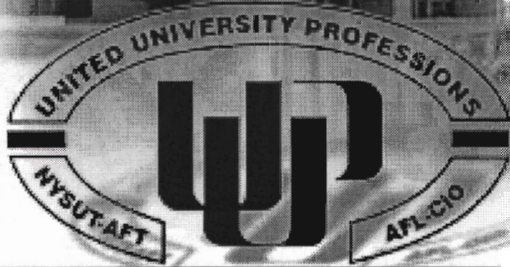


# INSIGHT



NEWSLETTER OF THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER  
OF UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

ISSUE # 9

October 00

*SPECIAL*



## ELECTION ISSUE

*A message from*  
**John P. Schmidt**  
**Chapter President**

### **NYSUT/UUP Guidelines for Political Endorsements**

NYSUT/UUP seeks to achieve consensus on political endorsements so to avoid situations which might create serious internal division. The guidelines emphasize that endorsement or opposition shall be made solely on the basis of each candidate's record on labor and education issues without regard to party affiliation.

Recommendations for political endorsement by the Political Action Committee shall be based upon the following criteria:

1. Consideration of endorsement of those incumbents whose records have been substantially in support of NYSUT's/UUP's legislative program.
2. Consideration of opposition to those incumbents whose records are overwhelmingly in opposition to NYSUT's/UUP's program, if the opponent's platform is closer to NYSUT's/UUP's program.
3. Consideration of making no endorsement in those contests in which there are no incumbents involved or in which both candidates support NYSUT/UUP policies and interests or where the locality does not wish to endorse.

No changes in endorsement of NYSUT/UUP endorsed candidates for public office shall be undertaken except for the most serious reasons.

There shall be an automatic review of the endorsement of any NYSUT/UUP endorsed candidate who loses a major political party primary. Such changes of endorsement shall require approval of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors (NYSUT) meeting in regular or special session.

The endorsements for key national, state and local offices appear on page two.  
We ask you to support these candidates on Tuesday November 7.



# UUP Endorsements...

The following list represents candidates who have received endorsements from UUP based on the criteria outlined in the President's Message on page one of this newsletter. If you do not see your election district, please call the UUP Chapter Office.

**PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES ....** Al Gore  
**UNITED STATES SENATE .....** Hillary Rodham Clinton

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Long Island Delegation .....** C.D. 1—No Endorsement  
 ..... C.D. 2—No Endorsement  
 ..... C.D. 3—No Endorsement  
 ..... C.D. 4—Carolyn McCarthy (D)  
 ..... C.D. 5—Gary Ackerman (D/I/L)

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE

**Long Island Delegation .....** S.D. 1—Kenneth LaValle (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 2—James Lack (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 3—Caesar Trunzo (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 4—Owen Johnson (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 5—Carl Marcellino (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 6—Kemp Hannon (R)  
 ..... S.D. 7—Michael Balboni (R)  
 ..... S.D. 8—Charles Fuschillo (R/C/I)  
 ..... S.D. 9—Dean Skelos (R)

## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

### Suffolk County

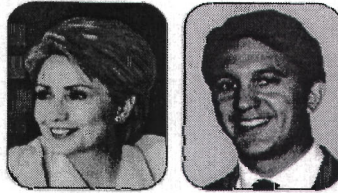
A.D. 1 ..... Patricia Acampora (R/C/I/RTL)  
 A.D. 2 ..... Fred Thiele (R/I)  
 A.D. 3 ..... Open Seat, No Endorsement  
 A.D. 4 ..... Steven Englebright (D)  
 A.D. 5 ..... Open Seat, No Endorsement  
 A.D. 6 ..... Robert Wertz (R/C/I/RTL)  
 A.D. 7 ..... Thomas Barraga (R/C/RTL)  
 A.D. 8 ..... Philip Boyle (R/C/I)  
 A.D. 9 ..... John Flanagan (R/C/RTL)  
 A.D. 10 ..... James Conte (R/C/I)  
 A.D. 11 ..... Robert Sweeney (D/I)

