that is at the same time simpler than this one, yet carrying all of its strangeness, meaning, and wonder. The series the gallery is currently showcasing is that of the Argentinean-born New York artist Liliانا Porter.

Most of Porter's work, which covers the walls of two connected rooms in the gallery, consists of print art and charcoal drawings, but there are also paintings and still-life scenes.

The series is called *De Arte Poetica*, but, there are no poetry readings being held there (for those whose Latin is as shaky as mine). The title is taken from one of her more involved drawings which features in a foreground a book open to a page of Latin poetry with the title phrase on the corner of the book's page.

One might as well start there as anywhere else in describing Porter's art. The book is open on the bottom right. That part of the picture has a photographic quality to it, and the viewer knows without a doubt that this was taken from an actual book. To the left of the book is a ceramic pot, with a similar quality of realism. But above and behind the pot is a pencil drawing of a small round ball, and it is obviously a drawing. The book's shadow falls and blends with another object and it's shadow- but these are merely drawings as well. In this piece, drawing and photograph mix within the same print, the same picture. This is all

the more striking as one gives it thought, since the viewer is inevitably going to make a distinction of realism between the portrayal of one object and another in a scene that is, in fact, the entire piece.

Most of her work has that quality. Objects with depth interact with two dimensional counterparts, yet both coexist in the same print. Real objects interact with flat images (like a real string which is tied to a photographed nail. Inevitably, the viewer begins to have the eerie feeling of wondering where the art ends and his or her role as its appreciation begins as the dualism between the subject (which is you), and the object (the art) dissolves piece after piece. While this is not art-like Anselm Adams which one need not to think about in order to appreciate, it is art that, when appreciated, makes one think.

The piece that is most characteristic of Porter's work and that best defines her is one of a hand with a line drawn on it. The line is on the skin of the hand that connects to a line that was drawn later on the paper of the print, which is, of course, all one line. She says that this portrays what she believes reality is like. "Reality is fragmented," she says during a video-taped interview that students can watch in the gallery, and "things happen later" that other things, separated by time, but still connected to each other.

For those who still aren't sure what they want to do with their lives once they get out of school, Liliانا



*Gaucho*, a 1995 silver gelatin print (27" X 23") by Liliانا Porter

Porter's life story offers a ray of hope. You never know how or when you will discover your vocation in

life, but do not despair. Porter originally became an artist merely to impress a boy she was dating.



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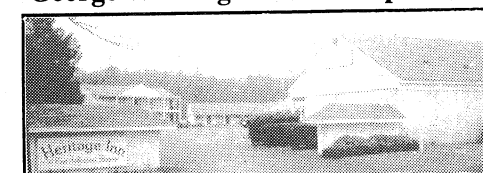
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## Editorials

# Drinking: No Easy Solutions

Glad to see that the people over at Harvard are engaging in some ground breaking research. Their latest study has concluded that almost half of American college students participate in binge drinking. According to the study, 50% of college students who drink alcohol are aiming to get drunk. They could have saved themselves a lot of trouble by just asking one; they also could have gotten the truth.

It seems hard to believe that it's only one out of every two college-age drinkers who are trying to get hammered and not two out of two. It should be noted that here at Stony Brook, it's only one out of every three. We are sure that the other two drinkers are simply looking to enjoy a fine glass of Bordeaux with their dinner from Deng Lee's.

Starting from elementary school, kids are being taught about the dangers of drugs and alcohol from their parents, teachers and in commercials. While this education is a good idea, it seems like only catchy phrases like "Just Say No"

are ever produced. The reason for this is that alcohol is too highly ingrained in our culture, a kid can see a commercial with Hanson telling them that only dorks get drunk, but the same kid will almost immediately change the channel and see those cute and enticing Bud-Weis-Er frogs. Then there are also those strange Miller Lite commercials which are too bizarre for anyone to ignore, and the Corona commercials depicting hot-bodied sunbathers living it up on some tropical island.

Advertising aside, what's more American than a frosty cup of beer at a baseball game, or a cold can of Bud while barbecuing? How about turning 21?

For some people, it is a huge deal to finally become legal and go to bars without chalking their id. Many have their hangover story, and many have been drunk at least once.

It is futile to even attempt to get rid of the problem of binge drinking. As long as there is beer and college kids, there will be people drinking to excess. So what do we do?

Stony Brook has taken some action

with a seminar held over the summer, and by forming a task force on campus alcohol. SUNY Albany, the supposed biggest party school in the SUNY system, has gone so far as to implement undercover cops at parties. But the solution may lie in much simpler territory. Programs like the one from Planet Dublin offering \$1 taxi rides to and from campus will at least cut down on incidences of drunk driving, so will the Park Bench's "Designate a Driver" Saturdays.

Since getting rid of this problem will be next to impossible, all that anyone can do can do is to be aware of this problem and prepared for the consequences.

*"As long as there is beer and college kids, there will be drinking to excess."*

# Sharing the Blame

## Students and Professors Lack Motivation

By Sandra Martinez  
Special to the *Statesman*

Students of the 1990's have so many problems and crises facing them that they are forced to take on many responsibilities and tasks. However, students are usually not very motivated or enthusiastic when it comes to things like school, home life, work and everyday chores. They don't have the drive to push themselves to their full capacities. This lack of motivation can't solely be balanced on the student though. In some cases, teachers have the same lack of motivation. This causes students to lose interest in a major way.

Jillian Jackson and Jessica Herreck, both juniors, said, "Classes are too boring because teachers do not make them interesting enough." Yvonne Mihalios, also a junior, agreed and said, "If teachers want students to pay more attention, they should make the class more interesting."

"I'm not motivated to study because teachers are very dull and they don't make me want to learn the information," Junior Jennifer Osipoff said.

