

## Fall 2006

# ONE NATION

**Volume XLVI, Issue 1**



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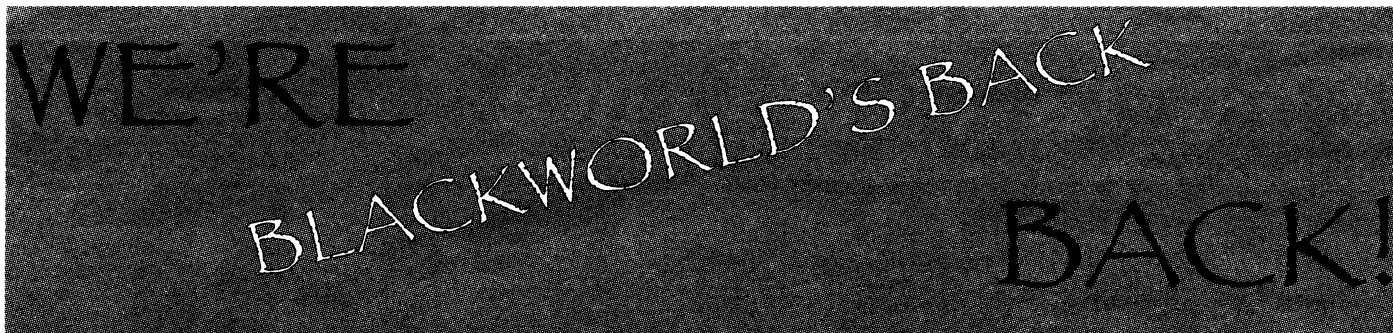
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# FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR



Many people have been wonder about the status of BlackWorld. The most common one has been "Why haven't I seen any issues from Blackworld?" I feel it is my duty as Editor in Chief of the paper to address this issue.

First of all, I would like to thank all of our loyal readers for sticking by our side through one of our roughest transitions to a new administration. This semester, the staff of Blackworld was faced with many obstacles in our path. From dealing with leadership within the organization to complications with Stony Brook University, these set backs have kept Blackworld from its regular circulation and distribution. However, even with all of these problems, the most damaging aspect was the lack of membership and participation. Therefore, with all of these obstacles in our way, we first needed to change and solve the situation our organization was in before moving into producing an issue.

But now that Blackworld has overcome those obstacles, we are back in the business of serving the people with true and unbiased news and information. In celebration of this, we have also revamped the news paper. Look forward to more new interactive sections with our up coming issues. We're here to serve as a source of information for the campus dealing with anything from on campus clubs/organizations, on campus/off campus events, current event domestic and

foreign, etc.

I personally joined Blackworld this year officially as the Editor in Chief for various reasons. However, the most important reason for me joining this organization was due to the fact that it was one of my people's institutions that were in jeopardy of being lost. I personally could not let that happen if I could do anything about it. My people have too few things that they can identify with and having one of them being no longer in existence was not going to be allowed.

I joined a team of a very few but very focused and determined individuals. Together we began a Blackworld campaigning storm for recruiting new membership. We were able to triple the amount of membership within the semester and get to working on issue covering the news of this term. A dedicated few became a dedicated many. However, we still need more to help carry the load.

In my first term as Editor in Chief, my goal is to show how powerful the use of media is and how we can harness this power to help ourselves and others. The campus needs to know how important it is to keep this publication alive and growing. You will also see more of Blackworld outside of the papers and in programs and events that will be held by our organization.

In a time where we are still struggle to gain power, we must realize that the

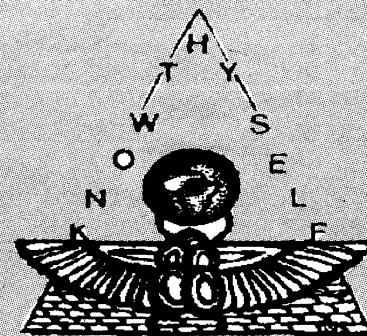
creation of Blackworld was a successful triumph in that same struggle. Blackworld is a tool to cause the type of change that we so desperately need these days for our people. We all know that knowledge-is power, so in the essence of that saying we can empower ourselves through the use of Blackworld.

Student activities and participation has greatly decreased to shocking lows. The number of students attending programs, events, clubs or organizations, or even parties at Stony Brook University has had very small turn outs. I believe that part of the reason for this is that the students are not informed well enough about these events and they is a lack of motivation to get involved. My vision is to make Blackworld a source of all information especially one for campus related events and organizations. We can help to re-energize the campus by doing this.

This time that we have in college is a very vital time. It's a time of practice and opportunity. If we do not seize this chance that we have, we may look back on our past with thoughts of regret. Get involved. Become Conscious. Make it Happen. Become Aware. Take Action. At the end of the day it boils down to this, if we don't do it, then who will?

## BLACKWORLD

Celebrating 32 years!



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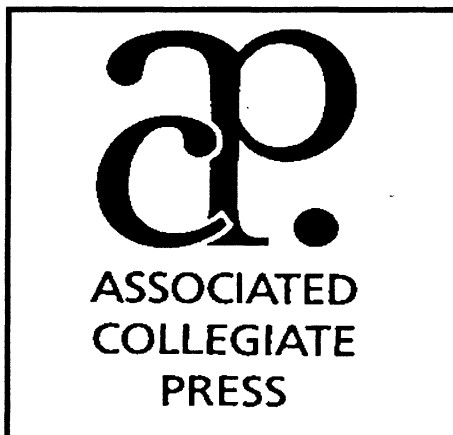
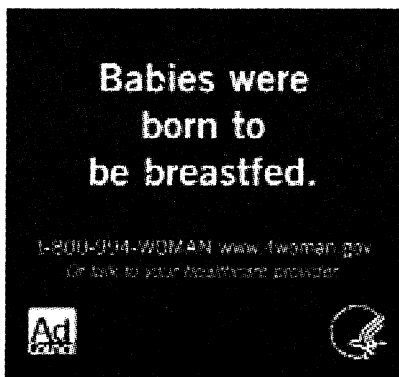
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Articles, letters, personals and poetry should be submitted to BLACKWORLD Newspaper, Room 072, Student Union, Stony Brook, NY 11794 or dropped in our USG mailbox located in SAC Rm 202. Emails are also accepted at [bwnews@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:bwnews@ic.sunysb.edu). Please include your full name address and daytime phone number.

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**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  
National Scholastic Press Association.**

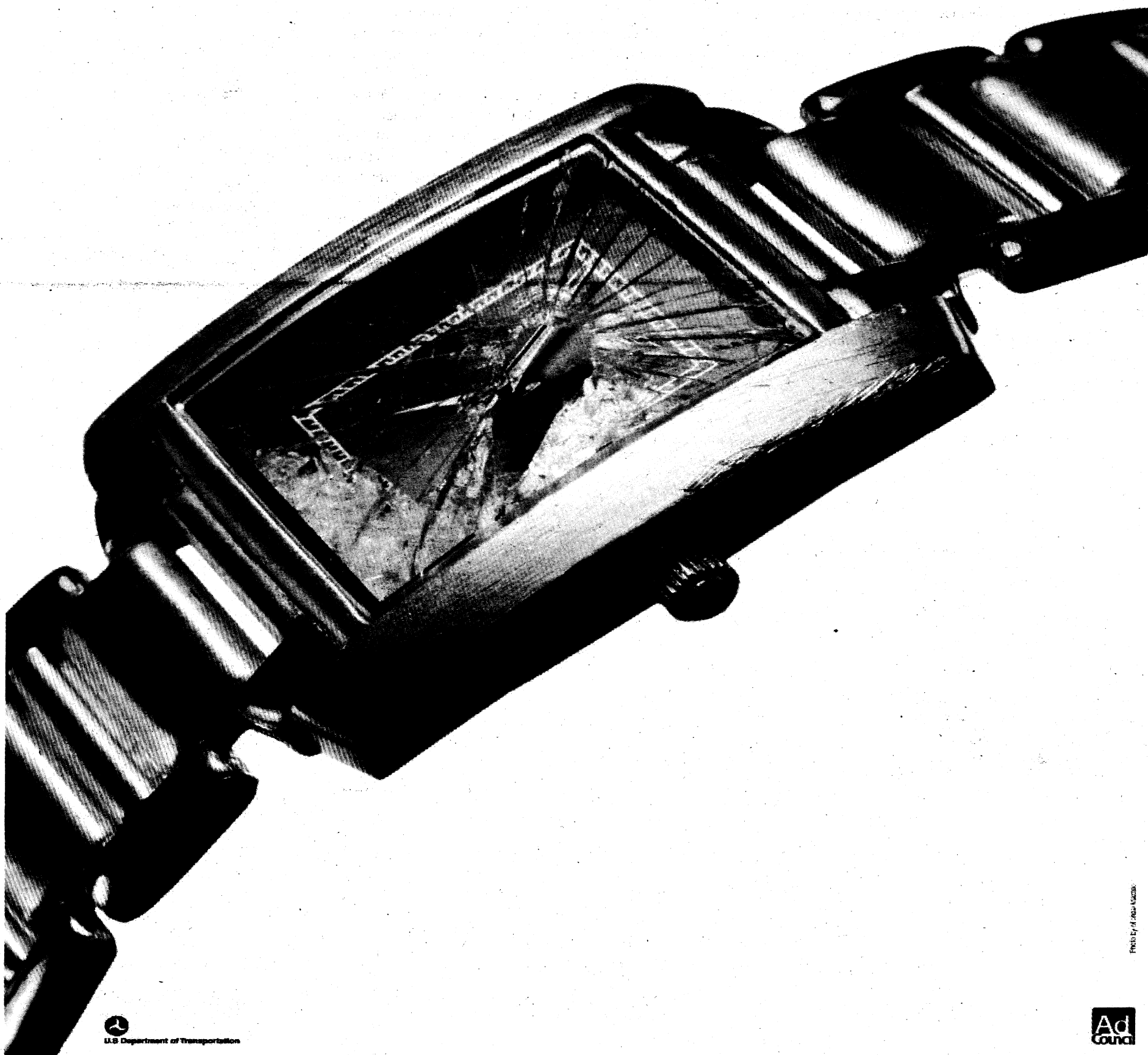
**The ACP is the largest and oldest national membership organization for  
college student media in the United States.**



This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.

Time of death 6:55pm.

**Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.**





# News Around the World

## Is the Nation of Islam Looking at its Last Days?

BY KELLEN FELMINE

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recent news has been circulated about the current condition of the Nation of Islam's leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan. There are also stories surrounding the leaders of the Nation of Islam passing on power to someone else. With the possibility of the head Minister of the Nation of Islam no longer being in power, questions arise of the faith of the Nation of Islam and what direction will it take in the event that Farrakhan passes away.

Minister Farrakhan, age 73, has had a series of health problems stemming from prostate cancer which he was diagnosed with in 1998. Last year, Minister Farrakhan had a colonoscopy to examine and check his colon for any complications from a major operation that he had five years ago in November of 2000. Nothing was found from the examination. Early this year he began to experience the same pain from his anal area that he did in 1998-1999.

