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NEWSLETTER OF THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER OF UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

We represent more than 34,000 academics and professionals on 29 New York State-operated campuses, and we are an affiliate of New York State United Teachers, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the AFL-CIO.

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# POWER TO THE PEOPLE???

Written by Arty Shertzer, President, UUP Stony Brook West/Southampton Chapter

oday, I was heartened that our new campus president, Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. acknowledged students and faculty inconvenienced by the rash of power outages and loss of heat and hot water that have continued to plague sectors of campus with increasing frequency of late. He mentioned having testified to the New York State Senate Finance

Committee, and clearly indicated his frustration in dealing with the consequences of decaying infrastructure caused by decades upon decades of legislators underfunding SUNY. It's hard to swallow the prospect of additional budget cuts.

His tone struck a chord with me, as I'd recently attended a rally at Hunter College with 100 other UUP members from across the metropolitan area, and 500 colleagues from Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the CUNY union for faculty and staff to protest Gov. Paterson

staff to protest Gov. Paterson's proposed \$53 million budget cut at the City University of New York. CUNY has been hit with \$53 million in midyear cuts; SUNY has been assessed a \$90 million cut. Stony Brook always seems to take the lion's share of proposed budget reductions, and we're estimated to be hit between \$9 million and \$13 million.

We heard impassioned pleas from affected students and their parents, and it dawned on me that, perhaps we need to look at the overall situation in a different light. For too many years, we have engaged in the perennial ritual of inadequate budgets followed by a string of endless campaigns to convince our legislators to do the right thing. We eventually settle for something all parties agree is inadequate, grateful to have at least kept our jobs.

Leadership in Albany must stop stealing the future from working-class



Arty Shertzer, Kathy Southerton, Marge Brian and Alan Lubin, NYSUT Executive Vice President

families that depend on SUNY to educate future generations. A young student was one of the last speakers at the rally, and he told us that he is the first in his family to go to college. I saw in him the hope and dreams one would desire in a future generation charged with running our state, but fear that our ability to preserve the core mission of SUNY will ultimately result in the undoing of that potential.

Most families of SUNY employees are working-class families. Our taxes have supported the broad missions of

the State of New York, while our unions have protected and upheld our efforts to provide services for our fellow New Yorkers. To state employees charged with the stewardship of educating the taxpayers' children, specifically of educating the next generation of leaders, the additional cuts included in the Governor's Deficit Reduction Plan make no sense. We deserve

better, and our children, our students and Stony Brook deserve nothing less.

We look forward to working with Dr. Stanley, with our membership, and with other labor organizations to continue the battle to maintain and improve the SUNY and CUNY systems, especially in these economically troubled times. I heard a comment that during the Great Depression, the city of New York built three colleges; I am convinced that public education will prove the salvation of our state and of our nation.

The working class did not create the nation's ills, but will almost certainly be the cure.

As the economic woes continue into 2010, you will hear many suggestions and plans. Please talk with us, your union representatives, about your concerns and ideas. We continue to work tirelessly to provide objective and honest renderings of all the circulating information (and misinformation); we appreciate healthy dialogue and constructive dissent. Our union is at its best when most members are active, vigilant, and responsive.

### **UUP MID-YEAR CHAPTER BREAKFAST CELEBRATION!**

All Members are Invited to Our First Breakfast Event!

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009 • Student Activities Center Ballroom A 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM ★ RSVP at www.sbu.uup.org

### **Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Program**

# A Personal Account on the Drescher Leave Program

Written by, Daniel Kinney, Vice President for Academics

Time is money. Time costs money, especially in regard to creating opportunities to pursue research goals as an academic. Many UUP members regularly take advantage of the Individual Development Awards Program, the largest of several New York

State/United University
Professions Joint Labor
Management Programs. Consider
also the Dr. Nuala McGann
Dresher Affirmative
Action/Diversity Leave Program,
awarded to minorities, women,
employees with disabilities, and
Vietnam-era veterans preparing
for permanent or continuing
appointment. It is specifically
intended to provide eligible
academics with time and
resources for research leading
to publication.