Students need a teacher's full potential, which sometimes is not offered. Classes, homework and other assignments have become so routine that students can't help but dread the thought of them. If assignments were more hands-on and interactive, students might be more apt to take an interest in things like group projects.

Alicia Torello, a freshman, said, "Students are not motivated to study because they are far away from home so the parents are not here to push them to study". She added, "Teachers here do not take attendance so students think they don't have to attend classes".

*"Students need a teacher's full potential which sometimes is not offered."*

Lack of motivation and enthusiasm cannot just be blamed on teachers. Students have other responsibilities such as jobs that could prevent them from being energetic and motivated. Nowadays not only do students have to worry about paying their college tuition, but also payments on their cars, clothes, food and other necessities.

Student athletes expressed that they have double the pressure compared to a nonstudent athlete. They have to divide their time between classes, practice, homework, games and work. In the midst of it all, they try to find the time for some sleep and a social life. Coming to class motivated could be difficult and perhaps impossible for some athletes.

Sam Williams II, a sophomore and a Seawolf football player, said "Tiredness, lack of time, boring classes and non-motivated teachers are the causes for students being unenthusiastic to study."

Some students agree that if the school had more activities and provided a more appealing social scene, students wouldn't be running home for the weekends. If students are happy socially, they will be motivated to do well in their classes.

In order to remain in a University that provides interesting activities, and a challenging academic department, a student needs to have good grades which requires a lot of dedication and drive. "If there were more activities in this University for students to look forward to, they would be more motivated to go to class. If students aren't happy or having fun they won't be motivated to study," said junior Janeen Rabinowitz.

People think that college students only party, go to bars, hang out all night, and sleep all day, but that's a misconception (Some of us wish we had more time to sleep!).

We do go to classes, maybe not with excitement and anticipation, but we do go. Of course, wouldn't it be nice to say we wanted to go? Okay, let's not go that far, but at least going to class wouldn't be such a drag anymore. What it comes down to is, it's a two way street: if students and teachers cannot find means to motivate one another no one should be pointing any fingers, they should share the blame.

## Harassment and Stolen Wallets Lead Crime Reports

### 9/8/98 time unknown

A 1992, four door, Volkswagen in the Health Sciences Center garage lower level had four hubcaps stolen. Valued at \$250.

### 9/8/98 9:30 A.M.

In the Student Union's loading dock a silver Coca-Cola hand truck valued at \$160 was stolen. The distributor left the hand truck outside, unlocked, while delivering items and upon return found truck was gone.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

A maintenance worker accidentally smashed the rear window of a vehicle, damages valuing at \$75. It occurred in the Service Garage while he was loading wood onto truck.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

Graffiti, in magic marker, was found in the Graduate Physics Men's Room.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

In the South P lot bus depot a wallet was lost containing \$70 and a SUNY ID.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

Students were "horseplaying" in Dewey College when one of them was poked in the eye. They were transported to the University Hospital, via SBVAC, for conditions of dizziness and double vision.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

A report of the smell of marijuanacame in from H Quad. The report was left unfounded.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

A University of Stony Brook parking sticker was stolen from Whitman.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

There was a report of a bicycle thrown into the woods near the Tabler Quad steps. The property remains unclaimed.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

An accidental alarm sounded that was cooking related. No fire was reported. System was reset.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

A Student Union Blue Phone was used for a prank phone call. The area was patrolled, and the suspect was gone upon arrival.

### 9/8/98 time unknown

Several invalid ID's were confiscated at the main gate.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

Unidentified suspects cut into the Health Sciences Center's garage equipment room and sprayed paint on the walls.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

A person lost a cell phone, on campus.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

The panic alarm mysteriously sounded in the food managers office of the Student Activities Center.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

A medical emergency occurred in the Dental School when a 40 year old male had chest pains. He was taken away by SBVAC.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

There was a report of an intrusion in the Stimson College Sinc Site. All seemed to be in order when the police arrived.

### 9/9/98 time unknown

There was a reported intrusion in the Health Sciences Center BT7 Commons Area. All was secure when the police investigated the scene.

### 9/10/98 time unknown

Several books were taken, from the Humanities Cafe. The value of the books was \$13.00.

### 9/10/98 time unknown

In Health Sciences Center student service lot, two

## Blotter of the Week

### 9/10/98 time unknown

*A suspicious elderly man with beer was found urinating in the bushes by the varsity tennis courts. He is said to have been there before watching a team practice. His address and identity are known and he left campus on his own.*

motorists had a verbal altercation over a parking spot. They both wanted the next available parking spot and one got so angry that he spat on the car.

### 9/10/98 time unknown

In the Student Union a male suspect was harassing a male victim because of a suspected fight with his friend. The aggressor prepared to fight, but it never took place; he was escorted off campus and warned not to return to campus.

### 9/10/98 time unknown

From Baruch, a female reported chest pains and was transported to the University Hospital via SBVAC.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

A female, in James College, reported that she reached above her door and a nail got caught on her finger. It went through her right index finger, but was later removed.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

A fire alarm was set off in Irving A2. There was no smoke or fire and all appeared in order when officials arrived.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

A fire alarm was set off in Chapin A. There was no smoke and the fire system was fine.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

In the Schomburg Apartments a rear windshield of a vehicle was broken.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

A lost or stolen briefcase was reported in the

Administration Garage.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

A fire alarm occurred in Hand College. There was no smoke and the fire system was reset.

### 9/11/98 4:09 P.M.

Two suspicious Ford vehicles were reported to be parked in grass of South P lot next to a house. When the area was patrolled, all was fine.

