

**EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!**

"Let Each  
Become Aware"

# Statesman

Tuesday  
May 19, 1987  
Volume 30, Number 55

SERVING THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

## Suspect Caught in Campus Shooting

By Ray Parish

Suffolk County Police last Friday arrested a man on charges of shooting three Stony Brook students after a verbal altercation in Ammann College in G-quad earlier that morning.

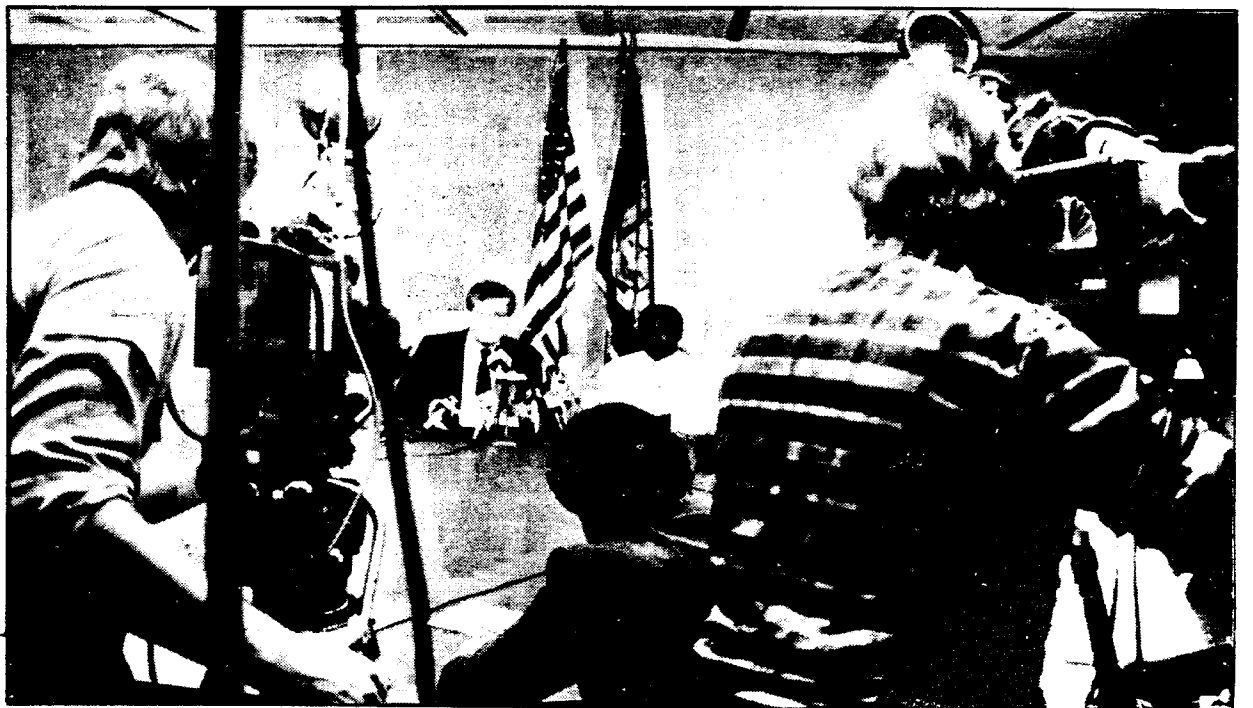
Police arrested Todd Mayes, 20, of Cambria Heights, N.Y., at about 5:00 p.m. on Friday, in a suite in Toscanini College in Tabler Quad. Mayes, who is not a student at Stony Brook, had reportedly been living with a female friend in Sanger College in Tabler. He has been charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of second-degree assault, and one count of first-degree reckless endangerment; he is being held on \$1 million bail.

Suffolk County Police said two guns, one believed to be the weapon used in Friday's shooting, were discovered in the Toscanini suite where Mayes was arrested. The weapon police say Mayes may have used to shoot Paul Klyap, Greg Scher, and Terri Horan in Ammann College is a .22-caliber rifle. Also found in the suite was an Ingram 9mm automatic weapon with one clip and six rounds, according to police reports.

According to police reports and campus officials, the shooting occurred after a "verbal altercation" between the assailant and people in the building. Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs, said that the attack was "not indiscriminate shootings, in the sense of someone just showing up at the scene and randomly shooting at people."

According to Greg Scher, who was shot in the left thigh, people in the building "had words" with the attacker, who

(continued on page 4)



Statesman Daniel Smith

University President John Marburger and Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs, discuss the latest shooting incident at a press conference held last Friday.

## Francis Evicts Grad Students From 'Tent City'

By Mary Lou Lang

Vice President for Campus Operations Bob Francis issued a memo Saturday night forcing graduate students occupying a section of land in the academic mall to dismantle their self-dubbed "Tent City" in one hour or risk arrest. The protesters complied with the directive, though few were present at the campsite outside the Administration building at 7:00 p.m. when the memo was issued.

The memo, which Francis gave to the graduate students who were present at the site, stated, "All persons must leave immediately. Failure to do so will subject you to arrest or other appropriate judicial proceedings." [See copy of memo on this page.]

Most of the approximately 20 students who have been occupying tents during recent weeks were at a party celebrating the progress made on their demands this semester when Francis issued the memo. However, those students present dismantled their tents in order to avoid confiscation of their property, according to Chris Vestuto, president of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO).

