



A SUNY STUDENT PUBLICATION - UNIVERSITY AT STONY BROOK, NEW YORK

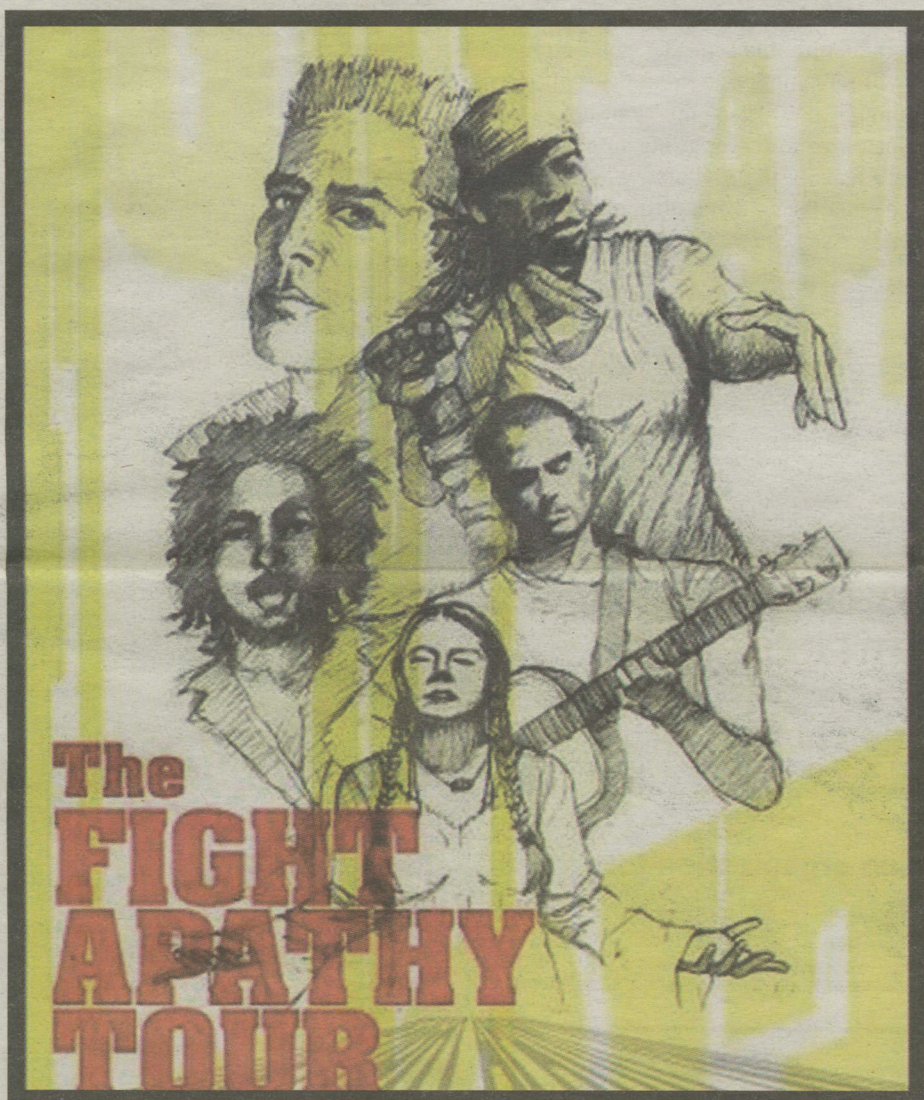
BLACKWORLD

April 2005

ONE NATION

Volume XLIV, Issue 6

Stony Brook Students Join Fight Against HIV/AIDS...



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NYC STUDENT INITIATIVE FOR AIDS (SIA)

BY NANCY SERGANY
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, April 6 at 8pm in the Student Activities Center Auditorium, the NYC Student Initiative for AIDS (SIA), an entirely student-run non-profit

organization, presented the Fight Apathy Tour. The purpose of the SIA is to raise both awareness and funds to fight the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. They actively seek to involve student communities in this fight through artistic and educational means. They support initiatives that treat, educate and care for people affected by HIV/AIDS in developing nations.

On the opening night of their 2005 tour, The Fight Apathy group rocked the house. According to the NYC SIA's website, "Fight Apathy is more than a tour, it's a movement. The artists combine their talents to present a socially conscious, emotionally charged evening of revelation. Acoustic melodies and jazz-inflected vocals weave seamlessly with emotionally pure poetry to change the way people view the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In a time when most entertainment only 'entertains' and distracts, the Fight Apathy artists recapture the humanitarian passion of the 1960s with a modern sensibility. Fight Apathy is more than a movement, it's an artistic revolution."

This multimedia and interactive show featured a group of very talented artists: the New York Press' 2004 Poet of the Year, Celena Glenn, Nuyorican Poets Cafe's famed slam team member and finalist Carlos Andrés Gómez, acclaimed songwriter and guitarist Brent

Shuttleworth, screenwriter and performance artist PostMidnight, and last but not least, New York Foundation of the Arts fellow Clara Sala. "Recently endorsed by MTV-U, the Fight Apathy Tour is a student-produced music and poetry show that mobilizes the college community to take action against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Organized by the NYC SIA, the tour is ground-breaking in its artistic and innovative approach to HIV/AIDS education.

The show was a hit, as they got the audience pumped and excited. The venue was packed and the audience really got into the show by singing and clapping along - all the while MTV U was filming the show. The performance was very powerful, the audience held captive by the lyrics and messages of the music and poetry. Following each performance, workshops took place. "The workshops associated with the Fight Apathy Tour has been designed by both experts in the field of AIDS Education, for content, as well as by the artists themselves for their ability to engage the participants. Each workshop attacks a particular aspect of the AIDS epidemic. The three overarching topics for these workshops are: Treatment and Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination, and Living with HIV/AIDS: Self Esteem and Identity"

For more information, visit www.fightapathy.org

...WHILE THE WORLD MOURNS POPE

BY KENDRA EDWARDS
COPY EDITOR

On Friday, April 8, 2005, the body of the second longest reigning pontiff was laid to rest in what seemed to many to be the biggest funeral in modern history. Millions of people from around the world, including kings, queens, presidents, and prime ministers, gathered to pay a final farewell to Pope John Paul II.

The pope died on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the age of 84 and the world has since not stopped mourning. With non-

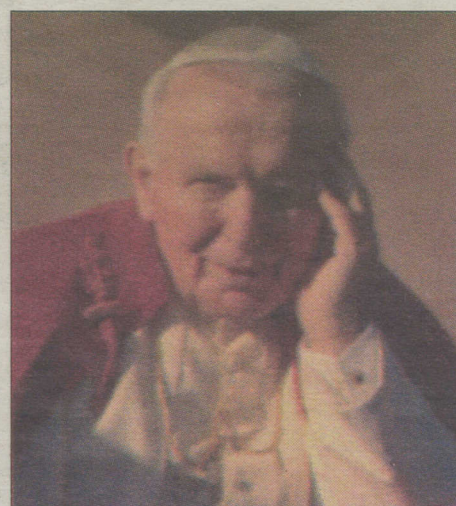
stop coverage of the pope's life and pictures of mourners shown throughout the week on television and in newspapers. In St. Peter's Square, hundreds of thousands chanted for the church to declare the Pope a Saint. Here at Stony Brook the atmosphere was more sombre and there was hardly any signs of mourning. However, according to one Freshman and Biology major, "He was a father to Catholics, a respectable man... I admire what he did." So said Min Yoo.

According to the Vatican, the pope died from septic shock and cardio-circulatory collapse. The Pope previously suffered from "a number of

chronic illnesses, including crippling hip and knee ailments and Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological disorder that can make breathing and swallowing difficult.

The Pope's simple wooden coffin was carried out of St. Peter's Basilica at 10.00 a.m. (4 a.m. EDT). St. Peter's Basilica has much historical significance as it was the exact same church where Pope John Paul II first emerged as pontiff 26 years ago.

Before the funeral, the pope's crimson-robed body lay in state in St.



POPE JOHN PAUL II (1920-2005)

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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

The End is Near...

Hello Stony Brook, we have only a few weeks left in the semester and I must say I am glad that this semester is almost over. Finally, we will get a chance to rest and enjoy ourselves. No more test or studying, or papers. Just me, lying around, listening to Stevie Wonder and Rakim all day, while I eat ice-cream floats all summer long.

That's what I was dreaming about when I started writing this editorial. Unfortunately for me reality had to step in and wake me up from my nice dream. Like most of you reading this now I'm planning to take classes—or more accurately, HAVE to take classes this summer—instead of laying around enjoying my summer vacation. If any of you are like me you also have been busy trying to find internships for the summer. This process can be tedious at best. Writing and rewriting resumes and cover letters, going on interview after interview while still having to study for tests and completing papers, is not much fun; plus, working here at BlackWorld and working on the side to save up money so I can torture myself with the same problems over the summer.

I thought that college was supposed

to be the best days of my life. But, instead I find myself spending most of my time hunched over for hours in front a book or sitting in front of a computer until my eyes hurt typing an eight-page paper due the next morning at the very beginning of my 8:20am class—yes I know I should have started my paper earlier, but what college student ever started anything on time, besides, I do my best work under pressure.

But, I must admit, I am a little anxious about what life has in store for me once I leave school. I often find myself thinking “what will I do with my life.” I have plans that I have setup for myself and my future, but, I know very well that life likes to sneak up on me and change my very carefully laid out plans. I mean look at me, I never thought I would be in Stony Brook at this time right now. I worked on Wall Street for about a year before I decided to go back to school, and Stony Brook was not my first choice—I was accepted to Temple which is in Philadelphia—and at first I did not even want to come to this school but here I am.

As so many of us get ready³ to graduate this summer, I am sure I am not the only student who has been thinking

about his future. But, even though I am a little anxious about my future I am also very excited about what surprises, big and small, life will have for me once I leave school. So for those of you who are preparing to head into the “real” world for the first time, relax. If there's anything that all the late night study sessions and term paper deadlines have taught us to do, is how to face and overcome pressure.

So as you leave your college days behind and start your adult life remember all that you have learned here at Stony Brook and put your lessons to good use. As for me, I will wish all of those graduating this semester good luck and I will remember one thing that will get me through the rest of the semester, while a lot of you are venturing into world and are leaving the sheltered ways of college to enter the cold and difficult world, I still have one semester left to enjoy life.