### 9/11/98 time unknown

The fire alarm went off in Baruch College for no apparent reason. There was no smoke or fire conditions and no pulled boxes were tampered with.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

A disorderly group was reported in the Gray Loop, but they were gone upon police arrival.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

A resident of Dewey College was taken away by SBVAC to the University Hospital Emergency Room for treatment. The resident had been vomiting blood.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

A Whitman College resident was taken via SBVAC to the University Hospital Emergency Room, due to the resident's vomiting.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

Three vomiting residents of Langmuir College were taken by SBVAC to the University Hospital Emergency Room after eating shrimp with lobster sauce and string beans from Deng Lee's.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

An intoxicated male commuter student was found unconscious in Kelly Quad after vomiting, and was transported to the University Hospital Emergency Room by SBVAC.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

The Mendelsohn and H quads Residential Security Program found a bag containing personal effects.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

A group of suspicious people were reported on Infirmary Road by Gray College. They were said to be a large group of students drinking alcohol and carrying base ball bats. They were gone upon police arrival.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

An unidentified suspect stole a microwave oven and a refrigerator from the Infirmary office. They were both white and valued at \$150 a each.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

Students observed unidentified persons shooting an air rifle at empty cans in Roth Quad. When the police arrived the rifle was confiscated.

### 9/12/98 time unknown

A dispute between two students over a borrowed Chemistry text book that was not returned, took place by the Student Union and Center Drive.

Please see More Blotter on Page 8

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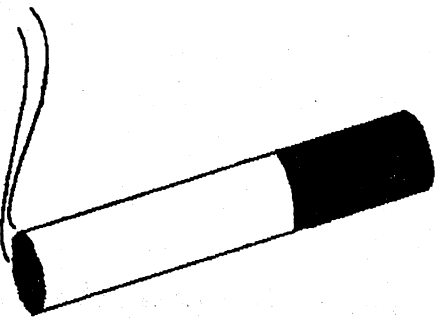
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Fall 1998

**More Blotter**

*Continued from previous page*

The police were asked to mediate the situation.

lobby area.

**9/13/98 time unknown**

A fire alarm was sounded in Dewey. No smoke and the fire system was reset.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

Unidentified suspects wrote in chalk on the Javits Center's exterior wall.

**9/13/98 time unknown**

Six unidentified males entered and refused to leave Eisenhower College. They were gone upon police arrival.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

A \$650 worth of cam-corder equipment was taken from a 1988 Ford Ranger from the Computer Science parking lot.

**9/13/98 time unknown**

From the Roosevelt Quad grounds, the star sign was snapped from the base. Rod Krowel from grounds picked it up.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

A female Dreiser College resident made complaints of being dizzy and disoriented. She was transported to the University Hospital Emergency Room via SBVAC.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

There was a complaint of individuals throwing cans and bottles into Roth Pond. When officers responded, the suspects were gone upon arrival.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

A VCR was stolen from the Gershwin main lounge.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

In the Computer Science lobby area suspects threw a computer monitor from second floor lobby to the first floor lobby. The monitor was destroyed. The suspects also wrote with marker on the walls of the

**9/14/98 time unknown**

There was a report of a male acting in a suspicious manner around the Student Union. The suspect was gone upon officer arrival.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

There was a third party report of a suspicious male displaying a BB gun at the Student Union. After the

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area was patrolled by police, all appeared to be in order.

**9/14/98 time unknown**

A graduate ID card was stolen from the ISC Women's locker room. It was taken after it fell from the victim's locker as she was going to take a shower and was gone when she returned. It was worth \$5.

**9/15/98 time unknown**

There was a report of a group of people discharging an air gun by the Tennis Courts off of Infirmary Road. The report remains unfounded. The suspects fled into the woods. One suspect was identified as a student and referred to the student affairs for underage drinking.

**9/16/98 time unknown**

A male and female were found outside sleeping by James College in Mendelsohn and H quads. They were gone upon officer arrival.

**9/17/98 time unknown**

A male was taken by SBVAC to the University Hospital Emergency Room after eating a slice of pizza from the Kelly Quad Cafeteria.

**9/17/98 time unknown**

The Resident Hall Director from Hamilton College called the police

and requested assistance when three suspects climbed onto the roof. One suspect fled the scene; the other two were identified as nonstudents. The resident responsible for the two students was referred to student affairs.

**9/18/98 time unknown**

A suspect was arrested for stealing food from the SAC cafeteria. He was observed putting items in bag, and when confronted, admitted to it. The total amount of items stolen was \$4.90.

**9/19/98 time unknown**

Officers assisted an RA from Oniell with the smell of marijuana, which was coming from a residents room. Those involved were referred to student affairs.

**9/19/98 time unknown**

In Cardozo College the father of a student was unable to locate his daughter. The RHD and the RA on duty were contacted.

**9/20/98 time unknown**

In the South P lot a child was playing soccer and was kicked in the leg. The child was transported to the University Hospital Emergency Room via SBVAC with a possible broken ankle.

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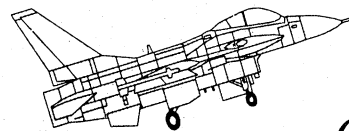
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# Comptroller Proposes New Higher Education Board

(AP) A state assemblyman is dismissing a proposal by the state's comptroller for creation of a new board to oversee the formulation of higher education policies in New York state. Assemblyman Edward Sullivan, D-Manhattan, called Comptroller H. Carl McCall's proposal "a bit bizarre" and said he cannot imagine that college administrators would welcome another layer of state government bureaucracy.

McCall, a Democrat seeking reelection this November, said a "policy vacuum" exists with the state Board of Regents responsible for higher education policies as well as governing the state's public education system.

"For the last quarter of a century, higher education has been the poor stepchild in Albany," McCall said.

Members of the new higher education coordinating board should be selected jointly by the state Legislature and governor, McCall said. He also called for trustees to the State University and City University

of New York system to be recommended by screening committees or nominating boards to reduce the political aspects of their positions.