Yesterday afternoon, several protesters were seen sitting on the ground where the tents had been, passing out leaflets and discussing the situation with students who stopped by. The ducks and chickens were taken away, but a Port-O-San unit that had been rented Saturday was still standing on the site, as were two mailboxes that were set up by the protesters.

The GSO Executive Committee expressed its outrage in a memo to Francis, dated Monday, May 18, criticizing the "heavy-handed

and most probably illegal manner" in which Francis ordered the dismantling of the tents. It called Tent City "a peaceful, perfectly legal and legitimate form of political protest which has every right to exist without harassment." [See text of statement on Page 3.]

Francis' memo stated that according to the State University of New York's Board of Trustees' Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order, "No person, either singly or in concert with others, shall... willfully damage or destroy property of the institution or under its jurisdiction, nor remove or use such property without authorization;... refuse to leave any building or facility after being required to do so by an authorized administrative officer." Francis wrote that as an "authorized administrative officer" he was informing the protesters that the campus is closed to camping or other overnight stays without authorization.

But the GSO Executive Committee memo stated graduate students appeared to receive authorization from President John Marburger, who was quoted in *Newsday* on April 30 as saying, "I don't see anything wrong with it [Tent City] as long as the weather is nice." In a separate memo to Marburger, the executive committee asked him to explain his role in Francis' decision and to clarify his position on the protest. Francis said Monday that Marburger agrees with the action taken to end the protest.

According to Jay Everett, a teaching assistant in the Philosophy department who pitched the first tent on April 20, graduate

(continued on page 3)

### Stony Brook

State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York 11794  
telephone: (516) 246-3622

Saturday, May 16, 1987

7:00 p.m.

To Whom it May Concern:

The State University of New York's Board of Trustees' Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order are found in Part 535 of Title VIII of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York. Under Section 535.3 (c) and (g) the Rules state that:

No person, either singly or in concert with others, shall... willfully damage or destroy property of the institution or under its jurisdiction, nor remove or use such property without authorization;... refuse to leave any building or facility after being required to do so by an authorized administrative officer.

As an authorized administrative officer, I wish to inform you that the campus is closed to camping or any other overnight stay except as authorized in campus residential facilities. Specifically, the central campus mall is closed to camping. All persons must leave immediately. Failure to do so will subject you to arrest or other appropriate judicial proceedings. These sanctions will become effective at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 1987.

Robert A. Francis

*Robert A. Francis*

Vice President for Campus Operations

Memo from Vice President Bob Francis ordering graduate students to dismantle "Tent City."

# Francis Has Harmed Gains of Grad Protests

Vice President Bob Francis has done it again. With the university still reeling from his decision to keep the Lecture Center open after the September 26 fire released toxics into its ventilation system, Francis walked out to the site of Tent City Saturday night and distributed a memo ordering the immediate removal of the tents, and threatening arrest or "other judicial proceedings" for those who refused to comply with his directive.

If ever an administrator has shown a complete inability to think rationally before making a major decision, Bob Francis' shutdown of Tent City is the perfect example. In one short memo, Francis has blown to shreds the credibility and good faith that was being established between graduate student activists and the administration. His actions should illustrate, clearer than any rhetoric the administration spit out during the past two months of graduate student protests, the importance of active, visible protests in keeping the issue of graduate student life in front of the administration.

Francis quoted some vague phrases, strung together with ellipses, from the New York State Board of Trustees' Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order in his eviction notice: "No person, either singly or in concert with others, shall ... willfully damage or destroy property of the institution or under its jurisdiction, nor remove or use such property without authorization."

Does Bob Francis mean to imply that the Tent City protesters are "willfully" damaging and destroying that plot of grass? And if they are, why weren't they evicted four weeks ago? This leads to the next point in question, that of authorization. Since Tent City sprung up during the last week of April, the protesters have continuously sought permission in first setting up their tents, then a wood burning stove, and finally a chicken coop. They

received permission for each of these actions, and even assistance from Environmental Health and Safety in securing fire extinguishers and cooking barrels. The university, by allowing this demonstration to continue for four weeks, has "authorized" it by its own refusal to shut it down prior to Saturday. Does the administration now consider the protest over, and the issues resolved?

Francis' last quote from Section 535.3 of the Rules for Maintenance of Public Order is even more questionable. It states that no person shall "refuse to leave any building or facility after being required to do so by an authorized administrative officer." Does Francis really believe the writers of these rules would consider a plot of grass a "building" or "facility"? Again, if this is the case, what excuse is there for the administration's refusal to cut this protest down in its first days or weeks? Where is the consistency?

The Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Organization has called on President John Marburger to reveal his role in the decision to shut down Tent City, and to clarify his position on the existence of this protest. It is important that Marburger do this soon, and that he tell the truth. Did he order Francis to issue this directive, or is this another case of Bob Francis using his "judgment?" Hasn't the university seen enough of what Bob Francis' judgment, or lack of judgment, has done to its credibility as an institution?

Statesman supports any and all efforts of the Graduate Student Organization to continue the Tent City protest, and any other protests that are deemed responsible in representing the struggles of graduate students. It is our hope that the inept, irrational actions of one major administrator do not sour the mutual efforts to resolve the problems of graduate students at Stony Brook.



## Erring on the Side of Caution

If the continuing saga of the Jacob Javits Lecture Center ever ends, its moral will be: "Err on the side of caution." Yet after almost eight months of erring, certain Stony Brook administrators still have not learned the lesson.

