

News and Blues

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Plan Proposes Reorganization of University *Emphasis on Undergraduate Education Seen*

By Fons Haffmans
GSO Secretary

The GSO has obtained a confidential draft of the university's "Academic Plan" that proposes a substantial reorganization of the university and the way in which graduate students are supported.

The plan was discussed February 17 during a meeting between West Campus deans and Provost Tilden Edelstein. The plan is purported to have been written by Patrick Heelan, dean of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Ronald Douglas.

It should be emphasized that this is just a proposal. Furthermore, a special Provost's Advisory Committee has been convened by Edelstein to rewrite the plan by the first week in April. Below we present selected quotes from the plan. The 40-page document proposes a major reorganization of the university in order to meet the state-mandated budget cuts. One of its goals is to substantially decrease and restructure graduate student support. In addition, there is a clear shift away from graduate education in favor of undergraduate education.

Emphasis on Masters' Programs

The plan proposes major changes in graduate programs. It questions whether enrollments in doctoral programs should increase and proposes to cut funding for some programs and restrict enrollments in others (*see related story, page 3*). It states that "Access to graduate programs at Stony Brook is continuously threatened by funding issues, and recent events such as the economic recession and the PERB ruling on unionization of graduate student employees [editor's note: those supported by state funds, i.e. GA/TA's] have only served to increase the threat."

The plan proposes to develop or expand 12 Masters programs, most of them in biology. Students in these programs would have to pay their own way. This would reduce the proportion of funded, full-time graduate students from 86% campuswide-- which the plan says is extremely high-- to levels more commonly found at peer institutions. In addition, the plan proposes that the university "reduce the incidence of TA-taught courses, thus bringing the faculty more in contact with undergraduates. However, there continues to be a heavy reliance on TAs to assist in meeting the instructional needs of the campus. This situation needs to be further corrected."

Decoupling Waivers and Stipends

The plan identifies a number of problems with graduate teaching assistants. TAs in some programs have minimal duties while in other departments they have heavy instructional loads. The proposed solution would require TAs with a light load to perform duties in other departments.

Currently all stipended graduate students receive a tuition waiver proportional to their level of support. However, "Programs will be encouraged to... offer students TA support but no tuition, or tuition but no TA." Another problem is that TAs usually don't receive any training before they teach. The plan proposes "programs of TA training and supervision." In addition, some TA stipends should be replaced by fellowships.

Downsizing Means Fewer Graduate Students

To meet the predicted cuts, the university will have to be downsized. However, the plan notes that demand for

undergraduate and graduate education will increase. So how is this demand to be satisfied? The plan suggests seeing "if there is a better way to organize our academic offerings. Interdisciplinary Colleges, for example, can be formed out of existing faculty and courses to meet a particular need and then could be disbanded when the need changes or ceases.... Relying more on part-time faculty and faculty hired for a specific term and who have no research responsibilities...; reducing the number of faculty in particular departments...; decreasing the number of supported graduate students and changing the mix and type of support."

Increased Access to Undergrad Education

The draft of the Academic Plan leaves the impression of a shift of emphasis away from graduate to undergraduate
(Continued on Page 8)



Photo by Brian King/Statesman

Provost Tilden Edelstein

Existence of Plan Strains Relations Between Senate and Administration

Members of the University Senate were stunned to learn about the existence of a detailed draft of the "Academic Plan." At the urging of the University Senate's Executive Committee, Provost Tilden Edelstein has convened a special advisory committee to draft a new reorganization plan. This plan is supposed to be ready in early April. Students and junior faculty will have no representatives on this committee.

Stony Brook's governance structure is the most elaborate in the SUNY system. The University Senate, headed by its Executive Committee and supported by a large number of standing committees, is supposed to advise the administration on a wide range of issues. The GSO and Student Polity are allotted representation on all University Senate committees.

However, the impression has risen over the years that the administration is trying to keep the University Senate "out of the loop." University President John Marburger and Provost Edelstein have set up advisory committees of faculty members with similar duties to those of the University Senate. This impression was reinforced by the way the initial budget cuts were handled. Last semester, concerted efforts were made by the administration and the University Senate's Executive Committee to handle the next budget cuts in a way that would leave the University Senate less frustrated. During a special meeting at the end of last semester President Marburger and Provost Edelstein assured the members of the University Senate Executive Committee that-- as far as time would permit-- the University Senate would be fully informed of any reorganization plans. Most faculty members have refused to discuss reorganization plans in detail, since they don't want to be seen as eliminating their colleagues' jobs.

In addition, Marburger expressed the opinion that a substantial reorganization of the university was necessary in order to meet the budget cuts SUNY would inevitably face over the next years. He told the University Senate Executive Committee that a plan would be drafted and presented to the University Senate Executive in January. But this never happened.

In the beginning of February the Priorities Committee, which advises Edelstein on the priorities when dealing with

budget cuts, was presented with a rough outline of a draft long-range plan. It didn't contain specific proposals, leaving the impression that the administration was serious about allowing substantial input from the university community.

Hence the existence of a detailed draft of the academic plan was quite a shocker. In dismay, the University Senate's Executive Committee urged the Provost to allow the Priorities Committee to draft the plan. A compromise was reached in the formation of a Provost's Advisory Committee that will advise Edelstein in the reorganization. The University Senate has input on the membership of this committee but, as previously mentioned, students will be left out.

--Haffmans

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Graduate Education Is in Jeopardy

Actions speak louder than words.

In spite of reassuring words from the administration that its commitment to graduate education is as strong as ever, recent actions leave much to be desired. We are all the more skeptical after scrutinizing the draft of the West Campus "Academic Plan." To be sure, the plan is going to be redrafted, but some elements have already been implemented and some of its broad outlines will undoubtedly be found in the redrafted version.

Although Provost Edelstein has cut "only" 100 GA/TA lines for new students next year, the way the policy is implemented will initially cut 300 lines. In addition, the final state support levels will be based on the funding available to returning students *in the Fall 1991 semester*. This may be less than the number of students actually returning in Fall 1992. As a matter of fact, 75 GA/TA-lines were cut this year. Edelstein has stated that he is not looking to cut support from currently funded graduate students, but it is a mistake to assume that only incoming students will lose lines.

A reduction in the number of TA/GA lines will lead to a loss in tuition waivers. A decrease in the tuition-waiver pool might have negative repercussions for RAs as well as TAs and GAs. The number of tuition waivers granted is normally equal to the number of TA/GA-lines. Hence any cut in TA/GA lines means losing the same number of tuition waivers. Even if a significant number of students can be funded as research assistants, any additional money to cover their tuition waivers will have to come from research grants.

Restricting state support for new graduate students will almost certainly decrease the enrollment in graduate programs. The administration is looking for permanent reductions in cost. The long-term effect of a prolonged reduction of new students is the slow strangulation of a graduate program. This will also affect the careers of currently enrolled graduate students. Who wants to hire an alumnus from a department that has been eliminated?

The draft Academic Plan calls into question the way graduate students are presently funded. It questions whether stipend levels should be uniform; whether tuition waivers should "automatically" accompany offers of support; and whether there should be a centralized policy regarding graduate student support at all.

The GSO opposes decentralized allocation of graduate student support. In the past, the Graduate School

has played an important consultive role in the allocation process. It is important that funding decisions be reviewed in relation to the university as a whole.

The value placed on research activities in the plan is proportional to either the amount of federal research grants the activity brings in or to possible industrial spin-offs. However, plans that were started in the 1980s to link academic research to possible commercialization have for the most part floundered.

The Division of Humanities and the Fine Arts (HFA) is conspicuously left out in the cold in all these plans. In fact, early plans for this division limited the number of TA-lines to the barest minimum. One can sincerely question whether anyone in the administration appreciates the value of research in HFA, other than as a diversion for undergraduates on their way to the fast track of Long Island industry.

It is clear after reading the academic plan that the emphasis is now on undergraduate education. Stony

Brook calls itself a research university but our ratio of graduate to undergraduate students is significantly lower than at comparable institutions. The proposals in the draft of the Academic Plan focus on increasing undergraduate enrollment. Part of the money saved by restricting graduate support will be used for the undergraduate program. In light of this, how serious can one take the assertion that the general goal is to "maintain and strengthen the university at Stony Brook as a leading public research university?"

