

# The GSO News

## And Blues

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### Grad Apts. Officially Open



Photo by George Bidermann

The ribbon is cut and among the principal cutters are Dallas Bauman (third from left), Jane Ely, Stan Altman (middle), and Alex King (second from right).

By George Bidermann

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 4 marked the opening of the new graduate student apartment complex, located behind Kelly Quad on the main campus. While one building has been open since the beginning of the semester, the second building is almost ready for occupancy and graduate students may even be moving in by the end of the month, according to Dallas Bauman III, assistant vice president for campus residences.

The complex, which will be officially named sometime during the spring semester, consists of 30 one-bedroom apartments and 42 four-bedroom apartments, for a total occupancy of 228. A commons building, which contains laundry facilities, mailboxes, and a commons room which will be used for community activities, was also constructed. Built at a total cost of approximately \$8.4 million and taking less than three years from conception to opening, it represents Stony Brook's first new housing in more than a decade and a significant step in addressing the needs of graduate students, Bauman said.

Speaking at the opening ceremonies, Bauman said that the complex offers two important additions to Stony Brook's ability to offer accommodations to graduate students. "The one-bedroom apartments allow us to respond to an important need for housing for married couples," he said. "There has been a long-standing deficiency on the campus in providing appropriate accommodations for married couples."

The second improvement is single-occupancy bedrooms in all of the complex's four-bedroom apartments. "Those who are familiar with the Chapin apartments and details of the specifics of

living in Chapin know that single graduate students in almost every case have to share a bedroom with other graduate students," Bauman said. "The design for these apartments was deliberately with the intent to offer single-bedroom accommodations to graduate students."

Those single-bedroom apartments rent for \$265 per month (per student) and include all utilities except telephone. The one-bedroom apartments rent for \$630 per month, also including utilities. According to Bauman, the university has already received enough applications to fill the second building, but the question of whether residents in the Chapin apartments will be allowed to relocate into the new apartments has not yet been resolved. Chapin is already facing a \$70,000 deficit this year, Bauman said, and additional vacancies would only add to that deficit.

Jane Ely, president of the GSO, praised the university for working with the GSO and responding to concerns that were raised during the design and construction phases. "There are many issues we raise that the university claims it cannot do anything about, but this was something that they could accomplish, and they did it," she said. "We hope this marks a step in the right direction toward providing affordable, decent housing for graduate students and, someday, all student residents."

One concern the GSO has raised is the restriction of the one-bedroom units to heterosexual, married couples. Bauman said a committee has been formed to review the university's policy with regard to cohabitation by couples that do not fit into such neatly constructed, traditional arrangements. It should be making recommendations for revamping the policy early in the spring semester.

### Stony Brook Plans Pay Lag To Deal With Budget Cuts

By George Bidermann

Responding to the growing fiscal crisis and demands to cut additional funds from its campus budget in midyear, the Graduate School has announced plans to implement a pay lag for all graduate student employees at the beginning of the spring semester.

According to Alex King, vice provost for Graduate Studies, the implementation of a pay lag will shift approximately \$300,000 from this year's budget into next year's budget. King said this would contribute to the reduction of between \$1 million and \$2 million that the provostial area of Stony Brook's budget needs to cut this year. This "borrowing" of money would theoretically continue each year unless additional funds are allocated to the stipend pool or expenditures are cut through the reduction of graduate student lines.

In a meeting last week with the GSO Executive Committee and Andrea Kwasny, the graduate student advocate, King discussed two possible scenarios for implementing the pay lag. Graduate student employees would either experience a two-week pay lag at the beginning of the semester or receive 20% cuts to each of their first five paychecks. Under either scenario, workers would receive their last check two weeks after the date originally scheduled for their last paychecks, July 3.

King said that all three of the other SUNY centers, at Buffalo, Binghamton, and Albany, implemented pay lags two years ago which occur at the beginning of the academic year. "There is no good time for a graduate student to miss a

paycheck," he said, "but my thinking is that September is the worst time to go without one."

Reaction from the GSO Executive Committee was swift. "We totally oppose the implementation of a pay lag. It is an unconscionable act taken in the heat of a crisis," said President Jane Ely. "To ask employees who make so little to begin with to go without pay in the middle of a school year shows little regard for the degree of hardship that

**"It is an  
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heat of a crisis."**

might entail." The typical Stony Brook graduate student employee receives a \$370 paycheck, after taxes, every two weeks. Ely said the GSO Senate would be taking up the matter at its December 12 meeting.

Also in doubt is whether Stony Brook will be able to cover for its graduate student employees the cost of any tuition increase that goes into effect for the spring semester. SUNY is discussing a tuition increase of between \$150 and \$180 for full-time undergraduate students and, King said, it is not clear whether the increase will be higher for in-state graduate students. Out-of-state graduate students may also be targeted for another increase, he said. While

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# Happy New Year From SUNY Claus

There are three facts that have surfaced in the last couple of weeks that graduate students had better understand.

1. There are three groups of employees on campus that can be laid off without notice: administrators, temporary employees and graduate students.

2. If tuition is raised across the board for Spring 1991, both for in-state and out-of-state students, Stony Brook cannot afford the full tuition waivers it is now paying unless SUNY Central increases the waiver pool. The last two times tuition was raised no such increase was granted.

3. Graduate students can and most probably will have their pay lagged at the beginning of the spring semester.

None of the above has anything to do with academic performance. It has to do with what groups are protected and what groups are not.

Ask yourselves how you will get by in the next months when you will lose two weeks pay. You will have to make hard choices. Is eating going to take second place to paying the rent? How about LILCO, the phone, heating oil, car insurance payments, charge card payments, and the \$200+ health insurance payment due on January 15th? On top of this, graduate students may have to pay some of their tuition if the graduate school is unable to pay the waivers. And lest we forget there is the proposed bus user fee, the proposed parking fee (yes, again), and the health fee. While you are worrying about all of this you still have to write a dissertation and keep up with your TA/GA assignments, class work and teach your own classes.

