

News & Views

Volume 5, Number 4 May 10, 1995

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Inaugural and Scholarship Fundraising Huge Success

The inauguration of President Shirley Strum Kenny was the central theme of events held through out campus from April 24 through Thursday May 4. Fireworks were launched, litter was picked up, students ate lunch for free in the Union Ballroom, and (last but not least) the USB community got hear a lot of speeches at a fancy inauguration in the Indoor Sports Complex.

The best part of it all was that the inauguration didn't cost us students a dime. Due to hard work by the Inaugural Committee, over \$50,000 in cash was raised, and yet another \$50,000 of in-kind services was donated.

The events came to a close on Thursday, May 4 with the "First Scholarship Gala" designed to

raise \$35,000 for undergraduate scholarships. It achieved its goal; over 470 tickets for the event were sold at a cost \$150 each.

Of the total amount collected, approximately half was used to cover expenses: The event was held at the Marriot Windwatch Hotel and featured Hors D'oeuvres and entrees including Filet Mignon and Swordfish. The Gala also featured a rather nice (understatement) door prize: Chances to win a 1995 Lexus ES 300 were sold for a \$100 ticket.

As a result of the events success, The Stony Brook Foundation plans to begin holding the Scholarship Gala on an annual basis.

-M. Fagan

Assembly Reaches Agreement on SUNY Cuts

It's going to hurt, but it won't be that bad. The NY State Assembly has refused to make the cuts in funding to SUNY which Gov. George Pataki has requested. The Pataki budget required SUNY to increase tuition for graduate students by approximately \$1800, and close several campuses.

According to Steve Sanders, Chairman of the NYS Assembly Education Committee, the Assembly version of the budget contains \$220 million to SUNY to scale back a tuition hike and keep all campuses open.

If passed "as is" by the senate and signed by Gov. Pataki, graduate tuition is expected to

increase by approximately \$600 under this plan. When, and if, this will occur is unknown. The Assembly version of the budget is believed to be more friendly to higher education than the Senate version; graduate students can expect a minimum increase in tuition of approximately \$600.

By law, the NYS budget was to be passed on or before April 1, 1995. When *News & Views* went to print (5/10/95), the Senate and Assembly had not yet submitted final budget proposals to each other. Once this is done, the Senate and Assembly must compile a budget which both find satisfactory.

-M. Fagan

Peace Prevails at GSO Senate Meeting

In sharp contrast to the chaotic, heated, and seemingly futile debate which occurred at the April 3 GSO Senate Meeting, the May 3 meeting was characterized by order, peace, and progress.

The chaos of the April senate meeting led representatives from the GSO (Anne Mayer --President and Eric Knappenberger --President Elect) to begin negotiations with Ida Fuchs (Current Office Manager and C&D Agent) and her representative Robert Cho (Past GSO Vice President). The negotiations were facilitated by Florence Boroson (Campus Advocate) and Linda Martin (Campus Advocate Staff).

These negotiations led to a settlement between the GSO and Ida Fuchs regarding her continued employment. Briefly, the settlement provides Ida Fuchs with compensation approximately equivalent to fifteen months pay (\$35,000), to be paid in installments over the course of the next four months. At a date to be determined over the summer, Ida Fuch's employment with the GSO will end..

The manner in which the GSO will obtain and supervise the C&D and Office Manager functions is currently being evaluated by members of the incoming GSO Executive Council.

-M. Fagan

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Congratulations May Graduates!

Campus Crime Watch

Provost's Office Burglarized

According to Doug Little, Assistant Director of Community Relations for Public Safety, the Provost's Office was burglarized sometime during the night of Wednesday April 26, 1995.

The Provost's Office is located on the fourth floor of the administration building.

An estimated \$20,000 of computer equipment (14 state-of-the-art workstations) was taken. No signs of forced entry were found. As of May 7, no suspects had been arrested.

The Department of Public Safety continues to investigate this crime and requests your assistance.