This plan and the delay in replacing the Vice Provost of Graduate Studies has left the GSO less than confident that this administration has the best interests of graduate students in mind. To be sure, we may be pleasantly surprised by the next plan. The advantage of being pessimistic is that one is not easily disappointed. However, pessimism and cynicism seem to be equivalent to realism when it comes to the future of graduate education in Stony Brook.

Tuition Waiver Pool

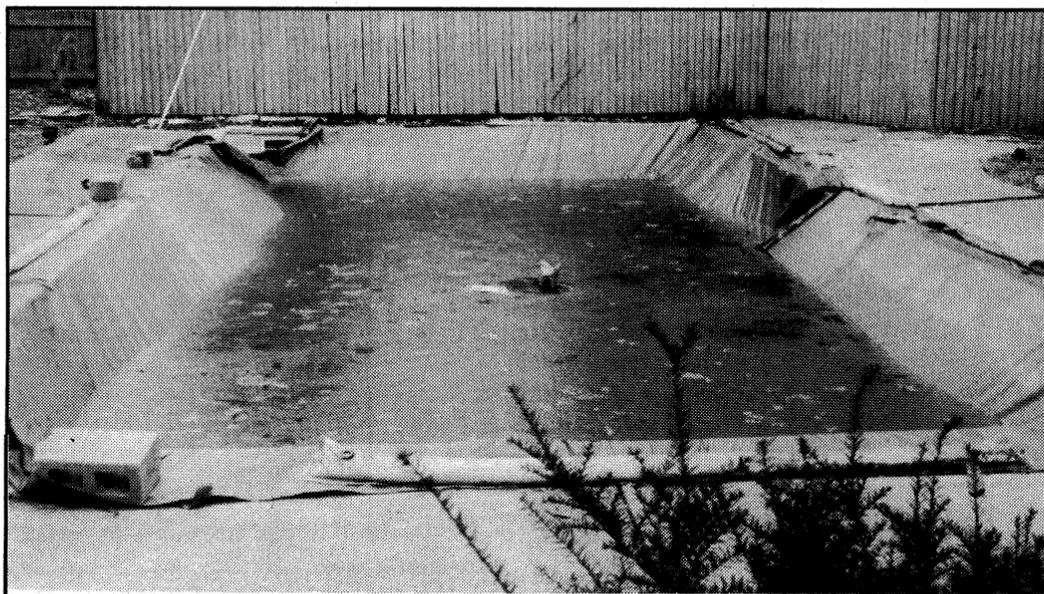


Photo by George Bidermann

The State of SUNY, Spring '92

New Child Care Rate Increases Zap the Low-Income Parents

The rates for child care on campus are going up this week with the largest increase, both in dollars and percentage points, hitting those who are least able to pay: low-income parents. While child care at Stony Brook will still be a bargain for many, contrast the following numbers. For parents with income under \$8,000, rates will increase by \$46 every two weeks, a 42% increase. Rates for families with \$30,000 or more in annual income will increase a mere \$10 biweekly. This means that families with income of \$100,000 (and greater!) will see only a four-percent increase. It does not take a West Point graduate of class warfare to see the inequity in these rate increases.

Fees for child care on campus are offered on a "sliding scale," where rates increase with the income of the parent(s). The sliding scale is supported directly by a \$55,000 grant from the Provost, which was won by graduate students during their Spring 1987 work actions. This subsidy assists families with incomes under \$25,000, but all families are subsidized to some extent because the university does not charge the Stony Brook Child Care Corporation for a number of overhead items: rent, maintenance, and utilities all come to mind.

It is long past time for the university to review its commitment to child care and consider increasing the

subsidy. The administration's "commitment" has produced no marked increase in space or subsidy since 1987. One of the most flagrant violations of the administration's agreement ending the 1987 work stoppages was its failure to provide 6,000 additional square feet for child care. A new infant center was opened in 1990, but that added a paltry 25 slots, increasing total capacity to 120 children. Approximately 400 children remain on a waiting list that stretches, on average, to two years.

Inflation alone should merit an increase in the subsidy to at least \$65,000. But until that happens, Stony Brook Child Care's board of directors should reevaluate their new rate schedule. The new rate increases reveal an insensitivity to the fact that thousands of employees on this campus are living on \$8,000 to \$15,000 incomes. Students are growing used to digging deeper into their pockets with each new fee the university creates, and workers are bracing for givebacks and layoffs. There is no reason for child care to jump on the bandwagon.

Who is better able to afford that extra ten to twenty dollars a week? Certainly the upper-income professors and administrators who are lucky enough to have a spot or two on a very short enrollment list.

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Provost Cuts Funds for More Than 100 TA/GA Lines

By Fons Haffmans
GSO Secretary

Provost Tilden Edelstein told the University Senate on March 2 that the allocation of support to new graduate students will be cut by \$1 million next year, resulting in the elimination of more than 100 TA/GA-lines.

Part of these funds will go to the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies for staffing courses, presumably through the hiring of adjuncts. The Provost did not detail his plans further at the senate meeting.

A draft document obtained by the GSO two weeks before Edelstein made his announcement details the policies he has implemented without consulting the University Senate. Essentially, all departments will have to reduce by approximately half their offers of support to newly admitted graduate students, using state funds, for the next academic year. This will lead to an immediate savings of about \$2.7 million (based on 600 new TA's admitted last year at approximately \$9,000 stipends).

In addition, Stony Brook will lose funding for 300 tuition waivers from SUNY Central because of the line cuts. The next step would be to increase the number of state-funded stipends for newly admitted graduate students depending on the availability of funds. Some departments are specifically prevented from increasing the number of stipends to newly admitted students later on: Chemistry, Ecology and Evolution, Philosophy, Economics (economic theory program), Psychology (biopsychology program), Sociology, and Electrical Engineering. The following departments are restricted by a one-year moratorium from admitting new graduate students: Astronomy, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Doctor of Arts programs in the languages, Mechanical Engineering, and Foreign Language Instruction.

Although the West Campus's Academic Plan calls for a one-year moratorium on offers of support to new graduate students, Edelstein has said that the moratorium could be extended if the budget crisis persists. GSO President

Monica McTigue said she is concerned that extending the moratorium "may lead to the retrenchment of certain programs and departments. It is difficult to envision how the administration will preserve academic diversity while eliminating programs."

The absence— until recently— of a vice-provost for Graduate Studies may explain the strong emphasis on undergraduate education at the expense of graduate education in both the draft of the "academic plan" and in the above proposal. Alexander King, the vice-provost for Graduate Studies, resigned last semester to return to teaching and research in the department of Materials Science. A

search committee set up to find a new vice-provost had recommended two candidates for the job, but Edelstein has appointed neither of them. The reason given for postponing a permanent appointment is that the university needs to fill the position for Vice-President for Research first.

In January, the candidate for that position suddenly declined to accept Stony Brook's offer. A new search committee for a Vice-President for Research has been formed, and in the meantime, Edelstein has appointed Helen Cooper as interim Vice-Provost of the Graduate School. Cooper is associate professor in the English Department and responsible for its graduate program.

Panel Looks for Solutions To Problem of Sexual Harassment



Photo by Greg Forte

Assistant Dean of Students Gary Mis responds to a question at the panel discussion.

By Patricia Comitini
Department of English

On March 6, the Women's Safety Committee sponsored a workshop entitled "Campus Leaders United Against Sexual Harassment." The purpose of this open forum, which was attended by many undergraduate students as well as graduate students, was to discuss the types of sexual harassment, the effects of the problem, and possible solutions. The panel consisted of campus leaders, namely: Scott Law, Campus Residential Programs; Brian Murmer, president of the Interfraternity/Intersorority Counsel; Donna Capps, a Public Safety officer; Phyllis Hughes, Affirmative Action; Gary Mis, Assistant Dean of Students; Graduate Student Advocate Tom Pepper; Sally Sternglanz, Women's Studies, and was moderated by Sharon Della, Division of Campus Residences. There was much interaction in the form of questions and comments from the audience and panelists.