The GSO is looking into what food banks are available for graduate students who will not be able to buy food when the pay lag hits. Isn't there something inherently wrong with this picture? Why should this even be necessary?



## Ask the Professor

Dear Professor:

As a graduate teaching assistant at Quad Cities Regional University, I am wondering why I teach four courses a semester, eight a year, for \$5,000 while full professors and not-so-full professors here are teaching only four courses a year for \$40,000? Am I the only one who has noticed this apparent discrepancy?

Emily Jane Spooner, A.B.D.

Dear Ms. Spooner:

In recent years other G.T.A.'s have observed this same phenomenon. Kindly administrators have indicated surprise, concern, and a willingness to set up committees to look into the problem-- if it is a problem. Feel better?

The Professor

Text by Joel J. Gold, Illustration by Vivian Hixson/ Chronicle of Higher Education

The GSO executive committee and the GSEU Action Committee are also exploring ways to provide baby formula and how we can staff a Pay Lag Hotline!

As the last weeks have demonstrated, graduate students have neither job security nor protection, and cannot expect these basic employee rights from SUNY's bureaucracy. The GSO News and Blues has covered UGSO's efforts to gain a statewide vote on self-determination for a union. It is time now to look at the right to vote on unionization as the method of empowerment, the only method we have. If the Graduate Student Employees Union was the bargaining agent for graduate students, we

would not be without representation. We have no right to self-determination and therefore no rights to attempt to change the situation.

Graduate students must take a stand on self-determination and we must take it now! The budget situation in the state will only get worse and we will be at the mercy of SUNY Central unless we make our voices heard. Statewide actions are already being planned for the spring semester. Please take the time to find out more about these actions, become involved, and help us work to achieve the right to self-determination that SUNY is so desperately trying to deny us. Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy Pay Lag!

## A Job Well Done? Yes, But...

Could it be that Stony Brook, long acknowledged as one of the worst slumlords in the SUNY system, has finally done something right with regard to student housing? Could it be that we, as students, would someday find ourselves heaping praise on the university for a job well done? Could it be that the new graduate apartment complex exceeds our expectations and offers insight into the university's commitment to improving not just its housing conditions and the social atmosphere surrounding that housing, but also the price of such housing?

Well, yes and no.

The new apartments, soon to become home to more than 200 graduate students, are indeed an accomplishment for which the university deserves high praise. Sure, you would expect a new complex to be clean, and brand new furniture looks nice no matter what you put it in. But the apartments do indeed look attractive. There is plenty of closet space, there is a sense of community added with the construction of a commons building, and the buildings look solid. As Stan Altman, deputy to President John Marburger and presidential fellow for housing said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, "We were committed to doing something different. Chapin was such a symbol of what we never really wanted to happen on this campus that it provided the spark and symbol of what we wanted to do that was going to be radically different."

Indeed, if the university was looking for something radical to use for reference, Chapin was the perfect example. Built with unseasoned plywood that warped and expanded, leaving gaps susceptible to wind and water leakage, and plagued by poor (or nonexistent) heating and skimpy insulation, Chapin was Stony Brook's ghetto. It still is, to some degree; six of the complex's twelve buildings still await renovations. But we know these take time and money.

Which brings us to another point. At \$265 per month, the cost of single occupancy bedrooms in the new apartments is cheap-- amazingly cheap. During the early stages of design and construction, the GSO was told that the estimated rent would be \$425 per student in the four-bedroom apartments. Of course we laughed and joked that for \$1,700 a month, students could rent mansions in Old Field.

So how did the price go down so much? Unfortunately, it seems that the answer lies in shifting some of the complex's debt service to other residents. That means that both undergraduates and students living in Chapin will be paying for the artificially low rent at the new complex. We're not sure that is a good idea; but we also need more information from the administration before reaching final conclusions.

The complex is beautiful and graduate students wishing to live on campus should fight like hell for a spot in it. How about a couple more?

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# Reflections on Building a Movement for Peace

(The following article is adapted from remarks made by Economics Professor Michael Zweig at a teach-in on the Middle East and the Gulf Crisis, held on December 6 and sponsored by the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace in the Middle East -Ed.)

We have a congress that is presenting itself in some respects as a force for peace, and I think it is very significant that Senator Sam Nunn has come out against the use of force. On Tuesday night there was a national teach-in on Nightline. Former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was on that program and he said something very interesting and very important, which is that there was a statement issued that day and read in Congress, signed by seven of the last eight secretaries of defense. Seven of the last eight secretaries of defense signed a joint statement urging that the United States not use force in the Middle East and the Gulf crisis. That's a very powerful statement and it's a very positive statement for those of us who are concerned about the issue of war.

But the issue of war is not the only question here. The issue of war is a policy question for how to promote certain interests. Sam Nunn would like to see certain interests promoted in the Middle East that I believe are not our own. And I think we need to understand that while it's good that a number of senators and former administration officials, and very powerful people in this country do not want war, we need to look at the question a little bit more deeply, and ask things about what the interests are that are driving this situation, the economic and political interests, and then see what our agenda is as a people in building a movement to address those underlying questions.

The question that President Bush laid before the world was one of the new world order, and I think we need to look at this new world order. The United States is caught in a very difficult situation. We face a united Europe, we



Photo by George Bidermann

Professor Michael Zweig addresses students at the December 6 teach-in.

face a powerful Japan, for all the problems in their stock market and for all the difficulties, we are relatively in more trouble than they are at this moment. What it means is that President Bush is looking for a role in the world for the US and he's proposing that role be essentially a military role. Essentially that the US should be the policeman of the world. The US is promoting war there because the ruling class is looking to preserve their place in the world, and they want to do it on the basis of this military machine. Where Sam Nunn disagrees with President Bush is on whether or not that machine should be used in an active way, not on whether it should be deployed or exist in the first place.

