

The Stony Brook

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Statesman

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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 6

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

SUMMARY OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Check completed requirements.
- Major: must be declared by the end of the first semester of the first year of college (higher). Transfer credits must be evaluated by the appropriate department.
- 1. _____ 5. _____ 9. _____ 13. _____
- 2. _____ 6. _____ 10. _____
- 3. _____ 11. _____
- 4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____
- Residence Credits: 36 credits must be earned after the student has earned 15 credits.
- Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average: 2.0 or C for all academic work for all institutions are not included in the Stony Brook G.P.A. or shown on our transcript.
- Diversified Education Curriculum (D.E.C.): for complete description see the 1997-99 Undergraduate Bulletin.
- Total Credits: 120 (B.A. or B.S.) or 128 (B.E.)

LIMITS ON CERTAIN TYPES OF CREDITS TO BE USED TOWARD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits earned with a P grade	20 credits
Independent study (273, 287, 444-449, 484-489)	30 credits
PEC (Physical Education) 100 level	4 credits
All PEC including 100 level	10 credits
Activity-related courses (NAF: 100, 101, 283, PEC 100, 101) Interdisciplinary courses (473, 476)	6 credits
Studio and performance courses	30 credits
Remedial courses (NAF, AIN)	0 credits
passed with a C- or better may be taken again, but the credits count only once.*	0 credits

Diversified Education Curriculum

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Dance Intro*

DISCIPLINARY DIVERSITY



Psy 101

THR 165*



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Branos



* Requirements for the College of Engineering and Non-Resident Students: students are still open to the transfer options (see page 10)

Changing the Curriculum

USB Proposes Revised General Education Requirements

Igniting Safety Concerns

Fire Marshal Addresses Stony Brook Students

By GUY GRANDJEAN
Statesman Staff

To quell concerns over fire safety on campus, fire marshal Joe Loretz visited Stony Brook residents to discuss the University's own precautions.

Stony Brook has stepped up its efforts to ensure that the University's fire equipment is in good order and that students are fully aware of the dangers of dormitory blazes. Referring to whether such a fire could occur on Stony Brook's campus, Loretz said, "It is not a question of if, but when. It has happened."

Loretz, who spoke in the Margaret Sanger main lounge on Wednesday, reminded all present of the fires in recent years on campus. Four years ago a fire burst through H Quad, and the year before that Sanger College itself went up in flames. Joe Loretz emphasized that the number one cause of collegiate fires is arson, followed by smoking.

The real issue is whether all the buildings on the campus fully meet strict fire safety codes and regulations. Out of 98 buildings at Stony Brook, 13 are equipped with sprinklers and 10 are partially protected. This is because the older buildings were constructed before fire codes enforced sprinkler installation. The renovated dorms, such as those in Tabler Quad, certainly meet the set fire standards, but older dorms such as Langmuir do not have smoke alarms in every room. These older dorms are set for closure and will be remodeled at the end of the semester, with alarms in every room.

As most college students and

officials are well aware, a tragic fire savagely tore through a freshman dorm at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey killing three students and leaving four others in critical condition. The tragedy has provoked widespread pressure on colleges across the country to ensure that fire safety regulations are reinforced to prevent such a disaster from happening again.

Many Seton Hall students were initially slow to respond to the alarms at 4:30 am, thinking it was just another false alarm. There had been seventeen false alarms pulled in the dorm since September. Students often react to the sound of the fire alarm with the expectation of yet another drill, but the fire squad is, "...constantly on the ball." To the fire department, every alarm could be for real.

For many students, the prospect of a fire holds very little concern, as suggested by the number of breaches of fire safety regulations on campus, according to Loretz. Candles, incense, and overloaded sockets in many students' rooms are evidence of the minimal worry of starting a fire.

Loretz emphasized that, "Simple preplanning by students by memorizing fire exits and different routes could cut down significantly on the chance of student casualties." He also asserted that he did not, "...expect students to be heroes," but that in the event of a fire, students should focus upon safely exiting the building as soon as possible.

Loretz also gave a stern warning



Fire marshal Joe Loretz

Statesman/Ruth Chung

to those planning on setting off the alarms as a prank, accenting the fact that it is now a class A felony and could result in fines and possible suspension.

Said Lisa Gattis, the resident hall director of Sanger, the fire safety lecture suggested, "A proactive stance taken by the

university to prevent the causes of fires, and increase student awareness." She hinted at a determination by officials at the university to prevent Stony Brook from becoming yet another statistic of tragic campus fires. "This is our neighborhood and we need to make everyone aware of the dangers."