As members of the panel pointed out, in a recent survey 40% of undergraduate female students reported being harassed by faculty and 90% reported being harassed by peers. Sexual harassment occurs in many different forms; it is not just an issue of women being harassed by men, but of men harassing men, women harassing women and women harassing men. While the definition of sexual harassment in the President's statement is vague, it includes any inappropriate financial or personal relationships between faculty and students that would compromise the "objectivity and integrity" of both students and faculty.

Gender harassment is another form of sexual harassment. A subtle gender-prejudiced statement would be an example of this. It is not only a "women's" issue, since many men occupy vulnerable positions in power relations. If a communicative and productive academic atmosphere is poisoned by inappropriate behavior and/or comments, this is sexual harassment. The fact that many professors, TAs and students do not understand what harassment is causes a proliferation of the problem. Part of the goal of the workshop was to define the problem more closely in order to decrease the number of incidents.

The publicity surrounding this issue may have already yielded a

positive result: according to Affirmative Action, there has been a 75% increase in reports of harassment this year. Reports of peer harassment, primarily in the form of phone calls, have increased since last year. While the problem persists, this statistic indicates a rise in awareness and the courage to come forward and report the incidents.

One preventative measure discussed was greater publicity and reporting. There are many venues for grievances, such as the Campus and Graduate Advocates; legal action through Public Safety, the Student Judiciary, Affirmative Action, and/or Campus Residences; as well as counseling at the Counseling Center or simply talking to a friend.

Other solutions include education for both faculty and students. While there are educational events at orientation and within specific courses in the Women's Studies program and the Date Rape Education Program, a mandatory forum or course on sexual harassment still needs to be instituted for all faculty and students. Sharing substantiated stories of sexual harassment among peers and faculty would lead to greater awareness of the problem and a greater sensitivity to our power positions as instructors.

Group action was stressed as an important way of building a case against a harassment perpetrator. Since the goal of most victims of harassment is simply to make it stop without compromising themselves or their academic careers, and they do not necessarily want to bring a grievance or legal action against the harasser because they fear some kind of retaliation, a positive compromise would be to create a file of complaints within a department, with the advocate's office, Campus Residences, or Affirmative Action. This will ensure evidence and build up political and legal pressure against the harasser. It should be stated that if a victim chooses to talk to anyone in these positions, no grievance will be filed or charges pressed without the consent of the victim, and both the victim's name and the nature of the harassment will remain confidential.

Encouraging people to complain and taking individual or collective action against a harasser is the only way to reduce this problem right now. Educating ourselves on sexual harassment issues is the only way to ensure the elimination of this problem in the future.

Next Issue of
The News and Blues
is April 7;
If you'd like to write for it,
Call 632-6492!

Attention
Graduate Students:
The GSO Senate
Will Meet
on
Wednesday, March 18
At 7:30 PM
in
Room 201, Central Hall
Open to all
Graduate Students

More Hydropower from James Bay II—

By Jean Rousseau

Department of Chemistry

New York, the city that never sleeps. The center of the world for Baudrillard, where each skyscraper once dominated the city. In a show of opulence that scoffs at the poverty of the street, empty office buildings are lighted overnight. An ever-increasing consumption of electricity fulfills the myth of perpetual growth. To satisfy the state's energy appetite, the New York Power Authority and Governor Mario Cuomo will decide by the end of 1992 if it is necessary to import additional electricity produced in the province of Québec, in Canada.

Already, two percent of the state's electricity is bought from Hydro-Québec, a utility owned by the government of Québec. Present negotiations aim at a 20-year, \$19.5 billion contract that would increase the share of electricity imported from Québec by 10 to 12 percent. This decision was to have been made by November 1991, but strong reservations about the cost of HQ's electricity and the pertinency of such investment have forced NYPA and Cuomo to reconsider their position. And many opponents of the plan are publicizing the ecological consequences the contract would have for the James Bay and Hudson Bay regions in northern Québec.

One thousand miles away, the Grande-Baleine (Great Whale) River flows in the Hudson Bay. Temperatures there sometimes reach -50°C at this time of year. It is the land of the caribou, a large deer with beautiful antlers. On a yearly average, the temperature is -4°C. The summer is characterized by the absence of temperature below the freezing points: 80 days and an average temperature of 17°C. The terrain is rocky and covered with moss, lichen and bogs.

Located at the mouth of Grande-Baleine is a community of 430 Inuits, 400 Cree Indians and 200 others. The Inuit rely mainly on coastal wildlife for subsistence, while approximately 66 Cree families pursue hunting and trapping activities on the territory of Grande-Baleine (22,000 square miles), a surface equivalent to half the size of New York State.

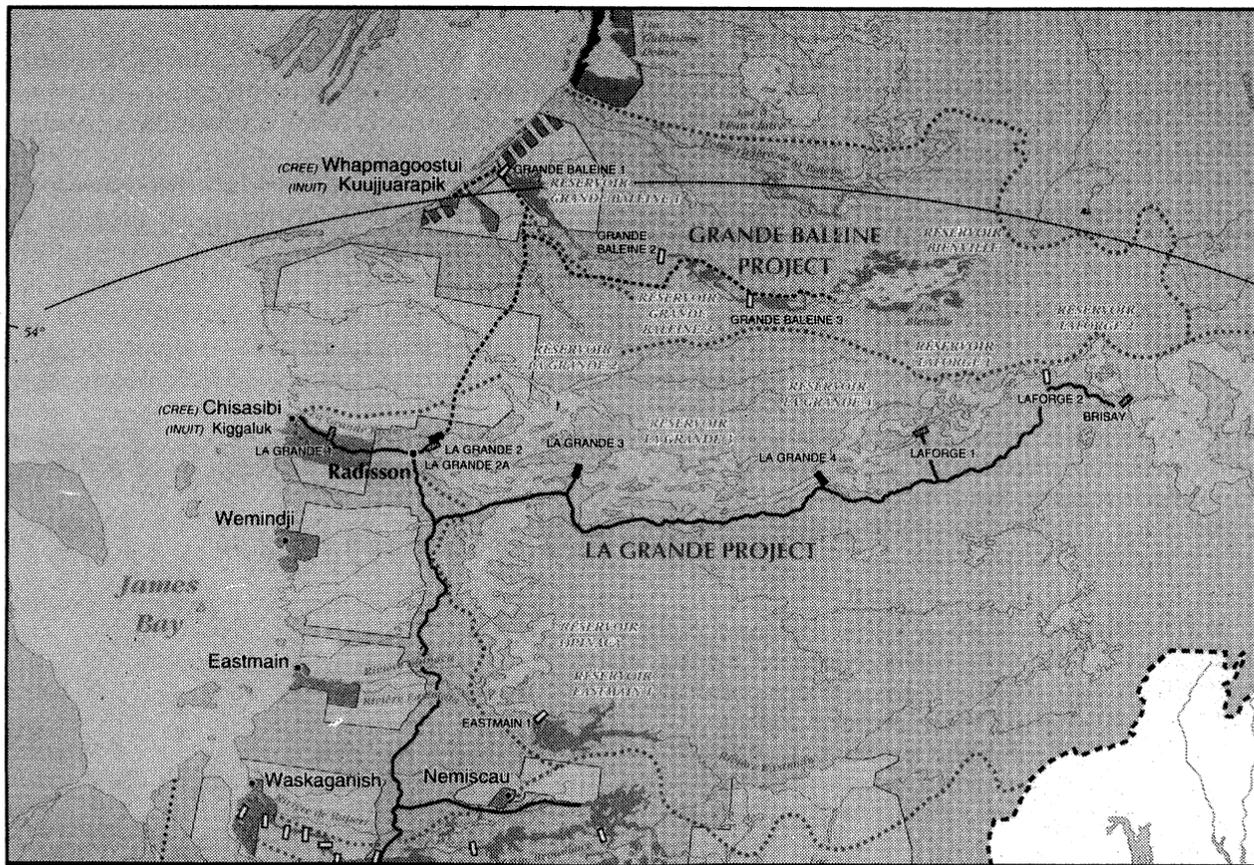
HQ intends to transform Grande-Baleine into a vast hydroelectric facility to respond primarily to Québec's future energy needs. This project is part of the second phase of HQ's development plan for James Bay. Exports cannot constitute more than 10% of HQ's available capacity, according to HQ's policy. This electricity comes from the ensemble of HQ generating facilities, not from dedicated projects. Exports offer many advantages to HQ, since it can sell its electricity at a higher price than it is allowed to in Québec. With these large profits, HQ is willing to commission its facilities a few years earlier than it had planned. For example, the cost of Grande-Baleine, \$12 or 13 billion Canadian (\$1 Canadian = 85 cents U.S.), would be paid entirely by American importation of electricity.