University President John Marburger recently took responsibility for the mistakes that were made early in the lecture center situation. Aside from being a meaningless gesture, Marburger's gallant move is a step away from active penance, which is what Stony Brook needs. Now that he has acknowledged that mistakes were made, can Marburger see why they were made? Vice President for Campus Operations Bob Francis made mistakes at the outset. He could have avoided making more by doing two things. First, he should have admitted his mistakes. The second, most crucial step Francis has failed to take is to avoid doing the same thing over again.

So, before yet another opportunity is lost, Marburger must take the initiative and accede to a quarantine of the Jacob Javits Lecture Center until tests can prove the building is safe. Thus far, there is still too much doubt. In a letter to Marburger dated May 14, Bill Weisner, president of the United University Professions, Anthony Ruggiero, president of the Civil Service Employees Association,

Marc Gunning, president of Student Polity, and NYPIRG program coordinator Rich Drury called for a quarantine of the building. They are not being alarmist. They are being cautious.

A little caution last semester would have saved the university a lot of trouble now. It is not too difficult to see that a little caution now could save the university even more trouble — legal trouble — one year from now. Prudence is not only more humanitarian, it's cheaper in the long run.

In a letter to Marburger dated May 12, Dr. Stephen Levin, a dioxin expert at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, wrote, "I urge you to approach this difficult problem with a view toward protecting the health of your employees, teachers, and students." This totally humanitarian view of the situation will certainly be tempered by budget considerations, right? Wrong. With a little legal foresight, Marburger should realize that the budget considerations turn into liability without the humanitarianism.

Listen to the advice of the experts, listen to the concerns of the students, faculty, and staff, and quarantine the building. Granted, this advice may be an error. If so, it is an error on the side of caution, and perhaps also on the side of frugality.

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Spring 1987

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# GSO Executive Committee's Memo to Francis

The following memo was sent from the Graduate Student Organization Executive Committee to Dr. Bob Francis on Monday, May 18:

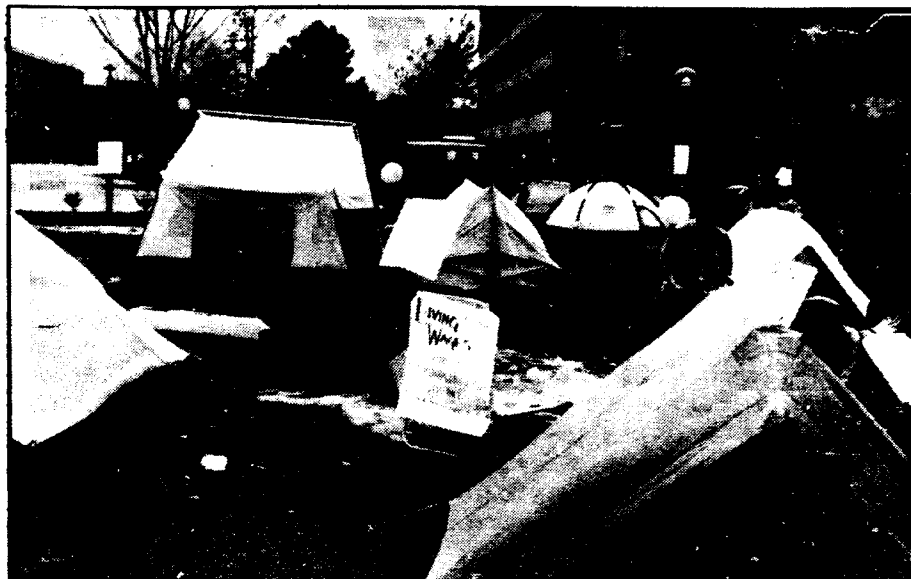
We are writing to express our shock and anger, and to protest the incredibly heavy-handed and most probably illegal manner in which tent city was attacked and dismantled on Saturday, May 16. We also demand and expect some explanations.

Tent City represents a peaceful, perfectly legal and legitimate form of political protest which has every right to exist without harassment. As far as we can tell, no illegal activities, no destruction of property, no real, verifiable environmental or safety hazards can be associated with Tent City. Therefore, your decision to dismantle it can only be seen as harassment. The individuals engaged in this form of protest have clearly stated to the entire campus community the purpose of their protest and the rationale for its continuation. Contrary to the beliefs of some administrators, our collective struggles to improve graduate students' quality of life are not over. The agreement we reached with the administration does not signal the end; it is not final or complete. Discussions and "negotiations" of a sort are still ongoing, and many of us feel the need to continue engaging in peaceful political protests and demonstrations through a variety of forms, including tent city.

While tent city has not been directly and/or officially endorsed by the GSO Senate, we have pledged our support to the individuals involved and have every intention of continuing to support them,

especially now that their rights are being so blatantly violated. We suspect that this group of protesters were seen as particularly vulnerable precisely because they were not officially endorsed by the GSO. We wish to inform you that not only do we stand behind the rights of these individuals to engage in protest as they see fit, we intend to provide financial and legal assistance to our fellow graduate students, if needed. We are prepared to gather legal evidence, as we are sure that your actions are illegal. We can assure you that this "vulnerable" group of protesters will be persistent — and so will we.

