

News and Blues

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SUNY Will Shift GA/TA Lines to Research Foundation

By George Bidermann

SUNY is pushing onward with plans to shift GA/TA lines from the state's payroll to the Research Foundation, a move which GSO officials have condemned as a union-busting technique.

In a report issued to the University Senate March 4, Stony Brook President John Marburger said Stony Brook "must give up all the lines currently devoted to graduate students receiving stipends (GA/TA lines). . . . While funds for the stipends will remain intact (subject to campus-level reductions), the net effect is to remove 187.3 FTE [full-time equivalents] from the State payroll."

Governor Mario Cuomo's 1991-92 Executive Budget Proposal called for the shifting of GA/TA lines to the Research Foundation. Alexander King, vice provost for Graduate Studies and Research, said SUNY has apparently accepted this, and it is doubtful that the State Legislature will drop this from the final budget it passes. SUNY will pay the Research Foundation a handling fee while saving some labor and production costs, King said.

The transfer will most likely take place around July 1, which is the beginning of the state's new fiscal year, and will involve the loss on paper of 187.3 full-time equivalents (FTE). At four graduate students per FTE, this

comes out to 749.2 graduate student lines, which accounts for most of the GAs and TAs on campus. "Right now, we are looking at the various possible ways of dealing with it," King said. "We would like to have a month's time to get ready for dealing with this."

GSO President Jane Ely condemned the move as a union-busting technique. "I certainly think the fact that graduate students are becoming vocal again in their demands for self-determination has something to do with this action," she said. "It takes us off the state payroll, which immediately means that we are not employees. All indications I have received tell me that increased activism is a motivating factor" for SUNY.

Ely also said, "It is interesting to note that no one in the Research Foundation is unionized, although they do receive full benefits. But graduate students do not qualify for these benefits."

King said the switch should have no effect on the number of graduate student lines. SUNY's budget crisis may, however, may result in a reduction in the number of lines simply because departments and offices that have graduate student lines may be forced to cut back when the final budget comes down. According to King, "The administration is still in the process of prioritizing pro-

grams and functions of the university to the sizes of budget cuts throughout the campus." The process will continue for several more weeks, he said. The campus has been asked to prepare plans for achieving funding reductions ranging from three to six percent; a six-percent reduction in Stony Brook's operating budget would amount to approximately \$10.8 million.

Ely said the GSO is extremely concerned about this new development. "Graduate students, while being financially dependent on the university, are the one group on campus without any protection, so we become easy targets. Shifting graduate student lines to the Research Foundation makes us the soft money in the system, money that can be supplemented or subtracted almost at will, depending on the amount of grant money coming in. I fear our situation will become even more precarious than it already is."

King said the effects of the budget crisis, while still in flux, will be harsh. "It's going to be a lot harder for programs to justify and maintain the amount of state supported lines that they had in the past," he said, though there is no specific targeting of lines or programs yet. "When asked if there was anything to be hopeful to report, King said, "No. You can quote me on that."

Finding the Courage to Say "Enough is Enough"

By George Bidermann

Many times, women who are victims of domestic violence withdraw, blame themselves, and stay in an abusive relationship because of fears for their children or lack of confidence in their ability to make it alone. But two weeks ago, two women on campus summoned the courage to report their situations to the Department of Public Safety, which was then able to secure them

court orders of protection and have their abusive spouses removed from their residences.

Detective Jeanette Hotmer, who has worked for years assisting women on campus caught in abusive relationships, said domestic violence is prevalent not just in dormitories and the apartments on campus, but everywhere. She has helped female students, staff and faculty find the strength

and assistance they need to break away from men whose weapons include not only physical abuse but psychological power-games and mental cruelty. Several times in the past few weeks, she has driven women to Suffolk County courts to obtain orders of protection and then facilitated the delivery of that order to the abusive spouse. In the case of two women residing in Chapin, Public Safety and the university succeeded in peacefully removing the abusive spouse from the residences these women shared with them.

According to "Plain Talk About Wife Abuse," a pamphlet issued in 1983 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a woman who has been abused by her husband, lover, or ex-lover "is afraid. Not only is she afraid that she, herself, will be seriously hurt, but if she has children, she fears for their safety also. . . . She may feel guilty, even though she's done nothing wrong. An abused wife may feel responsible for her [spouse's] violence because in some way she may have provoked him. This has her placing the shame and blame on herself-- instead of the abuser."

Couples can become involved in patterns of abuse that begin with the building of tension, flare up into an explosion of violence, and then end with a loving phase, where the man feels guilty over what he's done, promises it won't happen again, and becomes very loving. These women want to believe their spouse is being truthful,

and stepping out on their own can seem so intimidating. Some women may have been brought up to believe that divorce is wrong and that they have an obligation to keep the family together. If children are involved, women worry about their ability to support the children without their spouses, and may believe the children need a "father figure." Many times they are isolated, far away from family and with very few friends.

And there may be other circumstances. Ann (not her real name), one of the women who took the first step at Stony Brook recently said she had moved out of the

(Continued on Page 3)

If You Are a Victim Of Domestic Violence:

Here is a list of numbers you can call for support, for information, or if you just need someone to talk to:

Center for Women's Concerns (at Stony Brook) 632-2000

VIBES (Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk) 360-3606

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

24-hour-hotline 666-8833

Toll-free number (800) 942-6906

RESPONSE

751-7500

In This Issue:

Editorials 2

After the War:
Special Supplement 1A

Focus on Housing 4-5

Fed & State Roundup 7

Son of Kwasny 8

Even the "Appearance" of Censorship is Chilling

The GSO Senate passed a resolution supporting the constitutional right of freedom of the press at the last GSO Senate meeting, held on February 27. The text of that resolution appears on page eight of this issue. The resolution was passed in response to what "appeared" to be an act of censorship on Friday, February 22, when *The Stony Brook Press* was confiscated by the management of the Student Union, which deemed its cover "obscene." On April 1 (3:30 PM, Room 109, Javits Lecture Hall), the GSO will take the resolution to the University Senate, asking it to pass a similar resolution denouncing censorship on campus.

Defending the action, the Office of Student Affairs responded to the GSO resolution by saying that the temporary removal of *The Press* from distribution stands in the Student Union was not an act of censorship but merely the result of "confusion" on the part of the building's management. Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs, then admonished GSO President Jane Ely for not getting both sides of the story before the GSO Senate passed the resolution condemning the action.

Somehow, Student Affairs is missing the point. For the administration to simply say that the confiscation of the paper was a mistake does not address the fact that what actually occurred was indeed an attempt to limit access to that issue of *The Stony Brook Press*. The key statement in the GSO resolution is the word "appears." Of course, any responsible organization or office must be sensitive not only to the direct effect of its actions but also to how these actions will be viewed by the larger community. Appearance is the point to which the GSO Senate was objecting.

Censorship, anywhere, is a terrible thing. The university community has an obligation to be sensitive to censorship issues of any kind on this campus. Academic freedom is now under attack

by those who argue that professors are teaching their own political biases, or even political "correctness" in the classroom, when they deviate from traditional perspectives. Does this mean that when the "political bias police" arrive at our classrooms, we must defend ourselves for presenting accepted academic perspectives critical of any current political policy? As pressure increases to present only views that support the status quo, does that mean that dissertations must reflect that viewpoint if we expect to get jobs in the academic community? Are we going to return to the McCarthy era?

Freedom of speech, the written and the spoken, will not be swept away in one night. It will be picked at piecemeal, covertly and overtly. By not being sensitive to the end results of our

actions, we will become part of the process of limiting freedom of speech.

We cannot allow this to happen. Dissent is healthy and not pathological. Only through dissent will our society reach the goals we profess to believe in.

Yes, appearances are important, and it "appeared" that a deliberate act of censorship occurred in the Student Union on February 22. Writing it off as a simple misunderstanding clouds the issue. The university should not be scapegoating an employee who "appears" to have acted under orders from an administrator official. A clearcut policy prohibiting administrators from unilaterally censoring student publications is in order. The University Senate should see that we get one.

This is the space we reserved for letters and viewpoints. As you can see it is quite empty.

So this is how we fill it when we're out of time and energy.

Please contribute to the News and Blues. It would warm our hearts to know you read the paper, take an interest in it, and want to help make it bigger and better. Goodnight....

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Women Can Get Out of Abusive Relationships—

(Continued from Page 1)

couple's apartment upstate apartment last summer, only to have her husband show up at her new apartment six months later. By this time, she was planning to return to Stony Brook to finish her Bachelors' degree. But her husband immediately began threatening to take her to court if she tried to move so far away with their infant son.

In the end, Ann agreed to allow him to move with them to Stony Brook mainly, she said, "because he was blackmailing me and I also had no one to watch the baby while I would be in class." They moved here in January, but while the physical abuse had stopped, the intimidation hadn't. She does blame herself for getting involved with him. "There were indications early that I just did not pick up on," she says. "He had a really violent sense of humor, he had an extremely aggressive personality, and he felt he had so little control over his own life that he had to exercise control over mine."

Ann got to the point where she was considering asking to be reassigned to another part of the campus without telling her husband, so that he would be forced to leave Chapin. But it didn't seem like that would provide her and the baby with the safety she felt they needed. Finally, she called Public Safety, seeking answers to questions regarding her most recent idea,

to have the locks changed on her doors. That's when she was put in touch with Detective Hotmer.

She was amazed to find out that the university could take steps almost immediately to protect her. "Without Jeanette," Ann said, "nothing would have taken place. She arranged to take me and another woman [also a campus resident] to court, and I filed for custody of the baby and obtained an order of protection the same day. After returning to campus, I was instructed to go to my classes and then go to the Chapin Office before returning home."

When she got there, seven Public Safety officers were waiting to escort her back to her apartment and to issue her husband the order of protection. But he had already gotten wind of what was up when university lockshop personnel showed up that morning to change the locks. He spoke to Chapin officials, who agreed to provide him two nights shelter in an other apartment. After that he took off for upstate, where his family is, and she hasn't heard from him since.

Not all domestic violence situations are resolved so easily and in many cases, women continue to fear for their safety for many years after finally breaking free of the relationship. But, says Ann, women on campus should realize that nothing can

happen until they decide they want to get away from their abusive spouses. "I never thought it could be done so quickly and efficiently. Because Stony Brook has rules governing its residence halls, it can act quickly to remove a violent spouse from the premises."

But there are limits. The campus was shocked last spring when Arlene Miller, a graduate student living in Chapin, was murdered by her estranged lover while she was standing at the Chapin bus stop. Arlene already had an order of protection. Much agonizing was done over whether further steps could have been taken to protect her but the answer, according to

Hotmer, was "no."