The National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East has come together around a series of demands and focal points for our movement. We have proposed a national demonstration in Washington, DC and in San Francisco on January 26 and there are people on this campus and all across the country who are building for that demonstration. There are three slogans that demonstration promotes. One slogan is "No war in the Middle East!" Well that's plain, and on that we can unite with Sam Nunn and we can unite with former Secretary of Defense McNamara.

The second demand starts to differentiate things a little bit more; it says "Bring the troops home now!" Sam Nunn isn't saying that but I believe that we should say that. I believe we should say that because I think that as a peace movement our agenda is not simply to stop the violent conflagration which is called war, but it is to help to create the conditions for peace, and the conditions for peace involve things like justice, the conditions for peace involve things like respect for people.

So if we have a demand that says "Bring the troops home now" it is tied to the first demand for peace and no war, but it is also tied to a third demand, a third project that our movement should have, and that is a demand to fund human needs, to use the money for human needs and not for war, not for the military. Here we again come into trouble with Sam Nunn, here again we come into trouble with people who are for the absence of war because they have a tactical disagreement about how to promote certain underlying interests which are driving this entire situation. And I think that we as a peace movement need to call that out. Not to say that Sam Nunn is a bastard and he should stay home. No- Sam Nunn should be part of a peace movement that stops war. Fine. But that's not where we end the matter, because the question of the presence of American military power in the world is a profound question not only for the other people of the world, but also for us, for the American people.

The question of a prolonged military presence in the Middle East by the United States is extremely destabilizing. It is not a force to promote peace in the Middle East. I think anyone who proposes that it is makes a profound mistake and misjudgment of what the social forces are that are at play in the Middle East, and what the history of colonial and imperial adventure has been there, which the Arab masses justifiable have rebelled against. The United States has made a habit of picking up other people's empires, at bargain basement prices, and trying to see whether or not we couldn't somehow jerry-rig it up and make something good out of it.

Now what we have here is a question of the underlying thrust again of the US trying to pick up somebody else's empire, in this case the British and the French, who have

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## Statewide Leaders Plan to Challenge Legality of November Trustees Meeting

By Eric F. Coppolino

Student Leader Press Service

SUNY Binghamton Graduate Student Organization President David Baranov says he and other student organizers will challenge what he termed SUNY's "Gestapo" tactics of moving the November 15 SUNY Board of Trustees meeting to a secret location, then guarding the building with armed police to prevent students from attending.

Baranov was arrested while attempting to enter the building at Buffalo State College where the meeting had been moved after unionization protests by graduate students prompted the board to switch locations.

Board of Trustees meetings are required by law to be open to all members of the public under the state's Open Public Meetings Law, or "Sunshine Act." But large crowds of observers and graduate student supporters were blocked from entering even at the original location, which had a fire occupancy limit of 80.

The day before, student leaders had obtained a ruling from a special state agency dealing with open public meetings that even the larger room was too small to accommodate the large crowd expected to observe both the graduate student protest and the vote to raise SUNY tuition as much as \$300 next year. Student Association of the State University President and student Trustee Judith Krebs said she told trustees at the outset that in its new location, the meeting was being conducted illegally. SASU's attorney is working on challenging the validity of the meeting on behalf of both graduate and undergraduate students.

The graduate student protest against the trustees was directed at SUNY's refusal to allow the system's 5,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants the

right to vote on whether they want to form a labor union. More than 50 people overflowed outside the original meeting room as graduate student leaders dominated the meeting by reading letters in support of unionization from legislators, a former trustee, and other state officials.

But frustrated by the graduate students' action, the trustees recessed twice, then voted to go into closed session, and were taken by campus police across campus to an unannounced location. An hour later, Krebs returned to the original location and negotiated with the graduate students to end their protest to allow the meeting to continue in the original, larger room.

The trustees, however, refused to move their meeting back to the original room, and five minutes after the meeting went back into "public" session, a meeting notice was posted on the door directing students to the new room, which reportedly had a legal capacity of about 40, according to Baranov.

Approximately 30 observers were in the new room, of which about six were students, and none of whom were graduate students. Most of the students who managed to get in were those familiar with the Buffalo State College campus and literally ran to the new location, where they were allowed in by police.

When dozens of other students arrived at the new location seconds later, police had blocked off the building and would not let them in. Only two student reporters-- one from *Student Leader Press Service* and the other from the *Buffalo State Record*-- were allowed in the room to observe the proceedings, while a number of others were forced to wait outside.

According to statewide graduate student president

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Viewpoints

# Fight the BS— Join Grad Action!

By Dominic Chan

It never ends. Just when you thought that we had stopped the parking fee, the administrators have come up with a new way to screw students: a bus fee. What's next, an oxygen fee? In the near future, one can imagine some high ranking bureaucrat saying, "Since the air is located within campus property, and students are the primary users of oxygen, we will have to charge them for every breath they take."

Give the SUNY bureaucrats credit; they are a creative and determined bunch. They have an incredible knack for finding new and interesting ways to make our lives miserable. And after you have fought with them to stop one of their ridiculous plans, they come up with an even more outrageous one to solve the budget deficit.

Unfortunately, the deficit will never be solved until they tackle the heart of the problem: why it exists in the first place. "Liberal" Governor Cuomo's huge tax cuts for the rich and big business over the past three years resulted in an estimated \$3 billion in lost revenue. Combined with Reagan-Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and cuts in social services (like education), it is no surprise that state and school budgets are in dire straits.

The supply-side logic that the rich will invest their windfalls to create jobs doesn't hold to the evidence. The Reagan years saw billions wasted

on leveraged buyouts, junk bonds and other forms of paper-shuffling. It's no surprise that the biggest financial boondoggle for the rich came at Drexel-Burnham, and through the looting of the savings and loans industry.