During a trip to Cuba for the purposes of learning about disaster management preparedness, Minister Farrakhan spent a great deal of time being examined by Cuba's top doctors. During the tests, doctors found an ulcer in the anal area, similar to the one that he had back in 1998. The doctors gave the Minister a clean bill of health with the exception of the ulcer. However, since March of 2006, Minister Farrakhan has been suffering and fighting the pain and infections from the ulcer.

In a letter published in the Nation of Islam newspaper the Final Call (Sept, 2006), Farrakhan writes to address the rumors of this topic; he states that he has lost 15 pounds in the last month and an additional 20 pounds in the last six weeks. With the sudden and drastic weight loss, the Minister attends Howard University's hospital where doctors there assessed and treated his condition.

Minister Farrakhan's condition was due to low protein and iron, anemia, and exten-

sive dehydration. He explains that this is a result of his lack of appetite due to the pain and suffering caused by his current health. Doctors at Howard University Hospital also discovered serious infections and inflammation which is being treated currently.

Due to the testing and treatment that he is undergoing, Minister Farrakhan states "... I am postponing indefinitely all engagements, meetings and appointments so that I can concentrate, with Allah's (God's) help, to bring myself back to a state where I may be able to continue to serve the rise of our people." He also recalls on the words of the late Elijah Muhammad, former leader and Minister of the Nation of Islam, "My illness is a test for those around me." "This is a test, not only for me, but it is a test for the members of the Nation of Islam, as well" said Farrakhan.

While Minister Farrakhan focuses on regaining his health, issues and responsibilities that he would normally handle will be passed on to the proper individuals within the Nation of Islam. However, the Minister did say that he will make decisions in a situation where he is needed. Even with that being stated, he hopes that the Nation of Islam would not need his assistance and will be able to function successfully without him.

Although, Minister Farrakhan is a controversial leader running a controversial organization, he is one of the few leaders from the Black Power era and movement that is still alive and in the public presence. It seems like in this era, Black leaders are fading out of the spotlight. It's no coincidence that news about Minister Farrakhan's health was not put in the mainstream newspapers, news broadcasts, or even newspapers on campus. The

fact of the matter is Black consciousness is something that this society is not promoting or supporting. We see this in present day politics, academics, and even entertainment.

The Nation of Islam is one of the few and only organizations still surviving that promotes Black Nationalism. With the situation that their current leader is in, the Nation of Islam must prepare to carry on their mission in the event that Minister Farrakhan passes away. If not, we will possibly lose one of the last groups that promote self-determination, cultural pride, and unity among Black people globally.



Louis Farrakhan  
Leader, Nation of Islam and the Millions More Movement



# Gerald Levert Obituary

BY JESSICA WHITE

STAFF WRITER

40 year-old R&B singer Gerald Levert died of a heart attack, leaving behind a legion of shocked fans, family, and friends. He was the son of Eddie Levert, the lead singer of the O'Jays. He followed in the footsteps of his legendary father and entered into the music business during the eighties. His first hit was

"(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind," with the R&B trio LeVert, a group comprised of his brother and his childhood friend Marc Gordon. The group was successful with both albums they released which achieved gold status. In addition to their first hit, they spawned chart toppers such as "Casanova", "Addicted to You", "Just Coolin" featuring Heavy D, a n d "Baby I'm Ready."

Levert began his solo singing career in 1991 which resulted in a total of eight solo albums. The first album was entitled "Private Line" and a track from this album became # 1 on the R&B Billboard charts. Despite his solo success, he still continued to involve himself in group efforts. He became a member of the R&B group LSG in 1997 along with Keith Sweat and Johnny Gill. Their self-titled album sold more than two million

copies and they gained a hit with the song "My Body". Levert's recently produced albums are "The G-Spot", "Do I Speak for the World", and "Voices." During Levert's career he worked with many artists such as Barry White, Stephanie Mills, Teddy Pendergrass, Anita Baker and Patti LaBelle. He also collaborated with his father on several songs, including the #1 R&B hit, "Baby Hold On To Me." His project with Barry White led to a Grammy nomination for co-writing and producing the #1 single, "Practice What You Preach" in 1994. Many who knew Levert intimately reflected on his life and his twenty year music career. Patti LaBelle was like a mother to Levert. "He was such a great entertainer. It's not real to me that he is gone.... Nobody was prepared for this," she said. R&B singer Will Downing said, "It's very sad. He was an amazing talent, obviously. Gerald was a hard worker. He would go out there and do his thing, and be in places where the folks were. He would touch the people, and that's what it's all about."

Levert had a powerful and soulful voice that was reminiscent of his father's. His music was warm and sensual and his unique singing style attracted many female fans. "When we would do shows together, we would get on stage and battle for the hearts of women. Every night, that was our thing," said Downing. His music was romantic, yet raw, and explosive at the same time. Levert's family stated "As everybody knows, Gerald was a man who loved and breathed music...For his fans, his greatest love was touching the hearts and souls of all people through his music."

"All of us are shocked and deeply saddened by his untimely death. He was one of the greatest voices of our time, who sang with unmatched soulfulness and power, as well as a tremendously gifted composer and an accomplished producer," said Atlantic Records. "Above all, he was an exceptional human being whose warmth and grace inspired us all."



## Castro Takes a Siesta

BY DANIEL DISTANT

STAFF WRITER

For those of us who don't know, FidelCastro has been in control of Cuba since his revolutionary takeover in 1959. Allied with the Communist Party of Cuba, he's notorious for his many human rights violations, including lack of free speech, criminalization of political dissent, and execution of thousands of political opponents. He also was involved in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. Needless to say, Castro is not friendly with the United States.

Currently, Fidel isn't doing so well. According to a statement read to the public, he was suffering from a "punishing schedule" that required "days and nights of non-stop work". Highly unlikely.

Castro's surgery did however result in something just short of incredible: his relinquishing control of Cuba. To many, placing Raul Castro, Fidel's younger brother in charge of the country seems unremarkable. But to Cubans (70% of which have known no other leader) it's shocking.

Raul Castro Ruz is often considered the more pragmatic of the brothers.

He would look at economic reforms that Fidel did not, mostly because the military (Raul is the defense minister) is deeply involved in the Cuban economy. If Raul gains power, the world could be seeing Cuba going in a different direction.

Some are attempting to use this information to their advantage. The Bush administration's Office of Cuba Broadcasting has spent ten million dollars since the July announcement of Castro's illness on anti-Castro commentary on Radio and TV Martí, an American station beamed to Cuba. U.S. Officials have speculated that Castro has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Miguel Saavedra, head of a conservative Cuban exile group, says he thinks that Castro is dead: "Castro is dead ... why is he dead? Because the government they give a lot of information to the whole world that Castro passed his power to the brother ... this news now is the best news... for 48 years," he said.

Many Cuban exiles in Miami agree with him. Some of them are celebrating his surrender of control, while others like Saavedra believe that Castro has already died. There are more than half a million Cuban-Americans in Florida

who left Cuba and have been waiting for Fidel's rule to end, so celebrations lasted well into the morning.

But before we start the party, let's not forget that Fidel survived several other health scares in the past: during a speech in 2001, Castro fainted and had to be helped off stage. Again, in 2004, he slipped, fell, and fractured his knee and arm. Admittedly, none of his injuries have been as severe as his recent internal bleeding which makes him one tough old man.

Regardless of whether Castro is dead, dying, or just playing a mean joke the real question is: Do we, the United States, take a more active role in removing him from power? Or do we sit back and wait for Fidel to become too sick to rule? I personally think that America has done as much to Cuba (short of destroying it) as possible. We've set up constant anti-Castro propaganda, blockaded their shores to ruin their economy, tried to assassinate their leader hundreds of times, and even worked with Castro's

third-in-command to stage a hostile takeover. Admittedly, he did deserve it but he's on his way out so I say leaving him alone is best.

October 28th, 2006, Fidel Castro sent a small clip out, saying "Now that our enemies have prematurely declared me dying or dead, I am happy to send my compatriots and friends around the world this short film material. Now let's see what they say. They will have to resurrect me." Clearly, he's not as dead as we thought.





# Sudan - A Nation Divided

BY AFRICAN STUDENTS UNION  
OLUWASTOSIN SAVAGE

Darfur is located in western Sudan, a country in East Africa. It is bordered by Chad and the Central African Republic. Approximately six million people are scattered over the harsh, dry, remote area of approximately 190,000 square miles (about the size of Texas). The main towns in Darfur are more than 600 miles from the capital of Sudan, Khartoum, a distance that has contributed to the region's isolation and neglect.

The causes of the violence in Darfur are very complex. The conflict began in February 2003 when two loosely allied rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, launched an uprising against the armed militias known as "Janjaweed" (roughly translated as "devils on horseback") to suppress the rebellion. The Janjaweed are accused of conducting a campaign of rape, looting, and murder to clear civilians from areas considered loyal to rebels. The government denies this, saying the militias are merely outlaws. Local disputes are also fueling war, with people fighting over dwindling resources, such

as arable land. Some experts suggest that more than 300,000 civilians have been killed by government forces and Janjaweed militias or died from disease or malnutrition since the violence.

Villages and livelihoods have also been destroyed. The Janjaweed, supported by the Sudanese military, have burned property, stolen livestock and poisoned water supplies- threatening the survival of communities across Darfur. The violence has led to one of the world's

largest crises of displaced people. More than two million people have been forced to flee their homes and villages. According to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, more than one million of the displaced are children under 18, with 320,000 of those aged five and under.