Sullivan said he doesn't like the current makeup of the SUNY or CUNY boards, but that they are effective working in conjunction with the Regents.

"If there is a problem there, those boards of trustees can deal with," Sullivan, chair of the Assembly higher education committee, said. "If there is a problem with a private college somewhere, what is it? I will be happy to look into it."

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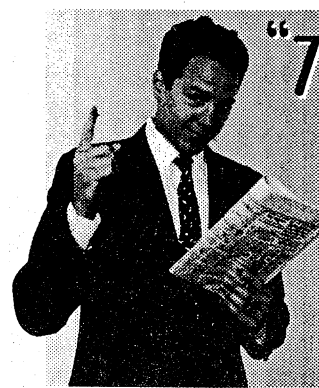
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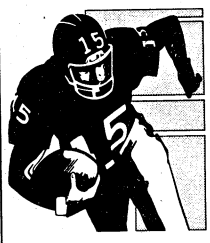
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 24, 1998

# Donning Masks to Raise Scholarship Funds

## Charity Dance Open to All Members of Stony Brook Community

By KEVIN KEENAN  
Statesman Editor

On October 3, 1998, friends of the University at Stony Brook will dance the night away to the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, don masks to hide their faces, feast on foods from the famous Mirabelle restaurant, and raise money for Scholarship at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. All of this will happen as a result of the masked ball which being sponsored by the University Scholarship Benefit Committee to raise money for Stony Brook students and their educational fees.

The masked ball is open to all members of the Stony Brook community, and it is a black tie optional event. Jovanna Little, director for Advancement Services, says she believes that there may be anywhere from 200 to 300 people at the event. Those who do attend will be handed masks at the door to hide their faces if they choose to take part in the in the intrigue of a masked ball.

Not only will the guests at the ball be able to wear

masks, they may also acquire clay masks made by the USB crafts center and signed by celebrities through a silent auction to be held at the event. Guests will also be greeted upon arrival by valet car service and hors d'oeuvres in the Atrium of the Student Activities Center.

"It will truly be an exciting and elegant evening," Little says.

According to Little, the idea for the ball developed from the committee co-chairs Lary Staller, Marsha Laufer, and Star Swartz. "These people are community minded, philanthropic, and wish to give back to the university and community." Several of the other events sponsored by this committee, including a Reggae jamboree, were very successful.


Those who attended the masked ball can expect to see top level University Administrators in attendance, including University President Shirley Strum Kenny, Provost Rolland Richmond, and many others. "Alumni, and friends of the University will also be there," Little says.

The masked ball will be held on campus in the Student Activities Center on Saturday evening, October

3, from 8 to 12 pm. This ball is the third fundraising event to be held by the University Scholarship Benefit Committee. The previous efforts of this committee and the donations of generous individuals raised nearly \$200,000 and established 56 scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students. Some of the prominent donors to the Scholarship fund include Henry and Marsha Loufer and Richard T. Nasti, a former USB student.

University President Shirley Strum Kenny applauds the efforts of the committee by saying that "our ability to give students scholarship aid makes a tremendous difference in their lives. The money we raise is their lifeline."

In addition to welcoming students to attend the ball, the Scholarship Benefit Committee also hopes to hire several students to work at the event. Those students who would like to help must have prior catering experience. All further information can be obtained from Jovanna Little at 632-6106. "The collaboration between the campus community and friends of the University will make this a truly wonderful event," said Little. Let's hope so.



