

# News and Blues

Volume 2, Number 5  
January 28, 1992

Published by the Graduate Student Organization at Stony Brook

## Cuomo Budget Proposes \$60M Cut to SUNY

By John Barry

Student Leader News Service

ALBANY-- Governor Mario Cuomo, who once called raising SUNY tuition "an outrage," has asked for a \$93 million tuition hike for SUNY starting next fall-- which translates to an annual increase of at least \$800 for the four University Centers and \$500 for the SUNY four-year colleges.

At the same time, Cuomo also proposed a lump-sum cut of \$60.4 million from SUNY and \$24.8 million from the City University (CUNY) system. Both proposals come from his 1992-93 Executive Budget, released late last week.

The governor is, in effect, asking that SUNY students pay \$90 million more for \$60 million less education. His proposal calls for layoffs of more than 200 faculty and staff positions; countless other jobs will be lost to attrition, or non-replacement of workers who leave.

If approved by the state legislature in the coming months, this will be the third increase in tuition over the past two years. In the Fall of 1990, a year's tuition cost \$1,350 for in-state residents. If Cuomo gets his way, it will be \$2,950 at the university centers this Fall.

"Remember, this is just a proposal," said Assemblyman Ed Sullivan, chair of the Higher Education Committee. "The legislature has the final say" over the state budget. But

analysts have stated that it is unlikely the legislature will restore significant funding to SUNY, or any other state agency, in such trying times.

GSO President Monica McTigue said she was disturbed by the magnitude of the cuts. "Access to higher education should be treated as a basic right; that right is being systematically eroded by continued cuts to SUNY and CUNY. We jeopardize our future as a society by not insuring access to higher education for all who wish to attend college." She said that the GSO would work with campus constituencies lobbying state legislators to restore some of the funds cut by Cuomo's proposal.

Under state law, the governor is required to propose the state budget in January. Then, the state legislature modifies the budget and is required to issue final state budget legislation by April 1. For the past eight years, the legislature has missed its deadline; it released the 1991-92 budget on July 3, the last day of the 1991 session.

### Differential Tuition

Charging different prices at some SUNY campuses would represent a major change in philosophy for the state. The SUNY Board of Trustees first raised the possibility at its January meeting. Differential tuition is strongly advocated by SUNY Chancellor Bruce Johnstone.

A major concern of many observers is the rift that will develop between SUNY colleges if the proposed plan is implemented. Peter Shipley, the executive chairman of the University Fiscal Action Committee-- an independent lobbying group that monitors SUNY spending and policies-- fears negative long-term effects of this proposal. "These different tuitions will create a different SUNY system," he said. "What we will have is economically upper-class students attending the liberal arts schools and lower-class students going for the arts and sciences."

University officials say that it costs more for a student to attend one of SUNY's four university centers at Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook. But according to Shipley, much of that cost is associated with research activities conducted at the university centers, and not with educational costs.

### Financial Aid

As a result of the recession, there were more students eligible for the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in 1991, and a growth of more than \$100 in awards occurred. TAP is considered an "entitlement" under state law, and students who qualify cannot be denied access to the program.

Awards for the 1992-93 fiscal year will be protected at the 1991-92 levels under the governor's proposal. Last year, the maximum TAP award of \$4,125 was reduced by \$75, and those students qualifying for the minimum award of \$350 received just \$100. Reductions of \$145 to \$425 were applied to all other TAP awards, according to income.

Other cuts in financial aid would include a reduction of 20% for Aid for Part-time Students (APTS) and a 50% reduction in Bundy Aid, given to private colleges and universities directly in relation to the number of degrees awarded each year. The Empire State Challenger Scholarships and Fellowships, as well as state participation in the non-federal share of College Work Study would be eliminated entirely, for a combined savings of \$10.2 million.

Cuomo's plans for budget cuts represent the sixth cut SUNY has absorbed in the past four years. After getting hit with nearly \$200 million in cuts since 1988, SUNY students still had to pay out approximately \$100 million in additional tuition.

## The Long, Winding Road to the SUNY Budget

By Fons Haffmans

GSO Secretary

In this article an overview of the process that establishes the SUNY budget is sketched. SUNY's main sources of revenue are state funds, fees (mainly tuition), and research grants.

The SUNY system is governed by the Board of Trustees (BoT). The day-to-day operation of SUNY falls under the responsibility of the Chancellor (Bruce Johnstone), who works within the guidelines set by the BoT. The BoT is responsible for the budget of the SUNY system, which consists of the central administration (SUNY Central), four University Centers (one of which is Stony Brook), two Health Centers, thirteen Arts and Sciences Centers, four specialized colleges, six colleges of technology and Agriculture and two statutory colleges. In addition, it partly finances thirty community colleges.

As a first step a budget proposal is solicited from each campus. This Budget Proposal consists of the usual operating expenses of the campus within the limits set by SUNY Central. The campus may be asked to submit addition proposals for new projects.

The second step consists of SUNY Central compiling a comprehensive Budget Request. This takes into account the projected revenue and reimbursements for SUNY, e.g. from tuition and indirect costs (IDC). The main part of the Budget Request is the University Operating Budget (approximately \$1.4 billion). In addition, funds were laid out for other SUNY operations, such as the hospitals.

Most of the money in the University Operating Budget goes to the university campuses. Funding for each campus is determined using the so-called *Benchmark Model*, which will be discussed a little bit later on. A small part (approximately nine percent) of the University Operating Budget is reserved for so-called University-wide Programs, tuition reimbursement being one of the more prominent ones.

In the Budget Request 1992-93 the Trustees asked for \$2 million in additional support for graduate students, which graduate students would theoretically use to help defer the

cost of health insurance. In addition, they asked for a larger amount of Tuition Waivers, given last year's tuition increase. The Governor's proposal did not include the additional \$2 million in support, but it did leave the Trustees request for additional tuition reimbursement funding intact.

In step 3 the Budget Request is submitted to the Division of the Budget of the Governor's Office. It is now up to the Governor to submit an *Executive Budget* that has some political viability. This year's hassle was compounded by the impression this Governor left that he was going to run for President.