Furthermore, we demand and expect some concrete explanations for this drastic and uncalled for course of action. Why was this peaceful, political protest tolerated for so long and then suddenly deemed "illegal" and, therefore, intolerable? Why, suddenly, has tent city become an obsession? In what ways is it an environmental hazard? Can you verify this? What property is being willfully damaged or destroyed? Since when did Tent City become a "building or facility" from which people have refused to leave? Your "edict" issued May 16 at 7:00 contains a number of statements which do not even apply to Tent City. It also seems purposely vague, as evidenced by the ellipses included in the "alleged" "Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order". The participants deserve some straight answers. To date, the only statement Dr. Marburger has made regarding Tent City has been "I don't see anything wrong with it as long as the weather is nice." (*Newsday*, April 30). Well, the weather has gotten better, not worse, since he



Statesman Daniel Smith

## Tent City As it Stood April 22, 1987

made this statement. So, we are wondering who, if anyone, directed you to take such drastic measures and why? If you are receiving your orders from (or are being pressured by) Dr. Marburger, then he, too, owes us an explanation.

If, as we suspect, your intent (or administrative directive) was to remove a perceived embarrassment, we can assure you that your plan will surely backfire, as even more graduate students will be moved to protest. Your heavy-handed, Stalinesque actions are clearly an act of bad faith which undermines the more

positive steps the administration has taken in recent weeks. It is a clear example of selective harassment against a vulnerable group of student activists which will not be tolerated. The GSO will continue to support all peaceful forms of protest which will undoubtedly follow this flagrant violation of our rights as students and members of this campus community.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your actions and meet with us as soon as possible. This situation will only get worse if it is allowed to fester.

## ATTENTION

### ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS:

The Graduate Student Organization is accepting applications from qualified graduate students for three (3) summer positions. Two positions will entail collecting and writing a history of this year's work action movements, and updating the GSO Survival Guide. The other position will be coordinate the GSO's role in this year's orientation program for incoming graduate students.

Each position will require about 20 to 25 hours per week and will pay \$1,500. These people will have access to the GSO for whatever assistance is needed — including the establishment of support committees. Supervision will be under the auspices of the GSO Executive Committee.

These jobs will begin on June 15, 1987. Applications are due on June 1, 1987. Please send your application, qualifications, references and any other relevant information to the GSO, c/o the summer job screening committee. If you have any questions, please call the GSO at 632-6492.

## Francis Memo Orders Dismantling of Grad Protesters' 'Tent City'

(continued from page 1)

students also received authorization under the Board of Trustees' rules of demonstration. Francis, however, said that the graduate students received no authorization to camp, and they were given "plenty of notification" that the camp site was not approved of. Francis said that Environmental Health and Safety fire marshals notified the students on Thursday and Friday that camping was not authorized.

The Executive Committee memo questioned Francis' action on the grounds that the protesters were not damaging or destroying property and that Tent City is not "a building or facility" from which people have refused to leave. The memo called Francis' action "harassment" and "an act of bad faith which undermines the more positive steps the administration has taken in recent weeks."

Vestuto said Francis' ordered shutdown "undermines the trust built up between administration and the graduate students. Graduate students have to prove that they are not going to be treated this way."

Vestuto said the GSO has hired a lawyer to look into the legality of Francis' directive, and whether students have the right to stage an ongoing protest. Vestuto said that he believes the administration wanted to dissolve the camping site because "it looks bad for commencement," referring to Commencement Day, Sunday, May 24, when many parents and visitors will be on campus.

Everett, who had spent nearly every night

at Tent City for the past month, said the tents were a symbol of the continued struggle of graduate students not only for living wages and benefits, but for affordable housing on campus and habitable living conditions as well. Everett said the purpose of the camp site was to show the administration "that things are far from over." He added that the graduate students intended to stay until September 15 at the site, and said he was outraged at the "dirty tactics used" by Francis. He claimed Francis knew that most of the graduate students had left the camp site to go to a party when he issued the order.

The Executive Committee urged Francis to reconsider his action taken on Saturday and meet with graduate students to discuss the situation. "The situation will only get worse if it is allowed to fester," the memo stated. If the action, they wrote, was taken to "remove a perceived embarrassment" then the GSO "will be moved to protest." Vestuto said there is a strong possibility that protests will continue until commencement, and at the ceremony as well.

Francis said that the graduate students' past demonstrations have been "well-organized, excellent" and that they can continue to demonstrate to express their views. However, he said "camping is not the same as demonstrating." A meeting will be held today at noon in the back room of the Graduate Student Lounge to decide on further action in response to the shutdown of Tent City.

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## TENT CITY

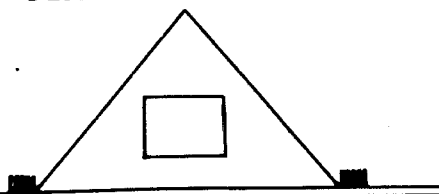
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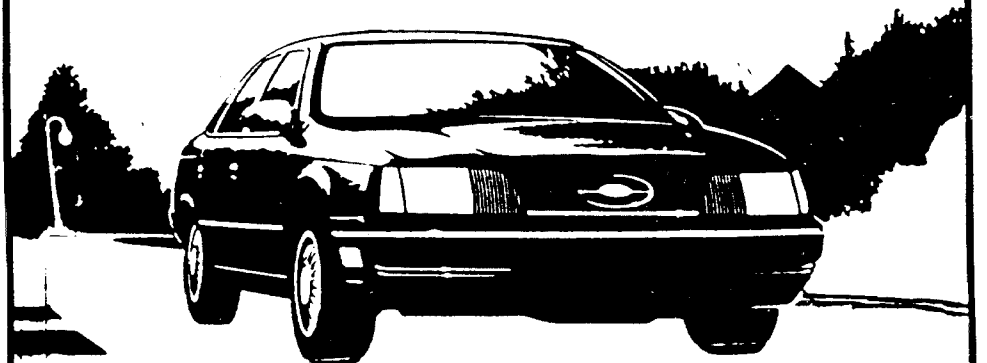
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# Admin Should Reconsider Tent City Actions

