

The faculty, students, alumni and administration have worked for these past years with great energy, determination, and resourcefulness to create a strong and in many ways a unique educational program at Old Westbury. This program grew from the commitment of the college (confirmed by the State University) to a curriculum rooted in the idea of human justice and emphasizing and directed to the needs of students directed to the needs of students traditionally by-passed by educational opportunity--i.e., members of minorities, working people, older women and men returning to school, in short, the majority of the citizens of this state. The success of the College in developing this kind of program was confirmed in the recent evaluation made by the Middle States accrediting team. That team strongly praised the college's educational program, and said that the interdisciplinary programs developed by the College, and its efforts to serve the educationally by-passed could, if continued, have significant implications for the State University and for education nationally.

Now we have been faced by budget cuts and a general pulling back from the commitments made by SUNY to the kind of educational program for which Old Westbury has been accredited. For example, no faculty positions have been allocated to bilingual education for next year and statewide cuts have continued to prevent growth of the core interdisciplinary programs despite the planned expansion of the student body; efforts have been made to push married students and students with children out of the dorms; financial aid has been cut back, and the commitment of the admissions policy to the "educationally bypassed" has not yet been made firm.

As the "steering committee" of the faculty, we wish to make unequivocally clear the commitment of the faculty at Old Westbury to the objectives stated by the students at the college, namely:

- 1) A commitment to bilingual educational programs;
- 2) A commitment to continued child care;
- 3) A commitment to a housing policy which accords with the needs of "bypassed" students;
- 4) A commitment to an admissions policy which will carry out the college's mission of serving the "educationally bypassed".

We call upon our colleagues in the college administration and in statewide SUNY to take the concrete steps necessary to implement these objectives, and we call upon the citizens of New York to continue their support of this educational effort at Old Westbury.