The Executive Budget was presented to the public on January 21. Some of the highlights of this budget are the following:

i) SUNY gets a \$60.4 million lump-sum cut. The BoT has the discretion to distribute this within SUNY's budget.

ii) The budget recommends that the campuses be given \$11 million more than the 1991-92 appropriation, although this is still less than the Trustees requested in their budget proposal.

iii) The budget recommends that SUNY increase its revenues by almost \$93 million. The governor assumes that all SUNY special revenue accounts will move toward full recovery for all associated state expenses. Prominent is \$60 million of hospital fringe benefits currently paid for by the state. Another prominent source of income is, of course, a tuition increase.

The budget states that any increase in tuition authorized by the BoT should keep the tuition level below that of similar public universities in the Northeast. Prominent is also the support for the BoT to differentiate tuition among campuses. However, this would require a change in the Education Law.

The following should give you an idea of the impact of the \$60 million lump sum cut. Approximately \$129 million is distributed through these university-wide programs to 31 projects. \$46 million is reserved for programs for the

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# "Well It Doesn't Look Good, Martha..."

Welcome to the Spring '92 semester. There's been a change in the GSO executive committee. Unfortunately for Stony Brook's graduate students, John Nolan has returned to Albany to complete his thesis. Upon leaving Stony Brook, John was thanked by GSO senators, Polity President Dan Slepian, and members of the University Executive Council. Even though he was president for only a single semester, John's contribution to GSO will be hard to match.

In the interest of cheering up our readers before we depress them further, the GSO submits the following news. Last fall, in an attempt to meet budget reductions, SUNY transferred all state-supported graduate/teaching assistants to Research Foundation accounts. This transfer was subject to the approval of the Office of the State Comptroller, which in turn ruled against the action. On December 18, all SUNY GA/TAs were successfully transferred back to a temporary state line. Affected graduate students were subjected to neither the normal two-week administrative paylag nor a five-day lump sum deferral initiated last spring for all other state employees. The GSO applauds the efforts of all those involved in this payroll transfer.

Ironically, in December, the GSO was also informed that support for 75 lines had been cut during the Fall semester. This reduction brings the total number of TA/GA lines to 931. The number of research assistantships increased by 19 to 630 and the number of graduate students on fellowships stands at 142. The GSO is concerned that support for graduate students may not continue at the present level, since budget predictions do not look good. Every graduate student should be forewarned that administrative changes are now in progress within the Graduate School. As of this writing, a new Vice Provost for Graduate Studies has yet to be appointed. Alex King has returned to his department and GSO has yet to learn who will be in charge of graduate lines and funding. This is especially worrisome during the present budget crisis since graduate students are once again in danger of being Stony Brook's last consideration and easy target.

Now onto the big topic of the year-- the budget fallout! During December and January, the campus has been reacting with increasing trepidation over SUNY budget cuts and possible consequences of

New York State's new "fiscal responsibility." As predicted, Governor Cuomo has proposed a \$153 million reduction for the 1992-93 fiscal year (approximately \$24 million for Stony Brook). The budget calls for a lump sum reduction of \$60 million coupled with another \$93 million in increased revenue projections. This \$93 million of increased revenue is expected to be filled through tuition increases (likely to be \$500 to \$800), fees, and other revenue-building measures.

The proposal must first pass the state legislature and any tuition increase must be approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees; however, the trustees have traditionally enacted any tuition increase proposed by the governor. If this budget passes, tuition at Stony Brook will have doubled in two years (it was \$1,350 yearly in 1990). A potential problem facing funded/stipended graduate students is the availability of guaranteed tuition scholarships. After the last budget cut, money for tuition reimbursement was raised within SUNY through internal reallocations.

The Governor's recent budget proposal has not specified a reduction in tuition reimbursement; however, the total figure does not take into account reimbursement for tuition increases levied in order to meet Cuomo's "recommendation" of \$93 million in additional revenue.

It is unlikely that another round of internal reallocations will save us. We grow closer and closer to major cutbacks and retrenchment each day and students across the state are likely to be adversely affected. It is important that graduate students have a say in local decisions. The GSO is represented on the university's priorities committee, the Stony Brook Council, the Graduate Council and the University Senate, as well as many other policy-making committees. It is more important than ever that graduate students keep their eyes open and stay in contact with the GSO. The first GSO Senate meeting is scheduled for February 5 at 7:30 in Central Hall, Room 201. Please make sure your department is represented.

## The Lot That Jack Closed

A Poem by Christopher L. Kushmerick

(With apologies to Mother Goose)

*This is the lot that Jack closed.*

*These are the spots, empty and dark  
where once was the space for poor students to park  
that sit in the lot that Jack closed.*

*This is the desk with a view of the mess  
comprised of the spots, empty and dark  
where once was the space for poor students to park  
that sit in the lot that Jack closed.*

*This is the VP who was feeling his oats  
stating "No one parks free when they come to Club Oaks"  
who sits at the desk with a view of the mess  
comprised of the spots, empty and dark  
where once was the space for poor students to park  
that sit in the lot that Jack closed.*

*Here's the garage that leaks like a sieve  
where not even the lowliest VP would live  
stating "No one parks free when they come to Club Oaks"  
as he sits at the desk with a view of the mess  
comprised of the spots, empty and dark  
where once was the space the poor students could park  
that sit in the lot that Jack closed.*

### **The GSO News and Blues**

**Volume 2, Number 5**

A publication of the  
Graduate Student Organization  
Room 206, Central Hall  
SUNY Stony Brook  
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**Gary Halada, Speaker of the Senate**

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 January 27.

**Next Issue of the News and Blues  
Is Monday, February 17.**

**Please consider writing for it!  
Call 632-6492 for more information**

# SUNY's Public Safety: Peace or Police Officers?

By Fons Haffmans

GSO Secretary and PS Task Force member

SUNY is working on a major review of its Public Safety forces. This review is prompted by a wide variety of reasons, ranging from general changes in the Public Safety Departments on the different campuses to questions regarding jurisdiction and arming. SUNY has formed a University-Wide Task Force on Public Safety consisting of administrators, faculty, students, and Public Safety officers and supervisors. It hasn't written its final report yet. This article will outline some of the issues being discussed.

## Background

In 1953 the Board of Trustees was given the power to appoint peace officers. A

peace officer has some, but not all, of a police officer's powers. Notable distinctions are that Public Safety officers are not allowed to stop and frisk people and are not allowed to carry a gun without a permit. In addition, the decision to arm Public Safety officers lies with each campus president.