Head of the Stony Brook University Music Library and an academic delegate for our chapter, Gisele Schierhorst, is a former recipient of this award. As her supervisor, I was delighted to support her leave because it con-

tributed to her professional development and strengthened her tenure file. Her project resulted in an article about an important African American composer that is a valuable addition to the literature on the history of

American music.
Below, Gisele
describes her
research project.
The Dr. Nuala
McGann Dresher
award is just one
example of the
ways in which
UUP helps support

its members' professional development and scholarly activity. —Daniel Kinney, Vice President for Academics

It is a pleasure to relate my experience as a beneficiary of the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Award and to encourage my colleagues to apply for joint labor management awards for which they are eligible. My professional career at SUNY Stony Brook began in 1992, when I accepted a position as Cataloger for the Music Library. My responsibilities included original and copy cataloging, answering reference questions and assisting with bibliographic instruc-



Gisele Schierhorst, Head of the Music Library

tion. As a member of the library faculty, it was expected that I would carry out research that would lead to publication. I wanted to meet this particular challenge with a subject that was both interesting and held some personal reso-

It was the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Award that made it possible for me to take a study leave so that I could commute to Shomburg during the spring semester of 1995....

nance. Having heard musicologist Eileen Southern speak at a Music Library Association chapter meeting at Harvard years ago, I was inspired to make some meaningful discovery in the area of African American composers and performers. On weekends I started traveling back to my former employer, the New York Public Library's Performing Arts Library, to see what I could find out. As I perused the catalog it became apparent that the richest source materials in my area of interest were located in Harlem, at the NYPL's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. It was the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Award that made it

possible for me to take a study leave, so that I could commute to Schomburg during the spring semester of 1995, process the primary sources in the Boatner collection, look for information about him in any available published sources (including Southern's seminal The Music of Black Americans) and write up my findings on my Mac Quadra 660 at home. During this study leave I also traveled to the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College Chicago to supplement my research. I had the pleasure of communicating with some of Boatner's relatives and this proved very helpful. A high point for me at Schomburg was the opportunity to hear Boatner's voice in an hour-long 1972 interview,

where he describes many fascinating events in his life. With the results of my research, I gave a presentation to the Music Library Association's Black Music Roundtable in Seattle the following year. The manuscript I drafted

> during my study leave was published as an article for the American Music Research Center Journal's 1998/1999 issue. After completing the biographical finding aid on Boatner for the

Schomburg Center, I continued to assist with processing other collections, including the archives of the Symphony of the New World, and the papers of orchestrator and arranger Luther Henderson. The Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher award opened up numerous opportunities for which I am truly grateful. —Gisele Schierhorst, Academic Delegate

### Steps Toward Change, Transition and Reorganization

# Within Stony Brook University...

Written by By Edward J. O'Connell, UUP Grievance Officer

ver 33 years in service to the University, I've weathered a few changes, but no matter how flexible, adaptable and resilient this experience has made me, I find out the truth of the matter is that I really dislike change. This time around, I feared there might be more disruptions and displacement to come and worried that such changes could gravely impact our co-workers and union brethren across the state. The sky is falling!

Fortunately for me, Bill Godfrey, SBU's own Latin professor, monitors my UUP writings, and mentors my spinning head. He was quick to point out that, at the time of drafting this article, I had a bad case of SBU Fall Semester Thinking Blues. In other words just when I feel the original vision of becoming the Berkeley of the east is about to manifest itself, the SUNY \$budget\$ rug is pulled out from one's feet and it's back to the drawing board. Bill put into perspective the various steps that I was working through to get back to an appropriate operational position: "recommitment" to SBU. Like many times, we have the option to stare up the steps, or to step up the stairs. Whether you decide to stare, or to step, stay away from obsessing over "worst case scenarios" because that path always leads to the obvious dead end: feeling as if the sky is falling. Mea

So if you have the SBU Fall Semester Thinking Blues, here are the 12 steps that you might go through toward recommitment to constructive university service:



