

New Executive Director Hits Polity



MINORITY STUDENTS WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF POLITY

BY Sandra Williams

On Wed., March 2nd representatives of the various minority student organizations held a "Pot Luck Welcoming Dinner" for Robin Rabii, the new Executive Director of Polity. The event began with Mr. Rabii introducing himself and telling about his former position at SUNY at New Paltz. Each representative of the different minority organizations then introduced themselves and spoke about the organization they represented. The organizations represented included African Students Organization, African-American Students, Caribbean Students, Asian Students, Womyn's Center, Red Balloon, S.A.I.N.T.S., Stony Brook Gospel Choir, Hatian Students, Black World and the progressive Forum. The introductions were followed by an informal discussion about Polity and the Executive Director's and students role in Polity. The evening's event continued with the serving and eating the various foods prepared by the students. The student representatives further acquainted themselves with Mr. Rabii and chatted among themselves in smaller groups while dining. The evening came to an end with soft music and informal small group discussion.

"I will make recommendations to help Polity. However, the students will have the final say."

Those were the words of the new Executive Director of Polity, Robin Rabii. Mr. Rabii officially began his new job as a staff member of Polity on Tuesday, February 21, 1983. He was formerly the Vice President of Finance at S.U.N.Y. at New Paltz. Out of ninety-two applicants, Robin Rabii was chosen from five finalists by the Polity Council in a project called SEARCH.

In an interview with two staff members of the BLACKWORLD staff, Mr. Rabii described the role of the Polity Executive Director as having many duties and a great amount of responsibility. He perceives his job as entailing a great deal of management, requiring very good communication skills and involving politics. Mr. Rabii believes that his background at New Paltz will allow him to have a better feel of the financial structure of Polity (for example, functions, activity fees, the budget process and other related things on campus). Robin Rabii is confident that his two and a half years experience of working with different types of student groups (such as special interest groups, service groups and programming committees) will serve as an asset in helping him to communicate effectively and deal with day to day problems of the Executive Director of Polity.

When asked what he considered to be the major problems in his new job, Robin R. Rabii replied, "Polity needs to upgrade its internal operations. (for example, a computer—) can be utilized). Currently, everything is done manually. That can slow down or decrease efficiency." Mr. Rabii went on to say, "The Executive Director could become more effective if special attention was given to expanding the scope of managing Polity in its entirety. It's virtually impossible for one person to accomplish and succeed one hundred percent in managing all of

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Gil-Scott Heron at Stony Brook



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NEWS FLASH

STONY BROOK, N.Y.—A study aimed at helping eliminate major emotional problems such as apathy and withdrawal affecting nursing home patients will be conducted by a faculty member at the State University of New York at Stony Brook through a \$150,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of Princeton, N.J.

The grant will enable Dr. Richard I. Feinbloom, clinical associate professor of family medicine in the School of Medicine at Stony Brook's Health Sciences Center, to direct a study of the use of group discussion led by a trained leader to improve emotional and intellectual function in nursing home patients. The work will be conducted in cooperation with the Jewish Institute for Geriatric care at the Institute's facilities in New Hyde Park. The Institute is affiliated with Stony Brook as a clinical campus of the Health Sciences Center.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced the funding of this and 20 other research projects totaling \$3 million, aimed at improving medicine's capacity to assist impaired, acutely or chronically ill individual in regaining or maintaining their functional abilities.

The nursing home project is aimed at helping nursing home patients become more involved and assertive in making choices dealing with issues in daily living, and at helping nursing home staff members develop skills and satisfaction in interacting with patients, Dr. Feinbloom said.

Dr. Feinbloom, who is director of the Family Practice Center in the University Hospital at the Health Sciences Center, came to Stony Brook last year from Harvard University where he was medical director of one of the first family practice medical centers.

"Problems such as apathy and withdrawal and major concerns in nursing homes," Dr. Feinbloom said. "There is a tendency for patients to become too dependent which leads to such problems. The work we're planning at the Jewish Institute for Geriatric Care could establish a model for dealing with such problems, a model that could have major implications in terms of improving the well-being of the roughly one million frail elderly patients now in nursing homes around the country."

The 21 projects announced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will each be under the auspices of an academic health center. Projects in addition to the one at Stony Brook will be carried out at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Brown University, the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine (two

projects), case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Duke University School of Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine, Harvard Community Health Plan, Inc., Massachusetts General Hospital-Institute of Health, Medical Associates Research and Education Foundation at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Stanford University School of Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine, the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Wake Forest University-the Bowman Gray School of Medicine (two projects) and the University of Washington School of Medicine.

STONY BROOK, N.Y.—A conference on the Weimar Republic originally scheduled Feb. 12 will be held Saturday, March 12 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The conference, postponed due to weather conditions during the Feb. 12 weekend, is on the topic "From Weimar to Hitler." It is being held to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Weimar Republic and the rise of a national socialist state in Germany.

The conference will take place from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on March 12 in Room 101 of the Lecture Center on campus. Topics to be covered will include the last days of the Weimar Republic, which collapsed with Adolph Hitler's appointment to office in 1933, and the role of women and the status of the arts prior to its demise.

The University's Departments of History and Germanic and Slavic languages and Literatures will sponsor the conference. It will be open to the public, admission free.

Department of History Prof. W.T. Angress will chair the conference. For more information contact Prof. Angress at 246-8323 or 246-6514.



Stony Brook at Law

The Initial Response

by Charles Branham

As I walked into the A.I.M. office, I was first impressed by the warm air rushing out of the office. I turned the corner and saw a varied crowd of prospective pre-law students sitting, standing, and listening to Dr. Jordan. Dr. Jordan was speaking on the interviewing process for law school. Initially estimated at 90 persons, the crowd was still large at about 75 persons. From the people I interviewed, Mr. Owens should be satisfied with his accomplishment. He has begun a process that can help a great many students on this campus. The "Third World" community should not be put off by the fact that this was, and is held as a campus-wide workshop because it is beneficial for pre-law students to learn from a variety of experiences and backgrounds. In the next issue of Black World there will be a full-length article on Stony At Law.

STONY BROOK AT LAW is and will be a continuous effort to coordinate pre-law activity and expose students to a wide range of law schools, all in hope of enhancing their applications to law school.

Realizing that I have little sense of what to expect from law schools and what they might expect of me, I decided to seek means of finding out as much as I can about this. After speaking with a number of faculty and staff members, who have been very supportive, I've come to coordinate this program. Presently, I am planning long term operation for **STONY BROOK AT LAW**, which started with a mini workshop on March 2, 1983. This workshop is an effort to bring together Stony Brook's resources for pre-law. These resources should provide directional expansion to schools of law. As per the program for this workshop, the basic things pre-law students should know will be addressed, so that when we approach law schools we will at least be basically informed.

The first law schools or agencies I have planned to approach are those in the New York area (hopefully this semester). This will familiarize us with what is offered locally. Later, we can compare local schools with out-of-state schools.

Due to the advance notice required for out-of-state schools, the Fall '83 semester is targeted for workshops that will include these schools. I have also been advised that including other undergraduate schools in our workshops would be more interesting to out-of-state schools.

Needless to say, there is much to be done in order for this plan to materialize. The workshop on March 2, 1983 was the beginning of my commitment to seeing that **STONY BROOK AT LAW** lives. I welcome all who are interested to join me in future planning or participate as you see fit, as **STONY BROOK AT LAW** is a community service.