Meanwhile, the rest of us poor folk are left with our wallets a little emptier (taxes went up for the working and middle class in the past decade) and with declining services. Students are left with crowded classrooms (How many Stony Brook students can be crammed into Javits?), rising fees of all kinds, canceled classes, and a general decline in learning. Graduate instructors are left with few supplies to teach (how many hours have I lost searching for chalk?), rising health insurance costs with no way to pay, and burdened with grading 100 exams instead of 50 a few years ago.

It's no surprise that many of my fellow graduate activists have burned out from fighting the bureaucrats. Successes seem short-lived, as ephemeral as a politician's promise, for new monkeys in the works are always being planned by our "friends" at the top. Are we to throw in the towel and just accept what is handed down? We have got to keep at them, for what choice do we have? Things can only get worse without our participation. We need an organization to fight them with. We need a union.

While a union will not solve everything, it would be a step in the right direction. So much

of the bullshit that the administration puts upon us could not be done if we were recognized as workers. Fees could not be implemented at will by the higher-ups. We would have health insurance coverage. We would have a say in limiting class sizes and shaping our workload and responsibilities.

Of course, we currently cannot decide for ourselves the question of unionization. This is more bullshit that we have to fight. Instead of discussing some real substantive issues, such as health insurance, we are forced into an abstract debate about the democratic rights involved in deciding for ourselves.

We need a union and we need it now. But a union is only as good as its membership. Your union needs you. Without your involvement, the union doesn't exist. Lots of work needs to be done. There are flyers waiting to be distributed, phone calls to be made, a union to win. Excuses such as "I don't have the time" make no sense. What could be more important than shaping the major decisions that affect your lives? As an old union song states, "Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one, but the union makes us strong." Amen.

Come to Grad Action. We meet Mondays at 5 PM at the GSO office, Room 206 Central Hall.

*(The writer is the Secretary of the unrecognized Graduate Student Employees Union and is a graduate student in Sociology.)*

## Women Suffer While Stony Brook Denies Reality

By Sue Bojdak

Unofficial infirmiry information says there is, on average, at least one assault every night on the Stony Brook campus. While I was recently discussing this with a reporter at the Save SUNY rally, the university's Public Relations director interrupted to say that he thinks that's an awfully high number. So do I. It's interesting to note that, according to official campus statistics, there were only two reported rapes last year. That's an awfully low number, I say skeptically. And I'm sure our Public Relations director would smile and say, "Yes, it is." The question remains: Who is right?

Short of calling for all women victimized in

the last year to come and identify themselves (an impossible task due to the intense self-hatred that follows such attacks), we cannot empirically answer that question. But we can examine the advantages to be gained in the arguments. What have I to gain by reporting infirmiry figures that indicate such a high degree of violence against women on this campus? And what has the administration to gain by reporting quite the opposite?

If we are to accept that at least one woman is assaulted on this campus each night, we must also accept that women here are in great physical danger and Stony Brook has a very serious safety problem. That would mean that the uni-

versity would have to feel obligated to uphold its position that safety is the number one campus priority. And the administration might feel pressed into improving the walk service, improving the campus safety service which operates in dormitories, repairing doors that don't lock, improving on-campus lighting, and installing a genuine Blue Light phone system. And these things need to happen even in light of the budget crisis. What I and other women have to gain by this is increased security and peace of mind.

The administration also has a great deal to gain by accepting that we had only two rapes on this campus last year. This statistic looks fabulous on any kind of crime report, particularly to incoming students, a primary source of new revenue for the university. It also makes budgeting a lot easier when one does not have to juggle tight finances to afford expensive safety measures. What the administration had to gain is a better university image and greater budgetary freedom.

As convenient and as important as those things might be, they are not enough to warrant the administration's aloof attitude toward safety issues. If the administration insists on refusing to accept the high incidence of sexual assault on this campus, it must at least accept safety as a serious issue which needs to be confronted seriously. We cannot hide our heads in the sand and pretend that sexual assault is not happening. In fact, the image of the administration might improve greatly if it were viewed as practical and responsive to women's needs. The administration has nothing to lose by acting to improve safety on this campus. Women have their lives to lose if they don't.

*(The writer is a member of the Center for Women's Concerns.)*



A lesson for SUNY: You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

# Two Sides of the Same Coin: War & Education Cuts

By Fred Mayer

On December 5, during a speech delivered before students gathered in the Stony Brook University administration building to rally against funding cutbacks, Professor Hugh Cleland pointed out that U.S. immigration laws were recently changed by the federal government. The changes make it easier for skilled foreign nationals to move to the United States. The reason for this shift in policy is clear to all. Our country's educational infrastructure is failing to produce the needed number of degree recipients (at both the undergraduate and graduate levels). This point was reinforced the very next day by Professor Michael Zweig, during a Gulf crisis teach-in/speak-out held in the student union building. Furthermore, the proportion of students in our colleges and universities who are not U.S. citizens is increasing. The number of U.S. citizens obtaining college degrees is far below what it should be in order to count ourselves as an educated society.

The U.S. is headed for a situation in which the most vital function of society, the education of young people destined to fill the ranks of skilled workers, will be performed by other more progressive societies. The stupidity and injustice of this is profound. The people of this country are being turned into a throw-away commodity by vested interests who control the allocation of our fiscal resources. Instead of spending the cost of, say, a dozen B-2 bombers on education, our government screams at American youths: "Army! Navy! Airforce! Marines!" It is a sad statement that our own Dr. Marburger supported this crime, destroying the recent attempt by the University Senate to rid Stony Brook's campus of those who so regularly invade our student union, recruiting students to serve as cannon fodder for the U.S. war machine.

