

NEWS & VIEWS

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The GSEU Contract: What it Means For TAs, GAs, and RAs

Today is the final day for Graduate Student Employees Union members to vote on a tentative contract with the State of New York. The agreement, reached December 29, guarantees two major provisions for grad student TAs and GAs: wage increases of 8% over a 17-month period and employer-paid health coverage. GSEU negotiator and former statewide president Marianthi Lianos was confident the contract would be passed, and expressed hope that it would foster "better relations between TAs and the administration."

The benefits outlined in the contract apply to "all members of the bargaining unit- in other words, all TAs and GAs," said Lianos, regardless of whether they signed up as union members or not. Health insurance benefits apply to anyone on a half-line or more and making \$3500 a year or more, "which means 96% of our unit," according to a letter mailed out to GSEU member this January. International students on J-1 visa students will not be covered under the same insurance plan because of visa requirements, but the State will give them the same % or dollar

amount (whichever is less) of paid coverage as other TAs get. Lianos expects the contract to have a positive impact RAs push to get health insurance benefits, and noted that at other schools that have unionized grad students, the administration has extended similar coverage to RAs. RAs are not yet part of the GSEU bargaining unit.

While the contract satisfies the major demands of grad students, some issues were left for future bargaining (a new contract will be negotiated for July 1995) so as not to hold up negotiations. The union was offered bulletin board rights and meeting space rights on campus, but has yet to secure office space, for instance. TA-teacher training, something the union supports, was also left to future talks. GSEU individuals are currently working to develop orientation programs and prepare for future negotiations on the issue.

The contract also for the first time clearly defines the TA/GA full assistantship as being "generally expected to provide 20 hours of service per week," recognizing that the ac-

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If the contract is ratified...

If the tentative contract agreement reached by the Graduate Student Employees Union and the State is ratified by the union membership, the administration will have a lot of work to do, according to Randy Glazer, Manager of Employee and Labor Relations for Stony Brook's Human Resources office.

"I'm very glad the contract is in and especially glad the parties were able to agree to some health benefit package for a group that did not have it. Now that the promises have been made, a lot of work has to be done to fulfill those promises." Glazer referred to a health insurance questionnaire that will be going out to all grad student

employees pending approval of the contract to collect data on what kind of coverage the populations will need.

The data will be used by SUNY in its search for a health care provider for grad students, and must be collected quickly- by February 16- to insure that bids will be processed and a decision made by the 15th of August for coverage next semester. Glazer stressed that it is in grad students' best interest to reply quickly. "All our data will reflect what we believe is the population at hand, and if the population doesn't respond, data will be skewed so that costs may be more for the state and for each employee."

Late Fees Refunded to Some Grad Students

By Chuck Wright, Grad Student Advocate

In a meeting with GSO representatives, administrators from the Graduate School, and Finance and Management on December 15, the Student Accounts office agreed to refund certain late fee charges imposed on graduate students this past fall.

The refund applies to graduate students on full tuition waivers who followed the common practice of waiting until they received their final corrected bill before paying their balance, and were unexpectedly assessed a \$30.00 late fee for the Fall semester. This occurred because, starting at the beginning of last semester, Student Accounts reduced the minimum outstanding balance that would be assessed for late fees from \$100.00 to \$75.00. This collision between an informal procedure which had developed over past years and an unannounced change in Student Accounts procedure angered many grad students, who felt they were not trying to avoid fees, but simply following common practice and therefore should not be penalized.

Since Student Accounts has no way to track tuition waiver awards until a semester has begun, students with waivers who register early receive two bills: an initial bill charging them full tuition, and a final corrected bill reflecting the tuition waiver and charging them \$76.15 for their student activity fee (\$18.50), their health fee (\$50.00) and a college fee (\$7.65). (Graduate Students classified G1 and G3 would have been charged a slightly higher total of \$81.00, since their College Fees amounted to \$12.50.) Several students had claimed they were advised in the past by Student Accounts personnel to wait for their corrected bills before paying.

Norma Murphy, Director of Student Accounts, took responsibility for the change and apologized for any inconvenience that it had caused graduate students. She noted that similar reductions in the minimum outstanding balance as-

sessed for late fees had taken place without notification in the past, but without causing significant difficulty. She agreed that any future reductions should be announced prior to their taking effect.

Ms. Murphy further agreed to refund, upon their request to the office of Student Accounts, the late fees charged to students who paid the outstanding \$76.15 or \$81.00 after receiving their final corrected bill. Students who had by that time still not paid these balances - in protest against being assessed late fees where in the past they had not - also had their late fees waived for the Fall Semester. Ms. Murphy emphasized that these refunds and waivers would apply only for this past Fall Semester, and only in those cases where the outstanding charges were those for the activities fee, the health care fee and the college fee.

In response to Ms. Murphy's conciliatory gesture, GSO representatives offered to publicize information from Student Accounts concerning deadlines for registration and payment and recommendations concerning the best time for submitting application deadlines in the GSO News & Views. Commenting afterwards that the meeting had proceeded "much better than she had expected", Ms. Murphy expressed the hope that the assistance of the GSO in disseminating this information might help to reduce the problems faced by graduate students when it came time for them to register.

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GSO News

At Last, The Lounge!

After years of frustrated attempts, the reincarnation of a Graduate Student Lounge will soon become a reality. In a novel arrangement between The Graduate Student Organization and The Faculty Student Association, the two organizations will operate a cafe and bar in the Fannie Brice building located in Roosevelt Quad. The hours will be Monday through Friday, 4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Opening a lounge for graduate students has been a long-standing goal of the GSO. Over the past few years, several unsuccessful attempts have been made to locate appropriate space. With the closing of the Fannie Brice Food Mall in Roosevelt Quad, the second floor of the Fannie Brice building became available. Current plans call for using about 3,500 square feet (roughly 1/3) of the second floor for the Graduate Student Lounge.