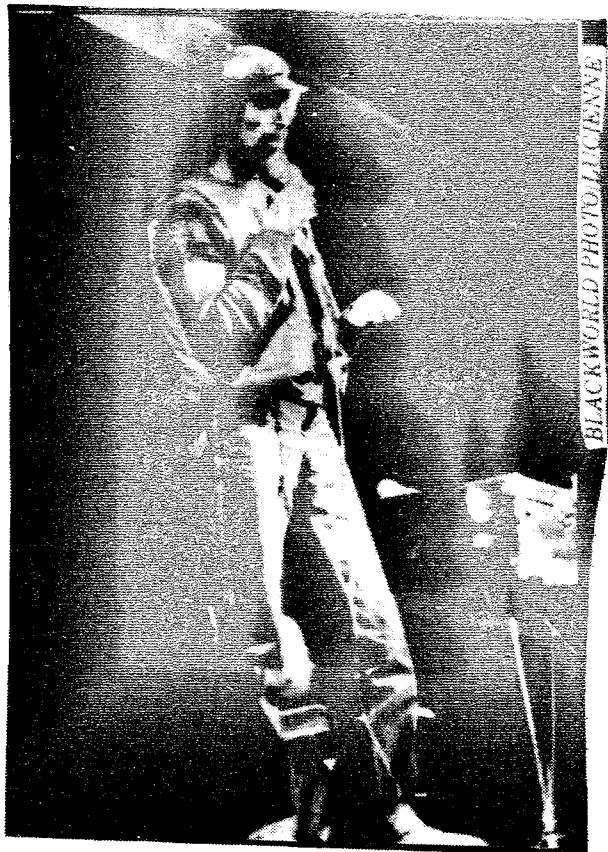
Roderick E. Owens
Program Coordinator



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Gil-Scott Heron: A Man of His Time

By Caesar Campbell



"I have been doing a series of programmes over Black history month that concerns not only Black culture, but also ideas about Black present tenses and Black future." Said Gill Scott Heron, renowned Black poet and Jazz singer.

Seeing this tall figure of a man dressed casually in Blue Jeans, Tee shirt, and leather cap could only conjure inquisitive thoughts. The proverbs not to judge a book by its cover was truly represented here.

He began his monologue with an introduction of his profession which

he calls blueology. He described his form of profession as education not by word of mouth per se, but through music. "Blues has a racial stigma attached to it and Black people don't listen to it. Black people don't want to be associated with it, because Black people in New York City are working as hard as they can to be white," he said.

Not coincidentally, New York at present is void of a Jazz radio station, which reflects the alienation that Blacks face when emigrating to Urban Cities.

Mr. Heron described poetry of today as being complex. He would like to think that his poetry is something everyone can relate to, and not a painted picture with complex configurations. He described an African Girot, whose responsibility was to memorise a given piece of geography, and all of the people who came fourth from that geography. His task was to recite the facts, and not to interpret it. This led to his recitation of a poem called a Black History which depicted the misrepresentation of Black History in terms of African culture, and African integrity.

Mr. Heron ended his rendition with a few songs, incorporating the shy, but willing audience. For me, he evoked great respect and admiration. His poems and songs gave a sense of hope, which was reflected in the subtle humour characteristic of his prose.

ed. note: the writer is an SUSB undergraduate

Black Women in Resistance

by Sandra Williams

A program entitled Black Women and Resistance took place on February 23, 1983, in the Stony Brook Union. The event, which was sponsored by the Africana Studies Program and the Alpha Kappa alpha Sorority, commenced with a welcome to the audience by Lisa Garrison, a member of the A.K.A. Sharon King, a member of the Polity Judiciary and active member of the Caribbean Students Organization, recited Langston Hughes' poem "My People." Professor Carolyn Brown, of the Africana Studies Program, then gave an overview of the Black Women's role in resistance to exploitation and oppression in the past and present. She explained that the many forms of resistance included suicide by African women when captured on the coast of Africa, uprisings on the ships as they were transported from Africa to the "New World," maroons in the Caribbean, Latin America, and in the United States, sabotage of machinery, burning of canefields, self-inflicted abortions, and infanticide.

The event continued with the recital of Sojourner Truth's "Aint't I A Woman" by Sharoyna Chaneyfield and Francis E.W. Harper's "Bury Me Not in a Land of Slaves" by Sandra Williams. The audience then viewed "You have struck a Rock" a documentary on women in the South African Liberation Movement.

The evening's climaxed with the introduction of Andaye De La Druz, the guest speaker. Ms. De la Druz, a social worker and researcher, spoke on the Black Woman in Latin America. She began her lecture by discussing the role of African culture in Latin America. She explained that although Latinas were different due to history,

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Black West Indians — Honorary Whites in South Africa

By Jefferson C. Miller

There's much debate in the Caribbean concerning what actions should be taken against the group of West Indian cricketers who accepted the status of honorary white by the racist South African government.

There were no statements from the Caricom Council of ministers meeting in Georgetown, since the Council Chairman Vicent Beache lamented: "We were unable to make any binding decisions because the stand of some Caricom member states were not known."

That's rhetoric because no Caribbean government, however politically reactionary, will dare give any support to the cricketers or South Africa. They know better.

Our sense of outrage today at the cricketers' action must be tempered

by the harsh reality that in our moment of humiliation, as Black Africa understandably cries "shame," the cricketers' have also exposed the weaknesses in our educational system, the cultural decline in the region, and our unwillingness to appropriately deal with a major contributor to South Africa's Financial mockery at the international community...the imperialist USA. As former member of the American All Stars cricket team, I can attest to the above after representing the world.

Like far too many Caribbean people, these cricketers are more concerned with their own material well-being, too familiar with the contradictions within Caribbean society and the hypocrisies of their leaders, to care enough about the fuel they have provided for the furnace of apartheid and the scorn they have poured on our ancestors.

The cricketers' action cannot be separated from the deficiencies in the Caribbean educational system and the poverty of the peoples' political consciousness. There are people in the Caribbean and right here at Stony Brook who still hesitate to write "African" as their race— and ask what's the fuss over "our cultural identity."

That's why the Caribbean remains largely a place without black heroes; still accepting Europe's and North America's lies about Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe; more "informed" about the threats of communism (Cuba and Grenada), and can scoff at protest groups in their midst that seek to bring their attention to the evils of the racist machinery in South Africa. In this sense, they are all victims, not just the cricketers.

In its press release of January 13, the Caribbean Conference of churches stated that "all of our

Member Churches have, at one time or another, taken an unequivocal stance in rejecting and condemning the philosophy and practice of apartheid which selectively and systematically dehumanizes one particular race, Black Africans, who constitute the majority in their own country."

Noting its commitment to "Caribbean unity and dignity," the CCC said it has always valued West Indian cricket as one of the "sterling institutions through which each and every Caribbean person has been able to feel a sense of identity in international circles..." We totally reject the false notion that a person should permit himself to make a free sale of his services wherever those services can be paid for; and state categorically that there is no market for the skills of Black people in South Africa. Equally do we reject the notion that it is possible to act in our world in a politically innocuous way.

The CCC further stated, "we believe that this event makes it imperative that we do some more profound soul-searching, particularly at the leadership levels of our Caribbean society. Consequently, we need especially in our present situation of acute financial stress to resist temptation to "sell out" for

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Reflections: Alex Haley at SUSB



courtesy of D. Rotherforth/Specula

In a lecture that was given by Mr. Alex Haley on Feb. 16, 1983 in the Fine Arts theatre, approximately 1100 people greeted him with applause and were waiting to hear him begin the lecture on the Future Of The American Family. He began by stating that he was not going to speak specifically on the planned topic. He expressed his desire to "ramble on"

Mr. Haley spoke about the filming of *Roots* in his own "subjective emotional" manner. He gave a detailed description of the scene in which he thought was most important to get across to the audience. He spoke of the scene in which Kunta fought to keep his African name. He asked that "no scene be stronger than this particular scene." He felt that it was important because all that Kunta stood for out of his African culture was being threatened. He further went on to talk about the casting of the film, and how the actors were chosen.