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 7, 2000



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**A Thought
From
Rabbi Adam**



The Sages have proclaimed that when the Jewish month of Adar begins, we are to increase in joy. It is a month set-aside for one to grow in their level of happiness. For in this month falls Purim-when the Jewish people were saved from the hands of a Persian Hitler type. Thus this is the month where tears are turned into laughter. Sulking into dance. Frowns into smiles. But can one suddenly really become happy? After all, look around. There's so much bad. So much negativity. So much disappointment. What's to be happy about? Well, it depends on your definition of "bad". If "bad" is deemed as recognizable, then it is possible to label life as sometimes "good" and other times "bad". Yet according to Chassidim there is no inherent recognizable "bad". There's just good. Anything else is merely a lack of recognition of inherent good. In other words, there are two aspects to the world. There's good that you see and recognize, And then there's good that you do not see and do not recognize. When confronted with a good that one does not see or recognize, many people mistakenly label it as "bad". But this is merely by default, due to a lack of options, In truth, however, it's all really good. If you can't recognize it as good, that's okay too. Leave it at that. Don't look for labels...breathe...now accept it as good yet to be revealed. And while you wait for it to become recognizable, let's laugh and dance because it's already the month of Adar!

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SB Proposes DEC Revisions

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

To accommodate the State University of New York's newly adopted general education resolution, the University at Stony Brook sent out its proposal to revise its curriculum requirements.

The SUNY resolution, adopted in December 1998, established new general education requirements which will effect incoming SUNY freshman in fall 2000.

Associate Provost Mark Aronoff said that students at Stony Brook will not notice a major change in the University's set of requirements, known as the Diversified Education Curriculum (DEC) system.

"Right from the start the DEC was more rigorous than the SUNY proposal," said Aronoff, who led the revising process at the University.

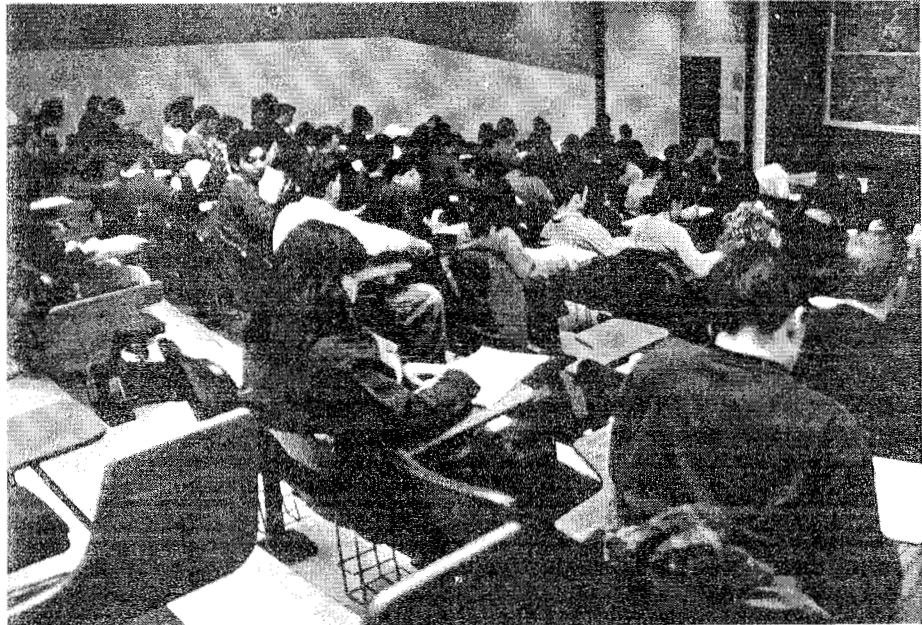
In many of the requirements, Stony Brook exceeds those mandated by SUNY. Stony Brook requires students to take two natural science courses, DEC E, whereas SUNY calls for one. The Stony Brook curriculum requires students to take three courses in the humanities, as opposed to SUNY's one.

Also, the SUNY plan requires 30 credits, while Stony Brook already demands 42 credits.

The only difference that students will see in the DEC classes is in DEC K, called American pluralism. The requirement, which formerly studied multiculturalism in America, has been renamed the American experience in historical perspective in the Stony Brook proposal. The requirement was revamped because the SUNY board wanted a more historical emphasis.

