

# News & Views

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## Crisis in The Balkans:

### UN Reps participate in Stony Brook symposium on current conflict in the former Yugoslavia

By Sally Kuzma

"The Balkans: Nationalism and Human Rights" was the title of a symposium sponsored by the University Senate, Polity, GSO and the UNITI Cultural Center, held Thursday November 5 in the Javits Center

Speakers were: Dr. Ivo Banac, Professor of European History, Yale University; Mr. V. Miles Raguz, Special Advisor, Bosnian Mission to the UN; Mr. Bratislav Djordjevic, Deputy Representative of Yugoslavia to the UN; Mr. Ljublinko Matesic, Special Advisor, Croatian Mission to the UN; Mr. Jeff Sommer, Foreign Editor, Newsday.

In a talk that was intellectual (sometimes impenetrably so) and diplomatic, it was surprising that five different voices contributed to a fairly consistent picture of a region not merely torn by ethnic strife, but rapidly being destroyed by state-sponsored "ethnic cleansing". Though the representative of the Yugoslav Federation (representing primarily Serbia and Montenegro) attempted to make a case for the Serbian people's right to self-determination, his arguments did little to counter the charges of genocide articulated by the representative of Bosnia & Hercegovina, re-enforced by the Croatian representative, and verified by the testimony of scores of reporters as related by Newsday Foreign Editor Jeff Sommer.

Unfortunately, the last speech ended at 6pm, leaving no time for either rebuttals, cross-examination or a question and answer period. No students or faculty present had a chance to challenge the assertions or the statistics used by the speakers, leaving the audience to draw its own conclusions from the five speeches presented.

Dr. Ivo Banac, in a rapid and densely-packed speech, outlined the recent history of events leading up to the current Balkan crisis. Yugoslavia was formerly a federation of six republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia). As a communist state it spent

Norah Martin contributed to this story



many years under the leadership of Joseph Tito. After his death, Yugoslavia handled the problem of political representation of the various republics through a constitutionally arranged rotating system which gave each group a turn to lead (it was Serbia's denial of Croatia's turn to lead that sparked Croatia's secession in 1991). Banac also discussed the aggressive policies of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic who rose to power from 1981 to 1987. After he became the leader of the Serbian Communists in 1987, he set out to "smash the state machine", overthrowing leaderships in autonomous regions and recentralizing power. It should be noted that Serbs were a majority of the population (though not more than 50%) and that the capitol, Belgrade, lies within the Serbian Republic. Slovenians and Croats protested, and eventually the federal party and the state collapsed. Slovenia was the first to secede, then Croatia in May 1991, Bosnia and Hercegovina in March of 1992. Serbian Nationalists have carried out a war against the seceding republics, claiming to aid the Serbians in those areas in their fight for self-determination.

The historian's description of Yugoslavia under the thumb of the power-hungry Serbian Milosevic lends credence to Bosnian Representative Raguz's claim that "propaganda, rumor and misinformation" from Belgrade have seriously distorted the issue for the West, and that heinous crimes against civilians are being committed under the veil of "Serbian Nationalism". In a speech as lucid as it was horrifying, he contrasted the barbaric terror called Ethnic Cleansing that goes on in Bosnia & Hercegovina and Croatia, the daily reality of genocide, with the illusion prevalent in the West that this is an ethnic war requiring a diplomatic solu-

tion. "Civilians are the primary targets: that's why this is not a war," he said. "It is genocide plain and simple... perverted crime shrouded by national symbols, national songs and national myths." Many of us in the West are confused and frustrated by reports of violence against Serbs and abuses committed by Bosnian Muslims and Croats, crimes which Raguz does not deny. However, he says, these "isolated instances are motivated by individual weaknesses, and not by philosophies and directives coming from state capitols" such as Belgrade. In a recounting of the physical, psychological, sociological, cultural and economic methods of terrorism being employed in Bosnia, he outlined the Serbian systematic campaign against non-Serbian people. "Creating refugees is thus the goal, not the consequence of this aggression."

The present Belgrade regime is a merger of extreme right and extreme left, according to Raguz. As communism collapsed, it left a communist elite eager for a way to recover its privileges. A growing xenophobic Serbian Nationalist movement seeking a "Greater Serbia" cleansed of non-Serbs became its partner in aggression and in the fight for not equal rights but special privileges previously enjoyed under communism.

Western diplomats, including acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Cyrus Vance, were "hoodwinked" by "Belgrade's lies," said Raguz; Eagleburger admitted as much in public, Vance in private. Their subsequent embarrassment may be at the heart of the relative paralysis displayed by the international community and in particular the US in response to this horror. They had believed Belgrade's claim that Serbs in Croatia were being oppressed and deprived of their rights. UN troops had been sent in to Croatia to protect the Serbs; as the violence spilled over into Bosnia and Hercegovina, the genocidal intent of Serbian "self-determination" was laid bare and it was clear that UN troops would be needed to fight the Serbs. The uncomfortable paradox has made for a situation where, instead of admitting a mistake, "the West continues to pursue a policy that implicitly supports Belgrade and extremist Serbs... costing innocent ci-

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## Stony Brook Voters Harrassed

By Sally Kuzma

If students had any doubt about the value of their votes in this election, poll-watchers certainly didn't.

As polls opened this election day at Election District 223 in Stony Brook, a number of Republican party poll-watchers were on hand to challenge student voters, looking for discrepancies in student addresses that would disqualify them from voting at the Stony Brook precinct. According to a press release from Democratic Congressman George Hochbreuckner's office, poll-watchers included John Tunis, a financial backer of Republican candidate Edward Romaine. While it is the legal right of both parties to have a certain number of observers on hand to make sure elections run smoothly and honestly, Stony Brook voter Tim Morton said that it was clear they were singling out young people of student age. Over a hundred students had to testify to poll inspectors that the addresses on their registration cards were correct before they were then allowed to vote.

Hochbreuckner expressed outrage at "the lengths to which my opponent will go to try to disrupt the electoral process." In his 1988 congressional race against Edward Romaine, Hochbreuckner won a plurality in ED 223 in a close victory. Students played a major role in that win, and it seems Republicans feared they would contribute to the Romaine's defeat in this election as well.

According to NYPIRG Executive Director Jeremy Potter, who led a voter registration drive on campus and drove of students to the polls throughout the day, the student voters do make a big difference in local elections. NYPIRG led a fight several years ago to get Stony Brook students the right to vote at their campus addresses, citing the impact that local government decisions have on student life. Local zoning issues affect housing availability, and many local candidates are in a position to vote on education issues at the state and federal level. He added that he still gets questioned about the validity of petitions and registration forms he hands in to the Board of Elections, and often has to refresh their memory regarding students' voting rights.

Many of the students whose rights were challenged were first time voters, according to Potter, who wonders if the harrassment and delays will deter them from voting in future elections.

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## viewpoints

## Stony Brook: Image, Perception and the Ugly Reality

By Dave Guttman

Once again, Stony Brook has displayed its uncanny ability to screw up an event that had tremendous potential. This event, the conference on the conflict in the Balkans, presented the University with an opportunity to truly shine. Unfortunately, despite the organizers best efforts to provide a world class panel, the actual conference was presented in a Stony Brook class manner —namely, embarrassing amateurish.

I would like to say that I think the organizers who were able to bring together the outstanding panel of representatives and experts should receive the highest praise. The conflict that has swept through the former Yugoslavia over the past couple of years is arguably the most important event that the world community has had to face since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It embodies all the nationalistic, ethnic and religious discord resurfacing after the removal of the rather capricious division of the world into East and West. It is especially relevant for those communities, religious and ethnic, who managed to survive the horror of World War II. The often heard refrain, those who do not remember the past will be forced to relive it, is especially relevant today. We are seeing the past rise once more; the same type of hate, the same form of horror.

Perhaps the most important step we can make as an academic community when faced with such a conflict is to understand the current situation so that we will be better able to make informed decisions and educate those around us. Only in this manner can we effect change by lobbying, protest, and general activism. The organizers of the Balkans conference made this initial step that much easier by putting

the actual players in our collective lap. By bringing together representatives of the U.N. missions from Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia (read Serbia) in addition to a Yale scholar with expertise in the history of the Balkans and the Foreign desk editor from Newsday, we were given an unprecedented opportunity to gain insight into the current conflict, its origins, and perhaps even clues to its resolution. This was truly a world class gathering, and potentially could have been a very proud and prestigious moment for the University.

