

UP InSight

Newsletter of the
Stony Brook Chapter of
United University
Professions

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Issue # 12

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

The election is over and due at least partially to our support, most of the candidates whom we endorsed were elected. Next year is going to be a difficult one since the legislators will not feel that the electoral, which has a short memory, is looking over their shoulders. We are asking you to stay in touch with your legislators about issues which concern us and which also concern our contract or lack of it. As our legislative program develops, we will keep you informed. Please stay in touch with us.

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In the last issue of the newsletter we asked you to write letters about our lack of a contract. You will be pleased to know that the local chapter of the Three Village Teachers Association has written about 500 letters on our behalf. We certainly think that this will have an impact. We believe that contract negotiations will continue within the next month and I hope that we have better news for you next time.

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The German Department at SUNY Albany was retrenched and the students are being urged to take German courses at Union College which is a private university. Certainly this is "contracting out."

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The faculty at the University of Minnesota is very much under siege. The Regents are interfering with the management of the university and the whole concept of tenure is being seriously challenged. As you may know, the University of Minnesota is not unionized and the action of the board of regents is making it easier to lay off tenured faculty and to reduce their salaries. The situation has temporarily quieted down, but you should keep in mind a rather chilling national statistic which is that ten years ago 65% of faculty had tenure. This year it is 58%.

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Many of us have written to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations about our lack of a contract. Unfortunately, the reply which some of us have received appears to be riddled with half-truths. The next issue of "The Voice" will have rebuttal and factual analysis of the situation which has occurred. Stay tuned.

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The November 1 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education shows that in the last two years New York State is number one in reducing its support for higher education. The reduction has been 10%, with Alabama at second with 6%. On the other hand, California has increased its support by

20%, Florida by 19%, and Texas by 3%. Cornell, on the other hand, showed an increase of 29%.

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BORDERS BOOKS UNFAIR TO EMPLOYEES

Ed Quinn, Vote/Cope Coordinator

Borders Books has acted vindictively towards its outspoken employees over the past six months. Borders Books has fired an excellent bookseller, Miriam Fried. She received two excellent evaluations and even the General manager at the store where she worked wrote, "she (Miriam) provides a fine model for other booksellers with her work ethic and her book knowledge." She was never written up or given warnings about anything. Borders insisted she was fired because of questioning cash register policies which were never followed by staff or managers. The real reason she was fired because of her union organizing activity with IWW. She was fired after a narrow defeat (20-25) in a union vote on March 27th.

Borders Books has also recently denied a promotion to another organizer and has disciplined an employee for discussing wages with co-workers on her own time. These employees have filed unfair labor practice petitions with the National Labor Relations Board in response to management's anti-union reprisals.

Well just when you think it can't get worse, IT DOES. Now Borders is not only harassing its employees who talk union (even on their own time off the work site) but authors and publishers. Michael Moore's book signing tour of Borders stores was canceled after he

talked with employees who were trying to organize. He also allowed fired worker Miriam Fried speak during his stop in Philadelphia. A independent publisher in California, III Publishing, had an order for several books canceled after Borders executives found out they back a IWW boycott.

Borders Books continues its union-busting tactics by hiring a notorious union-busting law firm and making unkept promises to their employees. IWW has called for a national day of action against Borders, December 15th. IWW is also looking for any authors or musicians to sign a statement of support for the boycott to be delivered to Borders headquarters. People interested in this should contact IWW at:

International Workers of the World
103 W Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
iww@igc.apc.org
Fax: 313-483-4050 Phone: 313-483-3548

You can contact Borders president:
Richard Flanagan, President
311 Maynard St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
1-800-644-7733

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!!

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The UUP office will close for vacation December 20 and reopen January 2.

Happy Holidays!