Another change that Stony Brook had to implement into the proposal, which was sent out two weeks ago, was the SUNY requirement of increasing oral presentations within the classes. The requirement does refer to the addition of classes such as public speaking, but rather that existing courses will have to require students go before the class and make presentations. This added guideline is planned to be included in DEC H, I, J and K classes. "This will go on in upper division DEC classes," Aronoff said. "A lot of 300 and 400 level courses do that anyway."

Changes have been also made prior to the proposal that will require more of the incoming freshmen. The University Senate passed a proposal to expand DEC A, English composition, has been from the former EGC 101 course. Current freshmen, as well as all future classes, will have to take WRT 101 and WRT 202



Statesman Archives

Incoming freshmen will have to face the DEC changes.

to satisfy the DEC A requirement, and both will emphasize writing.

The program advisory committee at the University is also planning to increase the number of writing courses available at the University. They will present this proposal to Paul Armstrong, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in December.

SUNY spokesman Bob Cudmore said that negotiations will take place in the coming months. "It's not going to be like Who Wants to be a Millionaire,

you don't win or lose. It will be more of a question and answer review," he said.

An advisory council, comprised of SUNY faculty and created by SUNY Provost Peter Salins, will conclude its analysis of all the proposals on April 30, 2000. There are no representatives from Stony Brook on the advisory council.

Aronoff wanted to reassure students that the changes will only be subtle. "They shouldn't panic at all, this only effects next semester's incoming freshmen."

Going to the Capital

Students Lobby for the University in Albany

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

After spending four years at the University at Stony Brook, Kevin Keenan wanted to give something back to the University, but he didn't know how. Then he heard about a busload of people from the University who were going to meet with local legislators in Albany, N.Y. to lobby for higher-education issues and, specifically, Stony Brook.

So Keenan signed up for the day-long event called Stony Brook Day, which is sponsored by the United University Professions chapter at Stony Brook and by University administrators. "I felt it was an opportunity to meet with legislators and ask for some money for Stony Brook," said Keenan, who is studying political science and public policy.

That was last year, and the event attracted 100 faculty, staff and students.

This year Keenan is planning to attend the second annual Stony Brook Day, which will be held tomorrow, this time it will be as a graduate student at Stony Brook.

Keenan said that he was the only student who was not involved with programs in the Health Sciences Center or the University Hospital to go. So this year, the Stony Brook Day committee is trying to recruit more students, graduates and undergraduates, to attend the lobby day.

"Our students will always be affected by what government does, so why not be a participant rather than an observer?" said Janice Rohlf, director of governmental relations and co-chair of Stony Brook Day. "This is their time to be heard."

"Our students will always be affected by what government does, so why not be a participant rather than an observer?" - Rohlf

The committee sent e-mails advertising the event to student leaders on campus and held one-hour informational sessions to prepare students for meeting with a legislator. "Some people may not be comfortable speaking to their legislators so we figured if we gave training sessions more people would be more likely to come," said Kathy Yunger, director of community relations and a member of the Stony Brook Day committee. Yunger said there are still spots open on the buses and anyone interested in attending could call Janice Rohlf at 632-6302.

"It is important to put a human face on the University," Yunger said. "Some students come in with heartbreaking stories. It is important for the legislators to hear that." She said that students often tell legislators about what it is like being a student at Stony Brook and that many juggle school and several jobs just to pay the tuition.

Above all, Yunger said, the free trip allows the students to participate in the legislative lobbying process. Students will be placed in groups with faculty and administrators, such as University President Shirley Strum Kenny and Acting Provost Robert McGrath. Then the groups will sit down with their assigned legislators and discuss issues pertaining to Stony Brook.

The Stony Brook Day committee has scheduled 54 half-hour appointments with the New York State legislators. Rohlf said that possible issues to be discussed include supporting Gov. George Pataki's \$80 million budget increase proposal, the research being done at the University and stopping tuition increases.

Rohlf warned that the students may not see direct results from the lobby day. "Its success is hard to gage," she said. "You don't know whether the legislators did something for one reason or another."

However, she said this should not deter students from attending. "Students will be given the opportunity to say what is on their minds, whether about state government, Stony Brook, higher education issues or whatever," Rohlf said. "Just being there shows their support."

Keenan also encouraged student support for the event. "It is important for students to go to show that they really care."

