

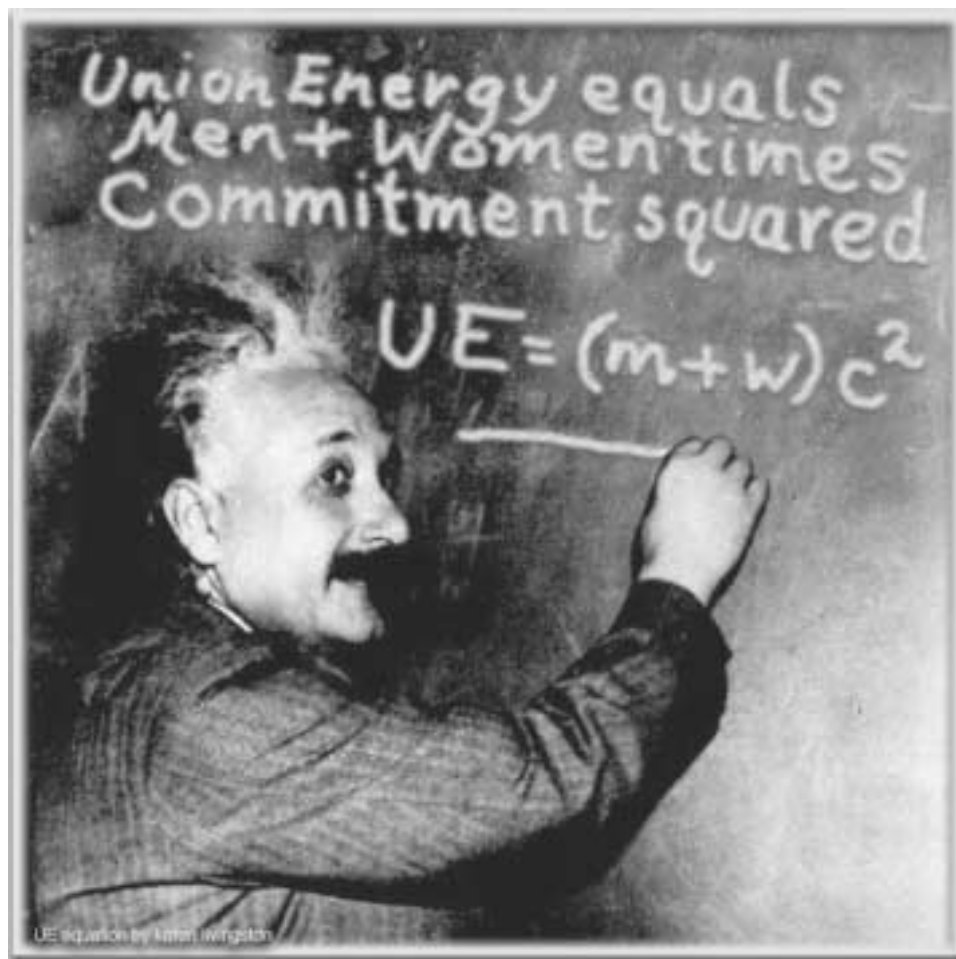
the 3882 Local News

United Staff Association of NYU • Local 3882, NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO

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You, too, can be an Einstein



It's not rocket science, but it's a fact: Albert Einstein, the theoretical physicist whose theories of relativity revolutionized modern thought, was a union member. He was a founding member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 552, the Princeton Federation of Teachers, and was a signer of the application for the local's charter in 1938.

Workers are the union

by Kathy Cruz, Goddard Hall

Union elections and NYU's hiring freeze. Sounds like two unrelated topics. Well, they're not. Having a strong union for the past 24 years is how we have protected ourselves from the uncertainties of the economy. It's the security blanket that those in the dot.coms didn't have as they found themselves jobless and it's the answer to those who think that struggling to get ahead as individuals is a better way than unifying with their co-workers.

NYU claims they need the hiring freeze because of the economy. They don't seem to lack the money needed for building 'monuments' like Kimmel Auditorium. When they tried to move the staff in that building with-

"We are more like a security 'quilt', made up of union members, and the skills, knowledge and life experience they bring to the union."

out properly cleaning it (no doubt, to save money) we forced them to hire 30 cleaners, working 24/7 to make sure it was clean. NYU told us they would schedule more frequent cleanings of Bobst Library, yet now they can't seem to find the money. We will not let the hiring freeze affect our health and safety. And we're supposed to sym-

pthesize because John Sexton didn't get a salary increase? Give me a break! If I made three quarters of a million dollars (give or take a few) and had free housing and had a limitless expense account, I would consider giving up my raise.

