

News and Blues

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Graduate Student Di Tian Remembered

By George Bidermann

Sadness and shock hung in the air as more than 100 friends and colleagues attended a memorial service Sunday for Di Tian, a graduate student who was killed in a car accident on February 9.

The 28-year-old Physics student, who conducted his research on surface structure in the Materials Science department's labs, was remembered as a kind, honest man who was a bright student and a promising scientist. "We must learn to accept the unacceptable fact-- that Di is no longer with us," said his advisor, Dr. Franco Jona. "I shall always admire the work that he did, and always regret the work that he could have done."

Di, a native of China who came to Stony Brook in January 1986, was killed while driving home to Port Jefferson after spending the day working in his lab. The driver whose vehicle crashed into Di's car reportedly skidded or lost control on the wet roads of Route 25A. Di was pronounced dead on arrival at Mather Memorial Hospital. He leaves a wife, Ziqin, whom he married in December 1990.

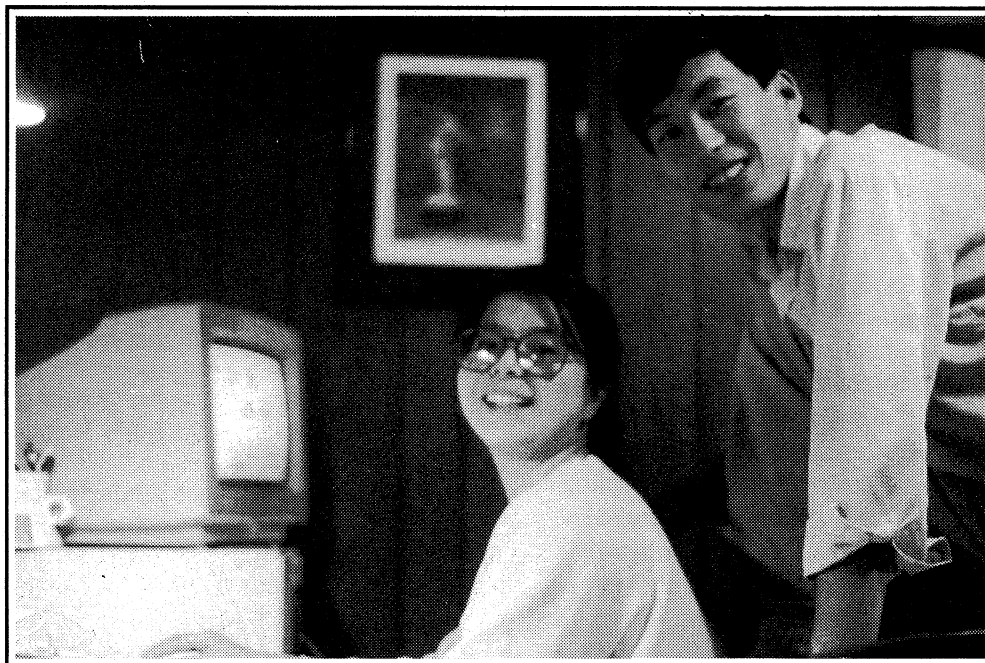
The memorial service held Sunday was arranged by Di's friends in the Materials Science and Physics Departments and members of the Chinese student community. Gongda Yao, a graduate student in the Materials Science Department, said, "We felt we had to do something to say goodbye to our friend. We are, most of us, without family in the United States, so we feel we have a responsibility to take care of this. We owe it to Di and his wife to come here and help people get over their grief."

The service was dignified and emotional, with friends

recalling memories of Di and speaking about his determination and intelligence. Longqiang Zu, Di's housemate and good friend, presented a biographical overview of Di's life, touching on his academic achievements and recounting when Di met his future wife at a party. "They fell in love so fast," he said. "You could see that this marriage brought so much happiness and mutual support to this young couple."

Friends wept quietly while the stream of speakers told of Di's interest in his work, concern about the academic progress of his friends, and dedication. Many credited him with helping them get through difficult exams and academic roadblocks while at Stony Brook.

Di received the TA Pond Award in March of 1987 for sharing, with one other student, the highest grade on the Physics Department's comprehensive exam. The department is completing arrangements to posthumously award Di his doctoral degree.



Ziqin and Di Tian

A fellowship in memory of Di has been established for the benefit of Chinese graduate students in Solid State Physics/Materials Science. Contributions should be made out to the SBF/Di Tian Fund and sent to the Stony Brook Foundation, 330 Administration Building, USB, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1601.

Di's body will be cremated this week and his ashes will, eventually, be returned to China.

GSO Senate Discusses Budget Crisis, Cutbacks

By Fons Haffmans
GSO Secretary

The first meeting of the GSO Senate this semester was held on February 5. It was also the first Senate meeting for the new president of the GSO, Monica McTigue.

The new President reported on several issues. She informed the Senate that the number of TA/GA-lines this year was reduced by 75 compared to last year. She expressed concern about whether tuition waivers would remain intact given the proposed increase in tuition of between \$500 and \$800. Currently, the president is a member of the University Safety Council, which is discussing arming Public Safety. She pointed out that arming is seen by Public Safety as a workplace issue. Having arms would create a safer working environment goes the argument. The GSO has been asked to submit questions pertaining to the arming issue.

The Vice-President, Dominic Chan, reported on the state's appeal of the PERB decision regarding unionization of graduate students. If the Supreme Court unanimously upholds the PERB decision in favor of the GSEU, a representation election could be held this autumn. Otherwise, the matter will be decided by the State Appeals Court and could take significantly longer to resolve. In addition, he informed the Senate that the other unions have won their appeal of SUNY's paylag policies before PERB. SUNY is appealing this as well and if it loses, this may aggravate the budget situation significantly. SUNY would be forced to reimburse its state employees for the two weeks' pay that it has lagged.

The Secretary reported on his activities in the SUNY-wide task force on Public Safety. Regarding the budget cuts, he pointed out that the new federal regulations

regarding indirect cost money may impose additional reductions on SUNY's operating budget. Indirect costs are costs incurred by the university when research is conducted. Part of a research grant is used to reimburse the university for these costs. In addition, he reported on his efforts to connect the representatives on committees through electronic mail.

Treasurer Chris Kushmerick reported on the budget of the GSO. After reviewing the money spent on activities so far this year, discussion in the Senate turned to questions raised regarding a sizable lawyer's bill for research into the question of funding not-for-profit lobbying organizations. This issue was referred to the Budget Committee. The SUNY budget cut also touched the GSO directly, since the administration has reduced its contribution to the Resource Access Project (RAP). RAP is the GSO travel fund for graduate students who want to present original work at a conference.

The last report was from John Reinfelder, who represents the GSO on the Priorities Committee. This Committee advises the administration on the budget cuts and the policy changes the university has to make to meet them. In this context the Committee is currently drawing up a long-range plan for the campus. It proposes a workload reduction for GA/TA's and training for TA's. In addition, it wants to increase the number of scholarships for graduate students.

Next on the agenda was the adoption of new corporation papers for the GSO. The change brings the GSO in line with the IRS requirements for a tax-exempt corporation. Subsequently, new election bylaws were adopted.

Then the Senate moved into the committee of the whole to discuss a range of issues. The GSO is going to organize transportation to the April 5 March for Women's Lives. It

was stressed that transportation will be provided to everyone regardless of their view on the abortion issue and, yes, even for sightseers just looking for a good time in Washington, D.C.

The next meeting of the GSO Senate will be on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 PM in the GSO Senate Chambers, Room 201, Central Hall.

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Preserve the Quality of Education First

The Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee of the University Faculty Senate recently passed the following resolution:

"Be it hereby resolved that the President of the University Faculty Senate convey to the Chancellor and to the Board of Trustees the Senate's conviction that increases in graduate tuition in SUNY should be matched by increases in tuition scholarship funding for funded graduate students affected by the tuition increase."

