

# News & Views

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## Paying More For Less: FSA Still Negotiating On Rates

By Sally Kuzma

The proposed 85 percent increase in health insurance fees for grads and undergrads is still under negotiation, and may not be as high as expected, according to Faculty Student Association Director Kevin Kelly. FSA negotiates the student health insurance contract with John Hancock, the current carrier.

Projected figures cited by various student organizations have been as

high as \$783, up from \$424. According to Kelly, this figure has come down to about \$680 in the current round of talks. FSA board members would like to get it down in the \$500 range, but Kelly is doubtful that it will drop below \$600.

FSA has been trying to find ways to keep insurance affordable, including dropping some aspects of coverage, and possibly putting it on financial aid deferral to knock \$40 off the rate. But

issue is complicated by the fact that as more students drop the plan for something else -- or nothing at all-- the price for those left goes higher.

Kelly urged Graduate Student Employee Union negotiators to work toward a voucher system for TA/GA health insurance so that they could remain within the Stony Brook negotiated plan.

## May 12 Speak-Out on Bosnia

By Shuva Paul, Sociology Department

If you have been feeling lately that our campus has been much too quiet on the atrocities that have been steadily stamping out lives and hopes in Bosnia and in the world, then please mark your calendar for **Wednesday, May 12 12:45-3:00 on the campus plaza** (between the main library and the administration building).

There **Students Organizing for SYSTEMS - The Systematic Treatment and Empowerment of Rape Survivors** will be holding a public speak-out on the matter of the mass rape of tens of thousands of women and girls trapped in the wars engulfing the former Yugoslavia.

Featured at the event will be Alma Musanovic, a Bosnian woman who has lived through the conflict and is now actively speaking out on the issue. Students Organizing for SYSTEMS will present testimonies from survivors and information received from key agencies and groups involved in the conflict. Other guest speakers will include Prof. Adrienne Munich (Director, Women's Studies), Prof. Nilufer Isvan (Sociology), and Prof. Judith Wishnia (SSI).

While the particular plight of the raped will be the dominant focus of the speak-out, there will also be information presented on other important aspects of the war. As the organizing group of this speak-out, however, SOS aims to convey the message that the conflict in Bosnia (and military conflicts elsewhere) compels us to ask questions beyond those that tend to be addressed in the general public debate over military intervention, air strikes, and sanctions. In other words, if you've already made up your mind about Bosnia, then you ought to attend this speak-out, for the information presented here has so far not been properly addressed in the general press.

An important note: the speak-out will be more than simply a forum for expressing outrage. There is a concrete response to the war that Students Organizing for SYSTEMS has been working to rally public support around: they are calling for the **establishment of a U.N. rape crisis mission to address the short-term and long-term needs of the rape survivors.**

As reported in the March 23 issue of *News & Views*, the U.N. has thus far failed to attend to rape treatment needs adequately in Bosnia, leaving small local

### viewpoint

## GSEU: Building A Movement

By George Bidermann

What will probably be the largest rally at Stony Brook for the 1992-93 academic year will take place Wednesday, from 12:45 to 2 PM in the Fine Arts Plaza, but just how large that rally is depends directly on you.

This has been a quiet year for activism at Stony Brook. The election of Bill and Hillary has produced a collective sigh of relief and a retreat into self-absorbed lives, which indicates that many people are giving the new administration breathing space to negotiate its way through the old-white-boy network in Washington's corridors of power. At the same time, reluctant Clinton supporters and even those who dislike him are keeping low profiles, knowing that whatever he is not, Clinton is no Bush or Reagan. We risk being lulled into complacency as abortion rights are restored, sanctioned discrimination against lesbians and homosexuals begins to be rectified, and military force is threatened to stop the

horrific program of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia.

But here on the local level, a substantial number of graduate students have been quietly building an organization to not only represent their concerns at conference and negotiating tables, but also to lead the way in protest, action, and advocacy when their interests are threatened by an employer (SUNY) still stinging from a resounding defeat in the courts and in last fall's GSEU certification election. By a vote of 1,936 to 338 (over 85% favorable), graduate and teaching assistants (GAs and TAs) voted to unionize, and voted for the Graduate Student Employees Union to represent them. After eight years in the courts, numerous demonstrations, and millions of dollars in SUNY resources were squandered to fight the tide, SUNY was proven wrong -- not only by the highest courts of New York State, which ruled that grad employees *were* employees entitled to union representation, but by the nearly 2,400 grad

employees who exercised the democratic right that SUNY fought so long and hard to deny them.

The backlash has already begun. The GSEU has been told that it will not be granted office space on campus (as all other SUNY employee unions are), it may not use university telephones and electronic mail, and that it must follow guidelines developed by SUNY administrators for the use of bulletin boards (which everyone else has access to) and empty classrooms. Mandatory international student health insurance is slated to increase \$150, to \$681 this September, and the plan for U.S. students is scheduled to go up from \$424 to \$771. So much for health care as a right, not a privilege!

But most egregious of all is the wave of rumors circulating through SUNY regarding TA lines for next year. Graduate programs at several SUNY campuses are withholding commitments of full TA lines to their graduate employees and blaming it on the union. Recently, TAs in SUNY Binghamton's History Department were only granted half lines for this reason, and it took a GSEU threat to file

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# VOTE

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## Norah Martin, GSO President '92-'93: Reflections on a Year of Campus Politics

*News & Views interviewed Norah Martin, philosophy Ph.D. student, who is the outgoing President of the Graduate Student Organization.*

**N&V:** Any advice to incoming execs?

**NM:** Don't take it too seriously and don't get on too many administrative committees because it's just really frustrating. You lose touch with what you were trying to do in the first place if you spend too much time talking to administrators and getting caught up in too many different things.

**N&V:** What was the most effective committee the GSO worked on this year?

**NM:** I think Vice-President Emily Zakin's representation of us on the Priorities Committee has been very useful. The Priorities Committee recommends to President Marburger how the budget should be made and that's what they spent a lot of the spring doing. Before Marburger came up with his Phase I budget allocations, the Priorities Committee spent a lot of time going over a whole lot of information, interviewing a lot of people, deciding how they thought the budget ought to be allocated. The President then took their recommendations--most of their recommendations, he changed a few things. The Priorities Committee is very influential in that way, and when Phase II allocations come out, again, they'll be recommending to the President how Phase II allocations should be made.

Emily was the graduate student representative on that committee this

past year. Next year, Tim Morton, if elected will decide who's going to be on it.

**N&V:** How did you balance doing all this government and committee work with your own thesis research?

**NM:** No social life! And I got less of my research done than I wanted to. I would have liked to have had more time to do my own work, but I was able to get *some* done.

