GSEU Holds Demonstration To Oppose SUNY Budget Cuts

Members of the Graduate Student Employee Union (GSEU) conducted a demonstration in front of the Administration Building on Dec. 6 in order to demonstrate opposition to SUNY budget cuts.

The demonstration consisted of a tent city and students gradually burning a wooden shack which they had constructed. According to Chuck Wright, an organizer of the rally, "The goal of demonstration is to tell state legislators that 'Cutting education to save money is like burning your house to stay warm'."

According to leaflets handed out by the demonstration's organizers, the SUNY Board of Trustees (referred to as "Pataki's elves") has created presents for Governor Pataki. The presents are said to save money for SUNY students.

The Spot Loses $6465 in Three Months

The GSO jointly operates The Spot (a bar located on campus) with the Faculty Student Association (FSA). Briefly, the GSO's role in the arrangement is to pay the losses the bar incurs up to $10,000 per academic year.

According to information presented at the December GSO Senate Meeting, The Spot posted losses of $2050 in November alone. The combined losses for thus far this semester are already $6,465. As a result, the account which is supposed to fund The Spot until May of 1996 now has only $2220 remaining.

According to David Brown, GSO President, the losses mean that GSO members will have to decide at the next Senate Meeting, scheduled for February 14, 1996, whether to close The Spot or substantially increase its subsidy for the year.

In the meantime, the following steps have been taken and/or are being considered, in order to cut the bar's losses: 1.) The Spot's Advertising Agent (a 20 hr/wk, $10 per hr position) has been let go. 2.) Advertising for The Spot will now be conducted by the GSO Executive Council as well as other interested graduate students. 3.) The addition of a second pool table is being considered. The Spot's present coin operated pool table is quite popular. 4.) The music in the Juke Box will be updated. 5.) The opinions of graduate students will be solicited regarding what sort of live music should be offered; Bands will then be selected on this basis. 6.) Greater advertising will be conducted regarding the existence of the bar's Espresso machine (the machine is reported to have cost over $3000 to install, yet generates very little revenue), and, 7.) A cigarette vending machine has been added.

According to Jeffery Hack and Mark Pollack (members of the GSO "Lounge Management Committee"), the actions are expected to decrease the losses of The Spot by approximately $1450.00 a month. If successful, the actions will allow The Spot to operate within the $10,000 subsidy and remain open for the duration of the 1995-1996 academic year.

Three Out of the Five GSO Exec.s Resign

Since Nov. 1, Eric Knappenburger, Ira Jarrette, and Kathryn Kent have all resigned from their respective positions of GSO President, Secretary, and Speaker. Ms. Kent and Mr. Knappenburger left due to personal obligations. Mr. Jarrette will be leaving USB as he is completing his degree this December. The resignations of Ira Jarrette and Kathryn Kent will become effective as of the end of the fall semester.

As a result of the resignation of Eric Knappenburger, David Brown (elected as Vice President of the GSO in the Spring of '95) has become President of the GSO.

Hasan Imam was selected by David Brown (and ratified by the GSO Senate) to fill the post of Vice President.

According to David Brown, replacements are currently being sought to fill the soon-to-be-vacated positions of Secretary and Speaker.

-M. Fagan

Happy Holidays!
New Report Details Proposed Changes in SUNY

In response to a call from the NYS Legislature requesting a “multi-year, comprehensive, systemwide plan to increase cost efficiency”, the State University Board of Trustee has created a report entitled "Rethinking SUNY". The report was officially released on December 1.

According to the report’s introduction, the Board of Trustees seeks to, “increase efficiency by empowering campuses to directly manage more of their academic and financial affairs by eliminating current disincentives to the prudent utilization of campus resources. As a result, campuses will have greater ability to achieve efficiencies of operation and to focus on academic quality. With new management delegation comes also greater campus responsibility and accountability.”

