

# UUP InSight

Newsletter of the  
Stony Brook Chapter of  
United University  
Professions

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You should know that NYSUT also has supported Senators LaValle, Levy and Trunzo who are not being challenged seriously. We have also supported the following members of the Assembly who do not have a serious challenge: Patricia Acampora, James Conte, John Flanagan, and Robert Wertz.

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UUP has won all of its legal challenges to the state's failure to make its contribution to the Benefit Trust Fund. The case is winding its way through the courts and we are convinced that UUP will prevail. If the state does not make its contributions prior to the signing of the contract, many expenditures you make or have made will undoubtedly be covered by the new contract.

We are urging our members to join VOTE/COPE which provides support for legislators who are supportive of UUP and University interests. Although our contributions have increased, they are not yet at the point where we can make real demands on some of the more reluctant legislators. Contributions can be as little as \$.50 a week. You should know that many locals of NYSUT representation have in excess of 90%. This accounts for, in some small degree, the power they are able to exercise at the state level. For more information, please contact our Vote/Cope Coordinator Ed Quinn at 2-6826.

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We had the Legislative Breakfast which was attended by about one hundred people. The following members of the Assembly attended: Pat Acampora, Steve Englebright, Bob Wertz, Paul Harenberg, Bob Sweeney, Charles O'Shea, Jim Conte and

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**A. W. (BILL) GODFREY**

I participated in the NYSUT/UUP endorsement process and, although it is far from perfect, we did note some substantial changes this year. There were no longer knee-jerk endorsements of incumbents and in some cases challengers were endorsed and resources committed. UUP and this chapter have committed resources to help last year's Friends of SUNY -- Assemblymen Englebright, Harenberg and Sweeney. We have agreed to provide people to work the phone banks on their behalf and to urge you to volunteer at least one night on their behalf. It is most unlikely that the State Senate will become Democratic or the Assembly Republican. As a consequence, it makes sense to support senior members of the majority who are on important education committees than to risk being represented by junior members of the minority party.

The unions have also endorsed the candidacy of Nora Bredes for the 1st Congressional District.

We believe that these candidates will provide the kind of support for education, particularly higher education, that this University needs.

representatives of Debra Mazzairelli and John Flanagan. In addition, Senators Trunzo and Levy sent representatives and Senator LaValle sent regrets because the Senate was in session. UUP President William Scheuerman and NYSUT /UUP Director of Staff Anthony Wildman also attended.

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Change NY is a very conservative business-based organization that was a strong supporter of the Governor's political campaign. It is their partial contention that education, especially public education, should be focused on the job market and that faculty must be more productive. Productivity is measured on the number of classes taught and the number of students in classes. They believe the cost and tax burden of public education must be reduced and that a research university is not as important as increasing FTEs.

Thomas Carroll, the President of Change NY and of the Empire Foundation for Policy Research, has issued a report prepared by them and the New York Association of Scholars which is very critical of the core curricula at select SUNY colleges. The report cites a number of "horror stories" to indicate that the absence of focus of western civilization and the promotion of multi-culturalism has sparked "strident responses" from many people, including the trustees of the university. It was Mr. Carroll's opinion that SUNY campuses were "K-Mart operations," in response to Money Magazine's listing of SUNY colleges as "best buys."

The report is not well researched and seems to be culled from old undergraduate catalogs in a way to create the most damage and to question the effectiveness of public higher education in New York State. The report can be read in the Union office.

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There is still little movement on the

contract. The sticking point is "contracting out" or "contracting in," (transferring State lines to Research) which could be wedges towards the ultimate elimination of tenure. The illegal refusal of the State to make contributions to the UUP Benefit Fund is a strongarm tactic to make UUP capitulate on the contracting out issue.

I had an opportunity to explain our position to the Governor and Tom Egan, Chair of the Board of Trustees, when he was here in September. We also asked the President at a recent Labor/Management meeting to press the Trustees for a resolution of the issue. Judy Wishnia spoke to the Stony Brook Council about the issue and how necessary it is for the improvement of morale.

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