The Comment, September 15, 1975

Bridgewater State College
Trustees $200, State 10%, Students screwed!!

The Comment

Special Rally Issue

DO YOU KNOW ??

* That the $200(or $600 if out-of-state) that you will be paying does not mean that the money will be coming back to the state colleges or to any form of higher education. It will go into a central fund in the state.

* Within the state college system 50 percent of the students come from homes where the family income is less than $12,000.

* Within the state college system 23 percent come from families earning less than $9,000.

* The new Tower building of Boston State College which houses a cafeteria for students, library, classrooms will not open this year at a cost of $150,000 to the taxpayers to keep it closed.

* If the Governor's budget is adopted $375,000 for the Disadvantaged Students Program will not be provided.

* The state scholarship program says that no more than 25 percent of the scholarships awarded can go to students in public institutions while there is no ceiling for those attending private schools. This year students attending higher public institutions are receiving 18.2 percent of the scholarships.

* Secretary of Education Paul Parks’s recommendation to close Massachusetts Maritime Academy is one that will close an institution that has had 100 percent placement for graduates in their fields of interest.

* No faculty or personnel that leave can be replaced due to Governor Dukakis’s order that no one can be replaced or new positions offered. We presently have lost two administrators in Student Services, six faculty members, at least three continents, a number of secretaries and some course sections have been enlarged.

* There are $200,000 federal funds available for Bridgewater, this money will be released if the state could match these funds with $20,000.

EDUCATION AT WHAT COST ??

by Bill Auger

The Massachusetts Secretary of Educational Affairs, Mr. Paul Parks, made some rather startling recommendations, concerning the future of Higher Education in this state. Secretary Parks stated that, “The Commonwealth’s fiscal crisis requires extreme measures.” Therefore Secretary Parks claimed the need to realize a 30% savings over Fiscal Year 1975 expenditures.

The choices and consequences are hard, “but fiscal reality requires their consideration,” state Secretary Parks. The magnitude of the cuts involved and the consequent injury to the quality of education in this state is readily recognized by those who propose the following cutbacks: I want to make perfectly clear, that the following recommendations were developed entirely by the office of Secretary Parks.

In the first stage of the Secretary’s proposals will require the elimination of educational subsidies to cultural institutions such as the Science Museum, reductions in the budgets of the council on Arts and Humanities, also reductions in student aid within the college and universities, a 2.1 million dollar reduction.

Also the elimination of the State Scholarship Program a $3.5 million dollar reduction. The combined effect (continued on p. 2)
**EDITORIAL**

This special issue of the COMMENT is meant to inform. The information within these four pages contains facts, figures, and opinions of us know the whole story concerning the present tuition increase and budget cuts. This will help unravel the mystery.

The Rally, sponsored by SGA, on September 17th in the Union Foyer is an opportunity for all of us to come together and voice our opinions, while realising just where we as students stand.

While the message on the front page is a little strong, we must demonstrate to the legislature and the Trustees that we do care and want to know where our money is being spent. Be at the rally on Wednesday.

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**So What's This Rally**

**BY Toni Coyne**

An informational rally will be held to inform all students of the pressures on public institutions of higher learning by the Massachusetts state legislature to cut expenses. Demand of the legislature include 17% across the board budget cuts and a $200 per year tuition hike for all in-state students and $600 for out of state students.

A coalition formed mostly by student government associations from across the state—universities, community colleges, and state community colleges met in August to respond to the Board of Trustees tuition hike and the budget cuts. The respondents to these two items is to come from the student body throughout the state a strong 100,000, on Wednesday, September 17.

All questions concerning the two areas of budget cutbacks and tuition hikes will and should be raised by students and members of the college community. Questions and statements the rally will be in an open forum. A workshop following the rally will be led by Ray Spence, SGA President and Student Trustee, to allow student input to possible alternatives that can be worked on.

There is a vast need for information to be disseminated to all those within the public higher institutions, this will be the time to be used by all. The Rally will be on Wednesday, September 17 at 12 noon in the Student Union Foyer.

**Financial Aid**

by Richard Pacheco

College students seem to have an insatiable need for money. And with the coming price increases and financial aid that is available frozen at 90% of last year's allotment most, if not all, students across the state will be hard pressed economically. Right now at Bridgewater State there is about $200,000 in federal funds available for financial aid which can not be touched until approximately $20,000 in matching state funds are found. At the present time the Financial Aid Office is still accepting applications for aid but it is doubtful if these applications can be processed until the matching funds are approved. These funds don't necessarily have to come from the state but if the college could find some other source of funds the red tape could be unraveled.

If the off campus work-study program is closed to students and members of the college community is no longer able to raise funds for charitable organizations these organizations could be the source of the 20% additional funds which are needed for that program. Another avenue that has already been explored by only 15% of the students in the state college system is the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant. Last year there was approximately $135 million which went unspent in this program. 81.8% of these funds are going to private colleges. This special issue of the COMMENT is meant to inform. The information within these four pages contains facts, figures, and opinions of us know the whole story concerning the present tuition increase and budget cuts. This will help unravel the mystery.