Women who are involved in relationships with abusive lovers must come forward if they expect to ever improve their lives. Filing a complaint and seeking an order of protection is the first step. A listing of support groups and hotline numbers appears on Page 1. In addition, the Center for Women's Concerns (632-2000) can help refer women to the proper channels. It is also starting up Venom (for Victims No More), a support group for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, again. Venom will be meeting on Wednesday, April 3 at 9 PM in Langmuir Room D120.

SUNY Ready to Move GA, TA, RA Lines From Payroll to Research Foundation

By Julia Miller and Jeff McFarland
Reprinted from *The Graduate Quill*

BUFFALO-- The most recent information gained by the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO) indicates that SUNY is in the process of taking all TAs, GAs, and RAs off the state payroll and moving the money for stipends over to the Research Foundation.

If this goes through, SUNY will in effect be contracting out for graduate student employees from the "private" research corporation. Obviously, this has the potential to affect graduate students' ongoing struggle for state-employee status and unionization rights. But most disturbing is that nobody seems able to answer the most basic questions about how this move will affect the thousands of graduate student workers in question.

The state budget for next year calls for SUNY to take a 10% cut in full-time equivalents (FTEs). Since TAs and GAs are paid through FTEs (four graduate students equal one FTE), the state has targeted the FTEs given to graduate students to decrease the number of "other" FTEs they must cut statewide. This still leaves SUNY with over 1,500 FTEs to cut for next year.

We have been told that the move is to protect monies for graduate student assis-

stantships. By moving all TAs, GAs, and RAs off of state lines SUNY will be able to show a considerable cut in FTEs when Cuomo's budget is approved. Yet no one has been able to tell us how in such a budget crunch, SUNY expects to commit and continue to commit so many millions of dollars to the Research Foundation. No one can tell us if there will be a minimum stipend level and if so (we hope so), who will set it. No one can tell us if this move will affect our tax status, or foreign student visa status, or if graduate student employees will ever see a cost-of-living increase again once they have been removed from the Instructional Services budget line.

At a recent "information session" Acting Provost Ken Levy and Bob Palmer, vice provost for Student Affairs, were unable to answer most of the questions asked by graduate students. Levy and Palmer encouraged students to continue providing "valuable input," but indicated that this was a *fait accompli*. They suggested that, most likely, no one had the answers to all our excellent questions. When asked how SUNY could undertake such a monumental decision without addressing such basic questions, they acknowledged that this indeed was a very good question.

Attention Seekers Of Fame and Fortune:

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

PRESIDENT: Primary spokesperson of the GSO, representing it in the University Senate Executive Committee and the Graduate Council. This person will supervise and support execution of GSO legislation, make appointments of representatives to campus committees and, in general, helps everything run smoothly and effectively.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Will assume the president's responsibilities in that officer's absence, convene GSO committee meetings, and aid in the general functioning and business of the GSO.

TREASURER: Responsible for handling all GSO funds and preparing the GSO budget. Convenes budget committee meetings and works with other officers to conduct GSO business.

SECRETARY: Keeps minutes of GSO meetings, supervises GSO correspondence and publications and works with other officers in the planning and direction of various GSO activities.

STONY BROOK COUNCIL: Under agreement with Polity, GSO and Polity representatives alternately hold the sole student seat on the Stony Brook Council, the board governing Stony policy and procedures.

Nominations are due by April 15, 1991.

Term of office for all positions is July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992.

GSO officers receive a \$200 monthly stipend from the organization. Any currently registered graduate student (including CED) may become a candidate for any of the above positions. Anyone interested in running for one of these positions should inquire at the GSO office, Room 206, Central Hall, or call 632-6492.

GSO— We can't do it alone!

Graduate Student Employees Union Delegate Assembly

April 20-21, 1991 at SUNY Albany

Budget cuts at SUNY leave the lowest paid employees in the state at the mercy of administrators and bureaucrats. Now, more than ever, teaching and research assistants need a union to protect themselves from arbitrary cuts that would destroy graduate programs and lay off hundreds of graduate student employees.

Look for posters announcing the next Action Committee meeting and future information about the upcoming delegate assembly. If you're interested, leave a message at 632-6492 or call GSEU direct at (718) 768-8436.

Roughing It in Chapin H1115....

Editor's note: The following interview with Xiaohong Zheng, Zibang Li, and Chuan Xie, residents of Chapin H1115, was given on March 17. Zheng is a graduate student in the Applied Math department, while both Li and Xie are graduate students in the Physics department. G and H buildings are the last buildings scheduled to be overhauled this summer as part of the Chapin capital rehabilitation project, which began in the fall of 1988. Currently, A and B buildings are being renovated, and are unoccupied.

How long have you lived in this apartment?

Li: This is our second year in this apartment. I moved in in January 1990.

Xie: Xiaohong and I have been living here for about fourteen months, since December 1989.

Describe the living arrangement in your apartment.

Li: We live in a typical three-apartment, which is meant to house six people, two per room. But since we got flooded out in last November, two people moved out. The

university has not been able to fill these vacancies, so two of us have private rooms.

You don't pay more rent for having single rooms?

Li: No; filling vacancies is not our responsibility.

What is the current rent that you pay each month?

Li: I'm paying \$193 per month.

Zheng: Chuan and I are living in the middle room, which is smaller than the other two bedrooms, so we pay a little less, which is \$181 a month.

Are there any other charges besides the rent?

Li: The phone charge is \$11 per month per person, and we all pay the bus fee [\$25 per semester] because since we are Chapin residents, we are not allowed to park our cars on main campus, even though we are GAs or RAs.

Have you lived in Chapin since you've been here?

Zheng: I've lived at Chapin since I came here.

Li: When I first came here I lived off-campus for one semester, and then moved into this apartment.

Xie: I've been living at Chapin since August of 1989.

How does this apartment compare to other apartments you've lived in?

Li: I think it's not worse, at least for the rent I pay.

You've lived off campus. How does this compare to where you were living off campus?

Li: It was a house, and I shared the house with the landlady and another graduate student. At that time, the rent was about \$300 per month, and I had some financial problems. I couldn't pay that much, so I had to move some place cheaper.

So you moved here because it was cheaper?

Li: Yeah, but it's not really cheaper because you have two people sharing one room; I think I'm lucky because after I was living here for about six months, the guy who shared the room with me moved out.

What about the condition of your apartment? Is it better or worse than other apartments in Chapin?

Zheng: I lived in I building before it was renovated, and compared to that apartment, this one is worse. The first year we lived here we didn't have heat for the whole winter and we had to use electric heaters, which makes the air very dry and uncomfortable.

Was the heat better in I building?

Zheng: Yeah, that's right, and they didn't have the heating system fixed until a month or two ago.

Li: Right now the heating system is working, maybe they call it working. We feel the heat coming up, especially when the temperature outside is warm. But we don't think we have enough heat when the temperature is cold.

The winter season is almost over now. Have you had any problems over the past three or four months related to the cold weather?

Xie: We have run out of hot water several times.

Li: Nowadays it's getting better but two months ago, we would have no hot water at least several times a week.

You step in the shower and suddenly there is no hot water.

Has this happened for extended periods of time?

Xie: It happens in the morning, maybe after eight or nine.

Li: When we wanted to shower, there was water flowing from the tap, but it's not hot enough to take a shower.

Have you had extended outages of heat?

Li: No, just that it is not enough. There is no way of increasing heat, it is totally beyond our control.

Zheng: And they tried to fix that, but they just cut a hole in the ceiling which you can see is still there. And now the heat is okay but the hole is still there.

When did they cut the hole in the ceiling?

Li: About two months ago.

Have they told you when it would be fixed?

Zheng: No, they didn't say anything. I thought they probably forgot all about it.

And have you called to complain?

Li: Well, we told our building coordinator about it.

Zheng: You know, sometimes things seem to be very strange. They seem to care about trivial things like the



News and Blues/ George Bidermann

The boys of H1115: Xiaohong Zheng, Chuan Xie, and Zibang Li stand below the unfixed hole in their ceiling.

doorstopper but sometimes, for example, when we run out of heat, they don't seem to care. It's very strange.

Have you been without basic services-- heat, hot water, electric-- for any extended periods of time during the past academic year?

Li: No. I think if we had, we would have moved out long ago. But we have had to make a lot of phone calls before the problem was solved.

What complaints do you have about this apartment?

Li: Well, it's too crowded, and I think the price is high for six people, and the oven doesn't work too well. We also have a lot of cockroaches.

Do they regularly exterminate here?

Li: I think they do. Some people come here about once a week, but I don't think they really help.

Do you have any general complaints about the Chapin complex itself?

Xie: Well, the parking is a problem.

Zheng: Sometimes you really can't find a spot.

Li: Usually after eleven or twelve at night it is very crowded.

Are there any other problems?

Li: The garbage dumpsters are always full. There is one dumpster per building and it is always full.

Xie: Sometimes we have to put our garbage bags beside the dumpster because we don't have any space in the dumpster.

Do you know how often they empty the dumpsters?

Xie: I don't know, we have no idea. But if somebody in the Chapin finds something with our names on the ground, they will have us clean up everything on the road or on the lawn.

They've done that before?

Xie: Yeah, they do it regularly.

Do the dumpsters really overflow regularly?

Xie: Yeah, so it's not really our fault.

Have you had any dealings with the Chapin office and what is your opinion of the way it has responded to problems you've encountered or requests you've made?

Xie: Some of them are good, but not all are good.

Can you be specific?

Xie: Well, after the flooding last fall, we wrote a letter. The university authorities also wrote us a letter in response. In that letter, they admitted that they knew this apartment was going to be flooded during a heavy rain, but they claimed it was not their fault because they didn't have enough money to fix it before. But that's nonsense. If they knew that the apartment was going to be flooded, they should not have had the apartment rented out.

Li: I can't say they are good, because I don't go there often, but I transferred from another school, and I think the office here is quite different from there.

What university were you at before?

Li: The University of Iowa. You can't compare with that. If you compare the office here with there, it's terrible.

Why did you originally decide to live in Chapin?

Zheng: Well, first it's cheaper; as we said before, it's not really cheaper, but this was the only affordable rent for us when we first came. We don't have much money. But I think the main reason is the transportation problem.

You don't have a car?

Xie: No, we didn't have cars at the time we came here, and we were not familiar with the campus; and the other reason I think is that there are a lot of "folks," that is, Chinese folks, who are friends of ours here. I think another reason is that we are foreign students. I came here from China in 1989, so before I came here, I had to prepare a place for me to live when I arrived.

Did you get to visit the campus before coming to study here?

Xie: No. I had to fill out the housing application form before I came here. When I arrived, because I didn't have a car, I had to live close to campus, and Chapin was, of course, the most probable choice. And once I signed my contract, I had to live here for at least one year.