At least one university group has taken it upon themselves to speak out in defense of graduate education. Unfortunately, a greater effort will be required from a number of different sectors if we are to maintain status quo among SUNY graduate programs. At the February 10 University Senate meeting, President John Marburger reminded us that "substantial restructuring" will be required next year. As of this writing, divisional deans and the Priorities Committee are reviewing proposals to address the budget shortfall. Among the various proposals include plans to decrease the number of state-supported graduate teaching assistants. The GSO believes any proposal to cut TA lines constitutes yet another example of responding to the budget crisis with a "quick fix" and lack of foresight. In Dr. Marburger's mission statement, Stony Brook is described as "a research university that aims to be one of the best public universities in the United States" with "a broad array of disciplines." Therefore, we should not be seeking to decrease the total number of graduate students, we should be seeking ways to increase both the quality and number of graduate students at Stony Brook.

One could argue that a deficit in state funds could be addressed by a shift toward externally funded graduate students (through NIH grants, for example). But this would ignore the role that graduate teaching assistants play in major universities. The university cannot continue operating with any degree of quality if we seek to eliminate or decrease teaching support in the form of teaching assistants; expect to maintain undergraduate enrollment targets; and expect not to hire additional faculty members.

President Marburger stated at the December meet-

ing of the University Senate that he did not consider current teaching loads light. By decreasing the number of teaching assistants, we increase the load on faculty and on any remaining TAs. Thus, graduate teaching assistants spend less time working on their thesis projects and are offered less guidance by their already burdened faculty advisors. Attempting to fill the gap left by decreasing TA lines constitutes a major change in Graduate School policy. Before any talk of hiring teaching adjuncts is begun, the GSO recommends that the definition of "adjunct" be discussed with both faculty and students and that the academic consequences be clearly understood.

To fulfill our mission as a research university we need to maintain or increase support for graduate education. By definition, a university is composed of several schools or divisions, therefore, any plan to restructure should be examined before a decision is finalized.

The GSO recognizes that decisions must be made in order to meet budget reductions. We strongly recommend that this administration communicate with both faculty and students prior to any change in structure or policy. Before we think of new roads or buildings, or of the Spring landscaping, we should do everything in our power to preserve the quality of education at this university.

Guest Editorial

From SUNY to PUNY

The Privatization of the State University of New York

By Eric F. Coppolino

Student Leader News Service

Governor Mario Cuomo's proposed 1992-93 budget, which calls for cutting SUNY by at least \$143 million at the same time it asks for tuition increases of about \$83 million, proves the age-old point that a tuition hike and a budget cut are really the same thing.

It seems like consumer fraud: the governor is asking that SUNY students cough up \$83 million more for at least \$60 million less. The final amounts of the tuition hike and the budget cut will be decided by the State Legislature, but the bottom line is that individual SUNY students or families can expect to shell out at least \$500 more in tuition next year, or at least \$800 more for SUNY's university center campuses (Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook). The net effect, in addition to making students and their families pay a lot more for a lot less, is shifting a greater portion of funding the State University from the state treasury directly onto the people. In essence, each year that tuition is increased and the budget is cut, the SUNY becomes less the State University of New York (SUNY) and more the Private University of New York (PUNY).

Add to that the fact that SUNY now has private parking lots, which are paid for by the parking fee and not the state; private health service, which is paid for through the health fee and not the state; private graduation ceremonies, which are paid for by graduation fees and not the state; and private dormitories, which are "self-sufficient" and are not supported by the state.

Add to that fees for everything else on campus from NCAA athletics to cable television, and you can hardly name anything except for chalk that's actually paid for by the state.

Thanks to increased tuition and fees, students today pay more than twice as large a share of their educational costs as did students just two years ago. In the 1989-90 academic year, students started the year paying about 15% of their educational costs. If the governor's proposal goes through, students will be paying closer to a third of the costs of their education. Meanwhile, individual SUNY campuses are contemplating raising existing fees.

In a very real sense, this makes SUNY less a public institution, because it is funded at a lower level by the public, and as a result, less accessible to the general public. Yet SUNY is for the *general* public, not the elite public, the rich, or the advantaged. And clearly, by expecting the users of the system to pay more and more, the state is restricting who can attend the university on the basis of their financial status.

This is especially true of the differential tuition plan, which would essentially create a \$300-per-year "univer-

sity center fee." While SUNY says that it costs more to educate a student at a university center, it doesn't say at least two other things.

One is that much of those costs are the result of research, graduate studies, and other facilities that undergrads don't see, use, or even hear about.

The other is that at many of SUNY's smaller colleges, the quality of education is often significantly better than at a university center. For example, at SUNY Geneseo, it's rare to take a course taught by a teaching assistant; most students take both their basic and their most advanced courses from professors. At SUNY Stony Brook, on the other hand, 40% of the courses in some departments are taught by teaching assistants.

While teaching assistants arguably do a better job at teaching many classes than do professor, the student-to-faculty ratio is traditionally one of the strongest indicators of the quality of a college.

Privatization is a convenient situation for SUNY Chancellor Bruce Johnstone, who strongly advocates all forms of privatization of the university. He's admitted that his five-year goal for the university was raising tuition every year for those five years. Privatization is convenient for Johnstone because the more he relies on students and their parents for money, the more stable his cash flow; and the less he's at the mercy of the state, and the more he's in control of SUNY.

And of course, it's conveniently for the state because SUNY, despite being one of the state's most valuable resources, can take hefty budget cuts, yet the blow is softened by people who have, in some way, linked staying in SUNY with their own economic survival.

Yet at the same time, it erodes SUNY's crucial mission of "access" and sends a message to legislators that it's okay for the state to have only a limited role in funding state education.

Johnstone, despite doing little other than supporting higher tuition and creating a raft of new fees in his short tenure as chancellor, also favors any other plan or idea that allows SUNY to move steadily toward privatization.

He thinks financial aid should be private, that is, funded by banks in the form of student loans, rather than direct grants to students.

And he's the author of a plan, recently approved by the Board of Trustees, that would separate SUNY's three teaching hospitals from the state and create a \$1 billion a year "public benefit corporation," which would allow them to go around state fiscal procedures.

The corporation would be virtually privately controlled. Its board of directors would include himself, three members of the Board of Trustees, and the three hospital presidents.

The GSO News and Blues

Volume 2, Number 6

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 council or its designee, and represent the majority opinion of the executive council. 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 February 17.

**Next Issue of the News and Blues
Is Monday, March 9.**

Please consider writing for it!

Call 632-6492 for more information

Dissection on Campus: Whose Life Is It, Anyway?

By Chris Saporita

In November of 1990, the Student Action Coalition for Animals (SACA) began circulating the following petition:

Whereas, no student should be forced to kill, dissect, or otherwise use animals against their ethical beliefs for class credit, and

Whereas, non-animal teaching methods such as anatomically correct models, computers, simulators, and audiovisual aids are less costly, safer, and more ecologically responsible, and

Whereas, students who pursue certain majors that require the use of animals are not presently given alternatives,

We, the undersigned, as students at SUNY at Stony Brook, urge the university to provide non-animal teaching methods in our classes, so that we can learn without hurting and retain our respect for life.

After about ten days of circulation, we had collected over 4,100 student signatures, showing overwhelming support for the right of students to have a non-animal alternative to dissection based on a personal ethical opposition.

Early in the Spring 1991 semester, we presented the petition to the Student Polity Senate as a resolution. As a further indication of the student body's commitment to the sovereignty of ethical choice and humane education, the Student Senate voted in favor of the resolution by a vote of 24-4-4.