Your union gives you job security

The union is your protection against the hiring freeze. We have guaranteed health benefits that we don't pay for, and job security. We are not subject to the 'letter' that is issued each year from the president's office decreeing what our salary raise will or won't be. This year's letter announced a \$750 increase for the year for administration and faculty.



Kathy Cruz, Local 3882 President (left) and Erica Tate, activist from Vanderbilt Hall

However, we're not just an organization that provides a security blanket like an insurance company. We are more like a security 'quilt,' made up of union members, and the skills, knowledge and life experience they bring to the union. Our strength depends on the consciousness and actions of those members. We have been a strong union since 1979 because we have had individuals who overcame their hesitancy or shyness and stepped up to the plate to run for steward and officer of our union.

I hope you consider getting involved by running in the upcoming elections. You can check out page 6 to see what steward district you are in as well as the responsibilities of stewards and officers. It's an exciting experience — becoming a steward means helping to make important decisions, getting the pulse of the members in your area and finding out what is important to them, and meeting other fellow unionists from NYC and around the country.

Think about it. Don't forget . . . union begins with 'U'. ❖

All steward and officer positions are open

Get involved in Local 3882 union elections

On May 20th, our union will hold nominations for steward and officer positions. Before then, we will have meetings, mailings and discussions about the role and responsibility of each office. The 2-year term of office begins July 1, 2003 and ends June 30, 2005. Below are answers to some questions as well as the 'job descriptions' taken from the Local 3882 constitution and from practical experience.

Why should I become a steward?

Local 3882 is strong, we're secure and we're on the move! Being a union shop steward is not a hard job and it's very rewarding. Some of our current stewards are moving on, having done their fair share, and its up to other members who have not served as a stewards to think about becoming one. Leadership renewal is essential to quality representation.

Will it take up a lot of my time?

Most of the work of the union takes place during lunch hours. Stewards and officers get agreed-upon release time from NYU for executive council meetings and grievances.

How will I know what to do?

We have leadership development and steward trainings at the beginning of your terms and throughout the course of the two years you will serve. In addition, Local 3882 organizers and veteran stewards and officers will work with you. Feedback from current stewards is unanimous—you really learn a lot from being a steward. Unlike many volunteer jobs, being a steward puts you in a decision-making leadership position. You work with other employees, learn how to negotiate with management and are able to use your creative side (if you want to) in helping develop union campaigns, through literature, buttons and outreach.

(Continued on page 4)

Local 3882 leaders speak out

Being a steward has given me great pride in giving something back to the union for the bargaining that it has done for me in getting better pay, and benefits. It is well documented that union employees enjoy much better pay and benefits than non-union workers.

Prior to unions, working conditions for the average worker were horrendous. And with the constant headlines about corporate greed, the average worker needs someone to constantly look out for their best interests on the job. There are some strong unions in this country, and I would like our union (Local 3882), to become stronger than it is. The only way this can happen is if all of our members become involved with their union, no matter how small their involvement is. Always remember, "This is your union, here to make your job more rewarding"

– Nathan Palmer, *Shop Steward, MEC (Stern)*



It's clear that many of the inequities in today's world are due to concentration of power and influence in corporations like NYU. Local 3882 provides an alternative form of organization—democratic, volunteer-run—to resist corporate power, and I'm grateful for the opportunity our union gives me to participate in asserting our rights as workers.

– Rob Lesko, *Vice President, 145 4th Avenue*

(Continued on page 4)

Stewards and officers speak out



(Continued from page 3)

Being a shop steward at Bobst Library, I find it rewarding and a great learning experience. Rewarding, because I help my fellow brothers and sisters in almost any situation that concerns them. I have been just a listening sister to those that just want to talk out their frustrations related to their jobs and help them find a solution to whatever is on their mind. It's also important for me to let union members know that we all should be treated respectfully, no matter what college degree, no matter what high authority your employer might have. We are all here for two things — to feed ourselves and our families. And in this way we are all equal. And that's what I fight for — equality and respect among our brothers and sisters in unity. I encourage you to become a steward and join us in this important role.

– Evelyn Lora, *Shop Steward, Bobst Library*

Local 3882 union elections

(Continued from page 3)

What are the General responsibilities of stewards?

Stewards represent members from their areas, with a ratio of about 50 members per each steward (see area list on page). Stewards sit on the executive council of the union, which is comprised of stewards and officers and is the decision-making body of Local 3882. Stewards bring membership concerns to the union's executive council and take executive council concerns and decisions back to the membership. Stewards are responsible for signing up new members, organizing members in their areas around issues of importance, and handling grievances, along with the organizers. Grievances are violations of the union contract — there are few grievances at NYU because problems are often solved before they reach that level. Stewards help with the general work of the union — participating on committees, organizing mailings and often are on the union's negotiating committee. Stewards receive many training opportunities and have a chance to develop leadership, organizing and negotiating skills.