So what went wrong? Unfortunately, I think the answer is Stony Brook. The first sign of trouble was the late arrival of the diplomats. This was hardly a problem, and almost certainly not the fault of the University. Everyone expects these events to start late, and I don't think anyone really minded. It was no big deal in and of itself, but it did result in the most serious problem which I will discuss in a moment. As I sat there waiting for the talks to begin I could not help but notice two of the other problems. First, the conference was held in Javits 100. If you have ever seen this building and the lecture hall inside you will immediately understand. The room is in hideous condition. It's dirty; there is garbage all over; there are numerous broken desks and chairs, the blackboard wasn't even clean. In general, it looked extremely ugly. Big deal you say, so it's a little messy — won't kill you. Remember, the University had invited high level foreign diplomats. If you were to invite an ambassador over to your house, would you serve them tea in the tool shed, or in the fixer-upper basement? Why couldn't the conference have

been held in a better setting such as one of the auditoriums in the Staller Center or even the auditorium in the Student Union. Either of those would have presented a more respectable image to those diplomats and experts visiting the University.

Second, the turnout was miserable. Granted, the University can not force

### What went wrong? Unfortunately, I think the answer is Stony Brook.

people to come, but they could have done a better job in promoting it. I saw very few fliers advertising the event on the West Campus, and no notices at all on the East Campus. Some faculty and graduate student teachers encouraged their students to attend. Why couldn't the University have targeted the teaching population as a group with a specific mailing and asked them to do the same? How about alternative sources of advertising such as promotional spots on the university radio station or other Long Island stations?

Finally, the most serious problem. In an event such as this, it is anything but unexpected if there is a late start or if the speeches go on a little too long. Unfortunately, such contingencies were not planned for at this conference, and, of course, they happened. Roughly fif-

teen minutes before the scheduled end, the room finally started to fill up. This was not because a large group of people arrived late for the conference, but instead because there was a class scheduled in that room at exactly the time that the conference was supposed to end. Students waiting for their class to start were filling up the doors; the instructor of the class was pointing out that he needed the room; the guests were just getting to their rebuttals. It was a fiasco. There was no option to go overtime so the conference came to an

end with only the Yugoslavian representative having time for a rebuttal and no questions asked. What should have been the most interesting and instructive part of the conference (the panel discussion and the questions and answers) was completely missed. As a result the other representatives showed obvious annoyance at not being able to respond, and many in the audience showed displeasure at not being able to ask questions. What a horrible way for the University to make an impression.

The sum total — an event of incredible potential for the University blown by poor planning and execution. A totally unprofessional environment combined with a rigid time frame made the University appear hopelessly and embarrassingly amateurish.

## CORRECTION

In an article by Gern Blenston on the Eastern Farm Workers Union in the October 20 issue the sentence on EFWA efforts should have read: "Recently, the EFWA...has opposed the increase in Suffolk County sales tax, a regressive tax which harms the poorest people most." News&Views regrets the error.

## Voting Yes For The Union, And For A Stronger Voice in Budget Decisions

By Eduardo A. Fajardo

The responsibility of voting has not ended on November 3rd. For the TAs and GAs of the SUNY school system, the question is now whether to band together and become a union or to leave things the way they are now. This is not a decision that should be taken lightly, for it will affect both graduate and undergraduate students now and in the future.

In order to reach this decision, one must take some time to gather facts and ask questions. Only when one is informed can someone make a choice. And I have made my choice. It is my belief that a labor union representing graduate students would best serve their interests. Here's why.

Right now, the people who make the final decision on how much money is used for TA/GA lines are

not the SUNY school staff but politicians. Elected officials tell SUNY schools the amount of money they'll be getting. While there are officials who are concerned about college education, others don't rank education high on their list of priorities. While a letter campaign suggested by Tom Pepper could help bring politicians' attention to the funding problem, other groups funded by special interests can take that attention away. Since graduate students don't have the cash to create and fund a lobby, our best way to keep the officials' attention is through a union.

With a union, we can directly communicate with the legislators on how much money should and will be available on TA/GA lines. Once a contract has been negotiated and ratified, the question the state legislators will have to ask is not "How much do we give to SUNY schools for TA/GA lines" but

"How much money are we required to give to SUNY schools for TA/GA lines". The TAs and GAs (and hopefully soon, RAs) would be, with a union, the last word on what's available.

Think about it. No longer would GAs and TAs go on year by year worrying if budget cuts will end their quest for higher education prematurely. A union will not only make sure the money is there for TAs and GAs, it also gives us the possibility of having other benefits such as health insurance and cost of living increases. But don't take my word for it. Take the time to do some reading and ask those questions on things you're not sure about. Now is not the time to vote one way because everyone else is. Being informed is the only way you'll know you've made the right choice for you.

### GRADUATE STUDENT News & Views

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Room 206, Central Hall  
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(516) 632-6492

Ida Fuchs, Office Manager

Editor: Sally Kuzma

The GSO Executive Council  
President: Norah Martin  
Vice President: Emily Zakin  
Treasurer: Timothy Morton  
Secretary: Tom Pepper

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## viewpoints

## Questioning Unionization:

## Will RAs, TAs and GAs Really Benefit from a Grad Student Union?

By Jane Ely, Fons Haffmans, Chris Kushmerick  
and Monica McTigue  
GSO Executive Council Members 1991-1992

We've served on the GSO executive council last year. During that year the GSEU was brought back to life on this campus. There has been a strong temptation to keep quiet with the hope that the union was going to eventually say something substantive and in congruence with the objective reality at Stony Brook that we have observed as active members of the GSO Executive Council.

#### GSEU and the Research Assistants: the hidden agenda.

In the last issue of the Union Times (October 1992, vol. 2 nr. 2, p3) the GSEU states that it wants to bring the RA's into the union. It wants to do that by filing a petition for an election before New York State's PERB (Public Employees Relations Board).

This doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. RA's are employed by the Research Foundation and the Research Foundation is a private not-for-profit corporation. Its employees are not state employees. So why file before a Public Employees Relations Board and not the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)? Unionization at private corporations is governed by federal law.

*The GSEU has known since June 10, 1981 that RA's will never be recognized as employees by the NLRB.* This is what the law firm of Sisper, Weinstock, Harper and Dorn told the GSEU at the time [Collective Bargaining Rights of Teaching and Research Assistants at SUNY, Stony Brook, p2]: "In two separate cases, one dealing with TA's [Adelphi University, 195 NLRB 639 (1972)] and one dealing with RA's [Leland Stanford Jr. University, 214 NLRB 290 (1973)], the NLRB decided that where a student is employed at a school primarily for the purpose of furthering educational objectives, he or she is not an employee as defined in the NLRA [National Labor Relations Act; FH]. [...] The NLRB expressly ruled under this reasoning that TA's and RA's similar to those at Stony Brook have no rights under the NLRA. [...] It is therefore established under Federal Law that RA's and TA's are not employees under the NLRA."

*Since it has been legally established that RA's are not State employees it is doubtful that a petition for collective bargaining will be accepted by PERB.*

But it is doubtful whether RA's are employees even by PERB's standard. In other states, Public Employee Boards which have ruled favorably on the issue of graduate student unionization, have excluded those students who do research for their thesis (like almost all RA's) from the bargaining unit [Weinstock *ibid.*]

If GSEU is interested in obtaining immediate and comprehensive benefits for RA's then why have they not approached the Research Foundation's Board of Directors? At least two members of the Board of Directors have gone on record supporting graduate student health insurance.

Finally, let us quote from the Senate Research Council News Column in the "Research Notes Newsletter, vol. 23 nr.3 p. 2: "I would therefore expect RF to match - for RAs —

any benefits that TAs and GAs might be able to coax from the State in the future; and benefits come from the direct-cost category of grants."

So why would the GSEU be so eager to file before PERB? Apparently the filing before PERB is done because the GSEU and other unions would like to see the RF employees reclassified as State Employees and preferably as dues-paying members of their bargaining unit. You wouldn't guess it from the Union Times though.