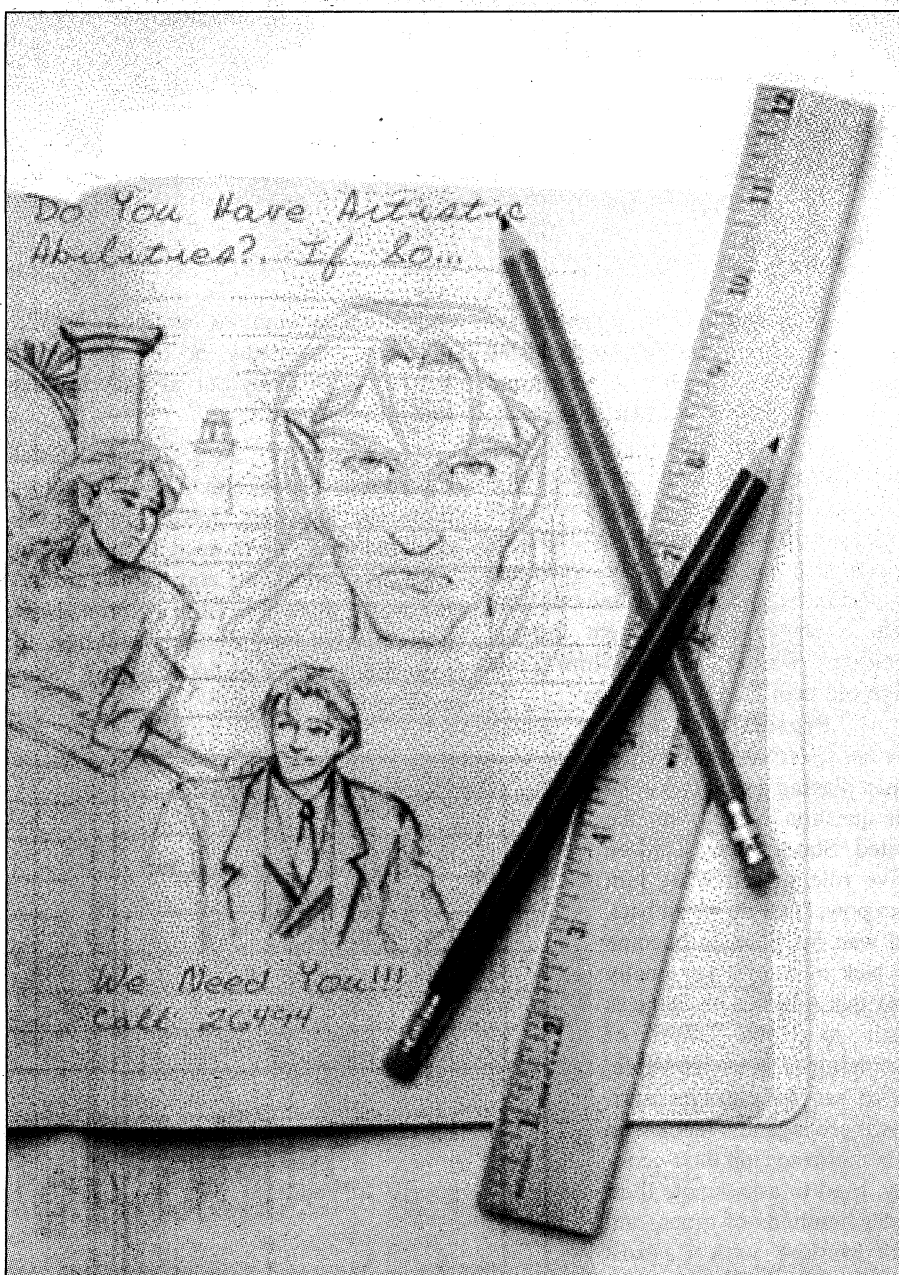
**SO WHAT CAN I DO?** The first step one should take whenever faced with a situation such as this is to **educate** oneself as well as the people around you;

after you have done that, you will have the tools necessary to take further action. There are many organizations and websites available where you can send a message to President George Bush and Kofi Annan expressing the necessity of peace keeping troops and UN intervention in Darfur, as well as Sudanese acceptance of intervention. Write your local newspapers as to inform others about this ongoing battle. Invite friends over to **watch** a screening of the movie "**Darfur Destroyed**". A visual picture of the actual crisis and widespread death in Darfur would be a great eye opener for all who partake. You can also **donate** to the various organizations aiding the refugees in Sudan.

Here is a list of helpful websites:

1. [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)
2. [www.sudantribune.com](http://www.sudantribune.com)
3. [www.studentsagainstgenocide.org](http://www.studentsagainstgenocide.org)
4. [web.amnesty.org/pages/sdn-index-eng](http://web.amnesty.org/pages/sdn-index-eng)

African Students Union:  
General Body Meetings:  
Every Thursday at 9pm in the  
UCC Classroom under the Burger King





## BLACKWORLD

**INVITES YOU TO OUR GENERAL BODY ELECTION**  
**ON MONDAY APRIL 18, AT 8:30PM,**  
**IN THE STUDENT UNION ROOM 231**

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**News Editor • Secretary • Copy Editor • \*Business Mgr**  
**Illustrator • Photo Editor**

\* Business majors or minors preferred!!





"If I am not for myself, then who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Before one more person is murdered  
Before one more child is brutalized  
Before one more woman is raped  
Before one more village is burned

# RALLY TO SAVE DARFUR NOW

## Voices to Stop Genocide

In flagrant violation of the peace agreement, the Sudanese government has resumed killing and blocking humanitarian aid.

"We need immediate action on the political front to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe with massive loss of life."

- Jan Egeland, United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, August 28, 2006.

Send a message to world leaders convened for the United Nations General Assembly.  
Tell them to deploy an urgently needed peacekeeping force and **STOP THE VIOLENCE NOW.**

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

**SAVE  
THE PEOPLE OF  
DARFUR**

It has been over two years since President Bush and Congress declared a genocide in Darfur. The people of Darfur can't wait any longer. They will face even greater danger when the African Union is forced to withdraw its peacekeepers at the end of this month. We call upon the President, when he speaks to the U.N. on Tuesday, to urge the world to take immediate action to stop the genocide.



To send a message to President Bush, go to: [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)



# Health

## *The Silent Killer of this Generation*

BY MINORITIES IN MEDICINE

KRISTIN BROWN

Did you know that although blacks represent 13% of the US population we represented 50% of the new HIV infections in 2004? \*

Between the years 2001 and 2004, over 75% of black women that tested positive for HIV, had contracted it through heterosexual contact. \*

Did you also know that HIV/ AIDS is the # 1 killer among black women ages 13-24? \*

If that's not shocking enough for you:

Did you know that, according to the Student Health Center, 1 in 4 students at SUNY Stony Brook is HIV positive?

We as a community are dying in droves silently, while no one wants to talk about it. We as black women are dying because we are afraid to ask our sexual part-

ners to wear condoms. We as young people are dying because we assume that it is happening to everyone else but us.

December 1st is World AIDS Day and I encourage everyone reading this to go get tested, know your status. If you are sexually active protect yourself. No one else is responsible for your health or life.

\* Statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention



## Disparities in the Health Care System

BY ANTHONY CURRY

SPORTS EDITOR

On November 15, 2006, Minorities in Medicine, along with Malik Fraternity Incorporated participated in one of the most informational and interesting programs of the semester. Entitled "Disparities of Disease and in Health Care Specifically Among Minorities", this program discussed many topics that related to the disgraceful statistics, disabilities, and ignorance that minorities across the worldface on a day to day basis.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was one of the many controversial and informative topics

that were discussed in this program. As most of us should know, this disease could be contracted through sexual intercourse/sexual favors, sharing of needles, as well as blood transfusions. HIV eventually becomes AIDS, which results in death if not treated correctly. HIV/AIDS affect and destroy the immune system at a rapid pace.

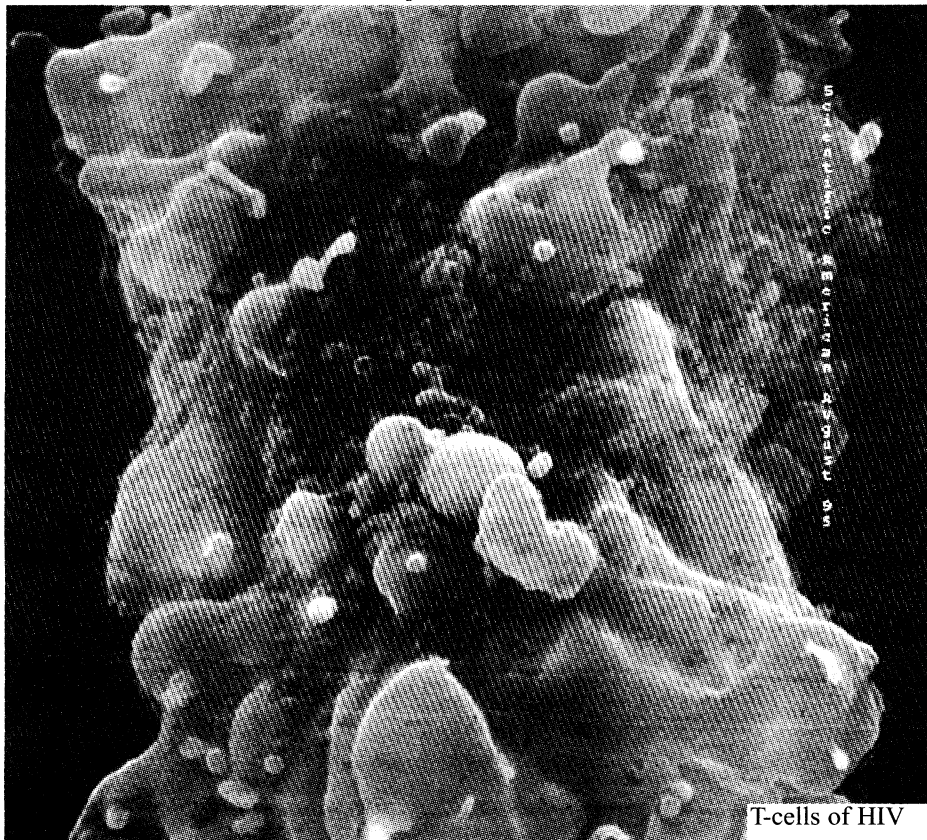
Individuals across the world are affected by this disease, but not as profoundly as the minorities of Earth. One of the questions is simply **WHY?** Well one of the many reasons that was discussed was the ignorance that minorities have in regards to dealing with using protection and other preventive measures that are available most of the time for free. In other parts of the world though, protection is scarce and/or the knowledge to

using protection is limited or not applicable. Minorities should in many ways realize that the risk is extremely high and that no one is immune to HIV/AIDS. Media also takes a toll on the lack of protection that is used by minorities. Seen simply through commercials such as the Trojan condom commercial, all of the actors portrayed are Caucasian. Therefore, when an individual included in a minority group views this portrayal; they may believe that this form of protection that is not for them and only for individuals of the dominant race. One thing African Americans should think about is why African Americans make up only approximately 13% of the population in the United States of America but is 50% of individuals in America with HIV.

Other interesting facts about HIV/AIDS that were discussed were the rapid rate increase of HIV infections among Hispanics, the spreading of HIV/AIDS occurring in great capacity within correctional facilities, dorm college campuses, and other confined/semi confined communities. HIV has no face and should not be taken lightly in any

s c e n e . Healthcare was another important topic discussed. Two major questions that were asked were "Why are so many minorities not getting the health care they need?" and the root of the problem question, "Why are minorities getting sick so often?" In answering the first question, the members and audience of this program all agreed on the fact that minorities are not that well informed about health-care plans, the medical jargon that doctors and other medical employees use is complicated and confusing, the money is not applicable for health insurance due to the jobs that most minorities are eligible to receive, the lack of education of the individual to know exactly what to ask for, and lastly the older generations

thoughts about the medical society and its treatments. All of these answers are very true and unfortunate. To answer the second question; minorities are sick with many viruses and diseases due to the poor living environments, lack of good education, and the poor employment opportunities that minorities have to face. Many minorities across the nation suffer mainly from the lack of health insurance. If this need was universally applicable then more lives could be universally saved. Lastly, this program strongly encouraged those minorities in the medical field to understand the disabilities that the minorities face in today's medical society. If the reading level for most minorities is statistically low then the pamphlets and other patron used medical sources should be written at that same statistical level. Overall, this epidemic is serious and greatly prevalent not only around the world but in our own Stony Book community. In a study given by members of Minorities in Medicine, 1 out of 4 students that attend Stony Brook University has contracted HIV. With this being said, even though this program was very informative and interesting towards the minorities, everyone should take prevention measures and be safe so we can not only reduce the statistics but save lives. Minorities in Medicine and the Malik Fraternity Incorporated did an excellent job with this program and everyone who cares about themselves and our society should definitely attend any similar program.





