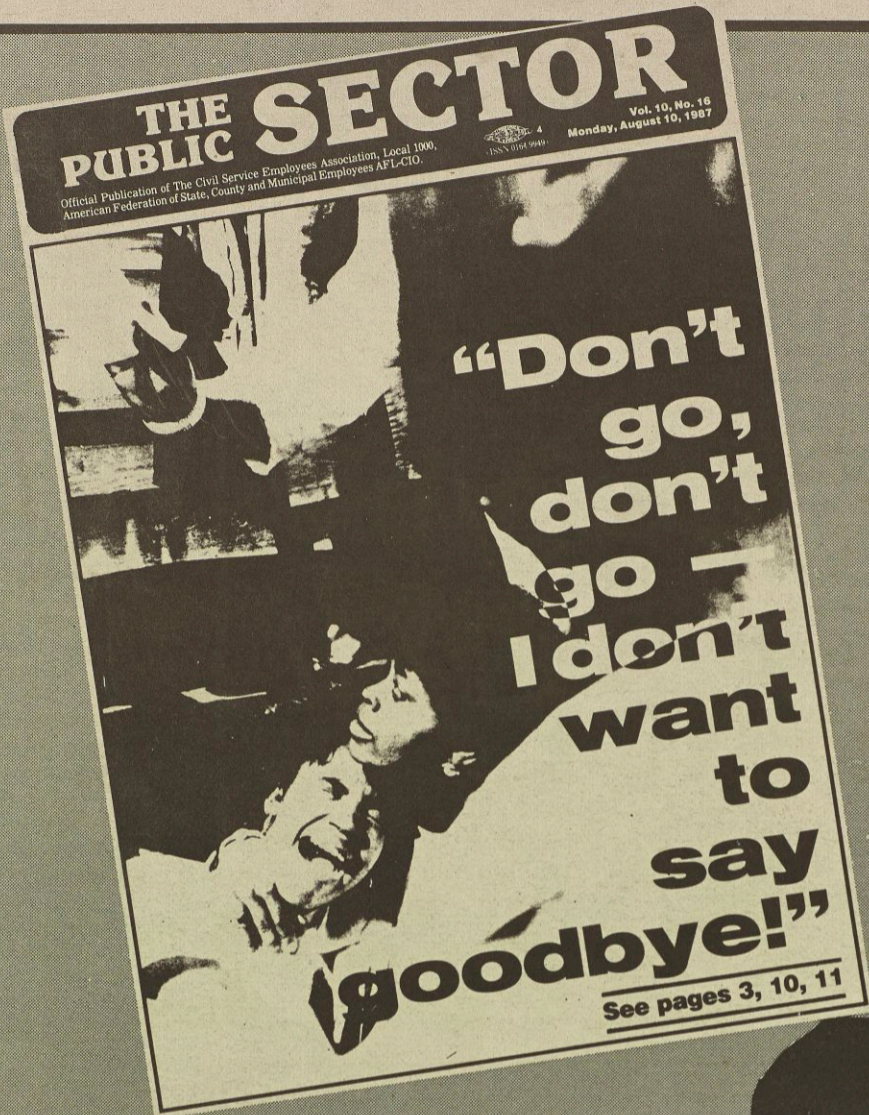


THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Official Publication of The Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000,
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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Vol. 11, No. 10
Monday, May 30, 1988



Has anything really changed

10 months

after


Clara Taylor was murdered?