### Nassau County

A.D. 12 ..... Steven Labriola (R/C)  
 A.D. 13 ..... David Sidikman (D/I)  
 A.D. 14 ..... Marc Herbst (R/C)  
 A.D. 15 ..... Donna Ferrara (R/C)  
 A.D. 16 ..... Thomas DiNapoli (D/I/L)  
 A.D. 17 ..... Maureen O'Connell (R/C)  
 A.D. 18 ..... Earlene Hill (D/L)  
 A.D. 19 ..... Kathleen Murray (R/C)  
 A.D. 20 ..... Harvey Weisenberg (D/I/L)  
 A.D. 21 ..... Open Seat, No Endorsement  
 A.D. 22 ..... Thomas Alfano (R/C)

Who's a bigger Yankee fan.  
 Who fell down at a parade.  
 Who's ahead in the polls.

**Who cares?**



THE REAL ISSUE IS:

# Who cares about working families?

**Healthcare**

**Hillary Clinton** supports a Patients Bill of Rights that is strong and enforceable, and protects HMO patients from insurance company abuses. She favors providing prescription drug coverage for all seniors under Medicare. (WASHINGTON POST 2/24/00, WWW.HILLARY2000.ORG)

**Rick Lazio** sides with insurance companies in opposing a Patient's Bill of Rights that is strong and enforceable. He does not support providing prescription drug coverage for all seniors under Medicare. (HR 4250, 7/24/98; HR 2723, 10/7/99)

**Economic Security**

**Hillary Clinton** believes the federal budget surplus should be used to improve education, strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and pay down the national debt. She favors strong protections for unions and laws that protect the economic security of working families. (ASSOCIATED PRESS 5/24/00, 4/15/00; WWW.HILLARY2000.ORG)

**Rick Lazio** supports the Republican budget plan that puts top priority on huge tax cuts for the wealthy. He voted in favor of Newt Gingrich's budget in 1995 that cut \$270 billion from Social Security. Lazio voted to weaken laws that protect overtime pay, and to weaken laws that protect your pension. (HR 2491, 11/17/95; HCR 58, CONGRESSIONAL VOTE #72, 3/21/99; CONGRESSIONAL VOTE 744, 10/30/95)

**Education**

**Hillary Clinton** supports a College Opportunity tax cut that would give families a tax deduction of \$10,000 a year to help pay for college tuition. She supports improving our schools through smaller class sizes, funding for school repairs, hiring new teachers, and greater accountability for students and teachers. (NEW YORK TIMES 11/4/00)

**Rick Lazio** gets a poor rating from education groups. He voted to eliminate the Department of Education, cut funding for school loans, against funding to hire 100,000 new teachers, and against funding for school repairs. (HOUSE VOTE 2646, 6/18/98; HOUSE VOTE 3248, 9/18/98; HOUSE VOTE 4280, 8/16/98)

# VOTE COPE

As public employees, almost all conditions affecting our professional environment are determined by the actions of government on every level. If we wish to have a positive influence on our professional future, we must take an active part in the political process. You can make your voice heard, by making sure you vote in the upcoming elections and by contributing to VOTE/COPE.

It's important to keep a strong voice in the political process as it relates to public higher education. It is quite clear that public higher education has become a target for major cuts such as the current \$116 million budget shortfall for SUNY. The Governor is not fixing this shortfall, the Board of Trustees are not asking for more money, only UUP is up in Albany making sure no jobs are lost and no programs are cut as a result of this shortfall.

It takes organization and money to influence the political process. Since our union dues cannot be used for political activity we must rely on voluntary contributions from UUP members. **THAT'S YOU!!** VOTE/COPE is a nonpartisan political action fund which allows for support to state and local political candidates, which in turn supports UUP's goals and public higher education.

Together, we can make the difference to preserve support of public higher education and exercise considerable political influence. **Please call the Chapter Office @ ext. 26570 and request a Vote/Cope enrollment card which permits contributions of as little as \$1 per pay period for this worthy cause.**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UNION





# AFT members: Compare the candidates for president

## Al Gore

### VOUCHERS

Al Gore has consistently opposed vouchers that weaken public schools: *"I will never support private school vouchers, which would drain public money away from public education."*

- Speech in Philadelphia, 7/5/00

### SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

Gore supports a federal initiative to help districts repair and modernize schools, and to build new schools.