What are the roles of Local 3882 officers?

Officers also help with and coordinate the general work of the union and receive many training opportunities, as

mentioned above in relation to stewards. In addition, Local 3882 officers have many constitutional responsibilities, some of which are listed below: The president is the chief executive officer of the union. S/he presides at the meetings of the executive council and general membership and shall report to the membership on the actions of the executive council. S/he administers policy established by the executive council and the general membership. The president shall propose a budget to the executive council and will be spokesperson for the union. The two vice presidents assume the duties and responsibilities of the president in his/her absence and perform other such duties as the president may designate. The treasurer is responsible for the accurate keeping of financial records and approving financial transactions. The secretary is responsible for the minutes of the executive council and general membership meetings. S/he supervises the dissemination of information to the membership, conducts the correspondence of the union, and supervises files and non-financial records.

Nominations are May 20th.

If you are interested, please call the union office at (646)602-1485. ❖



As I stood with our banner at the commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire I realized how important unions were in making sure that workers were safe — fighting for laws and responding to unsafe conditions on the job. On a personal note, being involved in Local 3882 has made a difference in my life. I used to be shy and would not stand up for myself. Now, I speak up when I need to and I fight, not just for myself, but for my co-workers as well.

– Anita Prokesch, (above right)
Treasurer, 726 Broadway

People should become union stewards because there is definitely strength in numbers. Plus, it is nice to know that the union is always there looking out for its members and making sure they are being treated fairly — being a steward means you are looking out for others while being looked out for yourself. Being able to represent members at the Health Center is especially important because we are on the front line of helping students while dealing with the many challenges we face in our jobs, at a time when the University is cutting back.

– Barbara Harley, (above left) Vice President,
University Health Center

The union is the only force at the Dental Center able to challenge an insensitive administration and the scope of problems that Dental Center workers are confronted by. Over the years, because of the strength of our union, we have been able to win more respect on the job and more money in the pockets of many Dental Center workers. I firmly believe that the more stewards we have, the more we can do at the Dental Center.

– Ralph Simeron, Shop Steward, Dental Center



Timeline for upcoming union elections

(exact dates, locations will be sent in mailings to members)

MARCH

March 18 - Membership meeting

APRIL

Early April - Newsletter notification of positions and dates for election

Throughout April - Area meetings to discuss elections

MAY

First-half May - Form election committee

Area meetings and steward information sessions

May 20 - Nominations meeting for stewards and officers

May 23 - Nominations closed

JUNE

June 3 - Election mailing - ballots sent out

June 3 - June 24 - Election campaign

June 25 - Ballots counted

JULY

July 1 - stewards and officers take office

Local 3882 steward districts

The number of steward positions is based on approximately 50 bargaining unit members per steward except for isolated districts. For example: District #1 has 96 bargaining unit employees (Code 104/114; 106/116) so is entitled to 2 stewards.

D#1 – 2 Steward positions available

Pless Hall and Pless Annex
East Building
Education Building
Kimball Hall
80 Washington Square East
Art Gallery
Helmsley Spear Building - 380 2nd Avenue

D#2 – 3 Steward positions available

Vanderbilt Hall
137 MacDougal Street
D'Agostino Hall and Mercer Street
Residence Hall
161 6th Avenue
New Law School Building
249 Sullivan Street

D#3 - 4 Steward positions available

Coles Sports & Recreation Center
Kimmel Center
547 La Guardia Place
561 La Guardia Place
3, 4 Washington Square Village
Silver Towers
Kevorkian Center
Thompson Center
Silver Center
Brown and Waverly Buildings
14 Waverly Place
16 Waverly Place
5 Washington Place

D#4 – 3 Steward positions available

Bobst Library

D#5 – 3 Steward positions available

Shimkin Hall
Management Education Center
(MEC) Tisch Hall

D#6 – 1 Steward position available

Warren Weaver Hall - 251 Mercer Street

D#7 – 1 Steward position available

Bookstores – Professional,
Computer and Health Sciences

D#8 – 2 Steward positions available

25 West 4th Street
269 Mercer Street
285 Mercer Street/10 Waverly Place

D#9 – 1 Steward position available

145 4th Avenue
233 Broadway
594 Broadway

D#10

No buildings are assigned to this district at this time.