On Thursday February 10th and Friday February 11th, the GSO lounge committee is planning a Grand Opening, featuring live music and comedy. Thursday night features the Jazz and Rhythm & Blues sound of "Dr. Feel Good" with Stony Brook's own Bob Butz. Friday night begins with a comedy performance by Todd Barry from New York City followed by the musical talents of Track 1 A/B. Admission will be free to Graduate Students and their guests.

Hope to see you there!

Chris Kushmerick
GSO Treasurer & Lounge Committee Chairperson

GSO Senate Meeting Thursday, February 10

Pizza at 5:30 / Meeting at 6pm
in the new Grad Student Lounge

2nd Floor
Roosevelt Quad Dining Hall,
Above Fannie Brice Theater

The Graduate Student Organization
presents the

Graduate Student Lounge Grand Opening Festivities

February 10 and 11

Thursday Night:

Rhythm & Blues by Dr. Feel Good
with Stony Brook's own Bub Butz.

Friday Night:

Comedy by Todd Barry
Fresh from appearances at Caroline's in New
York City and the Conan O'Brien television show!

Both Nights:

Music by Track 1 A/B

Must be 21 or older to enter.
Stony Brook Guest Policy applies.

Graduate Student admitted free of charge.
Cover charge applies to all others.

For more information: 632-6027

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Some Late Fees Refunded-- continued from page 1

According to a News & Views article (Nov. 2, 1993), officials at Student Accounts gave conflicting reasons for the fees. William Kuzmack, the Associate Director of Student Accounts, was reported to have said that the threshold amount was an internal and informal one, and that it was lowered specifically to facilitate the collection of graduate student fees. On the other hand, Mrs. Murphy was reported to have said that the threshold was lowered in response to pressure from Albany to collect all fees owed. In a discussion following the Dec. 15 meeting, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Kuzmack sought to make clear that both statements are correct and that the conflict was only apparent.

Murphy and Kuzmack called attention to the New York State Legislature's recent imposition of a rule requiring that by the end of each fiscal year, June 30, each SUNY

campus must have a total receivable balance - the outstanding balance of tuition and fees owed during an academic year - of no more than 1.5% of its projected revenue for that year. For every dollar outstanding that exceeds that limit, the campus will lose a dollar in the next year's budget allocation. So, for instance, if the projected revenues for a fiscal year were \$10,000,000 (a purely fictional number), and the balance receivable at the end of that fiscal year was \$200,000, then Stony Brook would lose \$50,000 in its next year's budget allocation.

Karol Kain Gray, University Controller, stated that while this new requirement by the Legislature was highly "unrealistic", the University has nonetheless "had to become more aggressive recently" about collecting student balances. She pointed out that while the balance receivable is only one factor affect-

ing future budget projections and allocations, collections have nonetheless become a more serious issue with the University, and that its future financial stability is to a certain extent dependent on these collections.

Whereas it was the Legislature that imposed this collections requirement upon SUNY System, each campus has discretionary authority in establishing late fees and other penalties for late payment or non-payment of outstanding student balances. According to Mr. Kuzmack, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Gray, Stony Brook's late fee policies are lenient in comparison with other SUNY Campuses: late fees of \$100 or more are assessed at some campuses, and at others failure to pay one's balance by a specified deadline will result in the student's being de-registered for that semester.

More News

Behind The Crackdown on Late Registration

By Chuck Wright, Grad Student Advocate

To the graduate student who first learned about the change in late registration policy from a memo that materialized in his or her mailbox one afternoon, it might seem to be just another example of senseless bureaucratic rigidity, just one more among a multitude of strategies that the administration seems to have for making graduate student life more difficult than it needs to be. In this case, however, matters are rather more complex.

During registration periods, the University sends weekly reports to SUNY Central summarizing current enrollment figures. On the fifteenth day of classes, the University sends Albany one last set of enrollment figures. This procedure is called 'snapshot'. The figures sent to SUNY Central by snapshot are, as far as it is concerned, the final enrollment figures for the Stony Brook campus. Students who register after snapshot will not be included in these 'official' enrollment figures.

The enrollment shortfall created by students registering after snapshot might seem to be a relatively minor affair, until one takes into consideration that Albany uses the snapshot figures in its calculations for future budget allocations to the Stony Brook campus. Lawrence Martin, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, determined early last Fall semester that each graduate full time equivalent (FTE) carries an average benchmark value for SUNY budget allocations of \$20,000. (For an explanation of FTE's see the box on this page, "All About FTE's").

This "benchmark value" refers to the value that each graduate FTE is assigned in the "benchmark model" used in Albany to determine the costs of running each of the SUNY campuses. Within the parameters of this model the value of a graduate FTE is determined according to the estimated costs - in terms of the estimated amount of faculty time, departmental staff support, general University staff support, supplies and equipment - required to teach each graduate student for an academic year. Dr. Martin explains the benchmark modelling process as a kind of competitive allocation game that goes on between the various SUNY campuses: "by boosting the number of FTE's fed into the budget allocation formula, Stony Brook increases the claim it has on the total resources being made available to the SUNY System - relative to the other campuses".

The net gain obtained in this manner is unclear, explains Mark Maciulaitis, Director of Budget and Analysis at Stony Brook, because SUNY does not actually allocate funds strictly on the basis of cost estimates

Who's Affected?

A new policy on late registration went into effect this semester, imposing significant barriers to grad students who try to register after the February 4th deadline for late registration (registering after January 21st and up to February 4th still incurs a \$30 late fee). Petitions for late registration *after this date* will be granted only in the case of serious personal or medical emergencies.

