

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS & VIEWS

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Grad Students to Vote On Union *Court Victory For GSEU, December Election Set*

Norah Martin & Sally Kuzma contributed
to this story.

The fall semester gets under way under the influence of a major court decision for graduate students handed down July 23, 1992. The Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) won the appeal of last October's Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) decision recognizing Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants as employees under the Taylor Law. The case had been brought to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court by SUNY. The decision was 5-0 unanimously in favor of the GSEU. After an 11 year struggle, this victory gives graduate student TAs and GAs the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want a union to represent them in collective bargaining with the state.

PERB denied a request by the Union of University Professionals (UUP) for a delay of the election so that they could collect "showing-of-interest" cards in order to appear on the ballot. UUP had wanted to accrete or absorb

the GSEU into their own union without the grad students' consent, according to Stony Brook union organizer Jeff Lacher. Many students felt it was unwise to be represented by the same union that represents their supervisors. Local UUP board members opposed accretion and support GSEU. GSEU has been affiliated since 1984 with CWA, the Communications Workers of America Union. CWA was chosen because of its democratic history and for the degree of autonomy it gives to

union locals, Lacher said.

On November 23, ballots for the unionization vote will be sent out by PERB to all eligible TAs and GAs. Any eligible TA or GA who does not receive a ballot must call PERB on either November 30 or December 1 to request one. All ballots must be received by the Albany post office no later than 9 am December 17, 1992. Currently only graduate students with TA or GA lines are eligible to vote in this election. While GSEU has fought

for and will continue to work toward inclusion of Research Assistants, they are not eligible for union representation at this time.

RAs and graduate students who do not have a TA or GA lines are not eligible to vote for unionization. They are, however, allowed to become active members of the union by signing a pledge sheet. GSEU members who signed pledge sheets before the campaign began are eligible to vote in the current election for GSEU Statewide Executive (see insert).

SUNY has taken a neutral position with regard to unionization. According to Norah Martin, GSO President, students should be aware that it is an unfair labor practice for a professor or administrator to say anything unsubstantiated about unionization or the particular union in question.

Inside GSEU **Members Vote on Statewide Exec**

The GSEU is currently holding an election for its Statewide Executive. Every university center in the SUNY system has two members on the executive council, which is the GSEU's statewide coordinating body. Candidates are Jean Rousseau (Chemistry), Elizabeth Keathley (Music) and Noah Berger (Philosophy). All GSEU members who signed pledge sheets before the campaign began (September 11 cutoff date) are eligible to vote.

Union organizers have been assigned to various departments to answer questions about unionization. Full time organizers are Jeff Lacher and Jerry Raymond, assisted by Patty Hubbard (Art department), former GSO president John Nolan (Technology & Society), George Biderman, (formerly from the English department) and Statewide GSEU Vice-President Marianthi Lianos (Sociology).

MEETINGS UPDATE

GSO Summer Senate Meetings In Review

By Tom Pepper, GSO Secretary

The first GSO senate meeting since the new executive council of the GSO took office was held on July 20th. There was some concern that holding a senate meeting in the summer disenfranchised departments whose senators do not stay at Stony Brook during the summer; nonetheless, meetings were held.

The agenda included the report of GSO president Norah Martin, the appointment of a board of appeals, the confirmation of GSO vice president Emily Zakin as graduate student member of the priorities committee, some decisions on GSO policy, and a funding request.

Norah Martin reported that there will be a committee to consider instituting a unidecanal structure for the college of arts and sciences at Stony Brook. This committee will have one graduate student member. While the ostensible reason for this change is that having only one dean will reduce bureaucracy and administrative costs, there is some

uncertainty as to cost-effective such changes would be. There is a possibility that a number of "vice dean" positions will need to be created. In addition, it is unclear how this will affect the distribution of dean's lines, state stipends that are currently controlled by the dean of each division.

Norah Martin also reported on the University Senate executive Council meeting and retreat. Of particular interest was the explanation of one of last semester's biggest scandals, the "discovery" of several million dollars remaining in the budget after so many cuts had been made. This was apparently the result of something called a "phase 2 adjustment," an end of the finalization of the past year's budget from the state. The bulk of this money will go to the Provost's office.

The senate then considered the nomination of members to serve on the GSO Board of Appeals. This board is intended to decide on interpretations of the GSO constitution, and report its decisions to

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*Executive Council Editorial***GSO Goals for 92-93: Visibility, Accessibility**

The Executive Council of the GSO has made it a primary aim of the upcoming school year to increase graduate student participation both in areas of specific graduate concern and in the broader domain of university affairs. In the next few months the GSO itself will undergo many internal changes in the hope of making the GSO more visible, more accessible, and more beneficial to all graduate students.

Among other things, our constitution requires reform in order to work out various ambiguities which have caused difficulties in the past. During this process, which began at the last GSO Senate meeting on September 23, we will also be concentrating on the issue of electoral reform. Currently the Senate is relatively non-representative, in the sense that students from less organized departments essentially are able to appoint themselves as Senators. While any specific alterations to the by-laws on the election of Senators will be a matter for the Senate to debate and decide, it is clear that one practice which could have an immediately democratizing effect would be for students within each and every graduate department to create, organize, and maintain some form of departmental graduate governance structure. In addition to using the departmental structure to elect Senators, such an organization is an ideal way for graduate students to confront, debate, and deal with issues (such as funding, classes offered, teaching practices, grant and research awards, etc.) that impact on graduate students collectively within a given department.