Over the years, changes in the law have more specifically delineated the powers of Public Safety officers regarding law enforcement. A major study in 1975 led to the Public Safety Model. In this model, Public Safety was charged with all the safety issues on campus, like fire safety, environmental health and safety, and law enforcement, including traffic violations, building security and crime prevention education. Responsibility for handling fire and environmental emergencies has fallen to sepa-

rate entities on most campuses, leaving the Public Safety Department with *de facto* law enforcement.

As mentioned before, Public Safety officers do not have full police powers. In addition, their jurisdiction is limited to the campus (i.e. university property) and adjoining highways except when they are in pursuit of an alleged criminal. They are not allowed to pursue criminal investigations off campus. Public Safety officers, when travelling between campuses or assisting the local police in their work, are essentially "civilians."

## The Current Review

New federal and state legislation requires SUNY campuses to publicize their safety procedures and crime statistics. The campus also needs to involve campus constituents in campus safety policies through a Public Safety Committee.

The Task Force is charged with reviewing the Public Safety Model and recommending changes, if any. It has identified several issues: 1) Public Safety or Police model; 2) extended jurisdiction; 3) arming; 4) implementation of new laws; and 5) civilian oversight.

An important factor in the discussion are the unions. Public Safety personnel are represented by two bargaining units, one for the officers (council 82) and one for supervisors. The unions want Public Safety to be re-classified as police officers. It takes legislation to do that and they are lobbying the state legislature as you read this. They claim Public Safety cannot provide the campus community with a sufficient level of safety otherwise.

Needless to say, there are willing ears in the legislature for this message. Furthermore, the unions want a State Police-type model with a Commissioner in Albany. That removes the oversight of Public Safety from the campus presidents. In addition, they want to be able to retire after 25 years of service, similar to current arrangements in other police departments.

In the absence of being classified as police, the union representatives want to close the (remaining) gap between Peace

Officers and Police Officers by:

- extending jurisdiction statewide;
- moving the authority to arm Public Safety from the campus presidents to the Board of Trustees;
- gaining pension rights; and
- having a centralized (unified) command.

It is important to note that the lack of guns in certain situations has been cited in grievances by the union as an unsafe working condition. In other words, the arming issue is viewed as a safety issue for the officers. Furthermore, the fear exists that if Public Safety officers lend assistance outside their jurisdiction and are injured, the State will not indemnify them. The jurisdiction (or lack thereof) of Public Safety outside the campus does lead to some strange situations. Legally, they are plain civilians. However, since they would pursue a certain course of action as state employees, SUNY legal council argues, they would still be indemnified.

Over the years SUNY has rejected the union's proposals, notably regarding the "State Police Model" and the shift of authority to arm away from the campus presidents. An informal poll of campus presidents revealed that they do not favor a blanket extension of the jurisdiction. Rather, they would like to extend the jurisdiction of Public Safety officers for clearly proscribed tasks. The fear exists that if Public Safety has unlimited jurisdiction, it would be called in by local law enforcement too often. This is especially relevant for campuses in Upstate New York, where Public Safety departments are sometimes better equipped and trained than the local law enforcers. However, extension of the jurisdiction or ultimately changing Public Safety from Peace Officer to Police Officer status would require new legislation.

As mentioned before, the Task Force is still working on its report. It seeks input from the campus Public Safety Committees on the five issues raised above and hopes to present its report by the end of March. Students wishing to contribute their opinions should leave a message at the GSO (632-6492) and the GSO's representative will get back to them.

## GSO Budget Report

The following financial report details GSO expenditures as of January 25, 1992 and was compiled by Treasurer Chris Kushmerick and Office Manager Ida Fuchs. The process of formulating the GSO's 1992-93 budget will begin on February 17 with a Budget Committee meeting scheduled for 3 PM in Room 201, Central Hall. Budget Committee meetings are open to all GSO members. For more information about the GSO budget, call Chris Kushmerick at 632-6492.

All figures are in dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar.

Initial balance <sup>1</sup>	\$18,155	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>As of 1/25</b>
Student Activity Fee	\$118,800	\$54,454
Contributions to RAP <sup>2</sup>	6,300	2,600
Newsletter advertisement	2,500	557
Interest (Estimated) <sup>3</sup>	2,300	958
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$129,900</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>As of 1/25</b>
Office Expenses	\$11,500	\$2,860 <sup>4</sup>
Payroll <sup>5</sup>		
officer stipends	9,600	2,000 <sup>6</sup>
office staff	3,000	1,820
Office Manager/C&D Agent	19,000	9,230
Referenda <sup>7</sup>		
NYPIRG	10,000	3,335
SASU	5,000	1,700
Political advocacy		
conference and travel	4,000	1,187
discretionary	7,000	0
Departmental allocations	8,000	669
Resident student programs	2,000	0
Clubs and Organizations	2,000	500
Cultural and Social	7,000	1,256
Charitable organizations		
ambulance corp	1,500	1,500
child care	4,000	3,000
Programs		
Disabled student tutoring	1,000	0
discretionary	3,000	200
RAP (travel funds)	11,300	3,204
Newsletter editor	4,000	2,000
Newsletter production	2,500	1,009
Auditor	3,000	1,711
Legal service	1,500	0
Senate expenses	1,400	478
WUSB	3,000	3,000
"Student Leader" subscription	500	475
Advertisement and mail	2,000	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126,800</b>	<b>\$41,482</b>

1. This figure only represents cash and cash equivalent (certificates of deposit, etc.) assets.

2. The following groups contribute to the GSO RAP program: FSA (\$3,400), Graduate School and Office of the Provost (\$2,600), Vice President for Student Affairs (\$300).

3. Interest was estimated by multiplying average balance for fiscal year 1990-91 by an estimated interest rate of 5 percent.

4. Many office expense bills do not come in until well after the end of the quarter in which they fall. For example, telephone bills. This number should be considered a lower bound.

5. Amount spent on salary do not include GSO's 7.5 per cent social security contribution.

6. One of the officers is not accepting his stipend this year.

7. These items are allocations made by a referendum vote by the entire student body.

## Attention Graduate Students:

The GSO Senate Will Meet

Wednesday, February 5

At 7:30 PM

Room 201 Central Hall

If your department does not have  
a senator representing you—

**Get One!**



# Charting the Long and Winding Road to a SUNY Budget—

(Continued from Page 4)

disadvantaged; \$24 million for tuition reimbursements. The third largest item is \$12 million for academic equipment replacement. Hence, if the trustees were to keep the programs for the disadvantaged and the tuition reimbursements (which by the way need to be increased to deal with the increase in tuition) it would have to cut all other programs!