In the past, those grad students who wanted to extend summer or winter break by a couple of weeks, or those who just couldn't bear to face the lines during regular registration periods, found it possible, and only slightly inconvenient, to petition for late registration (after the normal late registration period); a little extra leg work was worth it. Now, unless they have genuine and serious grounds for having been unable to register during the stipulated periods - i.e. reasons such as a death in the family, serious illness or injury, natural catastrophes, or being stranded overseas because of visa problems, graduate students who fail to register before the end of late registration and who can offer no good reason for this failure will simply not be able to get themselves enrolled during that semester.

For students who did not get the word, however, it could spell disaster. Maintaining full time status, for instance, is a condition

of employment for graduate student employees. Not being able to get oneself registered would mean a loss of income for that semester. Foreign students on an F-1 Visa, as a second example, must maintain their student status in order to be allowed to remain in the United States. A foreign student who did not get registered for a semester would face deportation, at worst, or else perhaps just a bureaucratic maze in comparison with which the lines during registration look like a Sunday afternoon picnic.

Delays in TAP awards may also cause special burdens for grad students whose registration is blocked for financial reasons. This year, not all TAP awards have been processed by the state. Some students may be blocked from registering for Spring until either the TAP bill from the fall is paid by the student, or the TAP award comes through. Students waiting for the paperwork to go through HESC may be forced to pay the fall TAP amount out of pocket. They will, however, be reimbursed by the University when the TAP award comes through. Grad students facing this problem can get an interest-free loan from the GSO for up to \$400 to help with these expenses. Contact the GSO office at 632-6492.

The GSO is urging students to file for TAP early (by the end of February) to avoid delays next year.

generated by the benchmark model. "If they did that, SUNY Central would run out of money," he said, because the total costs estimated by the benchmark model for all SUNY campuses far exceeds the actual SUNY budget voted by the Legislature. (For this reason he warned against leaping to

the easy, but incorrect conclusion that each additional graduate FTE would result in a \$20,000 increase in Stony Brook's budget allocation.) The actual allocation process is based on factors such as the budget allocation received by a campus the previous year, the overall budget situation for

the upcoming year (i.e. whether the Legislature votes cuts or increases in the SUNY budget), cost increases associated with such factors as faculty and staff wage increases and inflation, and changes in enrollment figures.

The actual role of the benchmark model in the budgetary process, according to Mr. Maciulaitis, is in determining how cuts (or increases, should that ever happen) in the SUNY budget are distributed among the SUNY Campuses. If, for example, the Legislature puts through another budget reduction (in comparison with the previous year), the reduction is not spread evenly throughout the SUNY system. Rather, those campuses last year which - when compared with the others - received more money in relation to the estimate of their operating costs generated by the benchmark model would be the ones singled out for proportionally greater budget cuts. Similarly, those campuses which received proportionally less money in relation to estimated operating costs would experience proportionally reduced budget cuts. What would count as a "proportionally greater" or "proportionally reduced" cut, however, will depend upon this year's estimate of total operating costs generated by the benchmark model.

The overall effect of this rather arcane process can be more simply summarized by saying that when students register after snapshot, it looks as if Stony Brook has fewer students. As a consequence, it looks as if it requires fewer resources than it actually does. The appearance of needing fewer resources, in turn, makes the Stony Brook campus vulnerable to greater budget reductions (or smaller budget increases) than would be justified by actual enrollment figures - a situation in which everybody gets hurt.

The Vice-Provost admits that the new policy seems draconian in comparison with past procedures. To that must be added another policy now under consideration which would result in the withholding of paychecks for TA's, GA's and RA's who did not register by a stipulated deadline. Though he doesn't wish to inconvenience graduate students unnecessarily, Dr. Martin points out that students registering after snapshot cost the University money - not just their tuition waivers and wages, but also the money deducted from future budget allocations to Stony Brook. While it will not be impossible for students with good grounds to submit petitions for late registration, he hopes that the new policy will send the message that "forgetting just isn't a sufficient excuse any longer".

All About FTEs

Student enrollment in the SUNY system is tracked not just in terms of the aggregate numbers of students enrolled for classes ('headcount') but also in terms of Full Time Equivalents. FTE's represent a kind of translation by which the credit load of the existing student population can be expressed roughly as the number of full time students that would be necessary to carry that load. Graduate FTE's are calculated according to the formulas below.

For **advanced graduate students**, who are students enrolled in Ph.D. programs who either have a Master's degree in hand or who have accumulated more than 24 credit hours:

students carrying 9 or more credits = 1 FTE

students carrying 1-8 credits = .75 FTE.

For **beginning graduate students**, who are students enrolled in Master's or graduate degree programs, in CED, or beginning doctoral students who have accumulated fewer than 24 credit hours:

no. of credits carried/12 = FTE equivalent.

special report

HOW THEY SEE US: The Middle States Review Self-Study Takes a Look at The Grad Students' Role at Stony Brook

By Chuck Wright, Graduate Student Advocate and PhD student in Philosophy

Will noble words lead to noble deeds? The working draft of the Middle States Self-Study report, released to the Stony Brook community December 15, is the culmination of nearly two years' work by dozens of Stony Brook administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the surrounding communities. It contains many glowing testimonies to the vital role gradu-

ate students play here, particularly with respect to the quality of undergraduate education. It attempts to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the University, and to provide a kind of blueprint for the years to come. Yet in the process, the report makes many seemingly contradictory statements about the future of grad student financial support, workloads, and teacher training.