Mr. Haley spoke of frequent descriptive stories dealing with numerous subject matters. He spoke about how *Roots* could be used as a "symbolic saga" which tells the story of "just about all black families."

The "lust of blacks to learn to write" was an issue that Mr. Haley spoke a little about. He told us of the Blacks who learned to sign their names instead of signing with an 'X' as an illustration of this lust" to

learn. He also brought fourth the fact that early Black churches sponsored Black colleges because the need to learn was so great. In his descriptive and story like manner, Mr. Haley recreated a scene where grand-parents of a particular graduate made it known that their grand-child was graduating from college, which was something that they did not have the opportunity to do. Mr. Haley described the mannerisms as if they were on "holy ground." He uses this to portray the prograssing generation where the child accomplished what they did not do. He commented by saying that he "felt proud to know that the pattern of Black history is changing."

Mr. Haley continued to work his way into various stories about situa-

tions that he had been involved in. One such situation which he mentioned took place at Harvard University where he told of a group of Black honor students separating to form two sections, one from the south and the other from the north. He felt that this kind of section division was "healthy" since it was based on "scholoastic competition" (I hope this was not meant to be taken literally).

The most pleasurable experience that he thought happened with the story of *Roots* was that it brought slavery into the open, "we tend not to talk about slave;ry...and shove it under the rug." Through the book he felt that anonymous slaves got their recognition for their ordeal.

Mr. Haley went on to talk about the importance of family. He made

special attention to the grand-parents whom he thought were an important link to their family history. He spoke of the family without regard to color. He pointed out how people in general even European immigrants tend to forget the older generation. He gave advice on how to seek information from grand-parents and older relatives because they have a remarkable memory for the past. He sees family reunions as a "Discovery Time," where the generations come together and is as unique as a "finger print." Mr. Haley did not speak of the Black family per se, but families in general. He added that "we spend too much time trying to find out how we differ instead of looking at how much alike we are." He spoke of how the negatives are being looked upon instead of the positives. Mr. Haley spoke of such negatives when he spoke of the high number of Blacks that were imprisoned in a particular prison. He looked at this high percentage in prison as being a societal problem that is destroying this "great America." It was at this point that Mr. Haley played on the negatives of a particular group of people of which he wanted to avoid doing.

Mr. Haley summed up the message with the words of the Mandingo father in *Roots* who said "Behold, the only thing greater than thyself" when a child was given a name. He used it as a metaphor to signify that "we have the potential to get it together." It was at this point that he ended his lecture.

ed. note: the writer is an SUSB undergraduate

Education: Outside the Classroom

by Roland Noel

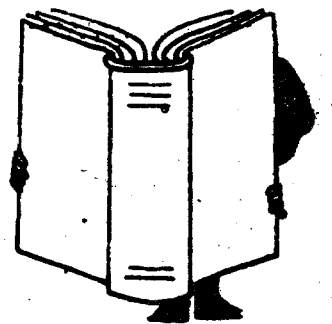
Black History Month is over and it was a very interesting month to say the least. Besides the usual Black History month commercials on television, Stony Brook students had an array of events that took place on campus. in celebration of Black History Month, we received the presence of Ambassador Ghebo. He spoke about apartheid in South Africa (although this was at the ending of January, it was considered the beginning of celebrations for Black History Month). This event was sponsored by the Africana Studies Program. African Week, sponsored by the African Students Organization, was also part of this celebration. This event featured African food, an African Art Exhibit, speakers from the African National Congress (ANC) and S.W.A.P.O., films on South Africa, poetry readings, cultural songs by "Sechaba," a play and a traditional dress show. We also had the honor of hearing Stokely Carmichael speak on Pan-Africanism. This event was sponsored by the African-American Students organization. There was also a colloquium by professor Paget Henry on "The Current Crisis

of National Development in the Caribbean," sponsored by the Africana Studies program; Alex Haley as part of the distinguished lecture series, co-sponsored by the Provost, Student Activities Board of Polity, and the Africana Studies Program. We also had a conference on "Black Women and Resistance: U.S., Caribbean, Africa, Latin America," co-sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Africana Studies Program. Last but certainly not least there was a Tribute to Billie Holiday featuring Alexis De Veaux. This sophisticated production with a jazz club atmosphere was arranged by Laura Pegram and professor June Jordan.

Some students are probably surprised to find out that so many programs took place during the month of February. Some of us had the fortune to meet people like Alex Haley (author of *Roots*), Stokely Carmichael (civil rights activist) and Alexis De Veaux. Most of us probably felt great or honored to meet these people and nothing more than that. This is not enough. They were brought to Stony Brook as part of our learning (educational) process. I

hope that we listened to and thought about what these people had to say. It would be a severe loss if things said at these events just went through one ear and came out the next. Some very important things were said that should be given some thought or even discussed in classes, offices, and clubs because of the effects it will have on all of us in the near future.

I hope that everyone of us who attended these events appreciated and learned something from them. Since the events were so diversified, I felt that there was something in it for everyone. I was however, disappointed with the turnout for the conference on "Black Women and Resistance" since there cannot be any victory without women. On the whole I was very satisfied with the events that took place during Black History Month. I feel a word of THANKS is due to the organizers and coordinators of the events. There will be more interesting events during the rest of the semester. I would like everyone to remember that education takes place outside of the classroom just as much as inside.



In the Monday February 28, 1983 publication of the Statesman, an article entitled "Racial Brawl at Kelly Cafeteria is Reported" appeared on page five. The article is an example of both unsatisfactory and unprofessional journalism.

Respectable journalism involves a "direct presentation of facts, and a description of events without distortion and without an attempt at interpretation.

Statesman's article stated that the Suffolk County Police were called to Kelly quad to break up what they described as a "racial fight involving between 25 and 30 males." According to Herb Petty, Assistant Director of Public Safety, only five persons are recorded as having been involved in the disturbance.

In the article it was also written that the party in Kelly cafeteria was sponsored by the African American Students Organization. This is not true. The party was in fact an unauthorized party (attended by people from off-campus).

Terrie Smith, President of the African American Students Organization, attempted to uncover the source of the rumor that named her organization as the party's sponsor. In doing so, she was able to discover that the party was not authorized. According to the secretary of the Kelly quad office, the R.H.D. of Kelly D, and Residence Life, there was absolutely no record of a facilities use form. Karen Mendelsohn, Director of Student Activities, is in charge of authorizing the facilities use forms she had no information regarding Friday night's party.

Terrie Smith who was understandably upset by the allegation, attempted to question the staff members accountable for the article. Terrie had a very difficult time contacting the reporters who were responsible for the misinformation. She finally happened to see one reporter in the Union basement. The young woman's response to Terrie's questions was evasive. To Terrie's comment on the poor quality of the journalism, she replied, "I'm sorry." She also said something to effect of, "A guy at the party gave me the name of your organization."

Terrie was told by another Statesman staff member, that a correction notice would be printed in a subsequent publication of the Statesman. There was no mention of the incident in the following publication on Wednesday March 2, 1983.

This use of seriously inaccurate and unreliable information is not an isolated incident with Statesman. In the Wednesday February 16 publication, June Jordan was quoted in an article on Black History Month. According to June Jordan, the statements which she made, did not coincide with those which were printed.

First of all, she did not refer to the Black community as "the negro community." Negro is also printed with a lower case "n." Whether this absurdity is due to a misprint, an oversight or poor editing is not clear.

The article quotes June Jordan as saying that Black History Month is a recognition which allows for "some meager compensation for the general lack of concern for Black views; it is a celebration or unity..." This, is not so. June Jordan said, she felt that Black History Month was a celebration of our contributions to the whole culture; a sharing of our points of view with the rest of the community. She used the words "meager compensation" to refer to the exclusion of Blacks from the academic curriculum and the cultural offerings of the University in general.