- 1) Denial
- 2) Protest
- 3) Rage
- 4) Surrender
- 5) False hope -rumor milling
- 6) Cocooning
- 7) Disillusionment
- 8) Acting out [or, like me, writing it out]
- 9) Healthy Hope
- 10) Finality
- 1) Settlement
- 12) Recommitment

So, I breezed through the first three steps within half an hour, and repeated them at least daily over a period of weeks. The fourth and fifth were spent in commiseration, and the sixth

with friends in the Velvet Lounge. Seventh, I had less trouble with, as all this change was just an extension of my human imperfections, right? I played out the eighth, here, with your indulgence. Now, I move into a healing place, and realize as I tap the heels of my ruby slippers, that it's been here all along.

It ain't Oz, but Stony Brook University is a good place. It's worth working hard to keep what's best and to improve what's lacking, and periods of change can bring change for the better. Step up, and join me and your UUP peers in recommitting to SBU, the university's mission, and to each other.

Moving forward: I am a big believer in team play [see Pat Riley's "The Winner Within"] so I recommend that SBU form an administrative team that can really work together, a team made up of personnel who are savvy enough to know where the real crucial organization connections lie and make things happen. I count four distinct phases to any team's development:

- 1) Forming, 2) Storming, 3) Norming,
- 4) Performing.

Unfortunately some teams never get past the second step (Storming), and other teams never get past the first step (Forming). The SBU Administration's compass seems to be pointing toward step #1 and everyone is praying the NEW SBU policy dial is set on true North principles (i.e; truth, trust, vision and virtue). No matter, during this latest round of transitional SBU administrative changes, UUP remains committed to negotiated contractual agreements and principles of fairness, excellence, service and the dignity of the individual.

### **Applauding Excellence**

# Nina Mitchell Award Recipient

ichael Zweig is the quintessential labor activist. He speaks for those who have no voice, and he follows his words with actions. Zwieg, a professor of economics at SB, is well known by his fellow unionists as a champion for social justice and for strengthening UUP's ties to the larger labor community. "As I look at the great leaders in

labor, the common thread I see is an unflinching, unrelenting, commitment to the imporvement of the human condition. Michael has that dedication," wrote one of a dozen UUPers to submit testimonials on Zweig's behalf.

Please join us all at UUP in congratulating Michael Zweig on a job very well done!



#### Speak Out!

# It's Not My Job, Man

Written by Aaron (Bill) Godfrey, Academic Delegate and past UUP President; re-printed from the Faculty Senate Bulletin, 2009

he Current economic downturn and budget crisis have created difficult times for SUNY. Many rail at the short-sight-edness of the Governor and legislature. Yet, few of us have done anything to change the situation except to complain to each other. Some of us feel that contacting legislators is below our dignity and that legislators should instinctively know how important the University is to the prestige and economy of the state.

Fundraising is another area eschewed by many faculty members. It is not in their job descriptions (if there are any) and they feel they should not be asked to help in since it interferes with their other activities, some of which are unrelated to their teaching or scholarship. Many SUNY students have been successful and grateful for the education they received. While they were in college or gradate school, they developed relationships with some of their professors which shaped their lives. They may even have remained in touch with them after graduation and continued to share the high points of their live- first jobs, marriage and

children, before they became too busy with thier own lives and contact dwindled down to occasional Christmas and holiday cards. For may of us, those contacts give us greater satisfaction and more pleasure than the admiration of our colleagues does.

SUNY is a relatively new system, and at its beginning was well or adequately funded by the State. Tuition was cheap and there seemed no need for outside funding or developing in the alumni a tradition of giving back to the University. The concept of alma mater semeed so old fashioned. Even now, it is rare for individual faculty to reach out to alumni to help make up for the state's shortfall. Some of our colleagues feel it is not their job to contact former students and ask them to contribute in gratitude for the education they have received. As a result, the annual funds of most of the SUNY units are meager and nowhere near that of even second and third tier private colleges or the older land grant universities. In fact, many units of SUNY do not have up-to-date records of their alumni, and the employees in Advancement rarely ask the faculty to help

bring their records op-to-date. Resentment exists among some faculty members when they are asked to contribute to the faculty and staff annual giving. They grumble that they are not paid enough and ask why they should give anything to their employer when the state is so cheap. Now especially there is less money for conferences and other perks that existed in more prosperous times. The rate of annual faculty/staff giving at most SUNY units is less than 25%.