By postponing the contract, NYPA may negotiate a lower rate or, in the end, simply refuse to buy. The latter option would probably delay the start of the construction at Grande-Baleine, but not kill the project. Cree Indian leaders also oppose Grande-Baleine development, and are currently employing legal means to stall environmental impact studies of the project. If the environmental study's conclusions do not oppose the development, Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Cree, declared that the Cree Indians will find other means to resist (*Le Devoir*, March 4, 1992).

To oppose the powerful NYPA, to highlight its alleged lack of environmental concern, and to ultimately save James Bay, a group of environmental organizations have formed the James Bay Coalition. It includes groups such as Greenpeace, the National Audubon Society, and Friends of the Earth. They sponsored a full-page advertisement in the October 4, 1991 *New York Times* attacking the pertinency of purchasing more electricity from the James Bay project.

In Québec, the advertising had the effect of a bomb. The language of the ad shocked many Québécois, for HQ is still a major nationalist symbol in Québec. Created in 1942 by the government of Québec, HQ gained control of 95% of the electricity produced in the province when the government of Québec nationalized all private power companies in 1962. It illustrated that Québécois could take control of their economy and, ultimately, their political destiny. HQ responded to this perceived attack with an ad of its own, published in the *Times* on October 24, 1991.

The coalition's ad claimed that the development of James Bay would "produce an ecological catastrophe on a scale with the devastation of the Amazon." But the Amazon drainage area covers 2.3 million square miles, while the total watershed for phase I of James Bay, and phase II, if completed, would represent an area of 140,000 square miles. This number has to be distinguished from the reservoir surface area that would represent 10,000 square miles.



Detail of the James Bay region shows La Grande Project (phase I), which is almost completed, and the proposed Grande-Baleine project (phase II). Darkened areas around the Reservoir Bienville and the Grand-Baleine River would be flooded if the project goes forward.

Out of this, 6,000 square miles would constitute flooded land.

One of the groups endorsing the James Bay Coalition is the Great Council of the Cree, the organization which represents the Cree Indians. The 15,000 Cree Indians and Inuit have been affected, but to imply that it "is a virtual death warrant for the great Cree Nation" is untrue. They have prospered under the series of agreements signed with HQ and the government of Québec. The main problem lies with the younger generation, who are living in a cultural shock and must tackle drug and alcohol problems.

Mr. Namagoose, secretary of the Great Cree Council, declared in *Le Devoir* (Oct. 23, 1991) that "we did not write the text. It was read to us and we endorsed it." He also said that he agreed with any effort to inform Americans about James Bay, even though the ad used "controversial tactics." Mr. Namagoose added that he is conscious that allies like Greenpeace aim to destroy the fur market, which is part of their traditional economy. For him, the Cree Indians do not control the debate about James Bay in United States anymore.

To refurbish its image, HQ has hired the New York public relations firm Burson-Marsteller for \$C150,000. Since 1990, the Crees have been coached by Hill & Knowlton (to promote their story in the U.S., the Crees paid nearly \$C200,000 to conduct polls, commission videos and provide intense media training for its leaders). Hill & Knowlton is the same firm that helped spread the horror story that Iraqi soldiers killed hundreds of babies in incubators in Kuwait City. The story has since been debunked (*Extra*, March 1992).

Environmental Issues

The promotion of different environmental concepts has polarized the James Bay Project debate. On one hand, Québec Premier Robert Bourassa wrote in his book *Power from the North*, published in 1985, that he considers it a waste when free-flowing water could be harnessed to produce energy. Many ecological groups discount this, believing that the short-term benefits do not justify such massive tampering with the environment. Pristine ecosystems like Grande-Baleine should be left untouched, according to them. On the other hand, HQ has conducted many environmental surveys and did remedial works in some of the areas affected by its developments. HQ's studies reveal that the impact of these major construction projects have not affected the environment irreversibly. They consider that sustainable development is acceptable if the biodiversity of habitats is not affected. It means, for example, that some animal species may be affected locally, but not on a large scale.

Such a view is anathema to the members of the James Bay Coalition and the James Bay Defense Coalition, comprised of 24 member organizations including Clearwater, the American Indian Support Group of New York City, and the Long Island Green Party. In its charge against HQ, James

Wollock of the James Bay Defense Coalition declared that HQ has a conflict of interest: it performs the environmental studies and is the only judge. Wollock also claims that HQ environmental services would not provide impact studies to the coalition. But Nicole Chartrand, research and guidelines director to the vice-presidency of environmental services at HQ, refuted this allegation. She mentioned that all studies are available and free, except for the price of the photocopies. For the Grande-Baleine project, only the study of access roads to Grande-Baleine is available; other studies cannot be released because of a legal battle launched by the Crees on how and who should perform these studies. Concerning the apparent conflict of interest of HQ, Chartrand said that "the law [Québec law on quality of environment] imposes on the promoter the responsibility of performing an evaluation. HQ is not the only one to decide. These studies will be analyzed by the same committees that mandated HQ to perform the studies. We find on these committees many Cree representatives."

One of the big stains on HQ's environmental record is the drowning of 10,000 caribou in 1984. HQ and biologists from the government of Québec state that the drowning was due to natural causes. Abundant rain made the falls, chosen by the caribou as a passage on the Caniapiscou River, a perilous site. In fact, the caribou were becoming used to the dry bed at this location, created by the rerouting of the river. HQ was not aware that caribou were migrating there when it decided to evacuate some of the accumulated water in the reservoir. This incident was serious, but has also happened without human intervention.

Studies estimate that Québec's caribou population has increased from 200,000 to roughly 500,000 since the 1970s. This large increase is partly due to the ease with which caribou herds can travel to new food sources on the large frozen surface created by reservoirs. Crees and Inuit are now contemplating the possibility of commercializing caribou meat. They would kill 15,000 animals a year.

The inundation of large surfaces, during the first phase of James Bay, has displaced between 15,000 and 20,000 birds out of an overall population of 1.1 million bird pairs before the birth of broods. This 1.1 million breeding pairs produce approximately 6.5 million birds over the entire Québec territory. Hunting by natives will kill 140,000 birds, recreational hunters will capture 555,000 birds, while hunting in the Northeastern United States leads to the disappearance of 1.3 million birds annually.

The flooding has released methyl mercury into the waters, which contaminated fish in the region. Mercury can be found everywhere there is organic matter. In the USA, the norm for commercial fish is 1 mg of methyl mercury per kilogram of fish while in Canada, the norm is 0.5 mg/Kg for all mercury (organic and metallic forms). Somebody would have to eat one pound of fish, twice a week, to go beyond

"Ecological Catastrophe" or Political Rhetoric?

the concentration normally recommended for humans. Even before the first phase of James Bay, many Crees were exposed to high concentrations of mercury. A joint program between HQ and the Cree, created in 1986, has educated the population about the type of fish that can be eaten. In 1990, no Cree Indians were found to have high concentrations of mercury (60 mg/kg) while in 1984, 48 had that amount or more.

Hydro-Québec

The hydro-electric potential in Québec is enormous. For this reason, HQ has opted for the cheap power provided by hydroelectricity. Nowadays, 95% of the 30,000 Megawatts produced in Québec comes from the kinetic energy of turbines propelled by flow of water. (30,000 MW is equivalent to the output of 26 Seabrook nuclear plants.) Compared to New York State residential customers, Québec customers pay one-third the price for electricity.

HQ's financial situation has been the subject of many attacks. HQ's financial health is partly established by law. For example, the utility must keep a capital ratio of 25% and an interest coverage of at least 1.0X before any dividends can be given to the government. HQ's credit rating is excellent. In 1989, the utility spent \$2.5 billion, or 45% of its \$5.5 billion revenues, on interest payments. In an interview in *Macleans*' (May 21, 1990) Hélène Connor-Lajambe, director general of the Centre for Energy Policy Analysis near Montréal, said that HQ had cut back spending on routine maintenance and equipment replacement, which resulted in a record number of blackouts, in order to meet its debts.