Specifically, the report states SUNY trustees seek to:

- Conduct a review in order to, “eliminate programs of questionable quality as well as unnecessarily duplicative programs, especially those with low enrollment and high costs.”
- Streamline, “contracting and purchasing to support timely and cost-effective use of operating funds. The university should be able to procure goods and services independently and to enter into contracts without prior review and approval of any other state agency.”
- Employ distance learning technologies, “to maintain the greatest possible access to degree programs.”
- Provide SUNY operated hospitals with, “new management flexibility”, in order to “compete in today’s highly competitive and rapidly changing health-care marketplace”.
- Increase system-wide productivity by allowing campus presidents increased flexibility through a reduction in the amount of monitoring by SUNY central.

Create a pool of one percent of its campus budgets as incentive moneys, “to reward campuses for increased faculty productivity, both quantitative and qualitative.”

Allow individual SUNY campuses flexibility in setting their tuition rates.

Create a situation in tuition which increases are not sudden in nature by having tuition increases, “based on a range of rational cost indexes, including, for example, the Higher Education Price Index and the Tuition Price Index.”

Encourage campuses, “to increase their efforts to attract external funding”, via grant and contract income from, “sale or lease of campus properties, facilities rental, enhancement of self-supporting operations and partnerships, impositions of fees and rents and contracting of services”.

As of December 7, the NYS Legislature has not officially responded to the recommendations included in the report. Copies of "Rethinking SUNY" can be obtained by contacting the GSO.

Ex GSO President Speaks About Budget Cuts

By Eric Knappenburger

This past month I have been involved with discussion of the possibilities of the SUNY budget. The November edition of Newsday featured an interview with Dr. Harvey Waschman (a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees), in which he disclosed the 1996-1997 budget for SUNY has been submitted to the governor. The proposed budget (approximately $1.5 billion dollars) appears not to have any new cuts in it, however, the committee which approved it did so with the provision that recommendations regarding cost reduction would be forthcoming. What these recommendations will be is something which can only be left to your imagination. Previous proposals for the budget have included many items which were considered to have a negative impact on graduate students, such as the closing of graduate programs, campuses and converting the university hospitals into not for profit corporations.

The University hospital here should be undergoing some moderate changes which allow greater autonomy from NY State, but not to the same degree as SUNY’s other hospitals; Syracuse and Brooklyn.

Some of the more positive proposals have included giving schools greater autonomy for hiring faculty and setting tuition rates. The proposal for providing greater autonomy to SUNY member schools was detailed in the November 8 edition of Newsday. The proposal was created in order to allow campuses to become more “market responsive”.

Changes in education are also happening at the national level where proposed legislation to eliminate subsidized student loans is being considered. Recently, the House of Representatives voted to get rid of subsidized student loans and the Senate voted to severely limit the program (USA Today: 11/9/95). The Nation Association of Graduate and Professional and Graduate Students (NAGPS) has designated upholding funding for subsidized student loans to be most important priority of the year.

In addition to the budget discussions, I have been meeting with many of the administrators on campus to formally and informally discuss graduate student issues. In the near future, Dr. Kenny will be meeting with graduate students informally to ascertain what issues they perceive as problems at USB. Informally I (along with Kathryn Kent, Anne Mayer and Casimir Adler-Ivanbrook) met with Dr. Martin and Rollin Richmond at the Student Faculty Retreat. The availability of student parking spaces and tuition funding were among those issues which were discussed.

Continued from Page 1 to include: Increased tuition costs next year for SUNY’s students, increased class sizes, elimination of courses alleged by SUNY to be “insubstantial”, elimination of programs which are said to be “wasteful replication”, elimination of programs that can be allegedly handled privately (such as medical and law schools), and a review of the SUNY system for possible campus closings and mergers.

Throughout the day, GSEU members encouraged all who passed by to sign a petition, and contact legislators in order to condemn the proposed budget cuts.
The New President Speaks

By David Brown  
GSO President

On November 14, Eric Knappenburger resigned as President; now I am President of the GSO. While some of you may have learned of what I would like to see the GSO do from reading the Statesman's articles back in May, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss the direction I want the GSO to take during my administration.

My agenda comes from two major necessities. First, we need to put the GSO's house in order. We need to hire an office manager and C&D agent. A consensus seems to be this should be done prior to the end of the semester. Because of the time constraints this matter will be my first priority. Through the hiring and selection process, I hope to avoid revising the arguments about whether or not Ms. Fuchs should have been terminated.