The State has consistently cut back on its fringe benefits and has tried to pass the costs on to the employees. Why join a sinking ship of the State, especially in view of the fact that the RF has consistently provided better benefits for its employees?

The GSEU isn't doing the RA's a favor by signing them up. If the GSEU will file for an election with PERB it might even prevent the Research Foundation from giving the RA's benefits, since that might be constructed as an unfair labor practice!

#### Fringe Benefits:

##### Where will the money come from?

In its fliers the GSEU has claimed that once the GA/TA's are unionized they will have fringe benefits like health insurance, pay raises and child care services.

The GSEU has pointed out that the money will come from the central funds of the New York State budget, just like the fringe benefits of other state employees. In other words, it will not come out of the SUNY-budget. However:

1. *Unionization will cost lives because the fringe benefits of some TA/GA's will not be paid out of the central funds of the New York State budget.*

A large number of TA/GA-lines (about a 100 last year) are either funded out of IDC-funds or are created by the Deans, using leave money or other discretionary funds of their division. The fringe benefits for TA/GA's funded in this way will not come out of the central funds of the New York State Budget. The benefits will have to come from the Dean's budget or from IDC-funds. This will mean either a reduction or elimination of TA/GA-lines funded this way.

2. *The HFA-division will lose funding relative to other divisions.*

But something else might happen too. This is what President Marburger remarked in his Convocation Address [Currents, November 1992, p.4]: "Fringe benefits on state-funded personnel are paid automatically from central funds that are not counted against our campus allocation. The cost of personnel on non-state budgets must include fringe benefits. [...] More and more of our State funds are used for personnel and more and more of our non-state funds are used for other than personnel. [...] Areas such as the division of Humanities and the Fine Arts, which have little access to non-state funds, are suffering most [...]"

Because there is no need to pay for fringe benefits, some departments pay

TA/GA's out of IDC-funds. Suppose GSEU negotiates a fringe benefit package. In order to get the fringe benefits paid out of the central funds of the New York State budget the TA/GA has to be on the State Payroll. Therefore a department which pays TAs and GAs out of IDC-money will try to transfer them to the State payroll. Otherwise the Department will have to pay the fringe benefits out of their funds. The money has to come from other parts of the campus. Judging from the relative strengths and weaknesses of the departments we wouldn't be surprised if that money would come at the expense the HFA-division.

3. *The State may not fund all the fringe benefits.*

There is another factor. Up to this point we have assumed that the fringe benefits for TA/GA's will be paid for out of the central funds of the New York State Budget. Doesn't sound unreasonable, but consider this too: about half of the full time students on the West Campus are foreign students. We may take this to be representative of the proportion of TA/GA's being foreign. A large number of foreign students are tax exempt. How do you think the Governor would look at increasing the funding of students who never paid a dime into the coffers of New York State?

There is every reason to believe that the New York State budget will continue to shrink. Faced with a choice of cutting state programs or passing the costs on to SUNY the State may well elect to do the latter.

In other words the GSEU's claim that

they will increase the overall SUNY budget is wishful thinking at best. SUNY Central is not beyond passing costs on to the campus. For example SUNY Central has just required that the Hospital cover their employees fringe benefits that were formally paid for by the State. The price tag here is about 2 million dollars.

#### But won't the GSEU be able to get more money into the SUNY system?

All of the scenario's above assume that no new money will be put into the SUNY system. The GSEU seems to claim that it will be able to increase SUNY's overall funding. This is of course preposterous. Where UUP, CSEA, PEF and other unions — with many more members and experience than the GSEU — have failed the GSEU will succeed? We don't think so.

In the previous issue of the News & Views the front page article mentioned the GRI (Graduate Research Initiative). The article seemed to imply that the GRI would be used to increase stipends. First of all, the GSEU had of course nothing to do with the GRI, the first of which started years ago. Secondly the GRI needs to be approved by the legislature. Thirdly, the GRI funds need not and indeed very seldom have been used to increase stipends. However in 1987, the GRI was used to give stipend raises only because the graduate students went on strike here at Stony Brook. At that time cost of living increases were coupled with UUP cost of living increases. The UUP has not had a cost of living raise in three years.

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## Meet UDI, Union of Democratic Intellectuals

*Do you believe everything is OK now that we have a democrat for President?*

If you think so, skip the following message. If you think people still need to mobilize for progressive change, join us!

We are U.D.I. - Union of Democratic Intellectuals, a graduate student-faculty-writer-artist group of individuals who will link with other U.D.I. groups all over the country in shared commitment to democratizing culture and society (and that includes the academy!) We found this movement on the following principles:

1. *We are multiculturalists.* We reject a false universalism that seeks to impose a semblance of unity by obliterating difference or ignoring the balance of power among groups in society.

2. *We will work on equal access to and full participation in educational and cultural institutions for people of all social groups.* We will challenge racist, sexist homophobic and anti-Semitic violence and intimidation wherever they appear.

3. *We support free expression and uninhibited debate; we oppose all attempts to limit*

*free speech on any grounds.* We condemn the government's efforts to force recipients of federal funds - whether artists or birth control providers - to give up their First Amendment rights.

4. *We challenge basic assumptions about education.* We view education as a process of generating new knowledge by critically examining our cultural inheritance and questioning the values and power relations that shape all forms of intellectual activity.

5. *We are alarmed about the new directions schools and colleges are taking.* Today's educational institutions are under pressure to train a technically sophisticated and politically docile work force.

As we form this chapter of U.D.I. at Stony Brook, we recognize that we are not alone in defending democratic principles and opposing the right's attacks. Many such groups, local and national, have come to life in recent months. We call on graduate students and teachers to join us, in adding to our collective strength.

Call (718) 544-3460 if you would like to join us, or for more information.

## STONY BROOK: *Image, Perception & Reality* After The Retreat, Advance?

By Dave Guttman

The annual Student, Faculty, Staff Retreat was held the last weekend of October with the intent of discussing Stony Brook's "Image, Perception and Reality." Fifty members of the Stony Brook community were asked to attend; roughly twenty students, ten faculty and twenty staff. From the graduate student perspective it was both refreshingly open, honest and stimulating, while at the same time disturbingly predictable and frustrating.

The annual SFS Retreat is an attempt by the university to promote an open exchange of ideas and concerns between the various groups that compose our campus community. It is a two day affair, held at a conference center off campus, composed of a series of panel discussions involving the complete group of fifty participants, and more informal workshops of roughly ten people each. The goal is to create an atmosphere and situation which is conducive to frank discussion between administrators, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students. This year's theme, Stony Brook: Image, Perception and Reality, was chosen to address the concern that the University at Stony Brook is generally perceived in a negative way by both the campus community and the general population — the surrounding community, the press, parents of students, perspective students, alumni, etc. This theme was originally stimulated by the recent Newsday series covering the problems in the SUNY system. As the discussion began, it became evident that most people believed that the internal perception was really the problem to be addressed. Our focus must be internal; address those problems that cause tension and internal strife between the various groups on the campus. Only when these have been solved and the campus community has a positive image of Stony Brook will this image be perceived by those not of our direct community.

Most of the concerns centered around the lack of a sense of community at the university and the poor communication between the students, faculty and administration. Specific recommendations were made to help alleviate many of these problems, such as: instilling a better 'customer service' attitude in those staff that deal directly with students and faculty; increasing the contact time between teaching faculty and their undergraduate students so that they can take better advantage of the excellent faculty and academic departments which in many ways are now only available to graduate students and highly motivated undergraduates; facilitating the dissemination of information concerning the tremendous number of academic, social and cultural campus activities and programs to both the university and non-university communities; increasing outreach to high schools in order to recruit more freshmen of high standing, and encouraging courses (i.e. USB101), programs and activities to quickly integrate them into the university and instill in them a sense of community; encouraging the development of social, cultural and academic clubs and groups, a greek community and high quality (division 1)

sports teams to provide an alternative to the 'suitcase university' mentality among many of the undergraduates. In general, it was an excellent forum for discussing the pros and cons of Stony Brook with people and groups for whom informal interaction is limited.