Whether you are a new or returning student, please consider how well represented you believe you and your colleagues currently are. Does your department have a Senator? Did you know that in order to receive your departmental allocation (i.e., \$'s the graduate students in each department get as a return on their activity fees) you must have a Senator? Does your department have its allotted

number of Senators (departments with over fifty students are permitted two or more)? Is your Senator elected or self-appointed? Do you feel comfortable with the procedure by which your Senator is selected? Are you yourself interested in becoming a Senator? Think about coming to a Senate meeting to see how we operate.

All Senate meetings are open and are intended to be a forum for any and all graduate student concerns. Please come and tell us what issues you'd like us to work on this year, as well as the issues you yourself are interested in working on. Remember, the GSO is your liaison with the administration; as future faculty members, you'll have to participate in university affairs if you don't want all decisions made by professional administrators. Now is a good time to begin practicing for all the politics ahead in your academic career.

Even if you choose not to attend GSO Senate meetings, we encourage all of you to participate in graduate student governance in some shape or

form. Think about sitting on a committee which shares a particular concern of yours. Are you worried about parking fees? Health insurance costs? Women's safety? Would you like to have a graduate student lounge or bar on campus? These are only some of the committees on which the GSO has representatives. If you're a funded student, get as much information as you can about the impending unionization vote and get involved in the process. This newspaper is always looking for talented writers to submit editorials, articles, art, music and theater reviews, and poetry to its pages. There are also numerous campus-wide issues of import to all of us as members of the Stony Brook community. These too deserve our participation.

Please get involved this year and help improve the quality of graduate education and the quality of graduate student life.

A Disarming Vision

The office of President of the University truly is a position of power. There are many who look to the president for leadership and direction. Each administrator has a limited area of responsibility, but it is the job of the president to look at the big picture-- a picture of what the university is today and what it will be in the future. Marburger must have some image of the Stony Brook of the future that guides his choices. What is this vision?

This is important because vision really shapes reality. The reverse can also be true; actions can reflect back on the vision. What can Marburger's recent actions tell us about his vision (his view of Stony Brook 2001)? He has indicated that he aims to arm the police. If actions really do reflect back on vision, what type of world is being created here and are there alternatives? If you could create the Stony Brook you wanted, what would it look like?

Some of us at GSO have a different vision. In our Stony Brook, the police would be armed with jumper cables and tire repair kits. They

would ride around in golf carts and you might even see them walking around the buildings. They would give seminars on crime prevention and personal safety. It's not unreasonable. Could this really happen? Those of us who have attended school elsewhere, before Stony Brook, have seen it in action. It's relatively pleasant. I once left my office door unlocked at the University of South Florida. Campus security locked it and left a "crime stopper" note telling me to be more conscientious. More than once they jump-started my car. Compare this with a scenario of cops with guns, driving at 30 MPH down walkways designed for pedestrians in big cars with windows rolled up. Is this where we're headed? It seems an easy choice but it's one we won't have unless Marburger can also be shown that there are viable alternatives. Vision shapes reality. Let's start now to create a new vision- one where we'll all feel a little more comfortable.

-Tim Morton, GSO Treasurer

Voter Registration on NYPIRG Agenda

Dear Editor,

Politicians have repeatedly shown that they don't care about SUNY students. In the last two years, the State Legislature and Governor Cuomo have drastically cut budgets for SUNY (as well as CUNY and independent colleges) while at the same time raising tuition.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is working to ensure that the voice of students will be heard in New York. This fall NYPIRG is working to register Stony Brook students to vote in record numbers. Students must register and turn out to vote if they want legislators to take their concerns seriously. The entire Stony Brook community must unite to fight for student rights including the right to an affordable and quality education.

Besides registering students to vote and fighting tuition hikes, NYPIRG will continue to promote recycling as the safest way of disposing of garbage in New York State. NYPIRG volunteers will continue to assist people who need procedural help when using the small claims court system through our Small Claims Court Action Center.

NYPIRG needs your help to be successful on these issues. Even if you only have a few hours free this semester, I urge you to get involved in making a difference by working with NYPIRG. If you would like to get involved with NYPIRG, please stop by the NYPIRG office in the Union, Room 079 or call 2-6457.

Jeremy Potter,
NYPIRG Project Coordinator

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Getting The Facts On Health Insurance

By Monica McTigue

The Stony Brook Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan is administered by the Faculty Student Association (FSA). The plan is underwritten by John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company and has been in operation for four years at Stony Brook. Leta Edelson is available to answer questions about student health insurance coverage. She maintains an office at the Student Health Service (Infirmary Building), Room 149 and will return all messages left on her answering machine (632-6054). As health Insurance Plan Administrator, she is responsible for negotiating contract limits and rates. She serves as a liaison between the Registrar, Bursar, Office of Students Accounts and insured students. She also mediates problems that occur between the insurance company and students. Health insurance claim forms and information regarding claims and procedures can be obtained at her office. It is a good idea to pick up a claim form prior to visiting an off-campus physician. If the physician agrees, it is possible to request direct reimbursement to your physician.