The students at Stony Brook University are not alone in their stance on the use of animals in the classroom. Other colleges have amended their curricula to accommodate the students' right to choose. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a group of about 20,000 medical doctors concerned with medical ethics,

noted that most medical schools do not require students to participate in animal laboratories, and that presently 25% of all U.S. medical schools have no non-human animal labs. In fact, the American Medical Student Association, in a 1986 resolution, urged that animal labs in all medical schools be optional for those students who object to them. This parallels the prece-

There are catalogs available that list the numerous non-animal alternatives to animal labs. These include anatomically correct models, advanced and diverse computer simulation programs, and transparency books. As noted in the petition, these alternatives are safer (no knives or hazardous chemicals), cheaper (one investment can last forever), and ecologically more

having alternatives to dissection was the will of the students. With this in mind we went before the University Senate Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is the body responsible for setting the agenda for University Senate meetings, which occur monthly. Our intent was to have the University Senate pass the legislation necessary to amend curriculum to accommodate conscientious objectors.

This attempt was thwarted with condescension and disregard. We were told by faculty who cut us off with a waving hand that the overwhelming support of the students had absolutely no weight. Instead of gathering signatures and the support of Polity, we were told we should approach (*read*: appeal to) the professors and hope that they would concede to our needs. This, of course, is where we started two-and-one-half years ago when we found out that people were "approaching" professors who were threatening their consciences with failure.

This line of defense offered by the faculty is a blatant move to avoid accountability. Accountability makes abuse and/or torture difficult, though not very, to get away with.

If egoistic expert-ism is allowed to hold the controls on our educations, then the outlook is very conservative and grim. In the weeks, and possibly (but hopefully not) the months to come, the Student Action Coalition for Animals and others concerned with ethical freedom and an interactive education will continue to work for those goals. But nothing can be gained for certain if the power over our learning is not taken back by each of us from those who are exploiting it for self-aggrandizement and greed.

The writer is a member of SACA. For more information, call 632-7998.

*"We were told by faculty
who cut us off
with a waving hand
that the overwhelming support
of the students had absolutely no weight."*

dent by which medical students need not perform abortions if they find it ethically objectionable.

As the Medical Research Modernization Committee notes, the claim that animal dissections are necessary for surgical training is unfounded. In fact, surgeons are slowly taught the art of surgery by working on human patients under the strict supervision of an experienced surgeon.

Furthermore, in a recent update of its policy statement, the National Association for Biology Teachers declared support for alternatives to dissection and vivisection in biology curricula. NABT recommended that biology teachers emphasize respect and appreciation for living things, and sensitivity to value conflicts that students might have.

responsible (no ecosystem depletion or waste-disposal problems).

In order to insure that students are aware of their right to choose, the descriptions of courses in question should include a note to students about the alternatives. Alternatives are most crucial for lower-level classes that are required for a variety of different majors. For example, a B.S. in psychology, mathematics, chemistry, or biology for pre-medical and pre-nursing students requires participation in classes that require dissections. However, a person's ability to excel in these fields is unrelated to whether or not she/he participated in animal labs.

After the Polity vote we were convinced that

Michigan's Grad Union Provides Enviably Benefits

By Carl Montgomery
GSEU Vice President

BUFFALO-- Graduate students have finally obtained a decision from the Public Employee Relations Board allowing that they are employees (and not just students as claimed by the state and SUNY, which is appealing).

The decision officially recognizes graduate students' right to be represented by a union, if they so wish. Consequently, SUNY graduate

employees are asking what, in concrete terms, can this mean for them.

By way of answer, we can compare SUNY grad employee "benefits" with those offered by a union contract at a peer institution. For example, the collective bargaining agreement guarantees grad employees at the University of Michigan the right to a tuition waiver, if their job requires them to work 10 hours or more per week. At SUNY the tuition "scholarship" is

currently being eroded.

Last fall, SUNY's administration said it could no longer guarantee that new TAs, GAs, and RAs would have all of their tuition covered. Also, those holding half-assistants in SUNY (the equivalent of a ten-hour week at Michigan) recently received only half tuition waivers.

Grad employees at University of Michigan are also guaranteed the right to a procedure for resolving employment-related grievances created by grad employees in negotiation with the administration.

By comparison, at SUNY, the only grievance procedure is one created solely by the administration. This procedure doesn't distinguish between academic and workplace grievances. Additionally, UB Vice President Palmer has reportedly said that utilizing the procedure here is essentially "academic suicide," and that students filing grievances "never win."

University of Michigan grad employees also have the right to the same health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance as faculty-- for every one employed at 10 or more hours per week.

IN SUNY as a whole, health insurance-- let alone dental and life insurance-- is a necessity many go without. At UB, we're pretty much forced to buy the inadequate student health plan. When graduate student governments lobbied the Trustees for health insurance for grad employees, the Trustees suggested a \$200-per-year raise with which we could buy health insurance on the open market (yeah, right). This proposed salary increase was later dropped from the budget request entirely.

Michigan grad employees are guaranteed the right to job training for inexperienced TAs; these are compensated for their time with either academic credit or the hourly equivalent of their salary-- over \$12 per hour-- and they get to help create their training program.

Here, many TAs who want training find that little or none is available to them; others who get it often receive no compensation and have no right

to any say over what their training consists of.

Can the University of Michigan grad employee claim any other benefits to which SUNY grad employees are not entitled? Well, yes.

Michigan grad employees are guaranteed the right to a minimum salary of \$8,400 for two semesters of work by the "typical Michigan grad employee-- whose position, like that of most SUNY grad employees, requires 17-19 hours of work per week.

Compare that with the \$6,550 minimum stipend here at the University of Buffalo, which sometimes goes unenforced.

They also have the right to access the same instructional supplies and services-- photocopying, for instance-- as faculty. Trivial? Not if you're in a department that's doing its part in the budget crisis by barring TAs from the xerox machine.

Finally, Michigan grad employees have the right to help determine, in conjunction with their departmental administration, the size of the classes they teach.

SUNY grad employees have no such right, and with out it, both we and our students stand to suffer. These and many other rights are guaranteed by the Graduate Employees Organization's (GEO) contract with the Regents of the University of Michigan.

What's more important than any one of them (though several are especially attractive) is the right that underlies them all-- the right to have rights, which is what unionization is all about.

The contract itself is an acknowledgement of the existence of this right; the items the contract contains are simply the products of this right at work. Anything we, as grad employees in SUNY, might presently have that somehow resembles a right is probably just something we're allowed. And that's what it will remain unless we claim it as our own-- unless we, moreover, assert our right to make such a claim.

(Sources: 1991-93 GEO contract with University of Michigan; interview with Tom Oko, University of Michigan TA).

Attention Graduate Students:

The GSO Senate Will Meet

Wednesday, February 26

At 7:30 PM

Room 201 Central Hall

If your department does not have
a senator representing you--

Get One!

A Brooklyn Goes South— All the Way to Arkansas

This second article in our series was written by a longtime GSO member, and last year's Graduate Student Advocate, Andrea Kwasny. Andrea is currently writing her dissertation and expects to receive her doctorate in English by August. She is employed as an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, the state capitol.

a rebel and I was a Yankee. My family's relatively recent emigration from Ukraine didn't seem to register with her. Many Southern states celebrate both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Robert E. Lee Day. Go figure. And the rest of America doesn't seem to help much either.

Remember "Easy Rider" or better yet, "Deliverance?" True, the latter was based

Arkansas gets a brief mention in a Van Morrison song, as well as one on Springsteen's Greetings from Asbury Park album, "Mary, Queen of...". But nobody really stops to think of Arkansas when they think of roadtrips or family camping vacations. Tennessee even beat out Arkansas in a bid for a new Saturn plant. But I want to tell you different, me and Bill Clinton and Jennifer Flowers and Thelma and Louise. Put all of us on "A Current Affair" and you'll really get a sense of Arkansas's own contradictions.

Let me just start by saying that many locals here believe that Clinton has had a solid reputation for "pursuing" women other than his wife, but they also say that Hillary is really the brains behind his political career and that she should have run for governor. But considering that Arkansas has never quite felt the Women's Movement as forcefully as other parts of the nation, her election would have been highly unlikely. Arkansans may not like Clinton, but he's the local in a big campaign and they want him to be a contender. Arkansas has the highest national teenage pregnancy rate,

but it also has some good legislators who fight for increased institutional projects to address it. Although it's a place of great natural beauty, the Ozarks in particular, environmental concerns aren't a high priority. There's a recycling drive, but most people don't. My own kitchen cabinets are

(Continued on Page 5)



Andrea with her friend Bubba.