The looting of our future will only worsen as the Gulf crisis drags into next year. Before Bush initiated his offensive deployment on November 8, it was estimated that the cost of our intervention would be something like \$5 billion during the fis-

cal year that began on October 1. Last weekend, senior officials from the Defense Department and the White House announced that the Gulf operation could cost as much as \$31 billion. These costs will add to the federal budget deficit because the budget agreement signed last fall contained a clause which omitted expenses for the Gulf crisis. Thus the cap which was placed on defense spending is meaningless due to the fact that any kind of military spending can now be designated as serving operation Desert Shield. The additional money spent by students in order to pay for tuition increases will be indirectly used to send many of these same students to their deaths in the Middle East.

The question at this point has to be this: Why are there only a few hundred students (at most) involved in anti-war activism on our campus? There seem to be two major reasons in addition to the usual problem of alienation and apathy. First, the Defense Department learned one lesson from the Vietnam era very well. Much of the energy behind anti-war protests emanated from the phenomenon of the draft. A huge all volunteer army was formed after Vietnam, augmented to a great extent by reservists.

These young people didn't know what they were doing when they sold themselves to the government. Now they have to justify their decisions. It is very hard for a young person to admit that he or she was duped into believing that joining the military had nothing to do with the possibility of fighting in a war. Among non-reserve students, one can find some who will say, "Well, too bad. They should have known what they were getting into." In other words, they deserve to pay the price for their lack of foresight.

A second reason for the small (albeit growing) response on university campuses can be traced to a phenomenon which was not seen during the Vietnam war. A growing number of students are falling into the folds of extreme right-wing groups. College Republicans are only a single example of this. These

groups are motivated primarily by hate and resentment directed at leftists and racial minorities. This reflects the hatred and racial violence which is growing in our urban areas. On our campus, College Republicans have officially come down in support of Bush's war mongering. They shed tears over the deprivation of Kuwait's "fundamental rights of life, liberty, and property," while questioning the patriotism of those who would resist war.

However, there are rays of hope to be found. The energy level of the students who are working to build a broad-based peace movement is very high. As the link between war and cutbacks in university funding becomes clearer, more students--especially those in state schools--

will feel motivated to become more directly involved. The project which lies ahead of those who want to save our future will be difficult, time consuming, and longterm. The deployment of large numbers of troops in the Middle East could last for years, replacing the Cold War with an extended Oil War. Despite these facts, we really have no choice.

It is not an exaggeration to say that this could well be humankind's last chance to save the planet from utter ruin. A revolution is needed, and we've got to get to work on it right away.

Author's note: The Stony Brook Coalition for Peace can be contacted by calling 689-6319, 246-5620, or 689-7290.

(The writer is a member of the Coalition for Peace.)

## GSA Corner

# Changes Are Coming; Unite to Fight Them

By Andrea Kwasny

I was going to write an article on the results of a survey I did regarding the implementation of Departmental Grievance Committees. I thought it was necessary you know that out of forty-three graduate programs, only sixteen responded; that out of that sixteen, only six departments indeed comply with a Graduate School policy that mandates this be a standing committee. I wanted to write about the discouraging tenor of these results, as it seems that many departments still do not recognize the only procedure that "protects" in some sense our rights as non-unionized employees, a procedure which in fact is Graduate School policy. So I've mentioned it anyway, *en route* to what I decided I really wanted to talk about: your involvement in decisions that will have negative repercussions for us in both the short and long terms.

All of us should be aware by now of the severity of the budgetary problems with which this campus is dealing. Rumors of faculty and staff furloughs and layoffs, graduate student pay lags, maybe even graduate student layoffs, will become more than just talk in the very near future. This financial crunch will seriously affect all of us. But unlike the faculty and the staff, graduate students have no union to fight for our interests. So when our teaching load gets increased from one 101 course to two, but our stipends do not increase commensurately, there isn't going to be anybody but ourselves to fight it. When the tuition increase isn't matched with a proportional waiver increase, graduate students are going to have to pay the difference.

These changes are imminent. Unfortunately, the right to a union vote is not, much less the actual union. So while we're working on that issue, we need to be fighting against administrative decisions that will inevitably affect the quality of our education and general well-being, as well as lengthen the time it takes to finish our degree programs. You have to educate yourselves and your departments, and wake up to the fact that things are hitting the proverbial air conditioner now. We all have our hard-luck stories about all our academic work, but that work may treble if we don't do something about these problems now, and to quote a graduate student who's now gone, this doesn't mean rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

Moving right along to other gloomy matters, there's a basic problem with the insurance carrier that covers us, that is, if you have the money to pay for it. Not only does it take an enormous amount of time for them to send reimbursement checks, they in fact seem to be discriminating against female graduate students who become pregnant during graduate school: they refuse to pay for procedures like amniocentesis, in this instance, because the fetus isn't covered by the policy. If you have experienced this or other types of problems with the insurance company, please let me know. I'm collecting this information for strictly "subversive" purposes: a better, non-discriminatory, affordable health insurance policy.

I hope everybody has a peaceful holiday and that we're not in a war by time the January issue of *News and Blues* is published.

**Happy Holidays  
from your friends  
at the GSO!**



# If Buffalo Can Do It, Why Can't We?

By Mary Severance

Reprinted from the Graduate Post

BUFFALO-- The Graduate Student Employees Union is more than just the group of students who attended the most recent Trustees' meeting at Buffalo State College. The GSEU is a statewide organization seeking to represent the 5,500 graduate student employees in the SUNY system. SUNY has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, and tried every legal and administrative maneuver imaginable, to prevent a union election from taking place. In the course of an eleven-year struggle against these maneuvers, most of the original leaders of the union movement graduated and/or left SUNY, and the union itself receded into the memory of those who remained.

A group of your fellow graduate students has been working to rejuvenate the GSEU, however, and we hope that the people who read this article will join us.

