

EDITORIALS

Education Or Evaluation

A referendum on the ballot at the Polity election next Tuesday asks students if they approve or disapprove of the University's plus/minus grading system that will take effect next year. Though the referendum has no power, it does give students the chance to air their grievances about the subject. We think the policy is wrong, and students should say so via the referendum.

We believe the policy is wrong for a number of reasons. Foremost, at Stony Brook, like so many other universities, the importance of grades is overemphasized. What should be an indication of learning has actually overshadowed it, and education — the reason we are all here — has taken a back seat to evaluation. Adding a plus/minus system adds to this already too competitive atmosphere, and as a result, further obstructs the purpose of attending college.

Practically speaking, most graduate and professional schools use a centralized data assembly service which does not take into account any pluses and minuses which may appear on a transcript. Thus, instituting such a system is of no consequence for those interested in furthering their education and who may feel that a plus/minus grading system may help that cause.

Furthermore, the proposed policy allows professors the option of instituting plus/minus grading. This, too, is inequitable. Grading should be as uniform as possible; having some professors use pluses and minuses while others do not is inherently unfair to the students.

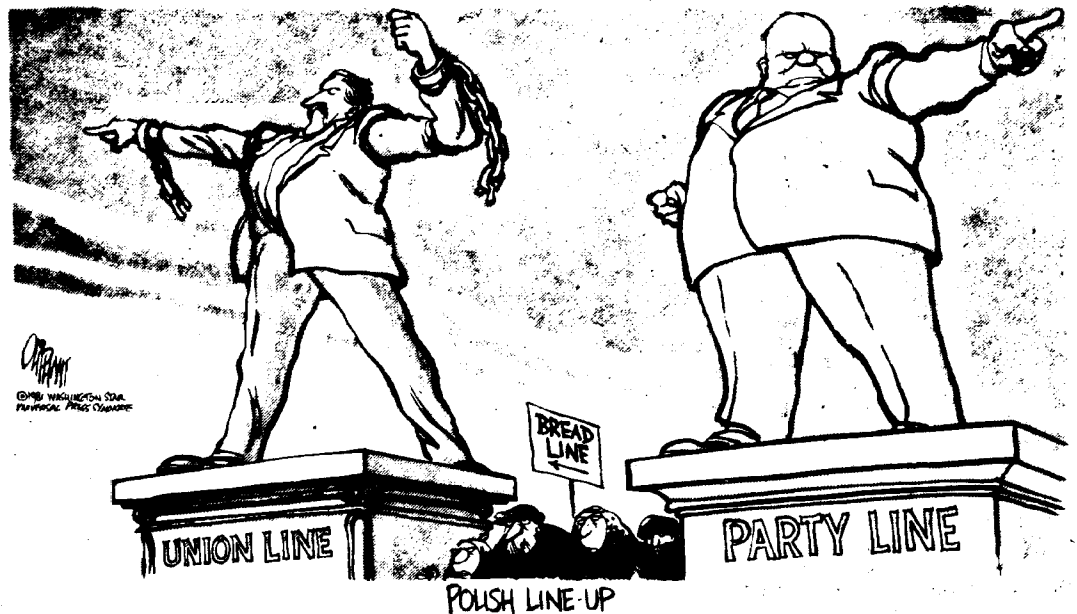
Moreover, if such a policy is instituted, it should begin with an incoming freshman class. Students who have been here a number of years and have been graded on the current system should not suddenly be graded on a different one. Confusion will abound and ultimately the student will be hurt by a confusing transcript.

Corrections

The last issue of Statesman incorrectly reported places and times of next week's Polity elections.

Polls will be open from 10 AM to 10 PM Tuesday and voting machines will be available only in the lobby of the Library.

OLIPHANT



LETTERS

Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

In the next Polity election, you will be making a decision which will effect your say on what your student activity fees are spent on. On the ballot will be a referendum which will ask you if you wish to eliminate specific earmarking of funds via referenda. In the past, several organizations such as Athletics and NYPIRG have used this method in order to obtain funds. The operation of these organizations require this, but there is another question here.

The real question is whether you wish to allow a small group of students, the Polity Council and Senate, to decide where they will spend your money. Earmarking of funds allows you to decide where and how much money to spend. Do you really want the student government to decide for you?

The supporters of this undemocratic action claim the students are ignorant of the issues involved. They claim you don't understand how much is really being spent and what this means in comparison to other groups. But this is where they are wrong. Students are not ignorant of the issues unless they are not informed of them. The students government is supposed to do this. I as a sena-

tor am doing just that.

Vote against the elimination of specific earmarking of funds. It's one of the few truly democratic acts you still have.

Lewis Liebler
Hand College Senator
Democratic Socialist Forum

Correct the Buses

To the Editor:

This is a call to all students: commuter, resident, undergraduate, graduate, and CED to help correct the bus situation. Find out the exact bus time schedule and the exact location of its stops, respective to the campus bus you most

often use. If you notice that the bus is not adhering to its designated schedule, times and stop locations, write down the date, time and location and sign the paper and submit it to Peter Demaggio of University Services on the first floor of the Administration Building. Also send a copy to Elizabeth Wadsworth, Carl Hanes, and of course, John Marburger. These extra copies are to ensure that action is taken. Please include where you can be reached in case further information is needed.

Remember: without proper documentation, nothing can be done, and we all continue to suffer.

Mace H. Greenfield

Letters and viewpoints are the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect Statesman's editorial policy.

Submit letters and viewpoints to room 058 in the Union.

Statesman

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