The Cree Indians

In the early 1970s, HQ started the James Bay project without consulting the Cree Indians, who have lived in the area for more than 8,000 years. It seems shocking, but at the time they did not even have the right to vote. In the fall of 1972, the Québec Association of Indians applied to the Québec Superior Court for an injunction to stop all work in the James Bay area. The hearings on this application culminated in a November 1973 decision ordering all work to be stopped immediately. This decision was based on the fact that the government of Québec had not yet reached an agreement on native land claims dating back to 1912. On-site work resumed early in 1974 as the Cree and Inuit, the government of Québec and the Canadian government began to negotiate. In November of that year, they reached an agreement in principle that would lead to the signing of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) in November 1975.

The agreement had historic value. For the government of Québec, it represented an opportunity to officially supervise the development of a territory comprising 410,000 square miles, more than the Province of Ontario. The Cree Indians and Inuit became Québec citizens with the right and access to all laws and services offered in the rest of the province.

The Grand Chief of the Cree, Matthew Coon-Come, described living conditions before the Agreement in a statement given at the State House in Augusta, Maine on April 20, 1989. "At that time (1972), the Cree communities were collections of shacks and tents around trading post stores," he said. "My people lived on the land six to eight months of the year and came together only during sum-

mers. The shacks were overcrowded, tuberculosis was prevalent, and increasingly the sick and the invalid were staying at the trading post, living off welfare." In the same presentation, Coon-Come described what the signing of the agreement meant for the Cree. "Under the terms of that agreement the Cree people consented only to the completion of the defined La Grande Project (phase I of James Bay project). We also secured what we felt were the necessary conditions to escape the oppression of poverty and gain access and participation in the mainstream Canadian economy."

The agreement allowed HQ to pursue the development of the first phase of James Bay in return for financial compensation that amounted to \$500 million over twenty years. With these funds, the 17,500 aboriginal people (10,500 Crees, 500 Naskapis, and 6,500 Inuits) have been able to set up non-traditional enterprises such as construction companies, aviation companies, fur-bearing animal farms, outfitters and other tourism infrastructures. An income security program for those participating in traditional activities was also established. Its goal is to ensure that Crees can practice their traditional activities and receive an income in return. The profits from fur sales are kept by the natives. One result of this specific program is that a larger number of families now practice their traditional activities.

Grande-Baleine

According to HQ projections, a growth in electricity demand of two percent per year must be expected over the next twenty years. In the case of Grande-Baleine, HQ was planning to start building access roads in 1992. The project was officially justified by the electricity needs of Québécois for the turn of the century. But recently Québec's minister of energy and resources, Lise Bacon, declared that electricity needs may not be as high as expected. Suddenly, the tight schedule invoked by HQ to launch and build Grande-Baleine is no longer valid.

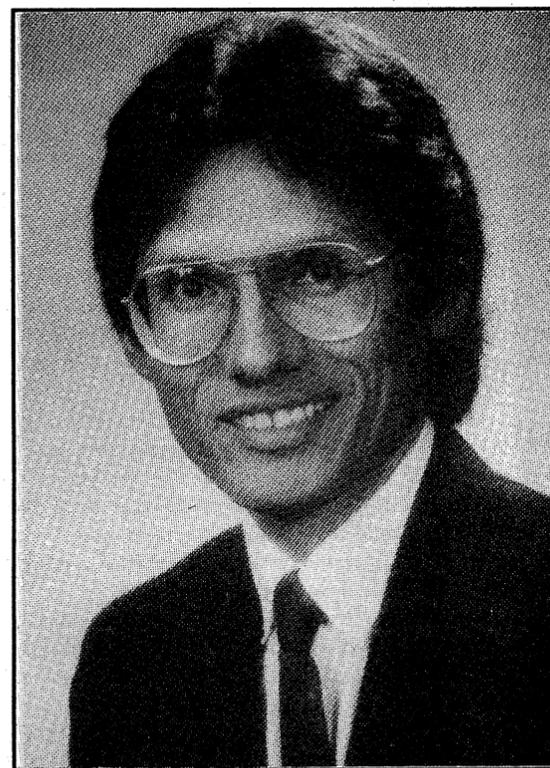
The JBNQA gave HQ the right to develop Grande-Baleine as long as a due environmental process is followed. For the Cree, any new hydroelectric project should be subject to Cree consent. This is a position with which HQ totally disagrees. In order to defend their approach, the Cree have initiated judicial guerilla warfare that has prevented HQ from completing environmental impact studies. They have also refused to participate in the joint committee that supervises the environmental studies process, with the consequences that HQ must delay any development. The Inuit, on the other hands, have negotiated with HQ about Grande-Baleine. They wish to obtain some of the economical advantages the Cree secured for themselves in the previous negotiations. An agreement between the Inuits and HQ was said to be near completion in December 1991.

For the Cree, stopping HQ has turned into a crusade. In 1987, a change in leadership within the Cree Council brought Matthew Coon Come to the head of the Cree Council. Coon Come has introduced a more militant discourse. In April 1990, the Cree asked the court to declare the James Bay and Northern Agreement null and void. Coon-Come told the *Globe and Mail* that "the agreement was based on the assumption that hydroelectric development was compatible with the Cree way of life and environment, but that is obviously not true."

The Cree, like many other Indian tribes in Canada, desire greater autonomy. The consequences of more autonomy

for natives are presently debated in Canada. It is not clear what would be the outcome, but for the natives it represents at least a more important role in the development of their land.

In order to build Grande-Baleine Richard Drouin, president of HQ, said he is willing to discuss any hypothesis. He declared that he would be willing to renegotiate the James Bay Convention, and offer a share of the profits to Cree Indians and Inuit, in order to obtain their consent. "When Cree Indians say that the issue of Grande-Baleine is not about material compensation, I don't believe it," he said. (*Actualité*, Oct. 15, 1991)



Matthew Coon Come, grand chief of the Grand Council of the Crees

Drowned with the Wolves

In the December issue of *Penthouse* magazine, an article entitled "Drowned with the Wolves" addressed the Grande-Baleine project. The allusion to the movie *Dances with Wolves* is evident. The success of this politically correct movie has inadvertently helped the cause of several Indian nations. Portrayed as nature lovers and true ecologists, natives have gained credibility as spokespersons for the environment. However, their understanding of the environment is based more on myth and tradition than science.

The legitimacy of the Cree's demand for more autonomy has suffered from their claims of "cultural genocide." It is an argument that is not corroborated by facts, unless they are willing to renounce the industrial society. At the same time, their opposition to Grande-Baleine has awakened Québécois to the debate about the development of Grande-Baleine. More voices are now questioning HQ's long-term plans. Recent declarations by HQ's spokespersons have demonstrated that cogeneration and more drastic conservation of energy would respond to demand. These measures could adequately replace the development of Grande-Baleine, but would increase prices for customers.

The future of Grande-Baleine will be decided by Québécois only. The sensationalist advertising of American environmental groups has reinforced this perception in Québec. Public hearings about the energy policy of the government of Québec, and not simply on development projects elaborated by HQ, are one way. Other means already taking place are through concerted discussions of the major actors in Québec politics. Dialogue among labor unions, business leaders, and the government of Québec has been taking place for many years. The emerging philosophy has created a social climate where some consensus can be achieved, and which is summarized a popular expression "Québec Inc." Nevertheless, it does not guarantee that the Grande-Baleine region will be protected.

The energy debate is also taking place in New York State. The problem is that many groups are using the James Bay issue for different ends. Once again, the ecological movement is divided. Groups willing to engage in the energy debate are shrouded by the sensationalism of the so-called ecological catastrophe of James Bay. The James Bay Defense Coalition and PROTECT, a New York group that opposes the import of electric from Québec, have declared that they do not want to be associated with the advertising of the James Bay coalition. Doris Delaney, spokesperson for PROTECT, said that if \$19.5 billion were invested in energy efficient technologies in NY State, an estimated 70,000 lifetime jobs would be created.

These are important issues, but the organizations opposing HQ have to rebuild their credibility. They don't have much time left.

Jean Rousseau is a Québec citizen and GSO senator.



Cree women with their children at a tribal gathering.

