

# UUP InSight

Newsletter of the  
Stony Brook Chapter of  
United University  
Professions

June 1997

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AARON GODFREY  
Suffolk Partnership Program

## FROM THE PRESIDENT A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

We have been advised that Wild By Nature has settled with the union and is now a union shop. We are now encouraging our members to shop there.

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Clifford Swartz of the Physics Department has received a New York State Teachers Community Service Award. He is the third such honoree in the last four years.

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The Legislature still has not passed a budget. We have been assured, however, that there will be substantial effort in full restorations to SUNY. It is through the efforts of UUP and our consistent and constant lobbying that has made legislators conscious of the impact of the Governor's cuts. It is still necessary for you to continue to pressure your legislators to continue their support of public higher education.

The contract discussions have been almost at an impasse. We have been assured, however, that the new chancellor is

very concerned about the lack of a contract and will do his best to promote the negotiation of a new contract. It would not hurt if you wrote to him directly outlining the hardships you have suffered for lack of dental and optical benefits.

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Judy Wishnia was reelected to the executive board of the statewide United University Professions.

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One of the interesting and unsettling things that has occurred in the last three years because of the budgetary crisis has been the increase in percentage of part-time faculty. At Stony Brook and Albany the percentage has doubled, while at nine of the four-year colleges more than one-third of the faculty is part time. Although the courses in most cases are adequately covered, the follow-up and student interaction with faculty has been damaged considerably, which negatively affects the quality of education that can be offered--this is another instance of "bottom-line" thinking that has caused the unstable image of the SUNY system. The image has been enhanced by the opportunity of several political, non-academic people to high positions in SUNY Central. The appointment of Donald Dunn, for deputy secretary to the governor, to the number two job at the university added to the other ideological and political appointments clearly indicates that there will be changes and shifts in university funding and priorities.

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Two reports are available in the Union office. The first is "Inequities to Women in S.U.N.Y." The other is "Reaffirming our Commitment: Maintaining Access, Quality, and Accountability for the State University of New York," a report of the Republican Assembly Members of the Committee on Higher Education.

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A bill before the state legislature to assist SUNY includes the following provisions which may be of interest:

\*Exempt college textbook purchases from the state sales tax.

\*Make the interest paid on college loans tax deductible.

\*Allow families to set aside up to \$5,000 for their children's college education. This money could solely be used for college and would be exempt from any state taxes.

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As SUNY Central Administration gets dismantled, UUP officers, department representatives and members at each campus will face growing responsibility to monitor local administration practices and policies. UUP at Stony Brook must be ever vigilant to protect faculty and professional jobs; to identify early on attempts to outsource or subcontract faculty and professional work; to engage the administration in on-going discussion of employment security, and retaining and retraining employees. UUP urges all members and department representatives to contact the UUP office at 2-6570 when questions arise about terms and conditions of employment.

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The Bach Aria Group will again be on campus between June 11th and the 25th. This is a world-class musical group which

was not on campus last year due to the lack of funding. It will continue despite the recent death of Samuel Baron who was on the faculty here for more than thirty years. You are encouraged to attend. More information can be obtained by calling 632-7239 or writing to them at P. O. Box 907, Stony Brook, NY 11790.

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Hours: 8:30 - 3:00

The Stony Brook Chapter Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 9:00. All Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership. Please feel free to attend.

UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and AFT (local 2190)