The portrait of the University sketched out by the more than two hundred pages of this report gives considerable attention to graduate students in their capacity as teaching assistants and instructors. This emphasis constitutes a tacit admission of the critical role that graduate students at Stony Brook play in the undergraduate curriculum. In addition to the high proportion of

toral degree programs oriented toward adults already working in regional industries - a reference to the theme of regional development.

The topic of "Graduate Education", on the other hand, receives a separate 15-page treatment. First, there is a description of the changing demographics of the graduate student population at Stony Brook: there are more women and minori-

What exactly is the Middle States Review?

The Middle States Accreditation Review is the equivalent of a five year departmental or program review, except that it takes place every ten years and that the academic unit under review is the entire University campus. The review is carried out under the auspices of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which assigns an evaluation team to the campus, where it is supposed to meet with and interview various groups, committees and constituencies. The evaluation team is also supposed to read a self-study report compiled by a special committee established for that purpose by the University under review.

Planning for the Middle States self-study report at Stony Brook began early in the Spring of 1992. In April of 1992, the Steering Committee for the self-study report received its 'charge' from then Provost Tilden Edelstein. Determining that the four principle 'missions' of the university consisted of (1) education, (2) research, scholarly and creative activity, (3) service and (4) quality of life, the Steering Committee then convened a task force around each of these themes. Co-chaired by representatives of the East and West Campuses, each task force was given the task of "exploring the interactions of each constituency" with the particular mission assigned to the task force, "both from the perspective of the constituency as a provider and as a target or receiver" of the university services associated with that mission.

The task force reports were completed by late May of 1993. Following that, the Steering Com-

mittee began composing - on the basis of the material contained in the task force reports - the "integrated" self-study report, the most recent version of which was released to the campus community on December 15. Members of the campus community have until February 4 to submit their written comments, suggestions and criticisms to Jerry Schubel, the chair of the Steering Committee. Between February 1 and February 3 there will also be a series of meetings in which members of the campus community may raise questions with members of the Steering Committee concerning the contents of the self-study report.

On February 17 the self-study report is scheduled to be delivered to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (located in Philadelphia, PA), from whence it presumably will be sent to members of the Evaluation Team, who will in turn then read it in preparation for their visit to the campus. The site visit will take place during the period April 10 and April 13, during which time the members of the Review Team are scheduled to meet with no less than thirty different committees, task forces and representatives of various campus constituencies.

On the basis of the contents of the self-study report and the materials collected during the site visit, the Evaluation Team will prepare a report assessing the current "state of the University" and making a series of recommendations concerning policy options and future priorities. This report will be submitted some time in late June or in July of 1994.

C. Wright

"The Stony Brook university community must realize that graduate students are not merely research 'robots', but people with social lives, families, and other 'human needs'.. and must do more to accomodate those concerns."

-pg. 72, Self-Study Report

undergraduate classes taught by graduate students (40% is an oft-cited figure, though I can't vouch for it), there are also the additional responsibilities of grading, advising, supervising labs and conducting recitation sections which support faculty instruction. By its emphasis upon these particular graduate student roles, the report admits that the issue of the quality of the undergraduate experience at Stony Brook cannot be separated from that of the graduate experience. Indeed, the Middle States report could not adequately address the issue of undergraduate education without taking this connection account.

The section of the self-study titled "Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity" contains a three-page description of the place that students hold in Stony Brook's mission as a research institution. This description begins with the assertion that "the quality of the [research] enterprise depends sensitively on a continuous pool of talented graduate students" (p. 91). The rest of the account consists of a series of one paragraph discussions of such issues as: funding sources for graduate students involved in research, the changing gender and demographics of graduate students involved in research, University research programs oriented toward undergraduates, the different status and needs of medical students, and the need for doc-

ties than before and an increasingly large segment of full-time graduate students are foreign students. The section then goes on to discuss financial support for graduate students. Approximately 85% of Stony Brook's full-time graduate students receive some kind of (state or non-state) financial support from the University, "compared with a figure of about 60% at most other major research universities". The report recommends that in the next two decades, "Stony Brook must move to a position where more students wish to attend primarily because of the University's reputation for academic quality," and states that the "desired goal" would be for 70% of all full time students to be receiving financial support (p. 60). This reduction is to be brought about, however, not through funding cuts (necessarily), but rather through increasing the number of full-time students enrolled in masters programs and in graduate certificate programs, where they traditionally pay their own way.

The two largest remaining parts of this section concern the projected impact of unionization on graduate education and graduate student teaching. It is here that the relation between graduate student support and undergraduate education is made most explicit.

A theme central to the discussion of unionization concerns the possible effects of a University-wide implementation of a required 15-

special report

The Middle States Review Self-Study and You...

20 hour workweek for graduate TA's and GA's, since the report's authors suppose that "the terms of the contract seem likely to include an average working week of 15-20 hours throughout the period of academic obligation for a full TA" (p. 63). (As it happens, the tentative contract agreement reached December 29 between the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and the GSEU contains a provision (Side-letter #2) to that graduate students with a full assistantship "are generally expected to provide 20 hours of service per week".)

The report first articulates a

has been driven largely by the teaching needs of the undergraduate curriculum." The draft released to the campus community, however, has been revised to read: "...the allocation of TA/GA lines...has been based largely on tradition in many departments."

This revision no doubt came about because some members of the Steering Committee recognized that the former assertion was simply incorrect. In 'some departments' fully supported TA's serving in the capacity of grading or lab assistants carry workloads well below an average of 15-20 hours per week.

workloads have also existed during those many years. The University has from the beginning had the authority to eliminate both the workload inequities, and the asymmetrical distribution of state support which makes them possible. As it happens, the University has in the past either explicitly or tacitly endorsed the current asymmetries. The self-study report's suggestion that unionization would somehow bring about significant changes in this arena merely reiterates the University's own decision to dodge the issue - saying in effect, "The Union will make us do it!"

