

# News and Blues

Volume 1, Number 9  
April 17, 1991

Published by the Graduate Student Organization at SUNY Stony Brook

## Seventeen CUNY and SUNY Campuses Occupied; Stony Brook Budget Protest Planned for Thursday at 10 AM

By Eric F. Coppolino

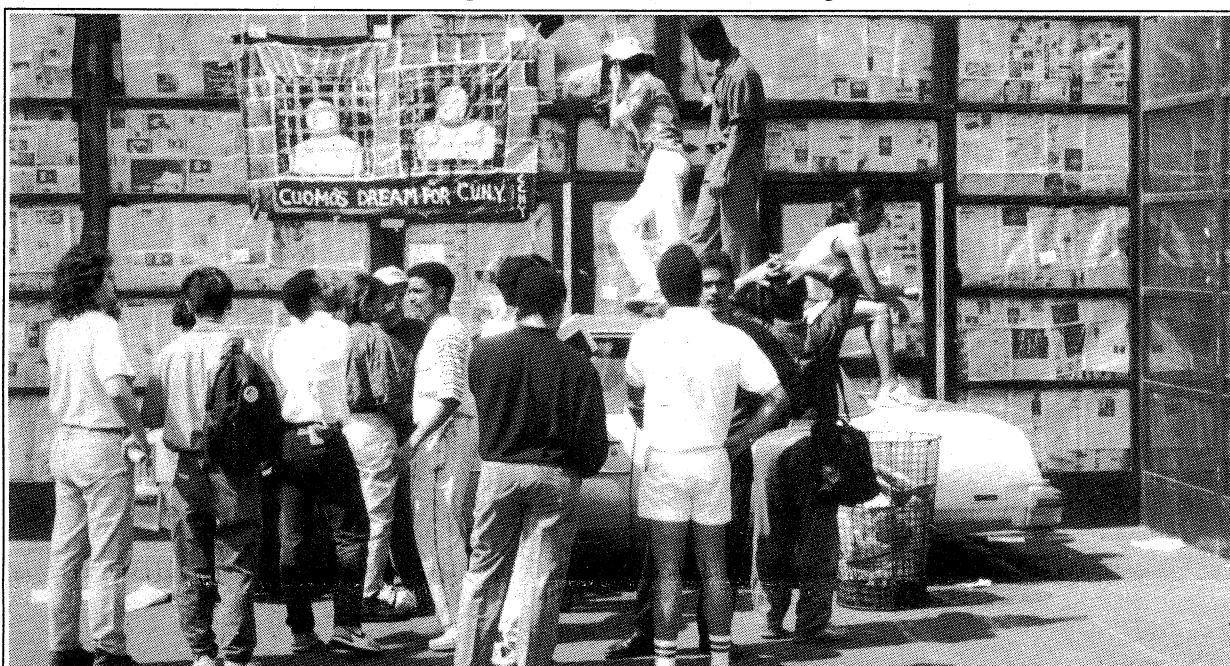
Student Leader News Service

NEW YORK CITY, April 12-- Faced with the near doubling of educational costs over just one year, students at the City University of New York came out roaring in protest last week. By Monday, SUNY students at several campuses were planning and participating in actions of their own to protest both the increased tuition and cuts in student-aid programs.

Polity, the undergraduate student government at Stony Brook, has called for a demonstration Thursday morning at 10 am in front of the administration building. "It's too early to say what the intentions of the protesters will be," said Polity President Dan Slepian, "but it will definitely be a show of solidarity with the CUNY students who have gone out already." GSO officials are urging graduate students to also take part in the demonstration.

Half of the CUNY system was shut down under student protest last week, after students at the City College of New York (CCNY) seized the massive North Academic before dawn last Monday. Students continued their protest this week at seven campus buildings, with students chaining and barricading themselves inside administration and academic buildings at Brooklyn College, Bronx Community College (BCC), NYC Technical College, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), and LaGuardia Community College, among others.

Students demanding that the State Legislature block Governor Mario Cuomo's proposed annual tuition hikes of \$500, halt devastating cuts to financial aid, and reduce planned cuts of \$100 million to the CUNY system said that every other lobbying tactic they tried had failed.



Student Leader/Jose Comacho

Students at City College in Harlem barricade one of the entrances to the North Academic Center last Monday.

Student outrage is compounded by the fact that this would be the second round of simultaneous tuition hikes, financial aid cuts and budget cuts to hit CUNY and the State University of New York (SUNY) in just six months.

"They can't ignore this," said Rafael Alvarez, president of the CCNY Day Student Government (DSG), whose organization met with key legislators on campus and in Albany, held protest marches, organized massive legislative letter-writing drives, and sent letter-writing

kits to the entire 14,000 City College student body.

On Monday morning, students at SUNY Purchase took over the administration building, locking the entrances and forcing the closing of all business there. As of Tuesday night, approximately 20 students were in control of the building, and the administration was taking no steps to have them removed.

"I think that students have to make their voice be  
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## Wild Senate Moves on UGSO, GSEU Resolutions

By George Bidermann

In a raucous atmosphere characterized by repeated interruptions, numerous allegations, and some plain old offensive language, the GSO Senate last month served notice to the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO) that it had until May 15 to adopt a Constitution and personnel policy, and empowered the GSO Action Committee to determine the mindset of the graduate student population with regard to unionization for graduate student employees.

After approval of the minutes from the February meeting, a motion was made by Physics Senator Fons Haffmans to change the order of the meeting's agenda, placing Old Business first. Old Business, where tabled items and issues unaddressed at prior meetings are discussed, is normally handled just before New Business at the end of a meeting, according to Robert's Rules of Order, the manual on parliamentary law. After a brief discussion, the senate approved the motion, and a brief report on the censorship of the February 22 *Stony Brook Press* issue followed, with President Jane Ely stressing that the GSO is trying to get a motion condemning the action passed by the University Senate.

The next item under Old Business was a resolution brought by Haffmans regarding unionization efforts on campus. The resolution sought to empower the GSO's action committee to oversee and organize the initial union drive on campus, asked the Senate to recognize only the action committee as legitimately representing the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) until elections for delegates were held, and stated that

the GSO would review its relationship with GSEU after elections had taken place. Under discussion of the motion, Political Science Senator Mike Wild complained that the GSO had not really done enough to determine if graduate students wanted a union, and said he remained unconvinced that the majority of graduate students supported the GSO's pro-union stance.

A motion was then made by CED Senator Gerry Manginelli to go into a "committee of the whole," which would open up the floor to all issues relevant to unionization. Although members of the senate seemed somewhat confused about the operations of a "committee of the whole," the motion carried. Haffmans then handed out two additional resolutions. The first asked the senate to resolve that the GSEU delegate assembly scheduled for April 20-21 was premature, given reservations about the representative and democratic character of the GSEU assembly, and urged that the action committee "investigate the possibility of an autonomous campus-based GSEU organization." The second resolution called on the GSO Senate to decide whether to participate fully in UGSO "only if it has a constitution, personnel policies contract, guidelines and financial procedures in place." Haffmans said both resolutions arose from his concerns that the GSEU and UGSO were not working with legitimate operating structures (see related story, page 5).