When you got here, was it what you were expecting?

Xie: Well, compared with the living conditions in the university dorms in China, this place is not worse, but in China we didn't pay anything for our room-- it is free-- but here we have to pay nearly \$200 a month, so we should have some decent conditions.

Will you be living here after your contract runs out?

Zheng: We're not going to sign another contract. We've decided that all of us will move out to rent a house off-campus. We are tired of dealing with the university.

Do you feel you will be able to afford living in an off-campus environment, is that a concern?

Li: Yeah, that's a concern, but compared to what we have gone through, we think we can pay more to live more freely and not have to deal with these problems.

After the War— What's Left?

A Special Supplement to *The GSO News and Blues*

March 20, 1991

This "New" United States Is Extremely Frightening

By Judith Wishnia

Oh, how I would love to be an optimist. Oh how I would love to believe that the war in the Persian Gulf has opened a "window of opportunity" in the Mid-east. How I would love to believe we will now have a new and more just United States. Unfortunately, the only results I can see are the ruined cities, a victory for the extreme right wing both here and abroad, five more years of Bush and his "new world order," and a new and frightening "Rambo America."

What will change in the Mid-east? The most reactionary elements have been strengthened in most of the Mid-east countries allied with the United States. Saudi Arabia, one of the most undemocratic governments in the world, certainly the most oppressive for women, and militaristic Syria-- both regimes have been further legitimized by their participation in the U.S.-led coalition. In Kuwait, the Emir has returned and there are calls for democracy, but what kind of democracy? Will thousands of foreign workers, including the now-persecuted Palestinians, be citizens, or will "democracy" remain in the hands of oil-rich Kuwaitis (all males, of course)?

In Iraq itself, while ordinary people suffer from disease and destruction (and the still unknown number of dead) the hated dictator, Saddam Hussein, is facing opposition not from democratic forces (we never supported them) but from Shiite extremists. Will we have another Iran? Most critically, the war has strengthened the intransigent right-wing in Israel and there will never be peace in the Mid-east until there is a just settlement with the Palestinians. Where is the window of opportunity?

Most disturbing is that Bush's New World Order appears to be a new phrase for what we used to call "gunboat diplomacy." It means that instead of using diplomacy and negotiation to solve international problems, there is an increased likelihood of the use of force. It is now openly admitted that the U.S. never intended to solve the problem of the illegal invasion of Kuwait through negotiation, that war was planned from the very beginning. (And Saddam Hussein's arrogance and stupidity played right into Bush's hands.) Having successfully launched short and successful wars (never mind the death and destruction) in Grenada, Panama and Kuwait/Iraq, it appears that this kind of violent foreign policy will dominate in the future. If there is instability and a weakening of U.S. supported interests, will we invade El Salvador, or Peru, or the Philippines?

And then there is the "new" America, the Rambo America. Gone is the great hope for the "peace dividend." Our industries are dying, our cities are in decay, our schools do not educate our children, we cannot house our population, millions of people do not get proper medical care, our own university is in crisis and we will build more military hardware for us and for other nations. And all this will be paid for not by the wealthy who benefit from the Reagan/Bush tax advantages but by the hard-working ordinary citizens of the United States.

Racism is on the rise. Stones are thrown through the windows of "Arab" stores in San Francisco. In our own chemistry building, posters with a picture of a guest lecturer with an "Arab" name are defaced. President Bush has said we must eliminate racism, but he has vetoed civil rights legislation and abandons the inner cities. We call for democracy in the world but in our own country, press censorship is now acceptable. In Vietnam, the army tried to censor the press and the press rebelled. They told the real story of the war. The U.S. government and the military learned their lesson. The press was censored in Grenada, in

(Continued on Page 4A)



Members of the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace at the February 21 rally in New York City.

John Nolan's Friend

Very Little Is Likely to Change In Aftermath of the Gulf War

By Michael A. Barnhart

Despite the pyrotechnics of the air war and the overwhelming one-sidedness of the ground war just concluded, there is little prospect for fundamental change in the Middle East, nor in America's role in that region.

In large part, the Gulf War simply confirmed a number of facts and trends already fairly evident in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait implicitly relied upon American power before August 1990 to safeguard their interests and even territories; now they rely explicitly upon that power. OPEC was a weakening cartel before the war; it is still weak after it despite the phenomenal Iraqi success in shutting down Kuwaiti oil production. The Palestinians were given rhetorical praise and denied nearly everything else (including citizenship) by the various Arab states before the war; if anything, their plight in Arab lands will be still direr after. Many Israelis viewed Palestinian demands for a homeland with suspicion before last August; those Palestinians' cheering each SCUD's landing in Israel does little to reduce that suspicion.

Likewise, despite the massive deployment and display of American military might, the Bush administration deliberately forswore a wider role for the United States in the shaping (or reshaping) of the wider political constellation of the Middle East. To be sure, the United States is interested in expanding the Egyptian-Israeli settlement to other Arab states. It would like to see the Palestinian issue resolved, one way or another, so that general conditions of peace and stability might be created in the region.

These goals have been constant since 1948; they are hardly new. American forces did not proceed to Baghdad. Despite clearly-stated administration wishes, Saddam was not forced nor even eased out of power by direct or indirect American pressure. The United States will retain a naval presence in the Gulf region, as it has for over a decade, and the Mediterranean, as it has since 1946. It will retain airbase rights-- in existence since 1944. And it will act, as it just did, to bring local conflicts to a swift close before they threaten to get out of hand, as Washington has done in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and just recently.

Was all this for nothing, then? Surely not. George Bush mustered an impressive display of international and domestic support for his exceptionally bold (and potentially risky) actions. For the Iraqi liquidation of Kuwait to have been allowed to stand would have been a disaster to the long-term stability of the Middle East and to the global community of nations (including the United Nations) of catastrophic proportions. Some critics fear the "New World Order" (a truly awful choice of words, for we students of history) means a militant and militaristic *Pax Americana*. These fears are overblown. Neither Congress, nor the American people, nor even Bush's own judgment are likely to permit any, much less many, repeats of what we have just seen, unless such bald aggression occurs again-- not very likely, at least over the near term, precisely because of the international coalition's success.

Historians are loathe to play the prophet. But an historian of international relations writing in 2091 might very well judge that the Gulf War represented a careful, calculated, deliberate, and successful application of force by the international community in defense of that community. Whether it appears, from that future historian's perspective, as a brief quixotic interlude before a new time of troubles or as the start of a more permanent and peaceful community, only time will tell.

Michael Barnhart is an associate professor in the History department.

This special supplement to *The GSO News and Blues* was produced with the intention of educating the Stony Brook community about the unresolved issues of the Persian Gulf War, and what the results of that war will mean for progressive people and the world community. We are grateful to the members of the campus community who contributed to it. This supplement was produced by George Bidermann.

Is War and Aggression an Instinctive Drive?

By Kiumars Lalezar

Niko Tinbergen and Konrad Lorenz, ethologists who shared the 1973 Nobel Prize for their work in social and individual behaviors, both suggested that to understand the forces that drive us towards war is to recognize that *Homo sapiens* behave "like a group-territorial species." Still, there are other anthropological theories that trace the origins of territorial and resource defensive behaviors back to the days of terrestrial settlements—when ownership of refined stone



News and Blues/George Bidermann

A model of non-aggression: Nathaniel Hendricks stands watch at a recent anti-war demonstration.

tools became dominant and ultimately associated with primary sources for survival. No matter how territorial behavior is defined (e.g., chemical secretions at a scent post, overt hostility, or passive aggression), these expressions are either conceived as being variable and a product of cultural transmission or universal traits shared by members of the same species. A stereotyped version of the latter conception posited by W.D. Hamilton, a radical sociobiologist, tends to adhere to the notion that in "man" warlike behaviors are natural and adaptive.

A close examination of attitudes toward aggressive tendencies reveals a great deal of variability among cultures and individuals— from culturally accepted infanticide in Australian aborigines and Eskimos, to the Aztecs' elite class consumption of human sacrifice, the mutilated hand of a thief in Iraq, a mutilated soldier or civilian, to abortion. However, among the variety of aggressive behaviors, the one attitude that remains universal is aversion to conflict (whatever may be the cultural or idiosyncratic perceptions of that conflict). Separation anxieties, griefs, post-traumatic stress disorders, development of chronic phobias, and many other bio-psycho-sociological complications are devastating to war-stricken individuals in every corner of the world. Some may adapt more easily than others to post-war trauma. Edward Chase Tolman, considered perhaps the father of cognitive psychology, posited that war is caused by the narrowing of our minds.

Ironically, the same collective forces that operate in post-war adaptation tend to drive organisms toward war. You can observe this force in your local game farm. When you locate a community of primates with an apparent social hierarchy, first count the number of aggressive postures by each individual, then throw in one or two pieces of food, wait and count again; later, throw in enough food for everyone, wait and then count. What you will find is that you can make or break a fight right in your backyard. This apparently simple observation will show a model for group identification/ solidarity and depersonalization in time of apparent scarcity

and abundance. This simple observation may indicate that there is more to aggressive instincts than is apparent. Moreover, aggression can be avoided even when one of the organism's most basic drives has been tampered with.

If biological drives are frustrated in one group, self-negativity may be experienced; when group two is threatened by another outsider (group three), the negativity is felt toward one's own self and group can justifiably be projected onto group three. This devious destructive force can also take other forms. A repressed sadism toward animals is expressed in sentiments for prevention of cruelty to animals and hostility toward the scientific community (Freud would call this phenomena "reactive formation").

We may view it as self-deception manifested in collective assertiveness and international loyalty. That is, due to a scarcity of natural resources (for example, the fertility rate is now at the same level as it was in the late 1700s), repressed hostility is produced in the ingroup (the theory assumes that guilt will prevent complaining to one's parents), which by the process of introjection leads to self-punishment that is then aggressively reoriented to the outside.

The aggression is justified for reasons of "ingroup" preservation. However, this justification is portrayed only when the rival seems dangerous. Only when the outgroup is defeated does justification take a different form— toward the end of a winning game, a football coach sends in the backup players, portraying a Platonic sense of ethics. But what is left at the end is more scarcity, more grief, and more ingroup-outgroup hostility.

What happened just one decade prior to the year 2000 is an expression of our primordial tendencies in the higher planes of mother earth. War is the ultimate disease of our planet. The phenomena represented (no matter what the rationalizations), on a grand scale, the ostracism of deprived Piggy in "Lord of the Flies." Perhaps our instincts are becoming more sophisticated!

Kiumars Lalezar is a graduate student in the Psychology department.