# Highlight:

## Pre-Nursing Society

BY REBECCA DELIA  
SECRETARY

The Pre-Nursing Society of Stony Brook University shared an enjoyable evening with the residents of Long Island Veterans Home on October 25, 2006. It has been 15 years since they opened their doors to their first residents, the courageous veterans of World War II. Such a facility was seen as a necessity as the veterans began to approach their sixties. The Veterans Home is located right here on Stony Brook University's campus. Long Island has about 2 million veterans out of the 25 million who were discharged after the victorious war. The 350 bed facility has cared for over 2,000 veterans here on Long Island.

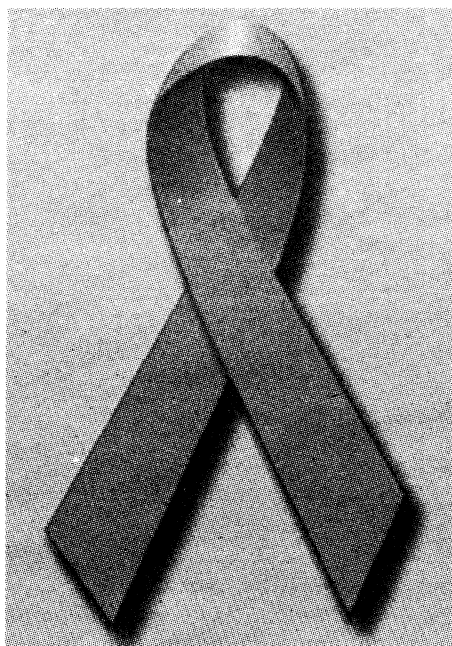
The Pre-Nursing Society has been volunteering at the Long Island Veterans Home for several years now. Last year the students spent time with the

veterans watching an evening movie. This year, a mixture of senior and junior nursing students, as well as ambitious pre-nursing students went to spend a pleasant evening celebrating Halloween. Hand made Halloween cards were handed out to each of the residents. They walked into the Multipurpose where all the residents were listening to the soothing voice and guitar tunes of Vance B. who was the entertainer of the night. Vance sang all genres of songs from country to patriotic to gospel music. Little did they know, the night would turn into a night of karaoke. Residents came up and shared their songs, including one interesting character Mr. Eddy. Eddy was part of a singing band long ago. He boasted about his past and showed pictures to prove it. He shared songs he remembered singing when he resided in South Carolina. One student, Jessica Mackenzie, volunteered to sing. She sang the hymn "His Eyes Is on the Sparrow" beautifully and soulfully. All were left

feeling emotional. She then sang several duets with Vance. Although Jessica was shy, she let loose along with the rest of the students who offered to dance with

the residents. It was a sight to see. The Pre-Nursing Society plans to visit with the residents again.

The Pre-Nursing society is a club here at Stony Brook that is made up of current nursing students who are in their junior or senior year as well as students who are anticipating getting into the competitive program. The club provides guidance for those prospective students with tips and essential information that is necessary for completing an application. Volunteering is another task implemented by the club; most of the volunteering is done at the Long Island Veterans Home. All those who are interested in nursing are encouraged to attend club meetings on every other Monday at 7:30 pm SAC room 308. It's a good way to give back to the soldiers who fought for us as well get a great insight on how to get into one of the country's best nursing programs.



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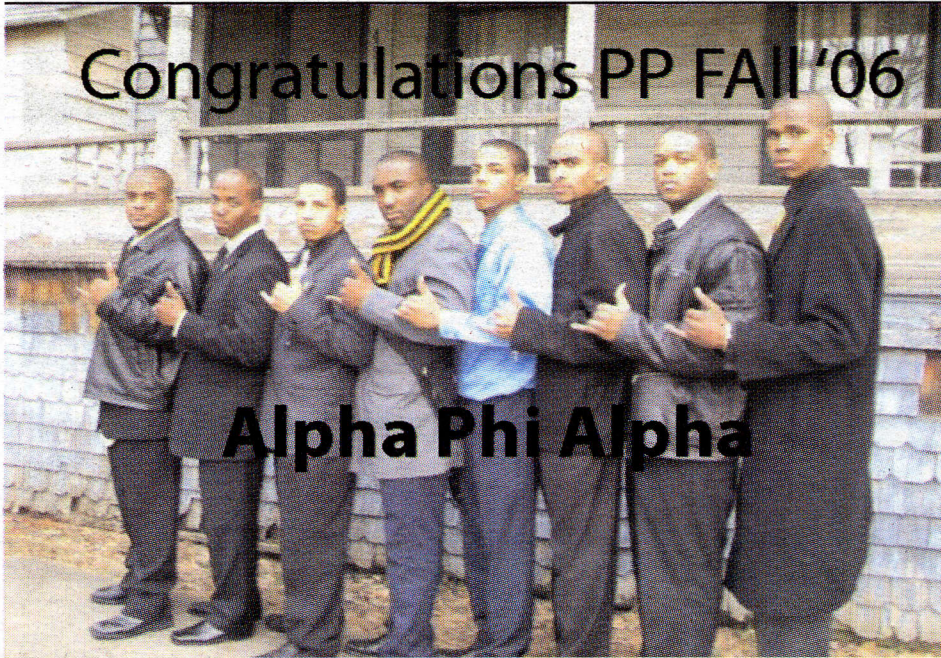
American Cancer Society

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Delta Week Fall 2006



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Congratulations

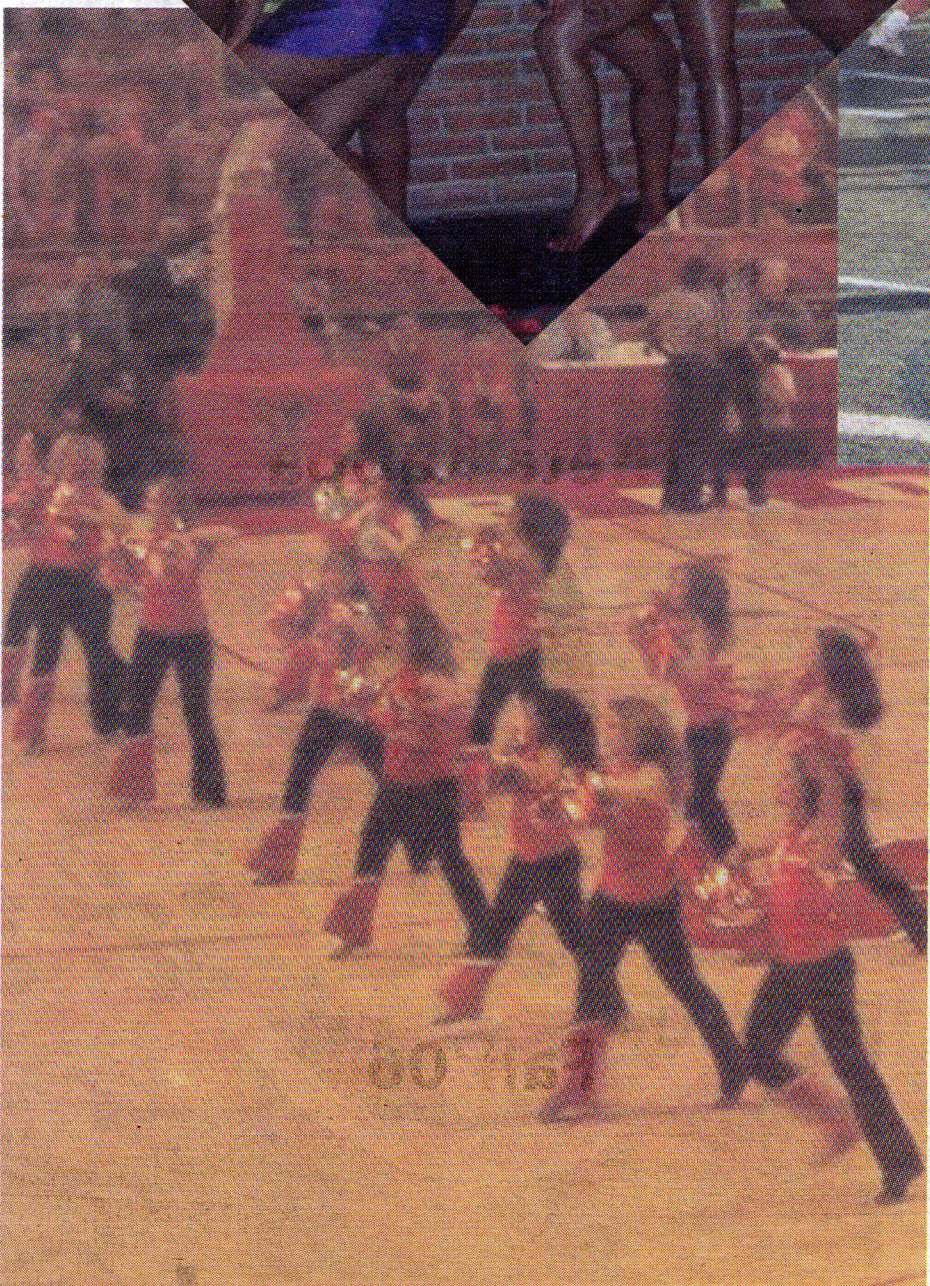
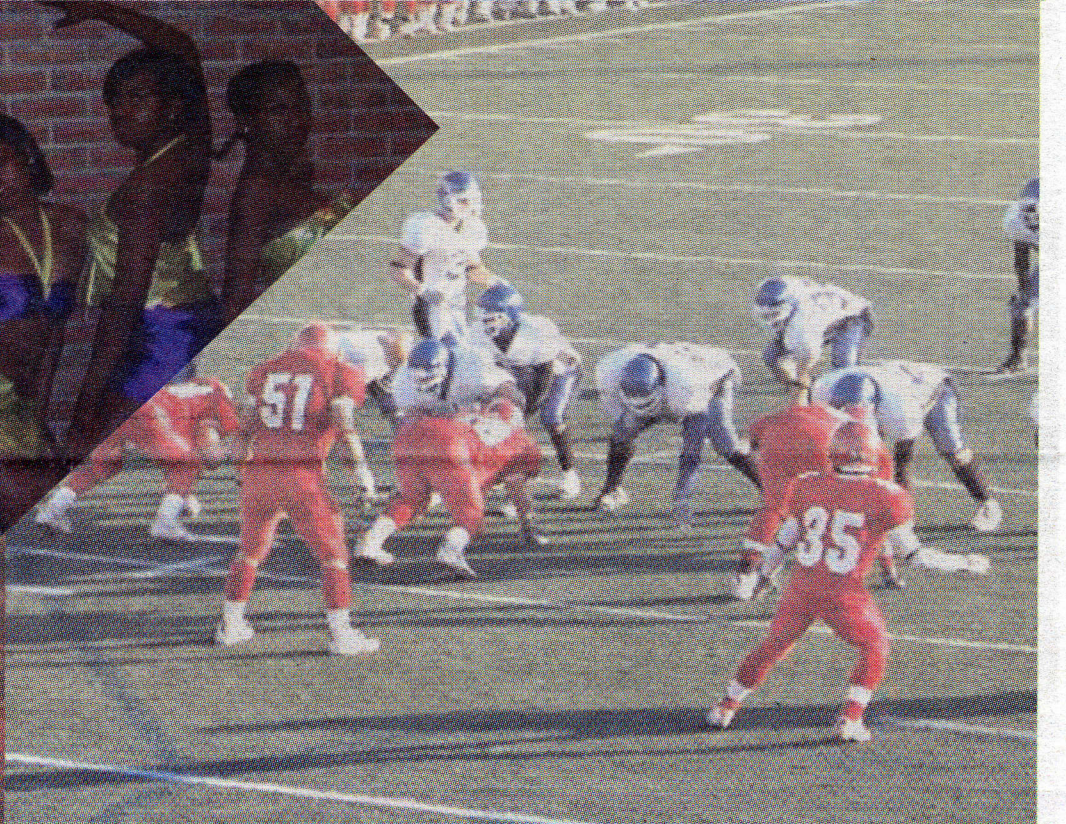
Theta Kappa



Fall '06

Zeta Phi Beta









# CATCH A FIRE

BY KALANNE ADA  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This week the box offices were bombarded with horror and action flicks. But "Catch A Fire" stood out from the rest because it was based on a true story set in the 1980s in apartheid driven South Africa. Derek Luke gives an intensely moving performance when he portrays Patrick Chamussa, an oil refinery foreman, who became a radical in the fight against the atrocities done against the black people of South Africa after he was wrongly accused, imprisoned and tortured for a plant bombing.