Persons with information about this incident should contact Crime Stoppers at 2-7786. Callers can remain anonymous, and are eligible for a cash reward.

-M. Fagan

**Congratulations May and August Grads
... We wish we were you.**

**GRADUATE STUDENT
News & Views**
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News & Views is published by the Graduate Student Organization, which is solely responsible for its content. Executive editorials are written by a member of the GSO executive council or its designee, but may not represent the opinion of the entire council. Letters for publication, comments and items for submission are always welcome. The newspaper's fax # is 632-8965; to leave a message, call the GSO at 632-6492 or send E-mail to MFAGAN@ccmail.sunysb.edu.

Campus Officer Assaulted

The following information was provided to the campus community by Richard Young, Director of Public Safety.

On Saturday, May 6, 1995 at approximately 6:30 a.m., Campus Public Safety Officer Benjamin Torres was assaulted under the following circumstances.

On the above time and date, Officer Torres was patrolling the academic mall. He heard glass breaking at the construction site of the new Student Union. He called for assistance and entered the building. He observed a male, white, 5'10" 175 lbs., with blonde hair on the third floor by the staircase. Officer Torres went to the location whereupon he was ambushed by the subject who began to swing two metal pipes at the officer. The officer was struck in the wrist, forearm and shoulder. The subject then fled.

Public Safety officers then pursued the subject and ultimately lost him in the area of G & H Quad. The officer was treated and released at U.H. and is out on compensation.

The contractor reports there were approximately 24 windows broken, temporary lighting broken, and equipment damaged. Public Safety is continuing to investigate this incident.

This Summer the Union Crafts Center will sponsor courses in Basic Photography, Your Face in Clay, Watercolor, Kayaking, Bartending, Self Defense, Wine Appreciation, Yota, and t'ai-Chi Qi-Gong.

Evening classes are available. Interested? Call 2-6822 for details.

Loss of Federal Interest Subsidy will Cost Students only "Pennies"?

According to the Associated Press, the Chairperson of House Education Committee, Rep. Bill Goodling (R-PA), is no friend of higher education. At an April 4, 1995 press conference, he stated that the elimination of the federal interest subsidy on Stafford Loans would cost students, "only pennies more each month."

Unfortunately, his quote doesn't agree with the facts. Over the course of just six years (the minimum amount of time to complete a B.S. and then a M.S.), the elimination of the subsidy (7%) would serve to increase an average student's debt (the "average student" borrows \$5,500 each year) by approximately 20% (upon graduation the debt would be \$42,097 as opposed to \$33,000. According to this data, the impact is an increase of approximately \$9,000 over the course of the six years which a student in school (i.e. \$150.00 a month as averaged over six years).

If, like most students, s/he was unable to pay the balance immediately upon graduation and instead paid it over the course of ten years, the additional \$9,000 would translate into an increase of approximately

\$100 per month just to pay off the original principal balance (The monthly payment would have to increase from approximately \$383.16 a month to \$488.78 a month. Interest accrued over the course of the loan would serve to substantially increase this payment. For the "hard numbers" of these cuts, please see the 2/1/95, 3/8/95, and 4/10/95 editions of the News & Views.

In response to the Rep. Goodling's misinformation, a "Penny Campaign" has been launched by the USB GSO and other GSO's throughout the country. The campaign entails students sending pennies, along with fake loan repayment coupons, to Rep. Goodling in the hopes that "pennies a month" will fulfill the student's debt obligations. To say the least, the success of this effort is not promising. Perhaps, however, it will cause Rep. Goodling to be more careful when choosing his words.

The bill in which the elimination of the interest exemption is contained is expected to reach the House floor on approximately May 15, 1995.

-M. Fagan

Interested in working to save Federal student aid?

**Call 1-800-574-4243, or "net":
AVE-STUDENT-AID@NETCOM.COM.**

Tips on letter writing, and information about who is currently being targeted for lobbying will be provided.