The voluntary health insurance plan for domestic students costs \$445 for the period 8/16/92 to 8/16/93. Students may pay on a per semester basis. Payment must be made by October 15 in order to obtain coverage for the fall '92 semester and by 3/15/93 for the spring semester. However, a student who already has the plan and wants to continue coverage without lapse must pay by 9/30/92 (or 2/15/93 for spring semester).

What You Get

Below is a basic rundown of what you get for your money. A full description of the plan is available at the student health service. **Please note that this is not a major medical plan** (more on this distinction later).

The Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan provides both basic and supplemental expense coverage. Under the accident benefit, there is a \$50 deductible, after which the insurance company pays 100% of usual and customary expenses up to \$2500. Certain deductibles apply under the sickness benefit such as \$25 for X-ray and laboratory expenses, and \$50 for emergency room visits. Items covered under the sickness benefit include: hospital room and board (up to

\$400/day); \$1,200 in hospital expenses; \$2,000 for surgical procedures (\$2,000) per sickness; \$35 per non-surgical physician visit (in hospital limited to one visit per day and out of hospital limited to 10 visits per sickness); \$100 toward use

vides a maximum payout of \$22,500 for any single illness or accident.

It is important to note that this insurance plan has a pre-existing condition exclusion (note: a condition is not "pre-existing" if the patient has gone 24 months without treatment or symptoms). Therefore, if a student is planning to continue ongoing treatment (such as therapy with a psychologist), do not allow coverage to lapse between annual payments. Students who wish to avoid a lapse in coverage must enroll by the semester deadlines of September 30, 1992 and February 15, 1993.

What You Don't Get

As stated above, Stony Brook's current health plan is not a major medical insurance plan, according to New York State guidelines. A disclaimer is printed on the back of the brochure that reads "The insurance described in this brochure provides limited benefits health insurance only. It does not provide basic hospital, basic medical, or major

medical insurance as defined by the New York State Insurance Department." In other words, students suffering catastrophic illness or accident while away from the campus are likely to incur substantial medical expenses that may not be covered fully by this plan.

Other Health Plans

Alternate health insurance coverage is available through private insurance companies and a few on-campus resources. All graduate students employed on a part time basis by the Research Foundation are covered by New York State Disability Insurance and by Workers' Compensation. In addition, the Research Foundation offers its non-hourly graduate student employees a health insurance plan for Fellows and students. Coverage can be arranged through bi-weekly payroll deductions of \$95.30 (single) and \$251.86 (family). For additional information, contact Nancy Hutchinson at Human Resources, 632-6164. Health insurance plans are also available through Blue Cross. Call (212) 476-6767 for more information.

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) also offers health insurance to graduate students at a slightly higher rate (\$520) than the Stony Brook plan, but has a major medical coverage option for an additional \$119. For details contact plan administrators Parker & Parker Consultants at 800-643-6688.

Note These Deadlines!

It appears some campus offices have been giving out incorrect information regarding registration and payment for the Student Health Insurance Program, according to Kevin Kelly of FSA.

If they are new to the plan, students have until 10/15 to pay. If they pay after 8/16, coverage begins on the day payment is received/processed. Students continuing their coverage who wish to avoid a lapse in coverage must pay by September 30, 1992.

of an ambulance; \$200 for X-rays and laboratory expenses; \$200 for abortion expenses; \$200 for an emergency room visit; \$75 toward consultant's fees. The plan also covers out-patient alcohol/substance abuse programs (60 visits per calendar year; 20 visits may be used for family counseling), maternity expenses (under the sickness benefit), and 50% of the cost of visiting a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker (up to 10 visits per coverage year, payment not to exceed \$50 per visit).

Some deductibles may be waived if the student is examined by a physician at the Student Health Service. Deductibles cannot be waived for spouses and children. Once medical expenses exceed \$2,500, the supplemental expense benefit covers 80% of the next \$7,500 in expenses. After total expenses reach \$10,000, the plan covers 100% of expenses up to \$20,000. The combined basic and supplemental expense coverage pro-

Will The Union Get You Covered?

GSEU stresses there are no guarantees they will be able to successfully negotiate health benefits as part of a graduate student employee contract, but expresses optimism based on successes at other campuses. In a fact sheet on the issue, GSEU points to unions at Rutgers, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan, University of California, University of Massachusetts as some that have won health care benefits as part of their contracts.

Historically, GSEU has opposed "imposition of the discriminatory international student mandatory insurance plan" and has supported single-payer national health insurance. GSEU has also sat on the steering committee of the New York State Health Care Campaign.

Union opponents fear such benefits may come at the expense of the overall number of TA/GA lines.

Looking For A Good Argument?

We are, too! We're looking to expand the op/ed section to at least two pages for the next issue. So if you're tired of being oh-so-objective on your thesis paper, send us your opinions, commentary, or insights. Anything from graduate gripes to global issues. Call the CSO office for deadlines, 632-8962 or 632-6492. Typewritten text or IBM formatted disks appreciated.