D#11 – 1 Steward position available

1 Washington Place
Meyer Hall
Psychology Building
7 Washington Place
14 Washington Place
Arthur L. Carter Hall
15 Washington Place

D#12 – 3 Steward position available

715 - 719 Broadway
721 Broadway
411 Lafayette Street
194 Mercer
48 Cooper Square
Barney Building
111 2nd Avenue
Central Plaza
10 Astor Place

D#13 – 2 Steward position available

1 Washington Sq. North
4 Washington Sq. North
Salomon House
Tasco House
22 Washington Sq. North
29 Washington Square West

D#14 – 1 Steward position available

Ireland House
Institute for French Studies
Maison Francais
Deutsches Haus
19 University Place
14 University Place
Rufus Smith Hall
113-115 University Place
Lillian Vernon House
Bronfman Center
Casa Italiana
King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center
Cantor Film Center

D#15 – 2 Steward positions available

All Residence Halls
8 Washington Place - Housing and Residential Life
14A Washington Place (Summer Housing)

D#16 – 3 Steward positions available

Fairchild Building

D#17 – 3 Steward positions available

726 Broadway
838 Broadway

D#18 – 5 Steward positions available

Dental Center - Schwartz Hall and Weissman Hall
Dental Faculty Practice -
726 Broadway, Room 350

D#19 – 1 Steward position available

Midtown Center - 11 West 42nd Street

D#20 – 1 Steward position available

Institute of Fine Arts -
1 East 78th Street

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

The importance of a contract

What is a union contract?

A union contract is an agreement between the employer (NYU) and the employees (us). It is also known as a collective bargaining agreement. It is legally binding and is negotiated by union representatives with representatives of the employer. Before a contract can go into effect, the members of the union must vote to agree to it. This is called ratification. Only union members can vote on a contract and only union members can participate in negotiations.

These rights are spelled out in the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. The most important section of the act defines protected activities. It reads:

“Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid and protection.”

Despite subsequent revisions in 1947 and 1959 the NLRA remains the cornerstone for union activities within the United States.

What's in a contract?

Not all contracts are the same. At NYU, after years of determined struggle and strike, we currently enjoy a contract that includes:

Grievance procedure

Our contract guarantees that we have a formal complaint process, which spells out steps and time lim-



its. If, in the end, the problem cannot be resolved, an independent arbitrator will listen to both sides and decide who is right.

Job rights

New jobs and job openings must be posted so that people who already work for the university have an opportunity for promotion. Transfer rights, reclassification procedures, and job descriptions are also guaranteed by our contract.

Job security

If a job is eliminated at the university, the Administration can't play favorites but must follow the rules based on seniority, known as “bumping rights.”

Wages

Wages are set out in the contract and guaranteed despite the state of the economy or the university. Wage increases are listed in the contract so workers know what they're getting in the future.

Benefits

The contract includes a list of the benefits the employer must provide such as a health insurance plan, a dental plan, sick benefits, life insurance, childcare fund and a pension

plan. These were all won through the struggle of Local 3882 members over the years. And, like the wages, these benefits are protected—the employer can't reduce them as long as the contract is in effect.

Hours of work, overtime, vacation and holidays

The contract describes the hours of work and how overtime is paid. Vacation, sick leave and holidays are in the contract and are guaranteed.

Health and safety

Our contract provides for two Health and Safety meetings a year with the university. Additionally when health and safety issues arise university personnel or an outside consultant will test and report on the situation to the union.

These are not all the provisions in our contract, nor are these brief descriptions complete. If you have questions about these provisions or others call the union office at 646-602-1485 and ask.

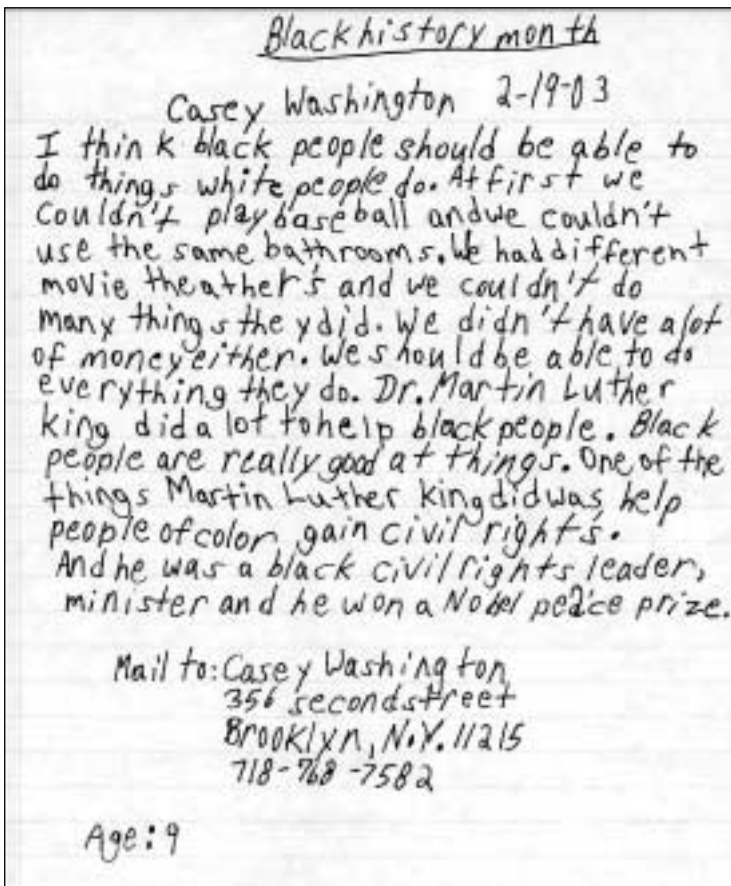
The union movement grew out of the struggle of working people to improve their lives. Educating ourselves about our contract gives us the knowledge and confidence to defend our rights and the rights of others. Having a union gives us the opportunity to plan for the long term, to aim for a better future for ourselves and our families.