International Student Spotlight

India Society's Upcoming Programs

March 20, 1992 at 7 PM in the Graduate Commons, the India Society of Stony Brook is sponsoring a program entitled "Migrating Selves: Multicultural Experiences at the University."

The contemporary university has become a global crossroads where migrating peoples from every continent intersect culturally, politically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. "Migrating Selves" is a two-part informal, participatory gathering designed so that students, faculty, and the university community may share their individual experiences of migration and transformation.

The first part features a sharing of narratives-- brief writings or accounts in any genre (stories, anecdotes, poems, reflections, letters, etc.), of one to five minutes in length. These narratives will focus on the varied experiences, both humorous and profound, that characterize cultural encounters wherein differences in expectations, value systems, attitudes, and world views between cultures are explored.

The second part features a screening of a taped debate on "Academic Freedom" from William F. Buckley's *Firing Line* that concentrates on multi-cultural curricula reform in the American University. A discussion will follow the screening.

All migrating selves of any nationality are welcome and are warmly encouraged to participate. Please call Dean Gupta-Casale at 361-7119 for further information.

ANANDA COOMARASWAMY - A PROFILE

By Dr. Roger Lipsey
March 31, 1992 at 7 PM

Along with Swamy Vivekananda and S. Radhakrishnan, the name that stands out among the great interpreters of India to the West is that of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy. He was a brilliant and erudite intellectual with varied interests, ranging from literature, music, art and art to the study of Buddhism,

Vedanta and Christian theology. Dr. Coomaraswamy was a towering and thunderous presence in Indology for well over 50 years. Born of a Sinhalese father and an English mother, Coomaraswamy was equally well versed in Western and Indian traditions. Among his numerous studies in Indian art and philosophy, the best known is *The Dance of Shiva*, the standard work on Indian art theory to this day. He served as curator of the Indian section at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. In a review of one of his books, *The Times* (London) called him "one of the seminal thinkers of the century."

Dr. Roger Lipsey, editor and biographer of Dr. Coomaraswamy, will introduce the life and work of Ananda Coomaraswamy at a special talk on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 PM in the Poetry Center of the Humanities Building (Second Floor). Don't miss this unique opportunity! For information call 632-7781 or 751-1810.

Mark Your Calendar: Light Music Concert on Sunday, April 12. Details in the next issue.

The International Student Spotlight is a special section devoted to clubs and events for international graduate students and those who would like to learn about the international-student community at Stony Brook. We invite all organizations to submit material for this section. We can also print brief notices in languages besides English. But we need your input. Call George Bidermann at 632-6492 if you would like to write something or publicize an event that your organization is sponsoring.

A fellowship has been established in memory of Di Tian, a Chinese graduate student who died in a car accident last month.

Contributions can be made to the "SBF/Di Tian Fund" and sent to: Stony Brook Foundation, Room 330 Administration Building, USB, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1601.

The Turkish Students Association Meets on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM in Room 201, Central Hall

Letters

Hard Times Ahead Means Stick Together

To the Editor:

Within the next few weeks solid plans will be made that may result in changing the character of this University. But once again, students are being excluded from the decision-making process.

The effort of graduate students to organize their fellow students into an employees union continues and so far has proven successful. The Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) now has a "Coordinating Committee" whose purpose is to discuss employee issues with students in the various departments. Through this process a significant number of people became interested in the unionization effort and are now educating and organizing their colleagues. The initiative taken by some departments (Hispanic Languages, Philosophy) is quite amazing. The point is that graduate students are actually concerned.

At the same time, things have been happening at a slightly different level. Given the fiscal crisis, academic and administrative authorities have been passing around drafts of proposals suggesting ways to save. These include freezing and/or decreasing admissions for next fall and defunding graduate students. Of course, none of this is new. What does seem to be new are plans for merging departments and restructuring divisions. In one of the circulating drafts, for example, English Literature and all the language programs (Hispanic, French, Italian, etc.) become one department. Similar ideas are proposed concerning all the Humanities.

There are two issues here. At a time of severe budgetary problems, does the "reconfiguration" of the Humanities have a

purely academic purpose? That is, will it enhance the quality of research done in these fields? And if not, does saving money justify detrimental restructuring of divisions?

The second issue is whether or not this should be of concern to employees. To the extent that these changes result in "freeing" graduate students, faculty and staff, this becomes an employment issue. And here is the key question: What do graduate students do about the situation? Those of us involved in the GSEU are willing to think and take action in this particular academic issue, not because we don't see the distinction but because we believe that these are intimately related issues. We study, do research and support ourselves. We aspire to be academics and at the same time we are employees. We are concerned about the knowledge we are being provided and our living conditions.

Knowing that serious decisions are pending about both these concerns, I believe that this is not the time for graduate students to have an "identity crisis." Instead of dividing our personalities and terrains of action, we should enhance our ability to coordinate the organizations to which we belong, namely the GSO and the GSEU.

Marianthi Lianos
Member, GSEU Coordinating Committee

Stonewall Scholars Meet on Mondays

To the Editor:

The Stonewall Scholars is a student group organized to meet the social and professional needs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students at Stony Brook. Meetings offer a space for networking, where we can discuss what goes on in our classes, both those we teach and those we take, and where we can

talk about being lesbian, gay, or bisexual and/or doing gender/sexuality-related studies in the university setting.

Stonewall Scholars provides its members and the university with a variety of activities. Our reading group is currently discussing Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*. In the future we will consider Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality Vol. 1* and Eve Sedgwick's *Epistemology of the Closet*. Last semester's activities included parties, dancing, and a trip to the Annual Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference at Rutgers. And as usual, this semester we still provide facilitators for in-class gay and lesbian awareness workshops when requested by an instructor.

Stonewall Scholars and the reading group meet on alternating Monday nights. The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 30, at 8:30 PM in Humanities 146, the Graduate Reading Room. For more information, contact Marcos or Sandy during the day at 632-7587.

Tim Oliver

"Clothesline Project" Is Underway

To the Editor:

The workshop held on Sunday, March 1 for the Stony Brook Clothesline Project was a productive one. The project, sponsored by the Center for Women's Concerns, is well underway and many T-shirts have already been designed and ready for our exhibit, which will be held in the Union Art Gallery from April 3 to April 10.

The Clothesline Project bears witness to the victims of the war against women, both the casualties of this war as well as the wounded. This tribute will demonstrate the

extent of the problem with visual impact similar to the AIDS Quilt and the Vietnam Wall. We are asking that people create moving, personal tributes on T-shirts and submit them to the Center for Women's Concerns to be displayed in the Gallery.

Supplies for the decoration of T-shirts are available at the Center and will also be loaned out for home use. All T-shirts are needed by April 1. Please bring T-shirts along with a short testimonial to either the Center for Women's Concerns (Langmuir D120) or leave it in our mailbox in the Polity Suite, on the second floor of the Student Union.

The Center is also organizing buses for the Pro-Choice March in Washington, D.D. on April 5. The buses are scheduled to leave at 5 AM and will be returning by Midnight. The fee will be \$20 roundtrip; a deposit of \$10 is due by March 18, 1993.

For more information on any of our events, please contact the Center for Women's Concerns at 632-2000, or stop by the Center in Langmuir D120.

Patricia Halpin
Jennifer Christoff

The GSO is coordinating buses to the

March for Women's Lives

Sunday, April 5, leave at 5 AM
\$20 Roundtrip
Must reserve by March 20!

Call 632-6492 or stop by
Room 206, Central Hall

Mabi Ponce de Leon's Ancient Dreams...

By Jay Grimm
Department of Art History

The first time I saw Mabi Ponce de Leon's paintings, I wanted to dream in front of them. Giant fish and architectural ground plans inhabit these strange, wonderful canvases whose undulating colors invite one to become lost in their netherworld. The works radiate spirituality and transcendence, and attempt to capture the fleeting, flickering images of the subconscious.

Ms. Ponce de Leon is in her final semester of the MFA program at Stony Brook. Her thesis show, "Ancient Dreams...Soul Houses," which was on display through last week at the Library Gallery, includes two fairly large oils and six prints. The works illuminate the artist's concern with conveying emotions, thoughts, and ideas that cannot be described in words. As the show's title indicates, these ideas are linked to dreaming and to history.