**N&V:** Why is it important for grad students to vote in this election?

**NM:** It's really important to vote for the mandatory activity fee. Because without it there is no GSO: there's no RAP funds, no money for cultural events, no grad student representation on committees, there's no graduate student voice on campus, so it's very important that the activity fee remain mandatory. Of course in the one contested election it's really important to vote for somebody because there you really have a choice. And we'd like to see NYPIRG continue to be funded and revisions to the constitution approved.

**N&V:** Do you see an altered role for GSO in the future with Union coming to power?

**NM:** In the past the GSO has had to do everything, from job-related issues to academic-related issues, and now the GSO can focus on academic things and representation on campus committees, and all the job stuff can be the union's problem. I think it will make the GSO more effective in what it does, because it won't have to do everything any more.

**N&V:** Who are the people to watch in the coming year in the administration?

**NM:** There are very few administrators *left* to watch in the coming year. The provost is gone, the vice provost of graduate studies Helen Cooper will step down at the same time, as will the vice provost of research, David Glass.

**N&V:** Should we expect these people to be replaced over the summer?

**NM:** That's one of the things we still have to find out. There is a committee being formed right now to appoint a deputy provost who will serve as an acting provost until a national search is done for a new one. Whoever that deputy provost is definitely someone to be watched.

**N&V:** Is that likely to be former provost Jerry Schobel?

**NM:** I think that's very unlikely. The fact that he stopped being provost is probably a good sign that he will not be asked to be provost again.

**N&V:** Is there anyone you would expect to be appointed?

**NM:** I really have no idea who would be put in that position. The people are on that committee are ones to watch. We should also watch Marburger, who previously had been shielded by all these other administrators. Now we'll really get to see him in action.

I'm hoping we'll find out what's going to happen to the graduate school in the future. There was supposed to be a new vice-president for research and graduate studies. The two top candidates for that position

have already withdrawn their names from consideration because of the various upheavals in our administration, and it's quite likely that no appointment will be made, although the search committee has recommended that one of the inside candidates be appointed.

**N&V:** One of the things that moved you to run for office last year was the damage done to the philosophy department and other departments in the humanities by continued budget cuts. Have you seen any significant gains for humanities grad students during your tenure as GSO president?

**NM:** No, I haven't seen any gains for the humanities. In this bad budget picture, there's just not much that can be done for departments that are heavily dependent on state funds. Certainly Emily has been a strong voice on the Priorities Committee, urging them not to forget those departments that don't bring in outside funding; I tried to do the same on the University Senate Executive Committee. And I think all of our executives have had it in mind in whatever they're doing, for example on the senate research committee, to keep non-funded research going. We tried, but in this budget situation, the departments that don't bring in money are going to suffer more.

Nothing will change until we get more state funding. Or until there's a radical rethinking of the way indirect cost money is allocated on campus, and I don't foresee that happening.

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## Bill Threatens to Make SUNY Less Accountable Via 'Privatization'

To the editor:

SUNY Central Administration is seeking passage of a bill giving greater "management flexibility for SUNY," arguing that it will help SUNY better manage budget cuts while maintaining educational quality. However this is a devastating bill, it makes SUNY resemble a private school.

We oppose this bill (Bill #46, Article VII of the Executive Budget) because there is a reduction of Accountability over the Chancellor and SUNY Central. Under the legislation, the NYS Division of Budget would get the most control over SUNY. They will oversee and approve the majority of the activities within SUNY. It will no longer be the state legislature. This gives the Chancellor tremendous, almost too much control over all functions of the University. The reason why we as students have been able to win so

many victories for students is because even when the SUNY Board of Trustees makes a decision against the best interests of the students, students can take our plight to those who are accountable... State legislators, who ultimately oversee the university. Under this proposal, students would lose a tremendous amount of power to affect university decisions.

This bill takes SUNY out of the public arena and gives the SUNY Chancellor and Trustees tremendous autonomy from the state. We cannot sell out the future for what we can get now. SUNY *must* remain a *public institution!* SASU hopes you will work with us to defeat this legislation.

Glenn D. Magpantay  
SASU President

*SASU is an independent student-run organization lobbying for SUNY students.*

More News is Good News:

### Senate Allocates Journalism Funds

I know the problem. You've been *wanting* to write an article for the *News & Views* all semester, but you just can't squeeze it in.

Take note: next semester you may be able to get paid to write that article. *News & Views* will have a special fund for investigative journalism to pay up to \$250 for in-depth reporting on issues of interest to the graduate student community.

Possible subjects include the racial or gender politics of graduate school, Stony Brook's environmental track record, the history of labor unions in academia. Articles on global and national issues are also welcome. Contact us in the fall for more information.

## viewpoints

### GSEU Rallies Its Forces--

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an Unfair Labor Practice charge before the administration reversed itself and granted full lines to the 20 TAs there. The TAs at SUNY New Paltz and Albany are hearing similar rumors. And the Research Foundation, that "private corporation" that SUNY hides behind in order to deny research assistants a vote on union representation, says it will not discuss granting health benefits to RAs until after GSEU contract negotiations are completed — as if they were going to grant health benefits *before* there was a union drive!!!

The road to a contract for grad employees is not going to be easy. GSEU negotiators have found their counterparts in SUNY and the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) cannot consider *anything* without exact contract language proposed by the GSEU. So far "negotiations" appears to mean that the GSEU proposes what it wants and SUNY says it will get back to us. This has forced our negotiators to begin drafting huge sections of the contract unilaterally, in order to give SUNY something to "consider." Apparently, the GSEU's 52-point contract proposal wasn't enough for SUNY to begin negotiating with.

This is not to claim total disaster. A contract *will* be negotiated, and it

will include the concerns of so many GSEU members — health benefits, wage increases, grievance procedures, sick pay, access to child care, guaranteed years of funding. But nothing happens without a determined, united effort behind it. That is why we must write letters demanding health care. That is why we must keep our eyes on what SUNY threatens to do with TA and GA lines. And that is why Wednesday's GSEU rally is so important.

Graduate students, undergraduates, faculty and staff — you all risk something by sitting back and letting the GSEU fight its battles alone. Dozens of GSEU members have worked hard this semester to bring the union home. Many research assistants (at last count over 110 at Stony Brook) have signed pledge cards in order to petition for union representation. And slowly, we are building a wider, deeper union — one that cares about its international students, women, and families — but we cannot go it alone. Wednesday's rally at the Fine Arts Plaza will show SUNY that all of Stony Brook benefits from a graduate employees union. We ask that you stand with us as we continue to build our union.

*Ed. note: the author is a former Stony Brook graduate student and presently an organizer for the Graduate Student Employees Union*

### NYPIRG Co-sponsors Forum on Lead Poisoning Prevention

Lead poisoning is not just an urban problem. Old lead paint can be lurking on walls even in the "safe" environment of suburbs like Stony Brook and Port Jeff, sometimes covered over by coats of latex, but present nevertheless in chips that break off around windows and moulding.