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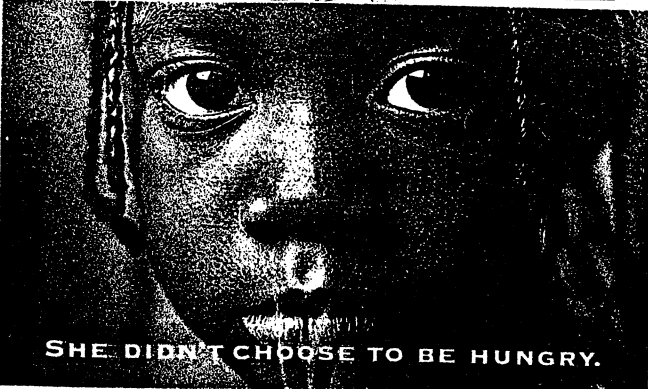
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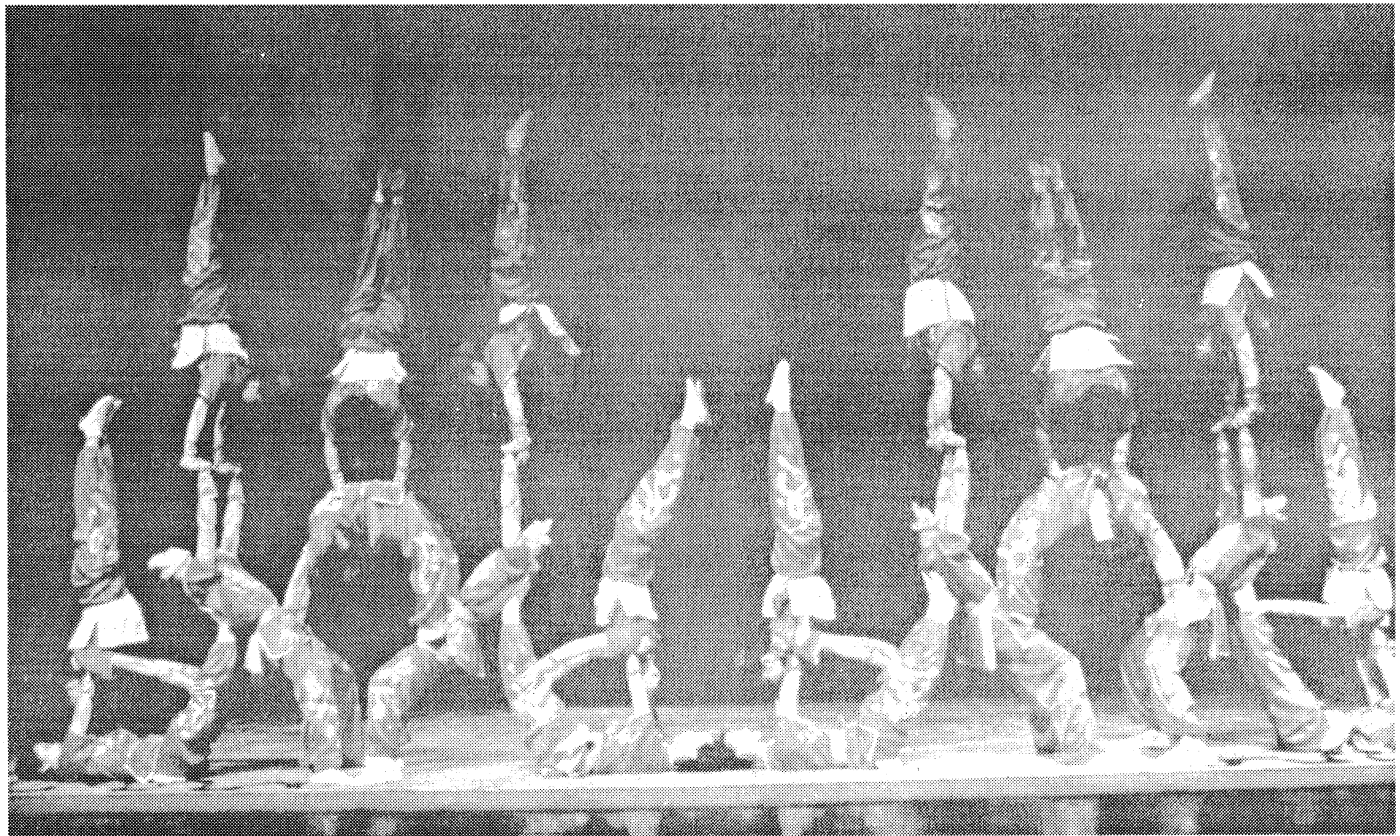
# Chinese Acrobats Come to Staller

Reknowned Troupe will Show Off Ancient and Modern Repetoire

By RISHAD JONUSCHAT  
Statesman Staff

The National Acrobatic Troupe of the Fu Hsing Dramatic Arts Academy will be displaying their outstanding talent on Friday, September 25th at 8:00p.m., in the Staller Arts Center.

From the period of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - 240 A.D.), Chinese Civilization has been combined with dramatic folk and variety shows to produce skillful, intriguing, and above all, entertaining displays of showmanship. The National Acrobats, who are particularly renowned in China, have had the



The National Acrobats of China have performed in Europe, across the U.S., and in South East Asia

opportunity to tour Europe, America, and South East Asia, in order to promote the Chinese acrobatic art for future generations around the

world.

Originating in 1957, The National Fu Hsing Dramatic Arts Academy began as a private school in Taipei under the instruction of its founder, Mr. Zhenzu Wang. However, eleven years later the school became a National Academy with the chief aim of training actors and actresses for the traditional Chinese and Taiwanese Performing Arts. With the collaborative effort of The Chinese Acrobatic Department who produces the folk acrobatic arts, The Dramatic Music Department who enriches the skill of dramatic musicians, and the Taiwanese Opera Department who organize systematic training courses for the local Taiwanese dramatic arts, there must be an array of talent on stage.

Every other year entrance examinations are administered to ten and eleven year olds by the Chinese Acrobatic Department. Similar to other disciplined art forms, the young students must begin with the fundamental exercises of waist, leg, and head training, before moving onto the more advanced and complex levels. The adroit performers often incorporate common daily objects, such as chairs, tables, poles, ladders, bowls, plates, bottles, and jars in their acts to add another challenge to their elaborate routine.

The two main aims of The Chinese Acrobatic Troupe are to promote adaptable traditional folk acrobatic arts, and to expose a new era of art, in addition to preserving their performances of traditional acrobatics. The curricula is comprised of general subjects, professional courses and professional skills. The general subjects fulfill the standards of the

Ministry of Education, while the professional courses include basic skills and physical training.

The Fu Hsing Academy is accomplishing its task, which is to explore and advance Chinese performing arts. Each year The Chinese Acrobatic Troupe puts on more than 500 performances, both in China and abroad, always maintaining the highest level of quality. Several years ago I attended a show by the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe in Bonn, Germany. I found this to be a relaxing and fascinating experience. For the audience it seems almost impossible that such balancing acts can be achieved. However, for the Troupe it is just another one of their artful shows that they put on for self fulfillment and spectator satisfaction. Judging by the expressions on other viewers faces, I gathered that they felt more than satisfied with the production. I found that one of the most remarkable feats to be accomplished was the scene when about twenty people managed to balance on a bicycle, while the rider pedals around the stage.

