

"The very time I thought I was lost, my dungeon shook and my chains fell off."

Blackworld



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TO OUR READERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Photo by Duane A. Bourne

I would like to formally thank all for attending last night's Senate Meeting. There were some definite issues that were raised that require immediate attention. However, by no

means does Polity condone threats, violence, racial slurs, disorderly conduct, or discord among the Student Body. It is my hope that there will be a prompt resolution to the issues pending.

Jonnel Doris
Polity President

Baraka's Performance Concludes Black History Month

BY VALERIE CAESAR

The Provost Lecture Series marked the end of Black History Month last Monday with a cultural program featuring former University professor Amiri Baraka.

Baraka, 66, may be a small man, but the voice that resonates from his person is large. His presence seemingly belies his appearance. His strong and controversial ideas reverberated in the minds of those who were both willing and unwilling to listen. He holds no bars, sparing no one from the power of the truth that he speaks.

Baraka is a prolific writer whose work includes a wide range of genres: poetry, drama, the novel, jazz operas, and nonfiction. He also played a crucial role as an organizer, editor, and promoter of the avant-garde movements of the New American Literature of the 1950s and early 1960s as well as early 1970s.

Born Everett Leroy (later LeRoi) Jones, Baraka attended Newark public schools and studied chemistry at Howard University before turning to literature and philosophy.

Baraka became increasingly involved with militant political organizations in the mid-1960s. After the assassination of Malcolm X, Baraka abandoned his

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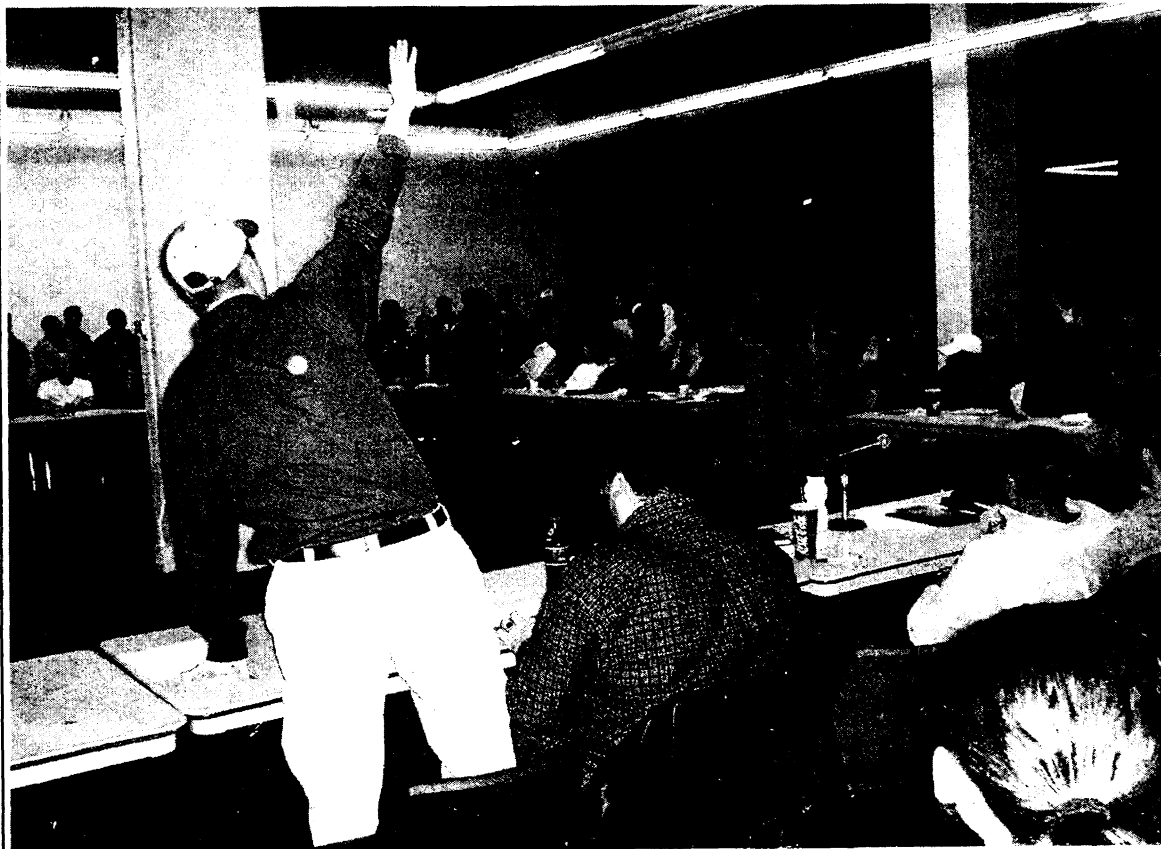
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A NEW BALLGAME

End Draws Near As New Investigative Committee Is Formed



BY YVONNE BELIZARIO

STONY BROOK- March. 10

If yesterday's news was indicative of what's to come, then Polity president Jonnel Doris, Polity treasurer Renee Johnson, and Student Polity Activities Board chair Andy Auguste may soon be off the hook.