The second priority is somewhat weightier. Every five years, state law mandates that all student organizations collecting a mandatory activity fee have a general student-wide referendum to determine whether the fee should remain mandatory or become optional.

A referendum regarding the activity fee (approximately $40 per year per graduate student) which funds the GSO will be held this coming April. My personal opinion, based on conversations I've had with the number of people, is that if students were able to vote on the referendum right now, the activity fee would become optional. Obviously, if the activity fee becomes optional, funding for the GSO will be dramatically reduced, and the GSO will be forced to radically scale back its activities or even disband.

In other words, most people I have talked to seem likely to jump at the chance to save roughly $40 per year. Apparently, these people perceive the benefits of the GSO aren't worth their $40. Apparently, these people perceive the benefits of the GSO aren't worth their $40. Personally, I think this attitude may be even more widespread than either I or any GSO Executive Director's opinion.

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Divorced at 26.

By David Juan

I'm 26 years old and I'm divorced. I wasn't prepared for this: This isn't how I expected things to work out at all. I don't even know how to question what happened. No one told me that my marriage had a pretty good chance of failing. I hear the statistics say 52% of all marriages end in divorce. Why then is it considered bad luck to talk about divorce or weddings? It's quite likely that at least half the beautiful couples will end up

People freak out if there isn't a money back guarantee on some stupid washing machine. We have to purchase car insurance, just in case we get into an accident. There's a lengthy legal disclaimer after every car lease commercial. I think you even have to sign some sort of waiver before you go skiing or bungee jumping too. When you consider that weddings can run from $20,000 to over $40,000, it's kind of ridiculous no one is warned of the potential for disaster. I know I would have appreciated it if the minister who married us had spoken to me at the end of the ceremony for a little advice. Perhaps he could have told me about the quickest ways to have my marriage annulled. Maybe he could have quoted the present survival rates of marriages after one month, two months, six months, and annually.

Then I would have known to mark the wedding gifts as we opened them. "Wow, thanks Uncle Bob! ...Oh, Honey, just in case we become divorced, I'd like to keep the propane grill. The tupperware is all yours." A long with advice from the minister, I think there should be legal aid. I might have thought twice if my lawyer had been there. Not to me that the $2,500.00 engagement ring was hers to keep forever once she said, "I do". Immediately, her net take for the wedding surpassed mine. The minister even made money because I had to tip him. Can you believe that? I had to tip him for something that was allegedly good forever, yet broke after a year and a half. Ministers and priests most likely ask for a tip because at least half the time, their time is wasted. My wife made out pretty well, too. She broke even with the attorney's fees because I paid for them in the settlement. The ring was simply a bonus. Of course, both our lawyers made out like bandits. That's what they do. Unfortunately, I'm in the hole about $20,000. Believe it or not, I got off easy. I don't have to pay alimony because I paid for them in the settlement. I don't have to pay alimony because I paid for them in the settlement. I don't have to pay alimony because I paid for them in the settlement.

The one piece of advice I think everyone gave was to keep our marriage and sex life interesting. Thanks for nothing. It was a lot more interesting and lively when we were dating. There's not much more exciting than driving around Suffolk County looking for a dark, secluded place to park your car so you and your girlfriend can fog up the windows and dirty up the back seat. You could drive around on a security guard with a flashlight for a good laugh. Our time together day to day was cherished. It wasn't an obligation or an expectation. There wasn't some scorecard on who's anyone was to wash the dishes or clean the litter box. Dating was fun and it was relatively free.

Once married, all that gratuitous crap died. We were nearly broke, desperately trying to keep things interesting with a $200.00 budget. Not that whenever possible. Lord help me, we even joined a bowling league with matching shirts, balls and bags too. The more boring things got at home, the more we tried to make up for by doing exciting things outside. Once we got back home, we would argue about how broke we were. Then we'd make-up and go out again. It was a vicious cycle.