Three Fish Heaven typifies Ponce de Leon's recent efforts. In this painting, concupiscent greens move into lush and vibrant blues and purples. The vigorously applied, cool colors combine and interact to evoke the feeling of flowing water. This constant movement is enhanced by alternating patches of thick, scumbled texture and glassy smooth surfaces. Immersed in the flow are big fish with long flowing fins and wide, staring eyes.

Amidst these organic forms is a rigid, geometric ground plan of a building. At first this seems incongruous yet, with a knowledge of art history, one recognizes the plan as belonging to a gothic cathedral. These structures represented life to their builders, who covered them with carvings imitating nature. She refers to them as "soul houses," places that heighten one's sense of spirituality. Theaters and other civic architecture from antiquity also appear in Ponce de Leon's work. These structures share in the expansive use of space that contribute to the feeling of growth and life. Furthermore, the plans are often asymmetrical and delineated with rapidly shifting light/dark passages, adding to the sense of animation.

The immediate association of Christianity suggests itself in regard to these works. After all, the early Church used a fish to symbolize Christ. The Bible contains much water-based imagery; many of Christ's disciples were fishermen, and the Church is often referred to as a boat, protecting believers in the voyage of life.

Yet upon closer examination, the water and fish seem to embody a more pantheistic spirituality. Every culture has been fascinated with water, viewing it as a life source. Ponce de Leon's work celebrates the idea of transcendence in nature, rather than fixing on a specific religion.

Ponce de Leon also concentrates on images attained from dreaming, specifically recurrent dreams. Her work reveals a fascination with continuity. In repeatedly dealing with the universal concepts of water, fish, spirituality and the afterlife, Ponce de Leon's works deal in issues important to people in all places and times. Using glimpses of dreams, which can be said to stem from basic, continual human needs, she implies eternity. Interestingly, the artist told me that the fish stem from childhood nightmares. While this might be useful to some people's understanding of the pictures, it doesn't really add to mine. The general idea of dreaming seems more relevant to appreciating the art than to discovering its specific sources in the artist's personal life.

Ponce de Leon's dreamscapes work best in the direct, brash brushstrokes of her large oils, and yet the success of her prints is apparent. In one large paper, a reduction block print entitled *To My Shadow*, Ponce de Leon creates an exuberant, dappled effect. The long, supple fins of the fish form a flowing pattern echoed by the increasingly complex pattern, which the artist achieves through a difficult technique. In *Tertullian's Dream* (Tertullian was a third century Christian writer, and church father), the finely etched cross-hatching forms a delicate, magical texture. In both of these works on paper, the sonorous tones and tints further evidence Ponce de Leon's skill as a colorist.

My favorite work in the show is (surprisingly) black and white, an etching entitled *A Couple*. Here, the artist abstracts the fish until virtually unrecognizable. She also abandons the ground plan and the play of texture and color found in much of her work. Ponce

de Leon's gamble has paid off. There exists a tension between rough and smooth edges and light and shade contrasts flicker between subtle and dramatic. The paper is a fascinating solution to design problems and may prove a future direction for her art.

If asked to write what I disliked about this show (and I was not), I would look to *Green Window*. This oil is a diptych with a centrally placed ground plan that lends a heavy symmetry to the piece, which disrupts its organicism and movement. Also, the passages around the corners seem unresolved and a bit muddy. Still, the brilliant colors are of interest and I don't wish to completely denigrate this work.

In all, *Green Window* is the exception that proves the rule: Mabi Ponce de Leon is a brilliant colorist whose works evoke an aesthetic emotion tied to nature and dreamed memories. The show provides a wonderful supplement to the work



Mabi Ponce de Leon, *A Couple*, 10" x 12"

Photo by Greg Forte

she exhibited in last month's MFA show at the Staller Center. I am sure I am not alone in my enthusiasm for Ponce de Leon's art.

GSA Corner

Retrenchment, Reconfiguration, and Disciplinary Change

By Tom Pepper
Graduate Student Advocate

At the February University Senate meeting, the issue of retrenchment was debated at length. The only department mentioned as an "example" of a department that "might" need to be retrenched was English; it was suggested that English has too many TAs and too much "fat." Surely this choice of an example was no accident.

Some administrators have suggested that since English faculty "don't do research," they don't need as many TAs; they should have a greater teaching load, including teaching freshman composition. Apparently, Provost Tilden Edelstein would put English in his category of "weak graduate programs where there are heavy instructional loads but a limited need for PhD students." A perhaps not unrelated occurrence: Philosophy has been required to decrease by half the number of incoming supported graduate students for 1992. English has a reduction of 59% compared with last year's new offers.

The humanities are certainly being hit hard by the budget cuts, and are considered to be increasingly less significant by most academics in other divisions, not to mention undergraduate students and the general public. The problem is, how do we argue for the humanities' significance, for their necessity? It seems to me that in the current organization of disciplines, we simply cannot claim any great significance to the general public; or rather, we can claim it, but nobody will be convinced. We could claim, as have many members of the Modern Language Association (an organization to which all English professors and most graduate students belong), that our purpose is to help our students "derive pleasure" from literary works, understand the "enduring ideas and values of western civilization," and "understand literary genres, forms, and conventions." The first question this raises is, what is the purpose of all this pleasure we are supposed to help produce when most of our students feel they can find enough pleasure (or more) without our help? The second is, what is the function of these kinds of "understanding?"

Unless we want to return to the old arguments that we teach a "higher" kind (degree?) of pleasure, one which will make students more content and less likely to object to their economic and social conditions than to perceive them aesthetically, the argument for "pleasure" is rather weak. And unless we want to argue that we are producing an "understanding" of western patriarchy and class oppression that will somehow produce a proper reverence for them, this argument is merely rhetorical. I would hope the "values" of Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, and other canonical fascist authors are not the ones the MLA would have "endure." Are we simply following the old line: "If you don't throw them a few novels, they might throw up a few barricades?" If so, we are rather ineffective, and the State and television are already keeping people fairly in

line. On the other hand, if we claim to be teaching students to recognize the ills of society and the oppressive nature of bourgeois values, can we really expect the state to support this effort? So what's left? To be relegated to being a "service department," merely teaching literacy skills?

Not necessarily, but we may be able to avoid this only if we are willing to move to reconfigure the disciplines in the Humanities, and perhaps in the Social Sciences as well. For example, we could reorganize humanities disciplines into a department of cultural studies, with the goal no longer being the production of pleasure, or of undefined "understanding." Rather, the goal could be examination of the source and function of cultural pleasure and the "understanding" of values. While the current organization of the disciplines is ideological, this reorganization would need to recognize that there is no need for academics to produce ideology.

Now, the problem. In an undated, unsigned document apparently originating from the Provost's Office, called a "draft" and titled "Academic Plan," there is this entry under the heading "Downsizing:"

(1) Reexamining the traditional department structure aimed, wherever possible at consolidation... Interdisciplinary "colleges" for example to be formed out of existing faculty and courses to meet a particular need.

There is great concern over who will do the reexamining and forming of "colleges." Also, depending on how they are set up, it is possible that such "colleges" could be extremely vulnerable to retrenchment, and thus could be used to eliminate tenured faculty or faculty with theoretically or politically controversial positions.

Rather than attempting to keep such "Academic Plans" secret until they are complete or already in effect, the administration should seek participation of faculty and graduate students in their formation. Suggestions for changes in the "traditional department structure" must come only from the faculty, not from the Provost or the President, who in the case of this university are completely ignorant of the current state of knowledge production in the humanities. In addition, such new formations must be recognized as departments, with existing tenure maintained, to avoid retrenchment that targets specific individuals or approaches.

Obviously, changes in the disciplines would take quite some time to complete, and there would be considerable debate over what constitutes the object of a discipline. However, if we as graduate students don't begin to reconsider our work along these lines, we may find ourselves reduced to nothing more than service departments, our profession proletarianized to the point that it is considered a technical skill easily performed by adjuncts. We need to insist on participation in "Academic Plans;" this is not a choice between changing and staying the same, but between changing and being eliminated.