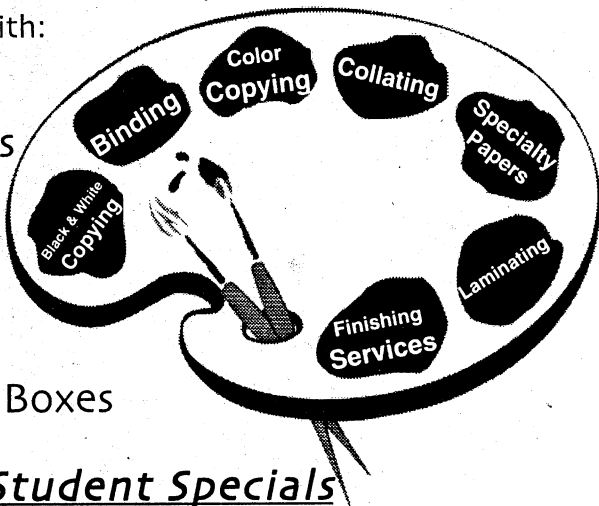
Another notable achievement is the human structure formed by the whole Troupe. This starts with a group of men at the bottom of the pile, after which each row progresses with the next row of performances climbing onto the first row. About a minute later the whole arrangement is formed. This view is exquisite as it reveals the sheer strength and suppleness of the entertainers. The extreme flexibility and agility of the performers should undoubtedly provide a memorable night of entertainment for people from all walks of life.

The Statesman Brook Statesman Thursday, September 24, 1998

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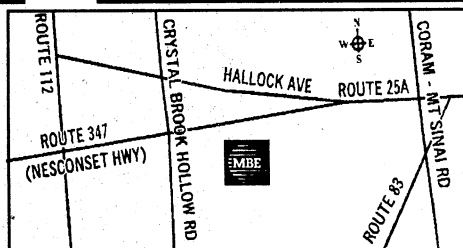
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# Men's Rugby Wins Season Opener

BY RACHIT ANAND  
Special to the Statesman

The Division I Stony Brook Men's Rugby team won their first league match against SUNY New Paltz, 33-30. The highly anticipated event took place on Saturday, September 19. The Seawolves came out strong during the first half, controlling the ball well and exploiting New Paltz's weakness. The forwards had great control over the line outs, winning all of theirs and ruining many thrown in by New Paltz. The backs also had success reading the defense and carrying out the game plan.

Junior hooker for Stony Brook, Brian Maloney was responsible for the first score, assisted by junior flanker, Dominic Periguini, and senior fullback,

Andrew Tumey. New Paltz capitalized on a bad pass by Stony Brook and the score was soon tied at 7. Stony Brook retaliated with a hard drive and Josh Goldstein was able to score on a 20 meter run. Junior

Final Score  
USB 33  
New Paltz 30

outside center, Chris Hinke, recovered a loose ball and was able to score Stony Brook's third try on a

heads up play. Hinke was also successful in making the conversion kicks on all three attempts, giving Stony Brook a 21-7 lead at the end of the first half.

In the second half, New Paltz came out strong and quickly took advantage of a bad pass by Stony Brook, making the score 21-14. Although New Paltz mounted a come back in the second half scoring 16 unanswered points, 9 of which were penalty kicks, Stony Brook was able to persevere.

Conditioning was a major factor that helped to keep the team strong. "Our pack was in much better shape than theirs," said junior prop, Chris Cingari.

With only a few minutes remaining on the clock and New Paltz up by 9, the Seawolves rallied and scored two try's. Junior flanker, Dominic Periguini and Senior fullback, Andrew Tumey were credited for the two scores. Even though Chris Hinke missed one of the conversion kicks, Stony Brook managed to pull ahead.

The effort by Stony Brook was a testimony to the hard work put in by the players and Coach Marty Rosenthal. The team had been practicing as early as August 24, and their cohesiveness was evident on the pitch.

"I was impressed by the team, they showed a lot of heart and character in the final minutes of the game," said freshman flanker, Ben Ross, as Stony Brook celebrated their victory against a team that has eluded them in the past five years. "I had expected and anticipated a victory against New Paltz knowing that we had a better team, but I also believed that to be true our last three meetings against them in which we came up empty handed. Since entering Division I, New Paltz has been a thorn in our side and I am happy that we can put this game behind us with a victory and move on to next week against a talented Iona College," said Coach Rosenthal.

In regards to the team's chances against the Iona squad that defeated Stony Brook 38-3 last Fall, Rosenthal said, "we are a much improved team from last year, but I know that Iona has improved as well. I hope that our players continue to better themselves." The heavily favored Iona team is sure to have their hands full against the spirited Seawolves as they go head to head this weekend. The match will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26 at Iona College.

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# Nothing But Net

## MPB Takes Home the Title in Polity Basketball Tournament

By MIKE KWAN  
Statesman Staff

There was a great deal of shooting on campus last night. And passing and dribbling too, as Polity's three-on-three Basketball Tournament was played last night. Calvin Coleman, the Sophomore representative and organizer of the tournament, said that the tournament was, "absolutely positively the most

exciting basketball tournament that I've ever been to. Even though it's mine."

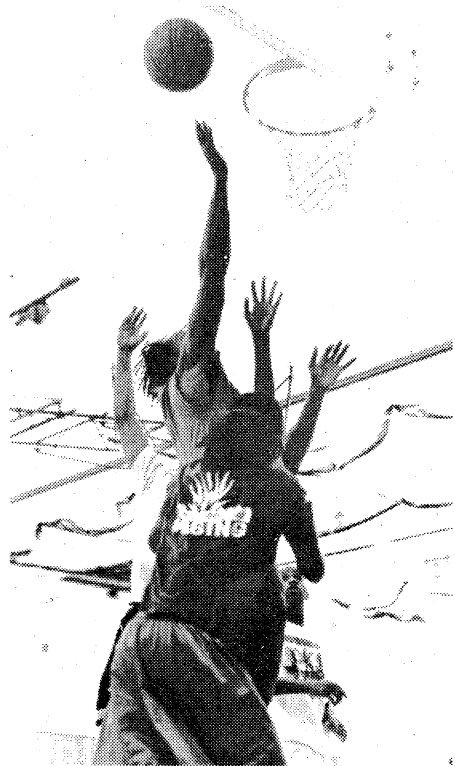
The teams that participated in the tournament represented many of the organizations under the auspices of Polity, such as the Commuter Student Association, and the Student Activity Board.

