



The Sentinel

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ONEONTA CHAPTER

May 19, 1997

COMMENCEMENT COMMANDOS CONVEY CONTRACT CONTROVERSY TO COMMENCEMENT COMMUNITY

May 17th's Commencement participants received a message from the faculty and professional staff about the contract issues and benefit cutoff. The letter was distributed by a volunteer squad of chapter members who put up with the rain and drizzle in order to place copies of the letter under the windshield wipers of commencement participants' vehicles. The letter, a copy of which is printed inside, was distributed to 1260 vehicles.

The letter called upon parents, friends and students to contact SUNY Chancellor Ryan and express their support for the SUNY and its staff.

The volunteer leafletting commando squad consisted of: Bill Woolever (Geography), Bill Simons (History), Norm Payne (with son Aaron) (Advisement), Rick Meyer (Residential Life), John Carney (retired member), Bill Benedict (Spch-Comm-Thtr.), Dick Denicore (Soc.Sci. Educ.), Fred Bucalos (with daughter Heather) (Residential Life) and Ed Wesnofske (Sociology). Fred Miller did some planning of parking lot and road zones for the commandos.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAY 28th TRUSTEES MEETING

UUP Statewide Vice-President Tom Matthews (Geneseo), acting as leader of the Crisis Committee, has called upon Chapters close to Albany to send volunteers to attend the May 28th SUNY Board of Trustees Meeting.

Quoting Tom Matthews:

We need volunteers to fill the board room on Wednesday, May 28 for the trustees' meeting. For planning purposes, we are asking people to come around 9:15 to SUNY Plaza and we will go up to the room as a group. We plan to make another statement to the Board and ask Chancellor Ryan why he has not done anything since his confirmation to get a contract. Please

let me know as soon as possible how many and who will come from your chapter. A carload from each of your chapters will fill the room. I hope we can count on you to help.

Oneonta Chapter members willing to help out, please call the UUP office (436-2135) and leave a message for further instructions. UUP will provide transportation or mileage and food to volunteers. Keeping the pressure on by constant repetition of our message and concern is important and a sign of our collective will.



SCHEUERMAN LETTER TO MEMBERS ON SCHOOL BUDGET VOTES

May 14, 1997

Dear Colleague,

Within the next few weeks, our NYSUT colleagues and other K-12 friends may call you to ask for your support during the upcoming elections for local school budgets and school boards. They need our votes in order to pass pro-education budgets and elect pro-education school board candidates.

Our support is more important than ever because powerful anti-tax groups, such as CHANGE-NY, are fighting to cut taxes and reduce spending on education. Our NYSUT colleagues have assisted us in our struggles against the budget cuts. Now it is our turn to help our K-12 colleagues in their struggle for quality education.

Again, I urge you to support your local school budgets and pro-education candidates. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact call me or contact your NYSUT regional office.

In solidarity,

Bill Scheuerman



An Open Letter from the Academic and Professional Faculty

Congratulations. If you're reading this letter, either you, a friend or a family member is about to join the growing ranks of SUNY graduates. This is an auspicious day; one that may have seemed a long time in coming. But after years of hard work and perseverance, it's here.

Along the way, you've come to realize that SUNY is an exceptional university system whose campuses regularly receive national recognition for providing academic excellence at an affordable cost. SUNY enrolls more than 190,000 students each semester and annually awards 34,000 undergraduate degrees, 8,000 master's degrees and nearly 2,000 doctorate and professional degrees.

Despite its successes, SUNY in recent years has been the target of severe budget cuts. The cutbacks have led to rising tuition costs and widespread course and program eliminations. You have probably experienced or heard the horror stories of students being denied access to courses they need to fulfill their degree requirements or being forced to take an extra semester or two to graduate because they needed to work more hours in order to afford the escalating tuition costs.

We realize that this is a special day for you; it is for us as well. But, we ask that you take a few moments and consider the people who helped make this graduation possible — your college's academic and professional faculty. That's right, the faculty members who taught the courses, the advisers who made sure degree requirements were met, the librarians who helped gather information for all those papers, not to mention the admissions counselors, financial aid advisers and so on down the line.

The faculty, like the University, has also been the target of loss in recent years. SUNY's more than 21,000 academic and professional faculty have been working without a new contract for nearly two years. We received raises in just two of the last six years. And when we would not agree to a proposed new contract that would have jeopardized the quality of SUNY — potentially devaluing that diploma you prize so highly today — the state illegally yanked away our dental and vision benefits.

Now, we ask your help. We urge you to write SUNY Chancellor John Ryan and tell him how SUNY and its faculty have benefited you and your family — that you appreciate the work of SUNY's academic and professional faculty and that a strong SUNY is vital to the future of this state. Send your letters to: John W. Ryan, Chancellor, State University of New York, SUNY Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 12246. The faculty needs your support just as you or your loved one once needed ours.



Sincerely,

**The 21,000 members of United University Professions,
representing academic and professional faculty on 29 SUNY campuses**