In many private colleges and universities, the faculty is expected to to give back a percentage of their salary for scholarships and other needs and it is done without question.

Unfortunately, there is no such tradition at SUNY, and it has hurt us, not only in the fiscal sense, but in developing esprit de corps and pride in being part of a vital organism.

The faculty is really the soul of higher education institutions. The administration has far less impact on individual students than faculty do. Unfortunately, there are too many of us who just teach classes and go through the motions of holding office hours. It is not enough.

### On Disabilities

# Don't Hit Off The Button

Written by Pamela Wolfskill, Chapter Membership Development Officer and member of the SBU President's ADA committee

Not dead people, like in the movies, I see how far we've come since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed into law in 1990, and I see how far we still have to go. Still, the only way to see something whole is from several points of view and here is one view of Governor Patterson.

We're all discouraged by the Governor and most especially by his budget cuts, yet when I hear comments refer jokingly to "the blind leading the blind," I get mad. Perhaps it's because my grand-daughter, who is blind, has to live with insensitive people as she grows up. Perhaps it's because I'm a grandmother, and I find myself concerned about becoming disabled with age.

A pronounced disability is the first thing that people notice and remark upon, so it becomes the single most easily defined characteristic of an individual in the eyes of others. Persons with disabilities sometimes have a double load to bear: their own physical disability, and the cultural bias of other "normal" people in relating to them. As an example, whenever "Zack", a blind man, visited the medical clinic, the doctor insisted on talking very loudly to him. One might expect a doctor to be educated about dealing with disabilities, yet this doctor tried to compensate for Zack's blindness by turning up the volume of his own voice. He must have felt a bit sheepish when Zack politely reminded him that he was blind, not deaf. While not "discrimination" in the most egregious sense, Zack's experience demonstrates how a lack of understanding about disabilities can lead to awkward situations and hurt feelings.

In order to halt discrimination and arrest ignorance, progress must be made in promoting awareness of the humanity of people experiencing these disabilities. The public needs to be con-

tinually educated about the many things which persons with disabilities are capable of doing.

One opportunity to get to know persons with disabilities is through volunteering. Employers and schools could raise sensitivity by conducting workshops that instruct people about how to approach persons with disabilities. As technology provides opportunities for more people with disabilities to be educated or employed, administrators and employers must have the sensitivity and knowledge to protect and serve the needs of this legally-protected group effectively.

It is important that employees who are or become disabled know their rights and their responsibilities. Persons with disabilities must take a pivotal role in promoting the educational process by providing guidance and showing

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# **Keep these plans in mind!**

You may not need any of these benefits today or tomorrow, but at some point, you'll probably find yourself in need of at least one of these services. Your membership in NYSUT gives you access to a variety of benefit programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Every endorsed program is monitored on a regular basis for participation, member satisfaction, utilization and product competitiveness.

Insurance plans include term life, disability, auto, home, boat, personal excess liability (umbrella), long-term care, catastrophe major medical, flexible premium adjustable life insurance, accidental death & dismemberment, vision, in-service dental and retiree dental.

**Financial and legal services** include online banking (money markets, savings and CDs), mortgage services, credit monitoring service, consumer credit counseling services, and a legal service plan.

**Discounts** include EPIC Hearing Service Plan, Powell's Books, OfficeMax, Bose, Dell Computers, Barnes & Noble.com, Working Advantage (discount tickets and more), Philips Lifeline, car and truck rentals, Six Flags, The Buyer's Edge buying service, and HEAT USA.