In the report's discussion of graduate student teaching, the University may finally be taking seriously TAs important role as University instructors. The report states here that "adequate TA training is absolutely vital to undergraduate education at Stony Brook, because of the large role played by TA's in this realm" (p. 67). Most of the ensuing comments are directed toward the irregular quality of teacher training for graduate TA's (which is now left almost entirely to departments), the need to institute some kind of uniform training program for all TA's with instructional responsibilities, and current plans to bring about such training. The report relates that "preliminary steps towards the development of an institutional TA training program were taken in Summer and Fall 1993, under the auspices of the Undergraduate Project, the Graduate School, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies" (p. 66), and that the Vice-Provost for Graduate Studies is currently assembling a working group "to develop a proposal for an institution-wide program of TA training" (p. 67).

Graduate student instructors

can only welcome University initiatives in teacher training. Teaching is a difficult task, and a lack of adequate preparation not only makes it more difficult, but both limits the effectiveness of instructors and reduces the quality of undergraduate classroom experience. The University's concern with teacher training for graduate student instructors - should it prove genuine - would represent a serious step toward improving the quality of undergraduate education at Stony Brook. Whether this concern is genuine remains to be seen. In 1989 the University opened the Faculty Instructional Support Office (FISO) as part of a campaign to improve the quality of faculty instruction at Stony Brook - this step also taking place after an attack of bad conscience concerning the University's unsatisfactory record in undergraduate education. Unfortunately, FISO was never given the funding or support staff needed for it to adequately perform its assigned tasks. The self-study report released this December states that "FISO operated as a skeletal program, without proper funding or institutional support" (p. 37). Let us hope that the University's current concern with graduate student instructors is more serious - that it isn't just a review-time performance, all show and no substance.

The State University of New York at Stony Brook has always paid lip service to the value of graduate student instructors. Yet its policies have consistently put the sweet nothings it has trumpeted to the lie. The most recent Middle States self-study report creates the appearance that a new day may be dawning, for both graduate student instructors and for undergraduate education at Stony Brook. Time will tell.

Approximately 85% of Stony Brook's full-time graduate students receive some kind of financial support from the University... the "desired goal" would be 70%.

concern that requiring first year doctoral students in 'some departments' (read: in the natural and biological sciences) to work as much as 15-20 hours would put these departments in Stony Brook at a competitive disadvantage with departments in other Universities, where first year students would not encounter such a heavy workload. Then in a subsequent paragraph, the report expresses the hope that "if workload levels become equalized across campus and settle at this relatively high level (15-20 hours per week), it may mean that the teaching needs of the undergraduate program could be accommodated by a smaller total number of TA lines" (p. 64).

One cannot help but notice that there seem to be two different voices speaking in these paragraphs: one worried that increased workloads for first year cohorts in some departments would harm their graduate programs, another suggesting that, from the perspective of the undergraduate curriculum, increased workloads for those TA's would result in a more efficient allocation of resources.

The struggle between these two perspectives appears in another passage of this section as well.

An earlier draft of the integrated self-study report circulated among members of the Steering Committee reads: "Although it is widely recognized that TA/GA support serves two roles, undergraduate instruction and support of graduate education, the allocation of TA/GA lines to divisions (deans), and presumably to programs by deans,

Other departments must require graduate TA's with 3/4 or 1/2 support to teach classes. In terms of the ratio between state funding allocated for TA support and departmental teaching needs, there can be no question but that significant asymmetries exist among departments at Stony Brook. These asymmetries reflect a tradition of giving preference in the allocation of state funding for TA and GA support to departments that have highly developed research programs, as opposed to those in which undergraduate education plays a more prominent role.

Though never explicit, the discussion of the possible effects of unionization seems to reveal a struggle over priorities growing within the University. One side seems to be advocating a reallocation of state funding for TA's for the benefit of the undergraduate curriculum - a reallocation that would work to the benefit of "poorer" departments. The other side seems to be defending prerogatives established upon the preferential treatment traditionally accorded to research programs in the physical and biological sciences.

The report's suggestion that unionization will bring about this equalization of TA and GA workloads glosses over a certain evasion of responsibility on the part of the University administration. The idea that the workload for full TA support ought to be 15-20 hours has been accepted at Stony Brook as a kind of unwritten rule or convention for many years. Inequitably distributed TA and GA

GSEU Contract-

tual number of hours will fluctuate over the course of the semester. TAs and GAs expected to work more than 20 hours have the legal right to grieve. With regard to inequities in workload among departments, the provision should help insure equal pay for equal work, said Lianos.

When asked if there might be fewer TA lines available next year because of the increase in wages and benefits, Lianos replied that nothing in the contract can cause this to happen, and stressed that there was far greater danger of that happening before unionization. Money for these benefits is budgeted by the State legislature, she explained; essentially, it means more money from the tax

payers. She added that there is a provision in the contract that if the legislature doesn't approve a particular expenditure, only that particular portion of contract will not go into effect; the rest will remain intact. She did not anticipate any problems with legislative approval for this contract.

Provided the contract is approved, the GSEU will then focus on organizing department stewards, and collecting information on how departments are distributing lines and workloads to use in the next contract negotiations.

- S. Kuzma

more news

The Tax Man Cometh... Four Times A Year

Ed. note: Outgoing GSO Vice President Rob Cho took time to investigate this tax issue for us before he left for his new post in Washington DC. The information he gathered is from the IRS hotline and the New York State Department of Taxation, and is intended to alert you to withholding changes and their possible consequences. It should in no way be considered "tax advice" in the legal sense of the term.