If nothing else, the Tent City protestors have shown the administration that they will not go away. Since President John Marburger first ordered the dismantling of the demonstration on July 2, the demonstrators have resurrected Tent City three separate times, only to see Public Safety officers come out each time to arrest them. From all indications, it appears they will continue their demonstrations, and that includes pitching their tents, until U.S. District Court Judge Leonard Wexler issues his ruling on the case.

Meanwhile, dormitory buildings throughout campus are experiencing hot water outages, leaving students and employees without one of the most basic utilities. A recent late night survey of these dormitory buildings, conducted by several Tent City demonstrators, revealed that every one of the main campus' 26 dorms was accessible through broken and open windows and doors that were either unlocked or unsecurable. Yet the administration claims it is committed to improving the housing conditions, and that it has dismantled Tent City because of the safety risk it presents to the students, whose safety the university claims it cannot protect.

This is perhaps the greatest irony of the whole demonstration. Any student who has been at Stony Brook for a few years can tell you of the horrendous conditions of the buildings they live in. They can tell you stories of going without hot water and heat in the winter months for periods for as long as two to three weeks. They can tell you about the poor security and the countless doors and windows that cannot be locked.

John Marburger says he is worried about "safety," but the only injuries that have happened

at Tent City came as a result of the actions of his own officials, who tossed students aside while dismantling the demonstration on July 2. He claims someone threw a "cherry bomb" into the campsite, when in fact several firecrackers were dropped from the roof of Grad Physics onto the pavement, a good forty feet from the nearest tent. He claims the students are not demonstrating, but merely hanging out, yet he himself has referred countless times to Tent City as a "demonstration."

The university's actions have been inconsistent from the start. Vice President Bob Francis, on May 16, ordered the tents down on one hour's notice, threatening "arrest or other appropriate judicial proceedings." After nearly a month of silence and implied support from the university, this action came as a shock, and the students complied. Within a week, the tents were back up with Marburger's blessing, although he stated he wanted the demonstration to end on June 15, as opposed to the demonstrators' plans to keep Tent City up until September 15.

June 15 came and went without incident, Marburger citing a July 1 court hearing on the suit filed against the university as the reason for the delay. When Marburger didn't get a ruling on July 1, he ordered the tents down.

On Wednesday, July 15, Tent City demonstrators intend to pitch their tents in front of the Administration building again. Marburger probably intends to have the area cleared at 7 p.m. again.

The purpose and conviction of the Tent City protest have been broadened and strengthened by the oppressive actions of administration. While under siege, the protest has gained — and deserves — the sympathy and support of even more people. Those who support the actions of the demonstrators or oppose the actions of administration should come to the site on July 15, if only to let Marburger know that the actions are not going unnoticed. Marburger should reconsider his actions — keeping in mind that the court has not yet ruled — and turn his attention to the campus' true safety hazards.

## Statesman

Summer 1987

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**Statesman will publish again on August 6.**

# Tent City Issue Must Be Resolved Peacefully

By Khalil J. Spencer

July 2nd and 3rd witnessed the destruction, at the hands of President John Marburger III, of "Tent City," a protest that has existed on the campus of the State University of New York at Stony Brook since April of this year. A forcible eviction was carried out in spite of the fact that the case is currently before a federal judge who is about to issue a decision on the First Amendment merits of the protest. The eviction was thus capricious and untimely. It is ironic that Dr. Marburger's actions were taken on the eve of Independence Day, and in the year of the 200th anniversary of our Constitution.

Much of the original research carried out at the university of done in the form of doctoral and master's theses by graduate students, thus without our research activities, one principal mission of the university would nearly cease to exist. Graduate students teach, or assist in teaching, many of the courses taught at Stony Brook. Indeed, in many of the social science and humanities departments, graduate students actually teach more than 50% of the department's courses, independent of professor's oversight. Thus the teaching mission of the university falls heavily on our shoulders as well. Graduate students typically work 60 to 70 hour weeks shouldering these burdens.

Graduate students are provided with the least remuneration of any working person at the university. Parking attendants make almost twice the salary of the graduate students who are charged with educating our young people and creating

the new knowledge of ourselves and our planet. Stipends for 1987-88 will range as low as \$7150/yr, are taxable, and are often below the poverty line. In spite of a raise decided on as a result of this spring's strike, grad students will actually take home less pay next year because of changes in the tax code. Among other problems are these: Graduate students are given no health benefits, but must pay up to \$1000 per year for health insurance. Affordable housing for low-income people on Long Island is rare, and on-campus student housing is up to 30% more expensive than commercial rates. These high on-campus rates are particularly galling because housing units are run-down and essential services such as heat and hot water are in chronic disrepair. Grad students have no legal right to collective bargaining. The state of New York continues to oppose our attempts to unionize and fight for a voice in controlling the quality of our workplace. We are told by University President Marburger that although these conditions would be outrageous for a working person, they are all right for us because we are students.