- AFT QuEST speech on 7/10/99

### CLASS SIZE & REFORM

Gore fought hard to use federal funds to help local districts hire teachers so that class sizes can be reduced. He strongly backs high standards that are "not just a mandate to test" students. Gore favors better teacher training and other commonsense reforms.

- Speech in Chicago, 7/6/00

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Gore has proposed expanding Medicare to provide a national prescription drug plan. Gore's plan enables seniors to reduce their out-of-pocket prescription drug costs by 50%.

- Gannett News Service, 11/9/99

### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

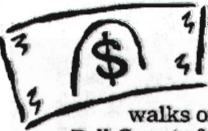
Gore has helped lead the fight for the Patients' Bill of Rights, which gives patients the right to appeal if an HMO denies them or their children the treatment or specialist they need.

- Speech in Atlanta on 6/1/00

### SOCIAL SECURITY

Gore has pledged to set aside 60% of the budget surplus to save Social Security. Gore opposes raising the age at which Americans can begin collecting their benefits.

- Des Moines Register, 4/4/99



### COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Gore believes a college education should be open to Americans from all walks of life. During the Clinton-Gore years, Pell Grants for needy students have risen 43%.

- U.S. Dept. of Education data, year 2000

### GUN SAFETY

In March, a strong stand by Gore and the president led the nation's largest gunmaker to agree to provide "trigger locks" on each gun and to stop making guns that are fingerprint resistant. Gore believes gun shows should perform the same background checks that other gun dealers perform.

- ABC News, 3/17/00; Speech in Florida on 3/14/00

### YOUR UNION VOICE

Gore strongly favors the right of education employees to elect a union to negotiate on their behalf. Gore opposes "paycheck deception" laws that limit your union's ability to fully represent you on legislative and political issues.

- Los Angeles Times, 10/14/99

## George W. Bush

### VOUCHERS

George W. Bush supports vouchers that divert public tax dollars to private schools. He also favors converting Title I— which targets educational aid to the disadvantaged — into a voucher system.

- USA Today, 9/3/99

### SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

Bush opposes using federal funds to help local districts repair and modernize schools. *"I don't believe the federal government should be building classrooms across the country,"* Bush said.

- Speech in Wisconsin on 3/31/00

### CLASS SIZE & REFORM

Despite his calls for high standards, Bush signed a Texas law allowing school districts to opt out of class size limits and other standards. A recent Rand study cited Texas as one of many states in which test scores have risen, although Bush was Texas' governor for only two of the seven years that Rand studied.

- Senate Bill 1 of 1995; Rand Report, 7/31/00

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Bush believes the best place for older Americans to turn for coverage is private insurance companies. For this reason, he has no plan to offer prescription drug benefits.

- www.georgewbush.com

### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Bush opposed the national Patients' Bill of Rights. Instead, Bush supported a different plan that would have left 81% of Americans uncovered.

- CNN, 7/14/99



### SOCIAL SECURITY

Bush proposes "private" accounts that would end Social Security's guaranteed benefit. Instead, retirement benefits would rise or fall based on the stock market. Bush says he is open to raising the age when retirees can start collecting Social Security.

- Des Moines Register, 12/25/99

### COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

As governor, Bush played down the issue. In 1998, Bush even told a reporter: *"Higher education is not a priority."* Since Bush was elected governor, the percentage of young people going on to college in Texas has risen only 0.1%.

- San Antonio Express-News, 3/22/00

### GUN SAFETY

Bush signed a law permitting Texans to carry concealed weapons in public places. Today, more than 203,000 Texans have "conceal" permits. Bush opposes expanding background checks to gun shows. Bush's vice-presidential running mate, Dick Cheney, opposed a bill in Congress to ban "terrorist guns" that can evade metal detectors.

- Washington Post, 3/16/00, House of Rep. votes, 1988

### YOUR UNION VOICE

Bush firmly opposes bargaining laws that give education employees the right to choose a union to negotiate for them. He supports "paycheck deception" laws that strictly limit your union's ability to represent you on legislative and political issues.