The Polity Senate voted on Wednesday, March 7 to rescind the motion for impeachment of the three campus leaders. Besides being seen as a small victory in the three-week battle of public scrutiny, the decision likely set new standards for further investigations into SPAB's operations.

"It was motion to revisit the motion," said Auguste. "I don't know what's going to happen, though."

Now Senate has another opportunity to investigate SPAB. On Friday, March 10, the committee met with members of SPAB to examine minutes from previous meetings. The committee will consist of three residents, three commuters and Senate co-chair.

Gina Fiore will chair the committee.

That decision may prove, some said a rift in the makeup of the senators. Many senators, some of whom were "threatened" by the attendance of students two weeks prior questioned the relevance of information already found by the

**"This is a fiasco
all you people
showing up
tonight."**

-Quote of the Week, 2/22/01

first committee.

This decision, which passed 33-1-6, will give Auguste and the others the opportunity to support their case against impeachment.

Although, it is unknown if there were any further discoveries by the ad hoc committee, Auguste said that

"they asked the same questions and we gave the same answers. The only thing is that they were listening."

Robbie Fung, the Director of Student Activities, opened up the meeting by stating that he was pleased with the amount of participation displayed in last week's meeting, but his only gripe was the lack of decorum.

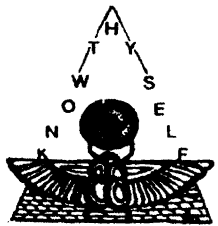
Perhaps Senate resembled a scene from the British Parliament. During the Feb. 22 meeting, two students staged their own form of support by yelling, "no justice, no peace from the rear of the Union bi-level."

There were no further instances of commotion in the Senate gallery.

According to several students who attended the last meeting, they were satisfied with the outcome, but not after senatorial shenanigans.

When the original motion to go into executive session was called, where only impeached

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"ONE NATION"**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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EDITORIALS:

Who Watches The Watchmen?

The ongoing Polity investigations serve to illustrate two integral aspects of politics. First, that defining the minority is open to interpretation. Second, that hypocrisy often breeds from the noblest of efforts.

Here's a brief history of the scandal.

On February 7, the Student Polity Activities Board (SPAB) invited Minister David Muhammad of the Nation of Islam to speak on campus. Two students, viewing Muhammad as a racist and anti-Semite, expressed their concerns to Polity. Though Muhammad was blocked from speaking, Senate began an investigation as to how a known member of the Nation of Islam, whose advertising flier bore a religious quote, was allocated student activity money to speak on campus. After finding several questionable acts taken by the Polity Council and SPAB, Senate decided to impeach the Polity president, treasurer and SPAB chair. That brought an onslaught of controversy, and raucous Senate meetings.

Here are the problems with the actions taken by Senate.

Senate's initial investigation of Polity was overblown. Polity club leaders were unaware of Muhammad's alleged anti-Semitic remarks. But regardless, any inflammatory comments he has made

do not prohibit his speaking. Moreover, Polity explained that the person drafting the fliers with the religious quote, which arguably does violate Polity rules, is new.

Let us not forget that we are all students, all still learning as we go, and all bound to make mistakes. Investigations should be reserved for gross infractions that hamper the ability of an organization to carry out its responsibilities. Given the number of events Polity sponsors and helps sponsor, that just is not a reasonable argument.

Also, Senate seems to have bowed to outside influences. Pressures from the Commuter Student Association (CSA) and Hillel, and a continuing fear that these organizations are biased toward the black community on campus, factored into the investigations and impeachment. But it raises an important point — that defining the minority is open to interpretation.

Under the view that because Polity is predominantly African-American, and that many of their sponsored events are geared toward the black community, one might argue that black influence makes up an unfair majority, while the concerns of other ethnic groups are overlooked. But it is undeniable that blacks are a clear demographic minority on campus. And more to the point, Polity

officials were voted into office. If a minority has more influence than the majority as a result of fair democracy, then the political system upholds its integrity.

