



# SENTINEL

ONEONTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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## Contract Negotiations Reportedly Stalled; UUP Reps Disconcerted by State's Demand

UUP President Nuala Drescher's written report to the Spring Delegate Assembly contained the following comments about our current contract negotiations.

"Needless to say, negotiations for a new *Agreement* with the State of New York have been the major preoccupation of the office. Initially, we hoped for a quick and expeditious outcome of the process. Unfortunately, that is not to be.

"As indicated in our recent *Negotiations Bulletin*, talks have been stalled because the representa-

tives of the State seem to feel that we have not been serious about our demands.

"These demands are the result of a full year's preparation involving the rank and file in each chapter and an open and democratic process designed to insure a high degree of sensitivity to the real needs of our members. Your representatives at the table were genuinely disconcerted by the State's demand that we bargain against ourselves and ignore every dimension of our process."

The negotiators for both sides did meet at the Hilton Hotel in Albany on May 1. The meeting lasted for five minutes. The State's chief negotiator indicated that they would bring to the table a counter proposal to UUP's entire package at the next scheduled meeting, on May 8.

Chapter members seeking negotiations updates during the Summer are urged to contact Janet Potter or Dennis Selzner.



STATE SENATOR LLOYD S. RIFORD visited the campus on April 15 as UUP's guest. The Senator and Christine Bulson are pictured above during the luncheon held in the Morris Complex which the Senator toured.

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# UUP Helping New York Get New General Motors Saturn Plant

UUP has been working with representatives of the Governor's Office in developing the proposal that is intended to convince General Motors to locate its new Saturn auto production plant in New York State.

Larry Flood and Bill Ganley of Buffalo State, working through the office of UUP's Presidential Assistant for Economic Development, are largely responsible for involving UUP in the preparation of the educational component of this proposal, for which they helped develop an inventory of the education resources in the two areas proposed to General Motors: Western New York and

the Stewart Air Base near Newburgh. It is estimated that more than 20,000 jobs would be created by the establishment of this plant.

"At this point," according to UUP President Nuala Drescher, "New York State is still very much in contention." She added, "The entire New York State package is exciting and unique. We are qualifiedly optimistic about the outcome of our efforts. But, even if it is located elsewhere, we anticipate that the work on Saturn will not be in vain. Another corporation will undoubtedly seize the opportunity afforded by this comprehensive and creative effort."



**UUP's BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC -- Don Petersen was one of over 300 people who had their blood pressure checked during the April 23 clinic. The UUP sponsored event was held with the cooperation of the College Administration, Oneonta Professional Fire Fighters Association, and the Oneonta Fire Department. The Employees Assistance Program helped staff the clinic.**

## SENTINEL

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United University Professions is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers. The Oneonta Chapter of UUP is a member of the Tri-County Labor Council.

## ONEONTA UUP CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:	<i>John J. Carney, Jr.</i>
Academic VP:	<i>Janet Potter</i>
Professional VP:	<i>Dennis Selzner</i>
Secretary:	<i>Paul M. Jensen</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Joseph Baldwin</i>
Delegates:	<i>William Benedict</i> <i>Thomas DeMeo</i> <i>John Mazarek</i> <i>Fred Miller</i>

The opinions expressed in the **Sentinel** are those of the authors, the editors, or the Oneonta Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

The **Sentinel** welcomes letters and articles submitted by members of the College community. We will publish them subject to the limitations of timeliness and space. Anonymous letters and expressions of opinion will not be printed. Address all letters and articles to the editors at IRC B-8 or Administration 114.

## UUP President Drescher Cautious About Public Benefit Corporation Status for SUNY

Earlier this year the Report of the Independent Commission on the Future of the State University of New York, *The Challenge and the Choice*, called for restructuring the University by creating a public benefit corporation.

SUNY then drafted legislation to establish this new structure, and Governor Cuomo countered with a series of bills which would grant greater fiscal autonomy to the University but avoid the corporation. Joint hearings on the idea were held by the two legislative Higher Education Committees.

In her report to the Spring Delegate Assembly, President Drescher reviewed and updated UUP's position on this issue.

"Very briefly," she said, "our position stressed appreciation for the Commission's awareness that

we have accomplished important things against insurmountable odds *but* that fundamental principles of academic freedom, collective bargaining and the like must not be jeopardized by alterations in the system.

"Indeed, the *systemic* nature of SUNY must be held inviolate and above all, the enrichment of graduate and research aspects of the University's mission must not be accomplished at the expense of basic education, which we do so well now. In short, we must oppose any enrichment by starvation of basic education.

"In addition, we have expressed ourselves as opposed to the substitution of a new 'un-elected bureaucracy' for the one we have to deal with now, namely D.O.B., exploring any effort to create an ar-

tificial insulation of the University from the people of the State as represented by their elected legislators."