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Polity Line Budget Application Informational

Wednesday, February 9th
Rm 306 SAC
12:45 (Campus Lifetime)

All Club/Organization officers are encouraged to attend, but it is **MANDATORY** that signing officers attend this meeting (this includes the **President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer**). Budget status will be affected if at least 2 members from each group are not present.

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Rocking the Vote

NYPIRG Launches Voter Registration Drive

By TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), along with Ronni Paschkes from the office of the dean of students is in a hurry to register Stony Brook students to vote.

Since the beginning of the semester, they have been encouraging students to have a stronger political impact in their own lives. Their efforts are being assisted by a new voter registration provision of the Higher Education Act. The HEA of 1998 requires higher learning institutions to provide students with voter registration forms and information.

"This is our last push going on right now [to register students]," said Todd Stebbins, Stony Brook's NYPIRG director. The deadline to register in order to vote in the March primaries is February 11. Last fall, NYPIRG helped register 800 new voters. The year before, they registered 1200.

Stebbins and NYPIRG have engaged in a number of activities in order to increase student registration. These included tables set up at the



Statesman Archives

Todd Stebbins

Student Activity Center and the Student Union, and something called "Dorm Storming." This is where NYPIRG volunteers go from door to door in the dorms and tell people how easy it is to register. They ask residents whether or not they are registered and if they are not, they provide them with the proper forms to do so.

However, in spite of their efforts, Stebbins feels that voter numbers are still lacking. "The majority of Stony Brook students do not vote on this campus so politicians are not going to take their needs as seriously," said Stebbins.

He also stressed that most students are unaware that their voices and their vote are what will improve education standards and facilities on this campus. "Education is the future for this community," he said. Stebbins went on to say that it is a shame that the campus has buildings falling apart and a lack of faculty. He blames this on a lack of funding. "Students see a fountain being built on campus and they get all upset," he

said, "but they don't know it's privately funded and has nothing to do with education."

He also objects to students complaining about the campus if they are not voting. "They may pay tuition but they don't take the time to vote for the officials who decide what to do with their tuition, thus leaving the officials with the decision to spend their money."

This year's registration drive is slower than Stebbins expected due to the precarious snow conditions on campus. "There's been some problems with the drive. Because of the weather conditions, volunteers don't want to walk around on the ice," he said. The semesterly issue of students getting deregistered compounds the problem. Stebbins said that it is a "constant battle" keeping students registered because even changing dorm rooms qualifies as a change of address. This requires that the student register all over again.

NYPIRG might not get to all the dorms but there are registration forms available to all students at various spots around campus such as in the office of the dean of students, the third floor of the library and the Polity Suite.

"We want Stony Brook University to establish itself as a voting block," said Stebbins, referring to a mass amount of people who vote in a given area. "Then the Board of Education could see that candidates should come here to address students and their needs for the future," Stebbins said, "since we are the future."

Hillary Clinton to Campaign at SUNY Purchase

The Hillary Clinton campaign says it's perfectly legal for her to formally kick off her U.S. Senate candidacy at a state university campus.

Campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson said Thursday the campaign is paying \$8,000 to \$10,000 to rent a hall at the State University at Purchase. Clinton will officially announce her candidacy Sunday, accompanied by President Clinton, daughter Chelsea and her mother Dorothy.

But a pair of Republican lawmakers complained Thursday that a partisan political event shouldn't be held at a taxpayer-funded institution.

"The Clintons come to New York and the first thing they do is they use publicly supported institutions for campaign announcements and fund raisers," said state Assemblyman John Faso, R-Kinderhook, who was accompanied by Assemblyman John Ravitz, R-Manhattan.

SUNY guidelines state that "partisan political organizations may be permitted the use of facilities" under certain conditions, including that the proposed meeting "gives promise of contributing to the educational purposes of the institution."

Wolfson said the event conforms to those guidelines.

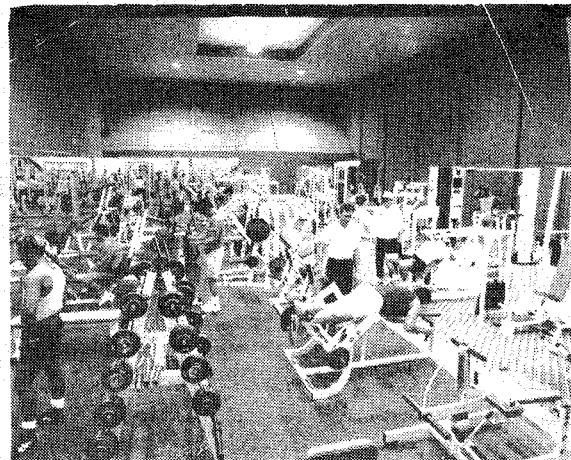
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The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus. Write to:

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Editorials

Fire Safety 101: Learn It

Right up there with smoke bombs and flooded toilets, pulling fire alarms just for the fun of it tops the list of typical college pranks. Anyone living in a resident hall can tell you these kinds of jokes are the staples of typical college dorm life.