Once discussion of these resolutions was opened, the meeting deteriorated. Haffmans first relayed background information about each of the three resolutions. Several of the points he made were disputed by members of the senate, among them that

the leaders of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the union that GSEU is affiliated with, "don't believe in disrupting [SUNY] Trustees meetings" and that UGSO was an illegitimate organization with no structure, which could "de-

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# Arm Public Safety? No, No, A Million Times No!

The Department of Public Safety has recently requested, for the umpteenth time, that they be given "limited access" to firearms. This access means that Public Safety officers will have available certain firearms, the type of which have not been identified, to be used at the discretion of officers. By extension, could "limited access" soon become "open access," a situation where all Public Safety officers would then carry guns? It is not clear at this point who would make this decision and even if, under the contract that Public Safety officers have as unionized workers, such selections can be made. The point is, should all these "details" be worked out once a decision is made, or should they be a part of the decision process?

University President John Marburger has consistently opposed arming Public Safety officers in the past, but his office says he remains open to all proposals. We would like him and the campus to know that the GSO opposes arming Public Safety officers under any circumstances. A resolution supporting this stance was passed unanimously by the GSO Senate last fall.

There is a belief among Public Safety officers that guns will improve their images among their peers. Only *real* cops have guns. Why don't people understand that it takes a lot more skill and intelligence to deal with difficult situations unarmed? Carrying a gun does *not* automatically grant you respect. Wouldn't it be better to have a real dialogue with the Suffolk County Police and tell them to improve their response time rather than jump to the knee-jerk response of arming peace officers? The county police have no trouble finding the campus when they need to fill up their cars at our gas pumps; why can't they respond quicker when weapons-related incidents occur on campus?

The conduct of some Public Safety officers and the administrators within the department has been questionable in numerous incidents over the years. GSO officers were present in 1987 when Public Safety administrators and officers threw around

Tent City inhabitants, injuring two students. This action led to a series of protests culminating in the arrests of more than 40 students. And does anyone remember Gary Barnes, the former director of Public Safety, who left the university in 1988 under a cloud of accusations regarding falsified time sheets? Is it that hard to imagine that instead of protesting the recent suspensions of two students who participated in the blood drive protest, people on this campus might be mourning the deaths of these students if Public Safety officers had guns on that day?

The administration is, at the urging of the University Senate, setting up a committee to deal with Public Safety issues. But if the decision to arm Public Safety officers, in any capacity, is made, the university should look toward setting up a review board similar to the civilian review boards of cities,

towns, and municipalities. Right now, for the most part, the department of Public Safety polices itself. It does not want any kind of a review board, as it views this as an attempt to micromanage the department. Do they have something to hide?

The GSO recognizes the difficulty of some of the incidents officers face as they deal with a large population of students and a rapidly shrinking budget. Fiscal realities reduce the number of officers necessary to effectively patrol the campus. Even more damaging, budget cuts are reducing staff, supplies, and outreach programs that have been initiated to deal with the more common crimes occurring on campus (such as date rape and burglary). Guns are not a reasonable addition to an already too-tight budget. If we have the money for guns, let's put it to better use-- let's try strengthening our community, not alienating it.



Guest Editorial

## Death in the Killing Deserts

By Ellen Ray

In less than 48 hours, along several highways leading from Kuwait to Basra, U.S. pilots killed tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi soldiers, members of the Republican Guard, some with Kuwaiti hostages, and refugees fleeing the advancing allied sweep. The 38-kilometer stretch of the main road between Kuwait City and Basra, quickly dubbed "the road to Hell," had bumper-to-bumper traffic of both civilian and military vehicles--each of which was mercilessly bombed from the air. From footage shown on ABC March 11, there was no indication of any survivors, as bodies and limbs littered the road and hung from the wrecks of trucks and cars more than ten days later.

"It was like shooting fish in a barrel," one pilot said. The retreating Iraqis were "basically just sitting ducks..It was just a question of getting back and forth to the carrier to get more bombs..." said another. "The preferred weapon--the Rockeye cluster bomb was passed over for others because elevators were too slow getting them up to the flight deck in time for the next launch" (*Washington Post*, February 27, 1991, p.1)

The British papers-- particularly the Independent (February 28)--denounced the glee with which the American officers carried out the barrage, saying it "turned the stomach" and was "sickening to witness a routed army being shot in the back." But the U.S. press almost universally applauded them as the heroes of what Jim Ridgeway called "the first of the Third World wars" (*Village Voice*, March 19, p.19)

In the "softening up" that went on for 39 days before, air strikes against Iraqi conscripts were also unparalleled in their viciousness. The U.S. used hitherto unknown, gruesome antipersonnel weapons with names like Adam, Beehive, and Bouncing Betty, and "near-nuclear" explosives such as the fuel air bomb, as well as laser-guided Hellfire missiles and the old standbys, napalm

and white phosphorous. With these, the heroes killed and maimed more than 200,000 half-starved, often barefoot, Iraqis.

John Balzar of the *Los Angeles Times*, in a description of the slaughter unlike anything in the antiseptic, celebratory *New York Times* coverage, told of watching videotapes of night vision gunsights in a briefing room ("Apache Copters: Deadly Havoc in the Dark of Night," February 24, p.A1):

They looked like ghostly sheep flushed from a pen--Iraqi infantrymen bewildered and terrified, jarred from sleep and fleeing their bunkers under a hellish fire. One by one, they were cut down by attackers they could not see or understand. Some were blown to bits by bursts of 30-millimeter exploding cannon shells. One man dropped, writhed on the ground, then struggled to his feet; another burst of fire tore him apart.

He described the tension in the briefing room: "Even hardened soldiers held their breath as the Iraqi soldiers as big as football players on the television screen, run with nowhere to hide. These are not bridges exploding or airplane hangars. These are men." But John Kifner, talking about the same unlevel playing field, wrote in the *Times* (February 25, p.A1):

"It's an awesome sight," said Colonel Hill, surveying the helicopters under a darkening sky. "When I looked at it I thought, 'cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war.'"... "We own this piece of desert," Lt. Phil Johnson, a Ranger, said with a grin as his Huey helicopter settled into the landing zone in a cloud of dust.

And if the superiority of US weapons was acknowledged at all it was never placed in the context of a human enemy (R.W. Apple, Jr., "Tanks and Troops Move Forward After Intense Artillery Barrage," Feb. 24, p.A1): American pilots and their comrades from nine other nations flew bombing missions over Kuwait at a record

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### The GSO News and Blues

#### Volume 1, Number 9

A publication of the  
Graduate Student Organization  
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The *GSO News and Blues* is published by the Graduate Student Organization, which is solely responsible for its content. Editorials are written by a member of the executive committee or its designee, and represent the majority opinion of the executive committee. Letters for publication, comments, and items for submission may be mailed or delivered to the GSO office. For advertising information or more information about the GSO, call 632-6492. This issue went to press on April 17.