NYPIRG co-sponsored a Lead Poisoning Forum April that called for prevention and abatement reforms, and highlighted the dangers to Long Island children. "In 1992, 15 percent of all children tested in Nassau County showed some form of lead poisoning. Of those, 20 percent required some kind of medical

intervention," according to Dr. Abby Greenberg of the Nassau County Lead Program.

Grad students with children should be particularly aware of the hazards, especially those living in some of the older housing in the area. The effects of lead poisoning include neurological damage; detoxification is not simple. But although the effects are devastating, said Jeremy Potter, Stony Brook's NYPIRG Program Coordinator, "fortunately it is one of the most preventable of health problems facing us." Call the Coalition for a Lead Free New York for more information, (212) 349-6460.

### The Last GSO Senate Meeting:

May 12th, 7pm  
Room 201 Central Hall  
Pizza will be served

- Departmental Allocations
- Lounge Update
- Election Update

### Bosnia Speak-Out--

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groups and clinics struggling without the proper support, funds, and coordination that the U.N. provides for other forms of refugee assistance. Consequently, refugee centers are filled with rape survivors who languish unattended except in the most "visibly disturbed" cases. It is this issue that SOS has focused on and that informs their petition to President Clinton calling upon him to support the creation of the U.N. rape crisis mission.

Did you know that several babies have been reported born to women who had "coerced relations" with soldiers

from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)? More about this at the speak-out. Please come, sign the petition (we're at 500-plus and counting), and get involved.

For more information, call the author at 632-7729 or read the campaign's public file at the main office of the Women's Studies Center (Old Chemistry Bldg.). This effort will continue throughout the summer and into the new year; don't let your semester-end schedule keep you from joining this campaign. We welcome the talents and insights of all.

### From Bosnia: One Rape Survivor Recounts Her Ordeal

Reprinted from *Ms. magazine*, Jan/Feb 1993

**Azra, age 15:** The evacuation of my town, Kozarac, started on July 27. In cars and trucks, we headed toward the forest. We reached Debeli Brijeg as shells fell around us. We went deeper and deeper into the forest. We spent the night in Vidovici, a Serbian village. The villagers received us kindly, providing food and lodging. They said: "We are all in this together."

The *chetniks*, [Serbian fighters], bearded and wearing their typical insignia, arrived in the morning. They threatened us with death if we continued into the forest. The villagers were silent. They went on with their daily chores, as if nothing had happened. We started retreating toward Kozarac.

At Brdani, near the mosque, they ordered us to surrender our weapons. They fired shots over our heads, and threatened to slaughter us. A detachment of the old Yugoslav army, accompanied by some *chetniks*, led us through the marketplace. They pulled several well-respected people out of the column; I haven't seen them since. Kozarac was destroyed. They led us to Susici; there were corpses on the road, covered with flies. . . .

Then they separated the men from the women and children. There are no words to describe it. They took my father away. He cried as we were saying goodbye; I had never seen him cry before. Some of the men stayed with us; the rest were taken to prison camps at Omarska and Keraterm. My father was in that group; I believe he is now dead. The rest of my family was my mother, my sister, 10, and my mentally retarded brother, 18. They transported us to a prison camp at Trnopolje.

On the third day after our arrival there, it was my turn to go with a group of women to fetch some water from the well outside the camp. The Serb soldiers allowed the older women to return, but they retained us six young girls. They found four more. They took us to someone's house. There was a large yard. Presently about 30 *chetniks* arrived. "Such fine cunts you are,"

they mocked us. "Too bad you're Turkish!" They ordered us to take off our clothes. Three of the girls refused; they ripped their clothes with knives.

We stood there, naked. They ordered us to walk in a circle. We did for approximately 15 minutes, while they drank. Then it started. They all approached one girl and started on her. This took place on a rock in the yard. The other girls watched, cried, begged.

I was third in line. They approached me, and I started begging them not to touch me. . . . The man who stood to my left hit me on the back twice with the butt of his rifle, and then two men started beating me. I fell. Then the *worst* started. I was raped by one of them. I fought. He hit me on the mouth. I fainted. When I came to, I was raped again. While I was still conscious I was raped by eight of them, and I don't know what happened afterward. Since I was a virgin, I bled terribly.

One of them lay on me, pressing the barrel of his automatic weapon against my temple, looking into my eyes for a long time. Another man was running the blade of a knife over my breasts. He left deep scratches.

A young fellow who was a camp guard approached us; we had gone to the same school in Prijedor. He grabbed the older man's shoulder and told him to shove off. Then he helped me to get up, naked as I was. I put on my clothes. The maniacs looked at us but didn't stop us. We went back to the camp.

The other girls who were taken from the camp to that house never returned. I don't know if they are alive.

[Note: Azra made it to a refugee camp in Croatia. Students Organizing for SYSTEMS is working to follow up her case and others; we are gathering detailed information on how to get the United Nations to implement, fund, and coordinate systematic rape treatment and support services for her and thousands of others like her. (See the adjoining article; call 632-7729 to get involved.)]

# GSO election report

## In Their Own Words:

### Two Candidates for Vice President Speak Out

**Wilbur Farley**  
 Department of English  
 Candidate for Vice President

**N&V:** You're running for vice-president of the GSO executive council in the only contested race in this election. What moved you to run for this office?

**WF:** Quite honestly, I really don't know! I feel it's important the position should be filled and at the time I filled out my petition forms, there was no one else running for this office. I've been a part of the GSO for two years now. I think I could do more and I'd like to do more. That's why I'm running for the office. I figure if there's a need I can do the job. I've gotten familiar with the ways things *don't* work at Stony Brook. So, why not run?

**N&V:** What committees have you been on and what issues have you worked on with the GSO?

**WF:** Last spring I was on a committee that rewrote the by-laws for elections. Next year, I think there needs to be a more vocal presence from my department-- and the humanities in general-- on these administrative committees and in the GSO.

**N&V:** Where do you feel grad student input is most important?

**WF:** Right now, I would think one of the most effective places would be in the University Senate. For some reason, I don't know... Norah and Emily (the current president and vice president) are both in the humanities, so you would think that there would be more vocalization of the specific problems in the humanities, but the issues always somehow seem to get glossed over for problems in the hard sciences. I think it's a major problem. I don't know how to correct that problem, other than that the fact that I would be a more vocal member of that division which is being hardest hit right now.