Many people have had the experience of waking up at 3 a.m. thanks to the blaring shout of a smoke alarm urging you to evacuate your building immediately. The first time it happens maybe you actually do get up and follow safe fire rules. But when it happens three, four and five times and each time proves to be just a false alarm, you may be content to just roll over and go back to sleep.

But these freshman antics can turn deadly. Students and their parents across the country were shocked to hear about the fatal fire at Seton Hall which claimed the lives of three freshmen there. It was a harsh opening to the semester and it gave everyone a stark lesson that fires at colleges is a very real possibility. The tragedy prompted programs and events to teach students how to protect themselves from a similar fate.

It may be a stereotype but indeed, many young adults do believe that they

are invincible. How many of us go off to school anticipating death by any means but especially death by fire? Did your mom make sure you packed your flame retardant pajamas and your fire extinguisher?

But this attitude is what threatens individual safety as well as the safety of those living around you. According to fire marshal Joe Loretz, who recently made a visit to campus, students hold a major key in preventing fires. The threat of getting written up by your RA for candles and incense may not be much of an incentive to stop using the fire hazards, but maybe the potential of killing yourself or your suitemates will make you think twice the next time you light up.

Speaking of lighting up, cigarettes are the second most common fire causers in dorms after arson. We have all heard the horror stories of people falling asleep in bed with cigarette in hand only to be engulfed by smoke and flames before they even had a chance to open their eyes. Living in a dorm room does not decrease the chance of this happening. You shouldn't be smoking anyway, but if you insist, do it outside. Besides, no one wants to breathe in your second-hand smoke.

Another simple way of preventing a dorm inferno is avoiding plugging too many electrical devices into a socket. We all know how important it is to decorate the room with lava lamps and Christmas lights, but if you aren't careful, your room could be ablaze with a different sort of light, the hot and fiery kind.

While individuals can do a world of good in preventing fire related casualties, part of the responsibility lies with buildings conforming to fire codes. Many of you may be frightened to note that not every residence hall on campus is equipped with sprinklers to douse flames should they start. But this is a result of age and being built at a time where fire safety standards were not the same as they are today. Rest assured though that all renovated buildings are equipped and those slated for renovations next will also come out flame resistant.

In the meantime, do all you can to prevent fires in your rooms and dorm buildings. Make sure you educate yourselves on the best escape route and heed the no smoking, no candles and no incense rules. For once, these are restrictions that can mean the difference between your life and death.

Commentary:

Men are Not for Sale

By JASON SATURNIN
Statesman Contributor

January has come to an end and we now find ourselves in the midst of another Black History Month. This is a time when people put an extra focus on the history of blacks. The students at USB are no exception.

About this time every year, the Student Activities Board hosts what is known as Black Womyn's Weekend. BWW holds a series of events throughout this month such as informationals and bake sales. There is one event, however, that should not have a place during BWW: the auction.

In the days of slavery, the auctioning block was a place where black families were torn apart. Slaves would be manhandled, inspected as though they were animals and treated worse than dogs. Auctions have been a place of heartache and pain for slaves and to have blacks in today's society organize and take part in auctions-even for the purpose of raising money-shows a sign of ignorance.

At the auctions that took place hundreds of years ago, slaves would have to do such things as remove their clothing so that potential buyers could see if they contained any scars, a way of telling if they had been obedient or

not. The fewer the scars the higher the price. They would also have their teeth inspected. Fewer teeth showed signs of aging and an older slave was not as valued as a younger one. A slave's physical condition was also taken into account. Better bodies meant better workers. The auctioneer would also stand at his podium and read off the type of fieldwork or housework that the particular slave was good at.

At the last BWW Auction that I went to, the men were treated just the same. They were put in front of the audience one at a time while a service that they were offering was read off to anxious females.

Afterwards all that was heard were cries from "women" for these males to take it off: show their abs and take off their shirt. How attractive, how physically fit and at times how much skin was shown would determine how much was paid for the male. The more he was willing to show, the higher the price went.