Some of you may have noticed that your paychecks have been a little larger than usual. Have things suddenly improved for grad students since the beginning of the year? Well...no. In fact, for those of you with this "bonus", things have gotten a little more complicated. Beginning January 1, 1994, the Research Foundation stopped withholding federal taxes from the stipend payments of graduate students on fellowships. While scholarships and fellowships have been taxable since the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, the payor (i.e. the Research Foundation) has not

been obligated to withhold these taxes from the stipend payments, nor to report the payments to the Internal Revenue Service. Until now, the Research Foundation has done both of these, but no longer.

What does this mean for those of us receiving stipend payments? Essentially, it places the responsibility of reporting and paying federal withholdings on your shoulders. No longer will you have the luxury of having a computer automatically calculate and remove federal income taxes from your bi-weekly paycheck. For many of you, this will be a familiar problem, because the Research Foundation has not withheld New York State taxes from fellowship stipends for quite a while now. If you have never experienced this form of self regulation, or if you just never bothered to find out what to do with your taxes, here is an overview of how to deal with the Internal Revenue Service and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

The key term to understand in all of this is *estimated taxes*, and you must pay them four times a

year! You will need to calculate how much tax you owe before April 15, 1995, and then pay that to the government (federal and state) in quarterly installments.

You may be asking yourself, "Why can't I just pay it all on April 15, 1995?" You *can*, but your payment will be considered late, and you will be fined accordingly.

The Research Foundation advises you review IRS Publication

520, "Scholarships and Fellowships", IRS Publication 505 "Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax", New York State Publication 150 "Estimated Tax Rules Limiting Use of Prior Year's Tax", and NYS Form IT-2105 "Estimated Income Tax Payment Vouchers" for more information. The IRS Publication can be ordered by calling 1-800-829-3676, and NYS publications can be ordered by calling 1-800-462-8100.

Some Useful Facts for Quarterly Filing

Quarterly payment of estimated taxes due on:

April 15, 1994	June 15, 1994
Sept. 15, 1994	Jan. 15, 1995

Calculating Estimated Tax:

By fourth payment you must pay one of the following amounts:
100% of taxes paid in 1993 *or* 90% of taxes owed for 1994.

Forms to Use:

IRS 1040ES to calculate and pay estimated taxes
IRS 1040 or 1040A on April 15, 1995 to pay/report tax payments
NYS IT-2105M to calculate and pay estimated taxes
NYS IT-210 on April 15, 1995 to pay/report tax payments
You can not use NYS IT 200 (short form) on April 15, 1995 to pay/report tax payments. Forms are available at public libraries.

For more information, contact the IRS at 724-500, or the NYS Department of Taxation at 800-225-5829.

Weekly Meetings Monday in
Student Union Room 216, 6:30pm.
Guest of Honor: Harlan Ellison;
Star Trek Guest to be announced.
Japanimation; Comics; Science + Technology;
Writers Workshops; Panels; Lectures + More...
Call for Info: 632-6045

I-CON WANTS



YOU

To Lend a hand at I-Con XIII

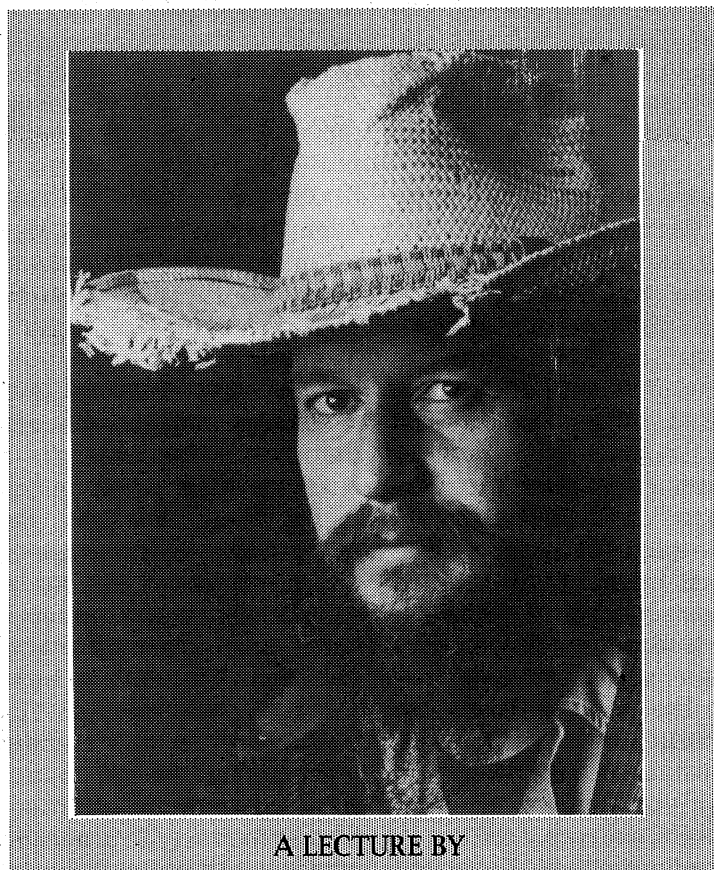
Join I-CON and become a valuable part of the East Coast's Largest Convention of Science Fiction, Fact and Fantasy. Each year students return to Stony Brook to work on the convention with friends met from previous years. Choose the events that you would like to see. Help make I-CON XIII the best ever.

Don't Forget

I-CON XXIII

will be held on April 15, 16 and 17, 1994

"DINOSAUR HERESIES"



A LECTURE BY

ROBERT BAKKER

Adjunct Curator of Paleontology, University of Colorado
Author, *The Dinosaur Heresies*; Consultant to the film *Jurassic Park*

Tuesday, February 8, 1994 8 pm

Staller Center for the Arts Recital Hall

Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Newsday

Individuals requiring special assistance should call 632-7005.