Efforts at revitalizing the GSEU have fallen into two categories: recruitment and lobbying. We can't really do one without the other, and we are often directing our efforts toward both goals at one and the same event. Take, for instance, the Trustees' meeting. There we lobbied (i.e., we tried to persuade, or at least irritate the Trustees into thinking about our existence and/or into considering our point of view), we got several students to come out and participate who had not been closely involved before, and we brought the unionization issue to the attention of people who before no knew little or nothing about it.

But to return to my list. I'll begin with the first category: recruitment. At the moment, we are operating under the title of Political Action Committee (PAC), and have no official leaders. We need the participation of a diverse group of supported graduate students in order to have a real, democratic election of officers and thereby become a GSEU chapter. We will also need graduate students form a broad cross-section of departments to represent UB at a statewide Delegate Assembly, which we hope will take place in Albany sometime during the spring. Buffalo will send 19 delegates to this assembly, who will meet with delegates from the other SUNY centers and work to reinvigorate the statewide GSEU.

In short, local and statewide leadership must be

recruited from a variety of departments, and we have been pursuing and will continue to pursue several strategies to reach every department that has a graduate student population. We have held two rallies this year-- one in May and one in September-- at which several speakers helped us publicize our cause and the issues we think are most important to other graduate students. Our other ongoing activities include:

**Tabling:** One or two representative sit at a table with information for and commitment sheets to be signed by interested graduate students (What is a commitment sheet? We would like any graduate student who supports our right to a union election to sign one, and we would like it even more if each student would indicate on that sheet that s/he would be willing to help us get that election).

**Department Visits:** Slowly but surely, representatives from the PAC are making arrangements to visit each graduate department on campus. We try to arrange to visit during a Graduate Student Association club meeting, if the department has such a thing. We present information about the GSEU-- historical and contemporary, take questions, and hand out commitment sheets to be signed.

**Bi-weekly Meeting:** The PAC meets every other Wednesday, except on holidays and during breaks from school.

Before I discuss our lobbying efforts, I should first give a brief account of our situation. As you may already know, our case to gain recognition as state employees entitled to collective bargaining is stalled on appeal in front of the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) because the two sitting members are split on the issue, and the third seat has been empty for several years. The director of PERB sided initially with SUNY, whose lawyers contend that our teaching and research responsibilities are "incidental" to our status as students. That was in 1984 and nothing has happened since.

All is not lost, however. There are three groups of people who could be convinced to break this deadlock. The first is Governor Mario Cuomo, who could either appoint a third, pro-labor PERB member, or make a decision that would bypass PERB altogether. We're not especially hopeful about either of these two possibilities-- Cuomo took three years to appoint the last third member to PERB, who then left before the case could be heard to take a job in Mayor David Dinkins' administration. After this happened in March of this year, Cuomo promised GSEU that he would make a decision by April 16. We heard nothing from him then, and he has ignored us ever since.

The second group is the SUNY Board of Trustees. Chancellor Bruce Johnstone has always been anti-labor, and most of the Trustees do not seem to know that graduate students exist. This, however, is changing, and we will continue to lobby the Trustees, individually and as a group. At the last meeting,

Buffalo area Trustee Arnold Gardner seconded a resolution stating that SUNY would withdraw its opposition to graduate students' right to a union election, and we hope he was sincere in his interest in our plight. However, he immediately moved to table that resolution, effectively squashing any chance of discussion or a vote. In addition, he and the other Buffalo area Trustee, Nancy Nielson, claimed that they could not speak with us at any time in the future when we tried to set up an appointment with them. If they continue to refuse to see us, we will try alternative ways of getting their attention. We also plan to attend future Trustees' meetings, to make our voices heard and insist on a real discussion of the union issue. In any case, we know that we have a lot of work to do with all of the Trustees.

One thing you can do to help right now is to write to the Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees, Fred Salerno, and let him know that you demand a union vote. His address is: 1095 Sixth Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Or you can call him at (212) 395-5301.

Our third and final lobbying target is the New York State Legislature. The Communications Workers of America (CWA), our parent union, worked hard last year to convince two Long Island legislators-- Frank Barbaro in the Assembly and James Lack in the Senate-- to introduce a bill that would add graduate students to the "Taylor Law" (the Public Employment Law) which recognizes the right of New York State employees to unionize. The Legislature meets from January to June each year, so we will begin lobbying both local representatives and pertinent committee members soon.

Letters to Lack and Barbaro, thanking them for introducing the bill and soliciting their future support, would help our efforts greatly. Their addresses are:

Assemblyperson Frank Barbaro  
1708 West 10th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Senator James Lack  
342 New York State Office Bldg.  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

It should be clear by now that THE GSEU NEEDS HELP! each of the items on the list I've just gone over involves a whole host of activities-- for instance, we need people to put up posters announcing events and meetings, to help make signs and banners, to make telephone calls to spread the word about union activities, to table, and to help gather information about the graduate student population at SUNY Buffalo. No single activity would take up very much of any one person's time, and the more helpers we get, the more widely we can spread the work. In short, we need to see a massive show of support for our right to unionize [as do we at Stony Brook -Ed.].

## SUNY Shuts Grad Students Out of the Process, Again--

(Continued from Page 3)

Jane Ely, "Because the room capacity was 80 where we were originally and then it was 40 where we were going, it was an obvious attempt to prevent the graduate students from attending a public meeting." Ely speculated that the trustees wanted to avoid further interruptions of the meeting by graduate student protesters and chose to keep them outside.

"The board is willing to hide behind a club-wielding police force and secret meeting locations to avoid confronting issues of basic student rights," said Baranov, who was arrested and handcuffed to a fixture inside a men's room. [Baranov pleaded not guilty in Buffalo on November 30 and his next court date is scheduled for December 20 -Ed.]

When a janitor found him in the bathroom, Baranov reportedly said that he was having "communication problems" with SUNY. He was bailed out shortly after being arrested. Six other graduate students got as far as the lobby of the building, and refused to leave, while police refused to arrest them.