These auctions are not unlike the use of the word nigger. In the past, this word was used in a manner that was demeaning to blacks. Today it is used when a black person is referring to one of his or her friends. In the past, auctions were a place where mothers, fathers and children were separated from each other forever. Today it is used as a way to raise money. The same situation is present in both cases:

blacks are taking something hurtful that was used against them and are now using it on themselves. Changing the meaning or adding a little twist to it does not make it okay. The negative connotations are still present. Many people feel that blacks calling each other the word nigger is ignorant, so what is to stop one from using that same description for these types of auctions today.

Think about how you would feel if you had a slave ancestor present at one of these auctions. I'm sure you would feel ashamed to have him or her witness such a thing. Your ancestors would believe that you were making a mockery of what they had to go through. So the question to ask yourselves would be, if I wouldn't do it in front of my ancestors, why should I do it now? I understand that the males taking part in these auctions are not going to be sold into a lifetime of slavery, but they are still no less being objectified and treated as pieces of meat. Like the slave, this male's true worth-intelligence, character and personality-will not be recognized. They will only be noticed for how they strut their stuff, hoping that their buyer is not ugly, just as the slave hoped that the buyer was a good master.

Other people on this campus share these same feelings, so I hope that the organizers of these auctions will find a substitute to put in its place.

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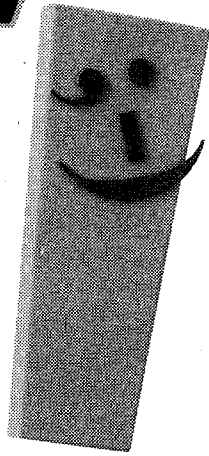
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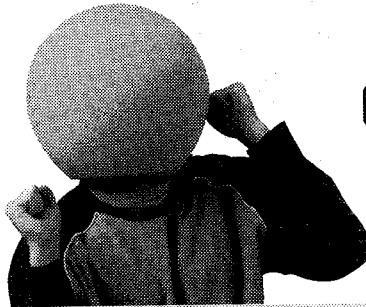
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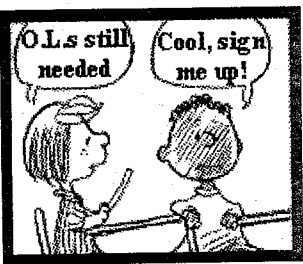


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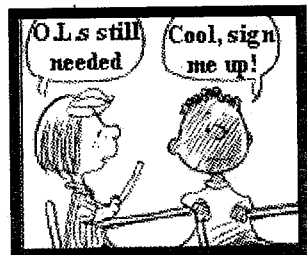
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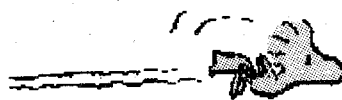


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SB Celebrates Bob Marley Day

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

Students from various backgrounds came together as one last Thursday to pay tribute to a man whose life was dedicated to such unity.

Bob Marley Day was held in the Student Activities Center Auditorium with food, music and dance in order to celebrate the life and the birthday of legendary reggae great Bob Marley. Sponsored by the Caribbean Students Organization, the event has become a yearly tribute held on a day near Marley's birthday, which is February 4.

The opening of the celebration had all attendees stand while a student sang the Jamaican national anthem. Words from Calvin Coleman, CSO and Polity vice president, followed. "We are here to celebrate the life of a great man and the inspiration he brought through his lyrics," Coleman said. He went on to say that part of Marley's greatness stems from his ability to bring people together. Coleman, who was born in Jamaica but raised in Brooklyn, called his fellow Jamaican an icon. "He brought together people from all different races, creeds and colors," he said.

After Coleman's opening words, a dance routine was performed by Persephone and Paulita Dacosta and Alicia Barclay to one of Marley's most

profound tunes, "Redemption Song," which tells of the experience of slaves.

Traditional Jamaican food was served shortly after including plain rice, rice and peas, steamed cabbage, oxtail, curry goat and escovitch fish. While enjoying the meal, the audience sat down to watch "Legend Live," a Marley documentary showing videos to some of his songs and comments by the artist himself.

It was a fitting tribute to a man whose music is so meaningful to people from all walks of life and whose message is as relevant today as when he was alive. Marley was awarded the Jamaican Award of Merit just one month before he died in May of 1981 and his album "Exodus" was recently named 'Album of the Century' by Time magazine.