Just as the statistics warn, sex tapered off once we were married, too. Now why is that? You would think that with no one else around, we would be doing it more frequently then we ate. And who would care if we had sex? Well, my wife did. Who knew there would be no place to do it in the first place? We certainly couldn't dirty up the matching sheet set, comforter and shams we got from her Aunt Gertrude. The light gray carpet was a "off limits" too. Not that it mattered anyway. Nothing happened until after dinner because we were too tired from work or had to clean-up the Faberware and dishes. After that, nothing happened until after prime time and Melrose Place. By then, it was time to go to sleep. On my honeymoon, no one would have been able to convince me that all of this petty, meaningless crap was going to get in the way of "til death do us part".

And what about those silly, outdated vows? A lot of people like to change their vows to be cute or leave out certain parts of the ceremony that they don't like. I, as you might guess, have a few ideas of my own in this regard. That same guy who speed reads the legalities about leasing a Taurus should be following up the practice's "literacy at the end of the wedding ceremony. Very quickly, so as not to spoil the mood, he should mention something about the only four reasons you can apply for a divorce, and the most popular one of the four (no sex for a year), that you can't apply for a divorce claiming irreconcilable differences, the average cost of alimony, the percentage of your income that you are expected to pay for child support, the amount of time it takes to get a divorce (as opposed to how quickly it takes to become married), the average cost of attorneys for a simple (and a contested) divorce, and who is most likely to get the house and the car (should (or perhaps, when?) a divorce occurs). I would have liked for him to warn me not to get joint credit cards until AFTER our second anniversary. You know, not until after it's a sure thing? That is a little tip I would not have minded tipping the guy for. To the advice portion of the ceremony, he should say that if we can't agree on anything, we should agree to a settlement BEFORE we see any of those aforementioned money making lawyers. That's another money tip.

For Better or for Worse. This is the most cruel and deceptive line in the entire script. I know what it means to me. My wife didn't. I don't think many other people do either. To me, it meant that despite all the talk, all the dirty laundry, the bitchy mother-in-laws, and the losing arguments, you still work it out. We had a deal. We said vows in front of God. That's supposed to be better than writing it in blood. I expected to spend the rest of my life with her, no matter what. I'm pretty sure that's why I didn't expect to see that letter from her lawyer. At least not so soon. We had only been separated for a month! What kind of a money-losing-quick-lawyer would take a divorce case from a wife who left her husband (aka: me) just a few weeks earlier anyway? I think I may have answered my own question. I really didn't stand a chance.

Now don't get me wrong. I have no illusions about the destruction of my marriage. I'm certainly not innocent. I gave as good as I got, unfortunately. I can't blame her for anything I did wrong, just as she can't blame me for her misdeeds. I just wish someone would have prepared us with a little more information, more skills and a lot more faith in each other. Our property has been divided. The in-laws have become outlaws. The rings are packed away. She's changed her name. It is obvious, what was a marriage is now a divorce. Not as obvious, however, is how much I regret the whole thing.

I still miss my wife.

'Tis the Season

In the mood to give some holiday cheer?

USB is sponsoring a toy and clothing drive for children who live at (or below) the poverty level in Suffolk County. Last year, through the generosity of administrators, faculty, staff, and students, the program was able to provide gifts to 600 children and their families. The program has increased in size every year: In 1992, 250 children received gifts, in 1993 - 350 children, 1994 - 600...This year the program hopes to provide gifts to 1000 children.

If you are interested in purchasing a new toy, or jogging suit for a needy child, contact Maryann Bell, Debbie Palmese, or Mary Ann Scriven at 632-7107.

Interested in donating food, and personal hygiene items to local agencies which serve families in need?

Participate in NYPIRG's drive to help area food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Drop off locations are located in the NYPIRG office of the Union, the Benedict College Lobby, the O'Neill-Irving College Lobby, the Kelly Cafeteria Lobby, the Main Library (by the Commuter Lounge), the Roth Cafeteria Lobby, the lobby of the Fannie Brice Theater, and in the Chapin Apt. Community Center.
Feature Article

The Student Guide to Big Fun in the Big City

By Cary Henderson

Have ever noticed that there's not a lot to do at USB beside study and work? Diversity can be found on Long Island if one has the time and money to look, but who among us has time or money? Don’t fear, New York is near. New York City, one of the epicenters of the universe, is only 100 kilometers (a bit over 60 miles for those of you who are metrically disadvantaged) away. Not sure how to take advantage of the cultural, historical, and/or entertainment opportunities that present themselves in New York City? Read on.