Local 3882 is committed to that goal.

Elections for officers and stewards will take place this spring. By becoming involved we help ourselves by helping others. ❖

Winners of Local 3882 c

“What does Black History



Casey Washington

3rd Grade, 9 years old

School: P.S. 39

Son of union member,

Barbara Gash-Newsome, Law School



Yaakov Williams

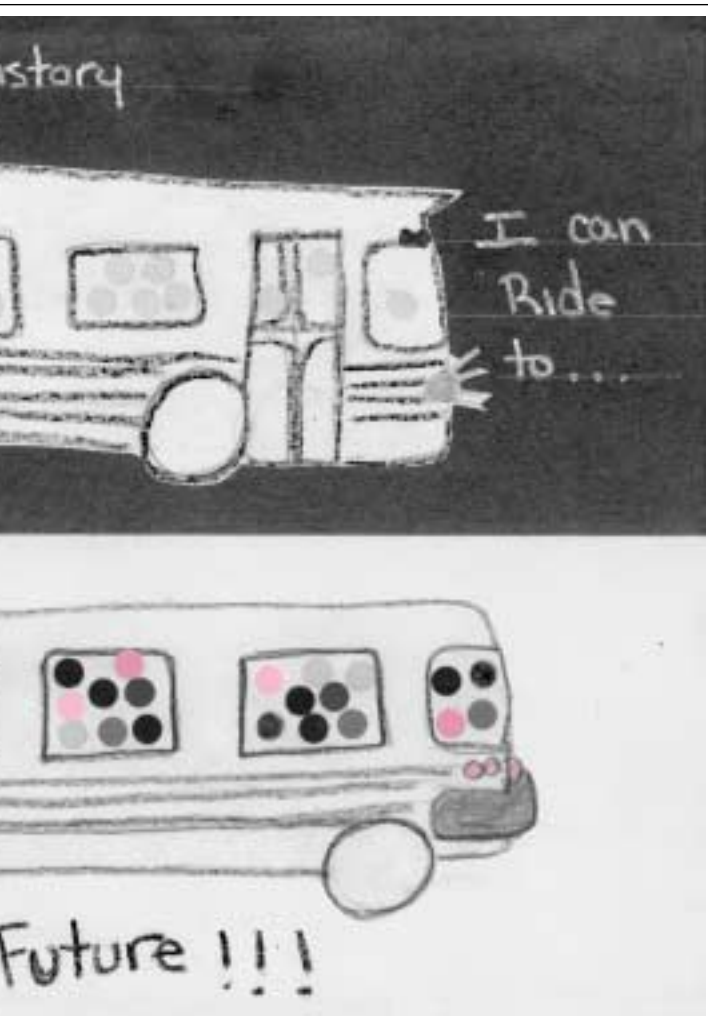
6th Grade, 11 years old

School: Simon M. Schuster

Nephew of union member,

Barbara Harley, University of

Children's competition on "Every Month mean to you"



Williams
11 years old
Baruch MS 104
union member,
University Health Center



Kaiyah Wanza
6th Grade, 11 years old
School: Simon Baruch MS 104
Nephew of union member, Barbara Harley,
University Health Center

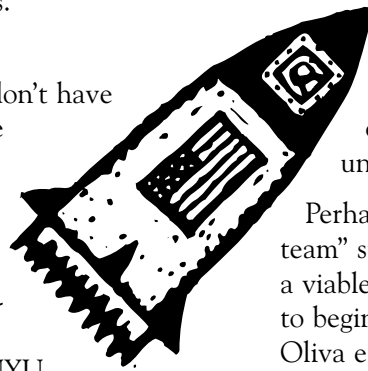
The winners will each receive a \$20 gift certificate to a bookstore.

The enterprise university – Captain Sexton?

With admissions at an all-time high (up 13% over the last two years) and money for new towering buildings to house expanding programs, NYU announces . . . yes, a hiring freeze! Even though it's spring, a cold contradictory wind blows. According to a *Washington Square News* article, President Sexton indicated "the University would not curb spending" despite "trying times."