Quote of the day:

"It is one of the great tragedies of our time that scholarship has lost so much ground, has been forced into mediocrity by the pressures of time, overload, and plain human failure. A lack of ethics and credibility in the academic community leads directly to ethical abuse in the intelligence community, for even when hiding behind secrets, the intelligence community has always been vulnerable to the detection of ridiculous assumptions by articulate and insightful scholars.

— Robert David Steele in "E3I: Ethics, Ecology, Evolution, and Intelligence," *Whole Earth Review*, Fall 1992

Tax Break For Grads?

HR4418 can put an end to tax on scholarships and fellowships

By Tim Morton

Every now and then it's nice to cheer up your friends with some really good news. We've heard some this summer and we'd like you to spread it around. There is a bill pending in the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee that would restore tax-exempt status to graduate student stipends. Not only that, but in addition all taxes paid on stipends from 1986 to the present would be returned to you. You're not asleep, this isn't a dream; it seems someone in Congress may be about to undertake a truly selfless act. But we graduate students have to speak out to make sure this bill gets passed. Now, apathy really is the rage these days, but think of it this way... 1) What would you do with an extra \$1000 dollars this year? 2) Would you be willing to write a letter to your congressperson in order to get it?

Officially this bill is numbered H.R.4418, titled "A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the prior law exclusion for scholarships and fellowships." The sponsor is Tom Lewis (R- FL) and he introduced it in the House on March 10, 1992. Since then the bill has slowly been accumulating co-sponsors. As of August 28, co-sponsors were: Emerson, Crane, Tanner, Towns, Sanders, Owens (NY), Cox (CA), Costello, Hughes, Zelif, Frost, McMillen (MD), Packard, Horton, Kolbe, Taylor (NC), Dornan (CA), Gingrich, Frank (MA), Hastert, Hayes (IL), Evans, Marlenee, Roe, Lagomarsino, Mineta, Moorhead, Barton, Jefferson, Rinaldo, Clinger, Poshard, Rhodes, Spence and Atkins.

As you have probably noticed, our local representatives are not on this list. Below I provide a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of the local Congressmen:

The Honorable George Hochbrueckner
3771 Nesconset Highway, Suite 213
Centereach, NY 11720
(516) 689-6767

The Honorable Robert J. Mrazek
143 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743
(516) 673-6500

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey
4 Udall Road
West Islip, NY 11795
(516) 661-8777

What you should do is write or call your Rep (if you don't know which one is yours, ask!) and let him know that you expect his support for this bill. Hint that maybe he should consider co-sponsoring it. Tom Pepper, (Grad Student Advocate) and I have written a form letter which could serve as a model for your own. You'll find it at the end of this story. Of course, you could take the low energy route and clip this out, sign it and send it off. Total cost; 29 cents and 5 minutes. It would have more meaning if you could personalize it just a little with a short story.

A couple of the more industrious students in my department (thanks Sonie and Leo) actually did write Hochbrueckner this summer. His response was quite enlightening, quoted in part:

As you may know, under current law, college scholarship money used to pay school tu-

ition and fees, and books and supplies, is exempt from taxation. However, as a result of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is allowed to tax student scholarship money used to pay for living and travel expenses. This law was enacted before I entered Congress. While the IRS to date has not enforced this provision [my emphasis], there has been some concern that it is interested in beginning (sic) to strictly enforce the law to require tax payments on student scholarship income.

Congressman Tom Lewis introduced H.R.4418 in response to concerns about future IRS enforcement of this law... students should not be burdened financially through IRS enforcement of a six year old law that should never have been enacted. You may be assured that I will support H.R.4418 when it is considered by the House.

"While the IRS to date has not enforced this provision"; WHAT?!? Did you pay taxes last year or was I the only fool who did? I know some people who have paid upwards of \$5,000 in taxes since 1986 and every attempt at something remotely sneaky (like writing off my new computer as supplies) gets an angry letter and audit threat from the IRS. I may be reading between the lines a little but it seems for Hochbrueckner, this is simply an academic issue. He thinks we're not paying taxes now and this is simply warding off some vague future threat; hence the lukewarm response. Remember George Bush at the checkout counter? Legislators live in another world and we've got to let them know what it's

like in ours. This is why I recommend a personal touch to your letter. Write! Tell these guys that this is the difference between canned beans and fresh vegetables for dinner!

Encourage him to not wait till this bill reaches the House. Too much good legislation dies in committee, never reaching the House. We want him to help now!

This movement to generate student support for bill H.R.4418 has been very slow getting started, with no major news media coverage that I know of to date. Early in the summer there were a few reports found on Internet bulletin boards, but that didn't seem to get much response from the student populace. I know I was a little skeptical of it at first—it sounded too good to be true. Support is building, however, and I'd like to congratulate the people in Physics, particularly Harold Metcalf, who dug up most of the factual information used in this report and who has been active in disseminating it. SPEAK UP! Tell your friends, tell your fellow students, tell your parents. Let everyone know that this is an important issue to you and urge them to write a letter of support. Believe me, it makes a difference because politicians realize that for every citizen who takes the time to write, there are probably 20 more who were too lazy or too discouraged to act. This bill is not guaranteed passage, especially if misconceptions such as Hochbrueckner's exist. Don't let this bill die a futile death buried in the House Ways and Means.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to ask you to support bill H.R.4418, introduced by Congressman Lewis of Florida. This bill concerns the restoration of the tax-exempt status that full time graduate students were entitled to until 1986.