And finally, in their quest to disband what some see as a corrupt club leadership, Senate has lost its own way. Senate holds that Polity allocated funds and voted inappropriately, in addition to violating a Senate order to freeze the budget. But the impeachment itself did not meet the proper standards. Besides not clearly expressing the necessary reasons for impeachment, Senate's order to freeze the budget was in itself inappropriate. According to Polity rules, that can only happen if a club fails to turn in its purchase receipts, which Polity never failed to do. In other words, Senate fell victim to hypocrisy in their noble effort to reform student government.

Did Polity misuse its power? Looks like it. Do they favor the black community on campus? Maybe so. Is either of these things right? Probably not. But so long as elected student officials continue to perform their duties, and so long as Senate continues to bend the rules to suit its needs, the distinction between those to be judged and those acting as judges cannot be made.

BY ECL

COMMENTS:

A Matter of Leadership, Not Color

BY YVONNE BELIZARIO

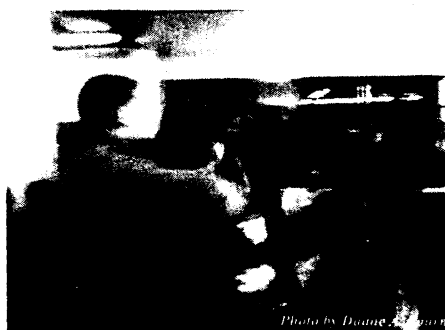
When you are an elected official and are "on the clock," there is a certain way you should carry yourself.

The blatant disrespect exhibited by some senators at the Senate meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 28, left students wondering whether we have the right students representing us.

Chris Efhtymiou is a senator from Greeley College. He was chosen by students at Stony Brook to represent them. At the meeting, Efhtymiou openly admitted to Polity Treasurer Renee Johnson that there were too many blacks in Polity. Johnson is black. He is trying to impeach her. And she was the one that asked him to admit what he said in front many in attendance. Later in the meeting when another senator tried to apologize for his ignorant comment, he angrily told her not to apologize for him. This simply meant that he was not sorry for what was said and he stood by his opinion.

Yes, his comments are protected by the First Amendment, but as a representative of a cultural diverse student body; we should not allow him to hold such an important position. Not only should his vote be deemed invalid for its obvious bias, but also he should be impeached. Efhtymiou has issues.

So, we don't know everything. Perhaps some senators just want Doris, Johnson and Auguste out of



Efhtymiou restrained after Senate meeting.

the way. They are black. When these leaders are cleared of the bogus charges, Efhtymiou will be handled accordingly. He's white. "Take care."

Polity President Jonnel Doris is a good example of how a student who is elected should act when there are disagreements concerning official Polity business. If anyone aspires to hold Doris' position, they'd likely need to take lessons from him.

Andrew Murray needs several lessons. He is

the president of the Commuter Students Association and holds the title of Homecoming King. His actions at last Wednesday's meeting was immature and ill mannered, but nonetheless clever.

Senate bylaws, Article III, paragraph C state; "Quorum shall be defined as the presence, in person or by proxy, of a majority of the filled voting seats of the Senate." Quorum is necessary for any vote to be taken. Murray and two other senators from CSA knew this, which is probably why they were the first ones to get up and walk out when there was a motion to reconsider the unanimous impeachment vote.

The majority of the senators who wanted to vote yes or even no to reconsider the vote could not because the gallery did not establish quorum. Not only did Murray walk out — in protest — but he went also lobbied for other senators to leave with him. This was blatant disregard for order.

He was also very discourteous to Polity Vice President Kaedrea Jackson, who serves as the chair of Senate, when she told him to leave and not rally others to leave with him. Murray seemingly disregarded her request.

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OP-ED:**'Now Look At What You Done Started'**

Yet again, we are in the dark.

On Feb. 28, an unusually large gathering of students assembled in the bi-level to witness what seemed like the beginnings of a trial for Polity President Jonnel Doris, Polity Treasurer Renee Johnson and Executive Chair of Student Polity Activities Board Andy Auguste.

These students were charged with "conduct unbecoming a student leader, failure to follow and comply with an act of senate, negligence in duties as a student leader, and abuse of power".

When questioned by the students in attendance, a majority of senators remained silent or looked to one another in confusion. In fact, one senator stated that some senators made jokes and were inattentive when they voted to impeach the student leaders a week prior.

Members of the senate repeatedly ignored and danced around questions that arose. When asked by the students to give specific evidence, they continually declined and claimed that they did not have the authorization to read out the facts. True, there was a gag order enforced by Chief Justice Talia Paul, but I would hardly call what they disclosed to the public grounds for impeachment.

