



# The Connection

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## UUP President arrested at NYU grad student employees protest

UUP President William Scheuerman joined some 600 protestors at a solidarity rally for NYU's graduate students' union, a demonstration that ended with dozens of union leaders and protestors—including Scheuerman—in handcuffs.

Scheuerman led the AFT delegation at the rally as chairman of AFT's Higher Education Program and Policy Council.

"We stand in solidarity with the 1,100 graduate student employees and call on NYU to do the right thing by sitting down at the bargaining table with their union's elected representatives," Scheuerman said.

The Graduate Student Organizing Committee called the Aug. 31 rally after NYU refused to negotiate a new contract with the workers, represented by local 2110 of the United Auto Workers. In 2000, NYU's graduate student teaching employees and research assistants formed the first graduate student employees' union at a private university, following a National Labor Relations Board ruling allowing them to unionize. But under the Bush administration, the NLRB reversed itself last year, saying graduate students at private universities are not workers and cannot form unions.

"NYU has embarrassed itself with this kind of bullying," Scheuerman said. "The NLRB did not bar NYU from negotiating with the graduate employees' union."

Other prominent union leaders were on hand to express their support, most notably AFL-CIO



UUP President William Scheuerman is handcuffed by a New York City police officer for participating in an act of civil disobedience in support of graduate employees at New York University (NYU).

*Photo by Bruce Gilbert*

President John Sweeney. "This is about the NYU administration union busting," Sweeney said to a cheering crowd.

Scheuerman, Sweeney and 74 other demonstrators defied police orders and sat down on the sidewalk in front of NYU's Bobst Library, raising their fists and chanting. For their collective act of civil disobedience, 76 union activists were arrested, handcuffed by police, and taken

to jail in paddy wagons.

While the rally put NYU's anti-union position clearly in the public eye, the battle is far from over. "We'll be back," Scheuerman promised as he was led away by police. He said the NYU case underscores the importance of union solidarity and that the right to organize and bargain collectively should never be taken for granted.

### Legislation Committee coming

UUP's Legislation Committee is putting its advocacy training on the road.

Glenn McNitt, Committee Chair will be traveling around the state this fall to teach members how to lobby their lawmakers in their district offices and in Albany on UUP issues.

The sessions will also allow participants to offer ideas for the 2006 UUP Legislative Agenda, and nominate candidates for the 2005 Friend of SUNY Award.

For more information or to register, please call Allison Grinnell or Rob Trimarchi in the Legislation Department at (800) 342-4206.

Here's the schedule:

**9/14/05**—Utica-Rome Regional Meeting, noon-2pm. Donovan Hall, Iset Conf. Rms.

**9/28/05**—Farmingdale Regional Meeting, 12:30-2:30pm, UUP office conference room

**9/30/05**—Albany Regional Meeting, noon-2pm. Campus Center Rm. 375

**10/5/05**—Buffalo Regional Meeting, noon-2pm. UB North Campus, Student Union Rm. 350

### Disability Concerns Committee

UUP's Disabilities Rights and Concerns Committee has scheduled a Sept. 22 planning meeting to help members form or develop disability committees in their chapters.

The session, which will be held at the UUP Administrative Office, begins at noon and includes lunch. The meeting will run from 1-3 p.m. Please call your chapter president if you'd like to attend.

### Help hurricane victims

UUP is participating in NYSUT's hurricane relief efforts. Union leaders encourage members to send contributions with checks or money orders payable to "NYSUT Katrina Relief Fund," and mail them to:

**NYSUT  
Att: Accounting Department  
800 Troy Schenectady Road  
Latham, N.Y. 12110**

### Fall 2005 DA

The union's 2005 Fall Delegate Assembly takes place at the Desmond Hotel in Albany on September 23 and 24.