1993/94 UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The arts

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Percussion Plus!

Featuring 20th century classics and new works for percussion and mixed ensembles: Canadian composer Allison Cameron's *Two Bits*; David Horne's *Phantom Moon*, Charles Wuorinen's *Invention*, Herbert Brun's *More Dust*, and Henri Ilazarof's *Asymptotes*.

Wednesday, February 16, 8pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Free.

Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra

Haydn's *Symphony No. 93 in D major*, Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* and *Concerto for Strings*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor* with soloist Baird Dodge. Pre-concert dialogue with conductor Bradley Lubman and WUSB's Mark Lederway at 7 pm. Saturday February 26, 8pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Tickets \$10/\$9 students & seniors.

Stony Brook Camerata Singers in Bay Shore

Conducted by Timothy Mount. All-sacred program featuring songs by Estonian composer Arvo Part, motets by Gorecki, Tchaikovsky, and sacred music from Britain and Canada. St Peter's Church in Bay Shore. Tickets \$6. Call 632-7330 for directions.

Baroque Sundays at Three

"In Kalten Winter: Warm Love Songs for a Cold Season" with soprano Cassie Hoffman and a trio of viola da gambists: Beverly Au, Patricia Halverson, Martha McGaughey. 3pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Free.

UPCOMING ART EXHIBITS

David Allen: A Down & Leaving Artist for the '90s

MFA Exhibition, Library Gallery, January 24-February 18.

Reception February 11, 6-8pm. Video screening 7pm.

Asian Arts Festival Exhibit

Paintings, scrolls, prints, calligraphy, crafts, masks and ceremonial pieces from Japan, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Korea and India. Art on loan from the Stony Brook Community. Monday-Friday, noon-4pm.

Union Art Gallery, 2nd Floor, Student Union. 632-6822.

Reception Monday, February 28, 7-8:30pm.

MFA show at Staller Center Gallery

Works by graduating MFAs David Allen, Patricia Hubbard, Heejung Kim, Karl Kneis, Sally Kuzma, Dan Richhold, and Gary Wojdyla. Thru Friday, Feb. 26. Gallery Hours Tuesday-Friday, noon-4pm.

Reception Friday, February 19th, 6:30-8pm.

Magazine Helps Adjuncts Connect

Those of us who won't be waltzing out of here into comfortable tenure-track positions may want to keep abreast of resources for part-time and adjunct faculty members.

The magazine *the adjunct advocate* is one such resource, according to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Jan. 5, 1994). It features articles on teaching and computer technology, faculty job listings, and a regular scoreboard ranking colleges on how they treat their non-tenure-track faculty members. "It's a tool to help adjuncts connect

with each other in a positive way, not just to bemoan what a terrible life it is," says Ms. P.D. Lesko, who began the magazine in 1991 and is its editor.

The latest issue reports on New Mexico State's hiring policy, which gives non-tenure-track faculty members the right to vie for merit pay and certain forms of promotion.

The magazine is published every two months. Subscriptions are \$19 for individuals, \$36 for institutions. Write to *the adjunct advocate*, P.O. Box 130117, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113.

New Support for Music History and Music Theory Students

An anonymous donor recently gave \$5,000.00 to the University at Stony Brook to create the Patrick A. Heelan Fund which will be used to support research and professional activities of graduate students studying music history and music theory, according to the University's Department of News Services.

Heelan was a former Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at Stony Brook, and left his post in 1992 to serve as executive vice president of arts and sciences at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Heelan had been at Stony Brook since 1970, when he came here to head the Philosophy Department. He also served as vice president for liberal studies, 1975-79, and acting chair person of the Department of Religious Studies, 1985-86. He is reported to be "personally delighted to have this fund in my name."

Union Craft Center Classes Begin in February

Too busy to take electives, but still looking for a way to nurture other interests? Take a look at the Union Craft Center's spring class offerings. These classes are range from fine arts and craft workshops (photography, pottery, and weaving studio memberships are available) to "leisure" workshops in areas as diverse as yoga, scuba diving, and Chinese thread ornaments. They are generally taught in four-

to eight-week sessions, with reduced fees for students. Special courses for children are offered on Saturday mornings.

Contact the Union Craft Center for a registration information and a schedule of classes, 632-6822, between 9am and 5pm, Monday-Friday. The Craft Center is located in the basement of the Student Union Building. Classes are open to all in the University and the community.

Art in Anonymity

FEBRUARY 1994

David Allen:
A Down and
Leaving Artist
for the '90's

Jan 24-Feb 18

Library Gallery
SUNY Stony Brook

Opening Reception
Feb 11, 6-8 p.m.
Video Screening 7 p.m.

calendar of events

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

Wednesday, February 2

Timothy Eddy, Cellist, and Gilbert Kalish, pianist: 8pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. \$20.

Saturday, February 5

Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers: LA-based ensemble of singing ambassadors perform spirituals, gospel, calypso and jazz. 8pm. Staller Center Main Stage. Tickets \$22/\$20.

Sunday, February 6

Baroque Sundays at Three: "In Kalten Winter-Warm Love Songs for a Cold Season" with soprano Cassie Hoffman and a trio of viola da gambists: Beverly Au, Patricia Halverson, and Martha McGaughey. 3pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Free.

Monday February 7

"Rue Cases Negres (Sugar Cane Alley)": Film set in Martinique in the 1930s about a sensitive, mischievous boy and his grandmother, who is determined to get him an education and save him from a life of hardship on the sugar plantation. Keller International College Film Series, 7:30 pm, Roosevelt Quad. 632-6798.