The article goes on to quote June Jordan as having said— "it's meager compensation in that it will be in existence until we have our rightful share (of exposure), as opposed to the 400 years of struggling we've endured." Contrary to this, June Jordan said she felt that we would have to have Black History Month as least until Black contributions to the culture and the whole American history have become part of the curriculum and the University life altogether. She views Black History Month as a stop-gap-something which is necessary because Blacks are normally prevented from appearing in both course materials for study and events presented to the University community and campus at large. She made absolutely no mention of the "400 years of struggling we've endured."

Further on in the article it is stated that June Jordan said that the University is not putting out enough; that the "budget is always too small." This was made in reference to the fact that the University was sponsoring a number of programs to celebrate the month.

June Jordan did not make that statement. She did in fact make the point that the Black historical presence-past and continuing is excluded from general studies here; that whatever the University does to aid our activities during Black History Month is not enough.

The reporter who "interviewed" June Jordan interrupted a student conference. He did not have an appointment with June Jordan but proceeded to insist on asking questions because his story was due that day.

The approach and attitude of the reporter showed disturbing lack of respect. Included in this, was the appalling fact that the reporter did not record anything. He never wrote down a word. He also made negative remarks about the Stony Brook Press.

A newspaper which is a tri-weekly publication for the campus community and surrounding communities must be factual and objective when it purports to present "the news" as opposed to an editorial. Statesman has a responsibility to print reliable material. As for minorities in the community, it is of particular importance that only competent reporters cover articles concerning minority communities on campus. The African American community on campus feels that these two articles demonstrate poor presentation of facts concerning us.

Perhaps a recruitment of minority students to Statesman's staff is necessary to insure proper coverage of minority events.

Notices

The Caribbean Students Organization invites you to come party with us on Friday 11th of March. This is a fund raising event for Caribbean Weekend. All support will be greatly appreciated.

We in the family SUSB would like to thank Ms Sandra Williams for organizing the welcoming dinner for Polity's new Executive Director Robin Rabi and the Third World Students Organizations.

Stony Brook's Pre-Nursing Society invites all those interested in Nursing as a career to attend our bi-monthly meetings. The next meeting will take place on March 15, in Union Room 237.

also, if you are interested in visiting the Operating Room of the University hospital or sitting in on a class dealing with Pediatrics or obstetrics, please contact Mary Garvin (President) at 6-7440.

The classes will be held on March 21 (Mon), from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the HSC.

The OR tour is on March 17 (Thurs) at 5:30 PM, and everyone will meet in S107 on the 13th floor of the HSC.

**JOIN AN UP...AND
COMING...
NEWSPAPER**

**BLACKWORLD
NEEDS:
*WRITERS
*REPORTERS
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BLACKWORLD

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BLACKWORLD is a bi-monthly student publication at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Address all correspondence to BLACKWORLD, Rm. 060, Student Union Building, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794. Materials can also be submitted in BLACKWORLD'S mailbox, 2nd floor, Student Union Building (Polity Office) phone 246-4762.

Identity...Is the Key!

Part I:

Historically, minority persons were excluded from equal participation in the American educational system. Since the 1950s, however, there has been a gradual increase in the number of minority students attending institutions of higher education. An estimated 913,248 were enrolled in the fall of 1976, the largest absolute number of minority students enrolled in college at any time during the history of this country. Many educators especially those who are also minority members, have contended that the problems of minority students on white-dominated campuses are very different from and more severe than the traditional problems of college students. New and different methods have been required to address these problems. These new methods have included special admission programs, special tutorial programs, group counseling. All have been tried but none have worked. There is much debate over the effectiveness of these programs,

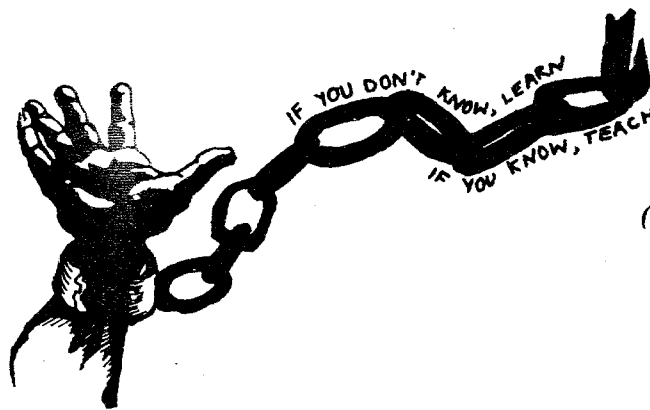
but little of it is helpful in determining their impact on the special quality and characteristics of the minority student experience on the college campus. "Some describe the minority student's experience in college in terms of culture shock." The minority student who comes out of a homogeneous ethnic environment confronts the white establishment, as reflected on the college campus, there is a clash of cultures and social values. This clash, for some results in a form of shock as they learn about the ways of the dominant white culture from the perspective of a student. For example, some minority students react in dismay to learn that many white students and faculty members expect the minority students to agree with their perceptions about the inferiority of non-white culture and social systems. Other minority students tend to believe these perceptions are true and try to maintain a position of being a different kind of black, Chicano, Puerto

Rican, or Asian, one who is more like the traditional white student. Both responses can be called forms of culture shock. There are, of course, many other examples. When there exists expectations (stereotypes) of one group from another, a form of culture shock results. Many college administrations are amazed that minority students do not appear to be grateful. They feel that minority students are not "really" entitled or qualified and, therefore,

should express gratitude for the opportunity to be in college. In contrast minority students view their admission, as an earned right and are conscious that they bring something rich and valuable to the college. In this case the administrators may be the ones who experience culture shock!

Theme: the perfect age to learn that Black is not just a color but a reason to live.

(Poem: Alexis De Veaux)



con't from p. 1

Polity." As he sees it, lack of assistance in vital areas limits the Executive Director's potential to be as effective as he or she could be. Another problem Mr. Rabii has cited is contradictions in the Polity Constitution. He stated that the tedious character of the Budgeting process "decreases efficiency and maintains complexity." Rabii further observed that the various branches of the student government interact in a manner which allows for a lot of "fighting." He also said that "the houses of government in Polity appear to interact at a minimum level. The interaction among the branches which in turn would increase communication and eliminate separatism." Mr. Rabii noted that he would make recommendations to the student government about any problems he cited. "The students will have the final say."

Robin Rabii expressed that he was overwhelmed by the desire of some students to serve the entire student body at Stony Brook.

Mr. Rabii feels that his relationship with "minority" students is one of an advisor and a consultant to their internal affairs. He stated that a "mechanism has been provided for Black, Hispanic, Chinese, Asians, women, etc. to get involved in Polity. "I would like to see "minorities" and all students take advantage of this opportunity to get involved in order to reflect the diversity of Stony Brook campus."

During the interview, Robin Rabii was asked if he felt it necessary for Black faculty and students to have a distinct channel of communication to deal with certain particular problems that face the minority community on campus. He responded, "Communication is a universal word. To increase communication is to enhance effectiveness in the overall community in the overall community. There must be communication of the entire faculty and students regardless of ethnic background."

In view of the present generation of minority students, Mr. Rabii said, "Minority students have to be exceptional. They have to excel."

The economic pressure that is being placed on higher education affects all students; more specifically, the third World Student. This pressure places minorities in a situation where they must excel beyond normal measures.

con't from p. 3

thereby we create and nurture the mood of cynicism which predisposes persons to self-destruct in one way or another," for example, to be prepared to slip out of the Caribbean surreptitiously and to accept the status of honorary white.