By Paul Akins Jr.
Managing Editor

**RANKED 4TH IN THE NATION AMONG FOUR YEAR COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS,
ACCORDING TO THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS (ACP).**

**The Associated Collegiate Press is a division of the
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**The ACP is the largest and oldest national membership organization for
college student media in the United States.**

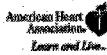
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**ASSOCIATED
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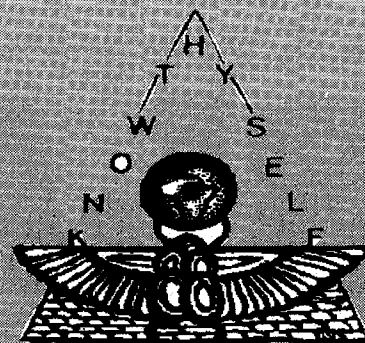
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BLACKWORLD

Celebrating 30 years!



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Opinions

Change in the NY State Law, Religious Groups Unite Thanks To One Courageous Man

BY MARCI A. YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) was supposed to fund religious clubs at Stony Brook University in a "viewpoint-neutral fashion" according to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the famous Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth et. al. on March 22, 2000.

Then Polity (the previous student government) failed to do so and the present Undergraduate Student Government failed to do so.

The SUNY Chancellor's office created a vague "Task Force" to examine the issue, yet nothing significant came out of that. Certain religious clubs were told that Stony Brook University would not fund religious clubs, so they did the next best thing: they changed their club constitutions to pretend that they are "cultural clubs," and hence, eligible to receive funding. It is too bad the University failed to inform them that, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, they were already eligible to receive funding.

In the summer of 2004, the USG Executive branch (called Executive Council) was supposed to examine it. No consequential action resulted. In early fall 2004, a USG Senate budget committee was supposed to examine it.

No consequential action resulted.

"The situation was very problematic," explained Senator Vincent Rasulo, "since Stony Brook University was violating a U.S. Supreme Court directive for four years, with no serious signs of fixing the problem."

Enter Irfan Syed.

Syed, a senior, majoring in political science, decided to take the situation into his own hands. He launched a campaign of grassroots networking, extensive consensus building, and then lobbying of USG Senators. This time, yet another USG Senate committee was formed to examine the issue, with Syed as its Chairperson. After several meetings, this committee formed a subcommittee to present a bill to the Senate floor, with Syed and Rustum Nyquist, then Chairperson of the Special Services Council (SSC).

At the Senate meeting held in mid-October, Syed delivered his report, the CORE Laws. The gallery was packed with representatives of various religions – Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and more. The debate ran for hours due largely to serious ideological conflicts. One member of the University Democrats allegedly quipped "you've heard of separation of church and state, haven't you?" As the hour ran late, the audience members demanded a vote. The CORE Laws passed in an almost evenly split vote in a moment of

high drama unseen at Stony Brook University in perhaps many decades.

CORE originally stood for Council of Religious Entities, and was established as an agency of USG as a result of Syed's successful grassroots effort to obtain financial and legal justice for religious clubs and organizations on this campus. CORE achieved this not only for Stony Brook University but for every state college in New York State. This is due to the fact that State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor's Guidelines were revised as a result of this fight, and now states that the "principle of Viewpoint Neutrality" shall be the primary criterion by which student activity fee funds can be disbursed. In short, Syed and his team won.

"May God Almighty Bless us all, and may we all reap the rewards for our good deeds in this world before the next," stated Syed.

CORE proves yet again that any group of students, united by a shared purpose, can improve this campus and much more.

Some of CORE's goals which have been realized includes:

1. to fund religious entities, whose members pay the \$165/year Student Activity Fee (SAF) just like other undergraduates
2. to save the University tens of thousands of dollars in legal costs and

millions of dollars in negative publicity by bringing the University into conformance with U.S. Supreme Court decisions

3. to buffer religious entities from negative influences.

According to Syed certain University administrators were embarrassed, humiliated, and vexed at his huge victory. In an effort to sustain and build upon the positive momentum Syed and his network of Senators, religious and cultural club leaders, and other CORE affiliates had garnered, he has established he says, "the first political party in this campus' student government history: the CORE Party."

The new "CORE" stands for the "Coalition of Righteous Egalitarians." A broad definition of egalitarianism is "equal access to resources and to decision-making power." For example, decision-making is done by consensus or another system in which each person has a voice. In a publication, the CORE Party is running a full slate of candidates in the upcoming USG elections, with a diversity of political aspirants from different backgrounds, united by their desire to enrich Stony Brook University, and the world we live in.

To view the full report by the US Supreme court visit the website: <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/98-1189.ZS.html>

MAYBE WE SHOULD REDEFINE THE MEDIA

BY DORCAS OSAFO
STAFF WRITER

Children live what they learn. The behavior that a child displays is as a result of images they have seen or things they have been taught. Recently, people have shown concern about the immoral behavior and violence among children. Why do teenagers feel that smoking and alcoholism are acceptable and prestigious way to live? How do we explain shootings among peer groups? The media blames everything from Satan to video games, but this is not so. Children learn from what they see, either on a small or big screen. Therefore, violence in movies should have strict regulations for children. It is important that we review the effects of media on children so we could redefine the media. Addressing this issue of importance will hopefully spring out a solution that will not only benefit parents, but serve the nation as a whole.

Throughout the past thirty years, the portrayal of violence in the media have increased, and so has societal violence. The fastest growing segment of the criminal population is our children. The National Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Violence reported in 1969

that violence in the media has negative effects on children. Violent films encourage violent forms of behavior and promotes violence in daily life as acceptable. Violent movies or any other forms of media may waste a child's time, may put silly ideas in a child's mind, and may introduce crudeness to our culture.

According to their website, "In 1991, children under the age of ten committed more than a thousand acts of aggravated assault, and eighty-one cases of rape...murder, robbery, and larceny-theft." Generally, we all admit that these aforementioned crimes are wrong but the fact that they were committed by children shows that we live in a sick society. Many psychologists believe that the more violence viewed, the more accepting children are to violence. These children become desensitized and are more likely to display.

Movies are just as packed with violence. In the movie *Natural Born Killers*, by Oliver Stone, a young married couple named Mickey and Mallory fall in love. As carefree as young couples are, they terrorized the country by killing people for sport. Mickey ends up in jail, starts a riot and kills more people, then escapes from jail to return to Mallory.

There is excessive violence throughout the entire movie, presented to viewers as comic relief. This movie and others like it makes violence seemingly trivial and fun. It provides justification for children who are predisposed to committing violence to believe they are right in doing so.



It is not just the movies that are violent, but also the commercial for the movies. A Canadian advertisement on a Clint Eastwood festival with captions from a movie containing murder scenes was showed one Saturday morning during a cartoon show.


Media violence causes an increase in mean-spirited, aggressive behavior, and causes increased levels of fearfulness, mistrust, and self-protective behavior toward others. It contributes to desensitization and callousness to the effects of violence and suffering of others. Violence in media also provides justification for resorting to violence when children think they are right. This creates an increasing appetite for viewing more violence and more extreme violence. It may foster a culture in which disrespectful behavior becomes a legitimate way for people to treat each other. Violence has been prominent in the film industry for many years, and has not

subsidized to say the least. Violence in the media needs to be regulated so that children will not learn harmful and violent behavior.

**Babies were
born to
be breastfed.**




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Or talk to your healthcare provider.



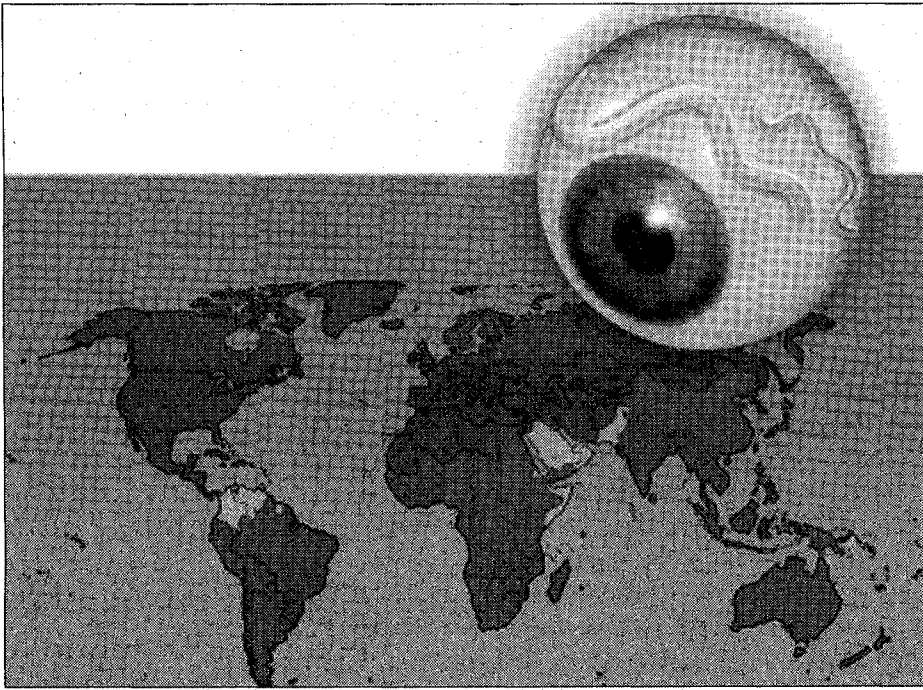
Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place.
That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk?
Whatever you have to.
Friends don't let friends drive drunk.

Campus News

Unite For Sight Here on Campus!



MAP SHOWING WHERE RIVERBLINDNESS IS ENDEMIC.

BY NANCY SERGANY

STAFF WRITER

The students of Stony Brook University are now being offered a unique opportunity to bring an international public health organization to our campus. Some very ambitious students at our University have recently started a chapter of the organization Unite for Sight, to offer Stony Brook students a chance to make a difference in

the lives of others.

According to the Unite For Sight website, "Unite For Sight is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that empowers communities worldwide to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness. More than 4,000 volunteers work in ninety chapters established at universities, medical schools, corporations, high schools, and in communities throughout the world. Additionally, Volunteer Teams are sent to 25 countries to provide eye care and eye

health education programs to medically underserved communities.

Jennifer Staple founded Unite For Sight in September 2000 when she was a sophomore at Yale University. For three years, Unite For Sight served the medically underserved population of New Haven, Connecticut. Unite For Sight experienced great success in New Haven and decided to bring its proven public health strategies to the international community. In June 2003, Jennifer began to expand the reach of Unite For Sight. Today, the organization includes more than 4,000 volunteers in 90 chapters throughout the world.

The success of Unite For Sight's international programs propelled the organization into a global humanitarian organization. Unite For Sight has been recognized for outstanding service by USA Today, Glamour Magazine, Nokia's and International Youth Foundation's YouthActionNet, Global Youth Action Network's Global Youth Action Award, Join Hands Day Excellence Award and the WK Kellogg Foundation.

More than 3,000 volunteers in corporations and at medical, public health, undergraduate, and high schools have become leaders in developing sustainable solutions to worldwide health needs. Unite for Sight is recruiting community members, corporate volunteers as well as college, graduate, and high school students to establish new

Unite For Sight chapters."