# GSO Elections Are Set: Now All We Need Is You

By Gary Halada  
Election Committee Chair

Participation in the Graduate Student Organization is an important responsibility for all graduate students, not just because you want to have some control over where your activity fee goes, but also because it is through the GSO that you can influence the policies and politics that affect graduate life at Stony Brook. The GSO was created to represent graduate students, and it is the officers of the GSO who are directly charged with the responsibility of representing your interests to the administration and the university community.

The deadline for nominations of officers is Monday, April 22. Your participation in the election of these officers, as well as in deciding referenda or adding amendments to the GSO Constitution, is your best route to making an impact on decisions that will affect all graduate students for years to come. Responding to the desires, requests and suggestions of students from all departments, past executive committees have helped establish university guidelines that protect graduate student employees, and led the graduate assistant strike of 1987, which in turn helped bring about higher stipends and a financial commitment from the university to lower the cost of child care for low-income parents.

## Executive Committee Responsibilities

The executive committee (consisting of the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary) works with the GSO's budget committee and senate to support various campus organizations, special events of interest to graduate students, the Resource Access Project (RAP), and other causes through the GSO budget. Members of the executive committee are instrumental in representing the graduate point of view before various groups, from the University Senate to the administration at SUNY Central in Albany, and they are instrumental also in reporting to both the GSO Senate and to you directly through the newspaper you are reading on issues of importance to graduate students. In short, all the members of the executive committee work in various capacities to ensure that the voices of graduate students at Stony Brook are heard where they count most--in the halls of the Administration building as well as the halls of Albany.

Also up for election is the sole student seat on the Stony Brook Council, the body governing university policies and procedures. Under agreement with Polity, the undergraduate student government, graduate and undergraduate students alternate representation on the council. This year, members of the GSO will elect a representative to the council for the 1991-92 academic year.

No matter how many candidates are running for each office, whether one or ten, it is important that you vote. Your vote does not only indicate a preference for one candidate over another but also acts as a validation of the GSO political process and as assurance that our executive committee speaks for the largest possible number of graduate students.

## Referenda and Amendments

In addition to the candidates on the ballot, you can also vote on referenda and amendments to the G.S.O. constitution. Referenda, such as those which provide money for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) or the Student Association of the State University (SASU), are placed on the ballot either through a vote of the GSO Senate (any senator can propose a referendum) or by any graduate student who collects 100 graduate student signatures on a petition. Petition forms, which also list the referendum itself and the people sponsoring it, are available in the GSO office, Room 206, Central Hall. Amendments to the GSO Constitution are placed on the ballot through a similar process. If you would like to have a look at the constitution or any of the bylaws of the GSO, ask your departmental senator to pick up a copy, or just come down to the office yourself.

The most direct way you can become involved in the

GSO is by representing your department in the senate or, better yet, by running for one of the executive committee positions. Since being an officer entails a good amount of responsibility and hard work, why should you want to run for office? Certainly the stipend (\$200 a month) is not going to put you into the next tax bracket, and you probably will not end up being trailed by photographers from "People" magazine (unless you do something really strange). So if not fame and fortune, why?

The primary reason is that, as an officer, you can make an immediate and visible impact on how you and your fellow graduate students are viewed and treated. Whether you want to push for unionization, maintaining GA/TA lines, polling places for state and national elections on

campus, more (or cheaper... or at least decent) graduate student housing, or just a louder voice in administration decisions, the executive committee might be the place for you. Any member of the GSO (that is, any graduate student at Stony Brook) may run for office. You don't have to be a sixth year Ph.D. candidate or a GSO senator for the past five years. You need just two things--a desire to improve graduate student life and twenty-five signatures on a petition for office. The former you must have already; the latter you can pick up at the GSO office any time. The petition must include a one-hundred fifty word campaign statement, which will be placed on the ballot. Your statement can include information about your back-

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## Graduate Student Organization Election Bylaws

### I. Nomination Procedure:

Prospective candidates for GSO office must submit a petition of 25 graduate student signatures supporting their bid for office by a deadline to be established by the Election Committee. Petition forms are to be made available by the GSO office. Signatures are subject to validation by the Election Committee.

### II. Ballot:

The ballot should consist of the following:

- A set of instructions describing how the ballot envelope should be filled out and the deadline for sending ballots back to the GSO office.
- A brief description of the responsibilities of any office to be filled (optional).
- A one hundred and fifty word campaign statement from each candidate running for office.
- Any referenda or constitutional amendments to be voted upon.
- The ballot itself must allow space for a write-in candidate for each office. A write-in candidate for GSO office must be a member of the GSO.

**NOTE:** Each ballot will be distributed with an attached envelope which will be addressed to the GSO office. The front of the envelope will be printed with blank lines for (1) student name, (2) student's department, (3) student's I.D. number (social security number) and (4) student's signature. Upon being received, ballots will be placed in a locked ballot box in the GSO office. Keys to the lock will be held by members of the Election Committee. (After the votes have been counted the ballots shall remain in the locked box in case the need for a recount arises.)

### III. Ballot Distribution and Counting Procedures

- Four weeks before the deadline for voting, notice will be sent to all senators to pick up ballots for their departments.
- One week later (three weeks before the deadline), department ballots not picked up will be delivered by the GSO office (in accordance with past procedure--i.e. hand-delivery by work-study students, etc.).
- Two weeks before the deadline, follow-up calls will be made to all departments. Any departments without ballots will have them delivered at that time.
- At least one week before the deadline, ads will be placed (or some equivalent action taken) reminding students to vote and informing anyone who did not receive a ballot to pick one up at the GSO office.

(e) Three days after the deadline votes will be tallied under the supervision of the Election Committee. A representative from each candidate may be present. Late votes may be accepted until this time at the discretion of the Election Committee. Status of voters will be verified to the satisfaction of the Election Committee using current alpha-lists, other student listings or calls made to departments. Names on ballot envelopes which are not readable or not verifiable will lead to disqualification and destruction of the ballot in question.

### IV. Reporting of Election Results:

Within ten days of the deadline, copies of the election results, signed by the members of the Election Committee, will be sent to the Graduate School and placed on file at the GSO office.

### IV. Recounts:

If any of the concerned parties dispute the results of an election within one week of the tallying of the ballots they may request a recount. The recount shall be conducted by the Election Committee under the observation of representatives of the candidates and the GSO Executive Committee.

# What Was it Like on the Road to Hell?

(Continued from Page 2)

pace for the second straight day, with 1200 strikes directed at Iraqi troop positions. In an effort to make way for armor and infantry men, they used napalm, ground clearing fuel-air bombs and cluster bombs, which the GIs describe as "steel rain."

## The Numbers Game

In another insult to its readers, the New York Times parroted Gen. Schwarzkopf's strained and self-serving mathematics: "Outnumbered and Outgunned, Allied Forces Outfox Hussein" (Michael R. Gordon, February 28, p. A9). This piece purported to demonstrate that the reason for the allied victory over Iraq was brilliant military strategy in the face of greater enemy troop strength and hardware, rather than the reality of brute force and the widespread carpet bombing of an entire country.