Confused?

As union members you don't have to be. In fact, you can be downright clear about how all of this double talk will affect you: Our contract provides strong language that protects you from the Boss's saving schemes. While NYU may wish for you to pay for its glory, 3882's years of hard-won contracts stand in the way of sticky fingers and lay-offs due to fiscal bungling and mismanagement.



NYU — The Enterprise (not the starship) University

To clarify

Recently, it was announced that NYU's "top level administrators have agreed to forego receiving their usual salary increase for next year," while Sexton himself has pledged to donate 5% of his salary to the university.

This is "an example of our collective decision making process" according to Sexton's chief of staff, Diane Yu. "We are fully supportive of the notion that this is an enterprise university."

Perhaps for the highly paid "leadership team" such an investment in the enterprise is a viable model, since they are paid so much to begin with. Former NYU President L. Jay Oliva earned \$651,000 in 2001, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Despite Sexton's space-age metaphor, most of us came to NYU to earn a living, not to make a donation! ❖

Back on earth, our contract protects us from abusive (and confusing) management schemes.

How NYU "saves":

- No or insulting (\$750) pay raise
- Lay-offs
- Uncompensated overtime
- "Pass along" Health care costs

How the union contract protects you: (please refer to your contract)

- Guaranteed pay increases
- Strong job security (seniority rights)
- Pay for overtime (time and a half after 35 hours)
- Free healthcare

Our coverage is still the best deal on the planet!

You should have received a copy of our contract with a hiring freeze flyer in the mail. Please take the time to review it and call the union office if you have questions or feel that the boss is helping you make an unwilling investment!

Kimmel Center happenings

by Luz Contreras, Kimmel Center

While the students were away in the latest popular destination spots, the staff of the Student Event Center was busy preparing for the official move into the new Kimmel Center for University Life. Thanks to the efforts of Local 3882 the move-in was not as bad as anticipated.

You see, two weeks before the moving date Kimmel was still completely under construction. Dust (wood, plaster, cement) was everywhere, rats were everywhere, construction materials were everywhere. The building was already open to the staff for tours. During the tours one staff member suffered an extreme allergic reaction to the dust and debris. That's when the union stepped in.

Hearing the staff's concerns

Phone calls were made and memos were faxed to Environmental Services, Planning & Construction, NYU's Legal Counsel, and Human Resources. Diana Corzen, shop steward in Health Services, was contacted for information regarding emergency procedures. A meeting was held for the staff to hear concerns and give information.

By the Friday before the move-in date, a crew of a dozen ABM workers were seen cleaning up the lobby and first floor of Kimmel. Over the weekend, there were three crews working day and night to clean up all of the soon-to-be occupied floors of the new building, including stairwells and elevators. Thanks to the efforts of Local 3882 and the staff, NYU got this message loud and clear, "We will not tolerate unsafe and unhealthy work conditions!!" ❖



Shop Steward, Luz Contreras and Organizer, Greg Succop, worked hard to force NYU to make Kimmel safe for the staff. Here they are photographed at the bottom of the grand stairway leading into the building.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire

by Sandra Taylor, 1 Washington Square North

The Washington Square area was big business for garment owners. It was something different for workers. Young girls and women perished in fire. Immigrants worked long and hard hours. Employers locked doors for fear. Committees organized to improve safety in the work place.

The Asch Building, a.k.a. the Brown Building of New York University (located across from Washington Square Park), housed the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, which occupied the eighth, ninth and tenth floors, and employed approximately 500 workers.

Washington Square was flourishing with businesses, lofts to rent, and new houses being built. Everyone was hustling to make a dollar to keep businesses afloat. Some of the employers were greedy and non-caring individuals who focused their sights on how much money they could make — not the safety of their employees.

Negligence on the part of the employers
Because the employers did not focus on the sanitary and safety conditions at their plant — tragedy struck. On March 25, 1911, there was a fire that killed 146 people at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Some of these young immigrant girls and women (who thought that coming to America was the

greatest thing that ever happened to them) were manipulated into working at garment factories for either very low piece rates, or a weekly salary of about \$6. They worked from 7AM until 8PM with a half hour for lunch. The immigrants thought coming to America symbolized freedom and a better way of life to provide for families, but their employers had their own idea of how these immigrants were going to be living. These employers wanted only to better line their pockets, at the risk of endangering their workers — just to make mo' money, mo' money, mo' money. The employee's life (as the employer saw it) was minimal in comparison to his big scheme. The locked doors were a horrible decision and the one reason so many died in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Locked doors and no way out

The women were subjected to locked doors at the plant daily because the employer did not want workers to remove any material from the factory, so there was no way past the fire aside from jumping out of the window, which many did. The doors were also locked because employers wanted to keep latecomers out. The employers wanted to keep the union organizers out of the plant because the organizers had the women marching for their rights. But in doing so, he locked the other women in, and it most certainly sealed their fate, and prevented the women from escaping the factory, which led to the demise of many individuals.