Check the Member Benefits Web site, **www.memberbenefits.nysut.org**, for particulars on these discounts, because some you can only receive by linking off the Member Benefits site. Many have unique ID numbers.

Other services include MAP (Member Assistance Program), an e-mail information service; payroll and pension deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs, which often yield reduced premiums or additional coverage; MPP (My Program Participation), an online look-up service on programs in which you participate; Consumer's Guides on Automobile Insurance, Homeowners and Renters Insurance, Legal Services, Long-Term Care Insurance, Long-Term Disability Insurance and 403(b) Plans; and MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids).

**Workshops** include Defensive Driving, Identity Theft, 403(b) Basics, 403(b) Employer Contributions, Inside the 403(b), and Unraveling the Mysteries of Credit and Credit Reports. Workshops are scheduled by your local president, chapter leader, retiree council leader or retiree chapter leader.

# To request more information, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.



Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

### Stony Brook Southampton Updates

Capital improvements have been completed in Fine Arts, Student Center, Technology Center, Marine Science station, Chancellors Hall, Natural Sciences, University Police, Atlantic Hall, Avram Theater, greenhouse and gym. Infrastructure improvements around the campus have been completed.

- Six residential facilities have been renovated since Stony Brook acquired the campus and renovation of two additional residential buildings has begun. The construction of a new library was completed ahead of schedule.
- Design for a new Marine Science Center at Southampton will begin this fall. This new Center will be approximately 10,000 square feet and will house Marine Science programs at Southampton.
- Design for a 10,000 square foot addition to the Student Center at Southampton will begin this fall.

#### **Calendar of Events**

# **Upcoming UUP Fall 2009 Events**

NOVEMBER 2009					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat - Sun
2	9:00 - 10:00 Academic Council Meeting re: P/T issues UUP Office	4 12:00 Academic Council Meeting WSCC: 118 Old Chemistry Social Committe Meeting UUP Office	5 12:00 Southampton Program Chancellors Room 201	6 12:00 Women's Concerns Committee Meeting UUP Office	8
9	10	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	12:00 Red Dragon Labyrinth Pathway to Stress Management and Improved Performance SBU :: Red Dragon Labyrinth	13	14
16	12:00 Executive Board Meeting Wang: Room 301	18 12:00 Health & Safety Workshop Indoor Air Quality Workshop Wang: Room 101	19 12:00 Professional Town Hall Meeting Wang: Room 301	20	21 22
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
Monday	Tuesday	<b>DECEMB</b> Wednesday	ER 2009 Thursday	Friday	Sat - Sun
30	12:00 Academic Council Meeting WSCC: 118 Old Chemistry	2	8:30 -10:30 First Annual Membership Breakfast Celebration! Student Activities Center:: Ballroom A	4	5 6
7 12:00 Officrs Meeting UUP Office	8	9 12:00 Health & Safety Emergency Preparendness Program Wang: Room 201	10	Hanukkah Begins at Sunset	12
14	15 12:00 Executive Board Meeting Wang: Room 301	16	17 12:00 Red Dragon Labyrinth Pathway to Stress Management and Improved Performance SBU :: Red Dragon Labyrinth	18	19 20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26

### **Perks and Announcements**

# Women's Concerns Committee looking for UUP members to Join!!

"The Women's Concerns Committee is interested in hearing what concern's you have that affect women. If you would like to work together to make a difference on issues that women are faced with - that impact all of us - please get involved. Together we can make a difference. If you are interested, please contact Diane Bello, Chair, Women's Concerns Committee at: dbello@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. THANK YOU for taking time to make a difference."

# Defensive Driving Through NYSUT Monday & Tuesday, November 16th and 17th, 2009

Contact Corinne Burns at (631) 632-6570 or *cmburns@notes.cc.sunysb.edu* for more information.

#### Phi Delta Kappa @ SBU

#### "Social Skills for Students with Autism"

Presented by Kathleen Maggio-Straub, Behavior Specialist / Special Education Teacher • Sayville Public Schools

Question and Answer Period to Follow

Sponsored by the School of Professional Development

Even if you are not yet a member, please join us for this informative presentation!