Students have been hard hit lately by increased tuition and fees, decreased financial aid, loss of federal research dollars (fewer research assistants, more teaching assistants on state lines) and inflation without pay increases. The IRS does enforce the 1986 tax laws and we currently pay them a significant portion of our meager funds.

Relief from these taxes would do much to help through these difficult years. I hope you will support this bill and urge you to consider co-sponsoring it.

Thank You,

Practical Advice From Foreign Student Services

By Mrs. Brown and Dr. Lynn King Morris

Mrs. Brown, Dr. Morris, and selected guest speakers will be providing workshops during Student Life Time (12:50 to 2:00 on Wednesdays) so that the basic information needed to maintain status, receive INS benefits and manage insurance coverage will be available. All meetings will be in Room 100, Central Hall.

Students who did not attend the orientation training workshops may assure their status by attending the September 30 workshop, which will be on immigration and tax regulations. F-1 students who have failed to complete the interviews by October 1 will go out of status that day.

A health insurance program on October 7 will provide information on the new policy to all students.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

September 23: INS Interviews (make-up interviews)

September 30 : Immigration and Tax Regulations (for new students)

October 7: Health Insurance Information for Foreign Students

October 14: Study Abroad Briefing for all Interested Students

October 21: Introduction to the Model United Nations and United Nations Day

October 28: Prior to Completion Off-campus Employment for F-1 students; J-1 and J-2 Employment (both summer and during the school year)

November 4: After You Graduate: F-1 and J-1 Practical Training

November 11: Veteran's Day - no meeting

November 18: After You Graduate: H-1 Visas and Green Cards

November 25: Thanksgiving recess begins - no meeting

December 2 : Program Extensions, Transfers, Reinstatement

December 9 : Dealing With Stress: Final Examinations and Holiday Plans

December 16 :Travel Overseas and Return for F-1 and J-1 students

Print-outs of general interest on a variety of topics are available in the Foreign Student Services Office. Students can pick up written information about visa status, enrollment, work permits, travel, reinstatement and other topics by asking at the reception desk or in the Health Insurance office. Students who need help with specific problems should make arrangements to see a staff member.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT FOREIGN STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE:

International Group Services of Fairfax Virginia (formerly International Underwriters/Brokers), your insurance administrators, have changed their telephone number to (800) 394-2500.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS! LIST YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES HERE!

CALL THE EDITOR 632-6492 FOR MORE INFO!

LIST YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES HERE!

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LIST YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES HERE!

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS! LIST YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES HERE!

The India Society Fall Events

The India Society, a cultural organization open to all students, staff, faculty -- not only Indians but everyone interested in India's rich past and dynamic present -- will hold the following programs this Fall:

Talk: We will celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday one day early with a timely talk. Professor Arshad Karim, Head, Dept of Political Science, University of Karachi, and Visiting Fulbright Professor, will speak on *Islamization in Pakistan* on **Thursday, October 1, at 8 p.m. in the New Graduate Commons**. Refreshments will be served.

Diwali and New Students' Welcome Party: Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, will be celebrated with a fun-and-food party on **Sunday, October 18, at 2 pm at the Chapin Apartments Community Center**. There will be games, music, movie, and party activities. Free dinner (barbecue plus Indian dishes). If you can (you don't have to) bring some food or drinks, it will be appreciated. Please call 751-1810.

Magic, Music, Movies, and Movers: Saturday, November 14 (Nehru's birthday) at 3 pm. New Graduate Commons. We will honor the distinguished science teacher Dr C.V. Krishnan and witness his fascinating and much-acclaimed *Chemistry "Magic" Show*. We will also hear *Popular Music* (Filmi music, bhajans, ghazals, etc); watch a Hindi movie, and elect a new slate of officers at the annual *General Body Meeting at the New Graduate Commons*. We urge students to come forward and take leadership roles in planning and building the Society.

Ongoing Programs: In addition, we will have *Book Club* meetings and publish the *Newsletter*. We are looking for people to organize meetings on recent publications, and to help edit the Newsletter. To become a member (annual calendar year dues for students: \$5), please call S.N. Sridhar at 751-1810.

Founded in 1989 by a group of students and faculty, The India Society aims to contribute a deeper understanding of India's rich heritage and dynamic present through intellectual, social and cultural activities, and to serve as an informal resource on matters relating to India for schools, libraries, museums, universities, the media, and individuals in the area. They help to create a sense of community and a spirit of mutual support among students, staff and faculty at the University at Stony Brook and the residents of Long Island with ties or interest in India.

The India Society invites all members of the university community, regardless of national origin, student, staff, or faculty status, to attend and organize a wide range of events and activities.

--S.N. Sridhar

GSA Corner**Recession and Depression at Stony Brook***By Tom Pepper, Graduate Student Advocate*

We are all aware that there is a recession going on, and that as a result, fewer graduate students are being supported this year than last while the number of people applying to graduate school is increasing. Some departments have resorted to having graduate students teach for credits, and others have considered asking for work in return for tuition scholarships. There is little we can do about the reduced access to higher education as graduate students; the recession is not likely to end any time soon, and unionizing certainly won't restore capitalism to health (if there is such a thing as healthy capitalism). There is also the problem of who gets to go to graduate school in bad economic times; when only wealthy people can afford graduate degrees in the humanities and social sciences, it is not likely that the next generation of intellectuals will be interested in fixing the problems with our country.