Is There Life After Stony Brook?

By Andrea Kwasny

When I thought about life after grad school, I never figured on Little Rock, Arkansas. I'm a Brooklyn, New Yorker, and what I knew about the South I learned from Faulkner or the Carol Burnett version of "Gone with the Wind." But I'm learning about it now, mostly by keeping my mouth shut, and letting people here tell me what a redneck is. That is, if I can keep from interrupting them. *

The South is a place of contradictions: it feels itself inferior to the rest of America, but is still suspicious of those Northern carpetbaggers. Truly, the Civil War is not quite over. One of my students last semester explained to me that our differences resulted purely from the fact that she was

on a novel by a Southerner, but that wouldn't make much difference to me if I was in the woods somewhere down here. The South is also the land that produces Miss America pageant finalists, the tall poised genteel ladies who really know their make-up. And as much as Tammy Wynette doesn't like to admit it, "Stand By Your Man" is a practical philosophy that many unhappily married women here seem to live by.

Then there's Arkansas, the "Natural State," though it might as well be the forgotten southern state. After I accepted this teaching job at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, my family and friends kept wishing me luck in Arizona. I thought they weren't paying attention; now I think they just didn't conceive of it as a real place.

GSA Corner

What's Going On Now?

By Thomas Pepper
Graduate Student Advocate

As most of you already know, we are currently without a vice provost for Graduate Studies. Alex King, the former Vice Provost, resigned in January. It now appears that Provost Tilden Edelstein wants to appoint an "acting" vice provost to finish this semester, and then do another search. A Stony Brook professor who was nominated for the position by the search committee apparently does not want the job on a temporary basis. I suspect nobody else would either, since it obviously would leave the position with no power to accomplish anything.

So what does this mean for us as graduate students? While the daily business of the vice provost's office is being carried out by the assistant vice provosts, there is nobody directly involved with administrative decisions who can speak for the graduate students. In this period of crisis, this means graduate education is in danger. Edelstein is considering a "reconfiguration" of the Graduate School, and we have nobody from the Graduate School involved in this discussion.

Meanwhile back in the Humanities, there is much concern about the division's line cuts and how they will be distributed among departments. Proposals have been made, and meetings held, without any graduate student participation. At the University Senate meeting on Monday, February 10, it appeared that many faculty from other departments were under the impression that there is too much "fat" in the English Department, and that they have more TAs than they need. With the number of line cuts being made for next year, it is probably going to be necessary to hire more adjuncts to teach classes that were taught by graduate students.

All of these things have a direct effect on us, not only on our immediate situation but on the future value of our degrees and the future of the accessibility of graduate education. Of

what value is a degree granted from a no-longer-existing program? For those students just beginning, what will their programs be like if there are no incoming graduate students and fewer graduate courses offered? And yet we are not involved in most of these decisions until after they are made. This is not because of student apathy; surely we are all concerned. But how can you be involved in a meeting you aren't told about?

The GSO does get much of this information out to us, but often the department chairs or division deans know what is going on much earlier and simply don't tell us. We need to ask the chairs of our departments in the Humanities, and Dean Patrick Heelan, to let us participate in the proposals to reallocate TA lines. And ask the provost to fill the vice provost for Graduate Studies position as soon as possible.

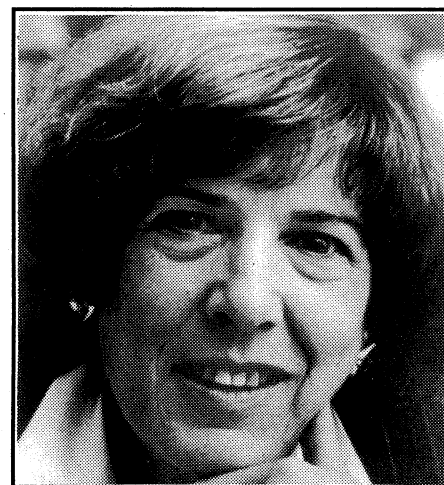
I would also like to mention that at a meeting with GSEU organizers, the organizers asked students who receive notice that they are losing funding to contact them. This is fine; they may want to see who is being most affected by budget cuts for organizing purposes. At the moment, however, they have no ability to do anything about it.

I would appreciate it if you would contact me first, to see if there is anything that can be done about it. And for anyone with a problem in their academic department, please contact me before you lose your funding or are dismissed, as soon as a potential problem appears. The sooner the Graduate School gets involved, the better. Some students have waited until the problem could no longer be fixed without great difficulties to themselves.

Obviously, most of our immediate problems are a result of the economy, and there is little we can do to directly affect that. We do need to be involved in the university's response to budget cuts and be informed so that we can make decisions about our own graduate studies.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will be speaking on Tuesday, February 18 at 8 PM in the Staller Center Recital Hall as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

"Unspeakable Things Unspoken: Ghosts and Memories In African-American Women's Identity"



A Lecture by Elizabeth Fox-Genovese

Director of Women's Studies, Professor of History,
Emory University; author, *Feminism Without Illusions*

Tuesday, March 10, 1992 at 8 PM
Staller Center for the Arts, Recital Hall

This lecture is Free and open to the public

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Newsday

International Student Spotlight

Important Information

For December/May Graduates

Foreign students who graduated in December and paid \$471 for the entire year's health insurance have two options:

1. Keep the coverage until the end of the contract year (August 14) and remain eligible for benefits as long as you are not in your home country.
2. Request a refund and discontinue the coverage as of January 15, 1992.

There is a deadline!

We must know your decision by February 25!!!

If you wish to keep your coverage, send a written note to Mrs. Rose Brown, Foreign Students Services, 113 Central Hall, SUNY Stony Brook, 11794-2725, stating you wish to continue coverage to the end of the contract period. Give name and ID #.

If you want a refund, send proof of graduation and a letter requesting a refund to Mrs. Brown. In the letter, give your name, your student ID number(s), your telephone number, and an address where you want the check to be sent. If you owe money to the University, they will not send you a check but will apply the insurance refund to your unpaid balance.

If we don't hear from you by the deadline, we will assume you wish coverage to continue and a refund will not be possible, as your name will be resubmitted to the insurance company.

May graduates do not get a refund for the summer, as the 60-day extension period on your visa goes well into the summer coverage. However, if you can provide Foreign Student Services with proof (an airline ticket or confirmed reservation) that you will be departing for your home country before June 1992, it is possible to apply for a refund, if you apply June 1.

The International Student Spotlight is a special section devoted to clubs and events for international graduate students and those who would like to learn about the international-student community at Stony Brook. We invite all organizations to submit material for this section. We can also print brief notices in languages besides English. But we need your input. Call George Bidermann at 632-6492 if you would like to write something or publicize an event that your organization is sponsoring.

The Chinese Student Community Mourns the Death of Di Tian, Graduate Student And Young Scientist. You Will Be Greatly Missed And Always Remembered.

The India Society presents: A Lecture-demonstration On "Appreciating Indian Music"

By Mukesh Desai

Introduction to basic concepts and conventions of Indian Classical Music (vocal) by a gifted singer and teacher, and a student of Pandit Jasraj. Learn about ragas, why they are played at certain times of day, khayal (creative aspects), gharanas (classical styles), alankars, saptaks (octaves), Southern and Northern traditions, and other topics. No previous knowledge of music required. February 29 (Saturday), 4-6 PM, New Graduate Apartments Commons (next to Kelly College). Admission to this event is free. All are welcome. There will be a party (bring your own contributions) after the music.