Meetings for the Stony Brook chapter will take place on Mondays at 7:00pm in the Student Activities Center (SAC) room 311. The club looks forward to continuing an eyeglass drive that is already underway around campus. Look for bins by the information desk in the Student Union and Student Activities Center (SAC) and donate your old eyeglasses.

"A simple eyeglass drive can change lives internationally. More than 1 billion people in developing countries need eyeglasses, but cannot afford them, while there are more than 4 million pairs of eyeglasses disposed of annually in North America. All of the eyeglasses that you collect will be prescribed by Unite For Sight volunteers in Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Benin, Somalia, Cameroon, Malawi, Thailand and India."

Members of the club also look forward to completing the Unite For Sight's Online Eye Health Course. This "is required of all student and community volunteers to become Unite For Sight Certified Eye Health Educators," but is not required if you are just interested in becoming a member of the club here at Stony Brook.

Visit www.uniteforsight.org/course/ for more information about the Unite For Sight Online Eye Health Course.

Miss C.S.O. Pageant Sets the Standard



CONTESTANTS IN THE RECENT MISS CSO PAGEANT

BY BETTY BAZILE

STAFF WRITER

On April 3, 2005, The Caribbean Student Organization (C.S.O.) presented the 18th Annual Miss C.S.O. Pageant. Hosting the event was Charissa Douglas-Rudder (President of C.S.O.) and Glentis Michel. It consisted of five contestants: Tiffany Ashley Rodriguez "Miss Puerto

Rico", Tinika Freitas "Miss Trinidad & Tobago", Oni Wilson "Miss Panama, Crystal Henry "Miss Jamaica", and Jackie Rousseau "Miss Haiti". This pageant was very well organized and the atmosphere was delightful, with the audience enjoying both the music and the performances.

The event featured cultural wear

competitions where all the contestants came out in outfits that represented their country. It also had a talent, casual, evening, and a swim wear section and featured a "Unity" dance. In the middle of the show, Red, an up and coming rapper well known on Stony Brook Campus, performed an original rap song.

At the end of the show, awards such as "Best Smile", "Best Talent", and "Best Cultural Wear" were presented to some of the well deserved contestants. In the

end, Jackie Rousseau (Miss Haiti) was crowned Miss C.S.O. 2005 by reigning Miss C.S.O. Alesa Andrew. The prize of second runner up was given to Oni Wilson (Miss Panama), while first runner up was Crystal Henry (Miss Jamaica).

The highlights of the show included the talent and evening wear competition.

During the talent competition, the contestants displayed remarkable skills and everyone looked as if they worked really hard on their presentation. In heading towards the end of the show, the casual wear was next, followed by the Unity Dance. The Unity dance was performed by all the contestants. They danced to a mix of music from their respective backgrounds. It contained different languages and different styles, yet looked unified and coordinated. The evening wear section was beautiful. Each contestant had on elegant gowns and was escorted off the stage by a well dressed male.

Overall, the pageant was well planned and full of amusement. "I was highly impressed by the beautiful and talented contestants," said audience member Rebecca Howard, "It was less like a pageant; it was almost as if we were standing on the parkway in the middle of the best Labor Day parade. The crowd was highly motivated; they did a few of their own performances in the audience. My money was well spent".

This year's Miss C.S.O. pageant was a first class event. It set a standard that one can only hope will be lived up to for years to come.

Campus News

CMA Presents Spring's Largest Convention

BY JAMILA PRICE

STAFF WRITER

Last month, the College Media Advisers (CMA) held the spring season's largest student media convention in Manhattan. Taking place March 17 through the 19, hundreds of students from across the nation met at the Roosevelt Hotel, representing more than 1000 student media outlets, including our own Blackworld Newspaper.

The convention allowed schools to interact and check out various student newspapers, magazines, television shows and radio programs.

Offered throughout the weekend were several workshops, seminars, and guest speakers/lecturers. The major focal points were leadership skills, production, and media responsibilities among students. Some highlights

included sessions on interviewing skills, resume writing, opinion and editorial writing, and the use of computer and internet tools. There were also special presentations on news and talk programs, as well as the phenomenon of reality television. The latter featured "America's Next Top Model" winner Eva Pigford and makeup artist Jay Manuel (See Kendra's article on America's Top Model). Students were also able to experience New York City outside of the hotel. Media tours of the City were offered each morning.

One of the most useful workshops was on writing and submitting resumes. As pointed out by one student and former intern, the biggest mistake that young people make when preparing a resume is including too much irrelevant information. When applying for a job in a specific field,

only list skills and work experience related to that field. Not even educational information and current GPA are as important (In any case, listing a GPA that is under 3.0 is not recommended.) The most important factor, however, is an outstanding cover letter, which should be no more than one page, but should serve as an applicant's greatest piece of self-promotion.

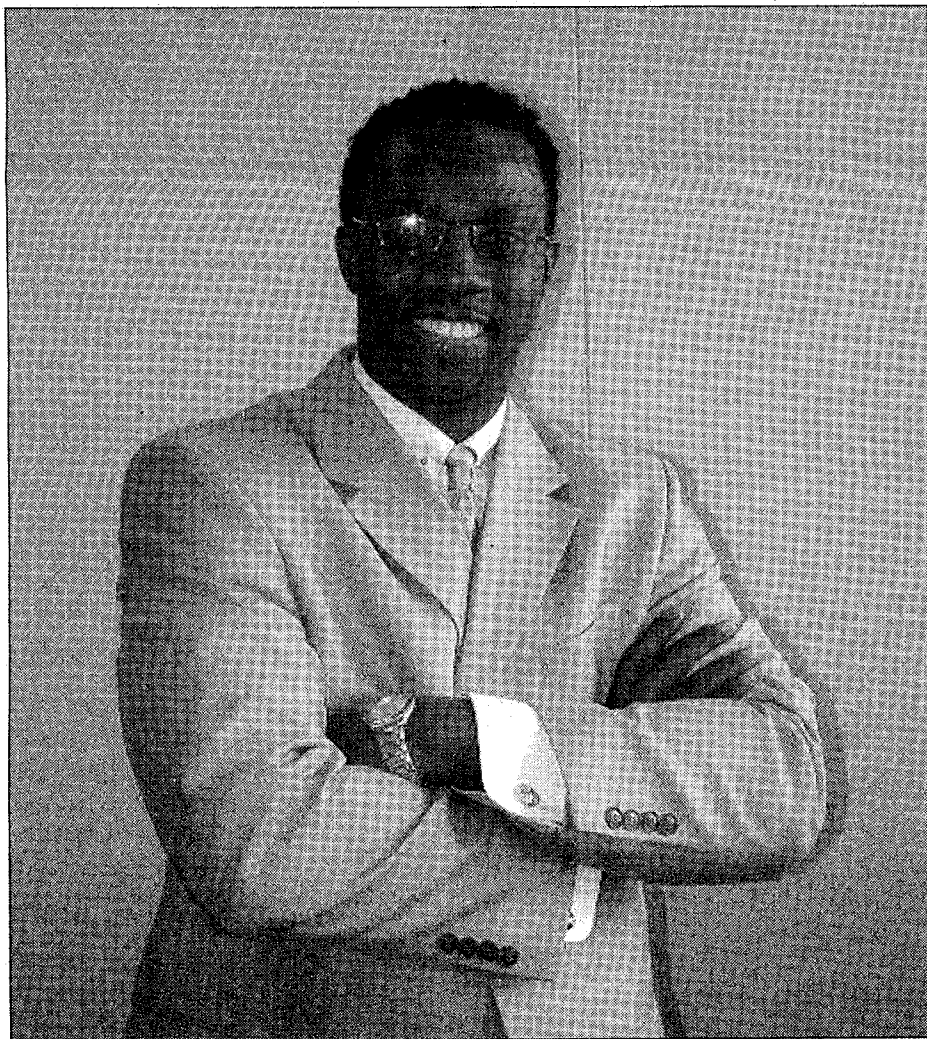
Students and faculty had the opportunity to learn about this year's convention sponsor, questia.com. Questia.com is the web's largest online library, offering thousands of complete works of literature (including books, magazine articles, journals, and newspapers,) as well as space for users to highlight selections and work on projects. Those who attended a Questia informational workshop received, among other goodies, a discounted

membership offer (The regular membership price is more than \$60 annually.)

The convention was very comprehensive, providing at least one beneficial workshop for students in all aspects of the media.

To close out the weekend's events, CMA presented the Apple Awards, which are given in recognition of outstanding student media achievement. At the February media convention in San Francisco, Blackworld received an award. Unfortunately, the paper was disqualified from the latest contest because it was inadvertently entered twice (which is against the rules.) With or without awards, the convention was well worthwhile for any and all student leaders, providing valuable information for campus activities as well as future careers.

One Man On A Mission: Randall Edouard, EOP/AIM



RANDALL EDOUARD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/COUNSELOR OF EOP/AIM

BY GREG LUBICICH

CONTRIBUTOR

Is EOP/AIM the Most Selective Program at SBU?

EOP/AIM stands for Educational Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit, and one purpose of the program is to allow access to higher education for economically disadvantaged students who have the potential to succeed in college. Recently

Mr. Randall M-J Edouard, the Assistant Director/Counselor and Instructional Coordinator of EOP/AIM was kind enough to take the time out of his very busy schedule for an interview.

Greg: Hello. First I'd like to thank you for taking the time for an interview. How many years have you been at Stony Brook University?

RE: Since 1998.

G: What motivated you to become involved with the EOP/AIM program?

RE: I was an EOP student myself at Hofstra – HEOP. I actually believe that program saved my life. I'm originally from South Jamaica in New York City. I ended up getting into the program through absolute luck. A lot of my friends from back then aren't around anymore – shot, jail, or no one hears from them anymore. I believe that if it weren't for that program I wouldn't be around today, so I decided to dedicate my life to helping other students who are like me. It is a miracle.

G: Based on your background I'm sure you can inspire your students. What is your favorite motivational speech?

RE: If you got the right attitude, you'll be successful. I don't care what your skill base is; you can always improve your skill base. If you have the right attitude, you'll be willing to put in the work needed to improve your skills. "Success is just an attitude away."

G: How would you express the ideals of the EOP/AIM program?

RE: The EOP/AIM program is different than probably any other program in the state – SEEK for CUNY, College Discovery for community colleges. It is very important to us that the student excel academically. We want to produce academic scholars. Equally important is societal responsibility. We want our students to know that they have an obligation to give back to the community after they get their credentials. Discipline is also a big part of the program.

G: What are the requirements for entry into the EOP/AIM program?