The tournament began with a festive atmosphere, which became heated and intense as the competition thinned out. Culminating in three feverish games between, the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), the Minority Planning Board (MPB),



Statesman/Teelak D. Ying

MPB teammates Janelle Stanton, Affrin Vallejo, Bergre Escorbores, Peggy Pagan, Chris Greene and Andre Riche after their victory.



Statesman/Teelak D. Ying

Polity held their b-ball tournament last night.

**Final Score**  
MPB 11  
A/V 9

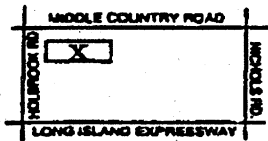
and Polity's own Audio/Visual group.

The first game of the three game final was played between Polity A/V and LASO. A/V played a strong game, starting with a 7-0 run. LASO answered this with a drive which lead to a score of 8-6, within a five minute span of time. The game ended in a win for A/V, with a score

of 11-10.

The next game was played between the MPB and LASO. The LASO team had a slow start in this game too, allowing MPB to gain a 9-0 lead before scoring. The LASO team attempted a fervent push for the win, which eventually floundered. Ending the game with a score of 11-2. Leaving LASO with a second loss, and third place in the tournament.

The final game, played between MPB and A/V was intense and heated from the start. Both teams had impressive plays. As the game wore on, it grew more intense, with tempers flaring, and jubilation from the bench. The score seesawed between the teams from the beginning, with one team taking the lead, only to lose it moments later. The game ended with a score of 11-9, a win for MPB, and narrow loss for A/V, which ended in second.



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# Folk As Rock

## Billy Bragg Blends Punk and Folkie In New Album

By MICHAEL KIMMEL  
Special to the Statesman

Woody Guthrie may have been the greatest songwriter in American history, churning out thousands of songs to greet striking workers, miners, farmhands, to immortalize the awesome beauty of the country, and to celebrate the decency of the common person. Were it not for its rather obviously socialist third stanza, "This Land is Your Land" would have become our national anthem. A whole generation of singer-songwriters, from Phil Ochs and Tom Paxton to Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen have reached for the Guthrie legacy.

When Guthrie died in 1967, he left behind more than a catalog of some of the most famous songs of the century, but also boxes of unfinished songs - scraps of lyrics, ideas only half-sketched, and full-on songs with no music. What did they sound like?

It's like a Zen paradox, like the sound of one hand clapping. How do you sing a song that has no music? For Billy Bragg, the British singer-songwriter who virtually invented punk-folk fusion when he burst on the scene a decade ago, the answer might be "write your own."

When Bragg was invited to preform at Woody's 80th birthday celebration in 1992, he so impresses Woody's daughter (and Arlo's sister) Nora, that she invited him to take a look at this treasure of material that she had found in her father's Brooklyn bedroom. Three years later, Bragg finally got around to looking, and he was

overwhelmed. He contacted Jeff Tweedy, the ex-Uncle Tupelo founder of the roots-rock band, Wilco, which has become a critical if not popular fave. Finally they could get to work.

The result is *Mermaid Avenue* (Elektra) - named after the Coney Island street where Guthrie lived in his last years - one of the most arresting and consistently interesting albums of the year. The album wouldn't work if it was simply a historical homage to Guthrie, or even a modernized updating of his music. But it's a genuine collaborative effort among three distinct voices - the pinko American folk balladeer, the leftist British punk/folkie, and a distinctly American roots-rock band.

In their effort to keep the song fresh and compelling, Bragg and the band have avoided songs that refer to historically specific events, and gone after the wry love songs, the strange, slightly weird comments on emotional life, and the oddball political satire. As a result the album strikes the listener as immediate and fresh.

Of course this is an album by Billy Bragg and Woody Guthrie - and so there have to be a few references to politics. "I Guess I Planted" is a rousing union song, but for the most part the album speaks more universally. For example, "Christ for President," is a honky-tonk campaign song for the carpenter who could save the nation.

A few songs even rock. "Walt Whitman's Niece" is hilariously off the wall, as Guthrie's word plays are matched by the pub rock beat. "Hesitating Beauty" plays between amorous ambivalence and commitment.

By contrast, "Way Over Yonder in a Minor



Courtesy of Elektra Entertainment

Billy Bragg

Key," which Bragg sings as a sweetly affecting duet with Natalie Merchant, is about a self-effacing boy whose singing voice is the only thing he believes anyone will find appealing. "Ingrid Bergman" is an unabashed love song by a stage-struck fan of the great movie actress. "One by One" is a slow, mournful song about aging and lost loves.

Bill Bragg and Wilco have solved that Zen paradox; they know the sound of a song without music. Woody Guthrie would have loved *Mermaid Avenue*, and so will you.