GSO Election News

GSO elections for the 1995-1996 Academic year took place from April 17-28. This year, in addition to electing the GSO officers, graduate students were able to vote on two referendums (One regarding NYPIRG funding and the other one regarding an increase in the student activity fee).

Although almost 6000 graduate students were eligible to vote, only three hundred and five (305) ballots were returned on time. Of these ballots, 42 were invalidated (reasons included envelopes which lacked names and/or

signatures, names which could not be found on alpha or department listings, a duplicated ballot, and ID numbers which could not be verified). The remaining 263 ballots were counted on April 29 by the Elections Committee (Wilbur Farley -Committee Chair-, Ben Hinkle, Arthur Bozza, Paul Walker, and Ida Fuchs). Counting of the ballots was observed by representative for each candidate.

The results:

Eric Knappenberger won the

President's position over Mark Pallack by 159 to 67.

David Brown won the Vice President's position over Nilay Patel by 72 to 37.

Ira Jarrette won the Secretary's position over Sergev Cherneyshev by 159 to 53.

Lamine Savane won the Treasurer's position over Will

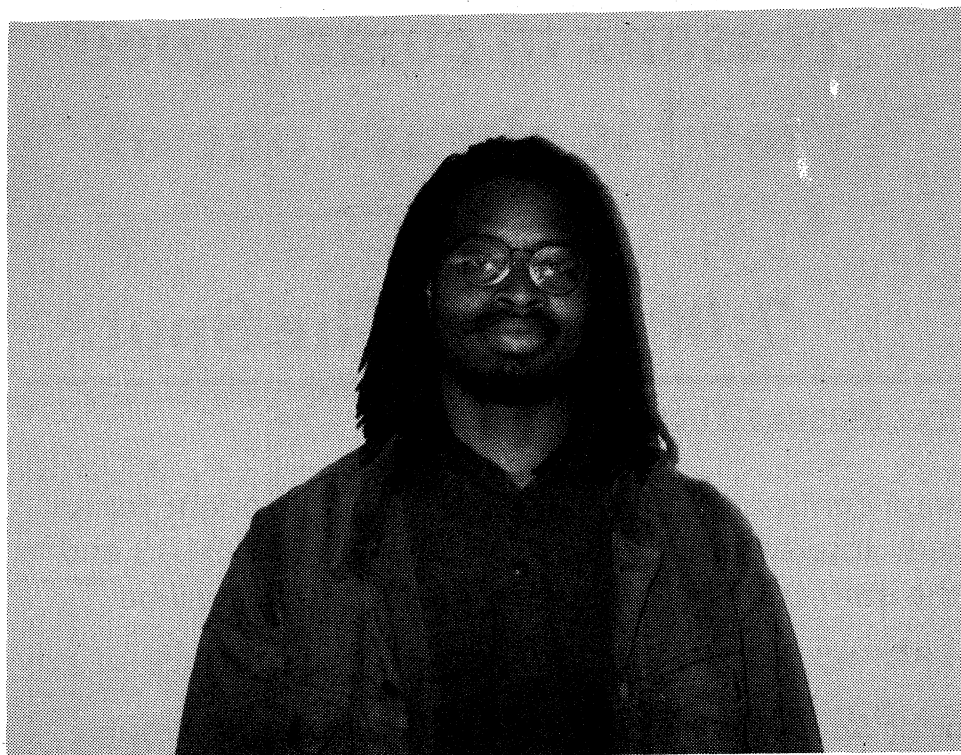
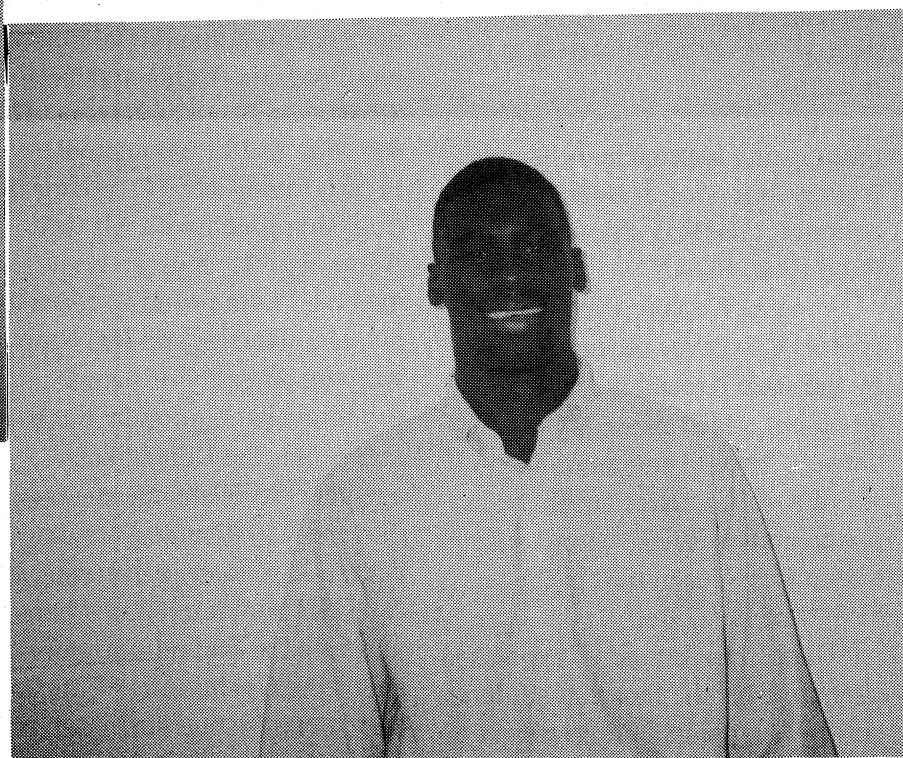
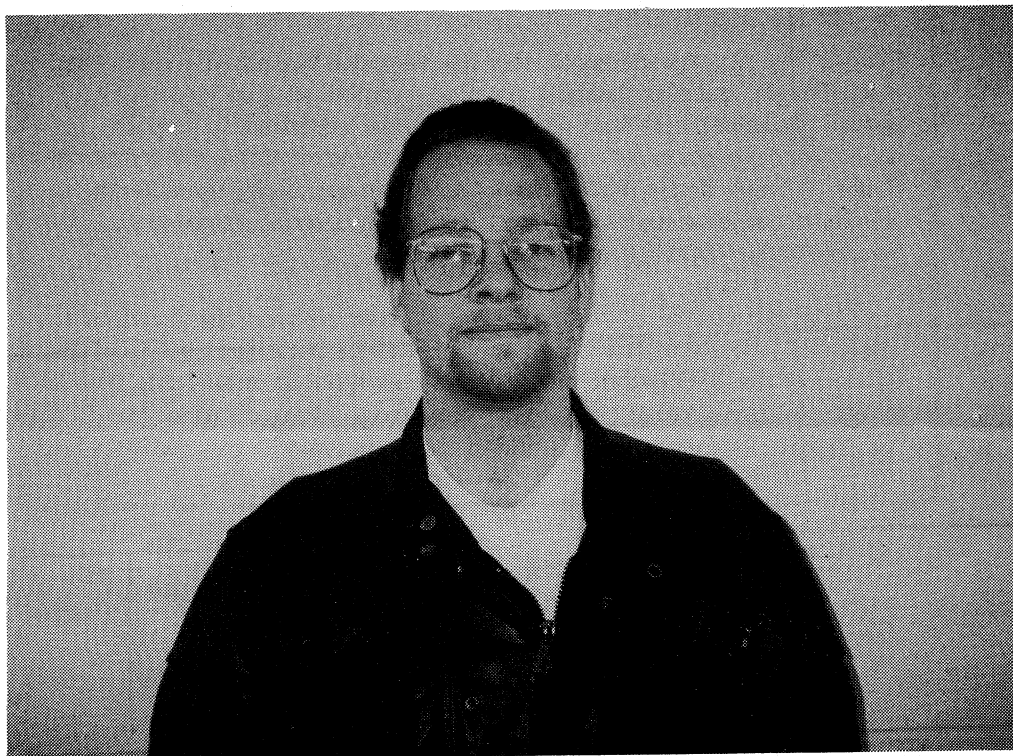
Orrick by 159 to 66.

