



**SUNYMEC**

(cont'd from pg. 1)

a staunch stand in protection of the nation's sovereignty which has often come into conflict with the European Community goal of full integration by 1992. While much of the European Community favors a European bank and a common currency for Europe, the United Kingdom remains in firm opposition, mainly for reasons of sovereignty.

Given the strong personal personality of the British as revealed by Americans, (which has been a major factor in the British's reluctance to join a European Central bank)

heads and a liberal feminist. The Foreign minister was, of course, the most knowledgeable. Finally, all of the members of the Cortland Delegation had a jolly good time.

The United Kingdom was represented by Sean Byrne, Brendan O'Hara, Jim Nicols, Donna Kavanagh, Jeff Faunta, Clare McKenna, Dan Murrin, Liz McKenna, the Remillard, Jeff Rosenbaum, Jim Serrano and

... (text is mostly illegible due to the dark image)

# Conference held- Speaking out against proposed budget

By **WALTER RENDON**  
*Special to the Press*

Last Thursday, April 13, a press conference commenced with speakers from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland College, SUNY at Oswego College, delegates from the Student Association of the State University of New York, Inc. (SASU), and the Union of University Professors (UUP). The issue: speaking out against the budget proposed by Governor Mario Cuomo for the upcoming academic year, which includes large, SUNY-wide funding cuts. The press also attending the conference included WKRT, a local television station, WTVH, a TV station out of Syracuse and several newspapers, including *The Press*, the *Cortland Standard* and *The Syracuse Post*.

New York's Governor Mario Cuomo has recommended that New York state's higher education budget be cut in order to balance the state budget. As the NY Public Research Group (NYPIRG) points out, in order to achieve this end, at least a 33 million dollar cut from CUNY's budget (which equals a reduction of at least 1300 of CUNY's faculty) would have to be made, along with a 5.5 million dollar cut from state aid to independent and private colleges and universities. Also necessary would be a 47 million dollar cut from SUNY's budget. A SASU publication warns that the future ramifications of this last cut to the SUNY budget would include extensive course cancellations, cuts in faculty (leading to more overcrowded classes), cuts in student services (library hours, health care and classes), as well as mandating a parking fee for each student.

In addition to the above budget cuts, Governor Cuomo has also reversed his traditional stance opposing a tuition increase for SUNY students, and now calls an increase in tuition of approximately 700 dollars per student, "a reasonable suggestion," according to the *NY Times* on March 21, 1989. The justification offered by Cuomo for his surprise flip-flop of positions, is that SUNY is comprised of a, "Rich and Powerful constituency...which did very well," and therefore could withstand a tuition increase. Also important to note is that, SUNY Chancellor D. Bruce Johnstone has publically state that he would support Cuomo's proposed tuition increase, thereby confirming that this course of action will be most likely implemented for the upcoming academic year.

However, opponents to the hike in tuition like to point out that SUNY education costs have already risen sharply, and thus claim a further increase in tuition is unjustified. 1988 figures from the SUNY Department of Institutional Research, indicating the amount of increase in tuition since 1984, illustrates the total hike in tuition over the past 5 years totals approximately 730 dollars; 357 dollars of it coming from an increase in room rent, 228 dollars from the board rate and 145 dollars of it coming from books and supplies. This rhetoric is very similar to that laid out by the speakers of the above press conference. Most vociferous were Florence LeMerle, SASU president from Cortland, James Cullen, vice president of SASU from Cortland, Dan Murphy, President of Oswego Student Government, Judy Crebbs, Chair of SASU at Oswego and Bruce Atkins, professor at Cortland College.

Dan Murphy cut right to the heart of it when he argued that Cuomo is "missing the point." Murphy claims that quality education for the low and middle class will not be maintained if there is a decrease in faculty, cuts in student services and extensive course cancellations. He also states that the effect that an increase in tuition would have, would be to realistically cut out college as a possibility for lower to middle class students. Finally, Murphy, outraged, proclaims, "Gov. Cuomo is asking me to pay more and get less out of my education [and] that just doesn't make sense."

Judy Crebbs also makes a very relevant point when she argues that college is, in essence, a cultural community for its students, and to cut from the SUNY budget would be, in effect, limiting the cultural possibilities open to the students and the community at large. Crebbs continues by discussing the cultural possibilities at present and indicates that clearly Cuomo has not given this aspect of the issue much thought.

