



STUDENT UNION



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY

Student Union

The Student Union represents strength, involvement and unity to build a progressive, activist mass student organization. This organization seeks to establish a working relationship with other student groups. Its major role is to wage struggles to maintain the college commitment: its mission to educate non-traditional students.



We recognize that Old Westbury students have special needs and problems. This college should be administered with a consciousness of these special needs. The mission of this college should serve as the basis of all decisions affecting the operation of the college, and specifically the life of its students.

It has become clear to many of us that the roots of the declining quality of campus life and the indifference to student needs in general lie in the increasing abandonment of the original "vision" on which "our special place" was based. Many of the policies which made College at Old Westbury's special mission a reality are no longer being implemented.

The Student Union has decided to focus on areas about which students have expressed frustration and concern.

By serving as a center for student activism, Student Union hopes to encourage student unity which will once again render the administration of this school accountable to the student body which gives this institution its life.



What is a Student Union?

Student Union is the political arm of the student body. The Student Union is actively involved in the struggle to defend the mission of the college and uphold the realization of human justice and equality by demanding better services in those areas that affect student life.



Why and When was the Student Union formed?

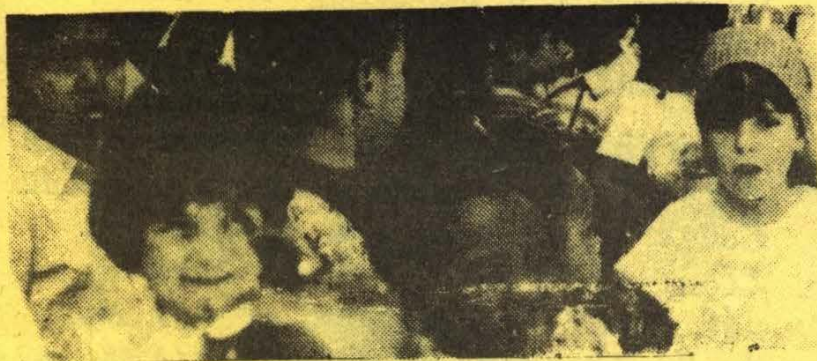
Student Union developed in 1976, based on the needs to create a structure that would unite all sectors and organizations on campus; furthermore, to coordinate militant struggle around issues concerning our basic rights to quality education.



What issues does Student Union deal with?

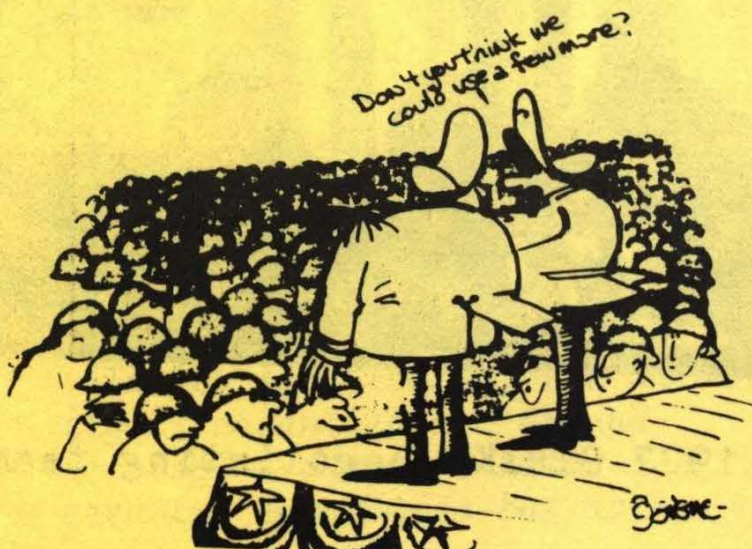
Student Union works on such issues as:

- Local college administrative policies; e.g., intersession housing, admission, budget cutbacks, mandatory meal plan, etc.



WILL THEY HAVE OPEN ADMISSIONS???