Please note the following upcoming programs: March 20 Discussion Meeting, "Migrating Selves: Multi-cultural Experiences at the University" [Free] Students, staff, and faculty, Indians and Americans, all citizens of the world are invited and encouraged to participate in this program with an innovative format by presenting brief (1-5 minutes) narratives, anecdotes, opinions, creative writing, or whatever type of expression relating the cross-cultural experiences between Indians and Americans and others. Please call Nira Gupta Casale 632-7040/361-7119 for details and campus venue; March 31 [please note the changed date], 7 PM talk: "At Home in East & West: Life and Works of Ananda Coomaraswamy" by Dr Roger Lipsey [Free] April 11 [please note the new date], 4 pm: Light (popular semi-classical) Music: Aparna Pai (vocal), Lakshman Phadke (tabla), Narayan Phadke (harmonium), Students' Union. [Tickets: Students \$5, others \$8]. For information, please call: 632-8450 or 751-1810.

The Latin American Students Organization (LASO)

**meets every Tuesday
at 8:30 PM in the
UNITI Cultural Center
Roth Cafeteria Building**

*For more information,
call Manny at 632-3592*

Your club advertisement here—

Free for the asking!

Call 632-6492

*if this applies
to you!*

Kwasny Linked with Clinton—

Continued from Page 4)

rapidly filling up with cans and bottles that I want to return, only I keep getting lost on the way to the recycling place.

On good days, I like it here. The rents are a lot lower, and so is the price of gas. There's lots of places to hear live music, blues, folk, punk, and of course the only real two kinds of music, country and western, without high cover charges. And Memphis is only two and a half hours away. My students, the best ones, are as good as the students I taught as a TA at Stony Brook. It's the "Yes, Ma'am" that I can't get used to. And some of them seem to like me, as they keep registering for my courses.

I'm enjoying my teaching as well as having health insurance for the first time in my adult life. What I like most here is the sense of adventure that I always associated with the West. There's lots to get involved in and a little effort goes a long way. People make their own opportunities and there's lots of space for creativity and energy. And there's a surprising number of people who may have been born in the South, but whose ideas are neither reactionary nor conservative. When I saw a student on campus reading Baudrillard, a French post-modern cultural

critic, I knew it wasn't as bad as people make it out to be.

On bad days I watch David Letterman, who articulates my own obnoxiousness, sarcasm, aloofness, etc. I think of what Arkansas doesn't have and unfairly fault it for those absences. I miss so many things: the ocean; the bagel place on Route 25A; Russ and Daughters pickle stand on Essex St. in Manhattan; the Corner Bookstore; pints of Guinness drawn twice not quite at room temperature; Huntington Community Cinema; my parents' dry-cleaning store in Williamsburg; Ukrainian shops and restaurants on 2nd Avenue; the New York bridges; and of course I miss my family and the good friends that I met at Stony Brook. Those people and those things have helped constitute me, and I miss the feel of careless familiarity and the smell of the past.

I never thought I'd be here now, or ever, but I am with the picture to prove it: the chocolate labrador in the photo is Bubba, whose owner, Laura, is a ceramic artist and a good friend of mine. So, my life has already started to take another shape, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to keep reconstituting and revising myself. But the moral of the story still is, at least for me, there's no place like home.

**The GSO
has openings
on several
University Senate
and
campus committees.
Call 632-6492
to find out
if you can make
a difference!**

'Whispers of Sighs' at the Library Gallery

By Tricia Laughlin

Department of Art History

In the recent installation "Whispers of Sighs," artists Maureen Palmieri and Vicki Arndt address the issue of family violence through delicate and forceful assemblages that evoke childhood fears and memories. This collaborative, multimedia piece was on display at the Library Gallery from February 3 through February 14.

Based on the premise that every family experiences problems of some sort, "Whispers of Sighs" alludes to much more than physical violence and neglect. In this alternately safe and frightening environment, the visitor encounters sounds, textures and images that may look or feel familiar. These recreate just enough of the disturbing dynamics of dysfunctional families and leave just enough psychological space for each person to have a unique response to the work.

Palmieri and Arndt are both in their second year of Stony Brook's Masters of Fine Arts program in Studio Art. Both felt that they were taking a certain risk in choosing such a sensitive subject, and that an installation was the best way to suggest the private fear and pain

of dysfunctional families. A painting is limited to describing one image or idea, while an effective installation can work on many levels, including the subconscious. In "Whispers of Sighs," Arndt and Palmieri use sound and texture, found objects-- tables, chairs, mirrors, dishes, toys-- as well as handmade books, boxes, photographic and sculptural assemblages made specifically for this installation.

Upon entering, one is met by a wall of whiteness, made up of panels of fabric hanging from ceiling to floor in a loose, maze-like configuration. The indistinct sound of soft voices whispering from somewhere inside the whiteness is soothing and ominous at the same time, like the sound of sirens or wind in the trees. The whispering voices and the uncertainty of what might be encountered incline one to move gently and quietly through the white folds. Not quite reaching the ground, the panels move slightly when touched; this creates a fluid, ethereal space quite unlike the seemingly concrete and decipherable world we usually inhabit. Moving through the white passages may also



Detail from "Whispers of Sighs"

Photo by Greg Forte

bring associations of dreams and water, or of moving through veils of consciousness toward a memory.

Consider the implications of, for instance, a formal dining table with a

white, embroidered table cloth and several goblets of water. There is a chair at either end of the table, with dishes placed on the seat where someone should be sitting. Finally, where one would expect to see plates of food, there are small boxes created by Vicki Arndt. One of the boxes is partially open to reveal what looks like a tiny human organ poised on a piece of glass.

Arndt's boxes have been finished in wax so that they resemble an unpleasant memory that has fossilized, or a family version of Pandora's box: the ancient problems, resentments, or anger, served up again for supper. This is also the spot from which some of the whispering is emanating; a slow, velvety voice intones, "Hey baby, don't you think maybe, we could find us a brand new recipe..." In the area surrounding this scene, one discovers more delicate boxes and dishes, embellished with string, photographic images, and glazes-- more hidden stories, more things out of place.

Contrasting with the denial that is evoked by Arndt's austere and formally ordered assemblages is another environment, in which the horrible realities of child abuse and neglect openly confront the viewer. Here again is a table, a symbol of home life, at the center of the scene. This table is strewn with nostalgic mementos-- Palmieri's handmade books and photographic images of children-- interspersed with shards of shattered mirror, a doll with a band-aid over her mouth, and a sculpted wooden head bound up with string. There is a shattered mirror nearby, and among the shards lie a pair of baby shoes and a belt.

The whispering that accompanies this scene of destruction and neglect has a more urgent tone, disclosing stories of a violent childhood with a refrain of "He loves me, he loves me not; he loves me, he loves me not, but I always knew that." This phrase, repeated continually and carved into a battered wooden door, poignantly emphasizes the insecurity and confusion of an abused child. The subtlety of the verbal elements, the delicately crafted photos and the enigmatic sculptural books is a necessary element that balances the disturbing intensity of the brutality conjured up in this scene.

It is possible for a person to be affected by "Whispers of Sighs" on a purely sensual level and only later to come to terms with the disturbing meanings so elegantly conveyed. Palmieri and Arndt have achieved a work that is socially conscious yet avoids being didactic or compromising formal integrity.

Letters

Women's Center Gearing Up for Spring Activities

To the Editor:

The Center for Women's Concerns has been in existence at Stony Brook for several years. It is an organization committed to meeting the needs of the concerned student body interested in womyn's issues.

This academic year, we have had several general interest meetings and participated in numerous informational fairs. Other activities included the showing of "The Handmaid's Tale" and a panel discussion on the balancing of career and family with Professor Kathleen McGraw of the Political Science department and Dianne Campbell, a mother and part-time student. We held a session dealing with the introduction to Womyn and Spirituality hosted by an apprentice spiritualist. The Center sponsored its biggest event of the fall semester when it kicked off Stony Brook's division of the Clothesline Project. This project is a graphic display of the violence perpetrated against womyn, similar to the AIDS quilt in theory; displaying T-shirts that are individual representations of violence personally experienced by womyn. Concluding our fall semester in mid-December, a vigil was held commemorating the Montreal Massacre in which fourteen womyn were brutally slaughtered as a consequence of their sex.

