

EDITORIALS

Small Price to Pay

It was announced last week that Polity, the undergraduate student government, had joined the Students Association of the State University of New York (SASU), an Albany-based student-advocacy group. Polity had joined for a very small price — about \$500 — because SASU held about \$8,000 of Polity's money from 1975. Since that money might never have been returned to Polity, it seems like a good idea to at least get something for our money.

However, a more important point that will be brought before the Senate this spring is whether to pay to be SASU members at the regular price in future years. We think Polity should.

The instinctive response toward paying \$8,500 a year for nothing tangible in return is to say "no, it is not worth it." But upon closer examination, the benefits from SASU are valueless, not only to us as students at Stony Brook but to all SUNY students. It was SASU that last year won students in several upstate counties the right to vote at college instead of their parents' home towns, a legal fight that will soon find its way to Stony Brook and other parts of the state. And it is SASU that is currently fighting the recent dormitory rent increase, both things no single student could, or would even want to do.

Of course there is nothing tangible we receive for our \$8,500. But in relation to Polity's overall budget, about \$750,000, the price of joining the most powerful, if not the only, student lobby in the state is worth it.

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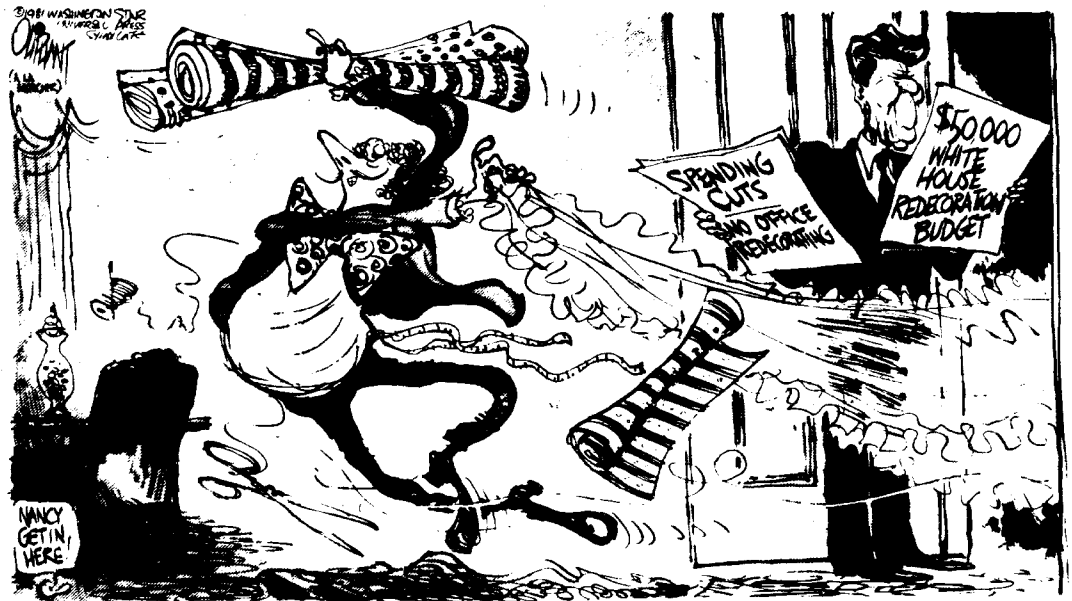
Corrections

A hectic first week of classes caused two errors in the first two issues of Statesman.

In Wednesday's issue it was incorrectly reported that University Business Manager Paul Madonna said a decision would be made soon on the position of director of Public Safety. It should have said that a decision would be made soon on the position of acting director of Public Safety.

In Friday's issue, a headline incorrectly said that a bus to Coram would resume today. The bus, which does resume service today, is operated by the Coram bus service but goes from the Smithhaven Mall to Port Jefferson.

OLIPHANT



LETTERS

Good Move

To the Editor:

The Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU) is one of the most effective lobbying organizations that we undergraduates have to represent us. I applaud Polity for rejoining SASU and urge my fellow senators in the Polity Senate to support our membership in this SUNY student-oriented interest group.

In a few weeks, the Senate will decide whether to join SASU for another year when the budget hearings begin. What may seem like a simple decision becomes quite complicated when one considers the cost of yearly membership and its ramifications upon Polity clubs who desire greater funding from the Program of Services Council and mainline budgets. The cost of membership at present is \$8,000 annually.

I will be the first to admit that here at Stony Brook Polity clubs and special events, such as Hillel and Special Olympics, could all effectively and efficiently use this money. However, lobbying organizations such as SASU and NYPIRG are invaluable in the services they provide to the Stony Brook students of today as well as the incoming undergraduates of tomorrow.

Recent SASU activities include fighting SUNY budget cuts, the proposed tuition and dormitory increases, 400 faculty eliminations, voting rights for students in their respective campus communities statewide and joining the Statewide Coalition for Public Higher Education.

Quite simply, SASU tries to influence Albany in areas of our own interest and benefit. SASU has influence and access to key spots in Albany that Polity officials know little about. The key word is access to SUNY Central where the decisions are made and quite obviously need influencing.

SASU has this access. It is a classical pressure group organized to promote an interest we all have in common. Lower tuition costs is just one of these. SASU, ultimately, is equally valuable to Stony Brook as is NYPIRG.

The money paid to SASU by all SUNY colleges and universities, after much consideration, is a small cost to pay for the services of this priceless lobby group and

student association. Stony Brook students should feel proud in joining with other undergraduates of SUNY campuses and applaud our return to this statewide student association. We may be the last University Center to permanently join SASU, but knowing Stony Brook students, we will quickly become the most influential in Albany.

In order for Polity and myself to serve our constituents long term interests, I consider it essential that the Senate decide to join the Student Association of the State University permanently.

David L. Berenbaum

Support Conservation

To the Editor:

The idea that since 1977 Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner has been attempting to obtain political support for legislation to increase energy-conservation measures within the SUNY system needs to be considered. The legislation has for many years been ignored by SUNY College Presidents, SUNY Board of Trustees members, other members of the State Legislature and the Governor.

A study by Hochbrueckner's office staff led to legislation (A.7763-A) that would involve Federal and State Governments' investment of taxes to improve education facilities and provide energy-conservation within the SUNY system. In 1978 the same issue was introduced as

legislation (A.11752) and this time Hochbrueckner sent letters to College Presidents requesting "... comments and support." of the legislation. In 1979 the issue was again introduced as legislation (A.2709) and Hochbrueckner sent letters to the SUNY Board of Trustees for their assistance and political support. The end result of this reach-out to SUNY administrative officials was not positive, but, the SUNY Administration did raise the rent to pay for the costs of housing and heating.

The problems in the Persian Gulf, the rising oil prices, and the non-appropriation of funds for energy-conservation measures by the Federal and State Governments indicates that the policies are misdirected. To allow the SUNY Administration, the governor, the State Legislature, and the Federal Government to ignore the issue is to forsake friends, family and self so as to continue the policy.

If you care, write Hochbrueckner and your state legislative representatives about the issue and indicate your political support for its inclusion in the 1981-82 budget. Also, since the SUNY college presidents already know about this legislation, then contacting the Student Government Association's representatives could provide the political support that is needed for implementation of energy-conservation measures on SUNY campuses, thereby, stabilizing rents.

Michael McGlynn

Statesman

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