The fourth step consists of the legislature discussing and proposing a revised budget. This in its turn may or may not be adopted by the Governor. The Legislature may indeed change the proposals put forward in the Executive Budget. Right now we are entering this phase of the budget proposal, simultaneously with step 1 for the budget year 1993-'94.

The last step ends with the BoT being presented with the final outcome of the Budget fight.

As mentioned above, the *Benchmark Model* is used to determine the amount of money each campus eventually gets. Essentially, the Model determines how much resources a campus would need ideally to fulfill its mission. This is based on enrollment, classes taught and an ideal student/faculty ratio, among other things. This is then compared to what the campus actually got. If the benchmark was 100% the campus supposedly would have all the funding it needed to fulfill its mission. If the Benchmark is lower than 100%, the campus would ideally receive additional funds (or be spared additional cuts). The Benchmarks for the four university centers are:

Stony Brook	87.2%
Buffalo	89.6%
Binghamton	90.6%
Albany	88.8%
SUNY-wide average	88.8%

If the benchmark falls within 2.2% of the SUNY-wide average (which is the standard deviation) SUNY Central has determined that no special treatment be given to that particular campus and it will be cut or supported proportionate to its current funding.

Enrollment is an important factor in determining the benchmark. Below is presented a scenario worked out by the Budget Office here on campus. It shows how the benchmark would change and how much funding Stony Brook would get if the Benchmark Model was followed to the letter by SUNY Central. If enrollment increased with 100 students enrolled in a particular course:

100 FTE extra Enrolled in	Change in Benchmark	Dollar value of Change per FTE
Lower division undergrad	-0.2 %	\$ 2,805
Upper division undergrad	-0.3 %	\$ 5,754
Beginning Graduate cour.	-0.5 %	\$ 7,626
Advanced Graduate course	-1.4 %	\$26,769
Phase 2 med. course	-2.9 %	\$54,643

The changes in benchmark as the course level increases are due to increased need for faculty. In addition, more support staff are required for graduate courses.

The above mainly dealt with state funding, but Research funding has increased significantly over last ten years (see fig. 1).

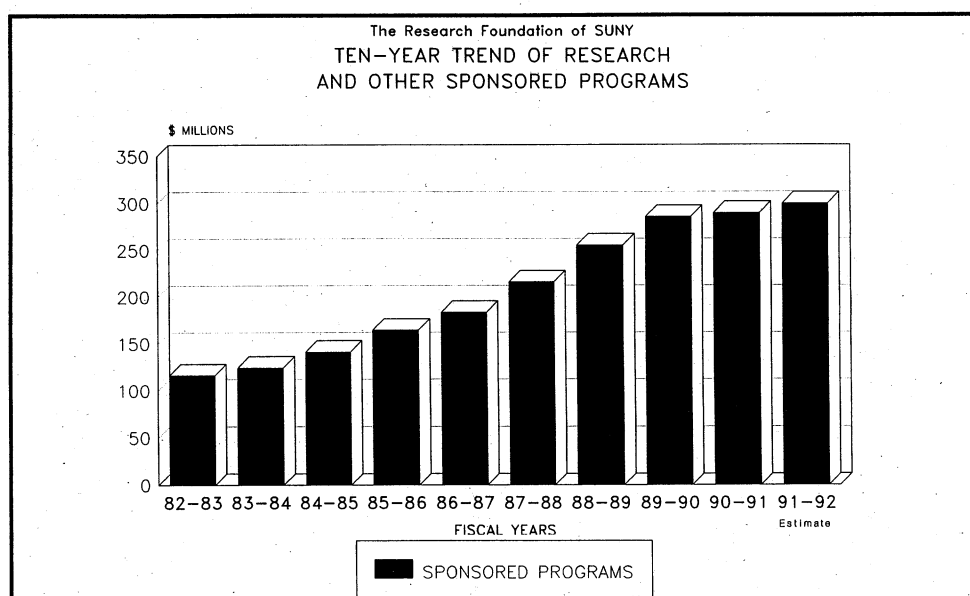
Research Grants are handled mainly by the Research Foundation (RF), a not-for-profit corporation chartered by the Board of Regents in 1951. Since state agencies are prohibited from handling federal funds, a separate organization needed to be established. The RF is closely connected with SUNY. It is housed in the SUNY Central Administration Building and its Board of Directors is appointed by the Board of Trustees of SUNY.

Research grants are used to subsidize direct costs (equipment, for example), but part of the grant is withheld. This part is used to reimburse SUNY for the indirect costs (IDC) incurred while doing research. This sounds vague and ambiguous. It is precisely this ambiguity that led some universities to go overboard in charging expenses as indirect costs, the most famous being Stanford, which charged yachts, houses and flowers as IDC. This has led the federal

Office of Management and Budget to issue stringent guidelines as to what may be charged as IDC.

Within these Guidelines the SUNY campuses can charge expenses as IDC. Until recently, the amount a campus was allowed to charge as IDC was not in proportion to the amount of research money it brought in. The rationale behind giving some campuses more IDC than they actually incurred was that this might stimulate them in generating more research. This policy was abandoned in this Budget

Year. The IDC returns were brought into line with the amount of Grants each campus had. For Stony Brook this meant additional IDC funds. However, the state funds to



Graph shows the increase in research funding over the past ten years.

Stony Brook were cut by the same amount. The result was that although Stony Brook's budget remained the same, it became slightly less dependent on state funds.

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# International Student Spotlight

## Chinese New Year's Celebration Set for February 2

By Yingchao Zhang  
SBMCSA President

The Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival by Chinese citizens, is the new year's day on the Chinese (lunar) calendar, February 4 on the Gregorian Calendar. It is the biggest holiday of the year for Chinese people. Year after year, no matter what dynasty it is, and no matter where they are, Chinese people celebrate their own festival.

On the New Year's Eve (called "Che Xi" in Chinese), all family members have their dinner together; it is a time for family reunions. And they display fireworks and firecrackers; by doing this, they wish to get rid of the old things with bad luck, and to receive the new with good luck. On New Year's Day, they visit one another with best wishes and greeting words.