If you are intrigued by the above activities, please feel free to come join us at our open house, which will be held this Tuesday, February 18th, at 8 PM in the Langmuir Fireside Lounge, or any of the Center's general meetings which are held at 8:30 PM on Tuesdays in Langmuir D120. Our upcoming topics and events will include Women's History Month, the presentation of the AIDS quilt here on the Stony Brook campus, a Pro-Choice Rally in Washington

D.C., the Arlene Miller memorial, and our most empowering week of events--Rape Awareness Week, including the "Take Back the Night" march.

The group also serves as a haven for womyn of all races, ages, ethnicities, creeds, and sexual orientation. Please come join us and bring friends and ideas. For more information, call the Center for Women's Concerns at 632-2000. All are welcome. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Jennifer Christoff
Carina Eisenboss

GSEU Organizing While SUNY Appeals Case

To the Editor:

The Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) may have existed for years, but it finally seems clear that all the hard work will bear fruit. This past summer we wondered if the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) would ever decide on our case. After it ruled unanimously that we were in fact employees, and therefore did have the right to vote on unionization, we wondered if SUNY would appeal the decision--and break their previous guarantees to abide by PERB's decision. SUNY did file an appeal, but it seems destined to fail. The decision on the appeal is expected this August.

The GSEU has redoubled its efforts to organize and inform graduate student employees about issues of unionization, and has hired four part-time organizers (one at each of the SUNY University Centers) to help in this effort. We have been researching successful unionization efforts, including the recent success at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. We have also been gathering information from TAs, RAs, GAs, Fellows, and unfunded grad students about their de-

partments-- their fears and concerns.

The most immediate concern for many graduate student employees is health care. Health care is now becoming a big issue in American politics, but it has long been a major worry for uninsured (and underinsured) graduate students. SUNY policy regarding health insurance for international students is especially unfriendly. Foreign students are required to purchase expensive policies prior to registration.

Another major worry for many grad student employees are proposed line cuts. No department's lines are completely safe. None of the University's "guarantees" of four or five year lines are legally binding since a clause was included in these so-called "contracts" which states that the promise made is subject to New York State's budget agreements. In addition to line cuts, there are other proposed "cost-saving" measures. Tuition waivers may become a thing of the past and workloads are likely to increase.

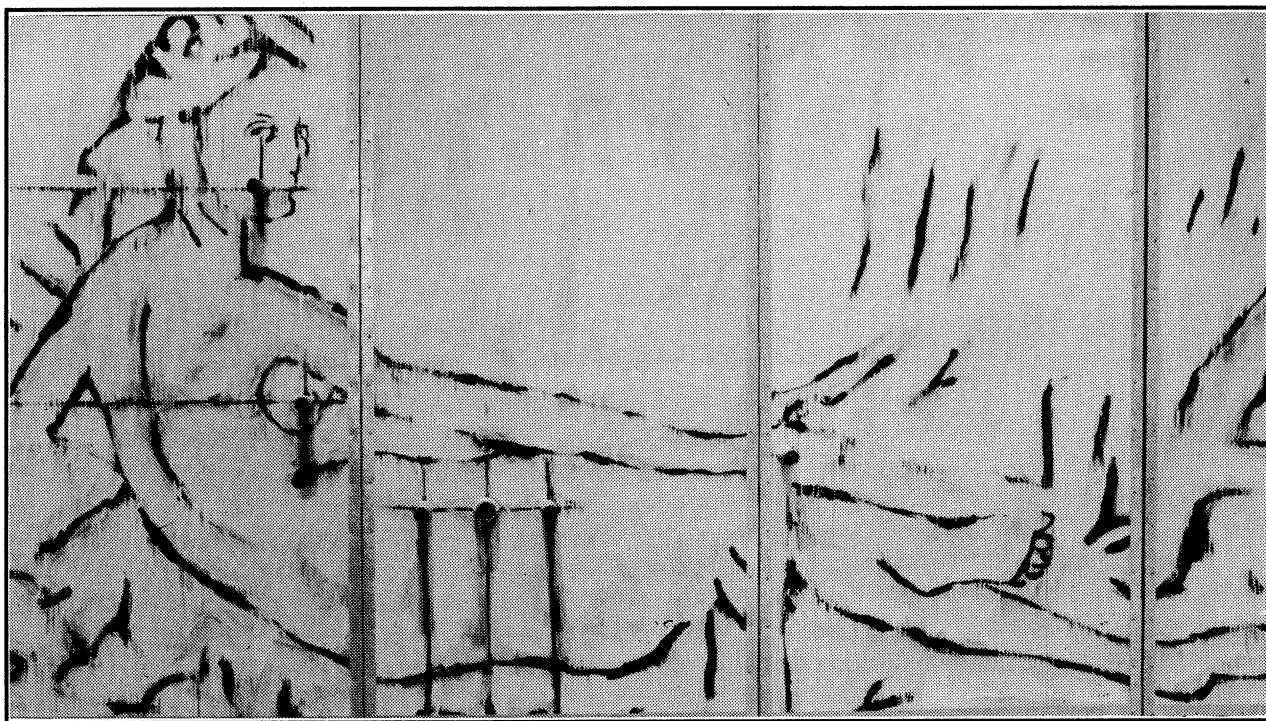
It seems opponents to unionization try to paint the union as greedy students unsympathetic to the problems of the university and the state. Obviously, they are unaware of GSEU's activities and goals. It is precisely our concern with the problems of the university that motivates many of us to act within the union. Class size, for example, is not merely an issue of TA's workloads, but it is also a measure of the quality of education undergraduates will receive. Whether RA lines are cut or not directly affects the amount and quality of research our university produces. Whether or not a department admits an incoming class directly affects the value of the degrees issued by that department. Whether or not TA/GA/RA funding is dropped after four years directly affects the number of doctoral degrees the university will confer-- and therefore affects the university's reputation and the amount of grant money it attracts.

It is the urgency of these issues, and the realization that we may finally get to vote on the union, that has encouraged people to get involved with the GSEU. The GSEU will continue to push for improvement in the conditions of graduate student employment, while we push to improve the quality of our university. For more information, contact me at 825-1535.

Jeff Lasher
GSEU Organizer

The GSO News and Blues welcomes letters to the editor and viewpoints from members of the campus community. Letters should be kept to approximately 400-500 words and viewpoints should be approximately 800-1,000 words. We reserve the right to edit letters and viewpoints for clarity and style.

You may drop or mail letters and viewpoints to the GSO, Room 206 Central Hall, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794-2710.



Jim Boulter's *Reclining Figure with Pipes* (After Ingres, the *Grande Odalisque*)

Photo by Greg Forte

MFA Graduates Display Their Work At Staller Center

By Mariani Lefas-Tetenes

Department of Art History

Exhibiting at the University Art Gallery are four artists in the Master of Fine Arts Program. The works of Jim Boulter, Ron Kellen, Mabi Ponce de Leon and Christopher Yates collected together for this final show attest to their personal concerns. Constrained by this particular gallery context, one still receives an enduring impression of their distinct inclinations.

Eroding the appropriated image, Jim Boulter's oils on panel are also small epics about ways of inhabiting an artwork. Using the body as the space where viewer and aesthetic experience meet, his first panel subjects Ingres' *Grande Odalisque* to a sequential decomposition. Its sad, sinister features indicate a helpless awareness of this scrutiny, as the figure takes on androgynous dimensions. Pierced by metal pipes at calculated points-- above the eyes, breasts, hips and foot-- diagrammatic marks locate the exact penetration of metal into wood, heightening the feel of some kind of intrusion. Thinned paint runs, revealing the pink rawness of underlayer. As in the streaked terrain of a teared face, on the surface resides experience, memory and dissolution.