This was the useful aspect; not everything was so positive. From the graduate student perspective there were some problems. The most obvious was poor representation: of the approximately twenty students present, only three were graduate students, in contrast to the roughly 2:1 ratio between the undergraduates and graduates on campus. We were represented on the appropriate panels, and Monica McTigue (former president of the GSO) did present an eloquent case for the plight of the graduate student, but our interests were generally drowned out simply as a result of sheer numbers. Our concerns and positions did not receive the attention they deserve given our numbers and our important position in both research and teaching.

My primary concern is exactly what happens to the recommendations made at this retreat. In just the week since the retreat, I have participated in a discussion on very similar topics at a University Senate committee meeting. They were unaware of what had been discussed at the retreat and it was unknown whether a formal document would be released to the governing bodies which are in a position to implement our recommendations and proposals. If, in fact, no formal summary is produced, then what was the point in the first place? A tremendous amount of time, effort and money (approximately \$6,500) was expended to carry out this retreat. Was this a worthwhile expenditure of money and effort? If no formal statement is produced, and no recommendations are made, then I contend that the retreat is simply an excuse for administrators to take an all-expenses paid weekend at a posh conference center. If this is true then we should demand that our money not be wasted in such a manner. If, on the other hand, some of the excellent dialog that was generated at the retreat gets passed up the line formally, then I wholeheartedly support the idea and strongly encourage graduate students to get involved. We, as a group, interact more with the rest of the university community (undergraduates, faculty and staff) than any other, providing us with unique insight into the functioning, or lack thereof, of the university. We are better able to understand and integrate the perspective of both the undergraduates and faculty given our intermediate position, and we have the advantage of knowing how other universities address problems similar to those at Stony Brook having been undergraduates or graduates at other institutions in the recent past. We are not just some minor variant of undergraduate; we are professionally and demographically very different, and have different concerns, interests and requirements. We must demand proportional representation at such meetings, to ensure that our unique and essential role on this campus is recognized.

## Treasurer's Report

By Tim Morton, GSO Treasurer

This has been a light month for budget requests but there is news. First, the news. In the last issue of the News & Views I reported on the allocation of \$5,000 for the FSA-administered loan program. Adelaide Kuzmack of the Financial Aid Office read this and remembered the GSO had set up a similar program in 1986-87 through the Stony Brook Foundation. The program had lapsed into disuse but the good news is, the money is still there—\$9,000 of it in fact. This money has been returned to us and we now have an even larger loan program and the \$5,000 we allocated is freed up for this fiscal year's use. Thank you Adelaide! The loan program is still not in place yet (red tape from the SB Foundation), but we expect it will be soon.

The other news item is the number of students. As treasurer, I am interested in this because it effects the size of the budget. Our concern is: what effect has the strange tactics of the administration had on the number of students enrolled? Below I list, in table form, the numbers of students derived from two different sources (#1: Helen Cooper of Grad School and #2: William Kuzmak of Student Accts.) It is extremely difficult to get these numbers, or so it seems.

	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Source
Fall '91	2714	2904	6148	Grad School
Fall '92 #1	2730	2958	6232	Grad School
Fall '92 #2	2473	3197	6189	Student Accts
Diff.	(-257)	(+239)	(-18)	

Two issues are raised by these numbers. 1) There are a number of new Masters level programs that started this year. These are a new resource base that the university has been very gung-ho in attracting. We're glad to see them here, but we have no idea how many of them there are (another difficult figure to obtain) and we are concerned that increases in the numbers of new Masters students is masking a loss of students due to last years budget cuts. The Grad School insists 'All is well' but we are not convinced. 2) The numbers provided by Student Accounts show a very different picture. The Student Accounts numbers would appear to be more real, they tell how many people actually paid the money to be either full or part time students. I believe the Grad School's numbers are enrollment figures and were real until some of the students (257 of them) realized they couldn't afford to be full time and changed to part time status (239 increase). It is a plausible scenario, but at this stage I'm still speculating. I would like some answers; anyone with information or personal experience in such things as having to go from full to part time, please contact me at the GSO office. As far as the GSO budget is concerned, so many students going from full to part time results in a net decrease in our activities fee income of over \$7,000.

On to funding for the past month. The GSO senate approved expenditures for 4 items/events. 1) Women's History Month was allocated \$300. This doesn't come up until March but we wanted to be prepared. Our GSO funds will be used to help sponsor lectures, workshops, panels, poetry, music, art, book displays, athletic events, etc. Contact person is Connie Koppleman. 2) The Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat held last weekend was allocated \$193.75 (see Dave Guttman's review, adjacent). Both events were funded from Programs. Two other projects were funded under Cultural and Social. 3) Maureen Palmieri was funded \$100 for her living art work "Planting on the Hill". If you enter campus from the South entrance you will see a bunch of colored stakes on the right hand side of the road just past the turn on to South Campus. Next year these will be a mass of blooming daffodils, narcissus and grape hyacinths with an associated sculpture (not in place yet). 4) Karl Kneis was allocated \$100 for a commissioned art installation related to issues raised in the play *The Rivers of China*. The multimedia piece is on view in the lobby of Theatre 2 before and after each performance, and during intermission (see review, page 6)

RAP funds are the ever popular \$100 allocations made to individual students to defray the costs of presenting papers at conferences outside the university. There is some concern that the current definition of RAP eligibility excludes a large group of students; in particular, people in the arts and humanities. Other groups, mainly the hard sciences, do receive what appears to be a disproportionately large share of the RAP allocations. The budget committee is currently looking into this. For a complete listing of who received funds and their departmental affiliations, see me.

That's all for this report. Remember that departmental allocations are available but you have to have a senator (who actually comes to meetings) to get them. Departmental allocations are generally worth around \$100+ which was enough for my department to get a restaurant grade, double barreled coffee maker. If your department doesn't have a senator, get one. When the budget gets messy (as SUNYs have the last few years), politics gets important. So get involved! As an added bonus, the first three meetings this year each lasted only 2.5 hours.

## Senate Minutes By Tom Pepper, GSO Secretary

At the November 4 Senate Meeting, we didn't have a quorum initially, so we discussed matters that did not require senate approval for the first forty minutes.

The president of SASU (Student Association of State Universities) spoke to the graduate students present, explaining that SASU is broke, but not bankrupt, and asking for support. The senate made no decision on this request.

We then discussed the upcoming GSO party, to be held on Friday, November 13, at the End of the Bridge. The viability of establishing a Graduate Student Lounge may depend on how many graduate students attend this party, so please attend and suffer through all the free music, food, and socializing you can stand.

The GSO member of the Administrative Review Committee deferred his report until the next meeting, because they are due to meet with the provost on November 13 to discuss the budget and find our exactly what a "phase two adjustment" is.

Dave Guttman reported on the fac-

ulty-student-staff retreat (see his article, page 4). A request to pay part of the expenses for the retreat was considered as a separate motion. It was decided that we should pay \$200 to share the expense of the retreat, provided that we ask for additional graduate student representation at the next retreat. There were only three graduate students at this year's retreat, and the GSO senate would like there to be more next year.

For the symposium on the Balkans held last Thursday, \$200 was allocated.

On Sunday, November 15, a representative of the Student Assembly, the organization which represents student opinions to SUNY Central, will be on campus. Anyone who wishes to speak with her should contact Norah Martin at the GSO.

We also need graduate student input on what improvements or changes are needed at the libraries on campus. Tim Morton is currently serving on the library committee, and would appreciate any suggestions.

The next senate meeting will be on December second, at 7:00.

## Unionization

*Continued from page 3*

It is important to remark that TA/GA's are not allowed to strike because they are state employees. The law states unambiguously: "No public employee or public employee organization shall engage in a strike [...] shall cause, instigate, encourage or condone a strike [art 14 par. 210 sec.1 of the Civil Service Law]". The penalties are quite stiff.

As quoted from President Marburger's University Senate Report of October 30th, "Even proposed GRI funding and other special program support sought in SUNY's overall budget request will not

suffice to restore Stony Brook's equilibrium, much less support positive advancement. [...] If the GRI materializes we would use it to begin a major upgrade of our engineering school" and additional investment in biological sciences.