That said, if anyone is interested there are still some things we can do to see to it that more graduate students survive their time here, and possibly have some fun. I'll start with the fun: the GSO is currently working on reestablishing the Graduate Student Lounge, and we need people to help with this noble endeavor. The GSO also distributes your activity fees, so any graduate student clubs that want to sponsor activities should consider applying for funding. As for surviving, we need to continue to oppose the proposal to give guns to public safety, and support increased access to parking.

Graduate students also need to work to convince the state government, and the general public, that graduate education is important enough to society to deserve public money. At this point in history, this cannot be done by unionizing. Before the vote this fall, TAs and GAs need to think seriously about this issue. Don't assume a union is a good thing all the time, and don't assume every union is a good one. If we unionize, and the GSEU is successful in its attempts to get pay raises and health benefits for graduate students, the number of supported graduate students will be decreased.

I hope more graduate students will try to make the time to pay attention to these important issues this fall.

As graduate student advocate, I hope anyone who has a problem with funding, administrative foul ups, or policy violations will let me know about them. My office is in the graduate school, and my number is 632-7045.

DON'T FORGET TO FILE FOR TAP IF YOU HAVE A TUITION WAIVER!!!!

Profile.....**New Humanities Dean Takes The Helm***By Sally Kuzma*

Humanities students, angered by last year's scathing attacks from Provost Tilden Edelstein about the quality of their programs may be encouraged by Dean Richard Kramer's respect for the fundamental role of humanities in education. Humanities faculty may be helped by some of the proposals and programs he has initiated for bolstering the division. But graduate student TAs may have to wait for a "trickle down" of benefits in working conditions, as it appears such practices as the granting of fractional TA lines will continue to be tolerated by the administration.

The new dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, Richard Kramer, came to this post from the Music department where he has taught since 1968, serving at various times as Department Chair and Graduate Studies Director. He replaced Dean Patrick Heelan, who left for a position at Georgetown University at the end of last semester. Heelan was a controversial figure, especially in the philosophy department, which is still reeling from the effects of his policies.

In an interview with *News & Views*, Dean Kramer showed a respect for the arts and humanities as the fundamental core of university education, a concept dating back to the Middle Ages and "one which we forget at our peril," he said. As Stony Brook struggles to position itself as a major research university, according to President Marburger's mission statement, it's refreshing to hear someone in the administration who believes the humanities are "worth defending and worth fighting for". Humanities is a strong division, in Kramer's opinion, one with "pockets of excellence" on par with major universities, though definitely "disadvantaged" without the research dollars that support other divisions.

Kramer acknowledged that budget cuts have left the humanities with a self-esteem problem, which he has addressed through the establishment of a research council comprised of members from various departments. One of its tasks is to reimburse faculty, in particular junior faculty, for travel expenses related to conferences, something he hopes will make it more attractive for up-and-coming young academics to teach here. He has also proposed a guaranteed semester research leave for untenured faculty in their third or fourth year of service, which has met with favorable response from department chairs. In addition, the council is responsible for reporting to departments on grant opportunities in the humanities, an attempt to address the drastic cutbacks to humanities department budgets.

Funding discrepancies between humanities and sciences are keenly felt by graduate students. For example, a TA in the art department typically gets a 1/2 TA line for teaching a six hour course, while a science student may get a full

stipend plus grant money for research. This is a complicated problem, in Kramer's opinion, and one for which graduate students themselves should take some responsibility. The wages of a full TA are set by the University at \$8850, which, with a tuition waiver, makes us competitive with major universities, he explained. Market forces play a major role, however. While graduate directors in the humanities can attract very good students with of fractional TAs, the sciences have to offer more financial incentive to attract top science students, who often get packages that are closer to teacher salaries. While Kramer is not opposed to the possibility of university funds being in some way redirected from those departments who have substantial outside support to those without, he is reluctant to endorse any specific action at this time.

Kramer pointed to the parity issue as a subject for graduate students action, in order to ensure that the amount of work performed is commensurate with the amount of funding awarded. In other words, those with 1/2 TAs should only be responsible for half the workload of fully funded students.

While he agreed that fractional TAs are "not the way to go", and seems sympathetic to the plight of grad students holding down outside jobs to survive, he is not seeking a change in policy on this issue. If the options are full support or no support, he said, many students will be locked out. He maintained that departments should have the option and the autonomy to offer fractional TAs.

On the subject of graduate TAs being forced to teach outside their discipline, Kramer offered a lengthy explanation, and some sympathy. Most of the contro-

versy revolves around the writing program, according to Kramer, which has traditionally depended on interdisciplinary input. Originally it was funded through the office of the Provost, and various humanities departments recommended certain students for TAs with the program. Students valued the experience, Kramer said, and had an opportunity to work with excellent teachers, learning teaching skills that were easily transferable to their own disciplines. When provostial funds dried up in 1987, departments were expected to fund writing program TAs out of their own base allocations, in effect at the expense of their own programs. Writing skills are fundamental to all humanities pursuits, Kramer explained, and all departments benefit from the work of the writing program. He agreed, however, that no student should be forced to work in the program and that the situation in the philosophy department where 14 of 17 lines went to the writing program, according to philosophy graduate student Norah Martin, needs to be fixed. He is also looking into the possibility of expanding support for the writing program by seeking funding from other divisions.