Rajiv Kamilla ran uncontested for the Stony Brook Council position and received 71 votes.

The referendum on the **Student Activity Fee increase** was defeated, 157 to 105.

The referendum on **continued support for NYPIRG** passed 181-79.

-M. Fagan



Three of the Four Incoming Execs. Top left: Eric Knappenberger, President. Bottom left: Ira Jarrette, Secretary. Above: Lamine Savane, Treasurer. Good luck in 1995-96.

Letter to the Editor

Stony Brook Coalition for Education and Social Justice Holds First Meeting

by Alison Petto

In response to Governor Pataki's budget cuts, the Stony Brook Coalition for Education and Social Justice held a Teach In on April 27th. The event was designed to inform the USB community of the potential effects of the budget cuts and refute claims by Pataki that the current system is "fat".

According to Timothy Brennan (one of the principal founders of the Coalition and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of English), the coalition's mission is much broader than the proposed budget and stated, "We have to realize that the only way we're going to defend our material interest is to organize."

Although all of the Teach In participants approached the cuts from a variety of perspectives, a common goal was shared: Restore Funding to SUNY.

Temma Kaplan (Professor of History), believes recent actions by the state Assembly are encouraging but added that even this version, "would still amount to about a 40% greater cut than any public university has had to sustain over a two year period in the history of the country".

Cara Brick (student) expressed concern over the fact that students currently are unable to graduate in four years due to a lack of course offerings and, that the cuts would serve to even further exasperate the present situation.

Peter Naccarto (Graduate Student in the English Department) focused on the impact of the cuts would have on graduate students. Mr. Naccarto stated that a major concern of graduate students was that the cuts would mean an increase in the amount of work demanded of graduate students. "We're seen as people who can teach classes and grade papers and sometimes it's forgotten that we're doing our own work. Like everyone, they're trying to get more work out of us."

William Mc Adoo (Director of African Studies) noted that the proposed budget would disproportionately effect students which are economically disadvantaged because the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) would be cut back and/or eliminated.

Ira Livingston (Professor of English) agreed with Mr. Mc Adoo. Mr. Livingston commented, "I am proud to teach at a public university and I'm happy with the diversity of people and economic backgrounds, but it seems that the Republicans' agenda is to dismantle the public university system and restrict access, essentially privatizing it."

USB community members interested in finding out more about the Coalition for Education and Social Justice may contact Timothy Brennan at 2-7424 or Timothy.Brennan@sunysb.edu.

Alison Petto is an undergraduate student majoring in Journalism.

I have just finished reading the April 10 issue of the Graduate Student *News and Blues* and I must convey my extreme concern over the fact that at a time when the GSO should be devoting all — or the great majority — of its resources to joining in the statewide opposition to Governor's Pataki's proposed budget and also rallying graduate students together to discuss how these cuts will specifically effect graduate students here at Stony Brook, it is, instead, embroiled in internal turmoil, bickering, and politicking. Just when it is absolutely vital that graduate students have a capable, committed, and strong organization representing them which can join with faculty, staff, undergraduates, and others, our GSO seems to be falling apart at the seams! It is outrageous that the April 10 issue of the *News and Blues* has to dedicate almost half of its pages to this lunacy. Equally infuriating is that in the middle of this chaos, the GSO has the audacity to ask for an increase in the student activity fee. If our money goes to support this kind of behavior and fighting during time when graduate students need its leadership, then perhaps we should not be considering an increase, but a decrease! Please, get your act together and let's work together to address some of the real issues which threaten us all.

Peter Naccarto
Graduate Student
English Department

Editor's Note #1: The *News & Blues* became *News & Views* in 1993.

Editor's Note #2: An additional letter was submitted by Kathryn Kent. After much thought, and after changing my mind several times, I decided not to publish this letter on the basis that it did not serve a constructive purpose. I neither condemn nor endorse the viewpoints in the letter, that is not my role as Editor. I simply do not think *News & Views* is an appropriate forum for the opinions the letter contains. The letter has already been distributed to the Senators of the GSO via E-mail.

Over the course of the past year, I have enjoyed the freedom to published letters which are both supportive and critical of the GSO; The Officers of the GSO had no part in my decision not to publish Ms. Kent's letter.

The next GSO Senate Meeting is Monday, June 5, 1995.

There are lots of good reasons to come - good food is always one of 'em.

7:00 pm in The Spot.

Volunteers Sought For Masters Thesis

Men who were sexually abused as children and have since confronted their perpetrator(s) are sought for an interview. The anonymity of volunteers will be protected. Interested volunteers should call 928-9108 and ask for Mike Fagan. If Mike is not present, please ask the staff to, "Tell Mike Pete Called". Calls will be returned ASAP.

The study is overseen by Dr. Ruth Brandwein, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Stony Brook School of Social Welfare. Please do not hesitate to contact Michael Fagan, (516) 928-9108, or Ruth Brandwein, (516) 444-3176 with any questions or concerns.

Viewpoint

Grad. Student Finds Stony Brook Supportive

By Matt Gee

As a graduate student in the School of Social Welfare, I was required to present a thesis as part of my requirements for graduation. As a gay man working in the field of mental health, I felt compelled to research the effects of homophobia on both the gay/lesbian health care consumer and on the gay/lesbian health care provider. The result of this research was a presentation at The Health Sciences Center on March 8, 1995 entitled "Obstacles to the Effective Delivery of Comprehensive Human Services: Challenges Faced by Lesbian and Gay Professionals and Implications for Practice with Lesbians and Gay Men."

As a result of this presentation, Francis Brisbane, the Dean of The School of Social Welfare, asked myself and Andrea Romano, a co-speaker at the lecture, to address the faculty regarding the inclusion of comprehensive material in the school's curriculum regarding implications for social work with this population.

The Dean's support and encouragement of our work is representative of the school's commitment to recognize and celebrate diversity. On April 19, 1995 Andrea and I addressed the faculty to discuss material that we thought should be included in the curriculum. We were met with enthusiasm and excitement. The entire faculty of the school was present and brought many thought provoking questions to the table including the obstacles faced by gay/lesbian people of color and what can be done on the corporate level to address issues of institutional homophobia. The experience was so positive for me that I felt not to share it with my fellow students both at the Health Sciences Center and on main campus would be selfish of me.

The political climate that has swept over our nation is one that seeks to divide us based on our

differences rather than celebrating what makes our nation so great; that is the individuality that we all possess. In a time when social services are being discarded at random and individuality is being touted as dysfunction, the School of Social Welfare has rallied behind a cause that not only examines the effects of homophobia but that really demands equality for all people regardless of their sexuality, race, gender or whatever lines we as a nation can be divided by.

It is this writer's opinion that the political powers that exist seek to keep minority groups divided and weak so that their agenda can then be executed. My experience in working with both my fellow students and the faculty at the School of Social Welfare on this project was especially gratifying in that many people from many groups had a hand in the conception and the realization of this project. The fact that we represented both genders, different sexual orientations, different races and different sociopolitical views was put aside for the sake of providing a lecture that addressed the importance of providing comprehensive health services for all individuals regardless of which minority group one belongs to.

As time passes I have begun to realize that this was much more than a lecture on health care. It has become, for me, a experiment in human behavior. Through the production of this project, which involved everyone from the maintenance department, the audio/visual people, physical plant operations, the faculty, the graduate student organization, our guest speakers, our families and friends, etc...I was witness to a wonderful phenomena. People coming together for the good of us all despite our differences. Regardless of our differences, we were able to work together as a team for over 6 months to pro-

duce a video that really speaks to the human need we all have to be accepted for who and what we are.

As I prepare for graduation, and contemplate my role in society, I am eased by this experience in which I have been a fortunate participant. It is my feeling that what I witnessed here at Stony Brook can be repeated wherever I go if I remember a few things: we are all so different, yet so alike, I must remember that as important as my views are to me, I am not the only one who feels passionately about a certain cause and I must respect the differences among us for it is those differences that make our nation and our planet the wondrous miracle that it is.

I realize this all might sound a bit lofty, but as I said earlier I was witness to a wonderful happening and I am grateful for it. I guess my message is that when you find yourself angry at another individual, group, or community think for a minute about the fact that as different as we all are, we are all the same. We all seek acceptance and dignity. We might not all go about achieving those goals in the same fashion but that is what makes our world so interesting.

As a social worker, I have been trained to search out peoples' strengths, rather than their weaknesses and to build on those strengths. It is within that paradigm/perspective that I speak to my fellow students. In this time of political upheaval and the blaming of various groups for the condition of our country, I say we must focus on what we have accomplished as a society and what the many subcultures that make up the United States have contributed. I find that when we operate from a strengths perspective people become active rather than re-active. Pointing the finger and placing blame perpetuates dissension. Including others and encouraging strengths promotes cohesion.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow class-

mates and faculty for all their support in the development of this project. I would especially like to thank my family for whom without I could not have done this. Best of luck to the graduating class of 1995!

**I want to print your
News & Views -
The more you write,
the less I have to.**

E-Mail me:

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You can even write me:

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Stony Brook, NY 11794

**The Going Rates for
News & Views:**

**Letters to the editor:
Unpaid.**

**A well written, pre-
approved, news
article: \$0.10 a word;
with a maximum of
1500 words (\$150).**

**A thought provoking,
pre-arranged
opinion piece:
Between \$40 - \$70.**

**Generally speaking,
the more an article
deals with "graduate
student life at USB"
the more likely it is to
be published.**

The following budget was proposed at the 5/1/95 meeting. As a result of the settlement involving the GSO and Ida Fuchs (see 4/10/95 for the debate, and page 1 of this issue for details), the budget is expected to undergo substantial revision during the next semester.

Equipment	1,000
NYPIRG	12,500
NAGPS	125
Clubs General	3,000
Clubs Chinese	2,000
Residents Programming	500
RAP	10,000
Cultural and Social General	4,500
Lounge Subsidy	10,000
Lounge Events	1,500
Programs	500
Child Care	8,500
WUSB	3,000
Orientation	1,000
Women's History Month	500
English Dept. Conference	500
Legal Clinic	1,500
Ambulance Corps	1,500
Departmental Allocations	5,000
Office Supplies	3,000
Telephone	2,000
Postage	250
Rental Equipment/Service Contracts	500
Survival Guide	1,000
News & Views	3,000
News & Views Editor	4,600
News & Views Reporter	2,000
Senate Meetings/Election	3,500
Travel	1,000
Officer Stipends	10,500
Accountant	3,300
Payroll Tax	1,200
Legal Costs	1,500
Other	<u>1,500</u>
Total Expenditures:	\$136,975

Spring Shorts

The USB Faculty Student Association (FSA) passed its 1995-1996 budget. The only major change in this budget is the operation of the cafeteria at the Long Island Veterans Home (located on East Campus). The cafeteria is currently operated by a subcontractor.

The Retailing Subcommittee of the FSA is looking into ways by which to improve the book ordering and filing system of the **campus bookstore**. During this school year the book store was managed and operated by a new company, Wallace's. During the fall semester, the bookstore failed to fill almost 50% of the orders on time.

The University Senate Committee on Student Life and Campus Environment is still looking for a way in which to fund a **new parking lot for Chapin Apartment** residents. Construction of the new lot is estimated to cost \$40,000. The lot would replace a lot which is currently being destroyed as a result of the road by HSC. Anyone have an extra \$40,000 for a good cause....

The Spot, an on campus bar run by the GSO and FSA, experienced a great deal of success this year and has attracted a local following. An Assistant Manager position has been created (and even hired) for next year in order to coordinate advertising and promotion. It is hoped that the efforts will increase graduate student attendance at the bar.

The GSO's **Unofficial Inaugural Ball** was a success. The event was held at The Spot on Friday, April 28, and created in order to provide graduate students with a way to celebrate the inauguration. Admission to the ball was \$5. ...Admission to the official ball was \$150.

Garden with your friends in the beautiful Three Village Garden Sanctuary near the Setauket Mill Pond. 10 x 20 foot tiled plots, watering provided, are ready for planting. Rent is \$25.00 (\$10.00 refundable deposit included) for the session. To rent call Al Carlson (Neurobiology) at 2-8661 or at 941-4954.

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Inaugural Photos



Viewpoint (...OK, Diatribe) on the GSO Elections

Are Apathy, Anger, and Debate Simply a Matter of Physics?

For the past three years, graduate students have been handed a ballot which reminds one of the now defunct Soviet Union: Sure, we have elections. We just have one candidate for each position.

Unlike the former Soviet Union, however, there was (and is) no political oppression at work. The GSO simply couldn't find more than one person who wanted to be an officer. "At times we had to almost beg people to run for office", stated Ida Fuch's (the GSO's longtime office manager).

At first, this year appeared to be more of the same: Only three candidates (Eric Knappenberger for President, Ira Jarrette for Secretary, and Lamine Savane for Treasurer) submitted the materials required to appear on the ballot even though the GSO had five

open positions. A candidate for Vice President (Nilay Patel) was not obtained until after the ballots were distributed and, as a result, was forced to run as a write-in. A candidate for Stony Brook Council was nowhere to be found.

Graduate students long-time parties of choice ("Apathy" and "I Wanna But Have Absolutely No Time") seemed destined for yet another battle to the death.

But then, a flyer was found. It seemed a write-in campaign had been launched within the Department of Physics. Unlike the candidates which had been recognized by the GSO, they actually had a candidate (get this...) for every position available (Mark Pollack for President, David Brown for Vice President, Sergey Cherneyshev for Secretary, Will Orrick for Treasurer, Rajiv Kamilla for Stony Brook Council). They had a platform complete with positions:

Exercise Thrift in GSO spending.
Abolish salaries for GSO Executives.
Resist any further increase in student activity fees.
Provide effective liaison between the administration and the Graduate Student Community.
Work towards improving graduate social life on-campus.
Only one problem. The GSO Election By-laws don't cover much of anything, much less a write-in campaign. Can write-in candidates distribute ballots themselves? Can they set-up de-facto polling stations? Can ballots be picked up from the GSO and then be returned in-mass by write-in candidates or their representatives? Good questions...too bad the GSO Election By-Laws don't provide any answers.

But wait, the story goes on. It seems the current Executive Council (Anne Mayer – President, Wilbur Farley – Secretary, and Paul Walker – Speaker) supported the declared candidates. As a result, they wrote a letter to the Statesman (...that *other* newspaper on campus) which endorsed the declared candidates. The letter was published on the last day of the election; April 27th. Is this wrong? Nothing in the GSO guidelines forbids this.

Yet another debate (as raised by the undeclared candidates from Physics) surrounds the fact that Wilbur Farley was simultaneously Chair of Election Committee in addition to being GSO Secretary. Is this wrong? You guessed right, "Nothing in the GSO guidelines forbid this either".

But wait, the story is sure to go on....

-M. Fagan



The next GSO Senate Meeting is Monday, June 5, 1995 at 7:00 pm in The Spot.