This handy guide can lead you to a great, unforgettable, time for less than $50. You won’t regret it!

What to bring:

Make sure that you’re going in shoes that are comfortable and take along a map in case there’s rain. You’ll probably want to take a map because there’s no way that you’ll be able to find everything easily unless you can orient yourself on the local landmarks. A small back-pack is not only useful for collecting city goodies, it’s also become fashionable among city denizens to carry one, especially if it’s leather. Bring along something to read too.

How to get there:

The LIRR. You can find the LIRR Stony Brook train station at the north end of the campus. Once there, obtain a copy of the Port Jefferson line timetable so you know when to catch a train from the city back to the campus. If you go off-peak (anytime other than the traditional weekday morning and evening rush hours) your round-trip ticket to the city’s major train station, Pennsylvania Station, will cost you a little over $15.00. The round-trip takes something like 2 hours each way, so read the book that I asked you to pack above.

Once you’re at Penn Station:

Keep your eyes open for signs that direct you to the 1/2/3 or 6/A/C subway lines if you’re planning on traveling up or downtown on the west side of Manhattan. If you want to move on the east side, you’ll want to go up one of the streets and walk the few blocks north and east through the swirling masses to Grand Central Station on 42 St where you can catch the 4/5 line. You’ll probably find that walking in the city can be fun, although it gets tiring pretty quickly.

Tokens for the city’s subway system cost $1.25 each and are available in the subway stations as well as any LIRR ticket machine.

A good place to start is at one of the city’s major museums as this will be a total sensory overload that will get you ready for some entertainment afterwards. Get a load of this: your valid student ID entitles you to discounts at all big museums in the city. All of these museums have such an enormous permanent collection that there’s really no way to do even a single one justice in one trip. You’ll need a few hours to start scratching the surface of any of them.

The Museum of Modern Art.

Head upstairs on the B line from Penn Station to 49 St and you are only a short walk from Museum (11 W 53 St). Your SUNY ID will allow you to enjoy the general exhibit for absolutely free and will allow you to only fork out $2 to see the special exhibits. The MOMA is open every day except Wednesday.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Take the 4/5 from Grand Central Station uptown to 86 St., head west a few blocks to 5th Ave and proceed to 82 St. The Met is closed on Monday.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

This museum is just a bit farther up 5th Ave on the right side of the street. You won’t be able to miss its amorphic beehive shape. Don’t go on Thursday - it’s closed.

Now that you’ve overloaded at one of the above museums, you need a transition into some kind of evening entertainment. Wander downtown between 5th Ave and the Top of the Sages (6665 Ave) if you are exhausted to wander”, you can take the 4/5 line back down to 59 St. Once there, take the express elevator up to the top floor and find a seat at the bar: you won’t need a reservation if you’re not stopping to eat. Order a beer or other refreshment while you watch the entire east side of the city grow brighter as the evening grows darker. The mix of architecture and perspectives is truly sensational.

Not into a bar mood yet? How about a book store? Take the 4/5 line downtown to Union Square and find the Strand (Broadway and 11 St). It’s not really a store, it’s a labyrinthine maze of shelves, sections, stairwells, and, of course, books, books, and more books. Dig around, see what you can find.

RESTAURANTS

Ready to get serious about food and fun? The most fecund atmosphere in the city is from about 23 St south into Soho. If you’re still uptown, find the B/Q line at 57 St (or 49 St) and 6 Ave, then ride downtown to Washington Square. If you’re going to the Strand, don’t bother with the subway. You truly can’t go wrong if you start wandering around in the narrow streets just south of NYU. Look for Ali Baba’s on McDougal, Arturo’s on Houston, or any of the multitude of European or Asian cafés along Bleeker. Of course, if Pizza or Chinese is your fancy, you’ll never starve in the city. It’s possible to spend a very reasonable amount per person for very good food, but you have to check the prices on the menus that every place posts on the door.