Frankly we don't think more money will become available until this recession has ended. In fact, the voting down of the jobs bond act may even worsen the recession in New York. Nobody seems to expect more money to come in for the next couple of years. Last year's "Academic Plan" foresaw significant budget cuts for this campus for the next three years.

## Balkans Symposium

*Continued from page 1*

vilians lives everyday." The man who introduced himself as the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bratislav Djordjevic, and who spoke on behalf of the Serbs did little to counter charges of Serbian aggression. He asserted first of all that Croatia illegally seceded from the federation, and then that Croatia, by arming itself and by leaving out any reference to Serbs in its new constitution, was about to embark on a genocidal campaign against all Serbs in its territory. This justified Serbs going to war against Croatia, he said. The same argument was used for invading Bosnia after it claimed independence: the need to protect Serbian minorities in that republic and win their self-determination. Over and over again he cited "self-determination" for oppressed Serbs as the motivating factor behind the violence.

The Croatian representative, Ljubinko Matesic, asserted that Croatia had every right to secede under the terms of the Yugoslav constitution. He cited Milosevic's brutal treatment of Albanians in the autonomous region of Kosovo in 1986, an incident also mentioned by Mr. Banac, as evidence of a dangerously aggressive Serbian regime. He pointed to several ways in which the Serbian

actions mirror those of Nazi Germany in the '30s. These include: the idea that all Serbs must live in one state; the misrepresentation of Serbian minorities as "oppressed" (as Germans claimed they were mistreated in Czechoslovakia and Poland when in fact they were often in a position of power); the confiscation of Croatian property in Serbia (a tactic Nazi's used against non-Germans living in Germany); and encouraging Serbs in Croatia to revolt. Croatia, Matesic asserted, neither hates Serbian people nor oppresses them; Croatia opposes the Milosevic regime and the policies of Serbian Nationalists. Croatia has a policy of amnesty, sheltering some 750,000 refugees (in a state of 4 3/4 million people), 500,000 of whom are from Bosnia.

The Newsday Editor supported the Bosnian and Croatian claims. "Overwhelmingly, ethnic cleansing is being carried out by Serbs against Bosnian Muslims," he said. The various reports that come to us through the news media paint a horrific picture of human rights abuses uncannily like those practiced by Nazi Germany: people shipped out of their homelands in box cars, civilians gathered into concentration camps where they are beaten, tortured, and slaughtered. He added the

## Advocate's Corner

*By Tom Pepper, Grad Student Advocate*

We are now in the middle of our middle states review. This means that we need to define the purpose of our graduate programs. I have been wondering if any of us know what that purpose is. I have some ideas about what I would like our purpose to be, and I would like to know if other graduate students agree.

Stony Brook, like other state universities, is one source of the production of organic intellectuals - i.e. intellectuals who are from the working class. Those of us who are from the working class have an obligation to ensure that access to higher education remains available to other members of the working class. This goes beyond such issues as unionization; although I do believe that unionizing will reduce working class students' access to graduate educations, we all have a moral obligation to consider seriously the results of the upcoming unionization vote.

More importantly, we need to consider what the function of the work we do in our various disciplines is. I would hope that most of us want to use our research to make the world better. That requires that we are willing to criticize the existing establishment. This is where the problems begin. How do we justify having the government pay us to attempt to dismantle its validity?

We need to remember that one of the most essential functions of research done in English, Psychology, Sociology, History, Art History, Theatre Arts, and many other disciplines is, simply put, the study of ideologies. Ideology, in the sense of the individual's lived (experienced) relation to the relations of production, is not just an unnecessary political belief, but is something human beings cannot exist without.

Even a capitalist world cannot make any progress without an awareness of the functions of ideology within its ideological state apparatus. We need to remember, and to remind those people outside the academy, that we are working to ensure the well being of all human beings, and that we are doing some of the most important research that a university can do.

It was suggested at a recent GSO meeting that it is a waste of money to build particle colliders; this is as ridiculous as suggesting that we no longer need a philosophy department, or an English department. Graduate students need to continue to do professional work that lets the academic community, as well as the general public, know that we are an essential part of one of the primary human ambitions: making sense of the world, and if possible controlling it.

While I obviously believe that we need more marxists in the university, as long as graduate research continues we are making some progress. If graduate research by students from the working class is limited, or if it stagnates due to a lack of increased support, we may end up, as Perot predicted, just plucking chickens.

However, a more acceptable claim the GSEU could make is that in case the SUNY budget expands again it might be able to steer some of that money towards graduate students.

**GSEU: the organization.**

It is now time to take a closer look at the GSEU organization. The GSEU calls itself a democratic organization. But unions

are not known for their democratic practices. Thomas Geoghehan's book *Which Side Are You On?* [New York, 1991] contains quite a few examples of rigged elections and other practices union bosses use to screw the rank and file. Or why don't you read about how the United Steel Workers dealt with their local 2869 in Fontana [Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*, New York, 1990]. In the past the GSEU has taken great care to distinguish itself from it less than democratic colleagues, calling itself a "grass-roots movement" and stressing membership initiative.

Let us just point out a couple of things. First of all the executive board is not elected directly by the membership. The candidates are elected by the Delegate Assembly. Delegates are elected by the members of each chapter, according to the rules set by that chapter. This is not unusual among unions, but as Geoghehan has pointed out, it reinforces the cliquish nature of the union. Secondly, amazingly enough, the GSEU constitution contains no provisions to recall elected representatives. It does contain term limits: one cannot serve for more than three years on the executive council or the Delegate Assembly.

In other words: there is no way you can hold your representatives accountable. So even if the membership votes down a contract they have no way of removing the leadership which negotiated the contract.

Some members of the GSEU have stated that "anyone can begin a de-certification election if they are really unhappy with the union — all it takes is a call to the Labor Board." However, it is not so simple. Take the case of PEF.

On this campus PEF — which represents the University Hospital nurses — has been trying to break away from state-

*Continued on page 7*

*the arts in review***“What's a Heaven For?”**

*The Rivers of China*, presented by the Theatre Department  
Theatre Two, Staller Center  
November 12-14 at 8:00pm and  
November 15 at 2:00 pm.

Reviewed By Matt Roth

In two separate times, in two different worlds, two people struggle to become the person they both think they are.

In one world, a present day that could-have-been, a totalitarian state dominated by the image of Medusa has lowered men to lesser creatures, rewritten history, and erased all literature and art created by men. William Shakespeare, Robert Browning, D.H. Lawrence-- all of them are condemned and forbidden. And in this world, a man who has been hypnotized to believe that he is Katherine Mansfield awakes in a hospital bed to find himself in a world that cannot accept him as a full human being.

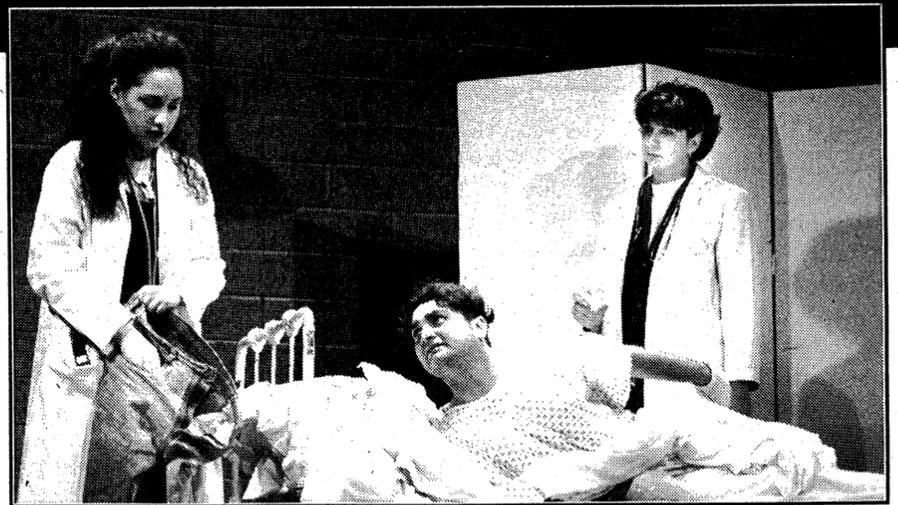
The second world, the past the way it was, is a world dominated, more subtly perhaps, but dominated none-the-less by men, and the real Katherine Mansfield herself must struggle to be who she believes herself to be. She isn't hypnotized, but she too isn't the person she thinks she is, and while living in a "spiritual institute" she also awakes amid "doctors" of a kind to find herself in a world she didn't create.

