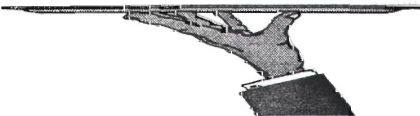


## From the President A. W. (Bill) Godfrey

This is your last chance to sign up for the Dinner Dance on Friday, February 19th. It is close enough to Valentine's Day to generate nostalgia. Tickets are \$20 -- a bargain at twice the price. Bring, or send payments to UUP office, 104 Old Chemistry, Z=3475.



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### Budget views...

The budget is out and not good. It would seem that the Governor is positioning himself as a fiscal conservative -- for a run at higher office. The flat budget proposal for SUNY represents another cut because it does not take into consideration the salary increases mandated by the contract nor does it factor inflation -- which, though modest, must be taken into consideration. The preliminary budget proposes "frictional savings" of \$59 million for CUNY and SUNY. We do not know how much SUNY will be asked to absorb. Incidentally, New York is the only state that has not increased its expenditures in higher education.

The strategy seems to be -- give an awful budget so that advocates of public higher education have to expend enormous energy to keep a little less than what they already have and,

when that is achieved, they are relieved and grateful -- with no growth as the systems continue to wither.

It is true that there will be a structural deficit in the state budget, which will be fueled in part by the proposed tax cut. As you might suspect, the tax cut benefits the wealthy incrementally more than those with modest incomes.

### Tuition Assistance Program

Among the budget items is a reduction in TAP which requires students receiving maximum funding to pay 25% of their education costs which could be refunded if the students graduate in four years. The Governor and Trustees do not seem to realize how difficult it is for many students to graduate in four years. Because of the increase in tuition and fees, many students must work thirty hours a week or more and they have to balance their academic coursework with their work schedule. Besides, the recent cuts of funding to the University, resulting in fewer courses, have made it difficult for many students to complete the courses they need within the usual four-year cycle.

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### UUP Contract

The present contract expires July 1 and negotiations are beginning. Member opinions have been taken into consideration and may appear in the package to be presented to GOER (Governor's Office of Employee Relations). There is the following schedule of negotiations:  
Feb. 8th -- Exchange of Packages  
Feb. 22nd -- Clarifications  
March 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, 26 -- Negotiations.

*Continued on back...*

The other state unions, CSEA, PEF, Council 82, and the State Police, have contracts that expire on March 31. These unions try to conclude bargaining prior to the expiration of the contracts. Typically, CSEA settles first and is the benchmark for all other unions. The percentage of increase they receive is typically what the other unions receive. The last UUP contract broke the pattern by holding out against the "contracting out" demand of GOER. This contract, as proposed by GOER, is likely to include a demand for increased workload.

### UUP Delegate Assembly

At the January UUP Delegate Assembly, a motion was passed condemning the Trustees' imposition of general education requirements without consulting the faculty. They called upon them "to fulfill their responsibility as stewards of the University and to cease their efforts to politicize the University. Further, if any of these Trustees are unwilling to fulfill their "Trust" by promoting the statutory mission of the University, UUP calls for their immediate resignations."

There are letters to the Chancellor and Provost protesting the plan that has been posted on the web site and may be faxed directly from the site. The letters are on NYSUT's political action site:

<http://politicalaction.nysut.org/cgi-bin/upletter?letnum=1>

It is also important to write to your legislators **urging that they restore funding to public higher education.** New York State is the **only state** which has decreased spending on higher education over the last five years.

### Calling all potential union organizers!

There are a number of positions open for union organizers for young people -- which might be attractive for our students. They can obtain applications at AFL/CIO, 211 East 43rd Street, #300, New York, NY 10017, telephone: 212-661-1555.

### Education vs. Prisons?

The Governor plans to cut 450 state jobs by attrition. Nonetheless, there will be 659 new prison jobs, which will bring the total in "Correctional Services" to about 32,000, which is second only to SUNY which employs 33,000. This reinforces our statement made in the last newsletter that spending of tax levy revenue for prisons now exceeds that of public higher education.

**NOTE:** Faculty that develops computer software or interactive coursework should realize that these may be eligible for copyright. CD Rom instructional material may qualify for royalties. Material and forms are available in the Union Office.



Education Tax Guides are available at the Union Office. This is a useful handbook, which will make tax preparation much easier. Drop by and pick up your free copy, while supplies last, at 104 Old Chemistry.

### STONY BROOK LOBBY DAY

The campus bus trip to Albany, sponsored by UUP, brought together nearly 100 members of the Stony Brook community. We met nearly 40 legislators or staff to promote the achievements and needs of the university. It was a very useful day that made Stony Brook visible to the legislators. Thanks to those who made the trip and to the President's Office for a reception at the University Club.

*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, 3475. The opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter are those of the author or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

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The Chapter office is open daily from 9:00 – 3:00. The Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 9:30, and members are encouraged to attend.