Apartheid paralleled segregation in the United States but lasted into the 1990s. It was a political system that came into effect in 1948. It separated the people and gave privileges to those of European descent. Under apartheid, people were legally classified into racial groups. The main groups: White, Black, Indian and Coloured, were geographically and forcibly separated from each other on the basis of the legal classification. This prevented non-white people from having a vote or influence, restricting their rights to distant lands that they may never have visited. Education, medical care, and other public services were

sometimes claimed to be separate yet equal, but those available to non-white people were generally regarded as inferior.

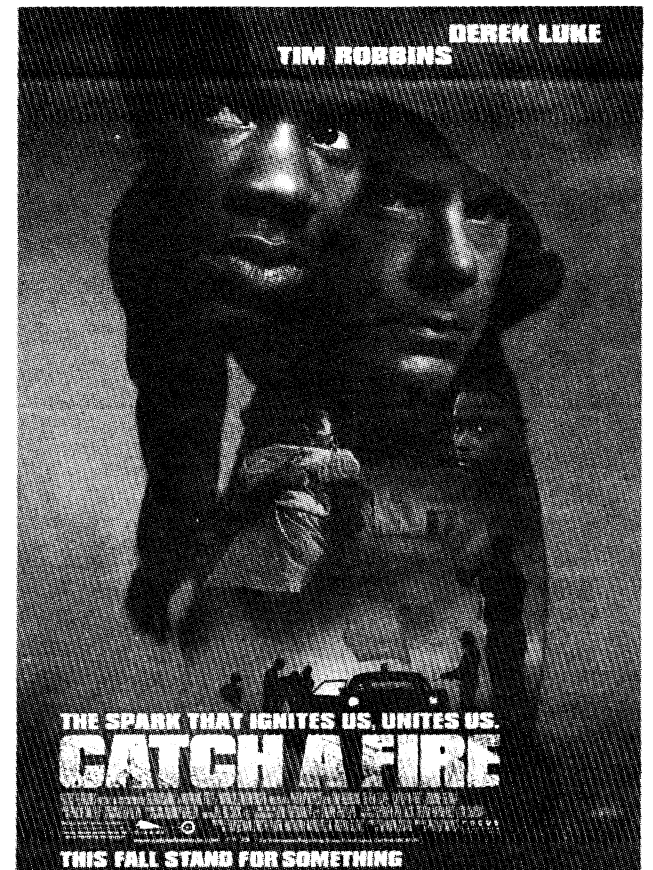
The movie starts with real life footage of black South Africans protesting for their freedom, showing the abuse by the police and military, beating people with clubs and holding them at gunpoint. "Catch a Fire" spends most of its time in 1980, when Patrick was a cheerful young South African who paid no attention to the political situation in his country, but was focused on his family and work. Happily married to the beautiful Precious (Bonnie Henna), with two young daughters and his mother to support, Patrick is fully engaged by his family, his love of soccer and his job as a foreman at the Secunda oil refinery.

The movie plays scenes of Patrick's life and then gives us glimpses of the public and private life of Col. Nic Vos (Tim Robbins), a member of the Police Security Branch's anti-terrorism squad. The colonel, who considers his country and his family to be in immediate danger from the Moscow communists he is sure are running the African National Congress, is both proud of his job and quite good at it. At times it was quite annoying, because the scenes were very

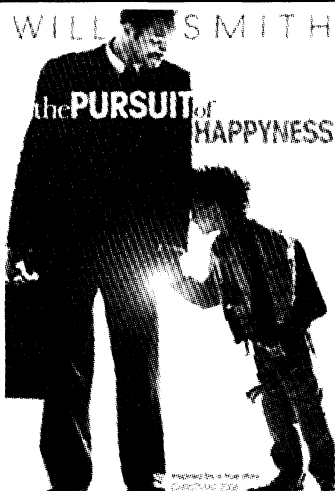
short, leaving you to wonder if they could've got in-depth in some shots.

In movie terms it was predictable that the paths of these two men will cross, and it happens when a bomb goes off at the Secunda refinery and Patrick is arrested as the terrorist who did the crime." Catch a Fire" has taken pains to show that Patrick is innocent and also to reveal the dilemma in his personal life that compromises his alibi. The colonel was very manipulative and knew how to play mind games with suspects. Tim Robbins gives a frighteningly good performance of the calculating colonel. Even though the movie attempts to humanize him, he still comes off as a cold, shrewd individual.

Even though it is based on events that happened twenty-six years ago, Catch A Fire's message can still be applied to the current situations affecting the world. But most importantly it shows how forgiveness can overcome hatred.



## COMING IN DECEMBER:



## The Pursuit of Happyness

Director: Gabriele Muccino

Cast: Will Smith, Thandie Newton, Jaden Smith

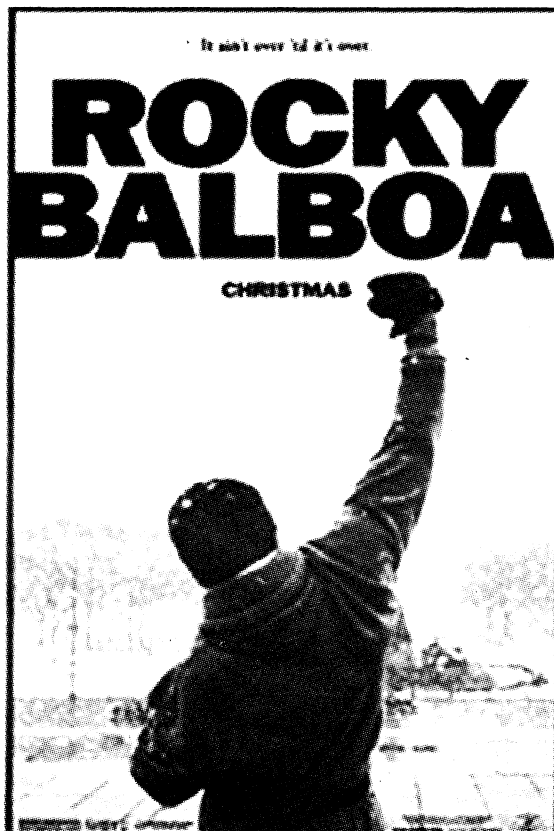
In Columbia Pictures' The Pursuit of Happyness, Chris Gardner (Will Smith) is a bright and talented, but marginally employed salesman. Struggling to make ends meet, Gardner finds himself and his five-year-old son evicted from their San Francisco apartment with nowhere to go. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, he and his son endure many hardships, including living in shelters, in pursuit of his dream of a better life for the two of them.

Credited:  
[www.moviesonline.ca](http://www.moviesonline.ca)



# COMING IN JANUARY:

## Rocky Balboa



Director: Sylvester Stallone

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Milo Ventimiglia, Burt Young, Tony Burton, Antonio Tarver

Long since retired, and with his beloved Adrian passed away and his grown son too busy to spend time with him, Philadelphia's favorite boxer is a lonely man. Running a small restaurant in his old neighborhood, Rocky passes the time by recounting stories of his glory days to his patrons. To keep himself busy and in shape, he decides to step back into the ring against a few small-time boxers in local gyms. When an ESPN sports show runs a simulated fight between Balboa and the current champ, Mason "The Line" Dixon, Balboa wins, prompting a resurgence of interest in his illustrious career. Presented with the opportunity to fight one last exhibition fight, Rocky accepts the challenge, despite the protests of his friends and family. Facing a powerful champion, personal tragedy and ultimately his own doubts, Rocky steps into the ring one last time to

prove that he still has the heart of a champion.

Credited:  
www.moviesonline.ca

## THE REAPING



Director: Stephen Hopkins

Cast: Hilary Swank, David Morrissey, Idris Elba, AnnaSophia Robb

Her faith shaken by a family tragedy from which she was never quite able to fully recover, a professor of theology from Louisiana State University moonlighting as a debunker of unexplained religious phenomena finds herself faced with an apocalyptic series of events that seem to reflect the ten plagues of Exodus in director Stephen Hopkins' Southern gothic chiller. The terrified citizens of Haven, LA have been beset by swarms of locusts and watched as rivers turned to blood. As if that wasn't enough to put the fear of God into any Bible-reading Christian, ominous rumors of a local swamp cult have left many of the small town citizens turning to prayer for fear that the end is finally nigh. Enter Katherine Winter (Hilary Swank), a skeptical myth-buster and renowned theology scholar with a special knack for spotting religious trickery. Though at first exceedingly confident that she will uncover a human component behind the otherworldly occurrences, Katherine quickly learns that just because one doesn't believe in the supernatural doesn't necessarily mean that it doesn't exist.

Credited:  
www.moviephone.com

## Blood Diamond

Grobbelaar, David Harewood, Caruso Kuypers, David S. Lee, Benu Mabheba, Karl McMillan, Adetokumboh M'Cormack, Jimi Mistry, Ntare Mwine, Michael Sheen, Arnold Vosloo

Set against the backdrop of civil war and chaos in 1990s Sierra Leone, "Blood Diamond" is the story of Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), a South African mercenary, and Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou), a Mende fisherman. Both men are African, but their histories as different as any can be, until their fates become joined in a common quest to recover a rare pink diamond that can transform their lives.

While in prison for smuggling, Archer learns that Solomon - who was taken from his family and forced to work in the diamond fields - has found and hidden the extraordinary rough stone. With the help of Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly), an American journalist whose idealism is tempered by a deepening connection with Archer, the two men embark on a trek through rebel territory - a journey that could save Solomon's family and give Archer the second chance he thought he would never have.