So far, only few caribbean countries have taken any action against the rebel cricketers.

con't from p. 3

geography, miscengenation and variations in culture, their commonality is to be found in their African roots. The similarity in Latin foods, music, dance, and language, "which in fact is African in roots" verifies the commonality Latinas have, not only amongst themselves, but also with all Black women who are African in hert heritage. Thus, she referred to these women as Afro-Latinas.

Ms. De la Cruz went on to discuss the denial of being Black or rather the denial of being African in heritage by the Afro-latina. She said Afro-Latinas will identify themselves as venezuelan, Colombian, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Panamanian, etc., but not as Black. She explained that part of the reason for this denial as being the negative image the African woman is depicted. For example, a Brazilian novel illustrated Bezilia, an African female character as being "big, dark, ugly, and smelly." On the novelas, Afro-Latinas are depicted as being Blonds, Mulattas when depicted are the symbol of sexuality, Ms De la Cruz stressed the importance of understanding our differences as Cubans, Nicaraguans, Brazilians, Jamaicans, African-Americans, Cruzans, etc., because these differences are used as tools to keep us separate. However, we have to recognize our commonality as Black people, as descendents of Africa because this system oppresses us as such.

Ms. De la Cruz also spoke of the triple oppression of the Afro-Latin as a worker, a Black, and a woman. Her lecture came to an end with an interesting question and answer period which was followed by a buffet dinner, bringing the evening to an end.

POETRY



OUT HERE ON MY OWN

Life has taught me to be a man,
 And now I have grown in time
 Still there is so much that I do not understand
 Time took me by the hand
 And lead me off my path
 This sure is no promise land
 Out here on my own.
 Love has done me so much wrong,
 It taught me how to hate
 Misery is all that I am left with
 Out here on my own.
 Needs compelled me to try for more
 But I am still not in the lead,
 Nothing seems to be in the lead,
 Nothing seems to be in arms length
 Since I am out here on my own.
 Success is the answer to the future
 Survival is the way to get there.
 All I want is to reach my goal
 Out here on my own.

Lancelot Walker

TEASER

Stick it out,
 touch the heel to the floor,
 walk lightly,
 look at them,
 they all looking.
 Now lean on him,
 showing what he can't get,
 talk lustedly,
 and brush him lightly,
 look at them they all looking.
 Go upstairs,
 knock lightly,
 you know he expecting,
 dance with him,
 make sure you touching,
 look at them,
 they all looking.
 Smile,
 wet your lips,
 can't you see him groaning,
 make sure he's sweating too,
 look at them,
 they all looking,
 wishing and wanting,
 but you not giving.

Mr. Michael Grimes

I SAW YOU

By Roderick E. Owens

You weren't in class,
 But I saw you.
 You weren't at recitation,
 But I saw you.
 You weren't at the Career Conference,
 But I saw you.
 You weren't around the politics,
 But I saw you.
 I saw you at the concert.
 I saw you at the party.
 Yes, I saw you.
 And I will see you...
 At the Gym,
 In the Union,
 At the movies...

Tribute To African Queens (dedicate to Sauda)

When I look at you African Queens
 I see
 mothers who carried
 the fathers and mothers
 of generations that came
 and are gone,
 to the cotton field
 for nursing.

I hear
 your cries
 when your babies were torn
 from your wombs
 without a second thought,
 for the rest of your life.

I rejoice Ebony
 knowing that you were at my side
 during every phase of the battle.

I rejoice,
 knowing that you continued to battle
 Black Pearl,
 even when your men died.

I give thanks to you,
 mothers of revolutionist
 like Sojour Truth
 Fannie Lou
 Harriet Tubman
 Assata Shakur

To you Black Woman
 I will always give my respect
 because through trials,
 tribulations
 you kept our race going

You hve been my strength
 as well as I yours,
 In times of oppression,
 lynchings
 Day to day resistance.

Sapphire,
 when I journeyed from the Promise Land
 you waited.
 So, even when you take the wrong path,
 I will be awaiting your return.

African Queen
 Ebony
 Sapphire
 Most Beautiful, Black Pearl
 I thank thee.

Roland Noel



A WOMAN'S STORY

I am a woman,
 who believed strongly in God.
 And then,
 I got pregnant,
 ignorantly,

accidentally,

regretfully,

The first time I had sex (not love),
 The first time I choose to have sex,
 Spontaneously, Assertively,
 with a man I wanted physically,
 and no more,
 And then Iced-up afterwards,
 and refused choices, cursed spontaneity,
 and now there was a wide gaping
 emptiness,
 A continual raw gnawing,
 From Fire-to-Ice.

Six months of Ice,
 and I thawed when
 a situation got too hot,
 and my mind and body could no
 longer remain cold.

Ice-to-Fire,
 Another first,
 A first time/lover,
 another free choice,
 It couldn't be,
 It can't — my God no;
 It can't happen to me!

But I was pregnant,
 and this time, I Knew There
 Was No God.
 There was only Me
 I could/can no longer
 depend on a man,
 I couldn't/can't see.
 My responsibilities rest
 with Me.

Free/Woman

by Noluja-Astat-Istic



Stony Brook's Celebration of Women's

Wednesday

12:00-1:00 p.m.: **Theoretical Aspects of Out to Work**; Alice Kessler Harris, Hofstra and Institute for Work & Leisure; Sponsored by History

1:00-2:00 p.m.: **Private Provision of Public Services: A Comparative Economic Perspective**; Estelle James, Economics, SUSB

1:30-2:15 p.m.: **Composition and Change in Ancient Mesopotamian Neighborhoods**; Elizabeth Stone, Anthropology, SUSB; *Social and Behavioral Sciences, N505*

2:00 p.m.: **Cell Cycle Regulation of Histone Synthesis in Yeast**; Lynna Hereford, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Sidney Farber Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School; Sponsored by Biochemistry & Microbiology; *Graduate Biology, Room 038*

2:15-3:00 p.m.: **Women in Soviet Literature: Recent Trends**; Vera Dunham, Slavic, Queens College, CUNY

2:15-3:00 p.m.: **China: Images of the 80s**; Slides & discussion, Shi Ming Hu, Chinese, SUSB; *Social and Behavioral Sciences, S218*

3:00-4:00 p.m.: **Black Children in White America**; Valora Washington, Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Sponsored by Women's Studies and Africana Studies

4:00-5:00 p.m.: **Butterflies and Their Host Plants: Ecology & Evolution**; M. Deane Bowers, Harvard; Sponsored by Ecology & Evolution; *Graduate Biology, Room 038*

4:00-6:00 p.m.: **The Condition and Struggle of Black Women in Diaspora**; Student panel from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States; Moderator: Carolyn Brown, Africana Studies, SUSB

4:15 p.m.: **Intercalated Graphite Compounds**; Mildred Dresselhaus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Sponsored by Physics; *Old Physics, Room 137*

4:30-5:30 p.m.: **Doris Fischer-Culbrie**, Mathematics, Columbia University; Sponsored by Mathematics, Colloquium Lecture; *Math Tower, P131*

6:00-7:00 p.m.: **Reception**; Wine and cheese for conference speakers and audience; *Old Chemistry, Informal Gallery, Disarmament & Peace Studies Resource Center*

7:00-8:00 p.m.: **Films**: This is the Home of Mrs. Levant Graham; The Other Half of the Sky; Kypseli: Men & Women Apart—A Divided Reality; Lucia

Thursday

11:45-1:00 p.m.: **Economic Priority Issues in New York State**; Pearl Kamer, LI Regional Planning Board and member of Gov. Cuomo's Transition Team; Sponsored by W. Averell Harriman College for Urban & Policy Sciences; *Bag lunch—Harriman College, Old Physics Building, Room 312*