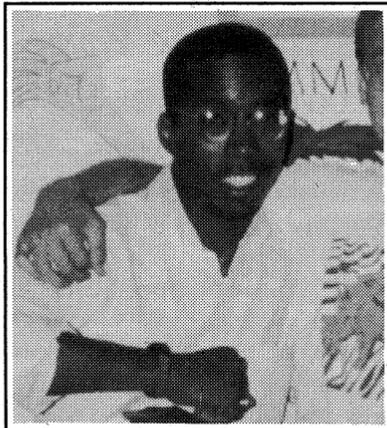
**N&V:** You are the only candidate for any of the exec offices who is from the humanities.

**WF:** That's important. There needs to be representation on the executive council for the humanities.

**N&V:** And you're at Stony Brook for a Ph.D., so you'll be here for a while.

**WF:** At least two more years.

**N&V:** Did you do your master's here? And if not, how would you compare grad student life and government at Stony Brook to that of other grad programs you've known?



**WF:** I did my master's at Boston College. I was involved in the Graduate Student Association there. It was very much more informal than it is here. That was the first change that I had to adapt to. As far as being a representative for my department at Boston College, I just went around and asked "Hey, guys, is anyone representing us at GSA? Does anybody *want* to do it?" No one did, so I took the job. Here the election process within the department is much different. The

way the senate actually works-- or *doesn't* work-- is different. It's been a lot better this year than it was my first semester on the senate. We generally had meetings that did not end before 10 o'clock. This year they're short and to the point, and I actually think we've gotten some things done. Making sure people

are getting all the support that's available, trying to increase the amount of support that will be available (RAP funds, etc.).

As far as graduate student life goes, or campus life, it's pretty much non-existent here. At Boston College, GSA had something every Friday from 4 to 7pm called Attitude Adjustment Hour; it was just a three-hour period when graduate students dropped that veneer of having to be tight-asses, and just got together and hung-out and did whatever. There was a place called 'The Rat' (Rathskeller)... a sort of lunch-room, like Harriman cafe... where every Friday afternoon for about three hours there was beer and food and we just got together and had a good time. It really brought the graduate community at Boston College together. There were a few problems... the administration tried to get rid of us, even though we had never made any trouble, but the GSA was able to take care of it and with very minor adjustments it was still there when I left Boston College. That's what I came to believe graduate student life should be like: you work your butt off all week, then you just kick back for a couple hours on a Friday.

The administration should do more to promote that. We are professionals, but there has to be some kind of down time. Right now, everything is so high-pressured here I'm amazed there aren't more people just walking around in a daze all the time, walking into walls.

**N&V:** Do you think the proposed lounge will address this need?

**WF:** I think the lounge has a definite possibility of addressing it. I've

*continued on page 5*

**Robert Cho**  
 Department of Marine Sciences  
 Candidate for Vice President

**N&V:** You're running in the only contested race in this election. What do you see as your strengths as a candidate?

**RC:** My strong points are that I've been a Senator for almost two years now, so I've had some experience with the GSO. But, even before I came to school here I had experience working with organizations of this type.

**N&V:** What committees have you been on and what issues have you worked on with the GSO?

**RC:** I've been on the executive council of the GSO as Speaker of the Senate, and I was also on the Constitution Committee. I was appointed to a University Senate Committee that never

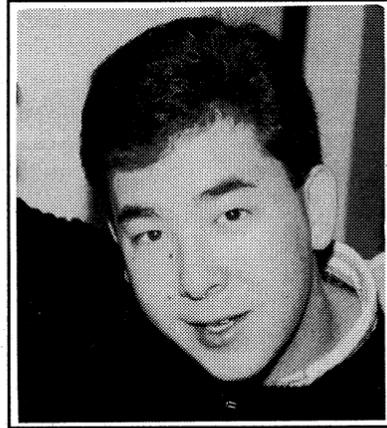
met. I've attended a couple of University Senate meetings, so I've seen how that works. I've gone to meetings of the Graduate Council with Marburger and Helen Cooper and so I've interacted with the administration on that level as well.

**N&V:** You're doing a master's degree here...

**RC:** I'm working on my master's in Marine and Environmental Science at the Marine Sciences Research Center. As a master's student there I've also been involved in departmental politics. That's what got me interested in working on a broader level with the GSO.

**N&V:** Our President and Vice President this past year have been actively fighting for grad student rights within the administration, being a thorn in their side, at times. What do you see as the major things we'll have to fight for next year as grad students?

**RC:** I think one of the hurdles to overcome is just getting the administration to listen to us. Before they even listen to specific issues, we need to make sure they take us seriously and to recognize that we do have a voice and concerns. It's been my impression, even though I've only been at the university for two years, with the history of all that's gone on with the Union and everything else, that the administration has taken a stand of not really listening to graduate student views or opinions. They've helped create the quagmire we're in right now, with poor health insurance, lost TA lines, with departments being tacitly phased out, etc. And that's why I think one of the things we need to work on is to show the administration



that our opinions are important, that our concerns are valid.

One of the things we need to do before we present our views is to build up our position by getting a wider representation of grad students in the GSO. In my experience with the GSO, it's been a pretty small group of people who are actually involved. In senate meetings we often have to fight to get quorum and its just a small minority of those people who represent us on University Senate committees. I don't think

we have the kind of representative body we could have. I'd like to see each department have senators at the meetings, not just have them on paper so they can get their departmental allocations. To have them represent their departmental views and to go back to their departments and communicate

what the GSO has been doing. That communication process really needs to be built up.

This year's exec has done an excellent job expressing grad student views. But if we're going to consider ourselves a democratic, representative organization we need to focus a little more energy internally to get grad students to stand up for what they believe in and speak up for their concerns. One of the reasons we have inequity among departments, with the university paying more attention to the science departments, is that they happen to be the largest departments. I think by default, among the people who are involved, more happen to be from the sciences. I think Norah and Emily this year have done an excellent job in expressing humanities views. I'd like to see that expanded beyond departmental barriers to get all graduate students views expressed and get them to realize that they do have a voice.

Once we get that we'll be able to show the administration that here is a group of people who are citizens of the university who do have opinions and views and voices, and that its not just a small group of 8 senators and four exec members. I'd like to see the GSO senate grow, so that its not just the same twelve members who do all the work. I don't think that gets our message across most effectively.

**N&V:** Would you use any different tactics than the previous execs?

**RC:** Before this year, I think the execs tended to take many responsibilities on their own shoulders. I think one thing this years execs did wisely is they tried to delegate responsibility by appointing senators to serve on vari-

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# GSO election report

## In Their Own Words:

### Treasurer Morton Runs Unchallenged for President

**N&V:** How long have you been at Stony Brook?

**TM:** I've been here since the fall of 1990; this is my third year here and my third year as a GSO rep. I was Ecology and Evolution Senator for two years, and then I became treasurer this year.