Gordon was referring to Schwarzkopf's news conference, in which he said:

Basically, the problem we were faced with was this: When you looked at the troop numbers, they really outnumbered us about 3 to 2. And when you consider the number of combat service support people we had...we were really outnumbered 2 to 1. In addition...they had a great deal more artillery than we do.

How was this possible? Only four days earlier, the *Times* had reported (February 24, p. 1):

In the immense Saudi desert, more than 700,000 allied troops-Americans, Britons, Frenchmen, Saudis, Egyptians and smaller contingents from dozens of other nations-waited for an assault...intended to push more than 500,000 Iraqi defenders out of their bunkers in Kuwait.

Just 400,000 allies would be used in the initial assault, but there were "over 533,000 American servicemen and women in the Persian Gulf region, according to a Pentagon tally, very close to the maximum number of American military people to serve in Vietnam."

It was astonishing that Gen. Schwarzkopf could describe 700,000 troops facing 500,000 troops as being "outnumbered 2 to 1." It was even more amazing that the *Times* accepted his "new math." Schwarzkopf then speculated that there must have been as much as 30 percent desertions, because, when the allies attacked, the Iraqi troops were not as numerous as had been announced. Mass graves, as in Panama, will serve U.S. interests once more.

## The Body Count

The Pentagon has ordered a study of how many Iraqi soldiers were killed, but as with every phase of this war, the real target of the disinformation, the American people, will never find out what their government has wrought. More than 100,000 U.S. troops still occupy southern Iraq and without international supervision, are supposedly counting the bodies as they bury them. Schwarzkopf said of the "savage and redundant bombing" only that there were "a very, very large number of dead...in the front lines" (John Broder, *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, p. 1).

But for many of us, that will not do. *The New York Times* featured the death toll of Iraqi troops at a rather conservative 25,000 to 50,000 (John H. Cushman, Jr., March 1, p. 1), but, Cushman said, "it could have been far worse."

Doug Ireland, tabulating the body count in the *Village Voice*, (March 19, p. 8), noted that a Saudi military commander told CNN that about 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed and twice that number wounded. NBC's Fred Francis gave a figure of 150,000 dead, and *Le Nouvel Observateur* cited a French military intelligence figure of 200,000 dead. The *Times* figure is thus from one-half to one-eighth of all the other estimates.

Despite frequent warnings in the *Times* that deadly Iraqi resistance was a constant threat, it was certainly no surprise to any of the mili-

tary commands-- and probably little to the corporate media-- that the Iraqi military could not respond, either to defend themselves or to retreat as they were penned in and attacked by these hideous weapons of mass destruction. Indeed, the subsequent reports of "ferocious" fighting by the Iraqis turned out to be utterly false. Other papers were reporting the opposite, that Iraqis were trying desperately to surrender but often not given the chance. The *Times*'s twist simply helped justify the president's refusal, throughout the killing, to agree to a cease-fire.

Feigning indecision each step of the way, George Bush led the world inexorably, pseudo-deadline by pseudo-deadline, to the decimation of a people. His plan was never merely to drive Iraq from Kuwait, but "to crush a crippled adversary;" the plan contained no intermediate objectives or 'firebreaks' where action would pause to allow an orderly Iraqi withdrawal" (Melissa Healy and John M. Broder, "Allied Assault Mapped to Route Crippled Foe," *Los Angeles Times*, February 24, 1991, p. 1). Jonathan Schell speculated (*Newsday*, February 24, p. 37):

One day, a historian will chronicle how... President George Bush acted without consultation or advance notice to the public...how each action was

used to create pressure for the next...how the press...fell in step with [the President's] slightest suggestion, as if under the spell of a hypnotist...And...how every major actor on the world stage...was carried along by the president and led to...participate in a war that not one...wanted..."

Schell's expectations of future American soul-searching may be too optimistic. This country has never really repented its wars-- not the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, or the Vietnam War, to name a few of the least justifiable. More likely, the people of the Middle East alone will remember with bitterness that bright, shining hour of US death-dealing which was the Gulf war.

The people of Iraq will be reminded daily of what was done to them, as they struggle to pull themselves out of the Dark Ages, trying to rebuild an infrastructure wantonly and deliberately destroyed. Sewer, water supply, and electrical systems will take years to reconstruct, while perhaps a quarter of the nation's young men have been killed or maimed.

*The author wishes to thank Mae Churchill, who assisted in the research.*

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## Attention Seekers Of Fame and Fortune:

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

**PRESIDENT:** Primary spokesperson of the GSO, representing it in the University Senate Executive Committee and the Graduate Council. This person will supervise and support execution of GSO legislation, make appointments of representatives to campus committees and, in general, help everything run smoothly and effectively.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Will assume the president's responsibilities in that officer's absence, convene GSO committee meetings, and aid in the general functioning and business of the GSO.

**TREASURER:** Responsible for handling all GSO funds and preparing the GSO budget. Convenes budget committee meetings and works with other officers to conduct GSO business.

**SECRETARY:** Keeps minutes of GSO meetings, supervises GSO correspondence, and publications, and works with other officers in the planning and direction of various GSO activities.

**STONY BROOK COUNCIL:** Under agreement with Polity, GSO and Polity representatives alternately hold the sole student seat on the Stony Brook Council, the board governing Stony Brook policy and procedures.

Nominations have been extended until April 22, 1991.  
term of office for all positions is July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992.

GSO officers receive a \$200 monthly stipend from the organization. Any graduate student may become a candidate for any of the above positions. Anyone interested in running for one of these positions should inquire at the GSO office, Room 206, Central Hall, or call 632-6492.

**GSO— We can't do it alone!**

## Attention:

The last issue of the *News and Blues*  
(for the spring semester, that is)  
will be published on Wednesday, May 8.

Deadline for letters, viewpoints,  
and articles is Monday, May 6.

This is your last chance to write and tell us how much you love the paper.  
*Don't screw it up!*



# UGSO: A Bit of History Behind the Statewide Movement

By George Bidermann

Officials of the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO) are moving forward with their efforts to organize statewide campaigns on graduate-student issues, and are stunned and somewhat upset by charges that their organization has no legitimacy—charges that were made at the March meeting of the Stony Brook GSO Senate.

Jeff McFarland, president of the University at Buffalo's Graduate Student Association, recently assumed the chair of UGSO, following what he described as a "conflict" that led to the apparent resignation of Stony Brook GSO President Jane Ely as UGSO chair. While he would not comment on the particulars of this conflict, McFarland said it involved charges Ely had brought against an UGSO employee, charges which were heard by the UGSO board

at its March 16 meeting in Binghamton. On March 17, according to McFarland, Ely "made some statements to the effect that she didn't want anything more to do with UGSO. As she was leaving the meeting," he said, "she personally said she would not put her name down as being associated with UGSO. We took that to be, if not a resignation, a sign that there was no way she could fulfill the responsibilities of the position, and as we obviously needed someone to do this work, the chair's duties were reassigned." Ely said that, due to legal considerations, she could not comment on the matter at press time.