12:30-1:30 p.m.: **Women in the Hands of English Medieval Historians**; Barbara Hanawalt, History, Indiana University, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton; Sponsored by History

1:00-5:00 p.m.: **Psychological Aspects of Violence Against Women Table**; Campus Women's Safety Committee, SUSB; *SB Union Lobby*

1:30-2:30 p.m.: **Setting Economic and Fiscal Priorities for New York State**; Pearl Kamer, LI Regional Planning Board and member of Gov. Cuomo's Transition Team

2:30-3:30 p.m.: **Women's History—A decade of growth**; Judith Wishnia, Women's Studies, SUSB

3:30-4:15 p.m.: **The Juggling Act: The Adult Student**; Nancy Rothman, Office of Undergraduate Studies, SUSB, and a panel from Renewed Horizons, SUSB

4:00-5:00 p.m.: **Gender, Politics and the Literary Canon**; Christine Froula, English, Yale University; Sponsored by English; *Humanities Lounge*

4:00-5:00 p.m.: **Structured Studies on the Gamma Subunit of the Acetylcholine Receptor**; Tony Claudio, Chemistry, Columbia University; Sponsored by Microbiology & Biochemistry; *Graduate Biology, Room 038*

4:00-6:00 p.m.: **Opportunities for Women in Mathematics**; Informal discussion and refreshments; Open to all undergraduates taking mathematics and/or science courses; For information call Prof. Dusa McDuff at 246-6522; *Math Tower, S-240*

4:15-5:00 p.m.: **Current Issues in Day Care**; Panel; Chair: Betsy Feuerstein, Child Care & Family Studies, SUSB

5:00-8:00 p.m.: **Films**: Wilmar 8; Workplace Hustle; With Babies and Banners; Pay equity videotape

Friday

(All events are in HSC Lecture Hall 6, Level 3 unless otherwise noted)

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: **The Feminization of Poverty: The Impact of Federal Policies on Women**; Ruth Messinger, New York City Councilmember, and Panel from School of Social Welfare; Convenor: Ruth Brandwein; Sponsored by Social Welfare

1:00-2:00 p.m.: **Hunger in America**; Nancy Amidei, Food Research Action Center, Washington, D.C.

2:00-3:00 p.m.: **Disabled Women: Marginality, Resistance and Social Constructions**; Michelle Fine, Psychology & Education, University of Pennsylvania

3:00-5:15 p.m.: **Women in Medicine**; Talk and videotape interviews with Drs. Alice Huang, Priscilla Schaefer, Ruth Sagor, Mary Allen Avery, Shirley Driscoll, Elizabeth Hay, Janet McArthur and Lynne Reid of Harvard University; Geri Denterlin, School of Medicine, Harvard University; Sponsored by Microbiology & Biochemistry

3:30 p.m.: **Mme. de Staël, The Theft of Fire**; Madelyne Gutwirth, French, West Chester State College; Sponsored by French & Italian; *Deans' Conference Room, Library*

4:00 p.m.: **Viola Music**; Rachel Swerdlow, Music, SUSB; *Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall*

Saturday

9:30-3:30 p.m.: **Women and Disarmament**; Sponsored by Arms Control, Disarmament, and Peace Studies Resource Center and Women's Studies; *Old Chemistry, Informal Gallery*

9:30-11:00 a.m.: **Women and Pacifism: A Historical Overview**; Panel: Harriet Alonzo, History, SUSB; Judith Wishnia, Women's Studies, SUSB; and Women's Strike for Peace representative

11:00-11:45 a.m.: **Dance Group**

11:45 a.m.: **Keynote Speaker: Blanche Wiesen Cook**; Historian, John Jay College

1:30-3:00 p.m.: **Workshop**; Pat Simon

3:00-3:30 p.m.: **Film**: The Pentagon Action

Multiday Events

Monday-Friday
Women's Scholarship Book Display; Main Library, Reference Room

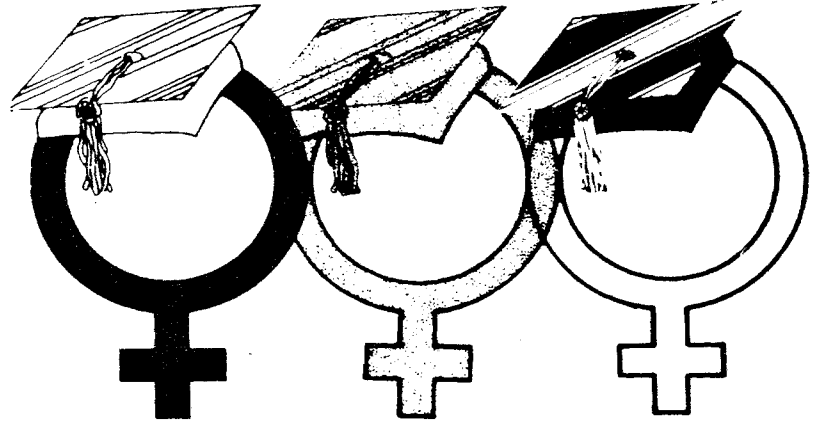
Women's Scholarship Book Sale; SB Union Lobby

The Effect of Social Policy on Women's Reproductive Freedom; Table, Planned Parenthood, SB Union Lobby

12:00-5:00 p.m.: **Sculpture by Sheila Solomon**; *Old Chemistry, Informal Gallery, Arms Control, Disarmament and Peace Studies Resource Center*

Monday-Thursday
Paintings by Louise Cirisano; SB Union Gallery

Scholarship Week



All events are free, open to the public and will be held in the Deans' Conference Room, Frank Melville, Jr. Memorial Library Second Floor, unless otherwise noted. For more or updated information, call Sarah Hall Sternglanz, Conference Coordinator, 246-6733 or 246-6836

minority student
cultural
center

a meeting
for all with an interest
thursday
march 17

7 p.m.
in the
cultural center
(stage XII - second level)
please attend



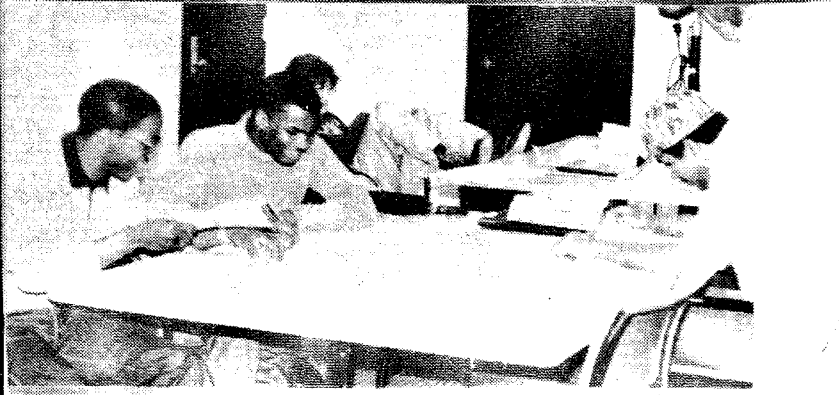
Photo essay by Mike Lucienne

Black as Us

Dedicated to : THE PEOPLE.

Video Games Forever.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY SANDRA



Caribbean Students Organization

Present

A Fund Raising Jam!

Date: March 11, 1983
Friday at 10:00
Stage XII Cafeteria

Disco Musik by: C.S.O. 'Hi Power'

Calypso

Donation: \$1.00 w/ID

\$1.50 wo/ID

Come And Rock With Us
Reggae

Stony Brook's Pre-Nursing Society

Next meeting - March 15, 1983

Union Rm 237 8 PM

A tour of operating

room and sit-in on

nursing classes are now

available for info

call Mary or Denise

Any student interested in rewriting the Polity Constitution, contact Brian Kohn at 246-4111 or at Polity 246-3673.