Tuesday, February 8

Distinguished Lecture Series: Controversial Dinosaur Specialist Robert Bakker, consultant to the film *Jurassic Park* and author of *Dinosaur Heresies*. 8pm. Staller Center Recital Hall.

Poetry Reading: Amiri, Amina and Ras Baraka. 7pm U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center, Free. 632-7470.

Wednesday, February 9

"Haiti Today": Lecture in Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry Building, Noon-2pm.

Thursday, February 10

Africana Studies Film Documentary: "The Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in World War II" 2pm, Rm. S-224, Soc. & Beh. Sciences, 632-7470.

Friday, February 11

Gregory Hines: Singer and Dancer, star of "Jelly's Last Jam". Staller center Main Stage. \$25/\$23.

Saturday, February 12

Camerata Singers: Conducted by Timothy Mount. All-sacred program featuring works by Estonian composer Arvo Part, motets by Gorecki, Tchaikovsky, and sacred music from Britain and Canada. St Peter's Church in Bay Shore. \$6. Call 632-7330 for directions.

Monday, February 14

African American Arts and Crafts Fair: 10am-5pm Fireside Lounge, Student Union. Thru Tues. 2/15.

Tuesday, February 15

Kamau Brathwaite, Caribbean poet and historian: 7pm, Main Stage, Staller Center. Reception 5-6pm, Room S-224, Soc. & Beh. Science Bldg.

Wednesday, February 16

Asian Arts Festival Exhibit: Paintings, scrolls, prints, calligraphy, crafts, masks and ceremonial pieces from Japan, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Korea and India. Art on loan from the Stony Brook Community. Monday -Friday, noon-4pm. Union Art Gallery, 2nd Floor, Student Union. 632-6822.

Percussion Plus! at the Staller Center: concert featuring 20th century classics and new works for percussion and mixed ensembles. Sponsored by the music department. 8pm in the Staller Center

Recital Hall. Free. 632-7330.

Saturday, February 19

Italian Symphony Orchestra of Bergamo: The glorious and colorful sound of Northern Italy's musical tradition. With guest soloist Sergei Babayan, pianist. 8pm. Staller Center Main Stage. Tickets \$22/\$20.

Monday, February 21

"Current Political Development in the Southern African Sub-region, Constitutional & Political Development in South Africa": Lecture by Dr. Sindiwe Mogan, author and public information officer, United Nations. 5pm. Peace Studies Center, Old Chem Bldg.

"Black Robe": Film about a young Jesuit priest who journeys across the North American Wilderness to convert the Huron Indians. Keller International College Film Series, 7:30 pm, Roosevelt Quad. 632-6798.

Tuesday, February 22

"The Future of Black Studies": Panel with Dr. Esther Terry, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, 7pm, Union Auditorium. Reception 5-6pm Room S-224, Soc. & Beh. Science Bldg.

Wednesday, February 23

Chinese Language and Calligraphy: Lecture and Demonstration with Shi Ming Hu, distinguished teaching professor, Interdisciplinary Social Science, and Shanqing Zeng. 12:40-2pm. Union Art Gallery, 2nd Floor Student Union. Free.

"Religion, Family, & Community Self-Help": Lecture by Reverend Reginald Tuggle, director, community affairs, Newsday. 2:30 pm Peace Studies Center, Old Chem Bldg.

Fund For Investigative Journalism

We know your time is valuable. If you're interested in covering a campus issue relevant to grad students, researching and writing an article suitable for publication in News & Views, we're willing to pay you for your efforts (up to \$250 per issue).

Possible topics include *but are not limited to* the Presidential Search Committee, 1st amendment issues for GSEU organizers on campus, labor issues, budget issues.

Contact the editor for more information. 632-8965/6492.

Interested in editing and producing this newspaper next year?

It's a paid position; \$2,000 per semester. Contact the GSO office at 632-6492

Thursday, February 24

Theatre Department Presents: "On Striver's Row". Abram Hill's comedy about life in Harlem in the 1940s. Guest Director Katherine Irving, Cal State Univ. 8pm, Theatre 1, Staller Center. \$8; \$6 students & seniors

Friday, February 25

"On Striver's Row": See 2/24 listing. 8pm, Theatre 1, Staller Center. \$8; \$6 students & seniors.

Saturday, February 26

Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra: Haydn's *Symphony No. 93 in D major*, Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* and *Concerto for Strings*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor* with soloist Baird Dodge. Pre-concert dialogue with conductor Bradley Lubman and WUSB's Mark Lederway at 7 pm. Concert at 8pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Tickets \$10/\$9 students & seniors.

"On Striver's Row": See 2/24 listing. 8pm, Theatre 1, Staller Center. \$8; \$6 students & seniors.

Sunday, February 27

African American Read-In: Poetry and Literature by Black writers. 7pm, Theater 2, Staller Center.

"On Striver's Row": See 2/24 listing. 2pm, Theatre 1, Staller Center. \$8; \$6 students & seniors.

Monday, February 28

Korean Dance Program: 7-8:30 pm, Fireside Lounge, Student Union. Free.

"Global Sisterhood": Film on Western Feminism vs. Multiculturalism Perspective on Female Circumcision. 7pm U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center.



End The Winter Death Toll!

The Eastern Farm Workers Association's Winter Survival Campaign battles the dangers our low income communities face when lack of money forces us to "choose" between eating and heating.

For two decades, EFWA has fought for food, shelter, and jobs as a human right for all.

EFWA needs help with daily checks on the elderly and shut-in, warm clothing and blanket distribution, the emergency heater loan program, utility advocacy, and more.

To find out how you can volunteer call us at 286-8004.