RE: 80 average, and 850 SAT, although SAT's aren't a great predictor of how you do in college. [In high school] if you have the funds for prep courses, teachers, and [funds in] a school district of course, you'll do well. However, when you get to college that background doesn't protect you from going to too many parties, not studying in the capacity that you should on a college campus, not dealing with relationships properly, or going home too much. If you're home more than you're here, you're not going to be

successful. We call that the Home Syndrome. [Your academic background] is not going to protect you from the distractions that every college has to offer. In the [EOP/AIM] summer program we purposely train our students to avoid distractions. One example is that no cell phones or internet are allowed in the EOP summer program which lasts five weeks.

G: Is the EOP/AIM's retention rate proof of the EOP/AIM's methods?

RE: One of the hardest things to do at a university is to get the students to stay, especially Freshmen and Sophomores. Our students tend to stay here. [They get] a family atmosphere, camaraderie developed over the summer, and support they receive throughout all their years here. They have a counselor they stay with all four years.

G: How many people apply to the to the EOP/AIM program each year?

RE: About 3000 applicants.

G: How many people got in this year?

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The Passing of a Great Mind

BY PAUL AKINS JR.

STAFF WRITER

Johnnie Cochran, the famed lawyer who was widely known for his defense of high profile celebrity cases died in his Los Angeles home last month. He died on March 30 at 12:30pm from an inoperable brain tumor. He was 67 years old.

Cochran, who became a pop icon in the late 1990s for his now famous line from the O.J. Simpson trial "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit" was diagnosed with the brain tumor in December of 2003. He spent some time in a Los Angeles before he returned to home to be around his family in his last days.

Though Cochran is best known for his role as the lead attorney in the O.J. Simpson criminal trial, he defended many high profile celebrities. He was the lead attorney in the first Michael Jackson child molestation case in 1993. He also defended former "Different Strokes" star Todd Bridges, James Brown, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Snoop Dogg, Cynthia

Wiggins, Jim Brown, Abner Louima and Tupac Shakur.

In 1992 he defended Reginald Denny in a law suit against the city of Los Angeles. Denny was the white truck driver who was snatched from his truck during the Los Angeles riots and beaten by a mob of protesters.

The only high profile case that Cochran lost in his long career was that of former Black Panther, Geronimo Pratt. Pratt was convicted of the kidnapping and murder of a school teacher in Los Angeles in 1972. 27 years later Cochran was able to get Pratt's conviction overturned because the district attorney's office at the time withheld the fact that their main witness was a paid police informant.

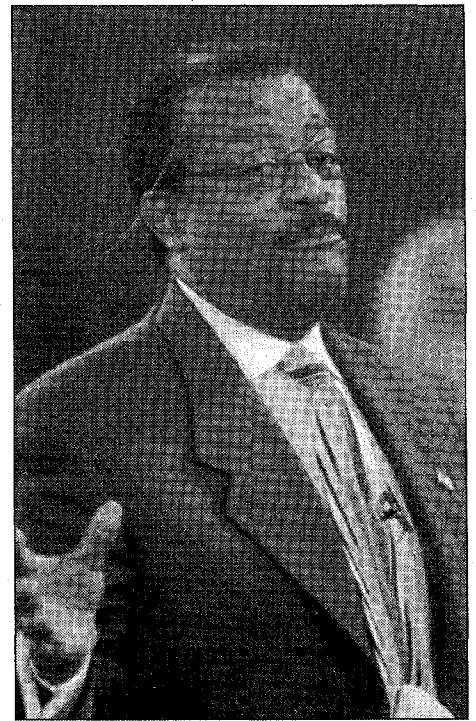
Cochran, who championed himself as a hero to the common man was born on October 2, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana, the great-grandson of slaves, into an affluent family. He moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1949 and spent the rest of his adolescence in the region.

He later attended the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). To help support himself through school, he sold insurance for his father's insurance company. After graduating from UCLA in 1959, he went on to Loyola Marymount, where he received his law degree in 1963.

After obtaining his law degree, he started working as the Deputy City Attorney in the criminal division in Los Angeles in 1964. A year later, he opened his own private practice in Los Angeles named Cochran, Atkins, & Evans. Later, in 1981, he opened the Cochran Law Firm which has offices in 12 states and Washington D.C.

Cochran was also an author; in 1999 he published his autobiography "A Lawyer's Life" in which he spoke about the O.J. Simpson trial. "It obscured everything I had done previously," Cochran had said in the book.

Johnnie Cochran will be remembered as one of the greatest legal minds of our time.



A Night of Persian Delight



PERSIAN DANCERS: Behnaz Ghahremani, Sepideh Roozdar, Nadia Saleh, Pegah Kamalzadeh, and Pardis Kamalzadeh

BY MALKA YOUNG

STAFF WRITER

The Persian Cultural Association (PCA) held their second annual Persian Cultural Night on March 7, 2005 in the Charles B. Wang Center. It was a great gathering spot for Persians on campus and families in the Stony Brook area. The Persian culture is unique in many ways, and that was exactly what the PCA expressed with lectures, music, dances, and poetry.

The night started out with a brief

introduction by hosts Sepideh Roozdar and Bobak Tafaghodi. Director of Asian and Asian American Programs for the Charles B. Wang Center, Dr. Sunita Mukhi, spoke briefly about her recent trip to India where she saw the Taj Mahal, which she said reminded her of the great Persian Culture. Then, the president of the PCA, Ava Amrieh, explained that the PCA, the only Persian club on campus, was created to educate others about their culture.

Art is a large part of the Persian culture, ranging from gardens to dance. Professor Shoki Goodarzi lectured on

Persian gardens and the Qanat system (water system), showing many pictures to illustrate their beauty. The word garden actually stems from Persian roots. Persians created gorgeous gardens to reflect paradise on earth.

After the tranquility gardens, Sepideh and Bobak gave a presentation called "Who Are the Persians?" During this presentation, the audience learned that Persians are one of the most ancient ethnic groups on earth, mainly found in the current Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. They are historically descendants from the Aryans. Persians

were originally called Parsu, which was written in an Assyrian inscription from the 800s BC. The Persian language is called Farsi and is one of the oldest languages still in use today, spoken by over 30 million people. Farsi is Indo-Iranian, a subfamily of the Indo-European languages. The language has evolved from a script similar to Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin (Old Persian), to an ambiguous script of multivalent letters (Middle Persian), adopted from Aramaic, and finally to a Perso-Arabic script (an extended version of Arabic script) which is known as Modern Persian.

Returning guest, Amir A. Vahab, along with Mahsa Hoshmand and Evette serenaded the audience with traditional, but original Persian music. The audience seemed to enjoy the atmosphere that was created because everyone was clapping and swaying to the beat. After many serene songs, there was a short intermission where everyone enjoyed tea, cream puffs, and cookies while admiring displayed artwork of the talented PCA members.

The second half opened with traditional Persian dancing, choreographed and performed by Behnaz Ghahremani, Sepideh Roozdar, Nadia Saleh, Pegah Kamalzadeh, and Pardis Kamalzadeh (seen in picture). Wearing colorful dresses, moving gracefully to the music, and smiling the whole time, they symbolized the color and life in Persia.

The night continued on with many artistic performances, including more music by Amir A. Vahab, music by Kasra Hoshmand and Mahsa Hoshmand, poetry by Behnaz Gha, and music by Christopher Macchio. The PCA E-board thanked everyone for attending, ending the festivities.

AROUND THE WORLD

BY KENDRA EDWARDS

COPY EDITOR

Here is a brief summary of some recent events occurring around the world.

AFRICA

ANGOLA

According to the Associated Press, an outbreak of the Marburg virus has heightened in Angola. At press time, the disease already claimed a nationwide total of 155 lives.

The Angolan health minister Sebastiao Veloso said the toll climbed to "175 cases, among them 155 dead, all from the province of Uige" while a statement issued by the World Health Organization stated that "80 percent of the cases involved children under the age of 15.

The Marburg virus is a severe and deadly hemorrhagic fever very much like the Ebola virus. The Marburg virus spreads on contact with bodily fluids. The disease, first identified in 1967 in Germany when lab workers were infected by Ugandan monkeys, has claimed a record number of lives in Angola.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's ruling party won another election by winning a two-thirds majority that strengthened President Robert Mugabe's 25-year grip on power.

According to Reuters, "final official results issued by the election commission Saturday showed Mugabe's African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) won 78 seats in parliament, while the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) garnered 41 seats". The United States and Great Britain have refused to recognize the outcome of this election.

Mugabe called the results "a moment of great joy", and thanked voters, but admonished the opposition "not to look at it as the end of the world."

Mugabe, in power since independence in 1980, will be able to use the huge majority to change the constitution, giving him free rein in the country.

ASIA

INDIA

According to Reuters, India, the country with the world's second largest

AIDS/HIV population, is planning on introducing a law to stop discrimination against people infected with the deadly virus. In India today, people suffering with the virus face a huge stigma and discrimination due to lack of awareness about the illness. Activists say many employees of hotels, factories and textile firms have lost jobs after testing positive. They are either forced to quit, given early retirement or declared unfit to work". Many experts believe that those infected could quadruple by 2010 as HIV/AIDS has moved from groups in India traditionally infected with the disease (prostitutes, drug users and homosexuals) to rural families, many of whom have no idea that they are infected. The World Bank has "warned the disease would become the single largest cause of death in the world's second-most populous country unless there is progress on prevention".

CARIBBEAN

HAITI

The Associated Press Reports that U.N Troops continue to battle street gangs in gunfights in Haiti. Many fear

that these battles could disrupt the upcoming elections in the nation. More than 400 people have died since September in clashes involving pro- and anti-Aristide gangs, ex-soldiers who helped depose Aristide, police and peacekeepers.

EUROPE

VATICAN CITY

On Saturday, April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II passed away. He was 84 years old. According to the Vatican, The pope died from septic shock and cardio-circulatory collapse. The Pope previously suffered from "a number of chronic illnesses, including crippling hip and knee ailments and Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological disorder that can make breathing and swallowing difficult.

Millions gathered to mourn the pope, some drove for days and many waited for 24 hours to see him. The pope, born Karol Wojtyla was the second longest reigning pontiff. The Vatican has stated that voting selection for a new Pope will begin on April 18.

International Aid Rushed to Asian Earthquake Victims

BY JAMILA PRICE

STAFF WRITER

Southeast Asia continues to be devastated by natural disasters. Three months after the area was hit by a giant tsunami that killed nearly 200,000 people and leveled many areas including Sri Lanka, Indonesia is suffering the affects of a powerful earthquake. The quake struck shortly after 11am EST on Monday, March 28th.

Centered on the west coast of Sumatra, the 8.7 magnitude quake has left more than 500 dead as of April 3rd, with thousands of injuries and hundreds of buildings destroyed. The local island of Nias has also been greatly affected. Since Monday, large aftershocks have continued to rattle the Sumatra coast, and throughout the region. The largest measured was 6.2.