Will the United States Slow Down the Arms Trade?

By Lester Paldy

Iraq's recent use of SCUD missiles is a consequence of an international trade in arms and military technology that is relatively unfamiliar to most Americans. Iraq acquired the missiles from the Soviet Union and then modified them with the assistance of modern U.S. electronic instrumentation. Western companies, with the acquiescence of their governments, sold Saddam the manufacturing equipment he needed to produce chemical weapons, despite his use of those prohibited weapons against Iran and the Kurds in his own country.

Although the U.S. stopped selling Iraq complete weapons systems such as tanks or aircraft when Iraq became a Soviet client in the 1950s, it sold Saddam \$1.5 billion of advanced technology needed for chemical, nuclear and biological weapons programs. The Soviets, Chinese, and various western nations sold Saddam nearly \$47 billion worth of arms and military equipment between 1981 and 1988, the largest accumulation of offensive weapons by a Third World country in history. These weapons, purchased with petrodollars, made it possible for Saddam to attempt to annex Kuwait, seize its oil and assets, and pay off his huge war debt.

The very notion of establishing limits on the sales of arms is derided by some analysts as "idealistic." Western governments made "realistic" judgments about Iraq's usefulness as a balance against Iran's expanding influence in the Gulf. Industries argued that if they did not sell arms and technology to Iraq, some other nation would, and lobbied to oppose restrictions. We should not have

been surprised that after being reassured by senior Congressmen and the U.S. ambassador (presumably speaking for President Bush) that the U.S. had no interest in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, Saddam chose to invade. We miscalculated the extent of his territorial ambition. He thought he could succeed because of his military capability. He miscalculated, too.

Incentives for the Arms Trade

Why does the arms trade persist? In addition to the obvious profit incentive, the arms trade creates networks of symbiotic relationships between seller and buyer. Third World buyers want weapons to improve their own security against regional adversaries, suppress internal opposition, and expand their military options. The U.S. and Soviets compete in the arms sales arena to gain an advantage in the East-West rivalry by building allegiances in client states. (Between them, the United States and the Soviet Union provide about three-quarters of all arms sold to the Third World.)

Sellers hope to decrease the unit cost of their own advanced weapons systems by having larger production runs and selling the extras abroad. Sometimes the systems are essentially given away under the guise of foreign military aid or paid for with so-called "loans" that will never be repaid. Sellers also see arms sales to Third World nations as effective ways of disposing of outdated weapons systems.

Foreign sales build webs of political dependency. The buyer often sends its personnel to the selling state for special training in the operation of the equipment.

The seller cultivates these visitors to ensure "brand-name loyalty" in the future. The buyer needs foreign military advisers, technicians, and government officials on-site in its country. These officials are well-positioned to influence future purchases through legitimate salesmanship. They can also resort to outright bribery. Lucrative contracts provide ample incentive for corruption.

The Future

The Iraq experience ought to provide persuasive evidence that restrictions on international arms sales to the Third World are in the U.S. interest. We should renew lapsed efforts to negotiate multilateral restrictions on the sale of offensive arms and the technology needed to build weapons of mass destruction. This will not be easy. U.S. industries are already lobbying to persuade the administration not to impose new export controls on missile technology and equipment needed to produce chemical and biological weapons. They argue that it is impossible to control "dual-use" technology, and that if they do not sell it, others will.

Pressures on arms manufacturers to promote foreign sales of tanks and artillery pieces will increase as a consequence of new arms control agreements between the U.S. and Soviet Union to reduce conventional forces in Europe. The Soviet Union, which is most affected by this agreement, may attempt to sell some of its surplus equipment to old and new clients unless we negotiate an agreement with them. Unilateral action by the U.S. alone is not sufficient, since other major arms producers such as the Soviet Union, China, France, and Brazil will step

in to fill the breach.

President Bush should use this post-war opportunity to apply his coalition-building skills to seek an international agreement. That would be an important step in the creation of a *genuine* new world order that must include economic development and human rights as well as the military dimensions of national security. Unfortunately, it looks like the administration may edge away from any real action to limit sales, arguing that we must provide arms to the Saudis and other regional allies to ensure that Saddam does not take aggressive action again.

Nations need legitimate defensive forces, but it is unrealistic to think that the mere provision of sophisticated arms to nations like Saudi Arabia will suffice to guarantee regional security. That will only come in the wake of an Israeli-Arab agreement that recognizes Israel's right to exist and responds to the aspirations of Palestinians. It will also require the democratization of feudal regimes, and a reduced American dependency on foreign oil. Negotiating stricter controls on the international sale of arms and military technology will not be easy in the face of all the incentives that exist for suppliers and purchasers. Nevertheless, we and the Soviets should take the lead and reopen negotiations to draft new treaty restrictions on the sale of offensive weapons and sensitive technology.

Lester Paldy is Distinguished Service Professor of Technology and Society, and served on the U.S. Delegation to the Nuclear Testing Talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva in 1989-90.

Our "Enemies" in Iraq Had Human Faces

By Elizabeth Stone

Having spent much of the last five years as an archaeologist in Iraq, I find it difficult to recognize the country I knew and loved in the images of Iraq presented by our government and media. Baghdad was a modern, western city--similar in feeling to Los Angeles--populated by a generous, fun-loving people. Iraq was the only Middle Eastern country of my wide experience where I was treated as a professional, had unhindered freedom of movement, and was generally accepted for who I am--in spite of being a woman. Iraq is an archaeological treasurehouse, the cradle of civilization, a land which witnessed the first attempts at agriculture and the first complex society with cities, writing, law and government going back to 3,500 B.C.

In charge of this great legacy was an extremely well-run and professional antiquities service operating out of one of the great museums of the world. Even the rural areas, where I spent much of my time, had facilities which are taken for granted here but which are less common elsewhere in the Middle East. Our dig house in a large village in the southern, Shiite, rural portion of Iraq had clean running water and electricity, and easy access to medical, educational and telephone facilities, all tied together by a first-rate road system.

More important, though, was the generosity and kindness which was my experience of the Iraqi people. Typically, no matter how poor or how busy, total strangers would always take us in and feed us if we were hungry (and even if we were not), lead us to known territory if we were lost, and help us if we were in trouble. For Iraqi and foreigner alike life was okay, so long as everyone kept their heads down and avoided politics.

This Iraq is no more. We have killed 100,000 Iraqis--a percentage of their population that we would equal only if we lost every one of the soldiers we sent to the gulf, together with two more armies of equal size. We destroyed much of the infrastructure of their country, and some of the great archaeological sites. It is likely that many more Iraqis--especially children--will die before the country is restored to order. Among those already dead, I am sure, are some of the people we knew. The workmen who helped us excavate last spring had all just been demobilized. They were delighted to be home--after eight years of war--back



News and Blues/George Bidermann

Stony Brook students were among the thousands of college students who marched through the streets of Washington on January 26 to protest the war.

with their families, participating in the raising of their children. They were a great bunch of guys, full of jokes, broken English, and solid enthusiastic labor, which greatly lightened our load.

All, I fear, were dragged back into the army and sent to the front lines to be pounded by the greatest firepower any military has ever mustered. Many of them must have been killed, some perhaps taken prisoner, others caught up in the unrest that has filled southern Iraq over the last weeks. And what is the future for those who survive? So far their government remains unchanged, and if it does change it may go toward Khomeini-style fundamentalism or toward the anarchy of a Lebanon--in either case worse than life under Saddam.

Basic services have been destroyed, leaving families to face the specters of famine and epidemic disease in the hot Iraqi summer. We congratulate ourselves on our almost

"bloodless" victory, but it has been won by destroying a people who had little to say about their own involvement. It was the Iraqi people--during the worst of the Iran-Iraq war when scud missiles landed daily on Baghdad, when the Iranian army had broken the Iraqi lines and was threatening Basra, and when the sound of artillery fire rocked the city by night--who taught me a truth about war: the victories so much touted by political leaders and generals often mean nothing to the people at large. For them, war represents no more than the premature death of sons, fathers, husbands and brothers, and now daughters, mothers, wives and sisters. Although their leader may be a slow learner, the Iraqi people did not deserve to be taught this twice over.

Elizabeth Stone, an associate professor in the Anthropology department, has been the director of excavations since 1986 at the 4,000-year-old urban site of Mashkan-shapir, located in southern Iraq.

Somehow the Truth Continues to Evade Us

By Lajla C. Lund

"The first casualty of war is truth."

—Woodrow Wilson

At the outset of the ground war, the U.S. public was informed that the apparent freedom of information it had been enjoying would, temporarily, be restricted. With 50,000 rudimentary graves dug on the Saudi side of the border, it was easy to think that this was because experts, fearing the worst, were perhaps justifiably reluctant to allow reports of U.S. dead to erode public support back home. It didn't take long, however, for the news of how well our boys and girls were doing to trickle back ("We didn't think it would be this easy," a U.S. serviceman was quoted as saying), the deaths coming nowhere near to approaching the number of graves dug (remembering of course that Iraqi deaths don't count). Media silence, announced "as a precaution in the interests of national security," proved to be, in the last analysis, almost unnecessary.

Until the ground war began it was almost impossible to evade the veritable barrage of information coming at us through the media; front row seats at each of the Allied press conferences, and military analyses from various experts had become our daily fare, while Peter Arnett brought us "sound and vision" of the spectacle of war until Baghdad increased its own restrictions. At first the networks brought us 24-hour-a-day coverage; as the public became inured to the situation ("a quiet night in Baghdad tonight"), and sponsors remained chary, the networks contented themselves with hourly updates and newswatches for the new and noteworthy. In the midst of this "unprecedented" war coverage we might think that we were getting, if not the whole story, as much of the whole story as "national

security" would allow and, as a corollary of this, to think that this story was the true one. It is this latter assumption that I would like to call into question.

It was made clear from the beginning that this was "not going to be another Vietnam." This meant primarily two things: we would win, and (more importantly) U.S. public opinion would be behind it. To get public opinion behind a war is no mean feat. Those who were paying attention in the beginning might have noticed the Bush administration's attempt to "shop around" for the line that the public would be most willing to buy (it was about oil, to stop Saddam before he went any further, to protect our way of life). The stretch of time between August 2 and January 15 gave the U.S. plenty of time to do its market research and to garner public support. Whereas in Grenada, this was accomplished by not allowing reporters in until several days after the invasion and by limiting the information available to the public, in the Persian Gulf, an opposite tactic was used.

Enter the atrocity story, used extensively in World War I (remember the baby on the bayonet?), but probably as old as the history of warfare, which led to the Iraqis being viewed as animals and Saddam Hussein as another Hitler. The stories of babies being removed from incubators (recently retracted by *The New York Times*), of women being gangraped by Iraqi soldiers, and of unarmed people being shot as they attempted to leave Kuwait, did much in the early days to set public opinion against the Iraqis, such that in the final stages of the war few people seemed to have any problem with our bombing of "retreating" (not withdrawing) troops.