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-The Arts in Review-

Dynamic Installation at Library Gallery

"Visinotional Autopsy: Two-Dimensional Excretions" by Karl Kneis

Library Gallery
31 August to 17 September, 1992

By Jay Grimm

Karl Kneis' installation jars one upon entering the gallery. Everywhere, paintings hang or lean at crazy angles. Scores of large black and white drawings conceal the paintings and each other in a confused random pattern while blank sheets of equal size are strewn about the floor, crumpled from the previous visitor's shoe. Mixed into this disarray are family snapshots, which vie for attention on the walls.

Slowly out of this jumble, a bizarre logic becomes apparent. The photos form a horizon line around the gallery, echoing the horizontal

A second, related goal of this show is to problematize the distinction "art". Kneis argues that art is just one more activity, more of an "excretion", a marker in time than a thing of beauty. Our footprints on paper and the artist's personal snapshots are given equal time as Kneis' artwork. Thus art making loses its prestige, is stripped of its aura.

Yet, it is clear from the artist's style that beauty is an overriding concern after all. The obvious painstaking technical skill with which his paintings are executed betrays Kneis' desire to elevate art, to set it apart as special. Furthermore, the placement of the paintings allows them to dominate. Always, the best or most striking bits of his paintings show through, despite the papers plastered around them. The art really doesn't join the stream of

his effluvia.

Thus, Kneis does not openly resolve the paradox of this show. He leaves the viewer undecided about precision and confusion. Are we really to view everything he does as equal? Is our life only about time? or can we privilege moments of beauty? Kneis refuses to candidly favor order over disorder, but ultimately he favors the former without admitting it. This is dishonest and confusing, a weak aspect of the installation.

I think, however, that Kneis is onto something. To reduce the emphasis on beauty is to risk making a lot of bad pictures. But the moments when his art works, when he achieves a tension, make Kneis' enterprise highly absorbing, quite worthy of the time spent thinking about it.

One of the installation's goals is to examine the relationship between stability and chaos: art's inability to order the world.

bands in the paintings and giving an equilibrium to the room. Furthermore, many photos are grouped as if off a single roll: baby pictures, weddings, famous works from art history. There is also an effort to create a dynamic movement along the wall as the edges of the various media play off one another.

One of the installation's goals is to examine the relationship between stability and chaos: art's inability to order the world. Kneis succeeds in this regard in dramatic fashion. Everywhere in the installation there are instances of this opposition. Several of the drawings contain a delicate play between positive and negative space, hard and soft edges, thin lines and fat shapes. In a remarkable passage of the show, altarcloths hang from the ceiling. The religious objects are virtually covered in a confusion of brushstrokes and stains. Yet despite the thoroughness of the artist's attack, the symbols of the apostles are left untouched, signifying the half-truths and incomplete understandings about life which art and religion offer. Art (and religion), then, share an inability to do anything but reflect the flimsy foundations upon which ideas about life are based.

An Artist's Forum: The Five Senses

Taste: Food at 7pm (courtesy of GSO funding)

See: Artworks from 3 MFA students

Hear: The Portable Electronic Coffeehouse & Discussion on the artworks and musicworks presented

Touch: Whoever you want (with permission)

Smell: Turpentine

For more information, call the South Campus Studios at 2-7273 or Patty at 331-9627

Upcoming MFA Exhibits

At the Library Gallery
See Gallery for Times

Dan Richholt	Sept. 21 - Oct. 2
Hee-Jung Kim	Oct. 5 - Oct. 16
David Allen	Oct 19 - Oct. 30
Gary Wojdyla	Nov. 2 - Nov. 13
Ron Wakkary	Nov. 16 - Dec. 4
Randy Weisbin	Dec. 7 - Dec. 19

Upcoming Music Events

Doctoral Recital

Mi-Jung Kim, Piano

Works By Schubert, Frank, Schumann
with Hyun-Shin Park, Viola, Yeo-Jin Jung,
violin, Yoon-il Auh, violin, Mi-Kyung Lee, cello
Saturday, October 3 8pm
Recital Hall, Staller Center

Portable Electronic Coffeehouse

Saturday October 3, 10 pm

Theater 3, Staller Center

Electronic music by Reynolds, Gibbons,
Lowenstern, Weymouth, & Rai

More! More! More!

News & Views looks forward to printing more reviews that celebrate the arts at Stony Brook.

Theatre, music and literary contributions or criticism are all welcome.

Contact the editor at 632-8962, 632-6492, or stop by the GSO Office,
Room 210 in Central Hall.

Disordering The Disciplines

October Conference Promises Lively, De-disciplined Debate

By Pamela Moore

The fifth annual graduate student conference, "Disordering the Disciplines", will be held in the Humanities building October 30-31. The planning committee hopes for disordered disciplinarity, not only in paper topics but also in audience participation.