UGSO was formed in 1989, and was set up for a variety of reasons, McFarland said. Members of the executive committees at SUNY Buffalo, Binghamton, and Stony Brook believed it was important to exchange informa-

tion about local issues with the focus on unifying graduate students at each of the four SUNY centers. Julia Miller, Buffalo GSA vice-president, said several goals were set: creating a graduate student government at SUNY Albany, coordinating unionization efforts statewide, campaigning for health insurance as a benefit for graduate student employees, and developing uniform guidelines and grievance procedures for each campus, similar to the guidelines that were in place at Stony Brook.

What began as a loose collection of people with the same interests began to take shape during the second year of UGSO's existence, Miller said. "A draft constitution was drawn up by Binghamton GSO President David Baranov, and it was presented at the December meeting," she said. "He has received feedback and suggestions from several UGSO members, and work is continuing on the constitution."

But she added that, with crises coming down this year from SUNY and Governor Cuomo's proposed budget, matters of structure and policy have taken a back seat to damage-control efforts. "We have been overwhelmed by the magnitude of the cuts and policy changes coming down from SUNY and our own campuses," she said, "and we have had to focus our energies on these problems."

Before all this hit this spring, however, UGSO chose two campaigns to target this year: lobbying for health insurance as a benefit, and pressuring SUNY to drop its opposition to unionization efforts. Intensive lobbying and letter-writing campaigns were undertaken on the health-insurance issue, Miller said, culminating in a detailed response to a SUNY report on graduate health insurance benefits nationwide. This report, and the lobbying efforts, resulted in a breakthrough: for the first time, SUNY admitted that supported graduate students had particular specific need a separate health plan, and while SUNY did not propose the creation of a plan, it included in its budget proposal a request for \$2 million to subsidize the health insurance costs of supported graduate students.

But by the beginning of this year, it was clear that the \$2 million subsidy was going to be dropped from the budget, given the state's financial crisis, and it subsequently was dropped. With health insurance a dead issue for the time being, UGSO officials agreed to concentrate on unionization efforts. Plans were made to target the SUNY Trustees, specifically, because they had the power, if they wanted, to instruct SUNY to drop its opposition.

*Next issue: Targeting the Trustees*

## GAs and TAs at SUNY Buffalo Hold Successful Work Stoppage

By George Bidermann

Graduate and Teaching Assistants (GAs and TAs) from the division of arts and letters at the University Center at Buffalo (UB) held a two-day work stoppage this week to protest the erosion of tuition scholarships for graduate student employees and the transfer of GA, TA, and RA positions from FTE line support to temporary service funding under the Research Foundation budget.

More than 150 graduate student employees picketed the entrances to Clemens Hall, an academic building, and successfully persuaded nearly all faculty and undergraduates not to cross the picket line, according to Chris Vestuto, projects director for the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO). Vestuto said most of the faculty who taught in the building canceled their classes or rescheduled them in other buildings, and more than 1,800 students signed petitions supporting the students demands.

The grass-roots movement that organized the work stoppage released a five-point platform criticizing both Governor Mario Cuomo, whose budget proposals have had a catastrophic effect on SUNY, and SUNY itself, which the platform stated has "distributed these cuts among the poorest and least protected populations." It called for the protection of tuition scholarships, minimum stipend levels, assurances that no graduate student employees would be laid off because of the budget crisis, job descriptions and employee status through the right to self-determination. There was no immediate response from Acting President William Greiner, who was away from campus both days.

"It's been great. We've had just tremendous support from the faculty, undergraduates and staff," said Julia Miller, Buffalo GSA's vice president and chair of the Economic and Labor Issues Committee of the National Association of Graduate/Professional Students (NAGPS). Miller, a graduate student in the English department, estimated that more than 90% of the 180 TAs and GAs in the division participated in the work action.

Support for a job action had been building on the campus since the early part of

the semester, when it first became clear that graduate student employees would have to shoulder part of their tuition expenditures. Cuomo's proposed tuition increase of \$500, coming on top of a \$300 tuition increase instated last fall, leaves the tuition pools of graduate centers unable to cover the full cost of tuition waivers for their graduate student employees.

But the bigger issue still revolves around unionization rights. Job security, minimum stipend levels, and job descriptions are basic employee rights that are denied graduate students, Vestuto said. "So long as SUNY continues to oppose our efforts to hold a union certification election, graduate student employees will be oppressed and shoved under the table," he said. The transfer of lines from the state payroll to Research Foundation funding is another attempt by SUNY to deny basic unionization rights to graduate students, he charged.

Previously, graduate stipends were linked to one-fourth the full-time equivalent salary of \$30,000, making the basic minimum stipend around \$7500 and, since grad employees were paid through the state payroll, ensuring the small cost-of-living increases granted to faculty and staff each year. But the switch to the Research Foundation, which technically shifts the role of "employer" from the state to the foundation, eliminates even this minimal guarantee, said Vestuto.

Picketing students maintained a visible presence throughout the two days, and Miller said there were very few people willing to cross the picket lines set up. This also led to another positive development: contacts were made with graduate students from other departments, and expressions of solidarity, such as grad student employees in other divisions canceling their classes, were noted. "The problems that graduate students encounter often have a deeper effect because of the isolation we feel," she said. "This was a show of force, a wake-up call. There was a tremendous sense of empowerment among both the protesters and their supporters from other areas of the campus."

*The Student Leader News Service contributed to this article.*

### Kwasny's Korner

## New Winds Blowing Through The GSO Are Very Unsettling

By Andrea Kwasny

*Graduate Student Advocate*

Perhaps like many other people who attended last month's GSO meeting, I left with a sense that something had been seriously disturbed, something which I took (maybe foolishly or naively) for granted. I suspect that this vague "something" can be circumscribed within the boundaries of commitment to community action, to local change, to some form of altruism, and commitment to personal academic/professional goals, and I thought those of us who do make time, in whatever capacity, for involvement in GSO are motivated by these kinds of commitments.

But at the meeting statements, criticisms, and accusations were made from multiple directions, suggesting to me that not everyone proceeded with this kind of assumption. In fact, what I saw as happening was a competition between many assumptions, many agendas, a competition for the "more democratic than thou" position with all the attendant bureaucratic strategies providing the appearance of democratic practices. I saw positions and agendas built up and consolidated as a direct result of the devaluing and delegitimization of another position, another agenda. And by the end of the meeting, it seemed that only the people with agendas were left; many of the senators who come as representatives from their departments, who come to get news for their departments, went home.

I'm still not sure if something positive and constructive resulted from the meeting, from this kind of power struggle on display, except maybe for the vent-

ing of a lot of spleen. For me personally, it resulted in reevaluating my own position as Graduate Student Advocate, including my motivations for applying for the position in the first place. But on another level, the meeting seemed to express much confusion regarding the purpose and goals of the GSO, because there certainly didn't appear to be a single unified conception of the organization.

I don't take this to be detrimental, however, in terms of advocating for graduate students' rights. In fact, I would be extremely worried if GSO did purport to address all graduate student issues on campus. I don't think this can happen because for one reason, the issues are many and diverse; by practical necessity, omissions and exclusions are bound to happen. One of the constructive and useful things GSO can provide, and already does provide, is a forum for discussion and negotiation with regard to what kind of problems it can effectively address and the means to that end.