BARS - CLUBS

Want something to drink after you eat? Sit and observe the delightful mix of people that makes up the population of the Village by checking out the Peculiar Pub (Bleecker and Sullivan). The pub has something like 150 different kinds of beer there, and even more kinds of people. If you want something darker and smokier, wander east and up two blocks to Sophie’s (5 St between Ave A and B). A few bucks in either place will get you something to drink. Sit, sip for a while, and watch the locals.

Want some jazz? Try the Sweet Basil (Bleecker and 7 Ave.) There’s always some kind of show, although Mondays are usually tamer than the rest of the week. There’s a small cover charge weekday nights; weekend nights the cover charge is not small. Another place for jazz is the Village Vanguard (a bit further uptown at 11 St and 7 Ave). Expect an eclectic crowd at both places.

Of course, you may decide that you’d like to work off something you just ate. Dance the night away in the city.

Take the F line from Washington Square uptown to 23 St and you’ll find Shaker’s (22 St and Broadway). You must be at least 25 if you’re a guy, but there’s no cover charge and the music is surprisingly good. Then again, you may be in the mood for a show. How about one that is cheap and actually allows you to take part? Wander over to the Monster (Grove and 7 Ave). The cover is $1 every night except Friday, Saturday, and holidays. You can hang out upstairs at the piano bar or descend into the go on the dance floor downstairs. Be ready to dance and be entertained by the crowd.

It’s probably getting late; it’s time to start thinking about taking the train back. In order to not miss the Midnight or 1:30 AM train, give yourself plenty of time to take the subway back to Penn Station. Follow the signs to the LIRR waiting room and keep an eye on the electronic displays that will tell you on which track you’ll find a train to Huntington with connections to Port Jefferson.

Want The Spot to stay open? Want The Spot to close? ...Bring your opinions to the next GSO Senate Meeting. February 14, 1996 at 7 p.m. in The Spot.

I want to print your News & Views - The more you write, the less I have to.

E-Mail me: MFAGAN@comsunsuny.sh. Fax me: (516) 632-8965.

Write me: News & Views, GSO, 2105 Computer Science, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794.

The Going Rates for News & Views:
A thought provoking, pre-arranged Opinion Piece: Between $40 - $70.

A well written, pre-approved, Feature Article (Mostly news, some opinion): $0.10 a word; up to a maximum of $125.

A well written, pre-approved, news article: $0.10 a word; with a maximum of 1500 words ($150).

The more an article deals with "graduate student life at USB" the more likely it is to be published.
Grad Student Health Care: The First of a Series

By Cary Henderson, Staff Writer

It's very cool that, for the first time, SUNY grad students who are part of the GSEU bargaining unit have health insurance that is largely funded by the SUNY system. ...Or is it? The following article is the first in a series that will attempt to examine just how effective the existing health care plan really is.

The health care provider whose bid was selected by SUNY is an HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) called Choice Care. For the purposes of this series of articles, let's briefly take a look at the history of HMOs. During the 1970s, a widespread coalition of interests in the US became concerned about health care costs. By the mid 1970s, manufacturing and service industries were deeply involved in restructuring health care in the US by creating coalitions.

Examples of these coalitions are the Washington Business Group on Health (WBGH), founded in 1974, and the Center for Industry and Health Care (CIHC) which was founded in 1977. The product of these and other coalitions' efforts was a series of volumes published in 1978, known as the Springer Series on Industry and Health Care. A vast majority of the present strategies to transform health care in the US carry a trace back to these series.

HMOs come in a variety of institutional forms, all of which emphasize health care administration and rationalized health care delivery, i.e., cutting services and costs. HMOs "were industry's first strategy for restructuring health care delivery" (Leyerle '94). In other words, HMOs emerged directly from the combined efforts of several industries to control the costs of health care delivery in the interest of maximizing profit.

According to Leyerle, by the late 1980s, HMOs were largely regarded as a failure by businesses (i.e. their clients) in their efforts to reduce the cost of American medical care. This perception arose despite the efforts of HMOs to defer as much of these costs as possible to the individual consumer of rationalized health care, thereby maximizing industry's profit.