Free to Members • Non-Members \$10

(Membership applications will be accepted at sign-in table.)

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 ● 6 p.m. ● Room 301 Wang Center

Refreshments will be served!

Please RSVP by November 9th to either:

marlene.brennan@stonybrook.edu • sullykeck@aol.com

### **Applauding Excellence**

## **UUP Service Awards**

t the 2009 Fall Delegate Assembly in Rochester on October 2nd, a few of our UUP members were recognized for their voluntary service, commitment, and dedication to the mission of UUP and its membership. Please join us in congratulating the following several UUP Delegates that have served you, the UUP member over the past Thirty-five years.

Thirty-five Years: Charles C. Hansen

Twenty Years: Jose L. Feliciano

John P. Schmidt Charles A. Wrigley

Fifteen Years: Edward H. Quinn
Ten Years: Marlene Brennan
Five Years: Stephen Larese
Salvatore Lentini

### **ADA Committee News**

UUP and members of the SBU President's ADA committee can provide you with information vital to persons/job candidates/employees with disabilities and a simple, logical working knowledge of the ADA. The SBU President's ADA Committee has launched a Disability Awareness Poster Campaign in an effort to increase awareness on campus concerning disability issues and the great strides SBU has made towards that end. This newly initiated, on-going poster campaign places educational posters at key campus locations. The top of the poster encourages the campus community to be respectful and inclusive, while the bottom shares a factoid about an SBU department's efforts towards accommodating students and staff with disabilities.

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understanding to others as they make earnest efforts to learn more about capabilities and needs. Persons with disabilities have the potential to lead others from the societal darkness of ignorance and misperception, to the light of understanding which can brighten all our lives. Embrace a teachable moment.

There are an estimated 650 million persons living with disabilities in the world today. When considering the members of their families, there are approximately 2 billion people who are directly affected by disability — almost one- third of the world's population.

I think it is everyone's responsibility to educate themselves about the various (and varying)

rights, needs and preferences of disabled people. Seems like a heavy burden to put on the shoulders of disabled person — both to overcome existing barriers and also to educate all the ablebodied they encounter along the way. Of course it's what disabled people usually have to do, but how nice it would be for disabled people not to be forced into the role of teacher, if they don't want it (same for other minority groups actually — does every black person exist to teach white people about race?). I think we all have a collective responsibility to educate ourselves, at least to a certain extent.

Perhaps you're thinking that disability "won't be me and it won't be anyone who I know or for whom I care." Take note: the general population of individuals with disabilities is growing. While some people are born disabled, some become disabled following illness and injury.

So, if you're still reading and you haven't "hit the off button", there is a website called Poems About Disabilities for Free and a wonderful poem by Nicholas Gordon

Sebastian may be blind, but he can see

Everything extant to you and me.

Because his sight is safely tucked away,

All his other senses come to play,

Singing in the sunlight of their song,

Taking bits of paradise along.

In life there is no limit to our joy,

A gift whatever senses we employ.

Nor if our hearts can see, will we go wrong.



#### **UUP WEST CAMPUS CHAPTER OFFICE**

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Change Service Requested

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#### INSIGHT

Volume 25, November 2009

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#### The Chapter Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Executive Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month at noon, and members are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Chapter Office for exact dates and times. INSIGHT is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip=3475.

Editorial Policy: The opinions expressed in INSIGHT are those of the writers and the West Campus Chapter, and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of United University Professions. INSIGHT reserves the right to edit all letters. INSIGHT cannot guarantee that all letters will be published. The final decision is at the discretion of the Editors and/or the Chapter President.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS! Have a comment about an article you've read in INSIGHT? We strongly encourage letters to the editors about union, campus, and University issues, politics, and other membership concerns. Letters must include the writer's name and daytime phone number. Please e-mail us at uup@stonybrook.edu or by campus mail at INSIGHT Newsletter, 104 Old Chemistry, Stony Brook, 11794-3475.