Indeed, words like "prophet" and "messenger" are often used to describe the legend. Coleman invited an audience member onto the stage to share her thoughts on the musician. "Bob was a prophet way beyond his years," she said. "His music is universal and it will be here until life ends." She said that even those who did not face the same struggles as he did can relate to his music.

Danae Abrahams, another audience member, agreed. "He was a messenger,"



Statesman/Ruth Chung

Alicia Barclay, Persephone Dacosta and Paulita Dacosta (left to right) performed during Bob Marley Day.

she said. "Anyone willing to understand could and would."

Ron Huggins, CSO president, was satisfied with the outcome of the event. He was happy with the large turnout and he thought that everything went well thanks to good planning. Huggins mentioned that CSO hosts other events throughout the year such as the Miss CSO

pageant, a fashion show and the CSO picnic. He also said that CSO is not just for Caribbean students. "Things get done through everyone," he said. "We are a representation of the whole student body."

Abrahams stressed the same sentiment. "To be Caribbean doesn't just mean to be black," she said. "It means to be a people, a unity."

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Clinton to Launch Campaign at SUNY

Continued from page 5

In past years, other SUNY campuses have been used for campaign rallies. In 1996, Vice President Al Gore held a pro-Clinton rally at SUNY Albany and Bob Dole and Jack Kemp held a similar event at SUNY Buffalo.

In a statement, Purchase officials said the Clinton event "is consistent with the college's public service mission. ... Purchase College welcomes political candidates on its campus, so that students will have the opportunity to be more aware of the political process and the views of candidates for public office. Purchase College does not endorse political candidates, nor does it take a position on issues presented on its campus in a public forum."

The Purchase campus in Westchester is near the Clintons' suburban home in Chappaqua.

Also present for Faso's news conference outside Clinton's campaign headquarters in Manhattan were Kathleen McCreary, a trustee of the local SUNY campus, who said Purchase officials had been "tricked and trapped" into letting Clinton use the hall, and Candace de Russy, a statewide trustee of SUNY who called for the resignation two years ago of the president of SUNY-New Paltz because he approved a conference there on sexually explicit topics.

SUNY Purchase has issued an invitation for Hillary Clinton and her likely Republican opponent, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, to hold a debate on the campus in the future.

Last Sunday, Giuliani - who has not scheduled any formal announcement of his own candidacy - dismissed the Purchase kickoff as a staged event. "It's a Hollywood type of thing," he said.

AP

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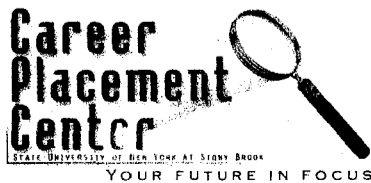
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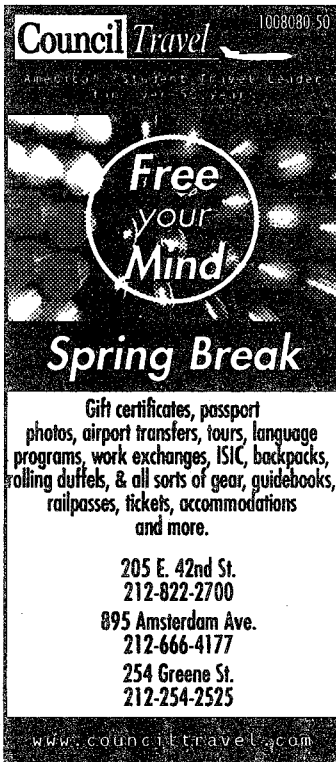
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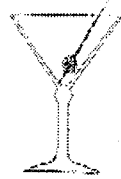
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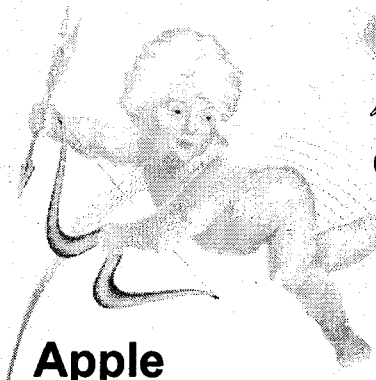
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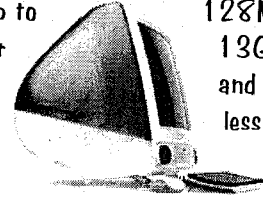
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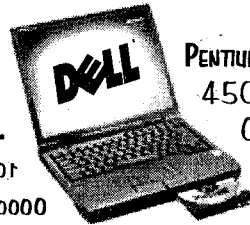
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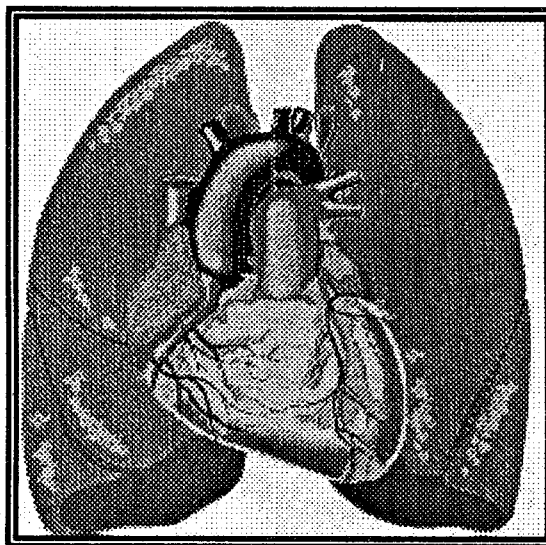
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 7, 2000