Undergraduates do not benefit by being taught by exhausted graduate students who are existing on the economic brink of collapse. New York State residents do not benefit if continuation in graduate school is restricted to the wealthy. What is the benefit of a large university center on Long Island if top students will go elsewhere because living conditions are so bad at Stony Brook?

Because the university ignored these dismal conditions for too long, graduate students went on strike this spring. This

strike was accompanied by several other forms of protest, of which Tent City was one of the most visible. Tent City symbolizes the lack of affordable housing and the impossibly low stipends.

The strike was ended because of presumed good faith bargaining on the part of the administration. The Graduate Student Organization made it clear to all parties that although the strike was called off, many of the problems remained to be solved. A band of undergraduate and graduate students decided to keep Tent City alive as a reminder of the abysmally poor conditions that still plague us, to keep the pressure on the continuing negotiations, and to inform newly arriving students of the status of our struggle. Repeatedly the administration has pressured students to end the protest. Twice over the course of this spring and summer, administrators used underhanded and quasi-legal methods to shut Tent City down.

On June 30th, residents of Tent city proposed to Dr. Marburger that Tent City could be taken down if the University agreed to concrete proposals aimed at improving the living conditions in its own housing. These proposals called for setting aside emergency and low-income dorm space, a reduction in room rates, and a commitment to repairing heat and hot water prior to this winter. Dr. Marburger responded that these conditions were impossible to meet. A second letter was sent to Dr. Marburger on July 2nd asking him for a set of counterproposals. Dr. Marburger's response appeared later that evening and consisted of administrative and police personnel sent to forcibly evict students and end the protest. His

stated reason was concern for the safety of Tent City personnel, although not a single significant incident of endangerment occurred prior to the university's storming of Tent City.

On Thursday, July 2nd, these personnel, under orders to tear down the tents but not arrest anyone (clearly for public relations reasons), used physically abusive tactics to remove some students from tents and then viciously ripped the tents down. Two students were injured in the fray. The tents were resurrected the following day, and faced with student resolve and the presence of television and newspaper cameras, the administration was forced to deal with the civil disobedience with orderly and legal means. Sixteen students, true to their consciences, were arrested. This standoff, of students erecting tents and then being arrested, continues to this day.

The crude manner in which members of the university have been treated during this protest is shocking. The students of Tent City stand in solidarity with each other and with the officers of the Department of Public Safety, most of whom have been professional, supportive, and dignified during this incident. It is unfortunate that these men and women have been used in such an undignified manner by their administrative superiors. Hopefully this matter can be resolved peacefully and future expenditures of energy on everyone's part will be directed at resolving the underlying reasons for the protest rather than at fighting each other.

*(The writer is a graduate student in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences.)*

## Grad Students Examine Problems and Progress

The following is an open letter from the Graduate Student Organization to Administration:

At our Senate meeting of June 23, 1987, we discussed the status of the implementation of the commitments contained in the agreement reached between the Central Administration and the Graduate Student Organization on May 5, 1987. As a result of that discussion, we are issuing the following status report. In general, the Senate is disappointed with the level of progress being made regarding several key issues. What follows is an explication of some specific concerns:

**Child Care:** We are disturbed by the status of the promised South Campus space. It appears that, due to some unexpected complications, space for expansion is not forthcoming. We want to know how this affects the promise made in the agreement to make new space available by the fall of 1987.

Another potentially serious conflict has been brought to our attention concerning the \$50,000 subsidy. As we feared, the exclusion of the Day Care Board from the language of the agreement has created confusion. We expect this to be resolved and clarified immediately. It also appears that the stated goal of working towards a total cost of child care for graduate students of no more than 10% seems to be getting lost in the current discourse. We would like to have these policies clarified.

Finally, there is a general confusion as to who (or what appropriate body) is responsible for carrying out each of the goals and stated policies we have agreed upon. If possible, we would like for the appropriate administrators to clarify this as well.

**Health Insurance:** We realize that the Health Care Task Force is currently working toward investigating

health insurance plans. We are a bit concerned about the possibility that efforts may be duplicated and that work is not proceeding in a timely manner.

We are particularly disturbed by the lack of progress regarding the foreign student health insurance plan. Dr. Marburger agreed to write a letter to SUNY Central urging a renegotiation of the foreign student health insurance plan. To date, no known progress has been made on this, although it has been recommended by the task force and other committees concerned with health care.

Another area in which little, if any, progress appears to have been made concerns the promise that steps would be taken to see that foreign students be allowed to defer payments for the mandatory policy. Larry Noonan agreed to investigate this matter. We would like an update on his progress.

**GSEU Hearing Update:** We understand that SUNY Central has approached several administrators seeking information on GSEU/CWA involvement in the work actions. Most have declined to cooperate with their attempts to re-open the case before PERB. However, one administrator, Jurgen Krause, director of Human Resources has submitted an affidavit. We wish to point out that Mr. Krause's actions violate the spirit of our agreements. He should certainly be made aware of this. We also want to remind you that Dr. Marburger agreed to write a letter to SUNY Central advising them *not* to pursue any actions regarding the PERB hearings. As far as we know, no such letter has been sent.