If Alma De Groen's play *The Rivers of China* sounds confusing then take an-

other look. The play isn't easy, and it isn't simple. Even when watching the excellent production now showing in Theatre Two, directed by Rod Wissler, if you don't listen closely to everything then you'll miss something worth catching. The play assumes an audience that can listen. Everything is in the play that needs to be there, all the answers can be found, but De Groen doesn't feel the need to hit the audience over the head with anything. Neither, however, is the play about being subtle. In this vibrantly staged production the message is clear as black spray paint on a white brick wall.

In the play's most striking moment, the doctor who had hypnotized *The Man* to give him Katherine Mansfield's life spray paints a message on a stark brick wall, turning Browning's words into an anthem of revolution that seem to hang on the wall even after they are removed: "A man's reach should exceed his grasp." Or else, as Browning finishes the line, "What's a heaven for?"

The production is powerful, because it understands that beyond the issues of gender, and beyond the story of two Katherine Mansfields, is the story of people fighting to be more than their roles in society will allow. A man's reach shouldn't exceed his grasp; *everyone's* should.



Doctors Audra (Helene Wasserman) and Rahel (Phyllis Scarlett) attend to their patient, *The Man* (Vinay Pathak) in the Theatre Department production of *The Rivers of China*.  
Photo by Mike Petrovski

Holding the show together and making it work, is a strong ensemble of actors. Valerie Clayman as Katherine Mansfield is at every moment always mature and believable, and her final monologue works beautifully. Dan Gregori is very solid as Wayne, a young janitor who befriends *The Man*, and he has to be: he provides the empathic center for half the play. Vinay Pathak also plays a role, as *The Man*, that could easily fall flat, but never does. And Carlos Jesse Benitez is hilariously idiosyncratic as Gurdjieff.

The production value of the show is excellent. It's almost worth seeing just to watch Deborah Meek's lights play with Dunsai Dai's set design, and

to even begin to describe the show's haunting use of sound and shadow would fall short of what they do. And though at first glance the installation in the lobby seems to have little to do with the show in the theatre, even it adds a sense of event that makes the show seem a little more exciting.

Any of the criticisms that I have about the show seem almost like nit-picking. Yes, the script is confusing at times, and the lights do seem to be over-cued, and the character of Asanov does add a humor that seems out of place, but ultimately so what? At times their reach does exceed their grasp, but that's right, that's exciting, and that's what good theatre should be.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance Celebrates November Awareness Month

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Awareness Month is underway at Stony Brook with a wide variety of events planned for the month of November, including guest lectures, a film festival and a dance called RAVE II. Events run the gamut from personal to political, and are coordinated by members the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance at Stony Brook.

LGBA spokesperson Anthony Ramos said that this group is the oldest of its kind on Long Island, claiming 19 years of advocacy for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Their mission is to educate the campus, to provide peer support, create social events where lesbian, gay and bisexual people can be comfortable, and to join in political activities to advance the rights of and end discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals.

While harassment and hostility against homosexuals are not uncommon at Stony Brook, Ramos said in many ways the climate for homosexuals on campus is much less hostile than off campus. One out of seven students is lesbian, gay or bisexual, according to surveys of college campuses cited in LGBA literature, compared to one in ten in the general population. "We are really well-protected by non-discrimination codes for the campus community," said Ramos. Public Safety is supportive

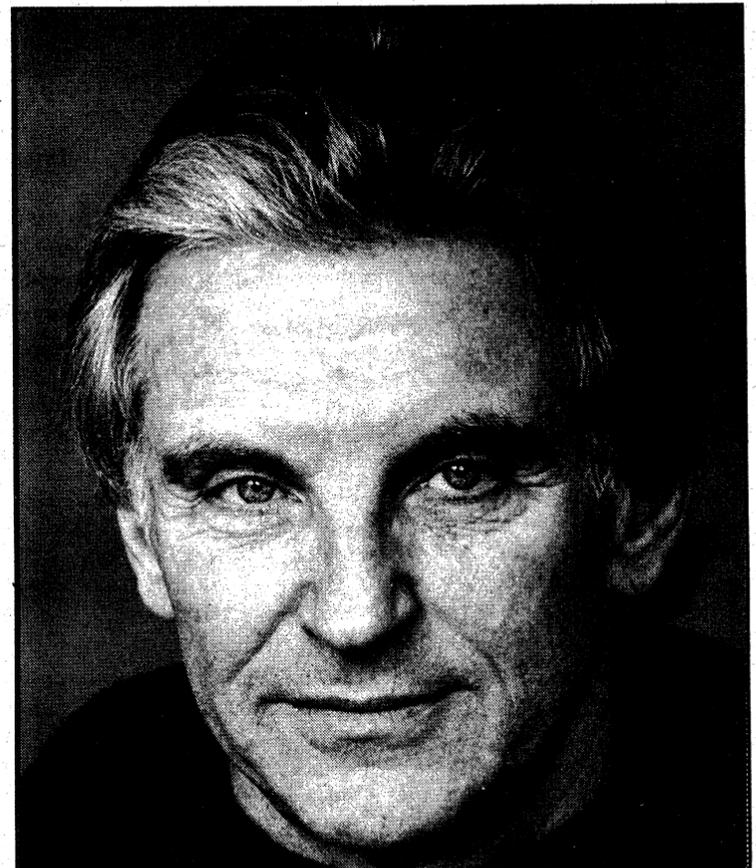
and responsive to harassment issues, he added. In addition, Stony Brook has a progressive domestic partnership policy in regards to housing, allowing same sex couples who live as domestic partners to be eligible for married student apartments. Very few universities in the country have such a policy, said Ramos, which was won by two Stony Brook LGBA members two years ago.

Additional support for LGBA comes from faculty members and a faculty-staff lesbian, gay and bisexual network, which co-sponsors some of their programming. Another group called Stonewall Scholars deals with the academic side of homosexual issues.

Perhaps the biggest event of the month for LGBA is a dance called Rave II. Subtitled "The Technofest Returns", the dance is a repeat of last year's sold-out event. LGBA goes all out to get the latest techno fads, elaborate decorations, even caged dancers. According to Ramos the "open atmosphere" attracts homosexuals and heterosexuals alike; he expects a heavy turnout again this year.



## "RECLAIMING THE GAY AND LESBIAN PAST"



University Distinguished Lecture Series Presents a Lecture By

### MARTIN DUBERMAN

Distinguished Professor of History, CUNY and Director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies; author of *In White America*, *About Time: Exploring the Gay Past* and *Cures; A Gay Man's Odyssey*

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1992 8PM**

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage. This lecture is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and *Newsday*.

## the arts in review

# A Strange Harmony

Works by Gary Wojdyla at the Library Gallery, SUNY Stony Brook  
November 2nd-13th, 1992

Reviewed by Dominic Molon

The artwork of Gary Wojdyla confounds our perceptive capabilities, deftly juxtaposing elements of sculpture and painting. Richly textured, diaphanous abstract paintings oppose or function within (or upon) rectangular sculptural forms. The interplay created by the subtle combinations of media and format stimulates a conflict within the viewer. One is drawn first by the painted elements of the works, with their lush fields of color and the dense material presence of beeswax combined with oil paint. Mr. Wojdyla, however, engages us further with sculptural forms which bring spatial issues to the fore. The viewer is thus captivated and fraught with a bit of difficulty, with both elements in the artwork vying for attention. These elements, however, ultimately work together, transcending their initial dichotomy, towards coherence.