## India Society to Offer Rich Cultural Fare During Spring Semester

*Some Things You Always Wanted To Know About Indian Music\**

*\*(but were afraid to ask)*

Do you enjoy Indian classical music or would, if only you could understand it better? Have you looking for someone who could explain it intelligently? Have you wondered what "ragas" are, why they are associated with different times of day, why South and North Indian traditions, supposedly based on the same principles, seem different? Wonder no more. The India Society is proud to bring Mr. Mukesh Desai, a student of Pandit Jasraj and resident musicologist at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, PA, to give a two-hour **Indian Music Appreciation Workshop** (explanatory talk with demonstration) on **Saturday, February 29th at 4 PM in New Graduate Commons**. Don't miss this unique chance.

### Book Club Meeting

Elizabeth Beaumiller's much-acclaimed book on Indian women, *May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons* will be discussed on **Saturday, March 14, 2-4 p.m.** at 273 Hallock Rd, Stony Brook. Paperback copies available at Corner Book Store (\$12) or a lending copy for 1-week loan from the co-ordinator, Meena Sridhar (632-7779). "The most stimulating and thought-provoking book on India in a long time" -- *Washington Post Book World*.

### In the Works

A Film Series centered on India is being planned in collaboration with the Humanities Institute and Village Cinema for next academic year. If you can help with the organization, titles, please call Prateek Mishra at 632-8450.

### Concert Tapes Available

Cassette tapes of two memorable IS concerts are available for purchase. Concert (1) Hindustani by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) and Sukhwinder Singh Namdhari (Tabla). Concert (2) Carnatik (Bangladesh Benefit Concert): Mysore Nagarajan (Violin) and Bangalore Praveen (Mridangam). Each concert comes on two tapes, and the recording is of professional quality. Send \$10 per concert and \$18 for two (postage and handling included) by check payable to India Society at 273 Hallock Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790.

To suggest programs, to volunteer your talents and services, to become a new member or to renew your membership (\$5 per calendar year for students), please call the Society at 751-1810.

The Stony Brook Mainland China Students Association (SBMCSA) is organizing a party to celebrate our traditional holiday. It will be held on Sunday evening, February 2 starting at 6 PM, which corresponds to the morning of Chinese New Year's Eve in China. A dinner of Chinese food will be served first. Games will start and a celebration video tape will be shown afterwards. Dancing will begin at about

8:30 PM with a DJ playing songs.

The party will be held in the Student Union Ballroom, and admission is \$5 for the whole party, \$2 for dancing only. All members of the campus community are invited. Please purchase your tickets in advance if possible. For more information and tickets, call Bo Su at 632-2514.

## Korean Students Association Hosts New Year's Festival

By Iljoong Youn  
President, Korean Students Association

The Korean New Year's Festival, sponsored by the Korean Students Association, was held in the Union Ballroom on Saturday, January 25. About 150 people, including students, their families, and members of the local community attended the party.

Traditional Korean foods were prepared by Korean graduate students and their spouses, including Songpuin, a Korean rice cake with sesame paste; Bulgogy, a popular Korean dish featuring marinated slices of beef with sesame oil, soy sauce, onions, garlic, and scallions; and Sujungkwa, a traditional Korean juice made by boiling ginger, brown sugar and Keypi, a Korean plant in water and adding pine seeds after cooling it. All of the foods prepared for the party were delicious.

Games were enjoyed by the guests, including Jaegy-chagy, played by the men, in which a coin wrapped in vinyl or plastic and tied at the bottom is kicked by the player, the object being to see who can kick it the most times. Julnumgy was played by the women; this game, similar to the American jump roping, has the jumper listen to a person

who sings a song that gives the jumper directions to do things in between jumps. Anyone who completes all directions without missing a jump wins. Prizes were given to the winners in both games.

The party also featured a Kareoke sing-a-long, in which guests were able to sing to instrumental versions of popular Korean songs at the same time that they were being shown on a television set. Many students also danced to disco and slow dances.

This was the biggest event of the year, and while it took a lot of time and money to produce, the cooperation of the members of the Korean community in preparation for the party made it all worthwhile. This is one of the ways we can understand and help each other, as well as meet new members of the Korean community.

Look for the first Spring issue of *Dolnae*, the Korean Students Association newsletter, which will be distributed in mid-February.

For more information about the Korean Students Association, contact Iljoong Youn at 632-2554 (home) or 632-9118 (office).

## Office of Foreign Student Services To Hold Employment, Insurance Seminars

*The Office of Foreign Student Services will present several programs for international students during the month of February. They are:*

### February 5, 1 PM, Central Hall 100

"An Overview of the New Employment Regulations for F-1 Students; Curricular Practical Training and the New Pilot Program"

Dr. Lynn King Morris, Speaker

### February 9, 2-4 PM, Location to be announced

Host Family reception for Fall 1991 and Spring 1992 hosted students;  
Call your Host Family for details

### February 18, 9:30 AM to 1 PM, Central Hall 107

Social Security Number interviews, by previous appointment  
**Sign up in Room 113 Central Hall by February 13!**

### February 19, 1 PM, Central Hall 100

"The 1992 Health Insurance Policy: Coverage and Details"  
Mrs. R. Brown, Speaker

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.



# Roughing It on the Shores of Lake Superior

*This new feature of the News and Blues will focus on a grad student (or former grad student) who has moved on to other pursuits. Jay Everett, who along with Janet Bohrer started the Tent City housing demonstration in the Spring of 1987, received his doctorate from the Philosophy department in the Spring of 1990. After spending several years in Brooklyn, they moved last Summer to the shores of Lake Superior in Minnesota.*

By Jay Everett

It's headed for thirty below zero tonight, supposedly twenty-five below tomorrow. It took two hours and an extra vehicle to get our pickup running yesterday and I doubt it will be any better following the coming dawn. Good time for addressing this report from abroad. Besides, the woodstove's acting up and I need to stay awake long enough to be sure we won't be asphyxiated before things get straightened out. Oh, well.

## Is There Life After Stony Brook?

Greetings from Cook County, Minnesota, population 5,000. The lowest population density in Minnesota; an economically depressed area dependant on logging, mining, tourism, and the State; a dispersed county-wide population living under conditions ranging from corporate mansions to one-room shacks and burned-out basements. The timber companies once owned 90% or more of this county; now, most of it is in state and federal hands.