**N&V:** What moved you to get involved with campus politics?

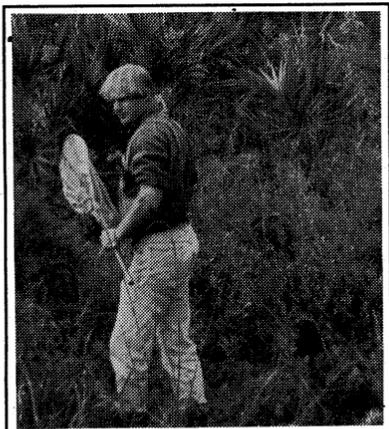
**TM:** I'd never been involved in campus politics before. When I got here, it was something different. I think mainly I did it just to meet people and do things. I get tired of seeing scientists all the time; it's nice to get out and talk to somebody with a very different point of view.

There were also some interesting things going on politics-wise with my department. Stony Brook in general tends to gear everything toward human biology, with the medical center right here. All the other floors in my building-- microbiology and biochemistry-- tend to be more human-oriented than ecological or environmental, like my department. We generally have less funding than other departments in the building. So things are very different for us than for most of the other science departments. Marine Sciences is fairly similar to us in that regard. Maybe that's why we're both well-represented in graduate student government.

I know for instance the rest of the

students in my building tend to make about \$14,500 a year (I guess that includes the health insurance allowance they get). For the 6th floor in Ecology & Evolution, we don't get any of those extra benefits, we're generally struggling. We don't make nearly as much money as any other scientists. It's kind of frustrating at times.

There have been many instances where Provost Edelstein would send through a document saying Ecology & Evolution won't have any more faculty members this year, we're not going to hire any more, we're going to decrease the number of grad students... The general implication has been that they're going to phase out Ecology and Evolution, it's just an extra cog in the wheel, it's not really needed. It's very strange that they would



even think these things because Ecology & Evolution tends to teach most of the biology courses. We have lots of TAs, we're heavily involved in teaching, especially basic biology which all the pre-meds take (it's a huge lecture course). Two thirds of the TAs for that class come from Ecology & Evolution. We generally teach four full years of undergrad classwork. In the other sciences it's generally a minimal one year require-

ment, and then they're on RA money for the rest.

Still, amazingly, it's been mentioned several times in campus politics about phasing out Ecology & Evolution. Our chairman knows about it. We often have Friday beer discussions about it in the department.

**N&V:** Do you think you've been able to head off this phasing out through your work in the GSO?

**TM:** I feel better keeping an eye on it, at least. Our department chairs have been on top of it also. I'm not sure why our department was singled out so much. It may have been something between Edelstein and our department chair in the past. I don't think they'll actually phase us out now, though there are things they could do to make it very uncomfortable for our department. I know at another school, Ecology & Evolution was merged with Health Sciences and within five years the department had been disbanded and disappeared. We're worried that something like that might happen; there's been talk of merging all the life sciences here.

I'm not sure I have much power against that, but I like to be aware of these things and point out wherever I can the uses our department serves on this campus. It's nice to be involved because you can say to people making

the decisions, "Hey, wait a minute, you're forgetting that we do this, and we do that..." To get your two cents in.

**N&V:** You're the only person running for president so it's likely you'll be in the driver's seat in the fall. Do you envision a different strategy from the way the current GSO exec council has been running things?

**TM:** I think Norah has run a very tight ship and there isn't much I could do to improve on that. I think we are going in some different directions now, and that has to be considered. When I first came here, we were much more involved off campus in politics in Albany, the execs did a lot of traveling and a lot of lobbying outside of the university. This year we've been pretty much tied to the campus. The GSEU is taking care of the bigger-picture things.

The Senate part of GSO is very important and I want to make sure that doesn't get de-emphasized. We have membership in Faculty Senate Committees: I want to make sure all those positions are filled and that we have a good dialogue with the Faculty Senate. GSO has to keep in mind that we have separate functions to balance. As we get into high profile cultural and social activities like the lounge, I want to make sure the political side-- administrative representation-- is not forgotten.

## VOTE!

### Where, When, Why and How To Do It:

#### Polling places:

The last time to vote at one of the "official" polling places is Tuesday May 4 from 6:30 to 9:30pm. These polling places are Harriman Hall lobby, SBS lobby, Humanities hall near cafeteria, and Main Library lobby.

#### After Tuesday May 4th, you can still vote:

Ballots went out to grad student mail boxes. Just fill it out and mail or deliver to the Graduate Student Organization, Room 206, Central Hall, 11794-3450. The GSO Office will be open Tues.-Thurs. May 11-13 from 10am to 4pm.

**If you didn't get a ballot:** you can get one at the GSO Office.

#### Why vote if there's only one candidate running for most offices?

There are two excellent candidates for vice president. And, you can write-in candidates for offices where only one person is running. Plus, important referenda are on the ballot. Every other year students are asked to confirm their support for mandatory activity fees that fund the GSO, which in turn funds graduate student academic and cultural activities. If these fees are defeated, graduate students lose their organized voice on campus.

#### NYPIRG funding is also up for confirmation.

Don't risk losing this vital asset to our campus. NYPIRG fights for student issues, plus environmental and social justice issues on campus and in New York State.

#### It's free; it's easy. It only takes a few minutes.

And an exec who won with 2,000 votes may have more clout than one with 200 votes. Let the administration know these are *your* representatives.

## Farley-

*continued from page 4*

been to the three or four parties that the GSO has had at the End of the Bridge this past semester, and I think the biggest problem is how do you get the word to the graduate community in an effective manner. It's *extremely* important that we somehow come together socially, because if we don't come together socially, there's no way we're going to get anything done as far as our careers go, as far as making sure the administration takes our needs and our demands as graduate students, as people training to be professionals, seriously.

The lounge has possibilities of unifying us on the social side but, the main problem I see with it is its location: it's over on the other side of the campus. I was on leave the semester that was worked out. I'm hoping it works, I'm going to do my best to make it work, but I think location can be a big problem.

But there's no place else to put it. It's going to take word of mouth and massive PR to get it going.

## Cho-

*continued from page 4*

ous university committees. I would follow up on this effort to get more grad students involved.

As Vice President, I would like to form a committee and find ways to get more involvement, either by visiting different departments and meeting with students one on one, or by writing letters. That would be my tactical change. That energy can get the administration to listen to us.

I agree that in the past humanities were ignored. Even though I'm not from the humanities, I'm aware of the different issues. Tim Morton (candidate for president) is from the sciences, and so is Chris Kushmerick (candidate for treasurer) and Kathryn Kent (candidate for secretary), so I would like to make a conscious effort to prevent any backsliding in representation of the humanities, because a lot of has been done this year in that area.

To sum it up, I'd like to see communication between the senate and executive council, and the people we are supposed to represent. What we need to do is improve the inside in order to expand on the outside.