**Task Force on Policies and Mechanisms to Ensure Graduate Students' Rights:** The Task Force initially made speedy progress and issued a preliminary set of

guidelines. Then, progress seems to have been arrested. The agreement was that the task force, composed of four graduate students and representatives from the office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, would develop guidelines and grievance mechanisms which would become the basis for policy formation and that this would be done *quickly* because the need for these policies is great and *immediate*. We understand that progress is now being delayed by the lack of, and/or negative response from Deans, Chairs, and Graduate Directors. While we appreciate and respect their need for input, we fear that it may occur at the expense of our agreed upon right to *central input* (which is to be taken seriously). Certain important principals may be getting compromised because deans and chairs are not comfortable with the central role we are playing. Furthermore, timeliness is also being sacrificed. We feel the task force, as we agreed upon, should be more assertively pursuing these guideline issues. Many policies implemented by various departments due both to the absence of guidelines and the new flexibility have created numerous grievances. Therefore, we expect these to be ready for implementation by September 1.

There are, of course, many other issues that need to be discussed. We have outlined what we see as the most pressing. It is imperative that the Executive Committee meet with the Central Administration as soon as possible. We trust that everyone involved is and will continue to work toward fulfilling the commitments contained in this agreement — which we consider to be binding. Therefore, we feel it necessary to pinpoint problem areas now so that we can work together to correct them.

**VIEWPOINTS ARE CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

# Letters

## Don't Knock Protests

### To the Editor

I often find myself disconcerted and saddened by an attitude that emphasizes criticism over action, and prefers a fanciful and unobtainable solution to that which is obtained in the gritty world of compromise and constraint. At the risk of sounding trite, protest actions are what you make them. To a bored and cynical graduate student, the recent work stoppage may seem no more than an "interesting diversion" (Day Care Snare, Dan McKnight, June 15), but those who walked the picket lines and manned the bargaining table were grappling with serious issues. Many of us got little sleep, if any, and as a result of this dedication we registered a substantial although not a total victory. McKnight's lack of conviction regarding the efficacy of the work stoppage is at odds with the palpable achievements of our recent protest, and it is therefore tempting to speculate that guilt rather than logic is the provocateur of McKnight's careless statements; he seems to find it necessary to trivialize the protest, perhaps to justify his lack of participation in events that should rightly concern us all.

It is in fact true that our net pay will not increase--even with the

\$1000.00 raise obtained as a result of the work stoppage. However, the agent responsible for this situation--our new tax status--is a problem that the administration is not responsible for and cannot yet solve. A buck is a buck, and one thousand of them are better still; we could be \$1000.00 poorer as our tax status would have changed with or without the recent raise. Likewise, a \$50,000.00 subsidy to low income day care subscribers is unfairly characterized when referred to as "pocket change," and shows a callous disregard for those families that can only now afford this essential service as a result of the subsidy. Those "spare rooms" of which McKnight speaks amount to over 8000 square feet of space to expand day care, and will cost the university a considerable amount to renovate.

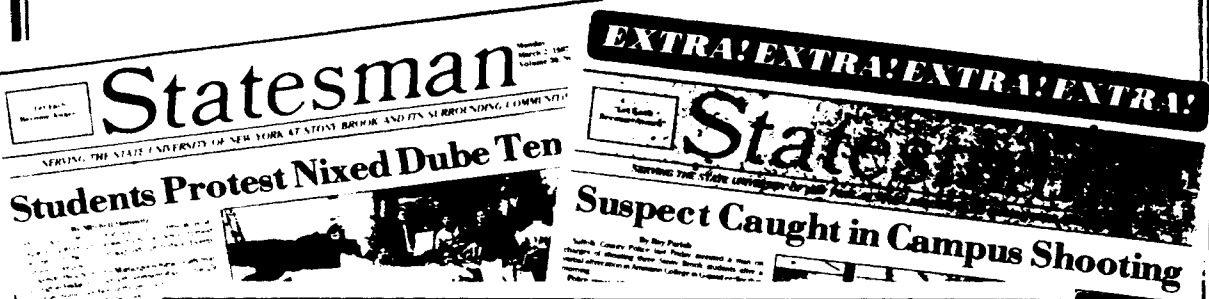
More distressing is the implicit assumption that our progress is a fait accompli, and that the recent protest has therefore accomplished little. Quite the contrary, as the leaders of the GSO have repeatedly stressed. The action initiated by the graduate students have already begun to change attitudes at this campus. FSA has just contributed \$10,000 to Stony Brook Day Care, and this action can be attributed, in part, to the ability of the recent protests to dramatize the needs of the graduate student community, and galvanize public opinion. The most

important points of our settlement provide for bureaucratic structures. These mechanisms, if properly used, will help us institutionalize child care, design an adequate, affordable health plan, and increase our salaries to a level competitive with other research universities.

The work stoppage has allowed us to open the door to increased graduate student input and administrative accountability, and the administration is betting that we will fail to realize the long range potential inherent in our settlement. I challenge McKnight and others who perceived the work stoppage as a vacation to open their eyes. Use these mechanisms. Prove the administrators wrong. Serve on some of the newly created committees and make your grievances and criticisms known there. We all agree that day care should be routinely supplied service rather than a bargaining chip, or that we need a better health plan. Towards that end however, I suggest to McKnight (and others) that it is better to use a creative intellect and sharper pen to whittle away at the administration, rather than to stand at the sideline and belittle the accomplishments purchased for you at another's expense.