Students were told is that improper procedures had been taken by SPAB with regards to minutes, a check for \$200 went unexplained, and there was an illicit freezing of SPAB budget by Johnson.

My concern is that an issue is being made out of nothing. What does that say about our elected senators?

We should be able to trust that these so-called officers are competent enough to know when an injustice has been committed. Yet, what we have are students who made a rash and unjust decision without knowing all of the facts.

Are these our representatives?

Many in attendance believed race was the real issue at hand. At one instance, Auguste referred to the previous Senate meeting when one of the senators said that Polity was "too black." But when students mentioned the ignorant comment, they were ignored.

Then, this particular senator had the audacity to blatantly admit to making such a comment without apologizing or explaining himself.

I cannot begin to describe the amount of reproach we, the students, received from Commuter Students Association President Andrew Murray. After reprimanding others for not following parliamentary procedures while a motion was on the floor, I would have to say that he, himself, was out of order.

On more than one occasion, Murray took it upon himself to instigate his fellow senators by walking around to them; egging them on. Then he got up to leave the meeting because felt that the



BAMBOOZLED: Students voice concerns over the impeachment of their campus leaders.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is in regards to the "Haitian Voodoo Dolls and Flags" exhibition in the Art Gallery located in the Union on the second floor. I, as a Haitian and Black American find the display to be offensive and inappropriate as a celebration of Black History Month. I was and am under the impression that one of Stony Brook's goals is to enlighten its students on other cultures and hopefully destroy any stereotypes that are associated with certain cultures. This display does not enlighten, unfortunately it adds to the misconception of Haitians.

On Friday, Feb. 16, I met with the Director of the Art Gallery, Marcia Weiner. I explained to Ms. Weiner that the display of "Haitian Voodoo" artwork is a disturbing and inaccurate portrayal of the Haitian Culture. I also asked whether any Haitian staff member was contacted before setting up this display,

Ms. Weiner replied "no" and also disclosed the reproof of a Haitian staff member after the exhibition was up.

I applaud the intent of including Haiti in the celebration of Black History. However, the display was an act of poor judgement on the selection of artworks that can depict Haiti's role in Black History. I do understand that asking for the immediate removal of the display will not right the wrong that has been done. Unfortunately the impression has been made. However, there are steps that can be taken to rectify the situation. First and foremost, the goal of this letter is to prevent a similar occurrence in the future and to hopefully find a display that depicts a better understanding of Haitian Art. Secondly, I would like an effort to be made, informing the Stony Brook community that Voodoo is not synonymous with Haiti in the forms of flyers, discussions, articles, and any means of communication. Essentially, the same amount of effort, which was placed in the advertisement of this exhibition, should be used toward rectifying the situation.

Since I am but an undergraduate student at Stony Brook and easily set aside, I ask for assistance in having these concerns heard and dealt with accordingly. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Frasilie Stinvil

This is the letter a student addressed to Robert Fung, The Director of Student Activities. Proceeding is a follow-up to her letter about the Haitian voodoo doll exhibit:

I met with Robert Fung, the Director of Student Activities, to discuss my concerns and find a resolution of sorts. The meeting was productive. I voiced my concerns regarding the effects of the art exhibit, and Mr. Fung listened. We also came to a mutual satisfying resolution, which will be presented probably next semester. An art exhibit that is an appropriate portrayal of the Haitian culture and artwork will be shown followed by a forum discussing Haitian culture and misconceptions. I will be actively taking part in this upcoming exhibit, as far as searching for artist of Haitian origin to display their work. I am pleased by the response I've received thus far.

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The Message: Black Pride

Continued from front page

family and moved to Harlem where he was instrumental in creating the Black Arts Repertory Theatre. Though short-lived, it provided the blueprint for similar theatres across the country and helped develop the cultural corollary to black nationalism, the Black Arts Movement.

In the spirit of Black History Month, Baraka, with his jazz ensemble Blue Ark: Word Ship Word Music, performed a musical and spoken word tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. It highlighted many of the great and tragic moments in his life, as well as gave a comprehensive history of the Civil Rights Movement, including the role of Malcolm X and the Black Panthers.



Baraka

Blackworld File

At the end of this tribute, Baraka blessed listeners with a spoken word performance of his poem "In the Tradition," which he dedicated to his friend and former colleague Professor William McAdoo.