It is much more useful to conceptualize GSO as a fluid, contingent, dialogic organization, whose agenda is as temporary and negotiable as all of our agendas as graduate students working toward a degree. I think GSO can be most effective in the practice of this kind of dialogue, a dialogue that begins when mutual respect is also practiced. Cursing at GSO officials, cutting off people who are trying to speak to the issue, and ignoring concerns expressed by members of the senate in the guise of "good politics" does nothing to further the goals of the GSO.

# CUNY and SUNY Student Struggles— It's Our War Now

By Fred Mayer

"The United States of America is on the threshold of an economic depression which will soon rock the foundations of the Western World. That this is the case should be obvious to even the most casual of observers. But, sadly, a delusional mass psychology-- fueled by the misleading treatment of economic facts on the part of America's vested interests-- has prevented the much-needed acknowledgement of reality. The certain consequence of this unfortunate state of affairs will be a rude awakening-- one which could very well tear apart our already badly frayed social order."

(Statesman, Oct. 26, 1989)

When I wrote those words in 1989, my intent was to draw conclusions that followed from a dance between certain key facts and the undeniable forces of necessity. I pointed out that since the world and its economy are finite, the strongly positive expansion rate of debt could not be sustained indefinitely. This implies that at some point the rate of debt expansion must decline, and even become negative. At this transition point, when the debt bubble is stretched to its limit, key changes begin to be felt by the economic institutions that drive economies. The effects of these changes are strongly dependent on the current conditions of these institutions. If an economy (such as ours) is heavily dependent on debt-based speculation by large financial institutions, then a shortage of debt can very quickly lead to catastrophe.

What I didn't know in October of 1989 was that a revolution would occur in Eastern Europe and a catastrophic war unleashed, both within a span of sixteen months. As far as the global economy is concerned, these events have created huge new demands for capital. The clock has therefore been turned forward.

Unfortunately, the public's understanding of the situation has not kept pace. A massive fraud is now being thrust upon the people by a corrupt government-media complex. We are not experiencing the beginning of a recession. We are experiencing the beginning of a de-

pression. The statistical basis for this conclusion can be seen not in the Dow Jones Average or the leading economic indicators, but rather in the numbers of bank failures, the numbers of homeless people waiting in lines at soup kitchens, and the numbers that represent budget deficits-- both state and federal. Perhaps even more dangerous is the number that represents the portion of US bank deposits held by foreign interests: 40%. Should it be surprising that the Federal Reserve is reluctant to reduce interest rates? Or that the dollar is feeling substantial downward pressure?

But never mind all that. Instead, let's look at the effects of the economic shock waves now hitting our own shores. Consider the CUNY and SUNY university systems. Both were founded on the principle that in this country education should be a right available to everyone. That principle is now being sacrificed-- to an unprecedented extent-- for the sake of financial and political expediency. If you don't understand why students are risking their careers in the noble campus occupations proceeding (as of this writing) on at least seven CUNY campuses and one SUNY campus (Purchase), then you need to take a hard look at the facts.

First, as many are aware, Cuomo's budget cuts have and will continue to force increases in the cost of tuition. Second (if that's not enough for you), consider this: Depending on the outcome of budget negotiations now going on in Albany, hundreds (yes, HUNDREDS) of CUNY and SUNY faculty positions could be lost within the next few years, if not sooner. In that case, it will not matter whether or not you have the cash; there could simply be no room for you at enrollment time. If you think classes are crowded now, consider that these could wind up being the "good ol' days."

The most painful aspect of this crisis, especially for students in the CUNY system, is the fact that some middle-class students are openly resisting the efforts of their less fortunate sisters and brothers. Class divisions fueled by the moral and political corruption of a "democratically elected" elite in Albany are pitting students

against each other. This was clearly demonstrated on Monday night during WNET's live panel discussion featuring students, administrators, and faculty members both for and against the occupations. While some of the panelists tried to claim that the differences were only concerned with "tactics" it is clearly not so simple as that. The tactics of social resistance involve differing levels of risk and differing levels of commitment to what is ultimately right. In this world, not all tactics are created equal. To effect change, CUNY and SUNY students have been left with no choice but to say "No more business as usual... WE WILL NOT COOPERATE."

On our own campus, Haitian Student Organization members and their supporters have for many days maintained a presence in the administration building to protest the oppressive treatment of HSO members Emanuel Severe and Philippe Valbrune, who have been suspended for their participation in the HSO blood drive protest earlier this semester. Their struggle is not unrelated to the struggles of many students throughout the CUNY and SUNY systems. If students in New York State were now to pull together as one, there is no limit to the scope of the victories which could be achieved. As history shows over and over, the strength of raw social power is in the final analysis irresistible. This does not mean that there will be no pain; already at least three CUNY students have been arrested and more than 35 marked for suspension. These numbers will undoubtedly grow within the next few days. Massive police power will probably be brought to bear on the situation, and then we will all have to decide which side we are on. Hopefully, we will do the right thing.

"There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem. There ain't no middle ground."

-- Eldridge Cleaver

Fred Mayer is a graduate student in the Psychology, and a member of the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace.

## Letters

### Too Much Peace Stuff In the News and Blues

To the Editor:

In the most recent issue of the GSO News and Blues and past issues a significant amount of space was given to the peace movement on campus. Perhaps this was because of the extraordinary amount of space given to mainstream people in the main media. I feel this does not even represent the majority of graduate students on this campus. I also feel these appeasers are doing a great disservice to this country and campus by the lies they are spreading.

No blood for oil. While it is obvious we went to Saudi Arabia for oil, we had a good reason for it. Our whole country is based on oil. In fact whenever we try to wean ourselves off oil these same appeasers protest the closing of Shoreham and other nuclear power plants because of the possible danger of Three Mile Island. These same peaceniks are against coal plants because they are dirty. What's left except for oil or conservation on a mass scale? While conservation is a very good idea, there are limits on how much we can realistically conserve. Obviously, the street lights (by the way, LILCO is almost entirely dependent on oil for power) must stay on for safety and most heat is generated by oil. This argument, while partly true, ignores the fact that invading our oil supply is as much a danger to our country as invading Washington, DC.

The Arab-Israeli conflict. There appears to be a great amount of Anti-Semitism in the peace movement. They always talk about Palestinian self-determination and land for peace. What they ignore is the

fact that the Arab-Israeli problem did not start with the 1967 war in which Judea and Samaria were reclaimed but in fact started in 1921 when the Arabs rioted on Mayday or in 1929 when Arabs killed all the Jews of Hebron (Jews lived on Hebron for 2,000 years and it was the other ancient capital of ancient Judea).

In 1948 all the Arab nations did not accept the UN partition and tried to invade a slither of a Jewish state. In fact the Arabs broadcast over the radio for all Arabs to leave Haifa and other Arab cities so the Arab armies could finish off the Jews. In fact not Arab state wants a Palestinian state on the West bank (surprise). As long as the Palestinian people remain without a home the Arabs can use propaganda that the Israelis are the obstacle to peace. I assure you EVERY Israeli including Ariel Sharon and the late Rabbi Meir Kahane wanted peace with the Arabs, it's just the Arabs do not want peace with Israel.