Marc Weissburg  
Speaker of the Senate  
Graduate Student Organization

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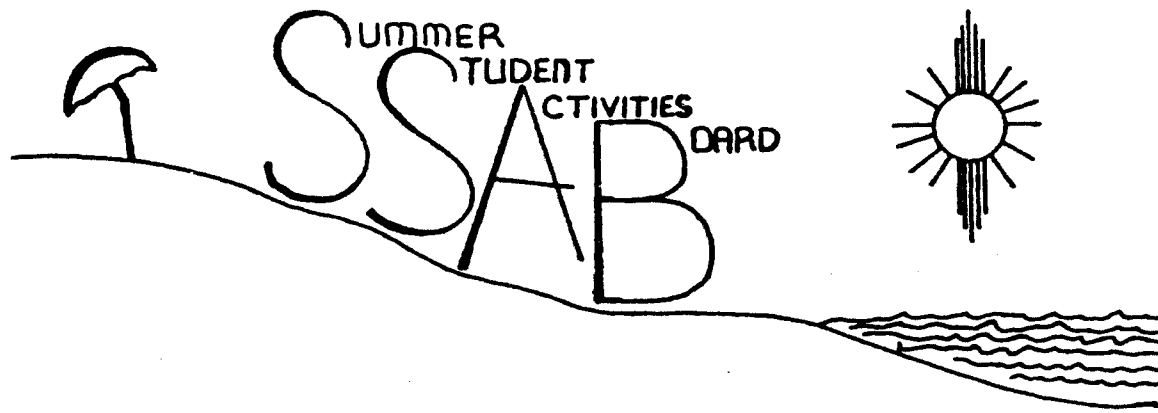
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## Viewpoint

# Treat Protestors With Some Human Decency

By Andrew Gerb

No doubt you've been reading about the recent "Tent City" protests. You've probably been hearing stories about what has been occurring regularly on campus at 7:00 PM. Maybe you heard it from someone who saw it, or maybe you read about it in the paper. Certainly you've been hearing the lively discussion about it. There are those people who will get up and tell you that they're not sure what the protesters are after; after all, wasn't the strike settled? There are those who will give you the legal argument that the right to pitch tents in protest is protected by the first amendment, and others who will argue that the tents are an eyesore and a violation of the health code and should have been removed months ago. The president of this university will tell you that tent city is a security risk and he is breaking up the demonstration for the safety of its participants.

I am here to tell you that for me, a participant and an arrestee, it is not about the first amendment or about health and safety. I am undecided on whether or not I agree with the protesters' demands. For me tent city is a

paradox — the border where two inconsistent worlds meet. It is officials of the university cruelly tossing aside people half their weight in an effort to tear tents apart. It is the public safety operator hanging up on a tearful grad student who is trying to summon an ambulance for another student who lies on the ground bleeding, after having a protester tossed on top of her. It is the queasy feeling in my stomach I have when I see our administration order a student whose only crime is protecting his right to protest in an unorthodox manner, dragged along the ground by three large officers toward the public safety holding cell. It is the institution that I have devoted three years of hard work to callously leveling criminal charges at dozens of its own students merely because they refused to be silenced.

If you still have doubts in your mind that some question of safety, constitutional law or absurdity of the protesters demands may somehow mitigate the administrations' actions, I invite you to watch some evening as the demonstrations are broken up by the sheer physical intimidation of the law. Witness the fierce yet peace-

ful defiance of the protesters, the love these students have for each other and their cause, and the unquenchable spirit they display, singing and cheering even as they are manhandled away. I guarantee you will realize this is not a question of legality, sanitation or the details of protest demands. You will see the problem of tent city is one of a simple absence of human decency — where the vast power of the Stony Brook Administration is diverted to harassing the peaceful, instead of combatting the truly evil conditions it was gathered for.

Are we helpless to prevent this? In some ways yes. We have no direct influence over those who have chosen to mercilessly persecute the demonstrators. But they are sensitive to public opinion. If enough people express their distaste to our administration and their superiors (the state government) at the use of police force on peaceful students, they will be forced to curtail their repressive activities and devote their public safety resources to fighting the kind of real crime they were created for.

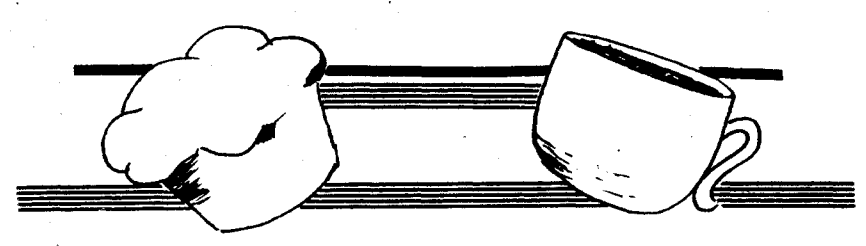
(Andrew Gerb is a doctoral student in the philosophy department.)

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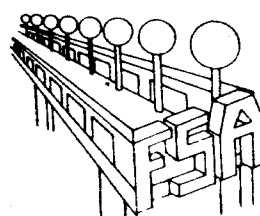
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