Credited:  
www.moviesonline.ca

## Spiderman 3

After the death of his younger brother, a troubled 19-year-old street dancer from Los Angeles is able to bypass juvenile hall by enrolling in the historically black, Truth University in Atlanta, Georgia. But his efforts to get an education and woo the girl he likes are sidelined when he is courted by the top two campus fraternities, both of which want and need his fierce street-style dance moves to win the highly coveted national step show competition.

"Spider-Man 3" is scheduled for release on May 4, 2007, and will reunite returning cast members Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco with director Sam Raimi and producers Laura Ziskin and Marvel Studio's Avi Arad, the

successful filmmaking team responsible for the first two films. Thomas Haden Church and Topher Grace have joined the cast of the blockbuster franchise.

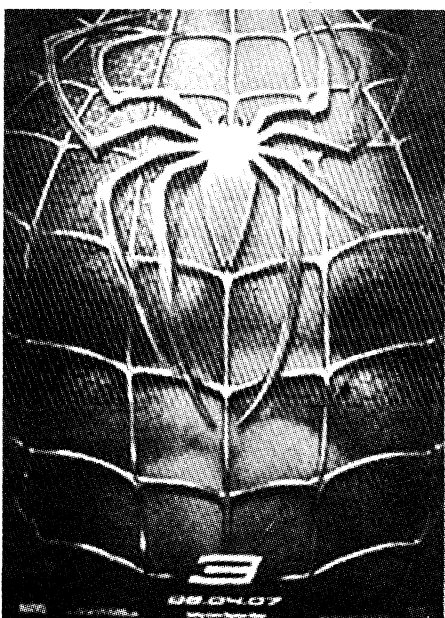
Nothing is known accept for the fact that Venom will be the villain as of now. "In addition to the ongoing relationship between Peter Parker and M.J., these films are driven by the great actors who have brought our villains to life," Raimi said. "Thomas Haden Church will be a fantastic and challenging new nemesis, and we all look forward to working with him."

Credited:  
www.moviesonline.ca



Director: Edward Zwick

Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly, Djimon Hounsou, Stephen Collins, Ato Essandoh, Francois



Director: Sam Raimi

Cast: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco, Thomas Haden Church, Topher Grace, Bruce Campbell



# Featured Television Shows



## I LOVE NEW YORK

"She was the arch nemesis of the house on season one of Flavor of Love. She was the returning guest from hell who somehow ended up back in the mix in season two. The first time, she went all the way to the finale only to be ousted by the beguiling Hoopz. On her return, she once again romanced Flav all the way to the end only to be beaten out by big booty-ed Deelishis. These two failed attempts left America wondering, "Why can't New York find love?"

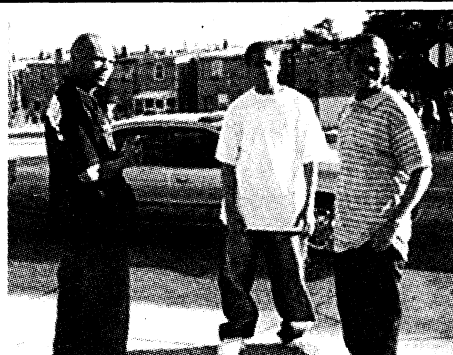
Credited:  
www.vh1.com/



## THE APPRENTICE

"The Apprentice" moves to southern California for season six of the unscripted series, leaving Manhattan for the first time in the history of the show. Trump will once again do the firing – and the hiring – as 18 enterprising candidates vie for the coveted title of "The Apprentice" and the career opportunity of a lifetime working for the legendary business tycoon. Along with the new southern California backdrop comes a whole new series of surprising twists and turns that will make this the liveliest and most challenging competition yet among candidates eager to become the next "Apprentice."

Credited:  
www.nbc.com



## THE WIRE

Set in Baltimore, this show centers around the city's inner-city drug scene. It starts as mid-level drug dealer, D'Angelo Barksdale beats a murder rap. After a conversation with a judge, Det. James McNulty has been assigned to lead a joint homicide and narcotics team, in order to bring down drug kingpin Avon Barksdale. Avon Barksdale, accompanied by his right-hand man Stringer Bell, has to deal with law enforcement, informants in his own camp, and competition with a local rival, Omar, who's been robbing dealers and reselling the drugs. The supervisor of the investigation, Lt. Cedric Daniels, has to deal with a corrupt bureaucracy. The show depicts the lives of every part of the drug "food chain", from junkies to dealers, and from cops to politicians.

Credited:  
www.moviesonline.ca



## American Idol

Twelve finalists and/or future singers (six men and six women) who were selected to compete in a talent contest in which they were asked to sing any song they like on this "Star Search" clone. After each song that was sung, the judges, Abdul, Jackson and Cowell, then critique that finalist's chosen song. After each show's ending, America must vote for a finalist to whom they really think their performance is good using a cellular phone to cast votes with. Once the votes are locked in, the judges and America decides who has the most and the least amount of votes, and the contestant with the least amount of votes is eliminated, and it goes on each week's show until the winner is crowned as "American Idol," where he/she wins a recording contract worth up to \$1,000,000.

Credited:  
www.moviesonline.ca

# Featured Albums/Artists



Jay – Z

Kingdom Come Review:  
2.5 out of 5 Stars

Jay-Z's retirement from making albums was more like a working holiday. After he announced his retirement, released The Black Album, and threw the Fade to Black party, he collaborated with Linkin Park on Collision Course, teamed with R. Kelly for the abysmal Unfinished Business, and appeared on tracks by Beanie Sigel, Bun B, Memphis Bleek, Kanye West, Pharrell, Lupe Fiasco, and Beyoncé. He kept busy behind the scenes as Def Jam's CEO and president, and he also stepped up as a major philanthropist, donating a million dollars to the Katrina cause and actively addressing the global water crisis in Turkey and South Africa. In the midst of these and other well-publicized activities, Jay-Z recorded Kingdom Come, his eighth and weakest studio album. When placed in the context of his prolific discography, the greater part of the album wilts, and it's not a



Ciara

Evolution Review  
3 out of 5 Stars

Evolution is a slow process, so it shouldn't be startling that The Evolution is not a quantum leap forward from Goodies. Ciara's second album, The Evolution is held together by a handful of immaterial monologues that would be best left to an interview disc. Take "The Evolution of Music," where she states, "I feel like music is so different than what it used to be, and because of that, I was inspired to do something different this time around." And then in comes "Promise," yet another song referencing Kraftwerk and Zapp, and it also takes cues from prime Janet Jackson and Aaliyah -- so, no, it's not different at all. Make no mistake, though. The song is tremendous, one of the sexiest, slow-tempo, non-breakup songs of the past ten years. Yet, for all the talk of developing and being different, one might expect an album not as firmly rooted in electro and



John Legend

Once Again Review  
3 out of 5 Stars

Get Lifted netted John Legend a major hit ("Ordinary People") that will be heard on adult contemporary stations and throw-back-oriented programs as long as they exist, platinum status, and three Grammy titles -- including the potential kiss of death that is Best New Artist. If Legend hadn't linked up with Kanye West or any other connected industry figure, he'd probably be well into a string of independent albums and would likely have a fanatical cult following through persistent touring. It doesn't take much exposure to his songs to sense this alternate scenario. No one can deny that Legend has had considerable help from his collaborators, and he continues to get that support this time out -- there's West, will.i.am, Sa-Ra, Raphael Saadiq, Plant Life's Jack Splash, and a massive crew of session musicians, but it's already evident that Legend only needs a piano to get by.



Nas

Hip-Hop Is Dead Review  
5 out of 5 Stars

In between this pursuit of greatness and his obligation to fans' wishes, Nas finds himself in familiar territory: at the threshold of another historic album. It is for this reason that Nas does not trounce, but tread on the recycled beat. Nas has been here and it shows, "Any ghetto will tell you Nas helped grow us up /My face once graced SONY promotional trucks." Many may be disappointed with the more than obvious reworking of "Thief's Theme" in the beat, including the electric guitar riff and marching band drums, but Nas follows the beat back to yesteryear with vintage material, "grindin' hittin' Brazilian dimes from behind."

Nas is not trying to send a message, but convince us of the message: hip-hop is dead. This is not damnation, a discovery,

Continued on Page 17





**BY KALANNE OPUSUNJU ADA**  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

I don't know about you guys, but I definitely miss watching "Flavor of Love". Every Sunday at 10pm I would tune into VH1 and get my dose of women behaving badly and backstabbing each other just for the love of an old school hip hop legend, FLAVOR FLAVVV!!!

The first season was crazy. Who could forget the drama that went down in that mansion. Twenty girls were chosen from all around the country and from all backgrounds. Each day they would go through an activity to test their "love" for the Flav. Based on their results, at the end of the show Flav would eliminate girls he felt weren't "keeping it real". Who could forget Pumpkin, Hoopz and last but not least New York. Flav chose Hoopz to be his special lady, but after the taping Flav realized that Hoopz wasn't the one for him. In fact she went on to do bigger things in the industry of hip hop like

modeling. So Flav then called his producers and said he wanted a fresh batch of twenty girls to pick from.

Season 2 rolled in with different women with different agendas. This season had some unique women, and at times the things that they said or did were totally off the wall. Sometimes you had to lift your chin off from the floor or hold your stomach while you died of laughter. At times you didn't know whether you should laugh or shake your head at some of the women's antics. If you were a serious fan of the show, then you were probably working with Flav to get rid of the girl who was not "keeping it real".

With only a few women left standing, in through the door walks New York, one of the craziest women in reality TV. As we all remember Flav and New York had a certain chemistry from the last season. The arrival of New York stirred up a lot of commotion among the girls. One thing that was so annoying was that New York swore she had the power of



manipulation. She was constantly saying "I got them in my hands". She did succeed with Krazy, but that wasn't hard. However, she did not prevail with Deelishis. Deelishis held her ground from the beginning of the show and she proved to be the most sensible woman. In the beautiful island of Belize, Flav chose Deelishis over New York which was like a slap to her face. Deelishis recently appeared on BET's 106 & Park and acted like a little schoolgirl in love each time Flav was mentioned.

To top it off, VH1 brought all the girls together for a Flavor of Love 2 Reunion, and as usual some of the women made a spectacle of themselves. New York came out and acted like she was Ms. Universe. She made a lot of girls upset with her comments and Deelishis, Buckwild, Bootz and Buckeey were ready to knock some sense into her. New York's mom and Flav had plenty of things to say to each other due to their rocky encounters in the past. New York's mom

spoke through satellite and the words exchanged between mom and Flav were far from nice.

One question that comes up is why should watching women act foolish be a form of entertainment? It is not possible to point a finger at just one person. The women and the production company are both to blame. The women lower their standards and the show is more than happy to air it. Let's face it, it also makes good TV, because people are willing to tune into shows like these. Until one of these groups decides to step up, shows like Flavor of Love will stay on television.

It's hard to believe, but there is talk of the making of New York's own show called "I Love New York" where men will be competing for her love. I wonder if any of these men watched the Flav show and know what they are getting themselves into. This is sure to be interesting so keep your eyes opened for that.