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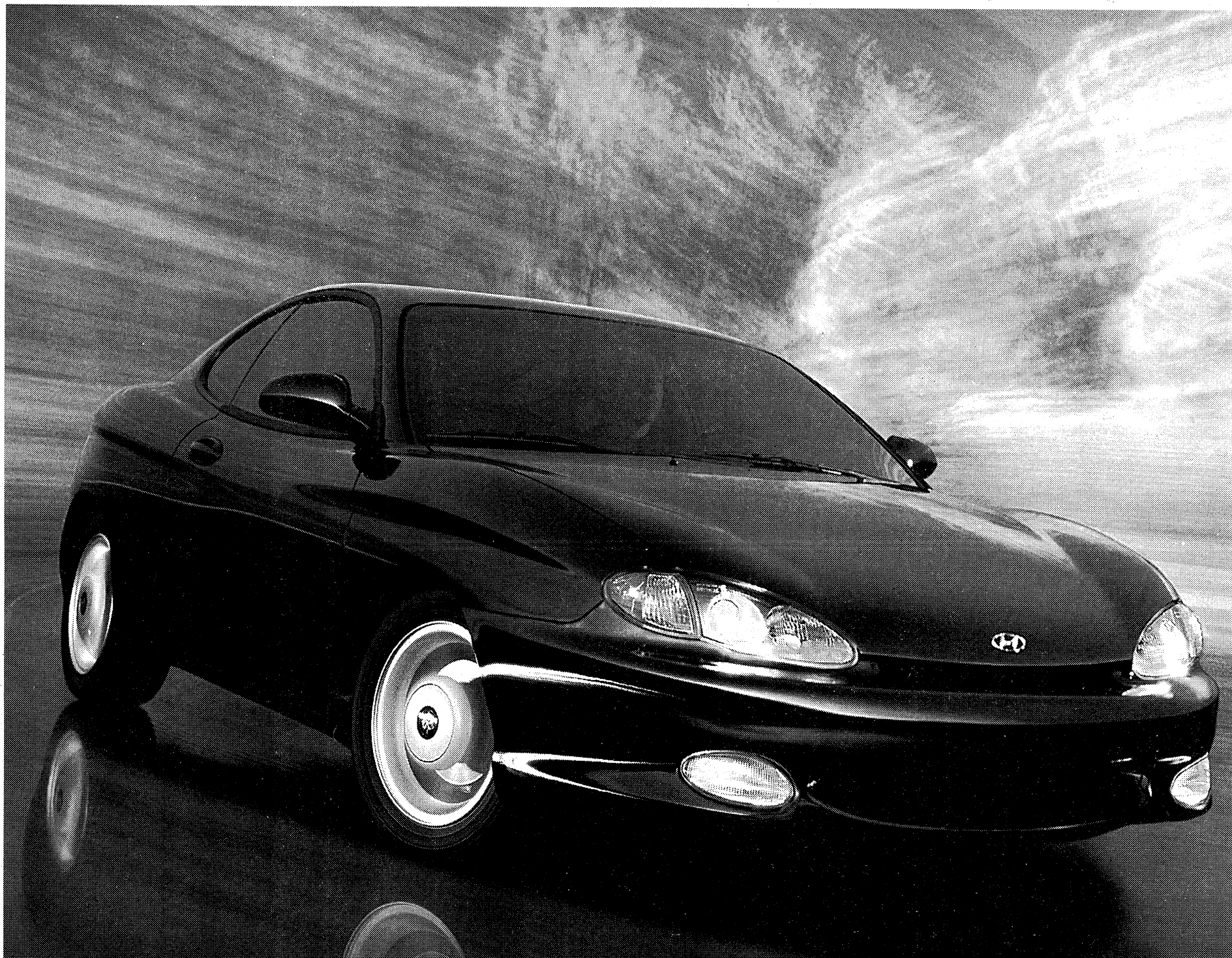
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# Features

## Getting Spirit at Staller

### *Spirit of the Dance Brings Irish Talent to the Arts Center's Stage*

BY DIANE M. LYNCH  
Special to the Statesman

Spirit of the Dance is an upstart dance troupe out of Dublin Ireland which graced the stage of the Staller Center this week in a surprisingly fresh and innovative musical. The dancers revealed their talents in their use of all that is Irish Dance, as well as incorporating many other styles into the production including tap, ballet, jazz and flamenco.

"The Spirit of the Dance is a very different flavor of Irish"

The dancers hail from all over the U.K. but mostly from Ireland. Half of the 300 member dance troupe is doing a stint in Reno, Nevada while the members seen at the Staller Center are touring the states. Among the members seen here on L.I., dancer Emma Hennigan is a prima ballerina who studied with the Royale Ballet of London. In the production she dances, sings and plays the flute. Dancer Serena Thakkar plays a rousing fiddle which had the

audience clapping along and cheering her fascinatingly energetic solo. Troupe member Hannah Tirrel delights no matter what she does- she dances Irish, tap, modern, and sings- but in addition to all that Serena is lead flamenco dancer in an astonishing number that truly impressed the audience.

The "Spirit of the Dance" production tells a tightly woven tale of the dancer and the beloved muse and their search for peace and reunion from two sides of life. Lead male, Kirk Tyler a.k.a. Danny Boy beckons his beloved Spirit, played by Emma Hennigan, to come to him once more, to find him where he lies and "say an Ava there for me". She seeks her love through song and dance throughout the play. In the end they are reunited as she sings a modernized version of Danny Boy into which he laces the theme song "Spirit of the Dance" as they come together in a circular celtic knot work of light.

So, what's new in Irish dance? What does the Spirit of the Dance have that we have yet to see in addition to the Irish Step dance we know and love?

Surprise number one... No Plaid. On the women, sleeveless dresses way up the thigh and sequined, and for the guys standard black with an occasional white or purple shirt. These dancers do a sassy style which echoes Bob Fosse at his finest.

Surprise number two- they sing. Not just sort of sing enough to get by, but these folks have some



The Spirit of the Dance

serious pipes. You know that airy lilting soprano? Gone. This stuff is belted out, modern and catchy. (Yes, I did buy the cd.)

Surprise number three- the women play instruments- I know, not your usual fare. I attended both nights performances and was just as pleased with the production each night.

The Spirit of the Dance is a very different flavor of Irish that shows the versatility of its

members by incorporating the talents of each new member into the basic story line. As the dancers change, so does the expression of this basic love story.

This troupe and this production are classical in form and very modern in expression. The dancers do all styles of dance which helps to keep it traditional enough for some, modern enough for others and accessible and entertaining for people of all ages and heritages.

**The following issue, printed as Vol. 41, issue # 50,  
should have been identified as Vol. 42, issue # 8.**