*union update*

# Health Insurance: The Foreign Students Perspective

By Jean Rousseau, GSEU Treasurer  
and graduate student in Chemistry

GSEU members and sympathizers will hold a rally on Wednesday, May 5 at 12:45 by the Fine Arts Plaza. Under the theme "A Good Contract, for Good Health Care," the rally will allow graduate student employees to express their need for decent health care. For many graduate students, health care is an unaffordable privilege. Even though they may be asked by SUNY if they have health insurance coverage, it is only mandatory for International Students.

GSEU contract negotiations will address health care issues for graduate employees. Nevertheless, if one considers the snail pace adopted by SUNY, graduate students will still have to pay for their health insurance in the fall. With either marginal or nonexistent pay increases over the last two years, graduate student employees are facing hefty increases for the health insurance plans administered by SUNY. International students' mandatory health plan is planned to increase from \$528 to a projected \$681. For American students, the plan of-

ferred by FSA is supposed to raise from \$424 to \$783. Such increases are justified by the providers on the basis of unforeseen claims. These increases must be compounded with the mandatory \$100 health fee for the infirmary that all students must pay.

The amount paid for health insurance is even larger if students have to cover their spouses and children. For international students, bills can be as high as \$2400. To top it off, international Students must pay their whole bill by October 15, thanks to SUNY's agreement with the provider.

Does SUNY try to do anything to improve this situation? The answer is no. Graduate students must take it upon themselves to make their situations known. International students have formed a caucus within the GSEU and are taking action in their departments (meetings, petitions, phone calls to administrators). One thing that emerges from these actions is that faculty, chairs and administrators have demonstrated a sheer ignorance of graduate students' financial hardships. For many administrators, the convenient excuse of

negotiations between GSEU and SUNY, and their neutrality, reinforces their usual lack of commitment toward graduate student issues. To some extent, there will always be negotiations between GSEU and SUNY. It is true that negotiations will affect TAs and GAs, but decisions could be taken to help all graduate students now, including RAs.

Departments like Biochemistry and Cell Biology are offering an amount of \$500 to all their graduate students to pay for health insurance this fall. For many departments, this solution is an unaffordable dream. Still, faculty and chairs could call the Provost, the director of the Graduate School, SUNY's assistant vice-chancellor for Student Affairs, Marie Delaquette, and let them know that graduate students cannot afford current health insurance plans. The possibility of paying the health plan in monthly or quarterly installments would make life so much easier for many International Students. Departments could offer loans to their students, or the Stony Brook administration could come out with a plan to defer lump-sum payments.

Installment plans are an initiative that graduate students must promote. The rally on Wednesday is another opportunity to show that graduate students are worried about their health care plan, and that they want health insurance as a benefit of employment. Show that you care, show up on Wednesday!

## Summer at Sunwood

Beach Membership  
at the University's  
Sunwood Estate!

Grad Students: Only \$10

Good from Memorial Day  
through Labor Day

Call the President's Office  
for More Information

What's a  
Departmental  
Allocation?  
It's \$\$\$ Available  
to the Grad  
Students in Your  
Department.

All Grad Departments  
participating in the GSO  
Senate are entitled to this  
money to be used at their  
discretion. Use it; don't lose  
it. Funds for '92/93 are still  
available, but must be ap-  
plied for by June 30th!

## GRADUATE STUDENTS NYPIRG GETS RESULTS:

- *Preserving The Environment*
- *Protecting Consumers*
- *Registering Students to Vote*
- *Fighting for Higher Education*

# VOTE YES

for

# NYPIRG

## AND KEEP NYPIRG AT STONY BROOK

Since 1983, Stony Brook Graduate Students have shown overwhelming support for NYPIRG and currently fund NYPIRG at \$2.50 per student per semester as part of the student activity fee. In order to keep NYPIRG active on environmental, consumer and social justice issues at SUNY Stony Brook, vote YES for NYPIRG.

**New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc.**

## Spring Chamber Music Series Begins

The Music Department is pleased to present four concerts in the Graduate Student Spring Chamber Music series beginning Tuesday, May 4th. Enjoy outstanding performances by Music department students featuring chamber music from the baroque to the contemporary.

Concerts are Tuesday May 4th, Thursday May 6th, Tuesday May 11th, and Thursday May 13th. All concerts begin at 8pm and will be held in Studio A, in the ECC Building next to the Javits Center.

## Union Craft Center Announces Summer Course Offerings

Excellent low-cost summer courses in Photography, Pottery, Weaving, Clay Sculpture, Drawing, Watercolor and children's classes in Mixed Media and Clay will begin in July. Leisure classes in Scuba Diving, Kayaking (beginning in June), Bartending, Self-Defence and T'ai-chi-chu'an are also offered through the Craft Center. Pre-registration is necessary, so call today for a brochure and more information: 632-6822 or 632-6828.

The Craft Center also offers membership to people who'd like to work on their own in the Center's excellent ceramics, weaving or photography facilities. Like all Craft Center activities, membership is open to people of all ages, from the University as well as the surrounding community. Most courses meet in the evenings and free parking is available.

The Union Craft Center is operated as a program of the Department of Student Activities.

## The arts

# Positively Powerful Art

Maureen Palmieri: MFA Thesis Exhibition, Spring 1993

*Hill Planting at Forest Drive*

South Campus, SUNY at Stony Brook

Reviewed by Grace Consoli, MA Art History

*From an April 22 interview with Maureen Palmieri. Palmieri's words are in italics.*

In the mid-1960's Earth Art emerged as a radical approach to art making. The ultimate back-to-nature, Earth art used natural surroundings as sculptural medium. The ever-changing temporary art also emphasized the insensitivity to surroundings and the temporalness of existence, forcing us to rethink our priorities. Its non-permanency was a response to art commodification. That was the message-- if it was heard or not is another issue.

Maureen Palmieri's site-specific installation *Hill Planting* was not conceived of as Earth Art. It was a socio-creative gesture to bring life and art together. Yet 20 years after Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty*, the concept is the same. Interact with nature as a tool for producing works of art.

In October of 1992 (after consultation with campus authorities and landscape architects) Palmieri and about 40 helpers planted 3500 bulbs on a small hill along Forest Drive. Now, seven months later, thousands of daffodils, narcissus, and grape hyacinths have bloomed, transforming the grassy hill into a gridwork of color. Though the concept for *Hill Planting* was Palmieri's, she gave creative license to the participants. Each volunteer was given about 200 bulbs and a section of land. The piece, a combination of social and creative interaction, was intuitive composition.