Add to the atrocity story the tactic of "disinformation," which we have used extensively in the past; in 1981, for example, Alexander Haig accused Vietnam of carrying out

chemical warfare in Laos and Kampuchea, although the toxins in the area are endemic to the region, being produced in bee feces. In this war, disinformation may have played a part in the footage we saw of oil-drenched birds in the Gulf, which might have been file footage rather than actual film of birds affected by this conflict. An article in *The Village Voice* picked up on French newspaper reports that the oil slick had not yet reached the Saudi coast when the footage was first shown, that there are no baby cormorants in January, and these particular birds are never found in the area afflicted by the oil slick. According to this source, the pictures were from 1983, and taken during the Iran-Iraq war. And of course, we wreaked a great deal of environmental havoc on the region ourselves, and will probably never know for certain who caused the spillage of oil into the Gulf. The military acknowledged that the initial damage to the pipeline was caused by allied bombing, but they were quick to accuse Saddam Hussein of worsening it.

Such fingerpointing in fact serves as a smokescreen for our own atrocities. Babies are indeed dying as a result of a lack of electricity to power incubators, and the "collateral damage" (read: civilian deaths) is beyond estimation. But supposedly, it was okay for us to kill Iraqi citizens, as they were no better than animals, and we were only doing the same thing as Saddam Hussein.

Was it a baby food factory or a chemical weapons plant? Was it a civilian bunker or a command outpost? It is perhaps impossible for the average citizen to know for sure. But the average citizen should at least be certain of this: while the Iraqis are probably no better at telling the truth than we are, we are almost certainly a whole lot better at lying.

Lajla C. Lund is a graduate student in the Philosophy department.

Now is the Time to Smash the Democratic Party

By Fred Mayer

"During the Vietnam anti-war movement, it was always Democrats who argued against organizing demonstrations during election campaigns. Better, they said, elect good liberals, who would then end the war. They ran and lost and, in the end, it was the combination of the military efforts of the Indochinese and the demonstrations here, which ended the war. The movement kept marching, against the wishes of the politicians, because its key organizers were radicals. Today, the peace movement is dominated by Jacksonites, more mainstream liberals, union piecards and some failed leftists who have adapted to these Democrats. And, as must happen when the bland lead the bland, the movement is impotent."

- Lenni Brenner,

from his book *The Lesser Evil: The Democratic Party*, (1988, Lyle Stuart Inc.)

Of all the consequences that flow from America's long history of anti-intellectualism and ignorance, none has been more critical than the people's constant failure to understand that the root causes of our country's greatest misfortunes are political in nature. One does not need a degree in history to realize that the problems of economic injustice, urban violence, militarism, corruption, and the destruction of the biosphere are all ultimately political problems. Failures of governance are by their very nature political failures, because all governments are the end-products of political processes. Those Americans who suffer the most from such failures have incorrectly over-generalized the object of their disdain. Instead of focusing on the Republicans and Democrats who together maintain the status quo, they have given up on politics altogether. Needless to say, this response does nothing to threaten those who hold the reins on societal power.

During the long months since last August, I have held my tongue regarding the political shortcomings of the revitalized peace movement in this country. During the most important phases before and during the Gulf war it would not have helped matters to spend time on the movement's own deficiencies. (The response to the infamous "split" between the two national anti-war formations regarding rally dates in January was an important exception to this rule.) The horrifying reality of the war demanded a rapid and massive response. Education and vigorous utilization of the First Amendment were the only viable tools at our disposal. More subtle ideological details would have to wait until later.

Later is now. We can no longer content ourselves with

New, Aggressive Patriots Have A Short Memory—

(Continued from Page 1A)

Panama (we still don't know the extent of civilian damage and casualties), and most severely in the Gulf. We got Stormin' Norman and his computer games and Dan Rather drooling over the "victory." Peter Arnett is now being criticized for "giving information to the enemy."

There is a new aggressive patriotism based on war and violence. The Bush administration is happy finally to be finished with the "Vietnam syndrome." People who oppose war, who want to stop arming the world, who want to solve problems through negotiation are ridiculed, marginalized, called unpatriotic, blamed for the "defeat" in Vietnam. We as a nation are proud to "kick ass." This is the new America.

So folks, given all the flag waving, intolerance and saber-rattling, what must we do? We must turn our government and our people away from this path of destruction. We must revitalize the peace movement. We must work toward a just solution of the Palestinian question. We must continue to press for arms control. We must change the domestic priorities in the U.S. so young men and women will not have to join the army in order to have jobs. We must support education instead of manufacturing missiles. We must create a new moral order.

Judith Wishnia is an associate professor of women's studies and history.

efforts to "stop the war." The war is, as they say, "a done deal." Now the hard part begins. Those of us who recognize that the Gulf war was not a special event, but rather part of a longterm pattern of militarism, racism, and materialism need to address serious problems within the anti-establishment movement itself. To begin with, we should begin debunking certain powerful myths which cloud the minds of many good-hearted people:

Myth #1: "Democrats opposed the use of force."

As the President stumps around the country, basking in the warm after-glow of his "brilliant" military victory, Democrats everywhere have been stumbling all over themselves to point out that they too were fully behind the annihilation of Iraq. At no point was this more painfully evident than during Bush's victory speech before both houses of the Congress. A more craven orgy of flag-waving hysteria involving supposedly educated adults is difficult to imagine. Despite the fact that a majority of Democrats voted against the use-of-force authorization, one should not draw by any means the implication that a majority opposed force. For most it was merely a matter of timing. Furthermore, some of the most critical voices heard in favor of war were Democratic. Let us not forget that it was none other than Brooklyn's Steven Solarz-- known by many as a liberal!-- who attached his name to the bill. Let me convey my point using Solarz's own words, which appeared in Monday's New York Times:

"The Republicans are correct in saying that the majority of Democrats voted against the use of force. But they fail to add that without Democratic support, the resolution would not have been adopted. In the House, a third of the Democrats, including some of the party's most influential members... voted for it."

On this point, he is absolutely correct. Let us not misunderstand: Democrats made the war possible. But more than anything else, when the killing in our names actually commenced, it was Democrats who failed to rise up in dissent-- especially among those who voted against the resolution-- who gave Bush the green-light he needed to really "kick ass." Why was it so important to "unite" around the President? Was it because of Iraq's ferocious response to our attack? Was it the thought that we might lose?

Myth #2: "Democrats oppose militarism."

Long Island is the best example I can think of to demonstrate the falseness of this claim. When Grumman Inc. needs contracts for its jet fighters, we find both Tom Downey and George Hochbrueckner rushing to its side. They both have fought like wildcats to get Congress to appropriate money for F-14 Tomcats, despite the fact that Department of Defense procurement officials openly stated that none are needed! Instead of working to bring non-military industries into the region, liberal Democrats have consistently done everything in their power to maintain an addictive relationship between local commerce and military money from Washington D.C.

Myth #3: "Democrats usually side with the people."

Ludicrous. Did the four Democrats among the Keating five side with the people when they sold their offices to a bandit? Does the Democratic mayor of New York City side with the people when he lays off teachers and hires 5,000 cops, while at the same time doing absolutely nothing about criminally overcrowded prisons? Did the Democratic mayor of Washington D.C., who regularly beamed himself up with crack while telling children to "just say no," side with the people? Does the esteemed Democratic governor of New York State, who floats bonds to pay for highway maintenance, attempts to cut taxes for the rich, and slashes budgets for CUNY and SUNY side with the people? Does the Democratic mayor of Los Angeles who doesn't lift a finger against his chief of police, in the face of a videotaped police-violence horror show, side with the people?

Given all this, it is extremely hard to understand why a major Democrat was given the podium during both of the major anti-war marches held in Washington D.C. Why did so many thousands who cheered for Jesse Jackson not recall that it was he who called-- on national television-- for a resumption of the draft? Why didn't they recall that he also took a firm stand, during the early days of the crisis, in favor of U.S. intervention? Don't people understand that since his failure to stand up to the Democratic leadership in 1988 (by, for example, threatening to leave the party), Jesse Jackson has engaged in little more than political opportunism? I wouldn't say this if it weren't for the fact that I worked very

hard myself for Jesse Jackson in 1988.

Those who truly believe in the possibility of liberation-- the achievement of both justice and peace-- must begin learning how to play political hardball. Activists who are registered Democrats (of which there are many) must begin to realize that we cannot expect a party which consistently beats us over the heads to somehow "reform itself" and deliver on its promises. This will never happen, because the real interests of the Democratic party have little to do with the interests of the people. At the present time, the Democratic party is in a seriously weakened state. Republicans are playing the patriot card with alacrity.

Nothing could be better for the country at this time than a complete collapse of Democratic hegemony over the left. Such a collapse would facilitate the construction of what could become true political opposition in this country. If you are a registered Democrat, you have the potential to cast a vote which will have an effect more powerful than that of any other vote you will ever cast. To cast this vote, all you have to do is look up the number of your local board of elections, call them up, and tell them that you want to register as an independent. Do it today!

Fred Mayer is a graduate student in the Psychology department and a member of the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace.

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

The United States Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 1991



How These Figures Were Determined

All these dollar figures are for fiscal year 1991, as reported in the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1992. The percentages are Federal Funds, calculated after removing Trust Funds (such as Social Security), which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don't pay) on April 15 goes only to the Federal Funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust Funds and Federal Funds (the so-called "Unified Budget") began in the 1960's during the Vietnam War. The government presentation makes the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller. "Current military" spending adds together money allocated for the Department of Defense (\$237 billion) plus the "defense" portion from other parts of the budget. Spending on nuclear weapons (without their delivery systems) amounts to about 1% of the total budget, about 10% with delivery systems.

"Past military" is represented by veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the national debt. If there had been no military spending, most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated. Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; estimates range from 50% to 100%. We felt that 80% may even be conservative.

This year we include a separate line for savings and loan/bank bailouts. Line items for the Resolution Trust Corporation and FDIC took huge leaps in the 1991 budget to pay for the results of savings and loan deregulation and the greed of bank owners. This chart is calculated from fiscal year 1991 "budget outlays," reported in the President's proposed 1992 budget publication. We use 1991 outlays (bills actually being paid) to show where your taxes due on April 15, 1991, are going. The President's proposed 1992 budget is debated by Congress through the spring and summer of 1991 for approval by the beginning of the government's fiscal year in October 1991. Contact your legislators now with your concerns!