This fire prompted the women to strike and revolt in most factories around the city. The women were pounding pavements to achieve their goals for a better work environment in their day and to make an impression upon the employers and the lawmakers of today — that no others would lose their lives at the workplace because of horrendous conditions.

Workers have come to realize that it is only through the strength of organizing, the strength of the union movement and its impact on the passage of health and safety laws that we can ever truly be safe. ❖

“This fire prompted the women to strike and revolt in most factories around the city.”



Former Mayor David Dinkins with UNITE President Bruce Raynor seated on his right side received a thunderous response from attendees at the Triangle Shirtwaist Commemoration.



Shut down Indian Point nuclear power plant

by Robert Lesko, 145 4th Avenue

Shortly after the attacks of 9/11, a campaign began calling for the closure of the Indian Point nuclear plant. Located in Westchester County, the Indian Point has 20,000,000 people living within a 50-mile radius (including all of New York City), the most dense population concentration surrounding any nuclear plant in the nation. As such, it is recognized as a prime potential target for terrorist action, be it foreign or domestic. To date, over 100 community, environmental and school organizations have called for the decommissioning of the plant. Last May, Local 3882 joined trade unions representing over 400,000 other New York workers, and passed its own resolution calling for the plant's closure. Since then, 3882 representatives have advocated the issue before several civic bodies in the area.

Below is vice president Robert Lesko's testimony before a hearing of the New York City Council's Committee on Environmental Protection held on February 28:

"I am here today as an officer of Local 3882, of the American Federation of Teachers, representing the 1700 clerical and technical workers at NYU. At Local 3882, we feel it is an integral part of our mission to actively safeguard the health and safety of the clerical, student, and faculty workforce at NYU, safeguarding against a university administration seemingly indifferent to risks posed by construction renovation, inappropriately-placed office spaces, inadequate laboratory training, and the like. As an expansion of that mission, last spring we researched the health and safety risks posed to our members, their families, and the general public by

the continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear facility.

In May, our executive council passed, unanimously, a resolution calling for the plant's immediate decommissioning. As a labor organization, Local 3882 is sensitive to a decommissioning's displacement effect upon the current work force at the facility. Upon review of reports such as the World Wildlife Fund's October, 2001, Clean Energy Jobs for America's Future, and the 2002 joint report by the Economic Policy Institute and the Center for a Sustainable Economy, Clean Energy and Jobs, we recognize the potential net job creation effects resulting from the transition of energy production to non-nuclear renewable sources.

Thusly, our resolution calls for the appropriate authorities to assess the number of jobs to be retained for the safe and orderly decommissioning of the facility, and to provide re-training to alternative technologies so as to preserve the livelihoods of the present work force. In correspondence to City Council Speaker A. Gifford Miller of last June 4th, Local 3882 expressed the view that '...reportage in *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, *The New York Observer*, and the *Westchester Journal News* has established that the possible multi-level, multi-generational environmental and financial damages of a catastrophe at Indian Point would be of a scale unprecedented in human history.'

I am here on behalf of Local 3882 to reaffirm that position on the matter, and to urge the Environmental Committee to pass Resolution 64A, amended to call for the immediate shutdown of the Indian Point nuclear facility."

For more information on the campaign: www.closeindianpoint.org. ♦

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of the plant.

Solidarity against the war

by Erica Tate, Vanderbilt Hall

Like no other time in history, there is a worldwide anti-war movement working in solidarity to fight for peace. In addition to large international demonstrations there have been many grass root efforts to fight the war.



Among some of the efforts are: Recently the New York City Council passed a resolution against the war. Volunteers have travelled to Baghdad, Iraq to act as human shields. High school and college student have staged walk outs to stress books, not bombs. There has been moratorium signings, candlelight vigils for peace, letter writing campaigns (to Congress, the White House, and the U.N. Security Council members) and virtual demonstrations of emailing, faxing and phoning congress members. Activists have held teach-ins and human and civil right symposia, demonstrations

against INS roundups, and town hall meetings. Clergy and human rights activists have traveled to Iraq on fact finding missions. In Europe there have been acts of civil disobedience against U.S. military bases, supply depots and transports. Dutch activists chained themselves to the gates of a U.S. military center outside Rotterdam and Italian protesters occupied train stations and railway tracks for nearly a week delaying trains carrying U.S. military equipment to the Camp Darby military base near Pisa. In Ireland protesters broke through the perimeter fence at Shannon airport and damaged a U.S. Navy plane (causing other planes to divert their flights and refuel elsewhere). Trade unions in Italy and France pledged work disruptions and are considering general strikes if war breaks out.