India Association

is celebrating HOLI on

March 19th 1983 (Saturday)

Location Union Auditorium & Ballroom

It will be an exciting cultural program, a spectacular movie & a delicious full course dinner

All are welcome

for more details call

Meena 6-8147

Sanjay 6-8892



The Science Fiction Forum presents

Yul Brynner

in

WESTWORLD

where nothing can go wrong...

tonight, Mar. 9 at 7,9, & 11 PM

in the Union auditorium

Admission 25¢ at door

sponsored by Polity

The Science Fiction Forum meets on Monday nights at 10 PM in the Science Fiction Library located in the basement of Hendrix College, Roth Quad

All welcome!

Join us!

Saints Meeting

Alumni Night

Resume Writing

Interviews

Learn the Does & Don'ts in Choosing a Job.

March 10 7 PM

Union Rm 237

Crescents of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

invite one and all to a

Blue Magic Disco Affair

Roth Cafe 10 pm — until

Sat, March 12

\$1.00 w/ID

\$2.00 wo/ID

No Sneakers

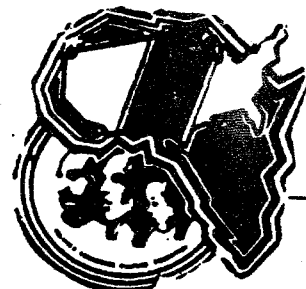
BlackWorld Need You!

(writers for campus news briefs

freshpersons and sophmores
please apply)

Attend the general meeting

on Wednesday — 8 PM to 9 PM



DO WOMEN NEED REVOLUTION?

Do women need revolution?

Ask my sister

DES daughter cancer ravaging her body at 23 —

ask her who arranged it that way for drugs to be used experimentally, ask her beautiful, smiling face, who arranged it for there to be no health care concerned with preventing, concerned with caring, preserving, continuing, maintaining, nurturing life. Just business as usual.

Her smile grows even as the cancer spreads, so warm and firm, encompassing women in sweatshops with children sitting on piles of dusty rags, women in prison, women in hospital/prison, women in Puerto Rico, fighting for nationhood, ask them, women in Harlem, Watts, Oakland, 3 times oppressed, women in the Black Nation, defending the women of the Red Nations Sterilized in Four Corners, reclaiming the cultures suffered genocide. Ask them, women with children in the hand, in the womb.

Her smile is blooming, tulips roses, plum blossoms, cacti flowers tenaciously clinging to desert rocks; her teeth are bullets, her teeth are white crystals, pearls stolen from Hawaii, Her smile encompassing women in China, working side by side with the men, allies in the new society.

Do women need revolution? Will women lead revolution?

Can there be revolution without women/without women and men side by side.

Tell me, tell me, do we need revolution?

— B.W.

taken from Unity Vol. 6 Number 2

CULTURE AND CONSCIOUSNESS

To My Golden Princess,
All I do is think about you, baby. From the guy you thought was unfriendly.

To Gillian,
No more heartaches. It's all uphill from now on. I'm sorry.
—Cancer

Precious Pisceans, Happy Birthday! Seems like the nicest segment of Stony Brook is Pisces. May this year unfold a most productive and successful time, with all the happiness your hearts can hold!
Love, Ardette

To every young black woman,
It can be said by any man the words "I love you" but it takes a hell of a lot more for them to show it. Appreciation and affection are traits easily transmitted if really meant; consider who you are and what you offer a man. If you give more than you get back then you are being cheated.

After all black is beautiful but to be a black woman is beauty in itself beyond compare.

I have you all,
The black Prince

Val,
The gift was beautiful, the card was great. Thank you for brightening up my birthday.
Love, Roland

Pam,
No body gets too much love anymore. I'm waiting in line. Loving such a beautiful thing.
Secret Admirer

To Merl The Pearl,
When I picked you for a friend I picked the very best.
Love always,
Roselie

George,
You made my day when you told me you actually liked me.
Thanks a million.

Articulate

Cozbi,
Together we can make it great.

Gillian,
Thanks I loved it and love you too.

Thanks to all the people who made my birthday one to remember.

Roland

Erica & Renee,
O.K., O.K., I will love both of you if you behave yourselves.

Miss David,
you're beautiful and unique
Your not so secret admirer

Satrina,
Why do you disappear in the day light. Melt away like ice. Drawing tears from mine eyes.
Where are you?!

Roland,
You can't rub
can't dub
can't wine

Roland,
Don't feel like I was avoiding you (at your party) — you just got lost too much in the crowd (smile)
A.S.

Richard,
Love the way you dance really dread,...Rasta
The short me

He,
Did you ever find out who she and she is (was)?

Crucian girl,
How come you does wine so?
Maybe rub so?
Maybe dub so?
And oh, what a bum bum (smile)
The St. Thomian

Say Something

Reg,
There is no limit to what we can do; as long as we work for it together.

Love ya,
R.S. Who Loves Ya
Baby?
Babs does!!

Roland,
Belated birthday. You are always in my thoughts yesterday, today, and tomorrow. You held a special place in my heart because true friends shall never part.
Love, Val

Little Yvette Hernandez,
You are one of the best and most annoying things in my life. You are the best little sister I could ask for.
Love, Phoebe

Dear Sandra,
You listen so well when I want to talk and you understand when I need to be quiet. Thank you.
Phoebe

Gillian,
Hi chooks, chooks!

Gillian,
Because I say hi to you what effect does it have on.....Let's say, the world.
Budd Hisf's Brother

To Anyone Concerned
If you think you know what's going on you're probably full of shoelaces!
Mike

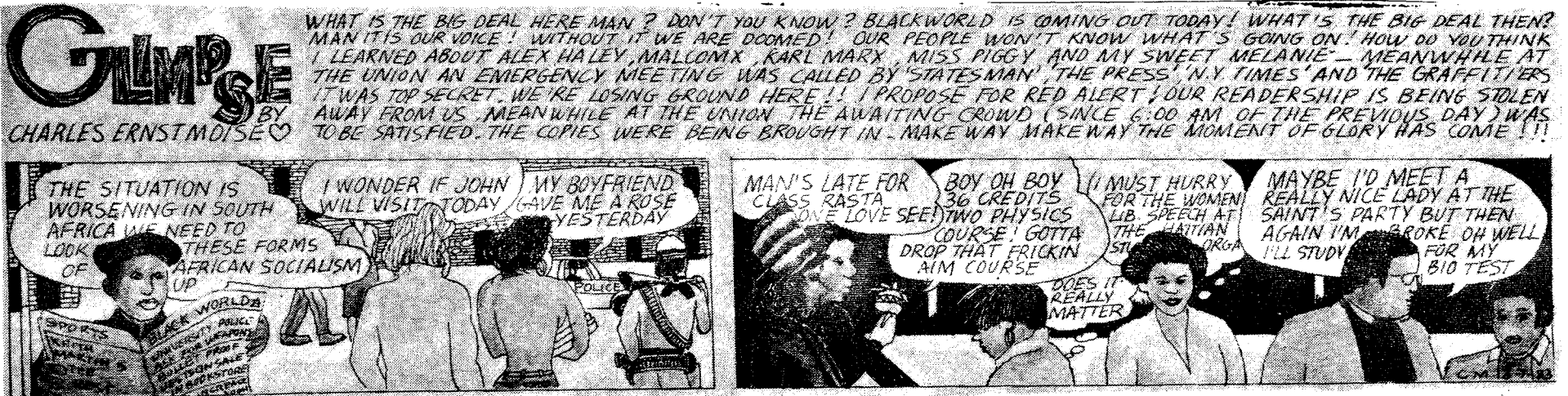
Margaret,
It's nice to have you as a P. Friend
M.