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# Poetry in Motion



Letting Go of what we were

You're not the person you used to be  
The one I loved who I knew loved me  
All the words you said to me played like a song  
A played out song stored in my memory  
I wanna let it die with no goodbyes  
But there are still tears in my eyes  
You hold a part of my heart in your back pocket  
And as you sit, the pieces of it fall  
When I see you, I pretend that I'm fine  
Then turn and walk away and let the feeling subside  
Because of you our love can be no more  
I can't hold on for too long  
I finally truly deep down ruthlessly have to move on  
I was that black diamond in the rough  
Your Nigerian princess to fulfill your lust and  
when we shared that special touch  
Passionate, a must, and a definite plus  
Told me I was your one and only  
that's when I knew I would love you forever  
Forever and forever until ever after  
Above all you were my friend  
Besides family, the only one I could depend  
Then you went away  
Cliché...but my blue skies did turn to gray  
Now I'm cursed with loving you everyday  
I gave you the best of me,  
and you received it whole heartedly  
then stole it, ran with it...dam it  
While you were on the battlefield  
I fought my battle alone  
You showed me that love doesn't mean a thing  
when one has to let it go  
You left me with a permanent scar, a reminder of  
a pain from once upon a time  
So now I try to diminish echoes of your name  
and burn the pictures in the frame  
This is what happens when two friends become lovers  
and it coulda, woulda, shoulda lasted  
But that was in the past and  
I guess what I'm trying to say is  
hating you will never happen  
And I refuse to chase you  
I'll always love you  
But getting over you, I have to  
Erie

~\*~Illusion~\*~

There's No FACE to the VOICE  
But only a Name for your Grace...  
Like the Wind I can feel the Essence of Your  
Invisible Presence that Whisks me away  
-Takes my mind to another Place  
where no trouble Lay.  
What once was a Waterfall of Tears is  
Now Dried up like the Earth of a drought  
faced Desert  
Uprooting the Weeds of Sadness and Solace to  
Harvest  
Fields of Tender Smiles and Ripe Laughter

Oh my people, my people

When will it end?

All the troubles that black people face from day  
to day

Land of the free, home of the

"ALL MIGHTY" America!

Hmm, free...

Well then I guess we are free

If the word free means its okay to be prejudged

Time and time again based on

This darkness

That the Lord has blessed us with.

Free to have black men to be seen as gang  
bangers

Free to have black women to be seen as

Exotic sexual objects.

Objectification, which roots from the days of  
slavery

Where women were sold based on the roundness  
of their breasts

Or the fullness of their backsides

Black men forced to be separated from their fami-  
lies

Therefore creating the everlasting image that we  
see today

Of the broken black home.

Oh my people, my people

When will it end?

All the troubles black people face all over this  
world

Sierra Leone, West Africa.

My bloodline, my heritage.

Sweet, sweet Salone as my people say.

Land of the diamonds

The same diamonds that you rock around your  
neck

The same diamonds wore by those hip hop artists  
in those hip hop videos

A.k.a the Ice.

Land of the blood diamonds

Diamonds soiled with the blood of my people

As civil wars were erupting

Up and down

And left and right

Elderly killed, children left with missing limbs

And woman raped

Just for the sake of being raped.

No real help from the

"All Mighty, I pledge allegiance to the flag, U. S

of A",

A, A A.

A standing for America who can spend millions  
and millions

On a war that shouldn't have been started in the  
first place.

America seems to get involved in other people's  
business

And yet it is of NO concern

To help those people whose skin has been deeply  
sun kissed.

Oh my people, my people.

When will it end?

Still reeling from the effects of Katrina

Where black people were left for dead

New Oreland's looking like a war zone

As bodies are lined up in the streets in the form of  
a maze

Water taking children from their mothers

This same water symbolizing the tears that my  
people cry

Oh yes they cry

For every minute of every hour of everyday

That they were left for dead

As the president,

He was M.I.A

The vice president fishing

Not shooting anyone this time

And Ms. Condoleeza Rice was looking for some  
nice shoes

As people walked with no shoes in debris

Took the "Good OL USA"

Five days before they decided that the black peo-  
ple who were left

Weren't expendable anymore.

Oh my people, my people

When will it end?

The hardships, the injustice that comes our way

My lips quiver and my hands shake

And I am torn between different emotions such as

Hurt, distrust, sympathy, hope mixed with a bit of  
weariness for things to come

My soul cries

Lord does it cry

And I turn and say to

My people, my people

When will it end?

Like a Rare plant, your species is hard to find  
Far

were your kind planted and

Few  
able to Flourish

While seeking I did not do.