Statesman

Campus Lifestyles
Entertainment, Leisure, Sports & Alternatives

Features

Beat of a Different Drummer

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

February is Black History month, and the Staller Center is playing a large part in the cultural celebration at Stony Brook. At 7 p.m. on February 20th, the Main Stage will ring with the sounds of The Drummers of West Africa, under the artistic direction of the world renowned Doudou N'Diaye Rose. Native to Dakar, Senegal, the 36 member orchestra is composed entirely of Rose's family members, and each drummer has undergone training by Rose.

The orchestra has toured Europe and South America. The members of the Drummers of West Africa, who have enjoyed incredible box office success, base their performing on a drumming style called sabar, a traditional form of music that usually goes hand in hand with festivals, celebration, and dance.

Sabar drums are native to the Senegambia region, and they are the royal drums of Senegal. The drums are unique to their region, and they are not widely used.

Rose, who functions as conductor and performer, has been noted for his contributions to the modernization of sabar drumming, and his efforts have been credited with the orchestral



Courtesy of Staller Center

Doudou N'Diaye Rose is a native of Senegal, and his musical talents are legendary.



Courtesy of Karen Hymbaugh

The sabar drum is native to Senegal.

performance style that has emerged from the tradition.

In 1994, Rose released an album entitled *Djabote* that epitomizes the sounds of sabar drumming. *CMJ New Music Report* had rave reviews for the album, saying "Warning. Portions of this album were recorded on a Senegalese island, on Good Friday, during Ramadan, under the full moon, with 50 Muslim drummers and 80 Christian singers all at once. Manufacturer is not responsible for transcendental states or psychic experiences it may induce."

Born in 1928, Rose is a diminutive but powerful man, capable of inspiring even the most tone-deaf of listeners. The characteristics of his conducting have been likened to the movements of Bruce Lee and von Karajan. He has been described as an intense performer, one who becomes swept up in the power of rhythmic harmony.

The drum orchestra pieces are based on rhythm, meter, and tempo, with secondary attention given to pitch and tone. The true genius of the music cannot be judged by conventional standards.

Sabar drumming, and The Doudou N'Diaye Rose Percussion Orchestra is unlike anything currently on the airwaves, or even in the recital halls. The eloquent manner in which beats are intertwined is nothing short of stunning, a

testament to Rose's brilliance and capability to comprehend a confusing and complicated language.

Rose is considered by many to be the greatest drummer in his country, and an unparalleled master of his craft. He has led numerous workshops, and has traveled all over the world, opening many up to the power of sabar drumming. Rose has worked the Rolling Stones, Peter Gabriel, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and other noted artists in a plethora of musical genres.

It is difficult to describe the sounds that the drummers elicit from their instruments; and it is impossible to describe the manner in which the rhythms combine. The effect of Rose's conduction can only be comprehended through an auditory experience.

A United States tour that began on January 12th has so far enjoyed positive reviews. During the month of January, the Drummers of West Africa brought their sounds to Washington, California, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada. February will see the orchestra travel to Wisconsin, Michigan, and several New England states before coming to New York and playing at the Staller Center.

Tickets are \$26 and are still available. For further information, contact the Staller Box Office at 632-ARTS.