

Joseph Bennett, English Prof., Dead at 46

Joseph Bennett, director of Graduate Studies in English, died Friday, October 17, at his home in Mount Sinai. He was 46.

A specialist in Victorian literature, Bennett had been a member of the Stony Brook faculty since 1967. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from New York University in that year and was a graduate of the New School for Social Research in New York City.

"The quality of Joe Bennett's tenure as Director of Graduate Studies has been demonstrated by the outpouring of grief from our graduate students," said English Department Chairman Richard Levine. "The department has lost a good friend and colleague."

Herbert Weisinger, professor of English and former dean of the Graduate School at Stony Brook, said "Joe Bennett was my student as well as my colleague, a relationship both rare and precious. I will miss him as a fellow teacher and scholar, but most of all I will miss his essential sweetness and decency. He was a true humanist in every sense of the word, in his work, in his concern for students, and in his every thought and action. He leaves a place which can never again be filled as he alone did."

Sidney Gelber, academic vice-president at Stony Brook, said "Joseph Bennett's interest in students came first and foremost. He was absolutely committed, as teacher and human being, to his students and to his colleagues."

Surviving are an uncle, John Bennett of Syracuse, and several cousins. Mass will be held at 9 AM at Saint Brigid's and Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in that city. A campus memorial service is being planned.



See Yes, Jim Morrison,
H.L. Mencken,
Elvis Costello
in Alternatives
this week.



Student Voting Rights May Be Pursued Here

By Howard Saltz

The lawyer for 11 SUNY Albany students who recently won the right to vote in Albany, as opposed to the communities in which their parents reside, said yesterday that he is seeking to make the United States District Court's decision binding in other parts of the state.

Attorney Jack Lester, who won the October 9 decision for the students, the SUNY Albany Student's Association and the Students Association of the State University of New York (SASU), who were all plaintiffs in the case, refused to give specifics about his plans, and said that it would be announced later in the week what course of action will be taken.

"We're seeking to expand the scope," of the decision, he said, refusing to comment further.

Pam Snook, a spokesman for SASU, said that, in addition to expanding the impact of the ruling, they will appeal to the local election board to create a special one- or two-day period for students to register, since Judge Neal McCurn's decision on October 9 came only two days before the regular registration period ended. "Because this decision was handed down so late, there was no way people could shuffle around to get the word out," she said.

Stephen Johnson, a member of the Stony Brook chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), said that group is also considering legal action to gain voting rights for Stony Brook students. NYPIRG, which participated in the Albany suit, is currently exploring the possibility of legal action in other colleges as well. Johnson said that NYPIRG lawyers are "spread thin" throughout the state and that Stony Brook does not have a large number of students seeking to sue. He also said that their hardships in voting outside of Stony Brook would not approach the severity of the Albany students, but they may eventually be used anyway.

"We're really desperate for a few more people to get their cases in," Johnson said. He also said that a case might not be tried here before the November 4 election.

Local Officials Respond

Area officials responded to the possibility of Stony Brook students voting here with mixed reactions. "I think it's a good idea," said Ferdinand Giese, Suffolk County legislator for the fifth district, which includes Stony Brook. "I think the more people who vote, the better." Giese did express concern, however, of the impact

(Continued on page 6)

Muscular Dystrophy Marathon Planned

By Ellen Lander

A 24-hour dance marathon to be held in the Stony Brook Union Ballroom benefiting research done in behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is tentatively scheduled for December 5 and 6, from 10 PM to 10 PM. The dance, however, is contingent upon the approval of the Administration, specifically Ronald Siegel, assistant to the Executive Vice President and University lawyer.

The marathon, coined "Super Dance '80," was first brought to the attention of Polity by Barrington Johnson, Polity Student Activities director, about three weeks ago. Since then, meetings have been held in hope of holding the marathon at the University.

At last Monday's Polity Council meeting, the Council allocated \$1,000 to aid in funding the marathon. "It's a great social event for those of us at Stony Brook whose other avenues of social recreation have been closed off," said Polity President Rich Zuckerman. He added, "more importantly, of course, it will benefit a very worthy cause."

The marathon will be sponsored by Polity, coordinated by Johnson, and promotionally supported by Clare Rose beer distributors.

The idea of the marathon was originally presented to Siegel on October 9, and has been cancelled twice since then.

"I can't proceed at full force, as I would like to, being that there's legal problems which need to be cleared up at this time," said Johnson.

"At first the University refused to allow us to sponsor it," said Zuckerman. "They were looking for loopholes and they came up with some." However, the

investigation of these loopholes by Polity lawyer Camillo Giannattasio proved them to be non-existent, Johnson said.

According to Johnson, the loopholes cited by Siegel consisted of the assumption that the participants would be dancing for 24 hours straight, and that the money collected would be going toward off-campus purposes. But Johnson asserted that both of these assumptions were incorrect. The participants will be getting a 15 minute break every one or two hours, a three hour sleeping period and a time set aside for meals, which will be provided by the dance marathon committee. In addition, all money collected will be going to a muscular dystrophy research team at University Hospital.

According to Johnson, a definite decision will be reached by Friday as to whether the marathon will be held. Since Siegel is on vacation, Warren Randall, senior financial secretary, will be making the decision in his place. Randall was unavailable for comment.

Official Presentation

"A lot of time and energy has gone into this and I will be personally disappointed if everything doesn't work out," Johnson said.

An official presentation for publicity of the marathon will begin today at 1 PM in the Union Ballroom. Johnson will make an introductory speech and present Stony Brook T-shirts to the two Muscular Dystrophy poster children that will be there. The dance marathon is being assisted and supervised by Muscular Dystrophy Coordinators Denise Delaney and Vincent Carcaro.

"This will be the biggest event Stony Brook ever put on," said Johnson. "I can't think of any activity that will be

able to top this one." Stony Brook is the first University on Long Island to host a dance marathon for the MDA.

Johnson expects to have about 500 people dancing. The marathon is open to anyone involved with the University, singles or couples and spectators are also welcome. Donations must be collected by the dancers and brought to the ballroom on the night of the marathon. "Everyone that dances and comes in with a minimum of \$50 will get a T-shirt," said Johnson.

There will be a variety of music, and anyone who is interested in entertaining during breaks may contact Johnson through Polity. "We need musicians, comedians, or anyone interested in helping out," he said.

The theme of the marathon, which will be silk-screening on the back of the T-shirts, is "The cure is one step away."

"This is not an endurance contest. The grand prize will be awarded to the person,

or persons, who collect the most money," said Johnson.

Tentatively, the prizes will be as follows: first prize is a four day, three night vacation for two in Florida or the Caribbean; second prize is a pair of mopeds; and a special award of a 19" color television set will be presented to the Resident Assistant (RA) or Managerial Assistant (MA) who has the most people signed up to dance on his hall or wing. Other prizes will also be awarded. The prizes will be given out after the marathon ends.

The Thursday night prior to the marathon, a party complete with photographers will be held for the first 40 people who sign up to participate in the dance. This will enable most of the people to become acquainted with each other.

"After this is all over, people will walk out knowing at least 10 to 20 people they never knew before," said Johnson.

TOM DOWNEY,
congressman in the
second congressional
district, spoke here
yesterday. See story
page 5.