As worldwide aid reaches Indonesia, the response by many nations, including the United States, has been quicker than the initial response to the December tsunami disaster. Although the rest of the world did not immediately realize the scope of the tsunami destruction, the US came under international scrutiny from the United Nations following the tragedy after many felt that the proposed offer of aid was not significant enough. This time, Western nations have been quick to provide relief. Efforts have been hindered, however, both by unsafe travel situations and by local terrorists in the rebel province of Aceh who object to foreign intrusion of the area.

The estimated cost of the damage of the quake has not yet been determined, though it will undoubtedly be in the millions. The December tsunami caused \$675 million in environmental damages alone. Along with singular personal harm and physical damage, thousands of families have been destroyed, with many losing several loved ones at once. If there is any positive news, then it is that rescue efforts have freed and saved dozens of people from burning rubble. Survivors who are now recovering are concerned about the unstable condition of both the land and buildings.

While Asian civilians and leaders struggle to recover from continuing tragedy, the increase in seismic activities raises even more concern amongst researchers, some of whom now fear that an unprecedented and catastrophic volcanic eruption, or "super volcano," could also be eminent. Some scientists believe that such an eruption may have propelled Earth into the Ice Age more than 70,000 years ago. According to Professor Ray Cas of Monash University's School of Geosciences "A super volcano will definitely erupt. It could be in a few, 50 or another 1000 years but sooner or later one is going to go off."

The immediate concern for the victims of the quake are safety, sanitary food and water, shelter, and health treatment. For those interested in making a monetary donation, contact the American Red Cross by phone or through their website: www.redcross.org.

"A Journey around the World"

BY BETTY BAZILE

STAFF WRITER

On April 1, 2005, the Student Activities Center held a Multicultural show sponsored by the UCC (UNITY Cultural Center which raised money for "Tsunami Relief Fund. According to UCC president Lincois Anderson, this show was proposed since last year but it never came to fruition until now. He gave acknowledgement to Sheryl Chambers and Nashia Whittenburg (Graduate Assistant) in helping with the coming about of the show. A multicultural show such as this was long overdue as the last time the University has held such an event was in 1995.

"A Journey around the World" showed true cultural unity as cultures from all over the world were represented. People came together to show others forms of entertainment in their respective cultures and to give a brief history of their countries of origin. Assistant Dean of Students, Cheryl Chambers was present and she gave a short speech on how she felt about the show in general. Her views were that everyone should promote cross cultural learning. She would like to make this show an annual tradition because a program like this is not in many other universities and she want to make this school one of the few.

"A Journey around the World" was hosted by Kamar Plunkett and Brenda Tirado. It kicked-off with "A Journey Around Asia". This part of the show featured dances that originated in Asia performed by the organizations such as the Japanese Cultural Association and the Indian Dance Thillana. It was a pleasant

sight and a learning experience to see how Asians express their culture through dancing.

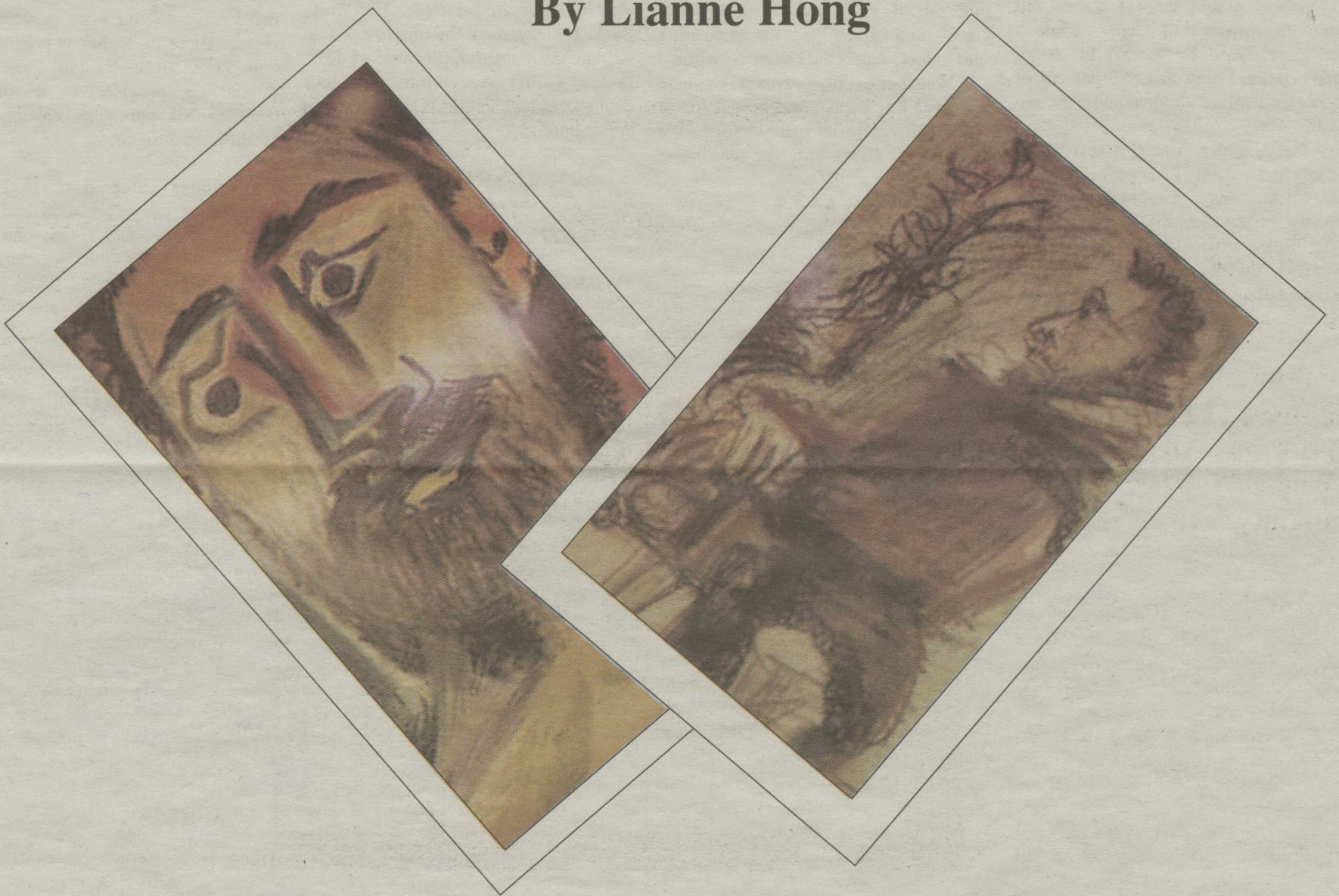
The next portion of the program featured dances from Africa. The group, "Shades of Africa" did a dance performance and a fashion show, showing the viewers the African tradition style of clothing. Stony Brook was first introduced to "Shades of Africa" two years ago by several students. The group members are from all over the world, including members from Jamaica, Trinidad, the United States and Latin American. Also representing for Africa was the group, "Expressions". Members of "Expressions" played the drums, giving us rhythms and sounds from Africa. From the "Journey to Africa", I learned that many people who are not Africans come together and show others the true meaning of African culture. It is good to know not only where you are from, but also where others are from, because we all live in the same world and we should be able to connect with each other.

The third journey was to North America. The first performance in this section was by the "Latin American Student Organization Dance Troupe" who danced to Salsa music. One of their presenters taught the audience that Salsa originated in Africa, by the Yoruba. Next on the program was supposed to be "Journey of Haiti", but due to unforeseen circumstances, the Haitian Student

Continued on Page 14

Remembrance of a What-If Man

By Lianne Hong



F lush with current home to about 150 patrons and pieces of art, all by those ripe Picasso and all from w i t h private collections. curiosity, Only two hours after the Nassau County opening time, the line for admission trailed out the Museum of Art, which is over a century old, stood front door and down the strong as the public front steps. These flooded its doors. The individuals were on a establishment is the mission to appease their aesthetic appetites. Inside, they roamed through the six rooms displaying Picasso's feature a bullring etchings, paintings, centered inside a stadium sculptures, pottery and – but they contrast in lithographs and aquatint – color. One print beams both of which are prints with vibrant hues of made from two different yellow and red, and hints of printmaking methods. of blue, while the other Two aquatints made on stands in a somber black

and white. Patrons crowded the area, analyzed the prints and debated Picasso's affinity for bulls, as he featured the creatures in much of his art.

Down the hall, Lucille Gaffrey stood in front of Picasso's "Green Haired Woman – Eight States," her eyes fixated on the work. "Green Haired Woman" consists of eight different prints, and was made using the lithography technique. In lithography, a person paints a design on a stone tablet and then lays material over the painted area of the tablet to make a print or a succession of prints. Likewise, each print in "Green Haired Woman" is altered slightly from the one before. "He changed one or two of the elements and it gives you a different impression and a different sense even though it's basically the same," Gaffrey said.

The curator, Franklin Hill Perrell, has worked at the museum for nearly a decade and said that the number of people visiting the exhibit is approaching record attendance. Of the 150 pieces on display, Perrell said, 120 came from one private family. While the family chose to remain anonymous – a fact that Perrell said is not unusual – he added that the remaining pieces are a diverse selection and were supplied by families who are regular donors to

the museum.

In terms of Picasso's lithography, Perrell said, the museum has "several sets of progressive proofs that enable viewers to see the subsequent phases that get him to the final phase."

Larry Levin, a high

Blue and Red periods stood John Ilnitzki, staring intently at one of the artist's paintings. Like Levin, he said, seeing artistic works up close and in person allows for more appreciation.

"You can see the brush strokes, the



school teacher, said a quick 20-minute drive to see works by Picasso, whom he called "one of the greats," was his idea of a great Sunday afternoon. "It comes alive a lot more when you're standing in front of something that's right there," Levin said. "You can change the perspective."

In the room housing selections from Picasso's

texture," Ilnitzki said. "And the size, the size of the painting. It puts awe in a person, standing in front of a large painting." While the size of the canvas put awe in Ilnitzki, others said they were amazed at the different mediums on display. Picasso may be well known for his paintings and

printmaking, but he also delved into the world of

sculpture and pottery. In one room, a crowd of people gathered in front of two adjacent displays: one of four ceramic plates mounted on a wall and the other of small figurines made out of 23 karat gold. Faint murmurs of, "Wow, he made plates, too?" and, "I didn't know he did these" spread throughout the group.

Interacting with patrons, museum employees walked around their assigned rooms and provided information and trivia tidbits on Picasso and his work. As one employee passed by displays of pottery, paintings and etchings, she told a group of patrons that she likes to refer to Picasso as "the What-If Man" because he tried using many different mediums.