War in the Middle East: The President did not include the war in the current 1991 or proposed 1992 budget figures. Please read the back of this flyer for cost estimates of the Persian Gulf war.

- 29% Current Military \$330 Billion**
Military Personnel \$79
Retired Pay \$11
Operation and Maintenance \$86
Family Housing \$3
Procurement \$79
Research and Development \$36
Construction \$5
Nuclear Weapons (DoE) \$10
International Security Assistance \$9
Coast Guard \$3
NASA (estimated military portion 50%) \$7
Other (CIA, President's Fund for Central America, FEMA) \$2
- 23% Past Military \$259 Billion**
Veterans Benefits \$30
Interest on National Debt (80% estimated to be created by military spending) \$229
- 9% Savings and Loan Crisis/Bank Bailout \$101 Billion**
FDIC and Resolution Trust Increases
- 6% Physical Resources \$70 Billion**
(Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, HUD administration/community development, Interior Department, Transportation, Environmental Protection)
- 23% Human Resources \$259 Billion**
(Education, Health and Human Services, HUD housing subsidies, Labor Department)
- 10% General Government \$112 Billion**
(Government, Justice Department, International Affairs, Peace Corps, 20% interest on national debt, civilian portion of NASA)
- 100% Total Federal Funds \$1.1 Trillion**

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE
339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012

Comfortable Lives in New Graduate Apartments

The following interview with Xiaolei Wei, Chung-chin Cheng, and Han-wei Shin, residents of Apartment A109 in the new graduate student housing complex, was given on March 19. All three are graduate students; Wei is in the Astronomy department, Cheng is in Materials Science, and Shin is in Computer Science. All three moved into the complex during the first month of the spring semester, when A building was opened. B Building was opened last semester, and the complex houses approximately 225 graduate students and spouses.

How long have you been living here?

Wei: I moved in during January.

Cheng: Han-wei and I moved in during the middle of February. We had applied to live in this complex last semester, and because there are so many people who applied here, we were put on a waiting list, very far down. We had no hope of getting in here, so we applied to live in Chapin also. There's a lot of empty spaces in Chapin, so we got a chance to move to Chapin at the beginning of the semester. This complex had no open spaces so we moved to Chapin and lived there for two weeks, and then we received spaces here.

Was that because someone moved out here?

Cheng: I think that it may have been assigned to someone else who didn't take it.

What is the current rent you pay each month?

Wei: It's \$265 a month.

Are there any other charges?

Wei: Well, we don't pay the bus fee because we can walk to our offices, and the telephone is \$22 per month.

That's per person?

Wei: Yes, we each have our own phones.

Shin: But I think \$22 per person is very expensive. We have no choice, we all have to pay it if we want a phone.

How does this apartment compare to other housing you have had at Stony Brook?

Wei: Obviously this apartment is much better than Chapin, but compared to my off-campus house, it's not much better.

Do you mean in regard to price or conditions?

Wei: Actually, I paid almost the same price off campus. I paid \$250 there, and utilities brought it up to \$280.

Cheng: Last semester, I lived in the dorms, in Stimson. I think that it is too expensive. I had no meal plan, I wanted to cook, so I had to pay a cooking fee.

How much were you paying to live in Stimson?

Cheng: It was about \$400 a month including the telephone, the cooking fee and the rental of a refrigerator.

Was that the average cost?

Cheng: Yeah.

And that was for a private room.

Cheng: Yeah, it was a single room in a dorm. Many people used the common bathroom and cooking space.

And how about you Han-wei?

Shin: Last semester I lived in Keller in Roosevelt Quad. I didn't like it there because although it was a single room, it was too small, and I think the cost was too high. I was on the meal plan. I don't like the meal plan, I wanted to cook by myself, but in the dormitories, it's not convenient to cook.

So how would you compare your rooms in the dormitories to here?

Cheng: I think it's much better here. In the dormitory, the rooms are very dark, and the windows are so small that very little light comes in. It also gets very hot.

Shin: There's another reason and that's we are graduate students and most of the students living in the dormitories are undergraduate students. In my opinion it is too noisy sometimes because I sometimes I needed some quiet to work and it was too noisy.

Are there any complaints or problems you have about this apartment?

Wei: Yeah, we had a big problem. In the apartment next to us, one guy took out the sprinkler head and the water came pouring out and four several hours water was

pouring out. It got to about three inches high throughout the whole apartment.

When was that?

Wei: About a month ago.

Was there any damage to your personal belongings?

Wei: Sure, my books and boxes got wet, but they just came here and removed the water.

Did you file a request for reimbursements?

Wei: No.

Did anyone in the apartment lose substantial amounts of property?

Wei: No, two rooms were empty at the time so there was nothing in them.

Are there any other complaints you have?

Cheng: sometimes, we will be talking here in the living room at night and it bothers others in the apartment.

Shin: This building seems to have thin walls but in the dormitories, it was better. You could be in your room and not be distracted by noise in the apartment.

Cheng: The flow of water on the shower is too slow, compared to the dorm, so we take baths more here.

Wei: And I think we should have two full bathrooms. One has a sink and tub but no toilet, and the other has a toilet and sink but not tub.

Have you any complaints about the complex itself?

Shin: We have emergency exits in this building and every two or three days somebody will go through the door and set off the alarm. And when the alarm is on, only the building coordinator has the key to turn it off, and if they're not here, it sometimes goes on for hours.

Cheng: One friend told me that one night the alarm was going off and there was no coordinator here at the time, so he had no choice, he had to pull the fire alarm, and Public Safety finally came here. Someone had called Public Safety, and Public Safety told them that the alarm was not their responsibility, so he just had to pull the fire alarm. The alarm was ringing late at night and nobody could stand it.

Why did you decide to move to this complex?

Wei: Where I lived off-campus was a sublet so the time expired. It's easier going to my apartment, and I like to use the gym a lot, so it's convenient.

Shin: Well I had a lot of friends lived here last semester in B building and they told me that it was better here than anywhere else. So they told me that since I have the chance to move here I should.

Cheng: I like Chapin also, but you have to take a bus or a long walk to campus. Here it is much closer to campus.

Will you renew your contracts here when they expire?
Cheng and Shin: Yeah.

Wei: If I stay here I will renew it, but I'm not sure if I am going to be staying at Stony Brook after this semester.

What do you like about living here?

Wei: It's a new building and everything is clean, and the furniture is all new and very nice.

Shin: My room is bigger and it's more convenient to cook here. Everything is new and we have a really clean kitchen. In Chapin, a lot of the rooms are really dirty.

Have you had any dealings with the office staff here and how would you describe them?

Shin: It's been good, I haven't had too many experiences with them, but the people in the office have been friendly.

Cheng: One problem is that I think there are too few people responsible for the entire building. In the dormitory, every floor had an RA but in here, we just have one coordinator for the whole building. I don't think it's enough because sometimes we cannot find the coordinator and sometimes he has no time.

Do you expect to be staying here for the rest of the time you are at Stony Brook?

Cheng and Shin: oh, yeah.

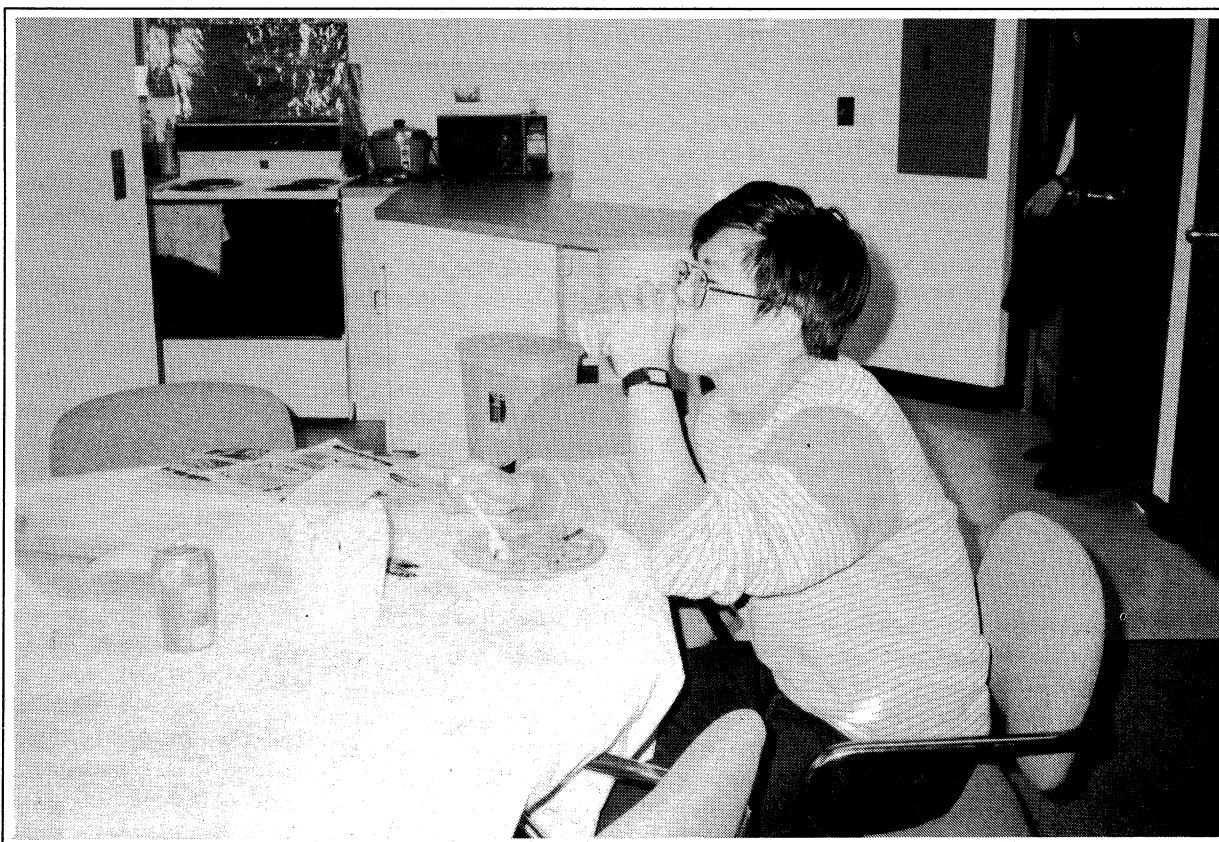
About This Spread....

Going on four years since the Tent City housing protest began and three years since the first Chapin rent strike in April 1988 (the second came a year later), finding decent-quality, affordable housing remains a major problem for many members of the campus community, but particularly for its graduate students. An \$8,800 yearly salary (before taxes and university fees) doesn't leave graduate student employees many options, and those who are not GAs, TAs, or RAs struggle to pay bills, tuition, and rent while working outside jobs and trying to complete their degrees.

