



I N B A S K E T

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

It was such a pleasure to read the lead article, "Syracuse University Women's Athletics," in your winter edition of *Syracuse University Magazine*. As a member of the Class of 1947, I would suggest that women's athletics at Syracuse have made tremendous strides over the past 50 years. I well recall playing intramural basketball in the women's gym. In addition to the camaraderie, the fun, and the friendships formed, I distinctly remember chasing a loose ball with a large guard behind me and suddenly colliding with the piano in the corner. To say that the facility was multi-purpose as well as small would be an understatement. So congratulations to all the people who have brought the women's facilities and programs so far.

ANDIE BODIE WARD '47
HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY

As a member of the club softball team at Syracuse University for the past three years, I would like to tell the other side to the *Syracuse University Magazine* story on women's athletics. There are still many teams struggling to survive, forced into buying their own uniforms, driving to competitions, and being denied field use. Teams at this level receive close to zero support from the University.

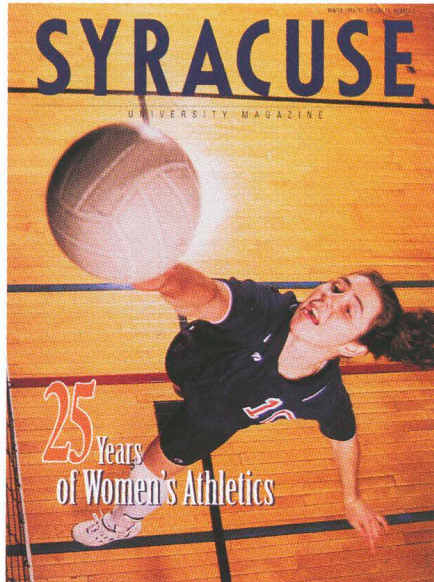
The article also overlooks the fact that while 87 female athletes receive scholarships, 80 male athletes on the football team alone receive scholarships. SU has a lot of catching up to do before it can throw itself such a big congratulations for 25 years of women's sports!

MEGHAN DELEHANTY '97
FAIRPORT, NEW YORK

Editor's Note: The University has announced plans to add women's softball to its varsity program. See the sidebar item on page 45 for more information.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

I have read and seen a great deal on "feminist," and thus human, issues over the years, and followed the issues of female circumcision closely in the papers. I have never been so moved as by your photos of Seita Lengila in the winter issue. I cried upon a fast glance and



later, looked carefully and read. Congratulations. Thank you. I am awed by Stephanie Welsh's courage and talent.

MARY S. MASTERS
STRAEFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

This letter is in response to Stephanie Welsh's photo feature in the winter issue of *Syracuse University Magazine*.

While I understand these are Pulitzer Prize-winning photos uncovering the barbaric and dehumanizing tradition of female circumcision, I found them extremely graphic and disturbing. As I flipped through the magazine, as I always do upon its arrival, I was so turned off by the photos that I not only quickly passed by the piece, I put down the entire magazine. As a woman, the images made me uncomfortable and instead of drawing interest to read the article, my immediate reaction was to look away. In an attempt to educate and enlighten, items with a certain amount of shock value don't always tempt a person to learn more.

JENNIFER BARTOK '91
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

I am a regular reader of your excellent magazine with its thought-provoking articles. I would like to point out an oversight in one of the articles pertaining to the circumcision ritual done to young girls in Africa. The article begins by saying this practice is prevalent in India. As an Indian who has lived and

traveled in different parts of India during the last 35 years, I can definitely say this is not true. Some tribes in India do practice some ancient rituals, but circumcision is not one of them.

RAMESH VISWANATHAN G'92
CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY

MAKING MUSIC

The History of Captured Sound" (Winter 96/97 issue) struck a familiar and welcome chord. Last year, the Belfer Audio Lab enabled us to resurrect a treasured piece of the past for my in-laws, Edith and Herbert J. Mendelsohn, on their 50th anniversary. In 1945, as newlyweds, they stepped into a recording booth and sang several songs that have become part of our family sound book. But the 78 rpm record was as good as unplayable. Sue Stinson and the Belfer Lab reduced the static and transferred the recording to audio cassette and let us hear their clear, young voices as if it were yesterday. I had searched high and low for a lab that could do the job, and Boston-area musicians and college archivists all referred me to the Belfer Lab at SU. I was both pleased and proud.

JANET KERN MENDELSON '71
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST

I noted in a couple of places in your winter article "The Class of 2000" that these students would graduate in the first year of the new century. This is not correct. 2000 is the last year in the 20th century. The first year in the 21st century is the year 2001.

GEORGE H. VINCENT '41
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

Editor's Note: You are correct that the first year of the next century is 2001. However, the Class of 2000 will be the first graduating class entering the workforce in 2001.

Syracuse University Magazine welcomes letters from readers. Address letters to: Syracuse University Magazine, 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 508, Syracuse, New York 15244-5040. You may also e-mail us at magazine@suadmin.syr.edu. Letters may be edited for style and space limitations.