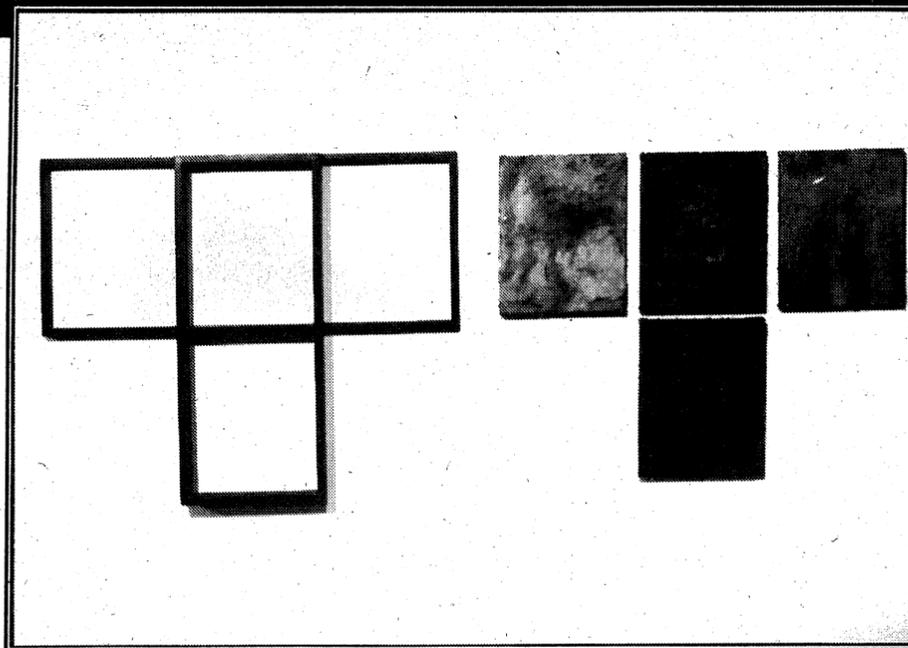
At this writing the works are untitled, yet one wonders what titles could add to art which possesses such an abundance of levels of understanding. Titles would seem an unwelcome intrusion upon the often ingenious games which Mr. Wojdyla plays with the fusion of seemingly ill-matched partners: expressionistic, textural painting with minimal, geometric sculpture. An example is the piece situating five such paintings within five rectangles which project from the wall. This creates a tension in the contrasting of the dark, sumptuously painted colors of the paintings with the bright stark white of the sculpture. Recessed within the rectangles, the paintings acquire a heightened sense of aura, hidden from our view within their inner sancta.

Not constrained to the representation of the abstract, Mr. Wojdyla displays a sensitivity towards draftsmanship in his precise renderings of details from Titian's Sacred and Profane Love. These carefully drawn fragments from a work of the Italian Renaissance form part of a sculpture which continues Mr. Wojdyla's frustration of our perceptual abilities. The drawings are rendered on four small panels of equal size organized face to face atop a white rectangular base. Very little space is afforded between the panels, obstructing

our view of all but the first drawing and the painting on the back of the last panel. The viewer struggles for a clear glimpse of either the drawing on the one side or the abstract painting on the other. What results is an act of futility; the work functions, in part, on the very futility of our vain attempt to gain a complete experience from the piece.

Perhaps the most compelling piece on display is that which features four paintings arranged in a T formation beside a sparse black construction which mimics the arrangement of the paintings. The medium of the visceral, somber paintings announces itself through the exposure of bright orange beneath the cracks of the dark, thickly applied beeswax and oil paint. The medium gives the paintings a sculptural quality, bluntly speaking more about space, perhaps, than its minimal neighbor. The black companion piece, however, is more subtle in its comments on space; the shallow black rectangles take on the appearance of the disembodied frames of the neighboring paintings. The two central rectangles of the structure rise slightly above the adjoining rectangles quietly raising the issues of space within its own confines. Dissonant as the coupling may seem, the contrasting presences achieve an odd harmony. The black structure becomes an elegant counterpoint to the rough hewn, viscous paintings.

Beyond the complex interweaving of painting and sculpture Mr. Wojdyla's use of color in the works deserves attention. The use of beeswax medium with oil paint provides the perfect base for rich, muted tones. They form fields of color which span across broad stretches of canvas or assert their material presence on the smaller sculptural pieces. Dark blue grays dissolve into darker recesses of color; dirty ochres conjure up T.S. Eliot's "yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the windowpanes", the wax/paint rubbing its muzzle on the picture's plane. Horizontal strokes of light aqua-greens are tempered with darker greens and encroached upon by the building up of rust colored paint. Mr. Wojdyla exploits the wax/paint combination to its fullest potential, in-



News & Views Photo

Painting and sculpture resonate in works by Gary Wojdyla at the Library Gallery.

tensifying the tenebrous, laden quality of his colors.

The nagging issue of art historical referents remains. Elements of the works of two artists strike one immediately when viewing Wojdyla's works: minimalist sculptor Donald Judd and German painter Sigmar Polke. The arrangement of stark geometric forms are reminiscent of Judd's groundbreaking reductivist work of the early 1960's, while the handling of colors and the use of unconventional painting media

suggest Polke's work of the 1980's. Far from mere dependence on the precedents set by these two (post) modern masters, Mr. Wojdyla sets these incompatible artistic strains against one another with surprising success. Eluding the spectre of mere art historical quotation, Mr. Wojdyla creates a conversation of sorts between the minimalism of Judd and the expressionism of Polke. The witty understatement of the latter result, not in cacophony but in charming and clever artistic dialogue.

## Art Lectures, and Art Forum II

The SUNY Stony Brook Art History and Criticism Program's Guest lecture Series sponsors two events this month that pertain to a variety of disciplines.

On Wednesday, November 11th at 12:30pm in Staller Center Room 3220, "Fantasy, Empathy & Conflict in Picture Books for Young Children" will be the subject of a talk to be given by Ellen Handler Spitz, Visiting Lecturer of Aesthetics in Psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College. Her books include *Art and Psyche: A study in Psychoanalysis and Aesthetics* (1985) and *Image and Insight: Essays in Psychoanalysis and the Arts* (1991). Her article entitled "Calvin and Hobbes: Postmodern and Psychoanalytic Perspectives" is forthcoming in *The Psychoanalytic Review*.

On Tuesday November 17th at 12:30pm in the Staller Center Art Gallery, Carol Armstrong will speak on

"Photography, Biology, Destiny: Difference According to Diane Arbus." Carol Armstrong is Associate Professor at City University of New York, Graduate Center, where she teaches 19th century French painting, and 19th and 20th century photography. Recent publications include the book *Odd Man Out: readings of the Work and Reputation of Edgar Degas* (1991), and "Manet/Manette: Encoloring the I/Eye," *Stanford Humanities Review* (Summer 1992).

In the studio program, **ART FORUM II** will take place Thursday, November 12th at 7pm, in the studios at Nassau Hall, South Campus

It's an evening of spontaneous discussion and criticism where various artists can display and discuss their work. Writers, musicians, performers are welcome to participate! As usual, food will be served. For more information call the South Campus studios at 632-7273

## Unionization

Continued from page 5

wide collective bargaining. The State has blocked the Hospital from granting the nurses wage increases thereby becoming competitive with other hospitals on Long Island. The Statewide PEF is not cooperating since it doesn't want to dilute its membership.

One can imagine a similar scenario wherein the graduate students at Stony Brook would be able to negotiate a far better contract with the local administration than the GSEU Statewide could or would with the Governor's Office of Em-

ployer Relations (GOER).

Remember that Stony Brook represents only 3 of the 13 members of the executive council.

### GSEU and CWA

Just how much investigation has the average TA/GA done with respect to unionization in general and CWA in particular? Is it the case that doctoral and masters students forfeit objective analysis in lieu of the rhetoric dispensed by paid organizers?

In order to offset a steady decline in union membership during recent years CWA, together with the Teamsters, the Service Employees International Union,

the United Food and Commercial Workers and the United Auto Workers have engaged in a strategy of organizing in numerous unrelated industries and jurisdictions. The primary target of organizing has been the State and Local Public sector. For example, the highly destructive 1985-1986 fight between AFSCME, CWA, The National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers and the Teamsters over Ohio State employees was the result of competition for membership [Labor Notes, Feb. 1986].

New workers represented by CWA such as SUNY's GAs and TAs will be in a minority and their need will have low priority in a large union that has no particular

base in graduate student representation.

It now appears that GA/TAs will have to pay GSEU 1.15% of their wages (about a \$100,=). 40% of this will eventually (after three years) go to CWA. CWA isn't doing GSEU any favors.

