



The Lingerin Hurrah: Fred Puritz

By Bill Simons, Vice President for Academics

The family of UUP is in mourning. Fred Puritz died, after a long and brave battle with cancer, at 8:54 AM on January 29, 2002. He was a union stalwart and former treasurer of our chapter.

Union president Norm Payne and other UUP members joined hundreds of others at the memorial service on January 31st. The number and diversity of mourners attest to the love and respect so many felt for Fred. An overflow crowd filled the sanctuary and hallways of Temple Beth El. Individuals prominent in local government, business, education, and the professions joined with friends and relatives, of all ages, in paying tribute to a remarkable man. Ice covered the ground at the interment, but we all knew that Fred Puritz would never be an easy man to bury. As historian Richard Hofstadter observed, "The life of a man does not end as a series of propositions that can simply be assessed and found true or false, but as a set of lingering resonances that for our own sake we must be attuned to hear."

UUP thanks its members who have or will make donations in Fred's name to SUCO, Temple Beth El, Catskill Area Hospice, Louis Busch Hager Cancer Center at M.I. Bassett Hospital, and A.O. Fox Memorial. These institutions were important to him.

For a generation, Fred Puritz was a campus icon. As a SUCO leader of the State Employees Federated Appeal for Delaware and Otsego Counties, Fred was an exemplar of practical idealism. An outstanding instructor in the Department of Economics and Business, he motivated students with a distinctive intellectual verve. He knew the power of voice, eye, and gesture in holding an audience's attention. Fred was erudite—possessed of a B.S. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.B.A. from Harvard University, and an M.A. from Binghamton University. A fine scholar, he never forgot the primacy of the students to our mission. Outside of the classroom, Fred engaged students in important discussions as advisor to the

Investment Club. And, as Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board, he played a significant role in enriching extracurricular offerings.

An invigorating variety and balance colored Fred's journey. Celebrant of life in its many forms, Fred possessed the rare gift of making others feel better by his mere presence. With Fred as my accountant, I actually came to enjoy talking about taxes (although even he could not take the pain from payment). One recalls Shakespeare's encomium to Brutus: "His life was gentle; and the elements So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, *This was a man!*"

Even a partial and eclectic catalogue of Fred's passions evokes a smile—roisserie baseball, bagels with lox, wit, cinema, literature, tennis, golf (Fred had, according to his brother Jim, "a sweet swing"), poker, computers, stock market quotes, and friends. But no love of Fred's was greater than his love of family. Fred, recalls his father Ed, grew up in the type of family, all too rare today, where the entire household ate together. It was a close knit family in which Fred came of age. Fred's brother Andy said, with emotion, "He carried me." The 53 years of Fred's life form a seamless trajectory. For it was with his dear wife Robbie and their three children—Nate, Sarah, and Jimmy—that he found his greatest affection.

Concern with family played a role in Fred seeking election to the UUP executive board. He was an articulate critic of gratuitous forms of assessment work that threatened to sap the energies of colleagues—energies needed for the classroom and energies needed for the family. UUP members take pride in their professional attainments, but, as Fred knew, the union must be vigilant not to allow an erosion in the conditions of labor. Fred's life reminds us that we are more than our resumes. We all wish we had had more time with Fred. I told Fred that, as an accountant, his was the first chapter treasurer to be overqualified for the position. I can still hear that hearty laugh in response.

Assemblyman Sullivan Visits Oneonta This Thursday

Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan, the Chair of the New York State Assembly's Higher Education Committee, will address the campus community and hold an open hearing on Thursday, February 7 at 4:00 in the Craven Lounge. Edward Sullivan is a great friend of SUNY and UUP. He was given a "Friends of SUNY" award by UUP during a delegate assembly last year. He should be commended for coming to Oneonta and providing a platform where the campus community can voice their concerns.

If you wish to address Assemblyman Sullivan, you should be prepared to offer examples or anecdotes as to why our campus operating budget should be increased, rather than the flat budget (which is a net decrease) requested by the Chancellor.

This could include extra costs associated with the Trustees' General Education 2000, or the new teacher education requirements, that were not externally funded and which the campus had to cover from its existing budget. If there are planned or discussed position cuts, program cuts, hiring freezes, that will affect our students, or the services they will receive, he should know.