*It's the most satisfying thing I've ever done because so many people have gotten pleasure from it... It's as close to music as I can get... I think of music as so encompassing... The whole thing together forms this whole wonderful sound- the whole piece came out of all of us together...*

*It almost feels musical.*

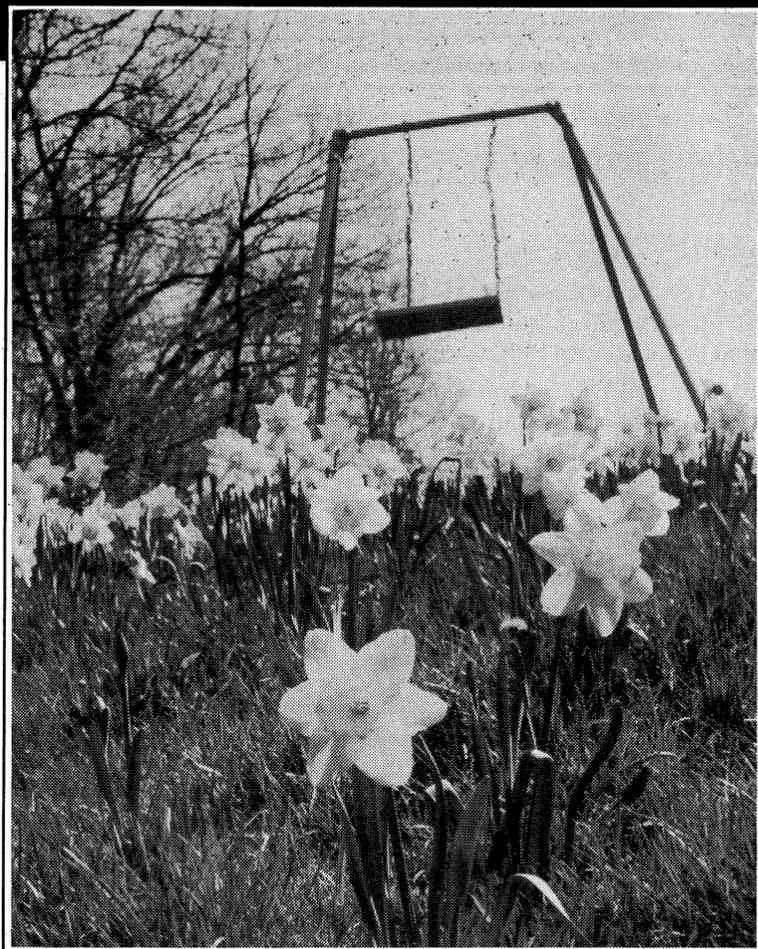
In the hill planting, Palmieri added a permanent sculptural icon-- a swing. Placed at the apex of the hill, the metal swing acts as an anchor. Bright yellow, standing tall, it guards over the vulnerable flowers like a citadel. It represents a permanent within a field that is constantly changing. A monument to the highs and lows, ups and downs of everyday life, the swing connects the natural and artificial forces.

*My feelings about what I wanted the hill to be changed... I wanted people to come onto the campus and feel something positive... The swing came to me... Everybody can relate to a swing... It's a thousand things... It's freedom, it's childhood, it's memory, it could be loss of childhood, it could be flight...*

*It's very positive... The color... I wanted it to be very toy-like, very shiny, very yellow... A lot of the color on the hill is yellow... I wanted it to totally exist together without competition... I think it succeeded.*

Palmieri envisioned the hill's surface transformed to manifest its natural potential through an artistic concept. She realized that as the seasons changed the hill would take on other forms and meanings. The swing, like a sundial marker, signals the passing of time. The constant variables would also effect perceptions of what the piece signifies. For Palmieri the hill planting signals renewal and hope.

*Renewal, not only for me-- looking at life and even*



*with all of the stuff that goes on, having this positive side, having that hope. It's hope. The bottom of Pandora's Box... the hope that was left. So much art now is very negative... deep down-- it's a lot-- and it's a lot of what other people bring to the piece that enriched the piece. So that's the way I'd like to work from now on. If I can.*

In a moment of societal dissonance this piece tunes into the positive. It is daydreams, tranquility, an oasis of relief, a seed of hope in a disintegrating environment. It's an attempt to focus our attention on natural surroundings through creative interaction. Self-generating, the *Hill Planting* will re-create itself each spring. And the swing will mark the spot of a perpetual artwork.

## UPCOMING ART EVENTS

**Insider Art: Where It Comes From**

at the Union Art Gallery

sponsored by STAC (Students Toward an Accessible Campus)

12-4pm Monday-Friday through May 14

**Patricia L. Hubbard**

Land, Water, & Subjective Reality

Library Gallery through May 14. Reception Thursday, May 6

Young Latino Film making  
presents

## Latin American Films

presented by their directors

**Rosa Roselito** by William Nunez

**What We Hold On To** by Frank Ortega

**"Y"** by Paula Panero

Discussion with directors after the screening

Facilitator: Lou Charnon-Deutsch

Tuesday, May 4

Humanities Institute, Library 4341 7:30 pm

Followed by refreshments

## UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Graduate Recitals

Studio A, ECC building, next to the Javits Center, unless otherwise noted.

May 5 12 noon **Maria Garcia**, piano

May 5 8pm **Ken Piascik**, percussion, choral room 0113

May 7 12 noon **Lydia Forbes**, violin

May 8 4pm **Gynhong Chia**, violin

May 9 1pm **Michael Bellonas**, guitar

May 9 4pm **Stephanie Taylor**, viola

May 9 8pm **Hana Kim**, clarinet

May 10 4pm **Graduate String Quartet**

May 10 8pm **Jeff Schoyen**, cello

May 11 4pm **Heidi Hoffman**, cello

May 12 2pm **Douw Fonda**, cello, choral room 0113

May 12 4pm **Michael Laderman**, flute

May 12 8pm **Danny Tunick**, percussion, choral room 0113

May 13 12 noon **Talya Berger**, harpsichord

May 13 8pm **Wan Soon Kim**, bassoon

May 14 12 noon **Sharon Gewirtz**, violin

May 14 4pm **Andrea Schultz**, violin

May 14 8pm **Suzanne Loerch**, voice

May 15 3pm **Alvin McCall**, voice

May 15 7pm **Mu Zhen Liao**, voice

# calendar of events

A selected listing of events on campus that may be of particular interest to graduate students

## Tuesday, May 4

Spring Festival of Chamber Music, presented by the music department in Studio A in the ECC Building, next to Javits Lecture Hall. 8pm. Free.

Feminism and Multiculturalism Across the Disciplines, 7:30pm, Schomburg Commons. Parking available, refreshments served.

## Wednesday, May 5

"The Invention of a European Musical culture in the Middle Ages: Meditations on the Past in the Present" a lecture by Leo Treitler, CUNY Graduate School, Humanities Institute Lecture Series, 4:30pm, Library 4340.

Dr. Bernie Seigel, author of *Love, Medicine, & Miracles*, speaks at Ward Melville High School Auditorium, Old Town Road, East Setauket. \$20; \$25 at door. \$15 advanced group sale. Sponsored by University Hospital Staff Development. Call 444-2937 for info.