The money would be better spent. The truth is this war cost us next to nothing. While a cruel statement it is true. The Saudis, Kuwaitis, German and Japanese are picking up most of the tab and the amount they are not paying for was weapons that we did not need anyway (we signed a treaty with the Soviets to eliminate weapons, we just destroyed these weapons over Baghdad). The price of the war includes replacement of these weapons which we are not going to replace.

In conclusion, while I abhor war (so does almost everybody), there comes a time when one must stand up for oneself. Obviously, if a bully is beating you up you do not claim to be a pacifist. While Saddam proved to be more of a Buster

Douglas than a true threat to world peace, all he had to do was withdraw his troops from Kuwait, then the US could have done nothing. He was stupid as he was evil. There are many other Saddams out there in the Third World (Assad of Syria) who might try to outbluff the UN and the US but as long as we showed in the gulf we are able to stand up to anyone's bluff with a Royal Flush, many potential Saddams will try to avoid war and save many lives (both US and that country).

Howard Schoenfeld  
CED Student

### Compact Fluorescents Save Energy and Money

To the Editor:

Environmental disasters like the burning oil fields in Kuwait and the oil spill in Valdez Bay, Alaska, have forced many Americans to question our society's dependence on oil. Colossal waste is a major part of our energy consumption problem, which in turn contributes to urban smog, the greenhouse effect, and the inflationary impact of several oil crises. The only possible solution to this problem is to conserve as much energy as possible and efficiently use the energy we are already consuming.

NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc., is offering students two ways that they can help conserve energy. The first is by holding an Energy Awareness Day on April 22 from 10 am to 4:00 pm, in the Fireside Lounge of the Student Union.

The second is NYPIRG's Bright Ideas Project. By getting rid of incandescent

light bulbs and using compact fluorescent lights, which provide the same illumination while using less electricity, students can help conserve energy. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL), which NYPIRG's Bright Ideas Project offers to students at a discount price, need only one-quarter of the electricity that incandescents require and last nine to 13 times longer. This means that an 18 watt CFL produces the same illumination as a 75 watt incandescent bulb. During its 10,000 hour lifetime, an 18 watt CFL bulb that replaces a 75 watt incandescent bulb will save 570,000 watts of electricity. Using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs not only will help the environment by decreasing the amount of electricity being used but it will also help consumers save money.

To produce light for 10,000 hours you must purchase 10 regular incandescent 75 watt bulbs. To operate these bulbs you must purchase 750,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity: a total cost of \$106.20 for Long Island and New York City residents. Yet to get 10,000 hours of illumination from a CFL you only need to purchase 180,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity at a total cost of \$42.90 and a total savings of \$63.30. If five out of 27 light bulbs in the average home were replaced, residents could save more than \$300 in three to six years. That's a yearly return on your investment of between 52% and 105%.

Compact fluorescent lights are not available on a retail level, however, so for more information you can stop by the NYPIRG office in the Student Union Basement, Room 079, or call (516) 822-BULB.

Joyce Philius  
NYPIRG Media Intern



# Senate Discusses GSO Relationship with UGSO, GSEU—

(Continued from Page 1)

cide to disrupt Trustees' meetings without being held accountable to the GSOs that actually fund the organization."

A number of members of the GSO, including Sociology Senator Shuva Paul, Vice President Ray Maietta, and Harriman Alternate Senator David Senator, spoke against the motions, urging that they be tabled so that members of UGSO, GSEU, and CWA could be present to answer questions and provide information about their organizations to the senate. Each was interrupted by either, and in some cases both, Haffmans and Manginelli.

Wild again complained about the GSO's apparent assumption that all graduate student employees wanted a union. "All the facts aren't known," he said. "Students don't know what the disadvantages of union organization are about. I think there are some compelling questions which call into question" support for unionization.

Maietta attempted to answer some of the questions posed about the GSEU and UGSO. He stressed that UGSO, which the executive committees of each of the four university centers sit on, is open to input from all GSO members. He mentioned that a draft UGSO Constitution is being worked on, and was urging the senate to help establish legitimacy for UGSO when he was interrupted by Manginelli, who launched into an attack on Speaker Sanjay Gupta for allegedly telling him that the Action Committee was not a committee of the GSO. Real pandemonium then broke out for the first time, and it took

several minutes for order to be restored.

When the floor was given back to Maietta, he again urged that the GSO bring in representatives of UGSO, GSEU, and CWA. He contested Haffmans's point that Ed Sable, a CWA organizer, did not support disrupting SUNY Trustees' meetings, and said that not only was Sable an integral part of the planning process for the February 14 demonstration at the Board of Trustees meeting, but that Sable also participated in the action.

More outbursts followed and for the next hour or so, the meeting was in disarray, with interruptions, accusations, and counter-accusations flying back and forth. Very little substantive, factual information was pre-

sented. The low point of the meeting was perhaps reached when Manginelli began to make a motion to move out of the committee of the whole and his motion was seconded by CED Senator Nancy Perini before it was even stated. When GSO Secretary Elizabeth Chute pointed out that "It almost sounds orchestrated, doesn't it?", Perini told Chute that she should "go fuck yourself." Manginelli then applauded.

At this point, David Senator motioned that the Senate adjourn, but the motion failed. A compromise motion was then floated by Manginelli. The motion called on the GSO Senate to request that the GSEU delegate assembly be moved to September;

to suspend Stony Brook's UGSO membership until the executive committee of the GSO reports back to the senate concerning UGSO's personnel policy and the Constitutional structure; and that the action committee be empowered to investigate whether or not Stony Brook graduate students want a union, and report back to the GSO senate at its May meeting. After objections were raised to suspending membership, Manginelli accepted a friendly amendment extending UGSO membership until the May meeting. The motion was then passed.

No other business was considered at the meeting, other than a vote of acclamation in favor of the budget committee's report.

## Seventeen Campuses Closed and Counting—

(Continued from Page 1)

heard," said State Assembly Member Ed Sullivan, chair of the Higher Education Committee, responding to news of the takeovers. "I'm encouraged that their voice is being raised so that the political community will pay attention to it." But he added, "I encourage them also to make every effort to make sure that these are peaceful demonstrations."

According to The New York Times, the first days of the City College protest, with just one building shut down, had forced the college to cancel 70% to 75% of classes, giving students an extended Spring

break under sunny blue skies. Outside City College in Harlem, and on other campuses across the city, thousands of students rallied in support of the protestors and against the state budget cuts they say are destroying the CUNY system.

Cuomo, in his proposed budget, called for cuts to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) that would cost most students up to \$400, elimination of the Regents Scholarship Program, the Step and C-Step scholarship programs, and cancellation of the Governor's much-touted Liberty Scholarship program before even the first check was written.

Police and hired security guards were used to take back buildings at Lehman, BMCC, New York Tech, and BCC during the week, with isolated reports of some police violence and rough treatment of protestors. But as of last Friday, there had been no arrests or serious injuries, a status student leaders said they hoped to sustain as long as the protests lasted.