The material he gathers at these hearings will be reported back to his colleagues in the legislature. He needs information that he can use to fight for our budget and our campus community.

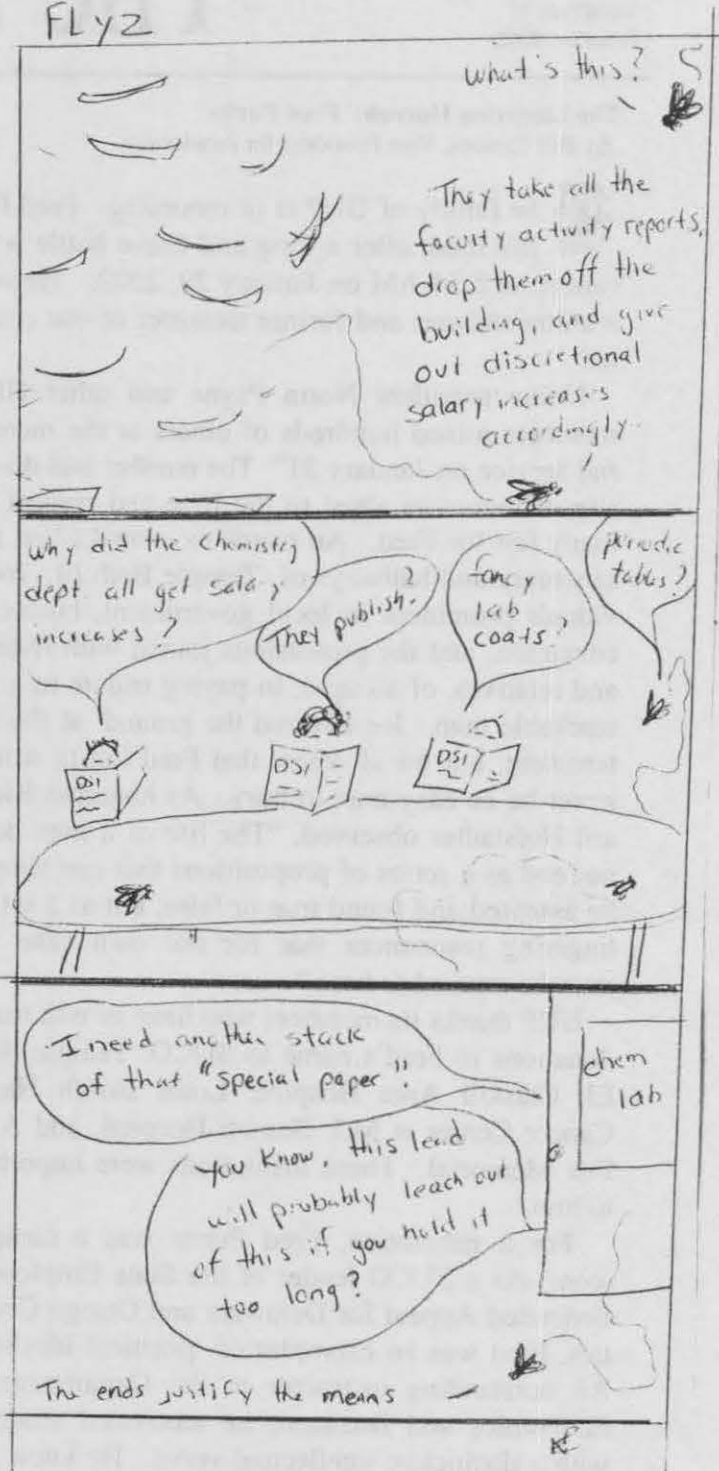
Food For Thought Wednesday February 13 at Noon in Otsego Grille

All are invited to a free lunch forum where you can discuss any thoughts you may have on any issues you may have. Ed Wesnofske will be giving a brief talk about the process of negotiations for our new contract which ends next July. The contracted salary increase on 7/1 or 9/1/2002 of 3.5% will be our last under the current contract.

In the coming months a contract committee will be formed, and the committee will visit campuses to get an idea of what we want. If you think there is something you union should be asking for, now is the time to start asking.

On the funnier side...

Flyz



UUP Office 37 Denison 436-2135
Mon 9-2pm
Wed 9-2pm
Thur 9-2pm