If the university represents a microcosm of society, we could expect to find examples of both ends of the scale within its borders. With that in mind, we sent a reporter to interview residents in Chapin's H building, one of the last unrenovated buildings in that problem-plagued complex, and in the new, as yet unnamed graduate student housing complex.

Indeed, we find both ends of the scale represented here. What seems bizarre about it all, however, is not the disparity between conditions in the two complexes, but the fact that residents in Chapin are paying, per bedroom, approximately \$115 more rent per month than their counterparts in the new housing complex. And yet the tone of these residents' comments, particularly their complaints, is strikingly similar.

This is the first part of a two part series. Next month: a focus on the Chapin complex and an insight into the off-campus housing market.



The lap of luxury: Han-wei Shin eats dinner in the living room of his apartment.

News and Blues/George Bidermann

NYPIRG Report: Car Rental Companies Ripping Us Off

By Roseanne Chiafolaro
NYPIRG Intern

With spring break right around the corner, and summer break not too far away, many students will be looking to rent cars. Maybe it will be to get away for a vacation or maybe it will be to move your stuff to a new apartment, city or state. Regardless, according to a recent report by The New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc. (NYPIRG), as consumers, graduate students must beware.

NYPIRG recently charged that over 100 car rental companies, including many here on Long Island, were ignoring state law by discriminating against young drivers and non-credit card holders. "We are old enough to serve in the Persian Gulf yet we're not allowed to rent a car? That's ridiculous!" said Stony Brook student Tom Guzzetta, who helped research the NYPIRG report entitled "Taken For A Ride."

Local Renters Examined

NYPIRG's survey examined the practices of several local car rental companies, including Avis on Route 25A in Stony Brook and Alpha in Smithtown. "Beyond requiring drivers to be over 25 years old, which some graduate students are not, Budget in Hauppauge unlawfully required not one but *two credit cards*!" said Craig Siegel, NYPIRG at Stony Brook's Project Coordinator. "Our undercover investigation documents that consumer abuse at these companies is the rule and not the exception."

NYPIRG's report shows that an overwhelming majority (108 of 166) of car rental companies surveyed require credit cards. New York State General Business Law, Section 391-i (2) clearly prohibits credit discrimination against car renting consumers. It states that "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, association or corporation engaged

SUFFOLK COUNTY										
AGENCY	LOCATION	DAILY RATE	WEEKLY RATE	CREDIT CARD	CASH DEPOSIT	GAS CHARGE	MILE CHARGE	COLLISION	AGE	ADDITIONAL DRIVER
Avis Stony Brook	1999 Route 25A	\$42.00	\$199.00	YES	NO	\$1.00 more than pump price	unlimited	\$100.00	25	\$2.50
Alpha Smithtown	399 East Jericho Turnpike	\$37.95	\$229.00	YES	NO	\$1.90 per gallon	100 miles free / 10¢	\$10.000	25	none
Amerex Hauppauge	550 Smithtown Bypass	\$35.95	\$219.95	YES	\$2,500.00	\$5.00 per gallon	150 miles free / 20¢	\$100.00	21	none
Enterprise Smithtown	330 East Jericho Turnpike	\$29.95	\$179.95	NO	\$250.00 credit check	\$6.00 minimum	100 miles free / 25¢	\$100.00	21	\$2.50
Port Rent-a-Car Hauppauge	1515 Vets Memorial Highway	\$38.95	\$119.95	YES	NO	\$1.75 per gallon	100 miles free / 20¢	\$100.00	21	none
Reliable Smithtown	157 West Main	\$34.95	\$119.95	NO	\$500.00 in advance	\$25.00 plus pump price	75 miles free / 25¢	\$100.00	21	none
Sears (Budget) Smithtown	330 Maple Avenue	\$47.99	\$225.00	2 cards	NO	\$2.25 per gallon	100 miles free / 35¢	\$100.00	25	\$5.00
Action Smithtown	1034 Jericho Turnpike	\$38.99	none	YES	NO	pump price	unlimited	\$100.00	21	none
Budget Hauppauge	1684 South Expressway	\$47.99	\$225.00	2 cards	NO	\$2.25 per gallon	100 miles free / 35¢	\$100.00	25	\$5.00

NOTE: All prices were quoted in November, 1990 and are subject to change. Prices should not be used as a comparison.

NOTE: Mile charges are based on a daily rate, per mile charges added after free miles are used.

Results of NYPIRG's survey of local car rental dealers show that most require a credit card or substantial deposit.

in the business of renting motor vehicles to refuse to rent such a vehicle to any person solely on the requirement of ownership of a credit card." Car rental companies can require a credit check and cash deposit in order to protect themselves and comply with the law, but many do not.

Fuel Charges Inflated

The report also found that rental company refueling charges are priced anywhere from the pump price to as much as \$7 a quarter tank for a compact car. These huge markups add greatly to the cost of renting a car. "Our survey documents that car rental companies are gouging consumers at the gas pump," said Siegel. "According to our findings, car rental companies will overcharge for gas by up to

100%. It is quite clear that students must 'shop smart' so they don't get taken for a ride by car rental companies."

Students must also beware of mileage charges that often greatly inflate the cost of car rentals. "Car rental companies may 'low-ball' competitors and pad their car's costs with expensive mileage charges," added Blair Horner, NYPIRG's Legislative Director and author of the report. "Also, prices quoted over the phone change frequently. In order to protect themselves and save money, students should check out prices and reserve a car well in advance of holiday and vacation times."

In light of these findings, NYPIRG is making a number of recommendations. They are requesting that the state Attorney General investigate widespread violation of New York law by car rental companies. "It is quite clear that only through aggressive enforcement will car rental companies follow the law," said Horner.

The initial fine for companies that ignore the law is currently \$500 (unchanged since the law went into effect in 1977), and NYPIRG is calling on the state legislature to increase that to \$1,000. NYPIRG also thinks the law must be amended to allow private right of action to any consumer injured by this discrimination for one month for each subsequent violation. Finally, it wants any car rental company to document the lack of available auto insurance for young drivers prior to any restriction of car rentals. Documented evidence must be submitted to the Attorney General.

21 or "Sorry"

Nearly all the companies NYPIRG surveyed (149 of 166) require drivers to be at least 21 to rent a car. Companies often declare that they cannot get insurance for young drivers, but NYPIRG suspects otherwise. "Some companies, especially some surveyed in Westchester, do rent to 18-year-olds, so insurance is obviously available. If a seemingly small company like Rent-a-Heep Cheap in White Plains can insure young drivers, why can't a multina-

tional corporation like Avis?" asked Siegel. "The Attorney General needs to investigate this."

Graduate students who are looking to rent a car are encouraged to follow a few common sense consumer tips that are outlined in NYPIRG's report. First, you must know your rights. If you're young or without access to a credit card, you can still rent a car. Be persistent. If you feel that the company is ignoring New York law, file a complaint with the Attorney General's office:

Attorney General Robert Abrams
Law Department
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Remember, if you wish to rent a car without a credit card, be prepared for a credit check (which may take a few days) and be prepared to put down a hefty deposit. Second, use the "Yellow Pages" to develop a list of car rental companies in your area and call for price quotes. As for quotes on daily rentals, size of cash deposits, gas and mileage charges and then compare prices.

Third, examine your own car or homeowners insurance policy to see if you already have additional coverage. New York State law requires rental companies to provide free minimum coverage. You are also responsible for the first \$100 in damages to the vehicle (certain exceptions apply). Rental companies will often attempt to sell you additional personal property damage, personal accident and extended liability insurance. Be aware that this insurance is optional.

Author's note: NYPIRG is New York State's largest student directed environmental and consumer organization. Graduate students are members of NYPIRG and support it at a level of \$2.50 per student per semester as part of the mandatory activity fee. If you would like a list of local car rental companies surveyed by NYPIRG, stop by their office in the basement of the Union, Room 079 or call 632-6457.

News in Briefinbriefinbriefinbriefinbriefinbri

Immunization Registration Blocks

A memo from the Student Health Service alerts us that all students will be blocked from *all registrations* (emphasis theirs) if they do not have a health form on file at Student Health Service and are not in compliance with Public Health Law 21265, which states that all students born on or after January 1, 1957 must demonstrate proof of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. It must be signed documentation of proof of immunity.

Students not in compliance prior to registration will not be permitted to attend the university after Fall, 1991, unless s/he has received a religious or medical exemption or can document that s/he is in the process of receiving the necessary immunization. For more information or answers to questions, call 632-6740.

SASU Conferences

The Student Association of the State University (SASU) is sponsoring two conferences in the coming weeks. The bad news is that both of them are upstate. The good news is that they are both free and chock full of interesting, informative workshops.

This weekend SASU is sponsoring the Women's Caucus Conference at SUNY New Paltz. Registration is Friday night and the conference goes through Sunday. There will

be four sets of workshops on Saturday organized around the themes "Actions on Our Campus," "Our Communities," "Our Issues," and "Fighting Back." There will also be panel discussions and workshops on child care, women in student government, and reproductive rights.

For more information, contact Ali van der Hoes-Raab, SASU's Women's Caucus intern, at (518) 465-2406.

SASU's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Caucus Conference will be held April 12-14 at SUNY Purchase. Workshops will cover such topics as programming on your campus, campus housing policies, bias-related violence, and lobbying tactics. There will be a panel discussion on racism and sexism within the gay/lesbian/bisexual community.

For more information contact George Laughney, chair of SASU's lesbian/gay/bisexual caucus, at (518) 465-2406.

New Grading Appeals Policy

The Graduate Council recently approved a change in Graduate School Policy that provides a new time limit for appealing grades. The policy takes effect for all grades submitted at the end of the present semester. It states, in part, that "the request for re-evaluation must be made, in writing, within four calendar weeks of the notification of the final grade by the Registrar." That's all.

Federal & State Roundup

Resignation of PERB Chair May Advance GSEU Case

By Sean Springer

Student Leader Press Service

ALBANY-- The resignation of the head of a state labor board may create an opportunity for graduate student employees to win the right to collective bargaining.

The Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), which deals specifically with unionization and labor dispute issues of public employees, has in the past ruled against allowing graduate students to vote on whether or not to unionize. Graduate student leaders took their case to the board in 1987 after PERB's director of representation released an initial finding stating that graduate student employees were not entitled to hold union certification election. The resigning chair of the board, Harold Newman, is rumored to have been

opposed to the graduate students' cause, but since board votes are secret, it is not known for sure if he was opposed to the issue. But with one seat on the board vacant for several years and the two sitting members split on the issue, the appeal has been left dangling on the court calendar since 1987.

