

—EDITORIALS—

Binding Contract

Last fall, the student body passed a referendum which directed Polity to allocate \$1.50 per student per semester to the Stony Brook chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

As a result, Polity signed a two-year contract with NYPIRG, which expires in the fall of 1981, reaffirming what the referendum called for.

It seems that despite the fact that the outcome of the referendum revealed the will of the students, and regardless of the fact that a binding contract was signed by two parties, this year's Polity Council has taken it upon itself to withhold some of NYPIRG's funds.

The Council has decided to trim from NYPIRG's budget approximately 16 cents per student per semester—a total figure of \$3,000 annually.

NYPIRG's loss of \$3,000 is disturbing in itself. But what is most perplexing about the Council's high handed maneuver, is the perverted sense of justice ethics and representation which the decision demonstrates.

Some Polity Council members insist that NYPIRG should be satisfied with the substantially increased budget it received over past years. But whether or not its budget was or was not substantially increased is not the point. We are not dealing with subjective reasons for allocating money to NYPIRG. We are dealing with objective criteria established one year prior to the present Council's decision.

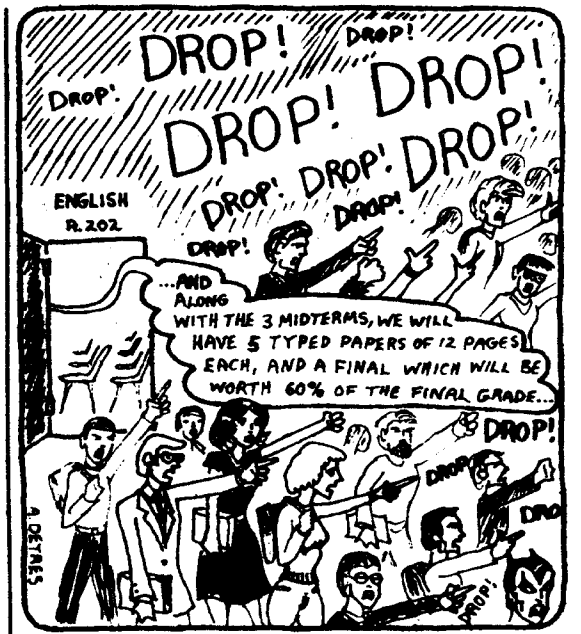
Firstly, if Polity is the representative body of the students which it so righteously attests it is, and if the students have affirmed the referendum in a democratic process, then Polity is ethically, if not legally, responsible to carry out the student's wishes. It clearly states in Polity's Constitution that "a referendum shall be adopted if a majority of those casting ballots vote affirmatively."

Secondly, last year's Polity Council signed a two-year contract with NYPIRG. One need not be an expert in contract law to know that, with few exceptions, signed contracts are binding.

The current Polity Council has set a dangerous precedent in its attempt to impress its petty whims on ethically and legally binding law by interpreting contracts and referendums with personal, subjective criteria.

While espousing the virtues of democracy and legal frameworks, the Council, in depriving NYPIRG of its money, has proven itself to be both isolationist and hypocritical in its actions. Rash, thoughtless and unrepresentative decisions have no place in student government or any system, for that matter, which boasts principles.

CAMPUS CARTOONIST



by Anthony Detres

—LETTERS—

Economic Draft

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter concerning the recent bombardment of R.O.T.C. ads in your news paper. In this particular case we must examine the moral implications of this action. To begin with, we must identify what R.O.T.C. represents and how this is a contradiction to the basic rights of students and workers and should not be given the right of freedom of the press by a newspaper which is run by students.

A careful analysis of what R.O.T.C. represents is, in fact, an "economic draft" which forces workers and students into the military and in this case providing financial aid. By allowing R.O.T.C. publicity you are quite responsible for the possible setbacks that may occur in our academic community if people must rely on R.O.T.C. in order to obtain a college education. During the 60s, by forcing R.O.T.C. off campus, amazing advances were made in providing better affirmative action and increased financial aid for all.

As a student run newspaper, I feel that it is in the interest of the academic community that Statesman cease printing these ads. As a member of the International Committee Against Racism (INCAR) I can assure that students will unite in order to promote progress and social

change. I would hope that Statesman join with us in this movement and not be antagonistic.

Ron Moss

Bad Quote

To the Editor:

I am responding to the last paragraph of Frank Jackson's Letter to the Editor (September 17). He was quoting a remark made by a Jack Newfield: "I have no objections to the prostitute joining the church — but I sure as hell object to her singing in the choir at her first service." What the hell does singing have to do with sex and wages?

J. Gerstman

set the temperature of the burners.

We have over 70 people living on both halls and to have two working would have been a blessing but now I can't help but feel that we are worse off than before.

I am sure that I speak for the majority of the hall when I ask for help in finding out where our old stove went and the possibility of getting it back. We are grateful for the new stove but feel somewhat cheated because we lost valuable cooking space. If you can offer any answers or help in finding them please contact me; your time is very appreciated.

Elaine E. Davis

No Improvement

To the Editor:

Recently, as a move to improve cooking facilities in residence halls, the lounge between F-2 and G-2 in O'Neill College was presented with a new oven. Unfortunately our facility was not really improved.

After placing our new oven in the middle of the lounge, the old stove was removed. Our old stove provided us with two full ovens as opposed to the 1½ that the new one provides. Also the old stove was in good working condition; the new one has broken dials so it is impossible to

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letters and
viewpoints
to room
058
in the
Union.**

Statesman

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