Though Baraka left Harlem after a year for his native Newark, he continues to serve as a Black Arts Movement and Black Power leader. The people in attendance were

delighted to be given the opportunity to bear witness to the electrifying performance of this social and literary legend.

comprehensive history of the Civil

End To Impeachment Near

Continued from front page

officials, President Jonnel Doris, Treasurer Renee Johnson and SPAB chair Andy Auguste and other invited parties would be allowed to attend, the gallery exploded admonishing a decision that would exclude their presence.

Senator Jonathan Gelling shared concerns with other members when he said he opposed a "secret meeting" because the information should be opened to the public. But that motion was rejected.

The Special Investigation Committee will report back to Senate in a public hearing when the University returns from

spring break. There Doris, Johnson, and Auguste will address the Senate committee on behalf of the new evidence.

The Polity Senate meets on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in the Union Bi-level.

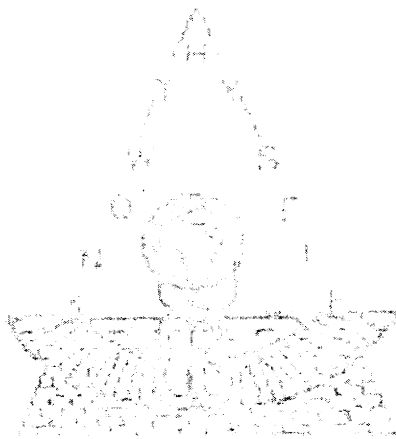


Call 'em Like I See 'em'

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Why must everyone follow procedure, but not Murray? That was a cowardly and childish act on all of their parts because when the vote to impeach Auguste, Johnson, and Doris went on the floor the prior week, did Doris get up and walk out?

Unlike Murray, many of us can sleep at night, look at ourselves in the mirror and hold our heads high. Murray has demons. He could never be as good as Doris or Andrez Carberry that came before him. People don't call them "Uncle Tom."



BLACKWORLD BULLETIN BOARD



Center for Womyn's Concerns

5D Union Room 223
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Take Back the Night

The Center for Womyn's Concerns will be sponsoring the annual Take Back the Night March and Candlelight Vigil on Wednesday, April 4th. Students and supporters will rally under the Bridge in front of the Stony Brook Union at 8 p.m. The March will proceed through each residential quad and end at the Unity Cultural Center for the Vigil.

Take Back the Night is seeking to foster awareness of the violence perpetrated against womyn in both the campus community and Suffolk county, as well as to educate the public about the attitudes and behavior that perpetuate this problem. The March is an empowering experience for womyn who do not feel safe walking alone at night and who wish to reclaim the Stony Brook campus and their independence. The Candlelight Vigil is a safe space for victims of abuse to share their stories in a supportive atmosphere. Sharing is voluntary, and both victims and supporters are encouraged to attend.

Counselors will be present during the vigil, and information regarding domestic violence, date rape, and campus safety will be available. Coffee and desserts will be served after the March.

This event is open to both men and womyn, and everyone is encouraged to participate in this call for the end of violence against womyn.

MY BLACKNESS SUMMED...

BY C'MOORE PRODUCTIONS

THEY TAKE MY KINDNESS FOR WEAKNESS.
THEY TAKE MY SILENCE FOR SPEECHLESS.
THEY CONSIDER MY UNIQUENESS
STRANGE.
THEY CALL MY LANGAUGE
SLANG.
THEY SEE MY MISTAKE AS DEFEAT.
THEY CONSIDER MY SUCCESS ACCIDENTAL.
THEY MINIMIZE MY INTELLIGENCE TO
"POTENTIAL."
MY QUESTIONS MEAN I'M UNAWARE.
MY ADVANCEMENT IS SOMEHOW UNFAIR.
ANY PRAISE IS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.
TO VOICE CONCERN IS DISCONTENTMENT.
IF I STAND UP FOR MYSELF, I'M TOO
DEFENSIVE.
IF I DON'T TRUST THEM, I'M TOO
APPREHENSIVE.
I'M DEVIANT IF I SEPARATE.
I'M FAKE IF I ASSIMILATE.
MY CHARACTER IS CONSTANTLY UNDER
ATTACK.
PRIDE FOR MY RACE MAKES ME
"TOO BLACK."

SUPPORT OUR STUDENT POLITY LEADERS!

In The Dark

Continued from page 3

students were asking questions that he just did not have the answers for.

To make matters worse, instead of leaving alone, Murray went to other senators in hope that he might convince them to leave with him. Could his actions be a result of his losing the election for Polity

president... hmm?

Unfortunately, many students were not informed about the meeting or the situation as a whole. Yet, the outcome was still a favorable one.

MILLICENT N. UGO