Enticing yet repellent, the pipes pull you toward them. You are tempted to touch their cold hardness, to peer inside, expecting more than banal wall. Suddenly you find yourself surrounded, towered over and immersed in the forms which, viewed close up, dematerialize into textural incidents. The tube placed by the mouth may be referring to the expressive act of speech but visually it gags the already constrained figure. Perhaps this play on speechlessness is meant to suggest unexplored channels of communication, beyond verbal language. However, the figure remains ironically stifled. Acidic yellow, with its associations of urine and decay, reinforces the disintegration of the original *Odalisque*. While the artist's statement initiates a discourse based on shared physical experience, the work itself precludes easy connections. Instead, it evidences the violence of this thwarted intimacy.

Picabia's Mother displays a recumbent figure in drugged hallucination. The title refers to the Dada artist, Francis Picabia, who used mechanical forms to represent erotic zones. There is a disturbing tension between this mechanistic tendency and the complex emotions involved in any representation of the mother.

In *Two Figures*, black edges press the frame closer around the title characters. Only notational marks evoke real people. Two pipes-- one thick and more admitting, the other lean, connoting the sexes-- oppose each other. Above, regions of black describe an inner landscape of consciousness. It is the aftermath of the feverish struggle for "interrelatedness" of which the artist speaks. Hardly a climactic resolution, we are compelled to visually close the panels and so submerge the two pipes within each other.

The title of one of Ron Kellen's portrait studies, *Meditations and Transformation*, can stand for his whole series. Subtle depictions of fellow artists involved in the MFA program, these intimate, small-scale oils have a photographic basis. The grid system, visible beneath, reinforces the impression of an orderly framework. Yet one notices how constrictive it is and looks for where it breaks down.

The individual portraits are signaled by two end heads. Like a Greek chorus in ancient enactments of mortal hubris, they set the stage. The first head, seen from below, hints at youthful aspiration. The end head closes back on the series, enfolding a complete world of discrete personalities, of individuals bound together.

The deceptively simple arrangement and straightforward portrayals mask underlying feelings expressed by various formal means. *Martine Levine and Myself* speaks of the teacher-student connection in its pregnant, diagonal space which isolates the figures. In *Howardena Pindell*, the artist closes in meditatively on the shape of the head, disclosing through broad application of pinks, oranges and browns his fascination with the particular tint of her creativity. In the portrait of *Maureen Palmieri*, we overdose on light. The squinting subject, treated with sketchy, flickering strokes, moves forward. Her stance has a confrontational, questioning edge. The uprooted signpost points to a transfigurative journey ahead, while the shadow at her feet vibrates in anticipation. Kellen's work is strongest when most engrossed in the subject: in *Caroline Ricioppo*, the grid dissolves, as the subject's mood emerges.

In Mabi Ponce de Leon's paintings and lithographs, fluid fish merge with church plans. These are self-contained dreams expressed through sumptuous reds, emeralds and oranges. Clearly aware of Christian symbolism, of fish representing Christ, her work surpasses scholastic intricacies.

The fish are dream size, luminous, transparent yet powerful. Entering the hermetic forms of the churches, they illuminate them, stirring their inflexible rigidity. In *The Theater of The Soul* the artist layers color directly onto the canvas, animating with impastoed fervor the spaces where forms coalesce. In *Target Soul House* the interaction is a purple throbbing. Elsewhere frailty of fin melts solidity of structure, enclosing it in an aura of iridescent light. Even negative spaces are activated and rendered potent.

The paintings initially captivate on the decorative level. Hedonism of surface alludes to stained glass, textiles and hypnotic church ritual. They are a kind of incarnation of the spiritual through a metamorphosis of the physical. Yet the artist's assimilation to Christian symbolism is subtle and uninhibited. It is her private journey that ultimately mesmerizes. Invoked through saturated color and rarefied space, it tells the story of soul travel in subterranean realms, where sensation speeds past theory.

New Exhibit Premieres February 17 at Library

By Katie Clifford

Department of Art History

At first take, Julie Larson's paintings of stark vaginal images-- dilated walls framing a blood-red interior-- might be an invitation to the salacious and sensational. However, once overcoming the seemingly obvious, these "vaginal landscapes" are neither sexually explicit nor gender-specific, but rather textural forms that offer a rich body of associations, as the exhibition title, "Something More Than Flesh," professes. This exhibit is on display at the Melville Library Gallery from February 17-28.

Although not all pieces for the show were complete at the time of this writing, a studio visit provided a preview of anticipated works as well as insight into the artistic process. For example, in some pieces, a gritty consistency of acrylic paint mixed with sand or mica was built up onto raw canvas stretched out on the studio floor. Using "tools" such as a knife or screwdriver, the clotted layer was then scraped, scratched, and cut into, breaking down the surface and exposing an often brightly colored or smoothly rendered underpainting.

The contrast of different colored and textured layers suggests dynamic opposites-- a landscape or bodyscape that can be both fallow and fertile, stagnant and flowing, concealing and revealing. Implicit in these relations is a sense of energy trapped in between, and of force that can break it apart, unleashing this uncertain creative or destructive energy.

In another work, Larson moves away from the iconic vaginal image to the patterning of multiple vortexes, spinning out from their centers in conflicting directions. It speaks of a desire to cut through the hardened and wrought surfaces and release the energies of the swirling red underpaint trapped beneath. On this uncharted landscape the artist pursues different paths through a personal imagery made rich for universal exploration.

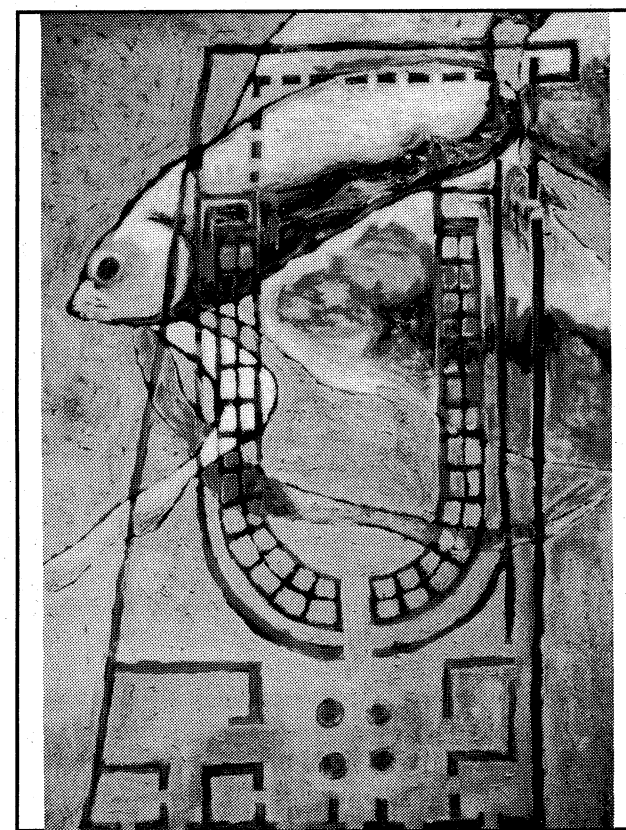


Photo by Greg Forte

In *The Theater of The Soul* by Mabi Ponce de Leon

Chris Yates's mixed media constructions integrate discarded metallic objects, gold paint, a dead bird and poems. His *Blue Fish Well* combines a rusted pulley wheel with intricately carved wood strips touched in gold. At the bottom of the well, gasping fish impregnated in sluggish casting resin flounder in open-mouthed anguish, echoing the twisting configuration of the angels in Giotto's *Lamentation*.

He is preoccupied with the representation and transformation of nature. In *Nature Spirits* the terrifying side of nature is evoked in a gnarled tree limb that gestures frantically over the rim of its box. In *When You Are Ready* a rusted hubcap substitutes for a light source, its spokes simulating rays. The accompanying poem reiterates water-rejuvenating powers. Mean-

(Continued on Page 8)

S h o r t T a k e s

And Last Licks.....