Dr. Atkins adds to the tirade of criticism regarding Cuomo's proposed budget for next year by illustrating that SUNY schools can not function better with less money, and goes on to point out that Gov. Cuomo has also gone back on his word by proposing a hike in tuition. Atkins continues by offering alternatives to the budget cuts and increased tuition by demonstrating that SUNY and CUNY schools are traditionally mismanaged, leading to less productive spending, so to change the management, rather than the budget, would be a much better policy.

NYPIRG also offers an alternative by proposing that closing tax loop holes given to large corporations and freezing the state's tax cut program at 1988 levels, New York state could raise the money it needs without taking money away from higher education.

Aside from such argumentation, most speakers, such as Florence LeMerle tried to emphasize as strongly as possible that it is not too late for the students to voice their objections in order to alter the actual outcome of the state budget. As Dan Murphy pointed out earlier, "It's not over till it's over so we as students must unite and work together to get our message across to the Governor."

Students are encouraged to write to their elected officials, call the State Assembly Speaker Mel Miller at (518) 455-2392, call the Senate Majority Leader Ralph Manno at (581) 455-2392, as well as peak to Cuomo's Education Aid, Dan Kinley at (518) 474-3321, in order to get their voices heard. Students are also urged to stop by their local chapter of SASU (on campus), or contact the main SASU offices in Albany at (518) 465-2406 if they wish to obtain further information on the issue.

## Human investment benefits 103,000 disadvantaged students

*Special to The Press*

For more than 20 years, the high quality of Educational Opportunity graduates from the State University of New York appears to have justified the word "special" in Special Programs.

In two major thrusts, the Office of Special Programs has benefited some 103,000 disadvantaged students as the operation that oversees SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) on 49 campuses and its sister program of 10 mostly off-campus Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC).

Together the dual programs, designed to aid the educationally and economically deprived, constitute a key aspect of SUNY's mission to ensure the broadest student access.

"The State was very wise in making this kind of human investment years ago," said Major E. Thomas, Jr., Assistant Vice Chancellor for Special Programs. "It is now yielding rich returns," he added, citing "Improved options" among the poor and under-prepared and an "expanding reserve of minority professionals" as evidence of the two programs' enduring influence.

Over the years, EOP graduates have gone on to become medical doctors, university professors, engineers and business executives, among other professions. The EOC participants have mastered such pragmatic and high-earning skills as computer technology, automotive mechanics, food service and health care.

A 1975 EOP graduate from SUNY at Stony Brook went on to become an award-winning filmmaker, producing in 1986 the Public Broadcasting Service film "Diggers," about the many Black builders of the Panama Canal.

Once a year, usually in April, the dual programs are subjected to a thorough-going review, when Educational Opportunity administrators from across the SUNY system convene in what is called the Special Pro-

grams Institute, meeting this month for the 20th consecutive institute. The three-day series of workshops will be held from April 24 to April 26 at Albany's Marriott Hotel on Wold Road.

Two nationally known speakers will attend different sessions of the Institute.

Dr. Reginald Wilson of the American Council on Education will address a luncheon meeting on April 26. Dr. Wilson, a psychologist and former president of Wayne County Community College in Detroit, was until last October the council's Director of the Office of Minority Concerns. In that capacity, his responsibilities included issuance of the highly regarded annual status reports on Minorities in Higher Education.

Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, New York City Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, will address a dinner meeting on April 24. Dr. Campbell gained a national reputation when in 1977 she was named Executive Director of the Studio Museum in Harlem. Under her leadership, the museum moved from a loft space to a permanent facility in a 60,000-square-foot building on West 125th Street.

Begun in 1969, the Special Programs Institute is designed to develop strategies to keep constantly improving the aid provided the disadvantaged. The institute ends traditionally (for the last 14 years) on a high note with an awards dinner, at which top Educational Opportunity graduates, as well as successful alumni, are ceremoniously recognized.

This year's dinner will be held on April 26 at 7 p.m. in the Marriott Hotel, where two outstanding EOP alumni and one EOC alumna will be honored. They are Dr. Sherryl D. Weems, Associate Director, Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center; Dr. William Luis, Associate Professor of Spanish, Arts and Sciences at SUNY-Binghamton, and Barbara Fioramonti, Director of Special Programs and Residences, Christopher Community Inc., Syracuse, N.Y.

Also, EOP and EOC

*The Press* would like to  
wish everyone a safe and  
happy summer!  
  
Good luck on exams!

(cont'd on pg. 4)