Let's see how this influences the program offered to SUNY grad students by Choice Care. According to the information booklet provided to all students who have access to the institutionalized health care package, there is a cap on yearly benefits of all kinds at $25,000. An annual prescription maximum of $600 is included in this cap. In the case of a serious illness and/or accident, this $25,000 will scarcely cover a single comprehensive visit to the hospital.

This leads one to ask, "What if I obtained a chronic illness?" The plan covers unlimited visits to the Student Health Center on the SB campus, the plan's primary care provider. All other visits to a physician are considered referrals to specialists, only ten of which are covered annually. Since almost every conceivable visit to a "specialist" will include ordering a medical test and certainly at least a single follow-up visit, the plan to actually covers 5 instances of illness that cannot be handled by the Student Health Center.

Despite the limitations already in place, if the referral process goes away in any way, the consumer - this means you - pays. This means that part of the administrative cost of health care has been deferred to you. The net result of this health care reality for SUNY grad students is sobering indeed.

The following report describes a succinct example. A SUNY grad student on the Choice Care plan with a recently diagnosed chronic illness found the Student Health Center unable to treat any relevant symptoms. The student was referred by Student Health to an internist at the Stony Brook Medical Center who was not considered a primary care provider, but not as a "specialist" by Choice Care. As soon as the illness was diagnosed, the student's health care was reduced to 10 office visits per year.

Since the referral was to another primary care provider, it is still not clear whether Choice Care will recognize this as a legitimate referral: although a properly documented referral was received from Student Health, Choice Care has already produced a bill for out-of-network services with the explanation "no referral". Although all bills have not yet been computed for the initial referral, the student has already incurred conservatively estimated at least $400 in medical expenses for two physician office visits. If this continues, the student in this example can expect to pay somewhere in the neighborhood of $2000 over the next year simply to cover the 10 visits purportedly offered by the health care plan.

Virtually as aside, other things have occurred. The intern apparently botched the referral for a set of tests which should also have been covered under the plan, resulting in an additional expense of almost $1000 for the student. In addition to this, the student has discovered that a cost of $1000 for monthly prescriptions during the coming year is not inconceivable.

What does all of the above mean? Certainly in the case described, SUNY has been successful at reducing its own expense for standardized health care, but the consumer whose diagnosed illness falls outside of the very narrow realm of allowable health care issues is confronted with spectacular and catastrophic medical costs that will not be covered by the plan as it exists today.

This is just the beginning. Other issues that pertain to this topic will be investigated at length in the next few editions of the News and Views. For instance, even though most optometrists and opthamologists recommend yearly exams, the health care plan as it stands covers a routine eye exam every two years. To top that...
December 11, 1995

An Open Letter

December 6, 1995

GSO Hiring Moves Forward

The GSO is in the process of hiring persons to fill the positions of Office Manager and Control and Disbursement (C&D) Agent. Graduate students interested in the position of Office Manager were recruited via a campus wide advertising campaign which lasted from October 13, 1995 to December 7, 1995. Members of the GSO Hiring Committee are expected to begin interviewing qualified candidates as early as December 11, 1995. The position will be funded as a full Graduate Assistant (GA) line with benefits (full tuition and medical coverage). The Office Manager will be expected to begin his/her duties prior to the start of the Spring Semester.

Per the GSO Senate, the C&D Agent will be chosen from a pool of two applicants: Ida Fuchs (the current C&D Agent) and the Faculty Student Association (FSA). The GSO has solicited and received proposals from both applicants. The Hiring Committee is expected to reach a decision as early as next week. The C&D Agent will be expected to begin work prior to the start of Spring semester.

-M. Fagan

To: Dean Paul Edelson
School of Professional Development

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Council of the Graduate Student Organization at Stony Brook. It has been brought to our attention that the SPD students do not have access to mailboxes on campus.

We believe that the ability to receive campus mail and thereby become aware of on-campus activities, events, job opportunities, and so forth is a basic necessity for all graduate students. This service should be provided to all graduate students, full time and part time, by the university through the individual departments. Since the SPD students are part-time and do not live on campus, it is especially important for them to have access to campus mail.