Perrell described the exhibit as "particularly unusual in its depth and scope," saying the works on display set

the tone for Picasso's middle and late career and draw attention to the six specific influential women in his life who affected and impacted his work.

Picasso's innovative work is proof of his versatility. "He really loved life and lived it to the fullest – to the point where he's probably down there," Ilnitzki said as he smiled and pointed toward the floor.



Arts & Entertainment

One Juicy "Diary!"



TYLER PERRY AS MADEA

BY BETTY BAZILE

STAFF WRITER

The movie, "The Diary of a Mad Black Woman" premiered on the big

screen on February 25, 2005. This movie was adapted from a play written by Tyler Perry. As with all of his works, this movie portrayed real issues, such as marriage and divorce that every

nationality goes through in different aspects of their lives. The movie was a mixture of drama and comedy which helped to give the movie a nice spunk and had the audience engrossed from beginning to the very end.

In this film, Kimberly Elise plays Helen, a woman devoted to her husband for 18 years who suddenly finds herself penniless and being kicked out of her home by her heartless, cheating, selfish and abusive husband, Charles (played by Steve Harris) who she helped put through law school. After Helen finds out about her husband's cheating ways, she goes to visit her grandmother Madea. Madea, played by Tyler Perry, is a woman who plays no games; she does not let anyone walk over her or her family. Madea carries a gun with her to show people that she means business. With Madea's words of wisdom and willingness to fight for her family, Helen learns from that she can overcome life's obstacles. Helen eventually meets a man, Orlando (Shemar Moore who shows her that unlike her estranged husband, all men are not dogs. Helen eventually learns to take control of her life and to accept

love. It is through writing down her feelings in her diary that she can see where she came from and how far she has overcome. She was able to get to this point of happiness with the help of her mother, Myrtle (Cicely Tyson), Brian, Madea and her love interest Orlando (Shemar Moore).

Overall this movie gets five stars for me due to the fact that it is difficult to convert a play into a movie. Tyler Perry did an excellent job as always. His character, Madea, was played extremely well. The character brought comedy, but then also showed a grandmother who truly cares about her family and will do anything to serve them justice. The movie also featured a very strong performance from actress Kimberly Elise. The movie showed me the true value of a family, marriage and forgiveness. It also reinforced the age old adage that one bad apple does not spoil the bunch by showing that just because one man hurts you, it doesn't mean that the next one will. I really liked this movie and I hope that everyone will go out and see it because it truly was an eye-opening experience.

"RING 2" SINKS

BY KENDRA EDWARDS

STAFF WRITER

While it may come as no surprise to the rest of the world that VHS technology is on the decline, the writers of "The Ring 2", the sequel to the highly successful movie "The Ring", probably did not get the memo. The movie which debuted in theatres on March 18, 2005 was directed by the series originator Hideo Nakata. It features an uneven, confusing, and somewhat contradictory story despite first-rate performances from the films lead actors Naomi Watts and David Dorfman. The film's writers still use the premise of the original "Ring" - a videotape was so terrifying it killed anyone who watched it.

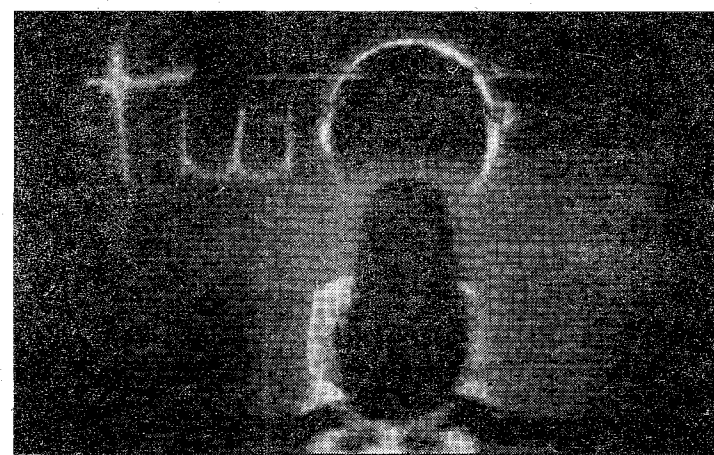
In the movie, Rachel Keller (Watts) and son Aidan (Dorfman) have moved to a small town. Unfortunately, Rachel being the good mother that she is, has allowed a television in her house despite all the trouble that it caused in the first

movie. The directors waste no time, in the movie and right away, the video is back and ready to kill its watchers. This time, however, the writers are determined to confuse the viewer by making everything the viewer learned in the original story utterly pointless. This time around, the pale little girl in the long black hair who appears in the video wants something new and by the end of the movie, the videotape has stopped killing its viewers as the little girl has found other ways to accomplish her objective.

This sequel was very disappointing. This movie is lacking the elements of surprise and originality that made the original "Ring" and the Japanese horror movie "Ju'on" from which it was adapted, scary and exciting. I doubt I am the only one who feels this way because judging from the box office receipts which show that while "The Ring 2" landed at the top of the box office during its first weekend of release, these figures quickly slipping and by the second weekend, the movie had a 60% drop in

gross receipts. Obviously, the American public, myself included, has had enough of this horror franchise.

In the beginning of the movie and from the previews and trailers, one would never guess that "The Ring 2" would be a story about motherhood. I'm not going to lie, I did jump a few times, but mostly the movie featured boring and familiar horror footage. There was the images of the young girl with the unkempt hair, the well, and plenty of scenes with water accomplishing the impossible. The best scene in the movie, by far is when a bunch of wild animals attack Rachel's car on a "surprisingly" empty road. Dorfman



SEQUEL TO THE RING

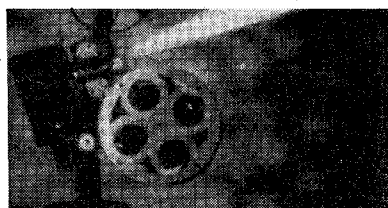
and Watts did their best to carry this movie, but the material was lacking. Dorfman does a good job playing a possessed young boy. The movie also featured a memorable performance by "Carrie" actress Sissy Spacek. All in all, however, the movie just isn't good. The writers should just quit while their ahead and put this VHS to rest.

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Arts & Entertainment

A Visit with "America's Next Top Model"



eva pigford, winner in cycle three of UPN's America's Next Top Model

By KENDRA EDWARDS
COPY EDITOR

It takes a lot to have your name

become recognizable to the average American. Stars like Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston have been able to achieve their immense popularity and sustainability through their hard work, dedication, commitment, and many times by their controversial behavior. One reality television winner is on a quest to achieve the widespread success of artists such as Jackson and Houston, her name, Eva Pigford, may not be recognizable to many today, but if even has her way, it will be.

Better known as "Eva the Diva", this 20 year old hailing from California appeared and won the third cycle of the popular UPN reality series, "America's Next Top Model". The show was created by supermodel Tyra Banks as a way to help other aspiring models achieve their dream.

Blackworld Newspaper and other college media organizations got their chance to meet Eva and a make-up artist featured on the show, Jay Manuel at the CMA convention for students in college media organizations that was held in New York City on March 17th through March 19th. Eva and Jay Manuel made their appearance on the morning of the last day of the convention where they held a

seminar on their newfound experiences with stardom, what it was like being on the show, and what their plans for the future are.

Both Eva and Jay Manuel are much thinner than they appear in person. Eva explained this by noting that she had "lost seven pounds" since the show ended because during the show "if you notice, I was eating cake every night".

During the seminar, Eva explained that she, much most models say, never say her self as being beautiful. She said she was always the average girl, affectionately called "cute" by friends and family. Before joining the third cast of "Top Model" Eva explained that she was a student planning to pursue a career in law. She said that the entire experience has "changed her life" and while she isn't able to see her family as much she is now able to travel doing what she loves.

When asked how she feels about the common occurrence on reality television that perpetuates black woman as the "black bitch" she brushed aside these allegations, saying that the television cameras give you what you give them. She stressed that it is not reality television that needs to change, but the American public by noting that one of her

castmates and friends, "Anne" had just as much attitude as she did on the show, but people in society tended to focus on Eva being "the diva" and having an attitude even though there were plenty of episodes in which Anne's attitude was quite apparent.

When asked who she thought would win this season, Eva was not hesitant to answer while Jay Manuel was more reluctant, saying that this season's competition is very tight because all the girls have something special. Eva, however, predicted that the competition would come down to Lluvy and Naima with Naima taking the top prize because she is "just fly". Eva also added that she knows what the "Top Model" judges want and Naima has it.

While the seminar only lasted an hour, Eva and Jay Manuel stayed for at least 15 minutes afterwards to sign autographs, take pictures and talk to fans. They were always polite and courteous and it does not seem as fame has gone to either of their heads. One can only hope that these two make it to the top and do not get embroiled in the controversy that plagues so many of our top stars these days.

Willis Wonderful in HOSTAGE

By DORCAS OSAFO
COPY EDITOR

On Friday, March 11, 2005, Miramax and Stratus Film Company released "Hostage" a motion picture based on the #1 bestselling thriller by Robert Crais. Hostage is a cop-psycho killer, spellbound thriller directed by Florent Siri and produced by Bruce Willis. The movie stars Willis as Jeff Tally, a guilty strike former hostage negotiator for the Los Angeles Police Department. After failing to negotiate the life of the little boy, Tally becomes the Chief of Police of a low-crime Southern California town which is a readjustment for not only Tally, but also his family as well.