The 1,200-person county seat in Grand Marais, while prospering from traveler mercantilism, is largely conservative, resisting change: the stoplight went up three years ago; current city controversy is over a proposed marina. The rest of the county is distributed over an area only partially served by sometimes maintained paved and unpaved county or private roads, where you might have to travel for an hour to get your kids to the school bus.

This is the North Shore of Lake Superior, Ontario's Tijuana with the Grand Portage Casino 15 miles north of here, a land of eagle, moose, timberwolf, chainsaw, snowmobile, and R.V. Given that the entire county has been clear-cut for timber twice in the past 50 years, it's a strangely young forest which nearly drips with age, a forest



Janet Bohrer and Jay Everett at the camp before the snow started falling.

as weathered and ancient as the rotten, rusted iron-bearing granite of our ridge which rises from the shore of the inland sea.

We've been here five months, now, the first four in a temporary camp which is still set up for storage: two 4-person tents and a 16-foot blue and orange tepee. (Hence one of our nicknames among the locals: "Tepee Village.") Since mid-December we've been living in a 10 x 20 shed on the lower side of the property, the Halloween storm having blown our chances of getting into the A-frame we're building until this coming Spring. We've re-roofed and insulated the shed, put in a secondary floor, a new wall, propane lights and cookstove, an iron barrel converted to a wood-burning stove, shelves-- voila! Instant cabin (even a phone!). We're wiring it for electricity now, and should have it on the grid by late January. (The A-frame a quarter mile up the ridge will generate its own electricity, but there's a power pole right next to the shack.)

Ask us what we're doing, and we'll say: homesteading 40 acres. Ask what that means, and the answers could take all night. By next winter we should be greenhousing most of our own food, have some form of water supply (instead of carrying water 16 miles from town in six-gallon cans like we do now), be living in the A-frame, and be experimenting with methane production for fuel. At the moment, we're setting up a computer-graphic and laser-art print operation here in our shack (for this we need electricity-- computers and printers). Art is big business in these parts with the year-round tourist and Canadian traffic. Grand Marais has a 40-year-old art colony, and it seems as if everyone who's not a local is some kind of artist, so we'll see how computer printing is received. As with everything else we've done since arriving here, we've neither experience nor training, so how can we go wrong?

The technology of our lives imparts them with certain rhythms. The over-burning woodstove, which is our only source of heat, roams continually to one's eye; adjust the damper and air vents, feed the fire, clean the chimney. We've had two creosote chimney fires in two months, after which we rebuilt the chimney and became much more cautious about the stove. Luckily we were awake and on the ball both times the fires started-- the first time, we actually melted some of the tar shingles on the outer wall of our shack. Cutting, splitting, and carrying wood-- one mellow day's work will yield three weeks of fire. (Time to turn down the air supply to the stove.)

Propane lanterns and candlelight, flickers, pulses, continual white noise on the edge, on the margins... seven candles burn around me as I write. Burn, replace, watch wax drippage, and be certain not to sleep with candles burning as we did earlier tonight. It'll almost be a shame to have electric lights here-- we may keep the propane and candles around just for an escape from fluorescence from time to time.

Once electricity is in, we go to propane heat and bid adieu to the barrel stove-- way too smokey for a computer. And then it's the rhythmic rotation of 100-pound propane bottles, and still the ever-present rise and fall of the water jugs.

Once, this past summer, we sat in Murdo, South Dakota and discovered the true depths of our need for excitement and diversion. We watched the time change on the marquee and kept an eye on the fahrenheit/celsius readings, watching the temperature rise and experiencing glorious peaks of exhilaration when one scale registered a change and the other didn't. A fact which is of little or no significance, but seemed germane to our overall focus upon the importance of the mundane...

Tonight is the seventh full moon we've spent here. Our first arrival here was on a full moon in July...

Maybe the focus on rhythms is partially due to the fact that you can hear Lake Superior's surf from half a mile away. The sounds of wave and tide are always with us, even indoors, here on the shore of the inland sea...

The annual migration of a number of species of hawk takes them through this area. Especially common during the Fall is a small raptor about half the size of a fist called a sparrow-hawk or American Kestrel Falcon. A fact which was brought to our attention one day when I came upon a small falcon in my path, nearly beneath my boot heel and unable to fly due to a broken wing. Using my jacket to net it, we dashed into town for information on caring for small birds of prey. Veterinarian on vacation... state wildlife offices closed for three day weekend... forest service biologist out of town for three day weekend... advice from a clinic in Minneapolis... finally a state biologist whose duty was to confiscate the falcon for delivery to the Raptor Clinic. Falcons are raptors, you see, and raptors are federally protected. You can't possess one for any reason without a federal permit, so it was this gentleman's duty to take the falcon into institutional hands and deliver it to the only people who could legally possess it. At the Raptor Clinic it was decided that the bird was too badly injured to ever have use of the wing again and the bird was put to death by its captors. But at least it wasn't living lame and domesticated in unlicensed hands; at least Order was maintained.

Even the mammals cycle round here. The bears are currently in hibernation until Spring, the deer move down

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The A-Frame in an earlier stage of construction.

## Life on the Lake—

(Continued from Page 6)

the ridge when it's cold and inland when it's warm, the wolves do the same, the rabbits turn white in the winter. Not to mention the runs of spawning salmon every Fall.

(Time to turn up the air on the woodstove.)

Electricity, however, will change things radically. Bright, steady lighting, a place to plug in the pickup's block-heater so it'll start when it's 20 to 30 degrees below zero. And power tools. Never forget power tools. So far everything has been done with hand tools, with the exceptions of a cordless driver-drill whose batteries we charge in town at the hardware store and a chainsaw for clearing trees. Mortar, water jugs, granite blocks, tools, sledgehammers; all had to be carried up the ride by hand for the month it took us to build the stone foundation for the A-frame.

Our dirt road was laid in time for most of the lumber and roofing (though it's now impassable due to snow), cutting the portage from a quarter-mile to a hundred yards. Hand saws, brace and bit, several tons of supplies. In the meantime, we had to maintain an all weather camp, storage facilities, and cooking area, with the ongoing tribulations of tarp failure and windstorm damage, flooding camp and paving the cooking area with heavy stones, keeping the snow buildup from collapsing tents and tepee. (Our sleeping tent collapsed under the Halloween snow and we had to sleep on the floor of the shack-- then still drafty and uninsulated-- for a week until the tent could be used again. We learned a lot from that one, and it certainly was a unique honeymoon-- Janet and I were married here on Halloween eve). It's almost like replaying the evolution of technology; stone and tepee to iron tools and stove to candles to propane to electricity to computers. Millennia pass in months and there's always more building to do.