So far, ten disciplines are represented: Philosophy, English, Comparative Literature, History, Film Studies, African Languages and Literature, Theater Arts, Sociology, Cultural Studies and Journalism. There will also be a faculty round table at the end of the conference. Faculty members from the humanities and the "hard" sciences will discuss their disorder, or at least the increasing disorder of their disciplinary boundaries.

Sneja Gunew, a feminist scholar presently teaching in Canada and specifically concerned with the intersection of feminism and post-colonialism, will add another de-disciplinary note with her talk, "Feminism and the Politics of Difference". Her book by the same title is currently receiving international attention. Her presentation will be on Friday, October 30th from 1:00 to 2:30pm.

This year's conference will also have the greatest range yet of participants - not only disciplinarily speaking, but also geographically and topically. Sixty-one graduate students from Oregon, Wisconsin, Chicago, Stony Brook and everywhere in between will be presenting their work. Paper topics include: "I'm OK... You're Gay", "On the Indianness of Bingo", "Expatriate Nationalism and Ethnic Radicalism: The Ghadar Party in North America, 1910-1920", and "Ecocriticism: An introduction to Literature and the Environment".

The conference begins on October 30th at 10:00am. At 7:00 that evening there will be a cash bar at the University Club, followed by a sit-down dinner. If you want to attend the dinner, R.S.V.P. Mary Sullivan in the English department as soon as possible. Events on Saturday begin at 9:00am and run until 7:00pm. Traditionally, a party follows.

All students and faculty are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Pam Moore (Comparative Literature), Devoney Looser (English), or Malini Sood (History).

GSO Meetings & Events for October

Wednesday, October 14, 7pm: GSO Senate Meeting. Room 201 Central Hall.

Friday, October 23 (tentative): GSO Party. Sponsored by the GSO and open to all graduate students. To be held at the Music Department! Food! Beer! Fun! A repeat of last year's extravaganza! See next issue for details!

And More Meetings

Continued from page 1

the senate, which can then overrule them if it so desires. While the board of appeals was intended to be a standing committee, none was formed last year and a need for it never arose. Some senators suggested that the nominations for this committee should not be conducted during the summer. There was also some concern that the committee was being formed to hear a specific complaint, and this could influence the nomination and acceptance of members; last year's speaker of the senate, Jean Rousseau, reminded the senate that any particular complaint should not be mentioned at that time, and was irrelevant to the formation of the committee. The senate then voted to postpone forming the committee until the first senate meeting of fall semester (Sept. 23rd).

After confirming the appointment of Emily Zakin to the priorities committee, the senate moved on to consider what position the GSO should take on two issues involving graduate students. The first was the practice of having graduate students teach for credit instead of for pay. The senate decided to oppose this practice, although it is acceptable according to SUNY policy, and all students are required to teach before receiving a PhD. There was some concern that we should be careful about calling attention to these policies, as some departments don't know about the first and some don't know about or waive the second. There was also some concern about students in departments with no stipend money who want to teach in order to be able to get teaching jobs when they graduate.

The second issue raised was the support of

HR4418, a bill in the U.S. congress which would restore tax exempt status to graduate students (see page 4). One senator expressed concern over the ethical nature of exempting stipends from taxes, while other people who are being paid less than the poverty level are not exempt. The senate decided to support the bill, and the executive council will prepare model letters for a letter writing campaign; they will be addressed to local congressmen to be distributed at the first senate meeting in the fall.

The meeting continued with a request from two graduate students for funds to attend the "First National Conference of Graduate Student Employee Unions," held in Madison, Wisconsin over the summer. This was debated at length, because unionization is such a controversial issue at Stony Brook right now. The senate decided that the request would be granted pending confirmation from the chancellor's office that this would not violate the restrictions on the expenditure of activity fees. The request was subsequently withdrawn.

The first GSO senate meeting of this semester was held on Wednesday Sept. 23rd, in Central Hall 201. The Senate agreed to form a standing constitutional committee whose job will be to analyze and evaluate the constitution and electoral issues.

Regular senate meetings are scheduled every three weeks. You need not be a senator to participate, but if your department doesn't have a senator, try to have them choose one. Senator Confirmation Forms are available in the GSO Office, Room 210, Central Hall. Call Office Manager Ida Fuchs for more information.

Join a Committee!

If you're interested in working on a particular campus issue or problem, there's plenty of opportunity in student government. GSO is looking for student representatives to attend meetings of the following committees.

Lounge Committee

Budget Committee

Parking & Transportation Committee

Health Fee Committee

Drug & Alcohol Committee

Traffic Appeals Committee

University Senate has openings on the following committees:

Research Committee

Continuing Education Council

Committee on Administrative Review

Committee on Campus Environment

Committee on Resource Allocation & Budget

Committee on Library

Committee on Computing & Communications

Committee on Student Life

Committee on University Personnel Policy

Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Committee on Education and Teaching Policy

Committee on the Judiciary

Committee on University Affairs

Committee on Nominations

Committee on Long Range Planning

Committee on Library Personnel Policy

Priorities Committee

Stony Brook Safety Council

Student Union and Activities Committee

Graduate Council

University Ad Hoc Parking

Committee for Parking

Room Rate Review Committee

Apartment Rate Review Committee

Contact the GSO at 632-6492 if you're interested in being on a committee in either the GSO or University Senate.