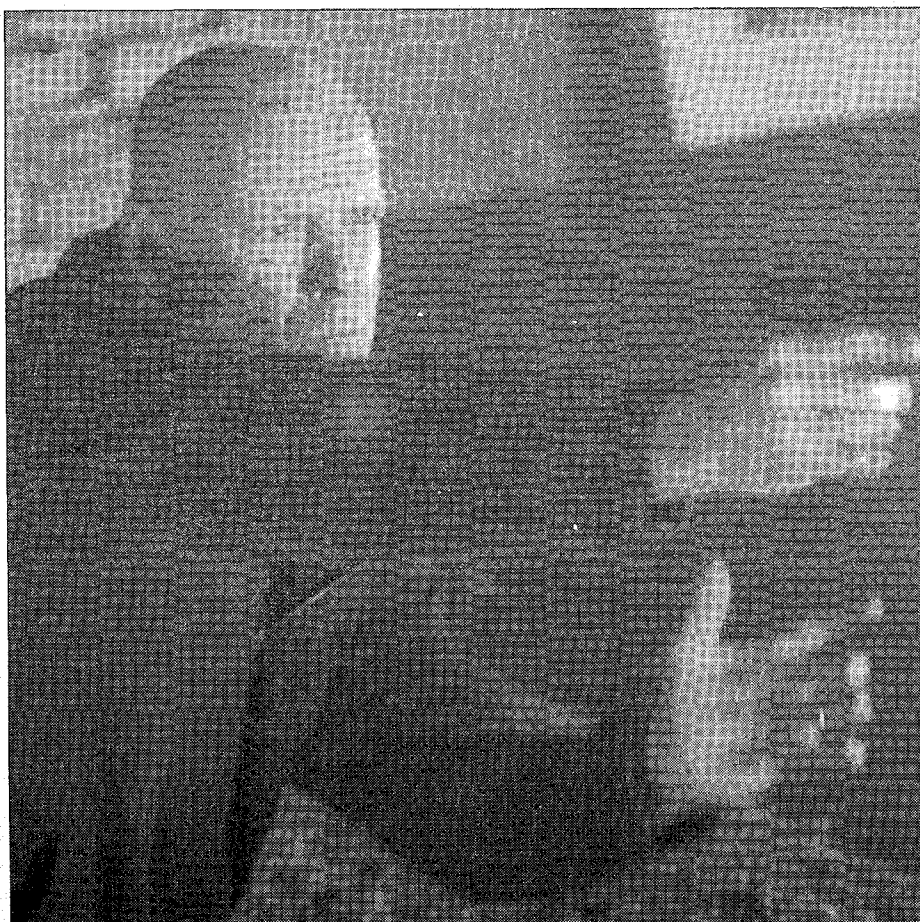
Most of the action is set in and around a Southern California mansion owned by Walter Smith (played by Kevin Pollak; Dr. John Dojny in "The Wedding Planner"). Smith is a crooked, book-cooking corporate accountant with two kids, who conceals his dirty account numbers in a DVD of "Heaven Can Wait." Tally was sent to investigate a crime being committed at the residence where he uses his negotiating skills to help save the day.

Bruce Willis is as wonderful as

he always is. His every action in the film was justified, making his performance truthful and believable. I cannot talk about good performance without mentioning Mars (played by Ben Foster; who plays Russell, an art student, on HBO's "Six Feet Under"), who played a crazy drooling teenager who plotted steal an S.U.V.. Mars' performance was very compelling. He always managed to keep me focused and was able to keep me guessing on what his next action would be throughout the entire movie. Walter's son, Tommy Smith (Jimmy Bennett) was a little courageous boy whose obedience and loyalty to Tally saved his life, his sisters, as well as Tally's family.

The only thing that needs to be questioned about the movie is how little Tommy changed from a scared little boy to a brave young man (I guess that's what happens when you are being instructed by one of the best cop on earth, Jeff).

Unlike most movies, "Hostage" contains intense moments which continue to build up in the whole plot. Without giving out too much of the plot, the movie is action packed thriller that keep you in suspense from the start to the end. This movie has great acting (some over the top, but it's a movie, what do you



MEGASTAR BRUCE WILLIS AS JEFF TALLY, FORMER HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR

expect)? It's definitely worth the price of a ticket.

The only thing that needs to be questioned about the movie is how little Tommy changed from a

scared little boy to a brave young man.

A true fan of Bruce Willis? Love action/thriller packed movie? Then it's a must see.

A FRIEND IN NEED

BY TRACY BARNES

WHEN YOU CALL ME I'M HERE FOR YOU,
WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING HAND I'M HERE:
I'M HERE FOR YOU FOREVER AND ALWAYS,
I'M HERE TO LISTEN,
I'M HERE TO GIVE ADVICE,
NOT BECAUSE I HAVE TO,
BUT BECAUSE I WANT TO.
IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT I CARE,
I FEEL YOUR JOY WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY,
AND YOUR PAIN WHEN YOU'RE SAD.
WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?
AIN'T NO NEED TO SAY THANK YOU,
BUT YOU'RE WELCOME
'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'LL DO THE SAME FOR ME.
A TRUE FRIEND IS THERE NO MATTER WHAT:
THEY STAND BY YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH,
THEY ARE STRONG WHEN YOU ARE WEAK,
THEY LOOK OUT FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS.
FRIENDS ARE SPECIAL,
BUT TRUE FRIENDS ARE UNIQUE:
THEY ARE PATIENT,
THEY ARE UNDERSTANDING,
THEY ARE CONSIDERATE,
THEY ARE FORGIVING.
WHEN YOU NEED ME I'LL BE THERE
COUNT ON ME 'CAUSE I CARE
I'LL DEFINITELY BE HERE FOR YOU TODAY, TOMORROW AND ALWAYS
'CAUSE I'M HERE FOR A FRIEND IN NEED.

Just like me

Society took everything from us...
From our integrity, our homes, to shoving us in back of a bus,
They taught us how to hate ourselves and each other
From screw'n up our own race, to having our sons screw'n our mothers...
Here comes the glass, years later
To show us our past and to put down most of our race in the lower class.
The glass at first discriminates and hates,
We're barely on T.V. cuz most of us are still cleaning plates ...
Until yrs. after more of us are on T.V., but I thought that 'we' were 'us' ...
As I look and admire, and wish I were she,
Cuz she looks like them and she's lighter than me...
And, I must say, her nose is kind of pointy... &! gt; So then I was, no, I am
wrong for forming, creating a binary,

And I am putting myself in some type of stupid category... But STILL!!
Now, probably, the rest of 'y'all' nonblacks, nonwhites
Say'n, 'But 'we' barely on T.V.,'
But take a minute to think about it, meticulously
From the time 'we' were children...
Personally, I don't mean to be a pest to put the way you've been fooled and taught
to a test.
But 'we' don't ever recall having 'Our Own' Walt Disney's princess.
'They'd' rather triple and remake cartoons of animals from 'our' home country
Before they illustrate to 'y'all' who 'we' be correctly...

How long must 'we' continuously be taught that 'our' beauty isn't "pretty"??....
See, now knew who shows that shows who the prettiest be,
'We' not first, that's alright, I don't fight for certain spotlights
But the third, I'll admit, as pretty as can be, but still way too lighter than me
Blood probably kissed by white seed.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not hate'n.
I'm not a nazi or a neo-nazi
Wasting my time, my life and energy
Hate'n on whites, others, other blacks like me or even mixies
Cuz even though I'm happy that the third is the same race as me
I'll wait and see how long and when the media will completely, portray me,
Black, Beautiful, Broad nosed, with a voluptuous body,
And as mysterious looking as can be.
As 'our' race, as 'our' face,
AS ME....

Written by Alexory P. AK A Madgestically Conjured Thoughts

Recreation of My Foretelling Self

By: Tania N. Provilus

As Graduation nears,
I undergo a deconstruction of self.

What have I learned?
Do I reflect the supposed newly
Acquired knowledge of life:
Politics, sociology, psychology,
anthropology ?

Will I blindly accept a Bachelor
of Arts in
Ignorance?

I want to my education to allow
me to
Accept me.

My thighs, my size 9/10 pants
The unevenness of my bosom,
The fact that my eyes can
Never be blue, and that
Brown eyes are
Beautiful too.

The chocolate skin
God blessed me with
Contains is it's pores
The strength, courage and
wisdom
Of ancestral
African kings and queens.
Skin lightening crèmes
Might not only increase

Chemical poisoning but

Induce extreme, sometimes fatal
Contamination of the soul.

I want my hair to reflect the
Knowledge acquired through
Many deep debates on
Afro-centrism in
Africana studies courses.
I want each step taken after
Leaving undergraduate
To feel lighter than they did
When I first entered
But not too light.

For I still want to remember the
Shackles society has
Strapped on my ankles.
They will never be removed,
But I can learn to
Lift my knees
Higher,
Take bigger steps by
Continuing to educate myself.

What, then, is the purpose of
education?
If it is not to inspire
Change.
How can I justify my
\$25,000 plus loans
If not by allowing my education
to be
Absorbed in the
Essence of my being.

Intimacy

By Maxine Achille

I have my mother's hands.

Her eyes can see this.

If she were still here

She would want to know you too,

As I know you.

Bare breasted and all.

Loving, hugging, thinking.

About my lips and my grandmother's hair.

I have my grandmother's hair.

Her Negroid features shape my hips.

Her figure lives-shapes my body now.

As you once did.

Arms wrapped around my waist.

I have my mother's hands.

My hands now solidified by your touch.

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EDOUARD

Continued from Page 5

RE: 130

G: Less than 5% of those who applied got in. In a typical year the Honors College gets about 65 enrollees from 600 to 700 applicants. This makes the EOP/AIM program more selective than the Honor's College, doesn't it?

RE: I never heard it put that way before.

G: How do this year's enrollment figures compare to prior years'?

RE: The trend has been down over time because the number of students we let in is driven by the budget.

This year, the governor's budget has proposed elimination of EOP/AIM direct aid.

G: What are the different forms of aid and how would the proposed budget impact EOP/AIM?

RE: Financial aid, book stipend, and money through EOP to assist with tuition.

G: My last article about EOP/AIM praised EOP/AIM members for their voter participation, and stated "the EOP/AIM program has long served as a well of talent for getting out the vote in elections especially student elections." Is that still the case?

RE: Absolutely, the EOP Student Association is engaged in a massive letter writing campaign along with NYPIRG. Overall EOP students benefit the whole campus. Even in student government they are always willing to get out the vote.

G: Wouldn't it be nice if all the students were that motivated?

RE: Absolutely. Part of what [the proposed budget] wants to do is to increase the tuition. Obviously this hurts EOP students directly, but for other folks who are here who don't have EOP, the tuition increase can hurt them too. It's a hardship.

G: Where do you hope to see the EOP/AIM program in 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years?

RE: I hope to see more people become knowledgeable about EOP. It's a positive program doing many positive things on many fronts. The students are highly successful and contribute to the campus community. When they graduate they contribute to N.Y. as taxpayers.

G: Where do you hope to see yourself?

RE: Still here doing what I'm doing now. I love what I'm doing especially the summer program - that's probably my greatest love of this program where I put in many hours. Every year, it is new for me with a new group of students.

G: Is there an EOP/AIM alumni association?

RE: There's a whole host of graduates who come back to Stony Brook University to speak with incoming first year students because the students can see the reality of what they're doing. The alumni were sitting in the seats the students are in now.

G: Do the alumni contribute more in tax dollars over time than the program costs?

RE: Based on studies presented to the state legislature, EOP/AIM graduates produce in the long run far more in tax revenues than the program costs.

G: Any final thoughts?

RE: I think the program has a really good group of students, and they deserve to know that their efforts are appreciated. Our graduation rate is higher than the University as a whole. Our retention rate is higher than average. The students deserve to be recognized for their hard work and achievements. For a group of students who come in to the University supposedly below the regular academic criteria coupled with being

economically disadvantage, for the program to be as successful as it has been over the years, I think it is remarkable and well worth the money the state spends. And as staff, even though we work hard, it is far more satisfying for us to see the students recognized than ourselves.