University Program Set For Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and the theme is "A Patchwork of Many Lives." According to Connie Koppelman, coordinator of this year's Women's History Month program, this is the third year that the university is celebrating the nationwide event.

There will be over fifty activities presented in March, both on and off campus. Among these are the Clothesline Project Workshop on March 2, where T-shirts depicting violence against women will be displayed (see letter, page 6). This will take place at the Center for Women's Concerns, Langmuir D120 from 3-7 PM.

On Tuesday, March 3, there will be a Health Fair and Health Careers Day at the Union Bi-level from 11 AM to 6 PM. There will also be two lectures by Dr. Paula Scalingi; one from 11:30-12:50 in Room 111 of the Javits Lecture Center, and one from 3:30-5:00 in SBS N702. The lecture topics are "Women in Politics" and "Women in Under-represented Areas of Government: National Defense, Armed Forces and Intelligence," respectively. Also on Tuesday, Ann Fauvell will be reading excerpts from her short stories, "Touching in the Right Places" at the Peace Center in Old Chemistry from 7 to 9 PM. There will be refreshments served.

Wednesday, March 4 features Carol Kessner's "Emma Lazarus," which will take place at 1:30 PM in SBS 102. In order to make reservations for this event call 632-7063. Overlapping with this event is a discussion on "The Role of Campus Leaders in Eliminating Sexual Harassment." A resource panel consisting of members of the Campus Women's Safety Committee, Women's Studies Program, and the Affirmative Action office will lead the discussion, which will take place in the Bi-level of the Stony Brook Union from 12:40 to 2 PM.

The *News and Blues* will list additional events in its March 9 issue. Copies of the complete calendar of events can be obtained from the Women's Studies Office, Room 105 Old Chemistry, or call 632-7690 for more information.

War Crimes Tribunal Hearing Set for February 29

The Commission of Inquiry for International War Crimes Tribunal is making preparations for the international tribunal, to be convened February 28 and 29 in New York City. The commission sent the following information over the wire:

"The people's mood is changing about the Gulf War. The anniversary of the air war's start has brought with it revelations about the myth of a surgical, video game war. The Patriot anti-missile shot down no Scuds. Only six percent of the bombs were "smart." The Iraqi people, especially the children, are suffering. We knew all this long ago. Now it's sneaking into the mainstream media. It's helping to expose the official story of the war as a Big Lie....

People all over the world responded with energy to our initial call for war crimes hearings. The meetings held, in breadth and depth, more than satisfied our initial expectations. Local commissions have held hearings in 20 countries and in 30 cities within the United States. Now we are in the final preparations for the War Crimes Tribunal itself.

We undertook the long process of polling commissions for nominations to the panel of judges. Our panel makes quite a contrast with the U.S. Supreme Court. In the U.S. right-wing presidents have chosen a panel of like-minded judges. They have one ideology and no diversity. The Tribunal panel includes diverse nationalities and cultures, and also diverse ideologies. Each has a record of defending some area of human rights in his or her respective nation or internationally."

The panel will hold a private session on February 28 followed by a public meeting on Saturday, February 29. This session will take place at the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School Auditorium, at 66th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, between 2 and 6 PM. For more information, contact the commission at (212) 254-5385.

Plans Underway to Demand U.S. Halt to Nuclear Testing

The 100th Monkey Project to Stop Nuclear Testing is organizing a ten-day series of events this spring to encourage the U.S. to agree to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban treaty, and invites all interested citizens to participate.

The events being planned include a three-day music festival in Las Vegas, April 10-12, featuring Michelle Shocked, Merl Saunders, and others as well as speakers including Dr. Helen Caldicott, Cesar Chavez, Daniel Ellsberg, David Brower, Wavy Gravy, John and Dale Robbins, Corbin Harney, and more. Then, following a day of preparation, there will be a five-day (April 14-18) walk to the Mercury Test Site 60 miles north of Las Vegas.

The events culminate with a nonviolent direct action at the test site on Easter Sunday, April 19 (also the date of many Earth Day celebrations).

Since 1963, when the U.S., the Soviet Union and 116 other nations signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty-- which banned above-ground tests-- the U.S. has detonated more than 650 bombs at the Mercury site, at a present cost of \$4 billion annually. Half of all underground tests have leaked radiation, contaminating groundwater, soil and the atmosphere.

Moreover, the Mercury site is located on tribal lands which, according to an 1863 treaty, belong to the Western Shoshone Nation, and have been expropriated by the government-- just as test sites in Kazakhstan and Muramoa have been taken from indigenous peoples.

With the end of the Cold War and the effort by native peoples to mount a "Resistance 500" counter-observation to the Columbus Quincentenary, the time is now to end all nuclear testing.

For more information on the events April 10-19, or to help the 100th Monkey Project or start a local/regional chapter, contact either of the following Project offices:

504-A Emerson St.	1035 Walnut #207
Palo Alto, CA 94301	Boulder, CO 80302
(415)328-7840	(303) 442-5820
(415)321-9026 fax	(303) 822-6202 fax

SASU Postpones Lobby Day After Officers Resign

Student Leader News Service

ALBANY-- In the wake of the resignations of a second vice president and a key organizer, the Student Association of the State University has postponed Lobby Day, which was originally scheduled for February 10, to February 24, according to SASU Board of Directors Chair Angus Johnston.

SASU Vice President Jeff Luks quit last week in protest over the hiring of Kathy Daniel as legislative director, one of the last paying positions in the organization. Numerous SASU insiders say that Daniels is involved in a live-in relationship with SASU President Randy Campbell.

Luks said that Campbell should have totally disqualified himself from the search process for the \$13,000-a-year position, now considered SASU's most important staff position because of the legislative season that is now underway with students facing tuition hikes of up to \$800.

There were numerous reports last week of SASU campuses being strongly opposed to the hiring of Daniel, and some are reported to be withholding dues. This could not be confirmed, and one student government, at SUNY Albany, denied that it was withholding its Spring SASU dues.

SASU is also recovering from the resignation of organizer Ardesheer Assadi-Baki, who has taken a position with the Graduate Student Employees Union.

Last Licks: Over two months have passed since Dr. Marburger closed the gravel lot by the Health Sciences Center, ostensibly because it was "unsightly, and in competition with the paid [garage] parking," and little has improved for East Campus or East Campus parkers. Piles of dirt lay in the old gravel lot, an aesthetic improvement even Vice President Howard Oaks must admit is modest. Perhaps someone should make the suggestion that physicists should worry about physics, doctors about caring for the ill, and leave it to the parkers to decide what constitutes an attractive, accessible parking space.

Meanwhile, displaced students park in Table Quad because Vice President Harry Snoreck could not devise a hang-tag method for graduate students TAs and RAs with faculty/staff stickers. It seems that Stony Brook has a local version of Washington, D.C.'s Beltway insiders whose grand designs blind them to the difficulties their decisions create.

And so it goes....

MFA Graduates Exhibit—

(Continued from Page 7)

while the stylized figure of a woman descends ecstatically into *Blue Fish Well*. This resonance between works is part of Yates's strength. *Reliquary* is a useless, rotting object framed in a carefully crafted niche. In this setting the twirl of shredded rope is as potent as some strand of martyr's hair. Yates harnesses mixed media's potential to redefine experience.

The ascent and descent of fish in *Pull Down Heaven* hint at Nature's cycle of decay and rebirth. Combining grit-laden gold paint, carved spud-shaped roots and guillotine-sharp blue glass, the artist links craftsmanship with idea to convey the panic of low-tide surfacing. But clearly Yates's constructions work best when he selects succinct forms, as in *Support's* contrast of feathers and curved metal. Here craftsmanship poignantly serves Yates' highly personal vision.

The MFA exhibition will be open until February 26, Tuesday through Saturday from 12 Noon to 4 PM at the University Art Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts.