

# Union Should be Improved, Marburger Says

By Nadia Sefein

(This is the second in a three-part series on the Stony Brook Union. Part three will appear next week.)

Although the Stony Brook Union houses such crowd-catching places as the Rainy Night House and the Arcade Room, much of its potential for becoming an exciting social and recreational haven is not being realized, according to University President John Marburger.

Two of the main problems with the Union, said Marburger, are its lack of space and the inefficient usage of the space that does exist. Built when the university enrollment was much smaller than it is today, the Union lacks the room to house all the activities of the larger campus population. Marburger stated that there are several long range possibilities for improving the situation. Certain activities and establishments now housed in the Union could be moved to nearby places. Marburger stated that there was room in the Library that could be used for relocating the Barnes and Noble bookstore, now housed in the Union. He said he felt that the bookstore did not hold an adequate number of non-textbooks, perhaps due to a lack of space. Moving the bookstore would allow for an expansion of its services. At the same time the move would allow space for other activities to be held in the Union.

Another long range plan mentioned by Marburger was a remodeling of the Union Ballroom. He said that he felt the Ballroom, in its present condition, could not serve the large crowds at meal-times in the most efficient manner and that a redesigning of the area was needed. He also said that he felt that the ballroom just "doesn't excite you" and the redesigning would allow it to be used for more social and recreational events.

Marburger emphasized the fact that ideas such



University President John Marburger has suggested that more room is needed in the Stony Brook Union and one way of making room might be to relocate such establishments as the Barnes and Nobles Bookstore (right).



Statesman/Darryl J. Rotherforth

as moving the bookstore and redesigning the ballroom are long range plans and cannot be expected in the immediate future.

There are, however, a number of changes that could be made within the Union without a great deal of time. Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs, is in the process of assembling a study committee to look into the functions of, and the many issues pertaining to, the Union. According to Preston, the study committee will consist of students, staff and faculty members and will generally concern itself with the question, "What is the Union to be conceptually?" The committee will examine ways of making the Union more effective in catering to the needs of the university population. Preston stated that he was anxious to see what the study committee would come up with after completing

the investigation.

Preston had several suggestions for expanding the outreach of the Union. He said he would like to see a broader range of club activities held there. These activities could range from dances and contests to educational and artistic forms. He also stated that he would like to see an expansion of the University's Homecoming activities, using the Union for many of the planned events. Preston said that homecoming at most universities is an exciting event and he would like it to be viewed the same at Stony Brook.

Preston also said that he would like to see more student-faculty events being held in the Union. "I'd like to see more faculty in the Union. I know I've participated in events at the Union and I've had a great time."

# New Fuel Buying Co-op Combats High Prices

By Dara Tyson

Tired of high home heating prices? The Fuel Buyers Group (FBG), a cooperative of consumers and home-owners and a service of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is lowering oil costs by an average of 12¢-15¢ per gallon.

"We have a contract with Central Petroleum of the Bronx," said Michelle Chaikin, coordinator of FBG's regional office at Stony Brook. "Other fuel saving groups (like those advertised in Pennysaver), usually get a large mark-up for winter. Ours is based on the Exxon barge resaler price. Profit margins

can't increase." Chaikin added that FBG offers free membership to anyone associated with the university (the fee is usually \$15), a 30 day credit period, plus a service contract.

Originally established two years ago in New York City, FBG extends from Westchester to Suffolk's Route 112. "If there is a large response east of 112, we'll go bid for another supplier," Chaikin said, explaining that Central Petroleum's territory does not extend east of 112. "Central Petroleum was chosen because they are a very reputable company. Collective buying is a really good way to save money," she said. "For stu-

dents off-campus, it's great."

Jim Leotta, Stony Brook's NYPIRG project coordinator sees FBG in a broader light. "When people band together and purchase as a group, they can influence the market. If fuel costs increase, rent and living costs increase. Maybe the University could buy fuel from the Coop."

Barbara Broderick, secretary for Polity, the undergraduate student government, recently joined FBG. "I anticipate a \$200 savings," she said. "Since I haven't had service yet, I don't know what the savings will be."

Marc Stern, an off-campus graduate

student who just joined FBG said, "This is a very important advance. It's a good idea for people to be actively involved in undercutting the control the oil companies have over oil distribution. This is a very important advance. It's a good idea for people to be actively involved in undercutting the control the oil companies have over oil distribution. This is citizens actively engaged in their own survival."

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One of NYPIRG's recent projects is the subject of a 60 Minutes segment this week. It will be on this Sunday at 7PM on channel 2.

# Photo Exchange To be Held Here

By Karen Greenblatt

In the first international photographic exchange between Canada and the United States, an exhibit of 50 photographic works by 20 students of York University in Toronto will open in Stony Brook University's Library Galleria on Monday, October 12 at 6:30 PM.

The program is being supervised by Michael Edelson, the photography professor at Stony Brook, in conjunction with Jack Dale, photography professor at York University. The idea originated "over a number of beers" while Edelson was a visiting professor at York University last semester.

The Canadian students are

scheduled to arrive at Grand Central Station in New York City on Friday evening, October 9. They will be met there by the Stony Brook students involved in the exchange. On Saturday the Canadians will hand their exhibit and, on Sunday, their hosts will take them sightseeing in Manhattan. They will be treated to visits to various museums and galleries as well as to Soho. While in Soho, they plan to visit the studio loft of Joseph Saltzer who taught photography at Stony Brook as a visiting professor last semester, according to Edelson. Monday will be a free day followed by a reception. A cultural attache from

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One of the works of Cindi Emond, a student at York University in Canada, who will be visiting Stony Brook this week.