North urges political change

Former Marine announces run for U.S. Senate

by ANDREA FORMAN
Associate News Editor

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North
announced his third presidential bid Monday night
at SUNY Brockport in the Seymour Union Ballroom

"North said, "If we fail to participate, we are basically saying that
we don't care enough." North said.

North announced — an opus of applause — that he is going to run for
U.S. Senate in Virginia next year.

"I am proud of the fact that I am a Republican, it was the party of
Lincoln," he said.

The former Marine Lt. Col. attended SUNY Brockport in 1961 before going
into the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

He was appointed as a staff member on the National Security Council in
1981, and in 1989 he was convicted of three felony counts for his role in the
Iran-contra affair.

In 1991, the convictions were thrown out on appeal because trial testimony
might have been influenced by previous testimony North gave to Congress
under oath.

North said, "President Ronald Reagan is the most compassionate, committed, and
wise nation ever to inhabit the earth."

North said should there be no
government censorship and the
administration should not interfere.

"People want the government off their backs," North said.

"SFAT is for American," North said, "Our government is the
biggest obstacle to American business today. Fair trade is good for American
business, workers and exports."

He said the American government regulates business to the point that it
cannot succeed. "What happened to
free enterprise in America?" North asked.

North also drew laughter from the
jury when he stated, "I know that I
make mistakes everyday, and I don't
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Brockport may pilot new loan program

by TED LESBINSKI
staff writer

SUNY Brockport is continuing to be
one of the first schools to implement
a new financial aid system called the
"Federal Direct Loan" plan, according to Scott Atkinson, director of financial
aid.

Direct Loan — also called Direct Lending — is a new financial aid
process designed to speed up the
process of distributing loans to students.

The system would improve the
financial aid process because Direct
Loan applications will have the eligible
student loan written directly on the
loan form, Atkinson said.

Also, the forms will be sent
electronically from Washington into the
student accounts. Albany would be
bypassed altogether, and the whole
process would take a total of three days.

The current system at SUNY
Brockport is called "FFELP" (Federal
Family Education Loan Program)
which in the process most students now
use, Atkinson said.

When a student applies for a FFELP
Loan (Stafford, PLUS, and SLS), the
student has to file a separate application
that is processed by a bank participating
in the program. The application is then
sent to Albany for processing and then
to Washington D.C., where the loans for
the loan originate. The whole process takes a minimum of 4-6 weeks.

Atkinson said he was confident that
Brockport would be one of the schools
tested for the new financial aid program.

"We're in a favored status
because of our relationship with the
(U.S.) Department of Education ... We
just got their Model of Quality Award for 1995. I've been working with them
in developing the program and the
manuals," he said.

In addition to Brockport, Niagara
University, R.I.T. and Cornell have also
sent in applications.

Atkinson said Brockport might not be
accepted by the U.S. Department of
Education because Direct Loans does not distribute
the schools equally across the country.

Only 5 percent of the schools will be
accepted and only a few will be from New
York.

However, if Brockport is not accepted
this year it most likely will be the
following yeat, he said.

Direct Loan is one of the programs
that President Clinton has been pushing
since he ran for election, Atkinson said.

"This is one of Clinton's campaign
promises ... He is making sure this gem
pushed through," he said.

Atkinson said that within a decade
these programs will be in all colleges
and universities. "By 1998-99, at least
60 percent of all loans will be done this
way. That's federal law. I personally
think by 1996-97 we'll all be that way.

Atkinson said a negative side to
Direct Loan is that banks would get
diminished from the loan process.

Banks would have to shut down their
financial aid departments, and there
would be shifts in employment.

By now, 15, the U.S. Department of
Education will decide which colleges
will adopt the program.