Newman's resignation leaves Dr. Walter Eisenberg as the only current seated member of the board. Pauline Kinsella, deputy chair and counsel of PERB, is said to be under consideration by Governor Mario Cuomo to fill Newman's seat for the remainder of his term, which ends in 1993. Both Eisenberg and Kinsella are Democrats.

Sources say a prominent Republican legislator is preparing to recommend a

candidate for the vacant third seat. By law, all three board members cannot be members of the same political party. The third board seat had been vacant for several years until last April, when Eric Schmertz was appointed. Schmertz resigned to join the Dinkins administration [which he recently left under dubious circumstances -Ed.] before hearing a single case.

Chris Vestuto, a statewide organizer for the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU), referred to the changes as a positive development, but cautioned that, "If SUNY graduate students are going to win this battle, they are going to have to keep the pressure on. In most other states where graduate student employees have unionization rights, they have won those

rights through direct action, and not through the bureaucratic process."

Dominic Chan, acting president of GSEU, agreed. The case has been tied up for more than seven years, and Chan described any favorable decision as "a long shot." He said that PERB might not be "the right way to go right now," and that the PERB case was "not a priority" of the GSEU.

SUNY's graduate students have been trying for more than twelve years to obtain the right to unionize, which all other state employees are entitled to do under the state's "Taylor Law," or public employment labor law. The GSEU, is not recognized by the state, but it is a recognized affiliate of the Communications Workers of America.

The next issue of The GSO News and Blues Will be published On Wednesday, April 17.

If you would like to write an article, letter or viewpoint, please submit it by Monday, April 15 (along with a copy of your Form 1040) to the GSO offices, Room 206, Central Hall.

U.S. Lifts Immigration Restrictions On HIV-Positive & AIDS Patients

By Clint Snyder, Kent State University
Reprinted from The NAGPS Almanac

International graduate students have long been scrutinized with regard to health matters. Most universities demand that graduate students have comprehensive health insurance before entering the university. For some time, physical examinations and health assessment have been a part of the criteria for entrance into this country, especially for permanent residence. This has been true not only for graduate students, but for anyone wishing to enter this country on a permanent basis.

A blow was struck for people wishing to emigrate into the United States in December when Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of Health and Human Services, announced that AIDS- and HIV-positive status would no longer be included on the list of exclusions for immigration.

For decades, the United States has had grounds for denying people permanent immigration status into the United States. Historically, things such as venereal diseases and active tuberculosis have appeared on the list. In 1987, however, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) introduced a bill to Congress which mandated that Health and Human Services include AIDS and a positive HIV status as grounds for exclusion. Congress passed this legislation overwhelmingly, marking the first time Congress interceded over trained health providers in mandating what should appear on this list.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) has, for the past five years, spearheaded an effort to have the list of exclusions updated-- not just with regard to HIV status, but to have such things as "communist" and "sexual deviants (specifically defined as to include gays and lesbians) removed. Peter Kovar, Frank's assistant, stated that even the phrasing of the exclusions was questionable. "We've been working since 1986 to have the 'Dangerous and Contagious Disease' title changed to 'Communicable Diseases of Public Health Significance.' We feel that this better represents the intent of the exclusion rule."

Worldwide pressure has been strong, as well. Last year's International AIDS con-


ference in San Francisco was boycotted by many gay and lesbian organizations, as well as many AIDS organizations and researchers, because U.S. immigration law prohibited immigration by homosexuals and persons with AIDS or HIV antibodies. Some criticism was diverted when the Bush administration agreed to allow persons infected with the human immunodeficiency virus to enter the country for important conferences, but many organizations boycotted the conference anyway, citing the immigration restrictions.

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Frank and approved by Congress during the last session charged the Department of Health and Human Services with reviewing exclusions on immigration. It was upon review that Secretary Sullivan deemed the presence of AIDS and a positive HIV status as "inappropriate" grounds for exclusion. Kovar summarized the sentiments of Secretary Sullivan by stating that, "Physicians, and not Congress, should make decisions on what health issues should be grounds for exclusions. Health decisions should be left to those with the knowledge and training to make them."

Beginning June 1, 1991, people wishing to obtain permanent immigrant status in the United States will not be forced to undergo HIV testing. Indeed, one of the only remaining health exclusions is active tuberculosis.

We should all be grateful that the Department of Health and Human Services has made such a strong stand on equal access. The fact that the Department based their decisions on strong medical evidence rather than sensationalized fear is something that we as citizens need to applaud. In a letter to Secretary Sullivan, lobbyist Belinda Rochelle of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force stated that, "Your decision to delete HIV and AIDS from the immigration policy reinforces that we have believed all along: that people should be allowed access to the American dream regardless of their antibody status."

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is a cooperative association of graduate and professional student organizations.

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FSA
Faculty Student Association

Senate Takes Action on Censorship, Blood Drive

The GSO Senate supported the creation of a separate election district for Stony Brook University, strongly condemned the recent confiscation of *The Stony Brook Press* by the Student Union management, and supported the resumption of blood drives on campus among other actions taken at its February 27 meeting.

The senate held a lively debate on the blood-drive issue, with several members arguing against a motion of support. The Food and Drug Administration recently

lifted its ban against Haitians who want to donate blood, but the ban still applies to Sub-Saharan Africans. Some Haitian students on campus, who have led protests at campus blood drives over the past few years, now support the blood drives, but members of the senate expressed disgust at the FDA's continued discrimination against Sub-Saharans, gays, and bisexuals. The original motion was amended to read:

"Considering that: 1) The FDA has lifted the ban against Haitians giving blood;

2) the development of an HIV-II test would be completed in six to eight months to allow Sub-Saharan Africans to give blood; 3) the blood supply is critically low; and 4) the disproportionate number of minorities engaged in the war; Be it resolved that the GSO does not object to the resumption of blood drives here at Stony Brook. However, it should be noted that we detest the continued discrimination by the FDA against certain groups. Despite this concern, we feel that the need for blood outweighs our objections." It passed with a strong majority vote.

The senate also passed a resolution concerning the recent confiscation of *The Stony Brook Press*'s February 22 issue by a staff member of the Student Union, who claimed he was following the orders of

Carmen Vasquez, director of the Student Union and Activities. The text of the resolution appears below (see editorial, page 2). The Executive Committee was empowered to take a similar resolution to the University Senate for debate at its April 1 meeting.

The Action Committee asked for volunteers interested in visiting department to answer questions concerning employment/unionization issues. A pamphlet is in the works as part of the statewide push for increasing graduate student employee support for the right to self determination.

The Election Committee is revising its guidelines in preparation for the spring elections. Nominations are due by April 15 for 1991-92 officers and the token student seat on the Stony Brook Council.

Text of Resolution Denouncing the Censoring Of *The Stony Brook Press*

Whereas, on Friday, February 22nd, *The Stony Brook Press* was confiscated from the Union building by the management of the Union,

Whereas, the management of the Union justified its gesture by claiming that the issue of *The Stony Brook Press* was obscene,

Whereas, the staff of *The Stony Brook Press* was also prohibited from distributing the issue within the Union,

Whereas, numerous pressures were necessary to convince the management of their wrongdoing,

Whereas, it took five hours for the management to finally announce that the issue could be distributed freely, dismissing the incident as a "misunderstanding,"

It is proposed that the GSO Senate:

1. denounces what appears to be an attack on freedom of expression against *The Stony Brook Press*;
2. reaffirms the Constitutional right of freedom of the press;
3. requests the Union management not to repeat such behavior; and
4. writes a letter to the Union management, with conformed copies to other officials of the university, stating the three previous points.

Passed by the GSO Senate
February 27, 1991

Kwasny's Kolumn-and-a-half

Exclusionary Practices Continue: Let's Get Them Out in the Open

By Andrea Kwasny
Graduate Student Advocate

Governor Cuomo, in his 1992 budget proposal, reiterated last year's allocation of money for tuition scholarships to be used primarily to fund graduate students who are New York State residents. It is now necessary to ask about those graduate students who are not New York State residents, who can't be New York State residents, specifically foreign students.

Does Cuomo's apparent pledge of generosity to New York State resident graduate students necessarily mean a pledge of amnesia, translated as financial abandonment, when it comes to foreign students? It seems to me that it does. Such restrictions on the use of money in these tough financial times will mean that currently enrolled international graduate students will have to earn enough money to cover expenses previously covered by tuition waivers and stipends, while simultaneously pursuing their degrees. The other

option, of course, would be to leave without completing their degrees.

It seems fairly obvious to me that to offer admission and support to a foreign graduate student and then to withdraw support while s/he is pursuing a degree is highly objectionable. But I think there is another issue here. The implementation of these kinds of exclusionary practices undermines the concurrent commitment of state universities like Stony Brook to multiculturalism.

Or maybe it just exposes hypocrisy. I don't think that inviting Maya Angelou, Maxine Hong Kingston, or Maki Mandela to campus allows us to call ourselves committed to multiculturalism. The Diversified Education Curriculum, the new set of freshman requirements, however, does attempt to address the needs of culturally diverse student body. But again, who will teach these courses? Will a diversified curriculum be taught and administered by "canonized" faculty and graduate teaching assistants? (I admit, it's a bit hard to think of graduate students, or at least some graduate students, as anything but "uncanonized").

Maybe the issue has changed from whether we should "tolerate" multiculturalism, and all of its institutional as well as practical manifestations, to just how much multiculturalism can be tolerated and who is going to control the level of exposure and toleration. It seems to me that by so obviously excluding foreign students, Cuomo has made it clear what his positions are regarding issues like multiculturalism. They are based upon economic expediency. Let's get this out in the open.

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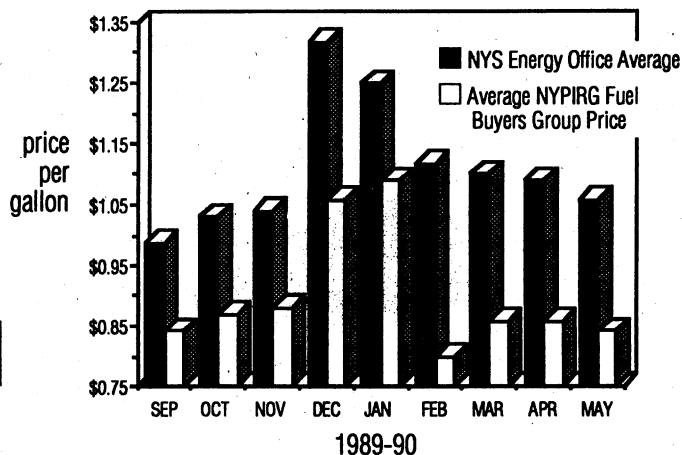
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