To summarize: the GSEU is not doing the RA's a favor by either signing them up or reclassifying them. Furthermore GSEU has obfuscated the very real possibility that TA/GA-lines will be lost. The GSEU's structure promotes the formation of an organization unaccountable to the membership it seeks to represent. And finally, it should be recognized that CWA's motives are not altruistic.

## calendar of events

A selected listing of events on campus that may be of particular interest to graduate students

### Tuesday, November 10

Michael Deguy, Professor of Literature and Philosophy, Universite de Paris, will speak on *Poetic Art*. 4:30pm, Humanities Institute, Library E4341.

The Alternative Cinema at Stony Brook presents, "The Story of Women," by Claude Chabrol with Isabel Huppert, Francois Cluzet, Marie Trintignant. 7:00 and 9:00pm, Stony Brook Union Aud. \$2.

Contemporary Chamber Players: New works by Stony Brook composers. Donations accepted. 8pm in the Recital Hall.

*Parents of Gays and Lesbians*: members of PLAG will discuss issues surrounding the "coming out" of their children. 7pm Union, Rm. 231.

LGBA Film Festival: "Witches, Dykes, Faggots and Poofers", 9 pm Union Auditorium.

### Wednesday, November 11

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: in its Staller Center debut. \$20; student discounts available. 8pm in the Recital Hall.

Noontime Concert, Staller Center Recital Hall; free.

*Lesbianism Within the Latin Culture*: Members of Las Buenas Amiga, a Latina Lesbian organization discuss the diversity of Lesbianism within their culture. 8pm Dreiser College Lounge, Tabler Quad.

### Thursday, November 12

**Rave II: The Invasion.** The return of the technofest.. 10pm Fannie Brice Theatre, Roosevelt Quad.

**Artist's Forum II:** Artists will display and discuss their work. Hosted by MFA students at Nassau Hall, South campus. Writers, musicians, performers welcome to participate. Food will be served-for more info, call 632-7273 .7pm

Stony Brook Theatre: "The Rivers of China." Alma De Groen's play about the writer Katherine Mansfield is directed by Rod Wissler. Presented by the Department of Theatre Arts. Tickets \$8; Students/senior \$6. 8pm, Theatre 2. Also 11/13-14 at 8pm; 11/15 at 2pm.

### Friday, November 13

**The GSO Party:** All grad students welcome. Live music, food, beer and other beverages. 9pm to 1am at the End of the Bridge, Student Union.

Stony Brook Theatre: "The Rivers of China". 8pm, Theatre Three. See 11/12.

LGBA Film Festival: *Paris is Burning*, 8pm, HSC. *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, 12 midnight, 105 Javits.

### Saturday November 14

*Magic, Music Movies and Movers*: India Society activities beginning at 3pm, New Graduate Commons. Call S.N Sridhar for more information at 751-1810.

Stony Brook Theatre: "The Rivers of China". 8pm, Theatre Three. See 11/12.

### Sunday November 15

Stony Brook Theatre: "The Rivers of China". 8pm, Theatre Three. See 11/12.

Kevin Hosten, DMA flute recital. 3pm, Recital Hall. Free.

### Monday, November 16

Distinguished Lecture Series: Martin Duberman, openly gay professor, author, and founder of CUNY's grad program in Lesbian and Gay studies. 8pm Staller Center; free. Sponsored by Office of the Provost and Newsday.

### Tuesday, November 17

Contemporary Chamber Players: meet special guest composer Arthur Berger. Featuring the music of Berger, Silver and Stravinski. 8pm in the Recital Hall; donations accepted.

The Alternative Cinema at Stony Brook presents, "Frida," by Paul Leduc. Spanish with English subtitles. A vibrant film biography of Frida Kahlo, Mexican surrealist painter. 7:00 and 9:00pm, Stony Brook Union Auditorium. Admission is \$2; \$12 for the series of eight films.

Dariusz Wisniewski, DMA Bass recital, 8pm, Recital Hall. Free.

*Romanovsky and Phillips*: Nationally known recording artists present an evening of music and humor. 8pm Staller Center.

### Wednesday, November 18

Noontime Concert, Staller Center Recital Hall; free. Timothy Lovelace, DMA Piano recital, 4pm, Recital Hall; free.

Lecture by Sue Ellen Case, "Windows 2.0: Lesbians and the Screen" 4:30pm at HISB, Library E4340.

*The Healing Power of Love*: Rev. Ann Williams, Chaplain of Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC talks about her work with AIDS patients. 12:30pm, Union Rm. 223.

*Gay and Lesbian Parents*: Members of the Gay Fathers of Long Island and Lesmos discuss the dynamics of raising a family as gay and lesbian parents.

LGBA Film Festival: *Because the Dawn*, a vampire musical comedy. 9pm, Union Aud.

### Thursday, November 19

Evening of Electronic Music: A tribute to the late electronic music pioneer Bulent Arel. Works by various artists. 8pm, Recital Hall; donations accepted.

AIDS Theatre Project: depicting the impact of AIDS on society. 8pm, Fannie Brice Theatre, Roosevelt Quad.

### Friday, November 20

Stony Brook Theatre: Two Japanese *Kyogen* and *No* plays presented as part of an exchange between Univ. of Kansas/Lawrence and USB. Tickets \$8; St./Sen. \$6. 8pm at the Staller Center. Also Sat., Nov. 21.

Stony Brook Camerata Singers: Tim Mount and Kevin Badanes conduct music by Brahms, Des Pres and more. 8pm, Recital Hall. Tickets \$8; \$6 for students.

*Bisexuals in the Gay and Lesbian Community*: Robyn Ochs, co-founder of the East Coast Bisexual Network will speak. 7pm, Union Rm, 231.

LGBA Film Festival: *My Own Private Idaho*, 9pm, 105 Javits.

### Saturday, November 21

University Art Gallery: Opening reception for George Koras, one-person retrospective of sculptures and drawings by this Professor Emeritus. 7:00 to 8:30pm.

*Kyogen* and *No* plays; see 11/20.

Long Island Philharmonic: Adams, *Chair Dances* from *Nixon in China*, Mendelsohn, Stravinsky. For tickets and info call LIP Box Office at 293-2222. 8:30, Main Stage.

### Sunday, November 22

Baroque Sundays at 3: 17th and 18th century choral works. 3pm Recital Hall; donations accepted.

### Monday, November 23

Lecture by Coco Fusco, "Stalking the Bear." The history of the exhibition of nonwestern human beings in zoos, circuses, parks and museums. 2pm HISB, Library E4340. Lecture on Censorship and Contemporary Film, 7pm HISB

Sara Thompson, DMA Bass recital, 8pm, Recital Hall, free.

## Foreign Student Services News

A Special Message on Health and Health Insurance Matters

From Rose Brown, Assistant Foreign Student Advisor

We need your help! Foreign Student Services tries in many ways to help foreign students on campus. In health-related matters, I am looking for student volunteers in three separate areas.

1. I have a medical recommendation form. Many students ask me for names of doctors. Although I cannot recommend doctors myself, you can. If you have a doctor you like and would like to recommend to your fellow students, please stop by and fill out this form, which is anonymous. This is a strictly voluntary procedure, but it could help your fellow students

tremendously.

2. I would like to translate the Emergency Information sheet into several languages. If you are willing to help with a translation into another language, please contact me on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays, 10:00am - 12:30pm, at 632-7025.

3. The infirmary and I are interested in medical practices in your home country and what your expectations are when you seek medical care in the U.S. If you would be interested in participating in a presentation for Infirmary staff and other interested parties, please let me know. Your participation could result in improved medical care on campus.

In a related matter, the Student Health Advisory Committee is looking for active student participants. Foreign students should try to participate to have a voice in Infirmary decisions. Contact the Infirmary if you are interested. Insurance cards are here and being mailed out. If you have not received your card by November 9, please let us know.

The deadline for submissions to next issue of News & Views is November 20th. Listings for the Calendar may be sent to the News&Views at to GSO Office, Room 206, Central Hall. Call the editor at 632-8962/632-6492 for more information.

**The Great GSO Party**  
**Friday November 13th**  
**End of the Bridge**  
**9pm-1am**

All the free food and music you can stand  
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