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**Education cont. from page one**

of these steps will require the termination of an estimated 190 personnel. However, the major impact, will be on student ability to get higher education. Elimination of the State Scholarship Program will terminate aid for 18,278 students. The third and most drastic stage would close four institutions, Massachusetts College of Art, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Bay Community College and Daniel Webster Community College. This measure will result in a 19.4 million dollar cost reduction. I am shocked that the Secretary would consider closing two of the most unique institutions in our state, Massachusetts College of Art and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, both have unique academic offerings and a very high placement rate of graduates.

The final proposal of Secretary Parks would be to redefine the responsibility for funding the community college system. This would entail an equal three-way split of funding responsibility among the state, localities, and students. (continued on p. 3)
Mistaken Notion

by Ray Raposa

The summer has come to an end and leaving behind some events that have affected Public Higher Education. When school closed this past spring there were two bills pending in the General Court which dealt with an increase in tuition at state colleges and universities. These two bills died during the session and the tuition question laid dormant for a while. If you happened to pick up a copy of the "Boston Globe" on Monday, July 21st you would have read an article by the political columnist David Farrell which revealed the existence of a plan to hike state college tuition. According to Mr. Farrell a program that would either double or possibly quadruple tuition in state colleges had been proposed by the leadership of the House and Senate. The plan called for a 10% cut in the total Public Higher Education budget. The plan also called for the tuition collected at the individual institutions to remain the same. To each campus this could appear to be the best plan to have this money stay within reach. However, the state allotment for higher education would never be increased. Any added expenditure of income in rates would mean an increase in tuition to fully cover the cost involved.

Farrell stated that the different Board of Trustees could raise tuition on their own or each year they could just leave the problem of a tuition increase for the Legislature to handle. The trustees were left with different options: one, go along with the plan, two, be faced with a seven hundred to one thousand dollar tuition increase by the legislature, or third, the trustees themselves would raise tuition. The article went on to say that the tuition increase in the public sector did not increase the private colleges would be wiped out of existence because of the much cheaper state schools.

(continued from p. 2)

This measure would produce state budget savings of 26 million dollars. "Closing of the four institutions will turn out approximately 4,700 people in light of steps already taken. It would be difficult to reconnec with higher education. Closing would also add to the layoffs of approximately 640 personnel," stated Secretary Parks. A summary of Secretary Parks proposals would produce the following major effects upon education. First, the state would save 87 million dollars. Second, the termination of approximately 2,150 employees, 99% of whom are employed in the field of higher education. The terminations breakdown is as follows: 1,147 faculty, 316 professionals, and 687 classified employees. Third, the jeopardizing of higher education for nearly 25,000 students, and excluding an estimated minimum of these students! Secretary Parks expressed his concern that a step in the second stage would not come before the first stage. However the options he was given were in no particular order of priority. He also urged that the student enrollment be the last source of reductions.

Part of the job done by the staff of the Massachusetts State College System Central Office is to coordinate the different aspects of state colleges. Mr. Farrell's article was picked up by the central office staff and quickly surveyed. The situation was rated as urgent and an ad hoc committee of the Board of Trustees was set up to study tuition. The staff quickly collected facts and figures to be used. The ad hoc committee met with its staff and voted to recommend a tuition increase as a result. On August 17th the full Board of Trustees approved the committees recommendation that tuition be increased by two hundred dollars for two-year state colleges and six hundred dollars for out-of-state tuition.

David Farrell's article is not the lone cause for the increase in tuition. The article was only a catalyst which stimulated the situation to point where almost no one could doubt the increase. Farrell finished the article with this statement: "One of the targets of the new plan is the well-to-do parents who send their children to the state subsidized colleges soley to defray the much higher and more realistic tuition of the private institutions." Mr. Farrell probably missed the facts that 70% of the students come from families who earn less than $15,000 a year and that 23% of the mentioned above come from families whose earnings are less than $9,000.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Farrell's article appeared this summer while most students were busy earning money to pay for their college education. If school was in session possibly the increase could have been delayed until all facts would be known about our students' capacity to pay an increase.

The Comment

This COMMENT is a student supported and operated weekly newspaper serving the academic community of Bridgewater State College. The COMMENT is published weekly by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Editorial Board. Opinions of all staff members may not reflect the views of all students. The views expressed in this issue are limited to 200 words or less. Letters to the Editor are welcome. All submitted material is subject to the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. All correspondence should be addressed to the COMMENT, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA 02324, Fax: 810-177 or 306.
RALLY
Wednesday September 17
12 Noon
Student Union Foyer
★ Budget Cutbacks
★ Tuition Hikes

How it affects you and your education

Open Forum

★ give your opinions, ideas and alternatives

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<th>STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE</th>
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<td>1. Age _______ Sex _______</td>
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<td>2. Can you afford a tuition hike?</td>
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<td>3. Do you work?</td>
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<td>4. With the tuition hike, will you have to find another source of income?</td>
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<td>5. Will you march to the State House over the budget cuts?</td>
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<td>6. Would you not pay the added increase</td>
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<td>7. Would you be willing to volunteer your services to work on proposed budget cuts?</td>
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<td>8. Would you boycott classes over tuition increases and budget cuts?</td>
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<td>9. Are you concerned about the 10 percent budget cut and tuition hike?</td>
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<td>10. What do you feel you can do to help the state save 10 percent of the budget?</td>
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