Instead brought to me

Unexpectedly...only requiring Faith and Sincerity  
To Bring into Existence, what I Thought of as  
an

~~~~~Illusion~~~~~

Your Name lingers amidst the Storms of endless  
Thought

But once the Deep Rumbles of your Voice are  
heard

The Clouds are parted and the Seas are calmed  
and Quieted

To reveal a place of peace and clarity.

There still remains an empty canvas to be painted  
-bringing together what I hear to Form what I  
have not Seen

Allowing my Eyes to Grace what I have  
never known....



# Featured Albums/Artists

Continued from page 14

Jay-Z

good indicator that Jay-Z continues to lean on a familiar cast of producers rather than actively seek up-and-comers. (The fresh talent here is limited to Syience and Gwyneth Paltrow's Chris Martin; they contribute one track each.) There's only a small handful of highlights. On the title track, Just Blaze's masterful contortion job on Rick James' "Superfreak" backs Jay's nearly top-form, Black Album Blueprint-worthy boasts: "I been up in the office, you might know him as Clark/Just when you thought the whole world fell apart/I take off the blazer, loosen up the tie/Step inside the booth, Superman is alive." Two of the four Dr. Dre productions feature assistance from Mark Batson (Anthony Hamilton), and they both strike a fine balance between maturity and ferocity -- much more so than the clumsy "30 Something," where Jay proclaims that "30 is the new 20," which would actually make him 27 and a fourth-grader a zygote. (He might as well say, "You wear Huggies, I wear Depends/You drink from a sippy cup/I sip my solids.") Apart from the above-mentioned bright spots and a poignant, somber track about the Katrina disaster ("Minority Report"), the album is a display of complacency and retreads -- a gratuitous, easily resistible victory lap -- that very slightly upgrades the relative worth of The Blueprint.

Credited:  
www.samgoody.com

Ciara

early '80s R&B as Goodies. (Even the album's sleek cover, somewhere between Robocop and the Pointer Sisters' Break Out, has a devolved look.) Those who can disregard the discrepancies between the pronouncements and the actual content will find an album that's on equal footing with Goodies. With the exception of "Promise," The Evolution lacks clear-cut highlights on the level of "Goodies," "1, 2 Step," and "Oh," but there are fewer outright disposables. Ciara and her songwriting partners' injection of a little more substance into the songs tends to pay off, as on "Like a Boy" ("What if I had a thing on the side, made you cry?/Would the rules change up, or would they still apply?"), while "My Love" and "So Hard" also surpass the aching and breaking moments on the debut. As expected, there are plenty of tracks geared toward letting loose and dancing, and most of them do deliver, even if they don't seem quite as fresh as Ciara's past hits.

Credited:  
www.samgoody.com

John Legend

Even with its many producers, Once Again is much more focused than Get Lifted, and the quality of its songs is equally high. Legend's obviously doing everything in his power to not fall off. He pours so much of himself into each one of these songs, whether they're about flings with groupies or breakups with long-term girlfriends, that the album can begin to wear around the eighth track. The songs flit back and forth between easygoing, butterflies-of-love-type sentiments and deep drama, with both sides expressed through similar levels of intensity. As much as anyone else, Legend would benefit from the recent (and generally welcomed) return of the 40-minute R&B album. If the album missing something, it's a snappy, unapologetically swaggering track in the vein of Get Lifted's "Used to Love U," or perhaps a song or two that doesn't seem intent on displaying impressive musicality, but there are enough undeniably bright spots to please those who have already been won over. While Once Again might not get as much attention as its predecessor, it's more assured and sounds nothing like an experiment to see what sticks. Legend now knows exactly where he fits, and he's not holding back in the least.

Credited:  
www.samgoody.com

Nas

or a mystery, however, but practical pep talk intended more for the player than the team. The player is Nas, as should be no surprise, he welcomes this burden: "If hip hop should die, we die together /Bodies in the morgue lie together".

He plays quarterback, giving his influences a righteous, instead of a touchdown, pass ("what influenced my raps: stick ups and killings"), then running back, bulldozing the fact that "most intellectuals will only half listen, so you can't blame jazz musicians." No cheerleading is necessary, Nas does that himself too, "I helped blow them up...so like my girl Foxy, a n\*\*\*\*\* went Def."

If Nas' agenda is clear, then the expectations are discriminating and narrow: give hip hop the best album from any artist, any era. And, Nas does his best to negotiate reality with expectations.

Credited:  
rap.about.com

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# Chicken Noodle Soup, Is It Really Good for the Soul?

BOULEVARD MINSTREL CLUB

— PRESENTS —

R.I.T.

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2ND ANNUAL EDITION  
BOULEVARD  
MINSTRELS

THURS.—FRI.—SAT. JUNE 16-17-18

GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

BY MAMUSU TUCKER  
MANAGING EDITOR

Is the chicken noodle soup the reincarnation of the dances performed in the minstrel shows of the 1800s? Many people would not have thought of the correlation between the two but the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated did and decided to bring it to light. During their founders' week, which lasted from November 13 through November 17, they held a program entitled "Chicken Noodle Soup or Minstrel Show: A Discussion on African Americans and Self-Perpetuated Stereotypes". During this program, stereotypes about African Americans were discussed and whether or not these stereotypes that have been fought against in the past are alive and well in different forms of black culture today. This includes the ever popular chicken noodle soup with a soda one the side dance.

For those who may not know what a minstrel show is, here is a little background information on it. Beginning in the 1800s, as a form of entertainment, white men dressed up in "black face" (which meant painting their faces with

coal to the color black) and imitated African Americans. These men in black face would mock African Americans in shows, portraying them as ignorant, lazy, excessively happy, and musical. Traditional minstrel shows were broken up into three parts. The first was the troupe dancing onto the stage where jokes and songs were expressed. The second

consisted mainly of foolish speech to mock how African Americans speak. The third and final part was an exaggerated violent skit (also known as slapstick) which was meant to show the stupidity of African Americans. How is this all connected to the chicken noodle soup dance? Well in these minstrel shows, the white men dressed in black face use to do a jig that is tremendously similar to the chicken noodle soup dance. This is why the dance is considered controversial and why many people had different feelings about it at the program.

Reactions to the connection between a minstrel performance and the dance caused mixed feelings at the program. Some felt there is no real connection between the dance and minstrel shows. Some claim that others always look to make a connection to the negativity of the past when it comes to modern African American culture. Others felt that by performing a dance with such similarity to jigs of the past is unacceptable. Robert Powell of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. felt it is "terrible for people to embrace negative parts of African American history". Many people agreed with this idea.

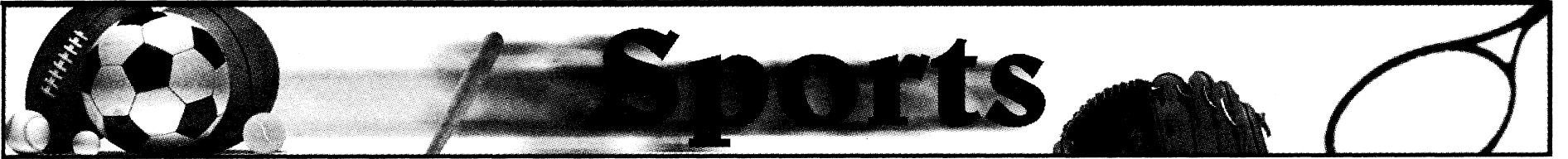
As the program continued, the topic shifted to whether African Americans should draw the line when it comes to certain stereotypes that are on going in society. The audience also discussed what parts of black culture should be kept and what should be thrown away. The majority felt that drawing the line on what is promoted concerning African

American culture starts at home. The overall idea was that personal responsibility is needed in order to prevent spreading stereotypes. If individuals feel as if something is offensive (such as a stereotype), it is their job to not promote it in order to show their stance on the situation. While most people agreed with this concept, some people felt no one has the right to make a decision on what should be kept in African American culture since most of it is history, whether it's good or bad.

After going to this program, my eyes were opened to the ongoing stereotypes that are hidden in different forms of African American culture, including the chicken noodle soup dance. Like many people, at first I did not make the connection between the dance and minstrel shows but after looking at the dance closely, similarities are there. Now when I see people engaged in this dance, it feels as if we are indeed promoting something that is connected to a negative part of African American history. If we as African Americans do not want to be looked at negatively in society, it is our responsibility to stand against stereotypes that set us back. The sad thing is that at times many people, including myself, are not aware of playing into stereotypes, as minor as they seem. When it comes down to it, the decision lies in the hands of each individual. Knowing the history behind each generalization may help one make better decisions on their actions where it concerns stereotypes.







## *Burnt Over By the Super Nova*

BY ANTHONY CURRY

SPORTS EDITOR

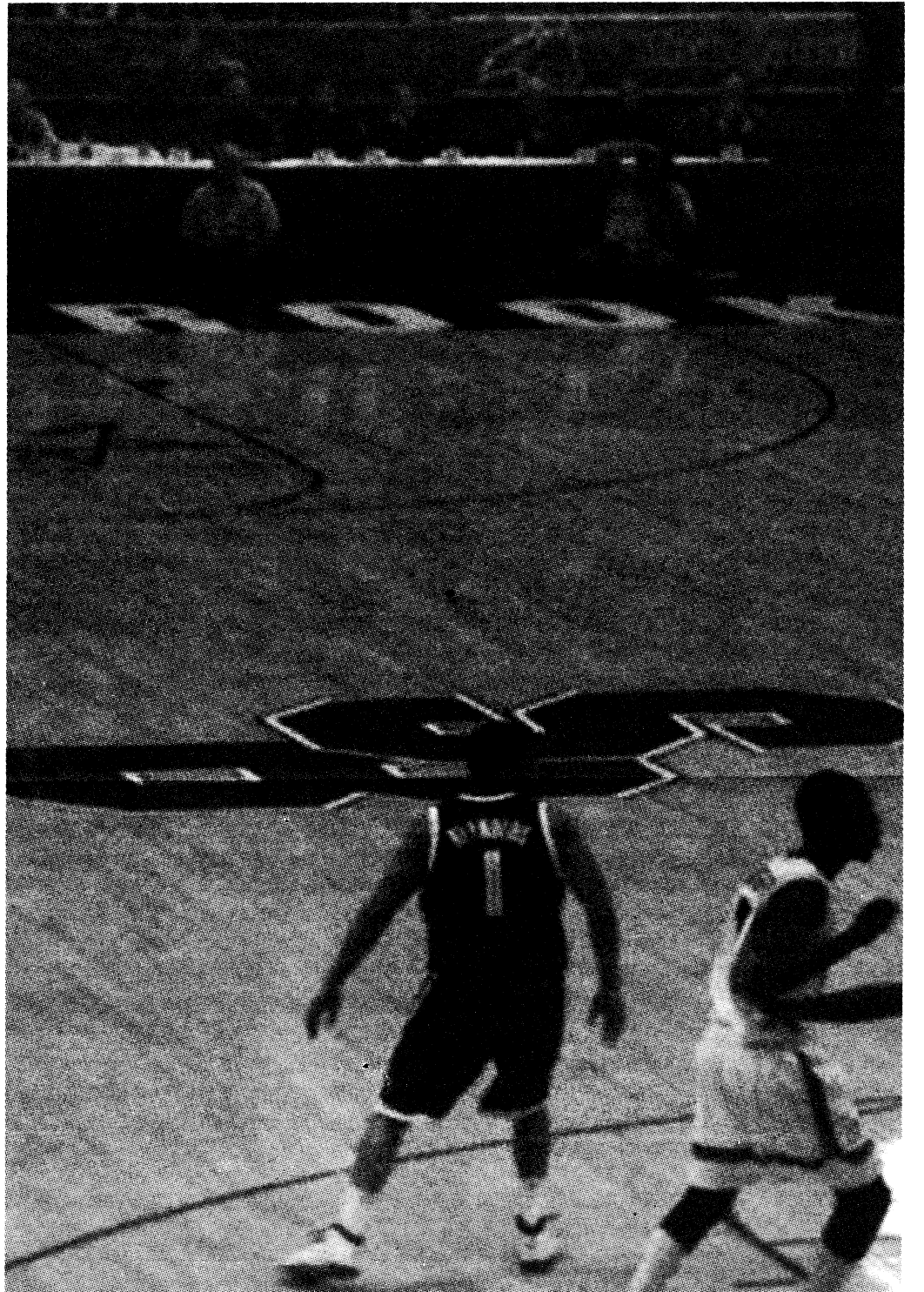
One of the most anticipated games of the semester, the Stony Brook Seawolves-Villanova Wildcats game sold 4,285 tickets in our very own Stony Brook Sports Complex. Televised by MSG and on air with WLIE 540 and WUSB 90.1, this game initiated a great amount of Stony Brook Spirit for those who loved the sport and those who didn't. Conversations about the game prior to its date were positive and nonetheless exciting. This game makes history for the season due to the fact that the last time the Villanova Wildcats played on Long Island was in 1947. Unfortunately, the Seawolves could not quite obtain the victory that was desired of both the SB students and the team themselves. With a score of 44-72, the Seawolves lost their fourth game of the season thus far.

Reasons and theories among this tremendous loss vary through students on campus. Some say that the team was intimidated by the reputation that Villanova upholds. Some say that the hype of the game itself affected the team players in a negative sense. Some say that the coaches set up this particular game to see exactly where the team stands in competition compared to a team of such legendary proportions. Others believed that game was just not strategically played well. All of these theories and reasons could possibly be right but only Coach Steve Pikiell and his teammates truly know what happened that night and what to work on for future games.

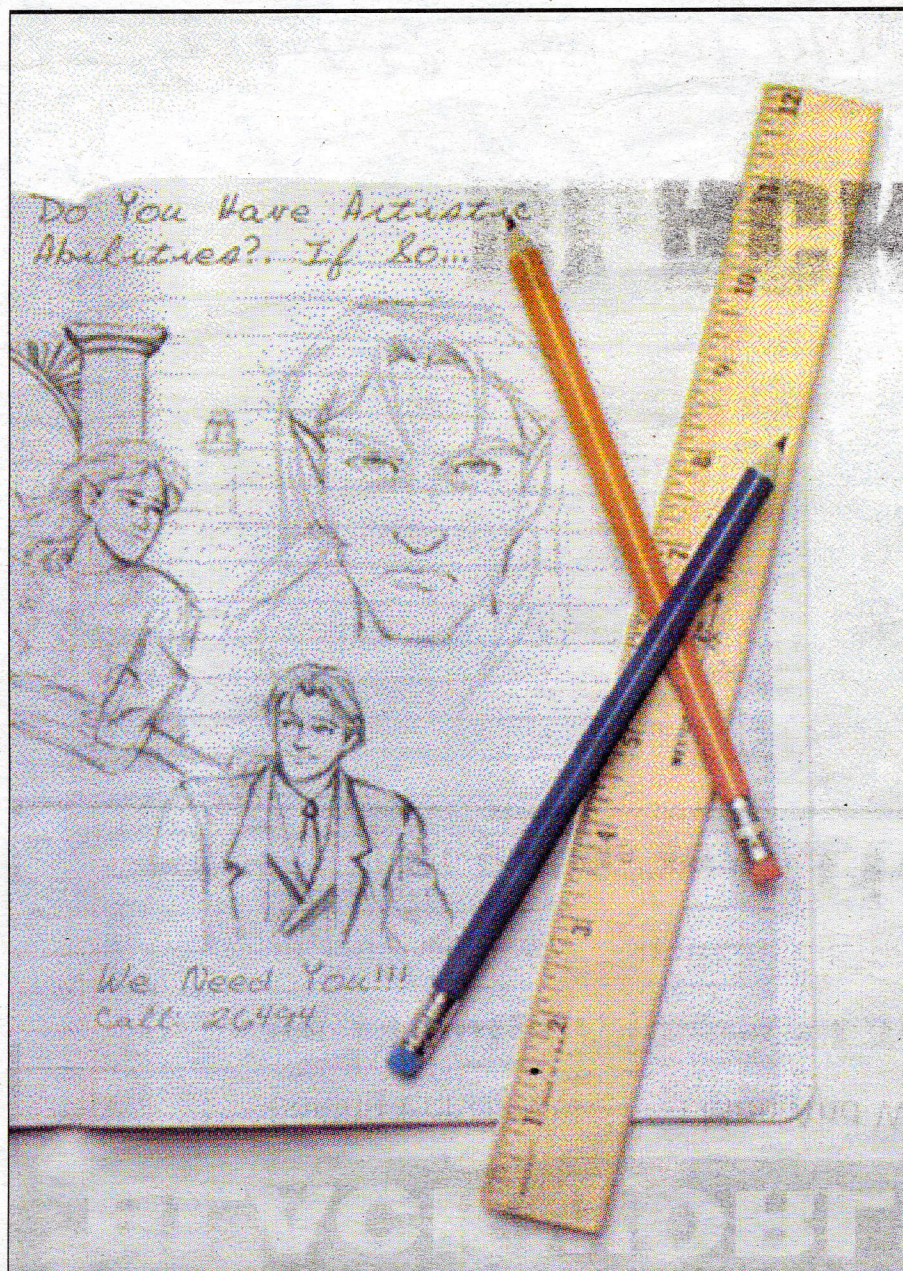
Villanova is team of great skill and talent that was inevitably shown this Thursday night.

Shooting 3-pointers left and right along with successful strategies led them to their victory. This deserves great respect. One noticeable tactic that was noticed by SBU spectators was the procrastination of passing the ball from the Seawolves. If the pace of plays were played as fast or faster than Villanova, then the Seawolves may have possibly had a chance.

On a more positive note, the Stony Brook Seawolves really did the best that they could and should not be discouraged in any way. The team effort and spirit that was shown through the Seawolves is what makes them such a strong team. Their reluctance to give up was inspiring, which also makes them such a tough team. SBU students will always support the Seawolves basketball team regardless of the outcome of any game. Stony Brook will represent wherever it may go because we're RED HOTT!!







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