Statewide Vice-President for Academics Fred Miller, who has been in contact with these legislators during UUP's recent lobbying efforts, reported to the Delegate Assembly that although the State Legislature's Joint Higher Education Committees "have not announced their reaction to the hearings or the Commission Report, it is my feeling that the Committees will not favor the 'Public Benefit Corporation' proposal but will continue their efforts to eliminate some of the bureaucratic problems which the Commission identified."

## Health Insurance Generating Much Concern During Contract Negotiations with State

The issue of health insurance coverage has generated much concern during the current contract negotiations between UUP and the State of New York.

The State's largest union, CSEA, has already concluded negotiations and accepted the creation of a new health insurance plan, called the Empire Plan. The following is drawn from a CSEA press release issued on April 1, the day after they reached a tentative agreement with the State.

"Health insurance benefits would expand under a new 'Empire Plan' which will replace the current Statewide Plan and GHI Option. It would go into effect April 1, 1986. State contributions would remain at 90 percent for in-

dividuals and 75 percent for family coverage.

"The 'Empire Plan' incorporates the best features of the two plans it replaces," notes CSEA's chief negotiator James Roemer. "It guarantees State employees will have all the coverage they need."

"Employees formerly enrolled under GHI would receive better medical/surgical coverage, especially in cases of catastrophic illnesses, while employees currently under the Statewide Plan would get access to participating providers who would accept 'Empire Plan' allowances as full payments for a variety of covered services."

Despite CSEA's enthusiasm, UUP President Nuala Drescher is

very concerned about the relationship of health insurance coverage to the current contract negotiations. In her written report to the Spring Delegate Assembly, she commented on this new State health insurance plan.

"At first examination, the proposal does have merit, particularly in light of the adverse selection which is developing in the State. However, at present, the proposal is unformed and unspecified, with no guarantees of adequate provider panels or caps on employee contributions. We have retained an outstanding firm of consultants to assist us in the evaluation of the proposal and to aid us in raising appropriate questions about the package."

## SUCO Administration and UUP Hold Two Labor/Management Meetings this Spring

Two Labor-Management Meetings were held this Spring, on March 18 and April 22. Each lasted for about one hour and dealt with a list of topics previously submitted by UUP. On both occasions, President Carney and representatives of the Executive Board held frank, comfortable, and occasionally open-ended discussions with President Craven and other members of the Administration.

Almost all of the topics dealt with had grown out of issues brought to Chapter officers by concerned members. These included specific subjects, such as the lack of hot water in classroom and office buildings and the continued need for improved lighting in the parking area behind Milne Library.

In the first case, Dr. Craven noted that at the time when the hot water had originally been turned off, the issue had been raised and the State Health Department had approved the plan. As for the lighting, he stated his "great concern" about the situation, explaining that the University's electrical engineer was currently working on the project, and promised that it "won't be a dormant issue."

On another subject, Dr. Brush saw no reason why the deadline dates for Discretionary Award recommendations couldn't be publicized, in the *SUCO Bulletin*, for example. This would relieve the concern of some Professionals who have in the past felt left in the dark about this information.

The lengthiest discussion cen-

tered around the responsibilities of Chairpersons during the Summer. It often seems that the Chairperson's work at that time consists of extra activity for which he/she receives no extra benefit. One point that became clear during the discussion was the fact that the Chairperson's monetary stipend was originally instituted at least partly to acknowledge his/her Summer efforts.

However, to avoid diminishing the limited budget for Summer courses, the Administration made the payments during the ten-month academic year; gradually, it appears, the departments began to assume that the stipend related solely to the academic year, as did the Chairperson's reduction in course load.

Whether it be to bring the need for some concrete improvement to the Administration's attention, to question some position taken by a representative of management, or to gain clarification of some incompletely understood situation, these Labor-Management Meetings seem to be fulfilling their purposes.

## All Present Chapter Officers Re-elected to 1985-86 Terms

Results of the Oneonta Chapter's recent elections were announced on May 7 by Frederick Bucalos, Chairman of the Elections and Credentials Committee.

One hundred fifty Academic members returned ballots, as did 46 Professionals, resulting in a total of 196 members who voted. The five office holders from 1984-85 were re-elected for 1985-86.

Both John Carney, President, and Joseph Baldwin, Treasurer, were victorious over three write-in rivals who received one vote each. Paul Jensen, Secretary, Janet Potter, Vice-President for Academics, and Dennis Selzner, Vice-President for Professionals, all won without written-in competition.

The slate of candidates for Academic Delegates presented a much more dramatic race; in one case a mere three votes separated two of the contenders. William Benedict and John Mazarak, the two highest vote getters, will join President Carney and Vice-President Potter as the Chapter's four Academic Delegates. The other office-seekers, in descending order, will be called upon as alternates and, as Academic membership grows, as additional Delegates.

Frederick Bucalos was elected Professional Delegate, and will join Vice-President Selzner as our second Professional representative to the Statewide Assemblies.

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

May 16, 1985

8:30 PM

Christopher's Restaurant