So what is all this about? For me, it boils down to: Cheer up. You could be in Murdo, South Dakota. There is life after grad school, and it may well have as little to do with your studies as what we're doing has to do with philosophy (though as a philosopher I would have to take that last rhetorical point as arguable. Anyway...). When it comes right down to it, life hasn't gotten as boring and predictable as one, entombed in those hallowed walls, ends up thinking it is. The real world makes no rational sense. We come out to the backwoods, five hours from the nearest real population center, to open up a high-tech graphics shop? Anything can happen and usually does; the important thing is to have a good time and keep things interesting.

Good luck to you all, and may you live in interesting times. (Time to stir the coals and feed the fire, and some of the candles need tending.)

## Union Crafts Center



**Lower level  
Student Union**

*Low-cost, non-credit art  
(pottery, photography, fiber arts)  
courses and leisure workshops*

**Call now (632-6822)**

*for current class schedule  
and registration information*

**Classes begin February 17!**

## GSO Senate's December Meeting

By Fons Haffmans  
GSO Secretary

The December 4 GSO Senate meeting was the last one of 1991. It was also the last Senate that saw John Nolan alive as President of the GSO. John started with the announcement that he would resign at the end of the Senate meeting. He resigned to be able to work on his thesis in his hometown of Albany, where he is now residing. Jean Rousseau, senator from Chemistry, moved a motion thanking John for his work in behalf of the GSO. The motion was accepted by acclamation.

The meeting continued with Nolan reporting on the budget crisis facing Stony Brook. The university administration expects a major restructuring of the University to take place over the next year. This will lead to downsizing or retrenchment of some departments and programs.

In addition, the secretary reported on rumors that GA/TA-line allocations to departments may be made proportional on the amount of sponsored research the department brings in. The latest twist in the HSC-parking saga was also reported. Although the administration has reserved free parking spaces in the parking garage in exchange for closing the "gravel lot" opposite the Hospital, students with faculty-staff stickers are not allowed to park there, the reason being that the administration is still negotiating with the faculty and staff unions. The Treasurer in his turn presented his draft for the quarterly report on the budget.

The first issue on the agenda dealt with funding for UGSO (United Graduate Students Organization). Questions about the legality of UGSO's corporate structure have been raised. The President proposed to allocate money pending a legal review of UGSO's corporate structure. After a short recess, the President delegated the matter to the Budget Committee. He made a plea to fund UGSO, followed by a statement of the secretary that regardless of its lofty goals, UGSO should withstand legal scrutiny in all respects. After a request for volunteers to sit on the Traffic Appeals Board, the computing and communications committee, and the Campus women's safety council, the election committee presented its proposal for new bylaws. These will be voted on the next Senate meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 PM in Room 201, Central Hall.

The next item on the agenda dealt with Student Assembly. The Student Assembly is a university-wide governing body. All student governments have representatives on it. The SUNY Board of Trustees proposed sweeping changes completely contrary to the proposal adopted by the Student Assembly at its last meeting. A motion stating that the GSO will not participate in the Student Assembly unless the Trustees permit the students to set up their own governance structure was passed with nine votes in favor and one in opposition.

The last order of the day was the resignation of John  
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## Letters

### NYPIRG General Interest Meeting Will Be Held on February 12

To the Editor:

This semester the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) plans to continue its fight for a cleaner environment, consumer protection, students' rights, and a more just society. By working with NYPIRG, Stony Brook students are able to bring about specific changes in the New York State legislature and at the local level. These are some of the issues NYPIRG at Stony Brook will be working on this semester:

#### Environmental Preservation

New York State is drowning in a sea of garbage that, through landfilling and mass-burn incineration, pollutes our environment and threatens our health. We will lobby at the state and local levels for the passage of legislation to strictly limit the use of excess packaging, which accounts for one-third of our waste stream.

#### Standardized Testing Reform

Standardized tests are a basic part of the American educational system, yet these tests have been proven to display gender, racial, and economic biases. NYPIRG is working to eliminate their use in Kindergarten through 2nd grade and have them replaced with fairer and more reliable authentic assessment evaluations.

#### Small Claims Court Action Center

The Small Claims Court Action Center helps students and community members use the Small Claims Court system to protect themselves when they have been ripped off. Students are trained in the court's processes and how to advise clients to file a claim and collect a judgement.

#### Funding for Higher Education

SUNY Stony Brook tuition keeps rising and at the same time cuts to SUNY Stony Brook's budget damages the quality of the education Stony Brook students receive. This semester NYPIRG will work to freeze

tuition and prevent further cuts to the SUNY budget.

#### Voter Registration

Only 30% of people between the ages of 18-24 are registered to vote. Because students do not vote, their voice is often ignored when decisions are made in local, state and national government. NYPIRG is working to change that by registering students to vote across New York State.

#### James Bay II

The James Bay hydroelectric project in Canada, if completed, will flood an area the size of Lake Erie and irreversibly damage the ecology of a territory three times the size of New York State. NYPIRG is working to stop construction of James Bay II.

#### Suffolk County Watch

This semester NYPIRG will be publishing a citizen's guide to the Suffolk County Legislature. This guide will inform citizens about the structure of County government, how the legislative process works, and how citizens can work to influence the legislative process.

#### Tax Reform

Every year many property tax owners are over-assessed thousands of dollars on their property taxes. This semester NYPIRG will be researching and publishing a report examining property tax assessment inequities in the town of Brookhaven.

By working with NYPIRG staff and students on these and other issues, students are able to learn lobbying, media, and grassroots organizational skills. If you would like to work with NYPIRG this semester, on any of these issues, I urge you to attend NYPIRG's General Interest Meeting on February 12 at 1 PM in the Union, Room 236. If you can't attend the General Interest Meeting but would like to find out more about NYPIRG, call the NYPIRG office at 632-6457 or stop by our office in the basement of the Union, Room 079.

