

At Stonybrook, there have recently been some developments that could serve effectively to confront the many problems that we as students face.

These developments are the committee for a better standard of living and the AIM Students Consulting Committee (ASCC). Both of these will be confronting student problems by putting forward demands and taking the necessary measures to bring them about. The Committee for a Better Standard of Living has been organizing to fight the cutbacks at all levels of the university and to fight the rising cost of higher education. ASCC will be organizing AIM students to confront the particularities that this sector of students have.

The importance of these two groups lies in their reasons for organizing. Yet, their effectiveness will be determined by their ability and conscious effort to work together. This must be understood not only by these two groups, but by all clubs, cultural groups, student groups and most importantly the general student body, so as to serve as an example of how they too must integrate themselves into the struggles for their rights as students that make themselves present and how that integration is possible. The need to organize should be clear to Stonybrook students by the recent happenings in the Economics Department in which the former chairman, E. Ames, stated he was "unable to draw the administration's attention" to a situation that was developing since last May. A situation that may mean program changes, to the disadvantage of students. If a faculty member, in a position of importance is unable to at least "draw" attention, imagine what the students (who always appear to be the last thing on the university's administrators' mind) have to do.

Stonybrook students are aware that rent hikes are being proposed, that tuition may go up, that a mandatory meal plan for the university as a whole is being proposed, because according to Elizabeth Wadsworth, "you can't have a first rate, cheap food plan on a voluntary basis." They may not be aware that the hiring freeze imposed by Governor Carey and the university freeze on temporary lines will effect the number of students in a classroom, and thus the quality of the education they receive in general. It is absolutely ridiculous to have hiring freeze, at a time when the university expects roughly 3,000 more students for the fall semester.

ASCC correctly stated in a meeting they held Tuesday, February 17, that they would not organize around issues because issues tend to appear and dissolve themselves. Yes, a stable group is very important and this is so for all groups on campus. But, it is the task of these stable groups together with students who do not participate within such groups, to join together in a committee, such as the Committee for a Better Standard of Living, to confront, as students, the many pressing issues that affect us.

Unless this is done each group will act to preserve itself and the disunity on campus will be to the disadvantage of our needs as students.

In conclusion, all AIM students should recognize ASCC as their representative group and should work along to insure it succeeds. Yet, the pressing need at Stonybrook is for all student groups and students to become part of the Committee for a Better Standard of Living so as to confront the budget cutbacks that affect the education we are receiving at Stonybrook and to confront those measures which serve to place many students on the fringes of leaving school due to rising costs.