

# High Tech Course Offered

A Long Island semiconductor firm and the University are cooperating in offering a high technology graduate course, the first in the region in very large scale integration (VLSI).

General Instrument Corp. Microelectronics Division of Hicksville will fabricate student-designed VLSI computer chips, and one of its research scientists will co-teach the course with a Stony Brook faculty member.

VLSI is often called more descriptively "computer on a chip." The process represents a major breakthrough that is fueling sweeping changes in electronic devices ranging from consumer products such as pocket calculators and video games to commercial products such as industrial control computers and solid state telecommunications.

Stephen Shapiro, chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at the University, said the technology is so new a half-dozen faculty members are attending classes with the graduate students.

Class members will have the opportunity to design metal oxide silicon chips at Stony Brook. Fabrication will take place at General Instrument's plant in Hicksville, which the class will visit at least once.

Through this cooperative effort, Shapiro said, the designs can be tested and evaluated, a key part of the learning process.

Teaching the course will be Kamal Rajkanan of General Instrument Corp. and Stephen Sussman-Fort of the Electrical Engineering Department.

Said Edgar Sack, senior vice-president and general manager of the Microelectronics Group of General Instrument Corp., "In addition to the opportunity to support a key discipline in higher education, the company is making an investment in its own future by helping to develop essential manpower."

University President John Marburger said, "The cooperation of Long Island's universities and research centers with leading firms like General Instrument Corporation is essential to insure the future of our region's high technology base. Stony Brook welcomes the opportunity to join its talent resources with General Instrument's recognized expertise and facilities to encourage innovation in a breakthrough technology."

Last year, General Instrument Corp. provided a \$30,000 grant for research and equipment in Stony Brook's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Shapiro called the collaboration "an exciting opportunity for Stony Brook to join a very few other institutions in a field at the forefront of technology."

John Bilello, dean of engineering, said, "Stony Brook's partnership with General Instrument will allow the College of Engineering to provide training for its students in one of the most important areas of electrical engineering."

VLSI represents a use of "chips"—thin, quarter-inch-square pieces of silicon—on which entire computer systems are created. A decade ago, a single component occupied each chip.

# Student Visas Tightened

Washington, D.C. (CPS)—In another move to tighten controls on foreign students in this country, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has ruled that students' "green cards" will now have a specific departure day—a "date certain"—stamped on them.

Previously, a "duration of status" stamp allowed students to stay in this country as long as they were enrolled in classes.

The new regulation was "stimulated by the Iranian situation," according to Janet Graham of the INS. "When there had been disturbances by Iranian

students, we were asked how many of them were here. We didn't have any answers."

Now "we can monitor foreign students better," she explained. "We found that in admitting them for a 'duration of status' it was easier to lose track of them."

The new stamps reflect "what the school says is the amount of time needed to complete the courses of study." They would force stricter adherence to the minimum time required to complete two or four-year degree programs, and make sure students keep to the school-designated timetable.

Students "weren't going to be rounded up" to get new stamps on their visas, Graham said.

Currently-enrolled students will get new stamps "whenever they come in contact with the INS."

Foreign students regularly come in contact with the INS. "Anytime there's a change in status, they report to the INS," says Georgia Stewart of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. "This could mean anything from joining the varsity basketball team to changing majors."

Stewart did not expect the new regulations would cause much confusion.

# NYPIRG Conference Held

About 700 students from all over New York State including 29 from Stony Brook met this weekend at the State University at Albany to attend the New York Public Interest Group's (NYPIRG's) Seventh Annual Spring Conference.

The conference offered workshops on voting rights, higher education funding, safe energy, political reform, community organizing, women's issues, campus activities and environmental protection.

Freshman Representative David Gamberg, who attended the conference, said he was greatly inspired with what he saw.

## Nader Speaks

Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader gave the opening address on Saturday which kicked off the conference.

Immediately following the address, five NYPIRG Citizenship Awards were presented to New York residents

who have made long term contributions as active citizens. One of the recipients this year

was Long Island resident Harry Chapin for his work on World Hunger. —Robert Lieberman



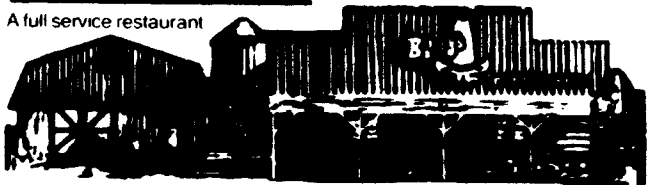
Statesman Robert Lieberman  
CONSUMER ADVOCATE RALPH NADER gives the opening address at NYPIRG's Seventh Annual Spring Conference.

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