

INSIGHT

April 30, 1990

Newsletter of the Stony Brook Chapter
United University Professions
104 Old Chem.
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York
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NOTE THESE DATES

Wednesday, May 2 – RALLY against the SUNY-imposed parking fee; RALLY for free health benefits for graduate students – 12 Noon

Thursday, May 10

- General Membership Meeting
12:00 Noon
- Open Meeting of the Stony Brook Council - 5:00 PM

See attached for more details

FUMBLING ON REGISTRATION FEES

Insult no. 1 - The amount...

As most of you know, the administration is attempting to double the fee, from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per registration (in fact, most of us have paid it already). Our contract says that SUNY may charge us to recover the cost of registering our cars on campus. However, local agreements stipulate that the campus will justify the cost passed on to us. Their attempt to convince us that it costs them a whopping \$7.00 to register each of our vehicles and that we are getting a bargain at \$5.00 is a joke, but we're not laughing.

Insult no. 2 - The timing...

How in heaven's name could anyone reach the decision to make parking stickers at a university expire three weeks before the end of an academic year? UUP has apparently succeeded in getting both the 4/30/90 expiration date of our current stickers and the 4/30/91 expiration date of the new stickers rescinded. Administration gave in because we have it in writing that the present stickers are good till 7/30/90. We are all supposed to be getting this information in writing from administration, because it's their job to clean up the mess they've made.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STONY BROOK'S RECIPIENT OF AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LEAVE AWARD

Kathleen McGraw, Political Science, has been awarded \$15,250 by the NYS/UUP Affirmative Action Committee to continue her research on political blame-avoidance strategies. The award, named after UUP past president Nuala McGann Drescher, will supplement funds being provided to McGraw by the campus. We wish her great success on her leave.

PARKING FEES

Did you know there are some in administration who think we should consider it a privilege to pay to park our cars on campus. Whew!

This fight is far from over - our being charged up to \$132 and more to park on campus is NOT a fait accompli. Continue calling and writing local legislators on this issue.

REMEMBER - THIS IS NOT ABOUT PARKING. This is about giving back a part of our negotiated salaries to help supplement the state's coffers. If this issue were about parking, the shortfall at Stony Brook (\$400,000 we are told) would equal the number of registered cars times \$132. Now, this gets sticky because the Administration has told us they have no idea how many valid parking stickers they have issued. So, we've made an educated guess and say 12,000. Twelve thousand times \$132 is \$1,584,000, almost four times \$400,000. And once we're paying \$132 per year, we'll be agreeing they have the right to raise that amount every year.

Our \$132 will not ticket even one illegally parked car; it will not clean up a single broken bottle in a parking lot; it will not pave the Center Drive "overflow" lot; and it will not produce a single additional parking space! It might even increase the illegal parking in faculty/staff lots; if you were a student who usually parked in South-P lot, wouldn't you be inclined to switch to the center of campus if you were paying \$132?

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

If this year's proposed drastic budget cuts to the University at Stony Brook are not restored, the Marine Sciences Research Center's Waste Management Institute (WMI) will be lost - it will be eliminated. And standing to be a big loser as a consequence is Long Island - its economy and environment.

Here is a sampling of recent WMI projects:

- The Institute has been researching how to stabilize the ash left after incineration: blocks of ash in a cement matrix have been tested as a marine artificial reef in a Long Island bay, and the indication is that these blocks are safe and strong;

- WMI published and disseminated a handbook entitled, "Floatable" Wastes and the Region's Beaches: Answers to Some Common Questions," and was instrumental in forging a unified, regionwide plan of action to reduce floatable trash and protect against a repetition of last season's widespread beach closings which cost the local economy \$1.4 billion;

- WMI has conducted hearings on source reduction and recycling, both essential components of an integrated waste management strategy, and forwarded a consolidated set of recommendations, constructed in an economic framework, to Suffolk County;

- WMI researchers with expertise on the aquifer and our estuaries and bays are studying the role and behavior of metal and organic contaminants in these environments, with the goal of reducing the stresses of population and development;

- The institute is testing degradable plastic products in several environments, including marine waters, at the beach strand line, buried in land fills, and in compost heaps to see how fast they degrade, if they sink or float, and if their decomposition products are toxic to organisms.

Many local legislators have voiced their support of the WMI and its demonstrated concern for Long Island's economy and environment. But more must be done to convince the powers that be that the WMI is crucial to the economic and environmental health of Long Island. Call or write your legislators to express these priorities.

For further information, contact Trudy Bell at the Waste Management Institute, who provided this information to supplement what we wrote in the article on legislative issues in the last issue of Insight.

NYSUT Representative Assembly Adopts Resolutions

Over 150 UUP members joined the 2,000 delegates at NYSUT's 18th annual convention in New York City in March in voting to seek legislation which would eliminate mandatory retirement of SUNY and CUNY faculty and professional staff to head off a pending staffing shortage.

In another vote, New York University was condemned for its continuing anti-union practices against the United Staff Association, a NYSUT affiliate representing 1,550 clerical and technical workers. Also in the spirit of solidarity, the RA voted to urge members and their families to support the

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UUP CHAPTER OFFICE

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The Stony Brook Chapter Executive Board meets on Thursday at 10:00 am. May 3 and May 10 are the next two scheduled meetings. All Executive Board meetings are open to the membership. Please feel free to attend.

UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and AFT. (Local 2190)

striking Amalgamated Transit Workers by boycotting Greyhound, and called upon the New York Daily News to bargain in good faith with its unions.

Chapter Membership Up

Membership committee chair and professional vice president Ed O'Connell announced at the last chapter executive board meeting that membership in the Stony Brook chapter is up to an all time high. Of our total bargaining unit, 80.3% of us are members. This is only slightly under the union wide membership of 81.45%.