We urge you to look into this matter at your earliest convenience. We would appreciate a response from you stating your view and what can be done to provide SPD students with campus mail boxes.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Hasan Imam
Vice President
Graduate Student Organization

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIA

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS!

The Graduate School solicits proposals for the Spring Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Colloquia series. The colloquia aim to bring together graduate students from a variety of disciplines to present and discuss their work, in an attempt to foster interdisciplinary connections with their peers in a relaxed environment. Each colloquium runs about two hours, and includes free food and beverages. All proposed topic suggestions will be considered.

In the past, the Colloquium has hosted panels and papers on a number of topics including: The Environment, Medicine and Society, Culture and Ecology, Responsibility and Conceptions of the Self, Travel, and Dissertation Writing. Some Possible Panel and Paper Suggestions for the Spring Series include:

- Ethics in Research
- Emotions
- The Mind: Intelligence and Consciousness
- Long Island Sound: Sound Management?
- AIDS
- Art & Culture
- Computer Technology & Virtual Reality
- Identity & Exclusion
- The “-isms”
- Genetics or Eugenics?
- Progress: Utopia or Suicide?
- The International Student Experience at USB

What are your interests? What are your suggestions?

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, CONTACT CASIMIR ADLER-IVANBROOK IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL: 632-7045/ CASIMIR@CCMAIL.SUNYSB.EDU/ Z=4433

Make contacts that can help you with your own work!

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIA
Viewpoint: The Mirage of Division I

This article is reprinted with permission from The National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics Programs, published in 1993 by the College and University Business Officers, the direct average student cost at Division IAA football schools to be at thirty-two percent of the athletic program. Current issues say not a word about the athletic fee.

Much good is to be said for a solid sports program, in which students themselves participate extensively. It is meant as a compliment to note that the current staff seems well-suited for one.

If the present program is over-whelmed by Division I projects, subtler costs than financial ones will be levied on the quality of university and life. At big sports events, many students drink heavily. A study released in early November by the Harvard School of Public Health reports that the problem of binge drinking-which the campus has grown exponentially with the size of the sports program.

Among the leading advocates of upgraded football is the owner of a nearby Stony Brook bar, which was exposed a couple of weeks ago in an ABC-TV newsmagazine and the serving by former football players.

The stadium, seating 4,000 and expandable to accommodate 15,000, will be used for sports events not just for Stony Brook, but also for schools compete all over Long Island. The Stony Brook community association has already gone on record against the construction of a stadium, and most of the Setauket community group opposes it as well. These groups know that it will bring many more drivers to the already congested route 25A, along with much noise and rowdy, intoxicated visitors. The peace of the surrounding Three Villages will be destroyed.

Among the greatest and least confronted costs will be to the athletes.

They will be tempted to Stony Brook with the promise of an education and an eventual career. Whatever the athletics will receive from Division I football basketball is time gouged from study, an exploitive use of emerging good students to Stony Brook and keeping up campus morale, and that is for the admissions department to forget its past and to present Stony Brook on its intellectual merits.

Suppose the administration decided to take proper pride in its faculty, which insures after survey ranks first among all public institutions in New England, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. It would be doing effectively and economically what it plans to do ineffectively andexpensively. Perhaps in the twenty-first century at least some people will remember the time when Stony Brook stood for something that was special and good.

What should a responsible citizen do about a project that is both immoral and stoppable? What can be done to save jobs and homes, experience, and the intellectual character of Stony Brook? Call people. The University president Shirley Strum Kenny, 632-6265. The provost Dr. Rollin Richmond, 632-7000. Senator Kenneth LaValle's Long Island office, 696-6000. The chairman of the education committee in the NYS Assembly Edward C. Sullivan: 518-455-5603, and Governor George Pataki at 518-474-8390.

Perhaps you could take the time to write a letter? Governor Pataki, Executive Chamber, Albany, NY 12224; Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, 321 Middle Country Road, Suite 4, Selden, NY 11784; The Honorable Edward C. Sullivan, NYS Assembly, 717 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; President Shirley Strum Kenny, 310 Administration Building, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401. And above all, register to vote if you have not done so already.