

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

The election is over and many things are clear at the state and national level that confounded even the most pessimistic of us at UUP.

1. The national mood has changed and wants change. The system is perceived as broken and needing a complete overhaul.

2. Part of the problem is greed. People, especially many wealthy people, want to keep their money and see no reason to help those they see as shiftless and lazy.

3. Government, including education, has gotten too big. There is likely to be a new push for accountability, increased workload and a reduced workforce. The new chancellor is quite likely to downsize SUNY, given the severe contraction of the system in Oregon over which he presided. For SUNY, however, there may be a glimmer of hope, since the last time the system flourished was under the Republican Rockefeller.

4. Academic freedom may be questioned, especially when it comes to the teaching of values. The mood of the state and most of the nation and the views of many

members of the Congressional majority reinforce this assumption. The question of vouchers and aid to religious-based educational institutions, if approved, will draw off support from the public sector.

It is clear that the academic profession has lost credibility. Newt Gingrich's tasteless dicta about the administration and the previous Congress reflect some general feelings throughout the nation. Even though he was an academic prior to the election to Congress, he is quite likely to trim the educational appropriation drastically.

Negotiations

The beginning of negotiations for the new contract is coming up and since every member has a copy of the contract, it would be very useful for it to be read carefully. We also have in the Union Office two books dealing with collective bargaining which give very good insights into the way the process is conducted.

Labor Management Update

UUP had its first Labor Management Meeting with President Kenny. It was upbeat. We discussed safety issues on campus, including the arming of campus police. Salary compression and the methods for Discretionary Salary Increases were discussed. Morale was also discussed at great length. We were encouraged that our concerns have not been taken lightly.

Letter to the Editor

These are excerpts from the letter of Charlie Hansen who was our Vice-President for Professionals for many years.

"This DA was a little different than the regular DA's. This one was a three-day meeting at which various workshops were held for the various groups represented by UUP. I was assigned the workshop that dealt with "Professional Issues" on Friday, September 30th. It was chaired by the NYSUT Field Representative from the Binghamton area. He certainly did a yeoman job."

"Our union has grown, it has matured, but it certainly needs each and every one of you to get involved. Your first involvement should start by reading your contract. Ask questions when an issue is not clear. As a professional, it is also important to study the Memo of Understanding (MOU). Then it is important to find out whether or not the forms that you are asked to fill out in your department are the same forms that others on campus are required to do. I have heard that in some cases departments require professionals to account for their time on an hourly basis, others only require the professional to attest to the fact that during a specific pay period they met their professional obligation without a breakdown. That is a real starting point."

"The second is your involvement regarding the statewide organization. Have your problems been transmitted to the statewide representatives or do they just die on campus? Are the issues that you feel are important being considered for the next negotiations with the state?"

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1995 Empire State Scholarship

The Governor's Office of Employee Relations has announced that the 1995 Empire State Scholarship applications are available. This program is open to children of New York State employees. To be considered for this grant each applicant must:

- . graduate after January 1, 1995
- . plan to attend a college or university in New York State as a full-time student in the fall of 1995

And meet one or more of the following criteria:

- . Top 10% of high school class or comparable GED score
- . High school average at 90% or higher
- . SAT score at or above 1250
- . ACT score at or above 28

Applications for this program will be available in the UUP Office @ 2,6570 or JWEITZNER on all-in-one, or by calling the GOER office at 1-800-836-6731.

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GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED

A General Membership Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 12:45 - 2:00 pm. The agenda will include: upcoming contract negotiations and chapter elections. Lunch will be served, please call for the location.

Celebrate the Holiday Season!

Tuesday, December 6

3:00 - 5:00 pm

UUP office