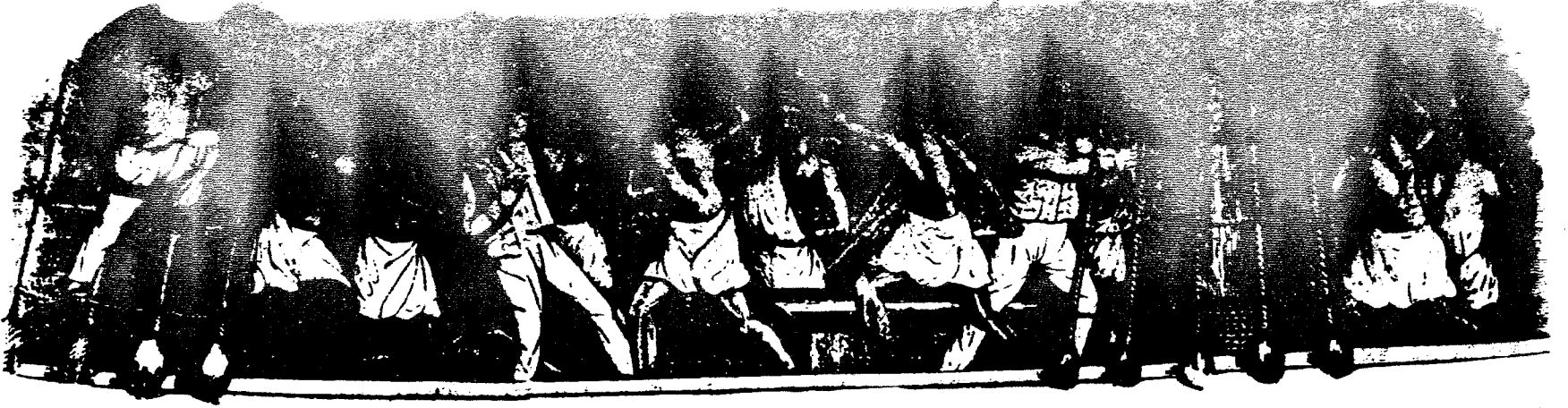
Margaret.,
It's a long wire from Roth to Kelly.
Thanks for being there!
Nadia

Mr. Noel,
I just know you were going to tell me your problems.
(Smile)

Mr. Reggie Swan,
Make those sales Baby!!!
B.Q.

March 9, 1988 Page 11





TOMORROW IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

The following play was performed entirely by children at the St. Louis Organization for Black Struggle third anniversary program January 29, 1983. UNITY encourages other people's playwrights and writers to send their works to us for publication.



(Above) At the third anniversary OBS program, children play the part of Black slaves forced to pick cotton. (Below) Newscaster describes the problems facing Black people around the world. (OBS photos)

JAHARI ENDESHA

Small girl sits on cot and watches news on wide TV screen

Newscaster: On the national scene, January 15 marked the 54th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Protests were held all across the coun-

try to make this day a national holiday. King was killed in 1968 by an assassin's bullet. Black organizations all across the nation feel that it is a racist act not to acknowledge the great contributions King has made to this country and the world.

Starvation in the Horn of Africa is on the increase. It is estimated that 500,000 Blacks will die of starvation in the next two years.

Racial tension in Miami is just beginning to subside after a Hispanic cop shot a Black youth in the head earlier this month at point blank range. Witnesses to the murder say there was no apparent reason for the shooting.

On the local scene, the Organization for Black Struggle is staging its 2nd march and rally against genocide, protesting police brutality among Blacks, the large number of Black families without heat, hot water or electricity. And last, but not least, the growing unemployment among Blacks. In the OBS press release, it stated that these things are part of the genocidal war against Blacks.

In north St. Louis earlier this morning, 5 persons were gunned down while leaving a tavern. There are no suspects at this time and names of the victims are being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

Two Black youth, ages 16 and 17, have been tried as adults and received the death penalty in the murder of

(Girl turns TV off/stretching and yawns)

Girl: Everywhere you look, Black people are dying. I wonder why. It's such a shame!

(Girl lays down on cot and falls asleep. She is awakened a few minutes later by a figure in glittering black)

Girl: Who are you??!

Spirit: I am the Spirit of the Great Black Majority, past, present, and future. Come with me as you dream, and learn of your people.

(Spirit leads girl to other side of stage. Slaves enter picking cotton)

Spirit: These were our people. Over 400 years ago, they were stolen from Mother Africa and forced into slavery. Free labor to make America rich. Observe.

(Enter slavemaster in white face with whip, hits a few slaves)

Slavemaster: Work, you nigras, work! (speaking to a female slave, with a sly and evil tone) Good morning,

Miranda. Where's that Black baby of yours? Master sent me to fetch him. Seems he's got a sale.

(She drops back and runs for imaginary house, locks door, grabs baby, kneels and cries. Slavemaster kicks in door, grabs baby)

Slavemaster: Give him here!!

Miranda: (screaming) No! No! No!

(Girl covers face with hands)

Spirit: There's more.

(CAST OFFSTAGE)

(Superstar on wide screen TV, sound is down low, moves his/her mouth as if talking. Mother sits on bed watching intensely. Boy and 2nd girl enter)

Together: Mama, mama, can we ask you some questions?

Mother: What? (as if agitated) I'm trying to see The Baron on TV. (eyes still focused on TV) Wooooo! (pops fingers) He's the git down king of soul music.

Boy: Why were our people slaves?

2nd Girl: Yeah, did they get paid?

Boy: Did they sell Black children too?

2nd Girl: Who was Martin Luther King?

Boy: Yeah, and Malcolm X?

Mother: I don't know. Besides, I'm trying to hear. (points to boy) Go get me a beer. (looks at girl) You turn the TV up. I got something for y'all. (goes to closet, pulls out white doll and GI Joe. Superstar speaks so you can hear when girl goes to TV. Time record so it hits here) This is yours and this is for you. Now go leave me alone. (shoos them away)

Superstar: Am I Black or white, am I straight or gay. Controversy. (Music continues. Mother lights joint. Kids talk as they leave)

2nd Girl: Let's ask Chris and Ray's mother. She's in OBS.

Boy: Yeah, at least they have Black toys.

Girl: What a shame!

Spirit: There's still more.

(Box at one side of stage opposite Spirit and girl. Robot and spaceman enter)

Spaceman: It's over here, Computer Vac IV. I found a time capsule.

(They walk to box, pull out symbols and pictures of whites. At bottom there is something Black, slave picture or Black jockey lawn statue or picture of police brutality against Blacks)

Spaceman: What's this? I never knew there were people this color on the planet earth. What were they called?

Computer: I am scanning my memory banks now. I find nothing. (pause) Wait! There are records. Of a dark-skinned people called by many names — Negroes, Black, Africans, etc. Now extinct. Vanished in the 21st century. They were not prepared. Did not organize. They are gone.

Spaceman: Wow! Holy flying saucers!

Computer: Other data incomplete, incomplete, incomplete . . .

(Repeats over and over as they leave, dragging the box)

Girl: Oh no, is this our future??!

Spirit: Yes, I'm afraid so.

Girl: But what can I do to help?

Spirit: Learn of your people, study hard. Prepare.

Girl: But I'm just a child. (points to audience) What about you adults? What will you do? (returns to cot)

Spirit: (points to audience) You must remember the children and the future. They are the stars of tomorrow whirling through the universe. (Push in large moon. children enter carrying stars and sing "Tomorrow is what you make it" and one verse of "Young, Gifted and Black")

Child: Remember tomorrow can be what we want it to be because we make history.

Black Consciousness in the 80's: the struggle survives