S h o r t T a k e s

And Last Licks

Volunteers Needed for AIDS Memorial Quilt Display

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed Tuesday, March 31 through Thursday, April 2 at the Indoor Sports Complex in its first metropolitan area display since 1989. Approximately 1,300 of the project's 14,000 quilts will be displayed in the complex, and Long Islanders will be adding quilts to the project at this display. Workshops are being held for people wishing to contribute quilts, and volunteers are needed to help coordinate the event.

John Quinlan, the Cornell Cooperative Extension agent who is running the workshops, can be reached at 727-7850. Several have already been held, and there is another workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 21. All materials for quilts have been donated, and the workshops help people design and create their quilts.

Volunteers are needed to read the names of those remembered in the Quilt, set up and break down the display, staff information tables, and coordinate traffic. Also needed are those certified in grief or AIDS counseling or having Red Cross certification for providing first aid. Contact Ward Garee at 632-9004 if you would like to help out.

If nothing else, please stop down to visit the display. The Quilt is a moving tribute to all those who have died of AIDS, and the variety of designs and elaborate artwork that characterize some of the quilts are testaments to the love of friends and companions left behind.

Celebration of Women's History Month Continues

University-sponsored events in celebration of Women's History Month will be held through April 1 both on-and off-campus. The full calendar of events can be obtained at the Women's Studies office, Room 105, Old Chemistry, or call 632-9176 weekdays for more information.

On Wednesday, March 18, a discussion on "Women in the Professions" will take place between 12:40 and 2 PM in the Student Union Auditorium. Robert Hawkins will speak on "Lesbians and Lesbian Relationships" from 3:30 to 6 PM in Room 155, Level 3 of the Health Sciences Center.

Most of next week's events take place off-campus, so consult the calendar for more information. Wrapping up the celebration are a presentation on "The Foremothers of Science," sponsored by American Women in Science, which will take place Tuesday, March 31 at 8 PM in Room 240 of the Math Tower. Author Ruth Gruber will speak on Wednesday, April 1 about her sixty years as a foreign correspondent. The talk will take place at 8 PM in Room 231 of the Student Union.



Ruth Gruber

Academic Plan Revealed—

(Continued from Page 1)

education. The plan proposes to continue or increase a large number of programs designed to improve access for undergraduates. The objective is to attract a greater number and a higher quality of undergraduate students. The plan proposes to expand the Honors College and the Freshman Scholars Program-- designed for a hundred-odd, high achieving and highly motivated freshman, among other things. As the plan states: "The opportunity exists to use current increased demand to improve the image of the undergraduate program in Stony Brook."

A substantial number of programs related to the enrollment of undergraduate students is either continued, increased or extended, among them an increase in the number and amount of scholarships offered to freshmen, continuing, and transfer students. However, the plan foresees a major expansion of the evening program. "Five majors have been identified which will meet the needs of the vast majority of these evening students: English, Political Science, Management, Psychology and the Social Sciences Education Option in History," it states.

These initiatives to increase access for undergraduates go hand in hand with proposals to increase the interaction between faculty and students. Again, a number of existing programs are extended, such as SBU 101 (an introduction to Stony Brook for freshmen), the Faculty/Student Lunch Program ("where a faculty member takes five students to lunch at the University Club"), and Commuter Student College Coffee with Faculty ("Two hundred groups consisting of one faculty and five students will meet in the Humanities Cafeteria, the Harriman Cafe or the Union Cafeteria for coffee.")

The New Mission: Support Long Island's Economy

Programs will be allowed to expand if they contribute to Long Island's economy. "Long Island's transition to a restructured economic base generates new demands for the development or expansion of university academic and research programs, demands that create opportunities, particularly for interdisciplinary programs pioneering new frontiers." The programs "of established or emerging academic strength that represent important regional potential" are biotechnology (behavioral neuroscience, molecular medicine and biomedical instrumentation/bioengineering), electronic manufacturing, environmental technology ("University efforts in engineering, management, and physical and social sciences, led by the Marine Sciences Center, should play a crucial role in supporting the development of new solutions to these critical problems."), information technology, and new materials ("Stony Brook's strengths in materials science engineering and the physical sciences should be focused for a major initiative and varied growth in this key area").

New instructional programs with the same thrust are proposed as well: "Major emphasis should also be given to developing instructional capacity in the dynamic field of manufacturing engineering, as an interdisciplinary specialty based in mechanical engineering and materials science, and drawing upon other engineering and physical, social sciences and management disciplines."

Protection of Sponsored Research

The research departments that are able to attract substantial external research money will also be protected. This is accomplished through changing the allocations of indirect cost (IDC) funds. IDC funds are portions of research grants used to reimburse the university for overhead costs incurred through research efforts.

Most of the IDC money (77%) flows directly back to the departments where the sponsored research takes place. Twenty three percent is used for research development and support.

Substantial Budget Cuts Foreseen

The plan assumes a budget reduction in West Campus funding of at least \$9 to \$11 million over the next three years with a cut of \$7 million during the next academic year. A number of other developments may have a substantial impact on the budget. The opening of a cogeneration plant, scheduled for January 1994, should lead to substantial energy savings. The opening of the Long Island High Tech Incubator could increase support from industry. Expansion of the summer sessions will increase revenue. However, new Indirect Cost (IDC) policies mandated by the federal government may reduce the amount of IDC funding the university receives, offsetting some of these savings.

Musicians and Poets Wanted

Of course, at an institution that calls itself a "research university" and is looking to downsize the humanities, one should not expect a flowering arts community. However, students are taking things into their own hands by organizing coffee houses and open readings, where struggling young artists can find a forum for their work.

Open readings are held every Thursday night at the Rainy Night House, located in the basement of the Student Union, beginning at 7:30 PM. And Wagner College, located in Roosevelt Quad, is starting a coffee house on Thursday nights, beginning this Thursday, March 19, at 9:30 PM. Comedians, musicians, poets, and other performers are encouraged to attend. For more information about the Wagner College coffee house, call Christina Papp (632-4956) or Greg Desire (632-4928).

The Stony Brook Musicians' Collective is planning an all-day concert for Saturday, April 18, in coordination with Earth Day celebrations. Local musicians interested in playing at the concert should call Gary Halada (928-FISH) or Billy Capozzi (689-3574). The Musicians' Collective meets every Monday (except next Monday, Spring Break) at 6:30 PM in Room 201, Central Hall.

Grad Students in the News...

Mary Wu and Hsing-Chwen Hsin, graduate students in the Department of Music, won highest honors in the Mozart Bicentenary Piano Competition of Asia, held in Hong Kong at the end of December. Wu was winner of the first prize and Hsin won second prize. Both are students of USB professor of music Gilbert Kalish. The competition, sponsored by Radio Television Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Urban Council, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, was open to "ethnic Asians." The adjudicating panel included pianists Paul Badura-Skoda, Fou Ts'ong and Melvyn Tan, and musicologist Eva Badura-Skoda.

Marc Neuberger has been awarded the William and James Catacosinos Fellowship in Computer Science, given annually to one graduate student who excels in Computer Science. Neuberger is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Computer Science whose research area is programming languages. In 1988-89, he built a compiler for a functional language, ML, being developed at Stony Brook. That compiler is now used in over 12 institutions in the United States and Europe. During the summer of 1990, Neuberger was invited to be a visiting research scholar at the DEC research laboratory in Paris.

The fellowship award of \$4,200 provides support to a graduate student who has demonstrated excellence in computer sciences, including applications of techniques of computerization in any academic discipline or in business.

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 Those of us who believe otherwise must be there. The GSO is sponsoring buses to the rally. Tickets are \$20 roundtrip and can be purchased at the GSO, Room 206, Central Hall. Call 632-6492 for more information.
 it and/or herself trying to self-abort.
 financial situation--and even if her pregnancy is the result of a rape or incest--she will bear that child or kill from the women who must bear these children, until eventually, no matter what her emotional, physical, or We must gear ourselves for the coming storm. "Pro-lifers" will be stepping up their efforts to take choice away of time before the principles enumerated in Roe v. Wade are eroded or swept clean.
 addition of Clarence "Who Me?" Thomas to an already tilted (and still) Supreme Court. It seems only a matter women's right to privacy and reproductive freedom. Access to safe, affordable abortion is threatened by the April 5, people from all over the nation will march on Washington to demand that our government protect a Last Licks: Okay, it's a cheap gag to do this upside down, but I wouldn't do it if it wasn't so important. On