"Our message is that we're not happy with the proposed tuition increase and budget cuts, and we're not going to take it," Alvarez said. "What [Cuomo] is doing is closing the doors to access for thousands of students in the CUNY system. If stu-

dents can't make it at CUNY, where else can they go? Tell me where."

In recent years, state and city budget cuts have caused hundreds of faculty and staff layoffs across CUNY, forcing cancellation of more than three thousand class sections system-wide. Meanwhile, a mid-year tuition hike came with an unexpected cut to financial aid, dealing additional blows to the educations of students in virtually every program on the campuses.

While acknowledging that the state is in a relatively serious fiscal crisis, students say that higher education represents a small portion of state expenditures, yet represents a massive boon to the state economy by providing an educated work force, tax dollars, and jobs for the community.

"We've got nothing to lose," said Carol Bullard, president of the Graduate Student Government at Hunter College, explaining that students had come to the end of the rope with lobbying and protest tactics. Bullard, speaking from inside Hunter's shut-down East Academic Building, said students there were outraged by the Governor's "bullying, lying, artificial speeches, and mafia tactics" and were demanding accountability from their elected officials.

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## Choosing GSO Officers Is An Important Decision—

(Continued from Page 3)

ground, some of the things you would like to accomplish while in office, and your feelings about the GSO, among other things. Photos are not necessary, but they could amuse the election committee.

The election committee bylaws (which appear along with this article) have been revised by the current election committee. They describe the processes by which candidates and referenda can be placed on the ballot as well as how the ballot should be constructed, distributed and counted. To make a long story short, ballots are attached to special envelopes and placed in all graduate student mailboxes in their departments. Some are also left at the CED office for CED graduate students. Within four weeks after they are distributed, ballots must be mailed back to the GSO in the special envelope provided. Each student

must include his or her signature, department and I.D. number on the envelope (so that their vote can be validated by the election committee before being counted).

Simple, isn't it? If for some reason you do not receive a ballot, contact your departmental senator or the GSO office. If all else fails, ballots will also be available at the GSO office.

The bottom line is that your vote is important. The GSO is your organization, your voice in graduate student affairs. It is your right and your responsibility to vote in GSO elections and choose departmental senators to represent your position in the forming of administration policies. Better yet, become a GSO senator or run for office. You reward may not be wealth or fame, but at least you will have had some direct impact on graduate student issues and some fun in the process.

# S h o r t Takes.....

## SUNY Trustees to Meet the Public For One Hour on April 25 (in Albany)

*Student Leader News Service*

ALBANY-- The SUNY Board of Trustees will be holding a one-hour public hearing on Thursday, April 25 to receive testimony and statements about university-wide issues.

The hearing is an annual ritual in which the Trustees are required to hear gripes from the public. There is no limitation on the subject matter, as long as it deals with a SUNY or SUNY-wide issue, sources familiar with the process said.

The hearing will be held at the SUNY Central Board Room from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Persons wishing to address the Trustees can call Martha Downey, secretary of the university, at (518) 443-5157, for more information.

## April 25 Portrait of Einstein To Benefit GAP/SB Coalition for Peace

"Walking Lightly... A Portrait of Einstein" will be presented Thursday, April 25 to students and members of the Stony Brook community in a benefit performance for the Global Action Plan and the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace.

Len Barron, a writer and actor from Boulder, Colorado who just happens to be the uncle of Music graduate student Laura Barron, wrote and performs the solo presentation, which documents the human side of Dr. Albert Einstein, one of the 20th Century's pre-eminent scientists. Barron, who has performed at many colleges throughout the country, achieves this not through impersonation of Einstein (although they look strikingly similar), but by weaving an amusing and touching narrative into his "portrait."

The show begins at 8 pm in Room 001 of the Earth and Space Sciences building. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$7 general public. Proceeds go to two hard-working campus organizations that are struggling without funds as they swim against the tide.

## I-CON X to Feature Dr. Who #7, Dan Simmons, and Lots More

The good people at I-Con, Stony Brook's convention of science fiction, fact, and fantasy, are at it again. Their tenth annual convention is slated for this weekend, beginning Friday at 5 pm, and taking place primarily in the Javits lecture center and Student Union buildings.

This year Dan Simmons, the Hugo award-winning author of *Hyperion* and *Carrie*, will be the guest of honor. Among other special guests are Sylvester McCoy (*Dr. Who* #7), Robin Curtis (Saavik from *Star Trek*), and Deke Slayton, a former NASA astronaut. Three-day advance passes for Stony Brook students and staff are available until Friday at 4 pm for only \$8 at the Student Union box office. Tickets may also be bought at the main entrance to Javits after 5 pm on Friday and throughout the convention. Call 632-6472 for more info.

## Public Hearing Set On Guns for Public Safety

On Wednesday, April 24 there will be a public hearing regarding the issue of arming members of the university's Public Safety Department (*who are here to protect and serve - not hassle graduate students -Ed.*). The hearing is being hosted by the University Senate's ad hoc committee on arming public safety, which has been charged with making a recommendation regarding the issue. It will be in the Union Auditorium from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

The issue of guns for Public Safety has been raised periodically over the years, and University President John Marburger has always come out against arming the officers, but the issue has resurfaced again this year with support for arming the officers being voiced. People wishing to speak at the meeting should submit a written request at the beginning of the meeting and, time allowing, speakers will be granted approximately three minutes to make their remarks. Call the University Senate office at 632-7166 for more information.

The Graduate Student Organization thanks the  
**Faculty Student Association**

for its generous support of the Resource Access Project (RAP). RAP is an independent source of travel funds for Stony Brook scholars. Contact GSO for details.

## Enhanced Paper Recycling Program To Be Unveiled at Earth Day Celebration

A newly-approved paper recycling program will be initiated next week, beginning on April 24, the same day the campus holds its annual Earth Day Celebration. "Recycle It for Today's Environment (RITE)" was initiated by the Global Action Plan and recently approved by Robert Haig, the university's director of Recycling. RITE aims at separating office and computer paper, which is a source of recycling revenue, from all other types of recyclable paper. Additional information regarding this program will be available at the celebration, which will take place from 12:40 to 2:10 pm in the Fine Arts Plaza.

Among the events scheduled for the celebration are outdoor music, speakers discussing our fragile ecology, and Save the Planet tables and info. Vegetarian food will be served and reusable shopping bags will be distributed.

## Statewide Student Assembly to Hold Membership Meeting in Binghamton

*Student Leader News Service*

BINGHAMTON-- Students from across the state will meet at the University Center at Binghamton this weekend, April 20-21, for a first-ever April Membership meeting of the Student Assembly, the official statewide student governance structure of SUNY.

The meeting was called in response to a questionable process to revise it by the SUNY Board of Trustees, who were circumventing the Assembly, the recognized statewide representation by the Trustee's own by-laws. The conference, which is open to all students, will determine the official student opinion on any changes to the Assembly structure that students desire. All 96 delegates to the Assembly, representing all SUNY schools and caucuses, are expected to attend.

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