"A Journey around the World"

Continued from Page 7

Organization could not perform.

The country that next explored was Southeast Asia. The Vietnamese Student Association presented a Southeast Asian Fashion show. The style was from the 18th century, the models acted in a way that an individual would act during this century, very shy and well mannered. The attire consisted of clothes from the 1930s until now. Last and at their best was the PUSO (Philippine United Students Organization). This group was hilarious and very entertaining, they kept the audience going.

Ending the wonderful event was a speech by Lincois Anderson and Cheryl Chambers. Lincois explained that "People do not realize the richness of the diversity that is on Stony Brook

University campus." This campus holds people from all around the country and this event brought everyone together to learn about each other's culture. Feedback from a few people shows just how much the audience truly enjoyed the event. Dean Jerry Stein said "the event was a phenomenal show. It brings together different cultures. This multicultural show was the one that has not been done in a long time. It is a beginning of a growing tradition." He explained that he would like to see an event like this held in the Stony Brook University Staller Center.

After seeing this event, I hope that Stony Brook will continue the tradition, as it was an enriching learning experience that this writer will not soon forget.

WORLD MOURNS

Continued from Page 1

Peter's Basilica for four days. Millions gathered to mourn the pope, some drove for days and many waited for 24 hours to see him, almost completely bringing the City of Rome to a standstill.

According to the Associated Press, Pilgrims - staked out positions with sleeping bags and blankets just outside St. Peter's Square, getting as close they could to the scene of the funeral - even though they will see little more than the same images on giant television screens as could be seen elsewhere in the city. "You really have to love the pope to be willing to do this," said Nathanael Valdenaire, a young Frenchman who slept on the pavement in a sleeping bag alongside his sisters.

The pope's last will and testament, released the day before his funeral, was written over a 22 year span. In it, Pope John Paul II gives the public insight into his life and his reflections on his death, many times asking for the strength to carry out his duties in the face of worsening ailments.

Born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. By 1962, Wojtyla was named archbishop of Krakow. And just 18 years later he was named Pope. Pope John Paul II will be remembered by many for his genuine charisma and ability to touch others. During his reign, he traveled a distance of the circumference of the earth 30 times and he tried to accomplish the daunting

task of reaching the world with his message. Pope John Paul II faced many hardships during his reign including an a failed assassination attempt in 1981 and his continuing struggles to unite the 1.1 billion Catholics worldwide in the face of growing world tensions in this technological age. In his will, the pope stated in 1980, "the times in which we live are unutterably difficult and disturbed," according to the official Vatican translation from Polish. "The path of the church has also become difficult and tense ... both for the faithful and for pastors."

After the funeral, his coffin was carried back into St. Peter's Basilica and laid to rest in a crypt. With the funeral now behind them, Roman Catholic Cardinals now face the task of electing a new Pope with voting scheduled to begin on April 18, 2005.

John Paul's successor facing the task of leading the world's Catholics in an era "marked by tension between religions, between science and ethics, between doctrine and social pressure to change and open up to contraception, women, married priests". He will also have to try to reverse the church's sliding attendance rates in the nations of Europe.

"This Pope has had a problem, and it will be the problem of the future, to have unity in diversity," said Belgian Cardinal Godfried Danneels.



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What's Happening.....

WANG CENTER EVENTS

Spring 2005 Programs

February 1–May 3

Chinese Martial Arts Film Series

This series examines 13 acclaimed films from the golden age of martial arts cinema. Selections include the classics *Come Drink With Me*, *The One-Armed Swordsman*, and Bruce Lee's *The Way of the Dragon*, among others. All screenings at the Wang Center Theater. Coordinated by Professor Robert Chi, Department of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies. Details and schedule... Admission is free.

All screenings at Wang Theater.

February 2–May 4

Indian Film Series

This series, encompassing social commentaries, vengeful plots, opulent romance, and unforgettable musical scores, is a rollercoaster ride through the blockbuster hits of the prolific Popular Indian Cinema, affectionately known today as Bollywood. Featuring all time classics *Awaara*, *Mother India*, *Pakeezah*, *Sholay*, and more, these films never fail to move, fascinate, and give insight to the aspirations, fantasies, and yearnings of the popular Indian imagination. Details and schedule... Admission is free. All screenings at Wang Theater.

April 2 & 3

Brush Voice

Internationally known ink brush

painter Sungsook Setton and the innovative chamber music ensemble Ardesco tell the story of Spring (Emergence), Summer-Fall (Abundance), and Winter (Purification) in light and sound. Paintings emerge in counterpoint to music by Beethoven, Stravinsky, Ligeti, among others. A guide, part visual gesture, part music and musician, will lead the audience and performers on this fascinating multi-media journey. Reservations required.

Reserve tickets: call (631) 632-4400.

Saturday, April 2, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, April 3, 3:00 p.m., Wang Theater

April 5, 12, 19, & 26

Korean Animation Film Series

Catch a glimpse of how Korean artists have expanded their modes of expression through various new styles and images. Through experimentations such as pictures drawn on tissue and variations on Buddhist artwork or traditional Korean art, these animated films are among the best in imaginative innovation. This series includes Kyungwon Im's *Little Dinosaur Dooley*; Sung-gang Lee's *My Beautiful Girl Mari*; Moon-saeng Kim's *Wonderful Days* (Sky Blue); and Sung Baek-Yeop's *Oseam*. Co-sponsored with the Department of Korean Studies and generously supported by the Korean Cultural Service in New York.

Details and schedule... Admission is free.

All screenings at 7:00 p.m., Wang Theater.

STALLER CENTER EVENTS

Terence Blanchard

Jazz Trumpet

Saturday, April 30, 2005 at 8:00

Recital Hall

During the past 20 years, on the strength of poll-topping CD's (*Bounce*, 2003; *Let's Get Lost*, 2001) and award-winning Hollywood film scores for directors including Spike Lee, Blanchard has established himself among the most influential jazz composers and players of his generation. Having recently signed with Blue Note, he joins a jazz legacy that has shaped the contours of modern jazz today, stretching back to 1939 and including formative albums by one of Blanchard's mentors, the legendary drummer/bandleader Art Blakey. In addition to composing scores for films like *Malcolm X*, *Get On The Bus*, *Bamboozled*, *Clockers*, and *Crooklyn*, and serving as the Artistic Director of the famed Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at University of Southern California, Blanchard is also an exciting performer, putting his own stamp and style on his work, as well as the work of others. A fabulous night of jazz awaits in Staller's Recital Hall.

Tickets can be purchased at the Staller Box Office

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Sunday, May 1, 2005 at 7:00

Main Stage

He has been called a genius, a legend, and a cultural icon. Time calls him "the reigning master of modern dance," and the San Francisco Examiner declares him "without question the greatest living American choreographer." But Paul Taylor considers himself, above all else, a reporter, whose job is to observe us and record his impressions. Whether investing everyday movement with breathtaking beauty or reminding us that we are not as removed from our prehistoric ancestors as we like to think, he rivets us with astonishing inventiveness, poignancy and wit. As prolific as ever after 49 years, he recently completed his 119th work! Celebrated for uncommon musicality, he has set dances to Ragtime and reggae, tango and Tin Pan Alley, time recordings and loon calls; turned elevator and novelty tunes into high art; and found particularly cooperative collaborators in J.S. Bach and his Baroque brethren. Established in 1954, the Paul Taylor Dance Company is one of the world's most sought-after dance troupes. A not-to-be-missed evening of dance from a true genius of the dance world!

Tickets can be purchased at the Staller Box Office

Stony Brook University

Chamber Music Festival

Featuring the Emerson String Quartet

May 2-7, 2005

Recital Hall

A week-long celebration of chamber music with faculty members in the Department of Music, including the Emerson String Quartet performing as a group as well as playing with students in the Stony Brook Chamber Music Program. The Chamber Music Festival's schedule of events will be available in the Spring of 2005. Times and ticket information

EARTH STOCK

Schedule of Events

Times are subject to change. All events take place on the Academic Mall unless noted otherwise. (Rain Location: Student Activities Center)

Kick-Off Event, Thursday, April 21, 9:00 p.m.

Recycled Percussion Performance
Student Activities Center

Friday, April 22

10:00 a.m.

• Pride Patrol–Campus Beautification

: Advance registration required. Contact Arlene Skala at 632-6320 or visit Conferences and Special Events.

11:00 a.m.

• Environment Awareness Festival:

Explore environmentally friendly products. Take a ride on Stony Brook's unique 8-person vehicle, the Octus. Try your skill at rowing with Stony Brook's Crew Team. Learn about Birds of Prey from Sweetbriar Nature Center. Explore Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

• Dance and Drumming

Performances: Taiko Tides Asian Drum; Asian Martial Arts; Native American Dance and Drumming; Musicians for Peace; African Dance and Drumming

12:00 p.m.

• Opening Ceremony remarks by President Shirley Strum Kenny

• Musical Performances: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads–bluegrass; Jack's Waterfall–blues, jazz, folk, country, and global musical influences; Zen Tricksters–a rock/jam band performing inventive covers of the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, and Neil Young, as well as well-crafted original music.

3:00 p.m.

• Spirit Cup Volleyball Game: Students vs. Faculty/Staff. Limited spots available to play. Contact Kristin Buczynski or call 632-7320.

• Ice Cream Social: Enjoy free frozen treats!

7:30 p.m.

• Book Signing and Lecture: Peter Matthiessen, the 2005 Robert E. Smolker Distinguished Lecturer on Conservation and the Environment speaking on "Antarctica and Our Environment." Part of the Living World Lecture Series. Sponsored by the College of Science and Society, the Office of the Provost and the Department of Ecology and Evolution. Student Activities Center, Ballroom A

HERA Group invites you to our Spring Lecture Series "EVOLUTION!" at Stony Brook University



"Flying Colors: Evolution on the Wings of Insects" ¹

April 13, 7:30pm: Dr. True presents how changes in wing coloration and patterning in fruit flies plays a role in sexual behavior.

"Evolution: Fact or Theory?" ¹

April 27, 7:30 pm: Dr. Futuyma presents the controversy concerning evolution from a scientific perspective.

"Evolutionary Processes and Pattern in Stickleback Fish" ²

April 30, 7:30 pm: Dr. Bell combines lessons on how natural selection works and its results in the threespine stickleback fish.

"How We Try to Understand the World: Science, Philosophy, and Religion" ¹

May 13, 5:30 pm: Dr. Pigliucci examines the strengths and limitations of science, philosophy and religion, focusing on how they relate to each other.

¹ In room 412 of the Chemistry Building at Stony Brook University.

² In the Javitz Room, E-2340 (2nd Floor), of the Stony Brook University Library.

To reserve seats or for more information email rsyp@heragroup.org.

For directions please visit us at www.heragroup.org



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