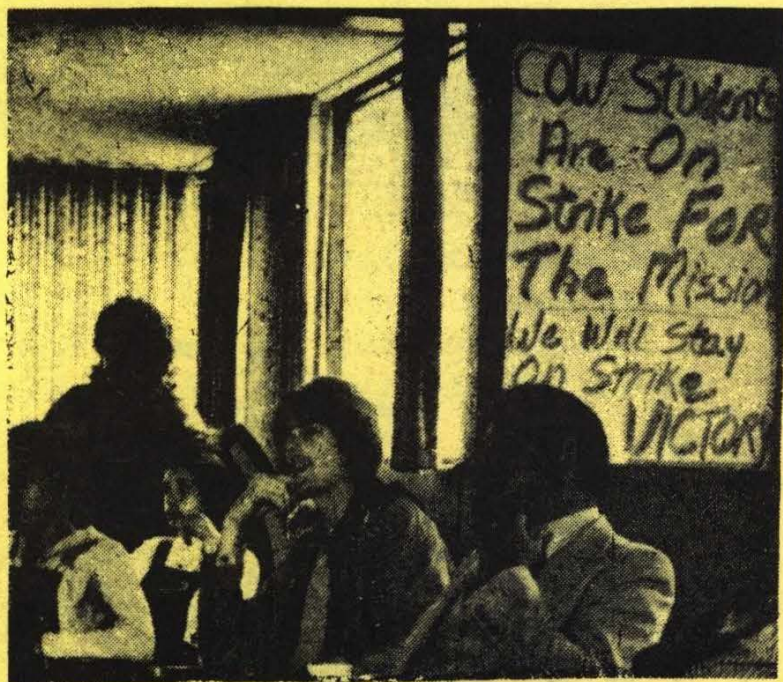
- Statewide university policies; e.g., budget cutbacks, room rent increases, etc.
- Nationwide policies; e.g., anti-nuke, anti-draft, affirmative action, etc.



Difference between Student Union and Student Government.

Student Government works within a framework defined by the administration. Within this, it is severely limited by the fact that they can only function in an advisory capacity. Our historical experience has shown us that, due to these limitations, Student Government's best efforts at influencing the administration have not achieved much success.

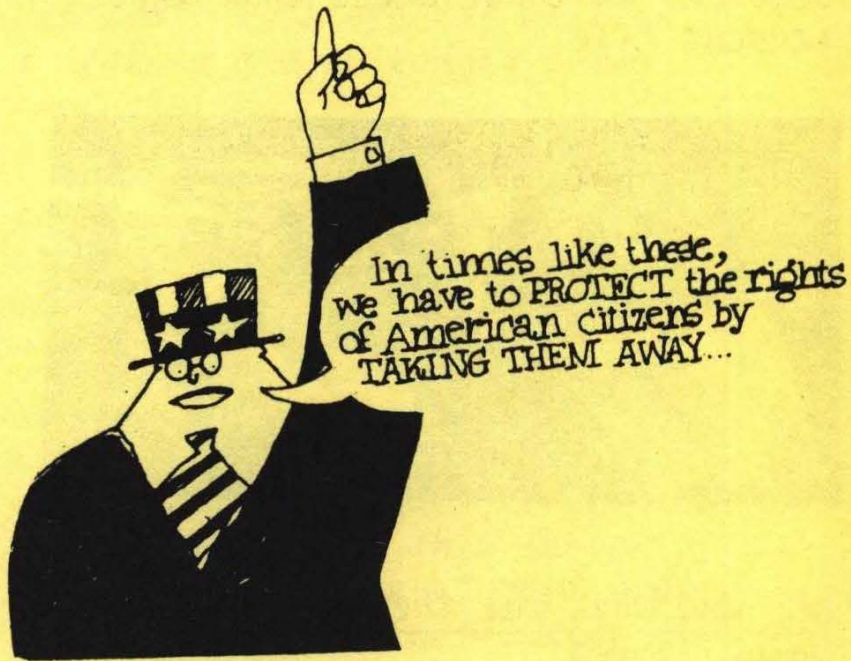
On the other hand, Student Union does not work within defined guidelines imposed by the administration; therefore, we are free to use other tactics and mechanisms to "influence" our administration, such as: rallies, boycotts, strikes, civil disobedience, and other active measures that would help in gaining our demands.



1977 STRIKE/negotiating team

Student relationship to the University and the need to build an effective Student Union.

Students presently enter into a contractual relationship with the University providing them with certain services in exchange for



their money; but, this is not a negotiated contract. You either sign on their terms or you are not admitted. Actually, the University determines all conditions of living and learning, and we students are fortunate if we are permitted to play an advisory role. Therefore, we must gain the direct political power that would enable us to participate in collective bargaining procedures and contract negotiations with the University.

In its functioning, the University is organized not around developing our most human and creative capacities but rather

around keeping us barely content while socializing us to fulfill alienated work slots awaiting us outside. We have given in to many of the daily indignities and pains we suffer solely because of the cynical belief that we can't do anything to change things. This is not true at all. We can and must organize to change things. We need to be organized, informed, and able to make our desires known and respected. We have a chance now to act in our present interests, in our future interests and in our descendents' interests.

We of the Student Union urge you to show your support by joining us now if you are not already an active member. We encourage you to take an active part in this campaign for student rights and unity.

LEARN TO STRUGGLE

STRUGGLE TO LEARN

For more information, feel free to stop by our meetings, which are held at 9:00 p.m. Monday nights at the Student Union Lounge, Building 7 (street level), or call the following number: (516) 876-3547.