## Thursday, May 6

Thursdays at Noon Lecture series, Department of English: "Revolution and Postmodernity: A Central American Case Study." Roman de la Campa, Assoc. Professor and Chair, Comparative Studies. The Poetry Center, Room 239, Humanities Bldg. 632-7400.

"Dying to Know Descartes" a lecture by George Leyvine, Rutgers University, Humanities Institute Lecture Series, 4:30pm, Library 4340.

Spring Festival of Chamber Music, presented by the music department in Studio A in the ECC Building, next to Javits Lecture Hall. 8pm. Free.

University Orchestra Concert featuring Schubert's Symphony #5, C.M. von Weber's Hungarian Fantasy for bassoon and orchestra, and "Gerald McBoingBoing" featuring Kevin Kvam as percussion soloist and Peter Winkler as narrator. Staller Center Recital Hall, 8pm. Free. 632-7330.

Department of Theatre Arts presents "The Rivals,"

by Richard B. Sheridan, 8 pm in Theatre 2, Staller Center for the Arts. Tickets \$8; \$6 students & seniors. See also 5/7, 5/8, 5/9.

## Friday, May 7

"The Rivals," 8 pm in Theatre 2. See 5/6.

Music Department Jazz Ensemble 8pm in Studio A, ECC Bldg. next to Javits Center.

## Saturday, May 8

"The Rivals," 8 pm in Theatre 2. See 5/6.

Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra featuring Ung's "Triple Concerto for Piano, Cello and Percussion," New York Premiere featuring Aequalis; Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite; Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in c Minor. \$9/\$7 students & seniors. Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts. 632-7230.

## Sunday, May 9

"The Rivals," 2 pm in Theatre 2. See 5/6.

## Monday, May 10

Writer's Club Meeting, 2 pm. Poetry Center, Room 239 Humanities Bldg. Peer group workshop follows.

Graduate String Quartet, presented by the music department in Studio A in the ECC Building, next to Javits Lecture Hall. 4pm. Free.

## Tuesday, May 11

The Guild Trio "Hungarian Greats" featuring works by Bartok, Kodaly. Sponsored by Institute for Medicine in Contemporary Society. 5pm, Lecture Hall 2, Health Sciences Center. 444-2765.

Spring Festival of Chamber Music, presented by the music department in Studio A in the ECC Building, next to Javits Lecture Hall. 8pm. Free.

## Wednesday, May 12

University Wind Ensemble featuring works by C.M. von Weber, Offenbach, Gershwin, and selections from Richard Rogers's "The Sound of Music." 8pm, Staller Center Recital Hall. Free. 632-7330.

## Thursday, May 13

Thursdays at Noon Lecture Series: "Religion and Economic Justice" Michael Zweig, Associate Professor of Economics. The Poetry Center, Room 239, Humanities Bldg. Noon.

Spring Festival of Chamber Music, presented by the music department in Studio A in the ECC Building, next to Javits Lecture Hall. 8pm. Free.

## Friday, May 14

Stony Brook Symposium "Taxol and Taxotere: New Hope for Breast Cancer Chemotherapy." Experts from the US and Europe will discuss aspects of the drug. Friday 8:30am - 4pm, followed by a poster session; Saturday 9:30am - 4pm. Level 2 Lecture Halls 1&2, HSC. Registration in HSC Gallery, level 3. Call Dr. Iwao Ojima for more info, 632-7890.

## Monday, May 17

Writer's Club Meeting, 2 pm. Poetry Center, 239 Humanities. Peer group workshop follows. 632-0596.

## Friday, May 21

Final Exams End: Spring Semester Ends

Institute for Medicine In Contemporary Society, "Images" working group examines the production, use, and interpretation of images in our contemporary culture. 4 pm Radiology Conference Room, Level 4, Room 135, HSC. 632-7345.

## GA POSITIONS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FALL '93

The Graduate School will be accepting resumes for two GA positions for the academic year 93-94, which will each carry a full academic year stipend of \$8850 and a tuition scholarship.

Qualifications: ABD status by/during Fall semester 1993 preferred; fluency in speaking English; one position requires extensive computer knowledge including the ability to design programs, in depth knowledge of DBase, WordPerfect, PageMaker, etc. as well as routine data entry.; one position requires some knowledge of DBase, Word Perfect, and PageMaker, plus various responsibilities in connection with recruitment, orientation, fellowship information, dissemination, etc., as well as routine data entry; writing and editing abilities an asset; general office duties; 20 hours minimum per week including intersession.

Send cover letter and resume **no later than Friday May 14** to: Ms. Eugenia Reiersen, Graduate School, SUNY at Stony Brook, New York 11794-4433. Telephone 632-7040.

## What Does Your Activity Fee Pay For?

The Graduate Student Organization  
RAP (travel funds for academic meetings)  
Grad Student Lounge  
Free Legal Advice • Child Care Funding  
News & Views • NYPIRG  
Ambulance Corps • WUSB Radio  
Departmental Allocations  
Alternative Cinema  
Mainland Chinese Student Assoc.  
Muslim Student Assoc.  
I-Con • Women's History Month  
Underrepresented Grad Students  
Korean Student Assoc.  
Explorers Club • Poetry Center  
Brook Spring Literary Magazine  
Chapin Assoc.  
Minorities in Engineering & Applied Sciences  
Stony Brook Music Collective  
& More!

Vote **MANDATORY** for the Grad Student Activity Fee.

Don't Forget to  
**VOTE**  
Details on pages 4 & 5

## JOB OPENING: Editor, News & Views

For 1993-94 school year. Responsibilities include reporting & editorial writing, editing, typesetting, advertising sales, production & design. Experience with PageMaker on IBM PC is useful.  
\$2,000/semester.

Send or bring resume to Graduate Student Organization, Room 206 Central Hall.  
**Deadline Friday, May 14.**  
Call Ida Fuchs at the GSO Office for more information-- 632-6492.

Don't forget to write!  
Next semester you can get paid to write for us. Details on pages 2.

Insight

Insight Computers,  
Tempe, Arizona

The Official  
Computer of the  
Stonybrook G.S.O.

**486DX-33** MHz  
Cache  
ISA

• 4MB RAM - 64K Cache.  
• 120MB (240MB w/ Stacker)  
• 12ms IDE Hard Drive  
• 14" Super VGA Color Monitor  
• 24 Bit 1MB Graphics Accelerator  
• Both 1.2MB & 1.44MB Floppy Drives  
• 2 Serial, 1 Parallel, & 1 Game port  
• 101 Key Keyboard • MS DOS • Mouse  
• Stacker & Dr. Solomon's  
Anti-Virus Software



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