Local 3882 participated in the February 15th and March 22nd rallies against the war. Many members have gone to Washington, D.C. to protest the war and have attended student protests. Michael Letwin from NYC Labor Against the War stated that at least five million union members in the U.S. have come out against the war on Iraq.

We'll continue to fight against this war until it ends! The future is ours if we dare to take it! ❖

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THESE GROUPS

US Labor Against the War
<http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org/>

New York City Labor Against the War
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LaborAgainstWar>

A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism)
39 W. 14th St., #206, NY, NY 10011
212.633.6646 email: info@internationalanswer.org

<http://www.InternationalANSWER.org>
<http://www.VoteWar.org>

United for Peace and Justice
646.472.8935

NYU Peace Coalition
www.NYUPeaceCoalition@topica.com

Law Peace Coalition
www.peace-law@forums.nyu.edu

Independent Media
www.indymedia.org

Direct Action to Stop to War
<http://www.actagainstawar.org>
415.820.9649

Veterans for Peace
www.veteransforpeace.org

Not In Our Name (NION)
212.533.2123
www.notinourname.net

Labor speaks out

At San Francisco City College there have been various anti-war activities, including peace rallies, teach-ins, classroom discussions and debates on the military necessity and moral justification of attacking Iraq. Our union and the City College Board of Trustees have passed resolutions opposing the war. Yesterday the Executive Board of AFT 2121 passed a resolution in support of the move in the House of Representatives to rescind President Bush's authorization to invade Iraq.

We don't want our troops, some of whom are present and former students, to have to kill or be killed in an undeclared war that the overwhelming majority of the people of the world, including most of our closest allies, oppose. We believe that Iraq poses no credible threat to this country and we strongly support continued U.N. inspections and true multi-national efforts to require Iraq to comply with pertinent U.N. resolutions. As teachers and patriots, we respect and support the principles of democracy and the right of self-determination of sovereign nations, and we encourage patriotism that recognizes our nation as an extension of our family and the rest of humanity as an extension of our nation. How can the Bush administration profess to support democratic principles and institutions and at the same time disparage and disregard not only the collective judgment of the U.N. but also the voices of people throughout the world who are urging the Bush administration to support continued U.N. inspections instead of starting a war? Attacking Iraq will take many lives and cost an estimated \$60 to \$200 billion when the richest country on earth is cutting school programs, health care and other human services and is laying off firefighters and police officers.

Teachers believe in the lessons of history. During the undeclared war in Vietnam, our government demonized our so-called enemy and told us it was necessary to burn villages



to save them, and now the Bush administration is demonizing our enemy and telling us we must bomb the Iraqi people to liberate them. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than a sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." In this country and in every part of the world, opposition to this, in our view, unnecessary war is based on conscience and common sense. Since teachers believe in the power of education, we must also believe that President Bush, with some help from his cabinet and advisers, has enough common sense to recognize that he is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the United States — not the world. And once he's come to that realization, his conscience will inform him that this country doesn't have the moral or political authority to determine the leaders of other sovereign nations for the same reason those countries have no right to determine our leaders, and that the best way to ensure peace and stability in the world and to prevent, or minimize, terrorist attacks on our people is to preserve our Constitutional rights, to support the International Criminal Court, to work within the United Nations, and to end our anti-democratic and interventionist foreign policies.

Statement of Rodger Scott, Former President and Labor Council Delegate of AFT Local 2121, San Francisco Community College District Faculty.

Local 3882 members and their families protested the war on March 22, 2003

Inside the 3882 Local News

LOCAL 3882 STEWARDS AND OFFICERS SPEAK OUT

I've learned a lot about NYU since becoming a steward — the importance of a union, and the need for solidarity. I've been able to help people in my area (SCPS) and mediate in situations that would have been a lot worse, had it not been for the union's



intervention. In SCPS, many administrators feel unsure about their jobs — so many have been laid off, or their jobs eliminated with little notice. It's great to be in the leadership of a union that makes as its priority, the protection of workers and the constant advancement of our rights.

– Barbara Francis, *Local 3882 Steward*
(formerly, *Midtown Center*)

(Speak outs continue on page 3)

IT'S ELECTION SEASON
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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION
—
COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 3

the 3882 Local News

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Local 3882 Office: (646) 602-1485

E-mail address: lcl3882@erols.com

President	Kathy Cruz
Vice Presidents	Barbara Harley Rob Lesko
Treasurer	Anita Prokesch
Organizer	Trudy Rudnick
Organizer	Greg Succop
Newsletter	Trudy Rudnick Margarita Aguilar Denise Shavers

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