Jeremy Potter  
NYPIRG Project Coordinator

The GSO News and Blues welcomes letters to the editor and viewpoints from members of the campus community. As a matter of fact, we'd appreciate receiving *anything* from members of the community, including events of interest. 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. In addition, items for submission written on Wordperfect and submitted on disk (3.5" or 5 1/4" for IBM-compatible computers) will be especially welcome! Call 632-6492 for more information.



# S h o r t T a k e s

*And Last Licks.....*

## SUNY Appeal Of GSEU Ruling Winds Its Way Through Courts

SUNY's efforts to prevent graduate student employees from deciding for themselves if they want to be represented by the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) seem doomed to failure by most accounts. Nevertheless, the appeal of an October ruling by the state's Public Employment Relations Board, which stated that graduate TAs and GAs were covered employees under the state's civil service (Taylor) law and therefore had a right to hold a union certification election, is moving through the court system.

In December, the New York State Supreme Court (the lowest appellate court in the state system) sent the case to the Third Department of the Appellate Division, where a panel of five judges will review SUNY's claim that the PERB ruling was "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, an abuse of discretion, without justification in law and fact," and a few other things. A motion for preference has been prepared by GSEU Counsel David Mintz; this would place the appeal at the head of the court's docket and could mean resolution of the case by the end of the Spring semester. Stay tuned for more details....

## "Save Stony Brook" Letter Campaign Underway

The United University Professions, the union representing faculty members on campus, is organizing a "Save Stony Brook" letter-writing campaign for next week. Volunteers will be collecting letters from members of the university community on Tuesday, February 4 through Thursday, February 6, from 10 AM to 4 PM, in the Administration Lobby, Library Galleria, Union Lobby, Javits Lecture Center, and at the Humanities and University Hospital Cafeteria entrances.

Pre-printed letters are being prepared for you to sign, but you are also encouraged to write your own letters to local and state legislators. Please take the time to stop by one of these tables next week. Volunteers to staff the tables are also needed; you may call the GSO (632-6492) or the UUP office (632-6570) if you would like to volunteer.

## Professor Tells Congress Of Graduate Students' Plight

Professor Hugh Cleland of the History Department, a longtime activist on campus and in the community, presented testimony on January 14 to the House Sub-Committee on Human Services in Washington, D.C. Cleland, testifying in behalf of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, spoke of the health care problems faced by young adults, particularly students, who often find themselves with inadequate or, even worse, no health insurance (sound familiar?). In preparing his testimony, Cleland met with GSO President Monica McTigue for information about the plight of graduate students.

Among his comments was the following paragraph:

"Particularly hard hit are the graduate students in our major universities. Our scientific and technological future as a nation depends on them and our universities and research laboratories could not operate without them. Many of them spend long years working on advanced degrees-- the average graduate student takes 6.9 years to get a Ph.D.-- and many of them have dependent spouses and small children. But the State University of New York and many other research universities provide no health insurance for these very important and hard-working employees, and graduate students are not covered by their parents' insurance. A serious illness or accident for graduate students or their dependents often means that they must leave school and end their studies. This is hardly a way to insure our future competitiveness with other advanced countries, where graduate students are automatically covered by health insurance because everyone is."

Right on, Hugh.

## GSO Senate Meeting—

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Nolan. Under the GSO constitution the Vice-President, Dom Chan, assumed the Presidency. The new President then appointed Monica McTigue, longtime GSO senator from Pharmacology, as vice-president. The Senate accepted this appointment unanimously. After savoring his new-found status as top dog for a few seconds Dom resigned, thereby conferring the Presidential Burden to Monica. The newest President then reappointed Dom as VP, after a confirmation vote of four in favor, one opposed, and four abstentions of the senate. So to summarize: Monica McTigue is the new GSO president.

## Dioxins Present at New Paltz After Transformer Explosions

*Student Leader News Service*

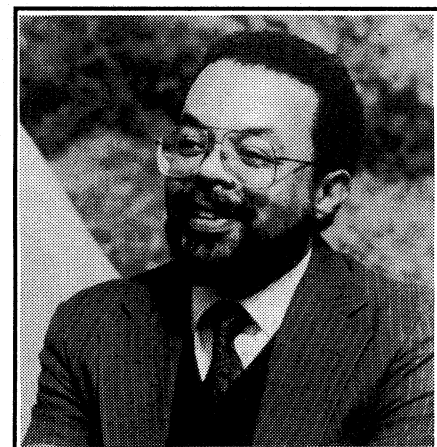
NEW PALTZ-- Results of tests for dioxins and dibenzofurans, highly toxic chemicals produced by fires in PCB transformers, indicate contamination by these chemicals in at least five campus buildings here after a December 29 electrical surge reportedly caused transformers across the campus to explode, burn, and overheat.

At least 15 campus buildings were contaminated by PCBs in the aftermath of the power surge. PCBs are a type of oil-based chemical that were used to insulate electrical equipment until they were banned in 1979. Federal law requires that all existing PCB transformers be removed from commercial and educational buildings by 1993, according to SUNY Central. Irving Freedman, SUNY vice chancellor for Capital Facilities, said SUNY has about 450 PCB-based transformers in buildings across the state. Freedman said he might accelerate his original plan to have the transformers removed which was supposed to take five to 10 years, due to the New Paltz incident.

Dioxin and dibenzofuran test results, which were leaked by a state research scientist to *Student Leader News Service* last week, indicate up to 15 times the acceptable level of contamination in some buildings. Two residence halls will be closed indefinitely for cleanup, and residents in these buildings will lose all their possessions due to the contamination. Meanwhile, the university plans to open two other dorms that were both the scenes of serious PCB transformer fires, but tested at or below the "safe" level of contamination. The start of classes has been delayed two weeks while cleanup crews work to decontaminate the campus.

*Last Licks:* Oh, what a glorious war we fought just over a year ago! Latest estimates are that 60,000 to 90,000 Iraqi civilians have died *since* the cessation of the slaughter wreaked by our glorious commander, civilians killed by germ warfare spread through the relentless bombing of electrical power grids, sewage treatment plants, and water pumping stations. It's a good thing, as Bush said, that we had no quarrel with the Iraqi people-- it could have been worse. And the toll keeps rising. *How quickly we forget...*

## "On Transforming the American Mind"



### A Lecture by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities,  
Harvard University; author of *Figures in Black*  
and *The Signifying Monkey*

**Tuesday, February 18 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