"This was not in the spirit of the open-meeting policy and furthermore, was in the tradition of Gestapo statistics," Baranov added. "I was a speaker at the meeting. I was speaking and they said stop speaking so we can move into a secret location."

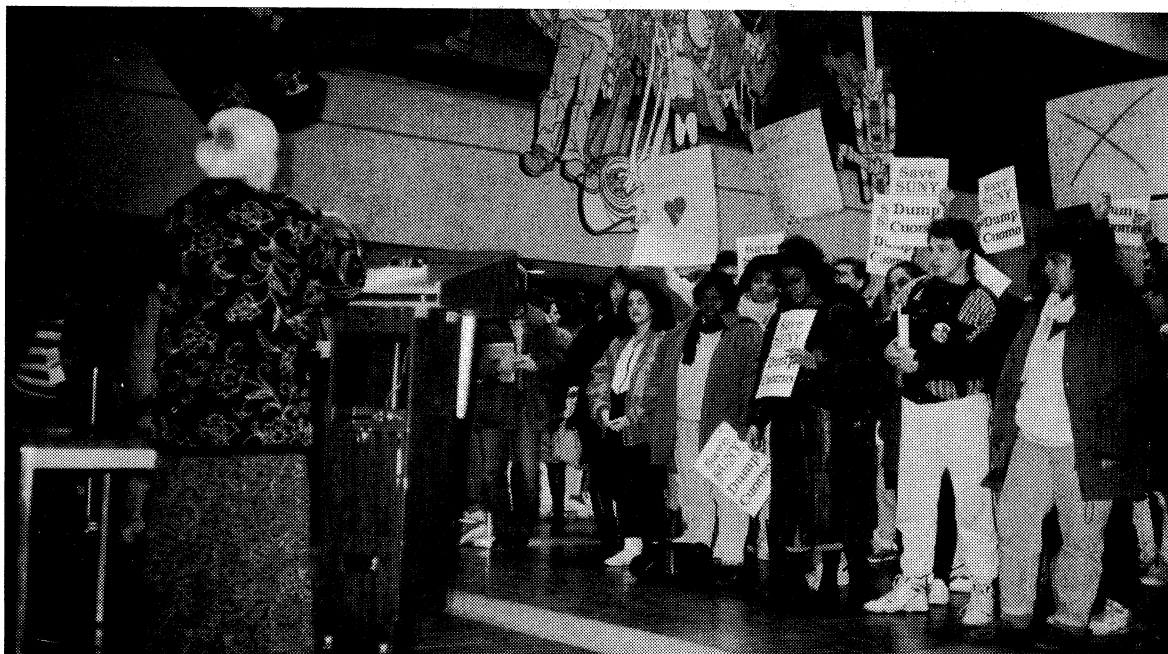
*The next issue of the  
News and Blues  
will be on or about  
January 28, 1991;  
Call 632-6492 for more information!*

# Save SUNY Rally Held in Administration Building

The GSO and Student Polity co-sponsored a Save SUNY rally on December 5. Approximately 150 students came to the Administration lobby to let their concerns be known, and their response to speakers was spirited, yet controlled. Among the speakers were GSO President Jane Ely, Polity President Dan Slepian, GSEU Secretary Dominic Chan, and Professors Michael Zweig and Hugh Cleland. Representatives from campus advocacy groups also spoke.

Slepian spoke of preserving access to SUNY. "We are not a Harvard or Yale," he said. "This is not about tuition. This is about access and quality. The purpose of a state university is to make sure that every single person in the state who wants to come to school can, and right now we're being denied that access. That isn't fair."

As the rally progressed Public Safety officers, apparently concerned that a repeat of the activism shown the day before by students protesting discrimination against Haitians and sub-Saharan Africans at the blood drive, coolly videotaped the activities from the second-floor balcony of the lobby.



GSO President Jane Ely (indistinguishable at left) speaks to students at the rally.

Photo not by me

## Michael Zweig Talks About an Agenda for Peace—

(Continued from Page 3)

had a hard time after they defeated the Turks maintaining their influence in that region over a period of 70 years; as the situation there has emerged and developed, there's been more in the way of independence, there's been more nationalism and sense of national and pan-Arab sensitivities, and the US has consistently come down on the wrong side of that. The fact that we have an advanced military force in that area cannot solve that problem; it can only make it worse.

This is a phenomenon that is not just limited to American policy with respect to the Gulf, it is also a question of American policy with respect to Israel and the Palestinians. We may say these conflicts should not be linked; unfortunately, nothing in the Middle East is not linked to the question of Israel and the Palestinians, and Syria and Lebanon. These things are not disassociated from one another. So if we as the American people are about to build a peace movement, we have to do it with respect to the basic issues of social justice in that region.

That's on the foreign policy side. Now on the domestic side, we have the problem of the American economy. We are in deep trouble. I would say that the principal problem in the US economy is not so much the debt. Debt is not in itself a terrible thing. It depends on how you use the money. If you use the money productively then you can generate enough income and enough positive product that you can pay the interest on the debt and the debt itself never has to be repaid.

But how has the United States used its deficit? How has the United States used the money which it has borrowed? It has used it foolishly. It has used it in a way which now makes it a situation where we cannot pay it back. We cannot pay the interest. Why? Because there isn't enough production in this country to generate the resources to pay those claims and still have enough resources left for us to have a decent standard of living. Why? Because that money was used to build up the most impressive and the most powerful military machine in the history of the world, and that military machine has been

so corrosive, and so powerfully negative a force in the US economy that we now are paying the cost for it.

If we are going to address the domestic economy and our domestic needs, it must be done by addressing the problem of the military budget of our nation. Before August 2, there was talk in the US about a peace dividend. Remember the peace dividend? Whatever happened to the peace dividend? It's out in Saudi Arabia.

If you take the resources devoted to the military, \$300 billion, and take 20% of it, that doesn't mean you wipe out the military. We'll take \$60 billion-- that's the peace dividend. The thing about the peace dividend is that's not \$60 billion once, that's \$60 billion every year. This isn't a plan for disarmament or for doing away with the military. This is a plan for how to have a sensible economic, political and military structure in the United States.

How many schools can you build for \$60 billion? How many people's tuition can you pay? How many teachers' salaries can you raise? How many fire departments can you upgrade? How many drug addicts can you get on the programs? How many people can you rescue from a society that makes a principle out of taking tens of millions of people and throwing them away? We live in a country that throws people away. How much of the \$60 billion every year would go to make some alleviation of this problem?

It doesn't make sense. Just think about it— it's craziness. We live in a society which is crazy, which doesn't make sense, which isn't in conformity with our reality, and we need to bring it back to our reality and make it serve us.

We have political parties and we elect people. The problem is that doesn't mean that they represent us. The problem with this democracy is that if we want it to work, we have to be mobilized and organized and in their face every day. In their face every day because they are killing us. Then we can get a little bit of democracy around here. You need a political movement; You have to be part of a social process and that process is something that you have to take on as your responsibility. You must do that because that process is

out there whether you like it or not and it is not just a bunch of individuals. There is a social process that we're all imbedded in and that's a process which will take us to war, make us poor, and degrade us unless we respond and take that social process and take it back and make it into something that we need, we want, and we understand to be fully just. And that cannot be done without the most unbelievable exertions of energy and com-

radeship, and thought and care and danger. But that's where we are as a people. I think we're done with the Eighties and that's not just a chronological thing. We're done with that and now we have to take on the question of how are we as young people, middle aged people, old people, students, workers, white, black, Asian, Hispanic-- it doesn't matter-- how are we going to take this country and make it into something that's decent?

### Advertisement

## Check Cashing Available

United States postage stamp books may now be purchased, at cost, from the Faculty Student Association (FSA) Check Cashing Service.

Check Cashing is a service offered by the Faculty Student Association (FSA) on a break-even basis which allows members of the campus community to cash checks at a nominal fee (75 cents for checks up to \$100 and \$1.50 for checks over \$101).

Money orders are also available for 90 cents, a reduced cost from that which can be obtained off campus, and must be paid for in cash.

The following rules apply to FSA Check Cashing, which is located on the second floor of the Stony Brook Union, just around the corner from the Polity Office:

- Valid campus picture ID must be presented to cash checks;
- Personal checks will be cashed up to \$54.00;
- Parent checks (same last name) will be cashed up to \$100;
- Travelers Checks up to \$100 will be cashed;
- Off campus payroll checks will be cashed up to \$100;
- On campus payroll checks will be cashed for any amount; and
- Third party checks are not cashed.

Further information may be obtained from the FSA Business Office, Room 282 Stony Brook Union, 632-6510.

*FSA is proud to be a sponsor of The GSO News and Blues.*





Both Ida Fuchs, the GSO's office manager, and Hooter Ely, the GSO's mascot, are doing fine following recent surgery.

## UGSO VI Held in Binghamton

By Jeff McFarland

Reprinted from the Graduate Voice

BUFFALO-- The sixth statewide meeting of the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO-SUNY) took place during the weekend of December 1-2 in Binghamton. Several major issues were addressed during the weekend. Among the first of these was the drafting of a provisional constitution for UGSO, which represents graduate students' concerns on a statewide level.

The UGSO Executive Board is structured to include the individual executive committees of the GSOs representing the four SUNY centers (Binghamton, Buffalo, Stony Brook, and the newly formed GSO at Albany). Decisions of the organization are made by consensus, with each GSO having one vote. In addition, the relationship of UGSO to the other statewide organizations, such as the Graduate Student Employees Union

(GSEU), was discussed.

The student leaders also discussed recent events, such as the student protest of the November SUNY Board of Trustees meeting at Buffalo State, the Buffalo undergraduate SA's decision to leave SASU, and the current state and SUNY budget situations. Future strategies were set up to complement the efforts of the local GSOs and Political Action Committees in the campaign to gain the right to self-determination for graduate student employees.

A final act of business was to approve a tentative budget for UGSO, pending final approval of the local GSO Senates.

With the expected financial turmoil for the state of New York in the near future and the anticipated heightening of the self-determination campaign in the next several months, UGSO agreed to next meet during the third weekend of January in Albany.

## Proof Santa Claus Doesn't Exist!

New scholarly pamphlet proves Santa Claus never existed. Reindeer, mistletoe, little elves— all a pack of lies!

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*It makes a great gift!*

(Prices subject to change without notice.)

## Grad Pay Lag in the Works As Stony Brook Looks for \$\$\$

(Continued from Page 1)

Stony Brook may be able to cover the full cost, "We're not sure because we have no idea what the final increase will be," King said.

Asked whether layoffs could be coming, King said, "It remains a possibility but obviously we don't want to do that. We also have to make sure our enrollment continues to be where we want it. If we lay them [graduate employees] off, some will go to part-time status and enrollment will suffer."

The wages situation looks even bleaker because, while Stony Brook has in recent years granted its graduate student employees the same cost-of-living increases as faculty members, the faculty

unions have not yet reached agreement with SUNY on their contracts for next year. "The negotiating position of SUNY is that they are trying to keep the increase as low as possible," King said, "and it may be as small as one or two percent, if anything."

Finally, the recently passed resolution of the SUNY Board of Trustees, adopting SUNY Central's recommendation of a \$2 million allocation as a stipend increase for the purposes of assisting in the purchase of health insurance, may also be subject to reduction or elimination, King said. SUNY will begin formulating its budget in the early months of 1991 and until then, this issue will be up in the air.

*Make your Momma  
and your Poppa proud—  
Work for Peace!*

Happy Christmas from the GSO



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