- Texas AFT Questionnaire, 1998; USA Today, 3/16/99





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# Secure retirement takes thoughtful planning

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<b>Grievance Chairs</b>		
<i>Professional</i>		
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The Chapter Office is open  
 Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Executive Board meets on Alternate Fridays at 12 noon, and members are encouraged to attend.

One of the many advantages of the Opportunity Plus tax-deferred variable annuity that NYSUT makes available to members and agency fee payers is that it is the exact opposite of trendy investing techniques like desktop day trading. No glitz, no hype . . . simply a comprehensive supplemental retirement program, designed by Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Company (ALIAC), that helps you identify your financial objectives - and provides the tools and services to help attain a secure financial future.

Opportunity Plus provides tremendous flexibility. It gives you virtually unlimited choices and options, so you can customize the plan to your specific needs, making changes as your financial picture changes. You create an investment portfolio - from over 30 options spanning the risk/potential reward spectrum - suited to your level of risk tolerance, your timeline (*how close you are to retirement*) and your present-day financial needs.

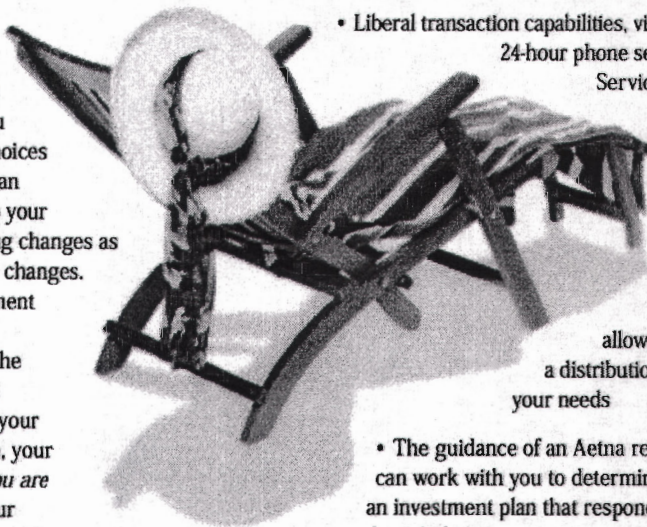
And, while Opportunity Plus may be a retirement program at heart, you don't have to wait until your "Golden Years" to benefit. For starters, contributions to the tax-deferred variable annuity are deducted from your pay before income taxes are assessed, therefore you pay less in current federal and state taxes. While the money stays in your TDA, you don't pay taxes on the interest earnings until you withdraw the money, usually at retirement. At that time, you may be in a lower tax bracket, thus reducing the impact of income taxes.

While the money in your TDA is intended to remain intact until at least age 59½, at which time you may begin taking withdrawals without penalty, you still have access to the money. In the event of an unforeseen financial opportunity or emergency, you can take out a low-interest loan (*which may incur taxes and penalties*).

## What else can you expect as an Opportunity Plus participant?

- Liberal transaction capabilities, via automated 24-hour phone services, a dedicated Service Center staffed with knowledgeable professionals, or on-line via the internet
- A variety of settlement options, allowing you to structure a distribution plan that fits your needs
- The guidance of an Aetna representative who can work with you to determine how best to build an investment plan that responds to your lifestyle, needs and objectives
- Numerous complementary programs, including life and disability coverage and impartial, objective financial counseling services

There's one thing Opportunity Plus can't do, and that's make the decision to build your future financial security now. That's up to you. The first investment in your own future is a five-minute phone call. Make it today . . . to the Opportunity Plus Service Center at **1 800 OPP INFO/677-4636**.



Opportunity Plus is a tax-deferred variable annuity issued by Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Company (ALIAC). NYSUT Benefit Trust is reimbursed for certain administrative costs and expenses in support of the Opportunity Plus program. Call your Aetna representative or the Opportunity Plus Service Center at 800 OPP INFO/677-4636 to request a prospectus, which provides complete information about charges and expenses. Please read this prospectus carefully before investing. Securities offered by Aetna Investment Services, Inc.  
 C00-0814-001R 8/00



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