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INSIDE

**AMERICA WORKS BEST
WHEN WE SAY...**

**UNION
YES** 

You know it; we want the public to also . . . PAGE 5



A twinkle in George's eye . . . PAGE 6

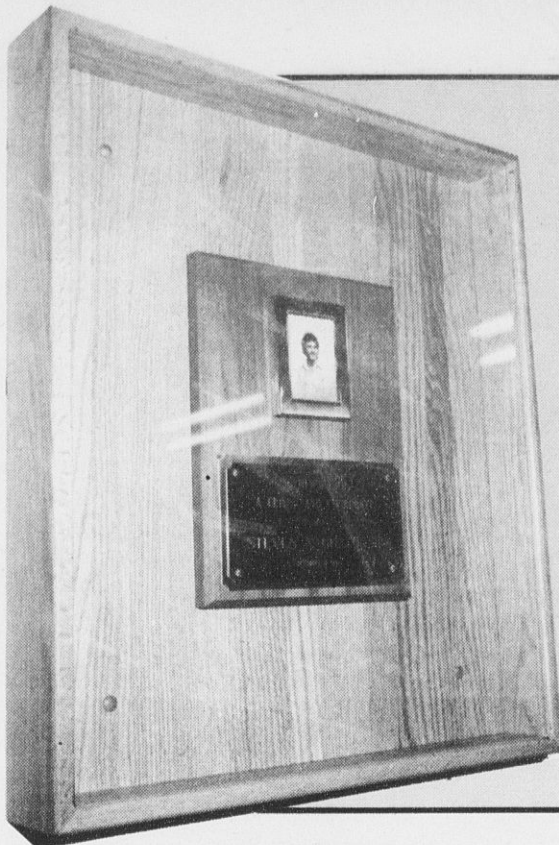
Eugene Nicolella, 70

ROTTERDAM — Eugene Nicolella, 70, a longtime CSEA activist, died recently after a short illness.

Nicolella formed the first Schenectady County CSEA Local 23 years ago and served as its president. He was the first Schenectady County representative to the statewide Board of Directors and served on the board for more than 20 years.

After retiring from the Schenectady County Department of Social Services where he worked as a utility person, Nicolella formed the first retiree local for Schenectady county and city CSEA retirees.

Nicolella is survived by his wife, Josephine, two sons, two brothers and three grandchildren.



REMEMBERING STEVEN — Family, friends and co-workers gathered recently in the garage at the West Seneca Developmental Center to dedicate a plaque in memory of Steven A. Guzzo. Guzzo, a 28-year-old father of three, was killed in a workplace accident last December. The plaque was dedicated "in memory of our friend and co-worker Steven Guzzo. May it be a constant reminder of the love, dedication and hard work Steve exhibited in his life. May its presence in our workplace stand as a challenge to us to continue to emulate Steve's zest for life, not only through the quality of our work, but in the sincere caring for each other as we work together."

Reminder — cast your ballot!

ALBANY — Ballots were mailed May 16 for the election of CSEA statewide officers.

Replacement ballots are now available between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. by contacting Bernadette Ford at the Independent Election Corporation of America (IECA). Call IECA collect at (516) 437-4900, ext. 310. Ballots will be counted Wednesday, June 15, following the noontime deadline for their return to P.O.

Box 8007, Lake Success, N.Y. 11043-9907.

Only candidates, or a proxy with written authorization from a candidate, may be present on June 15 to hear results of the count. Written proxy forms must be first obtained by contacting Marcel Gardner at CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210. Call toll-free 1-800-342-4146.

The election protest period ends June 27.

Veteran staffer Danny Jinks dies

Danny F. Jinks, 44, a collective bargaining specialist in CSEA's Western Region, died May 19 in Portland, Chautauqua County, where he resided.

Mr. Jinks joined CSEA in March 1970 as a field representative and was promoted to a collective bargaining specialist in November 1971.



He served as president of the Field Staff Association (FSA) union of CSEA staff employees from 1984 to 1988 and also served as secretary and grievance chairman of FSA.

He is survived by two sons, his parents, three brothers, a sister and paternal grandmother.

Funeral services were held May 23 in Gloversville, Fulton County, where Mr. Jinks was born.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gloversville Lions Club or the American Heart Association.

Public SECTOR

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Some employees still work alone months after murder of co-worker

Understaffed workforce at peril yet at Rockland PC

Compiled by Anita Manley
CSEA Communications Associate

ORANGEBURG — The brutal murder last July of Rockland Psychiatric Center Therapy Aide Clara Taylor, working alone at night on a ward with two dozen patients, sent shock waves throughout the state's mental health community. Serious understaffing had taken its ultimate toll — a human life.

But despite official promises following the death of Taylor that no one would ever again be expected to work alone on a ward at Rockland Psychiatric Center, very little has actually changed here in the 10 months since her death.

On paper, things look great, with as many as four therapy aides assigned to a ward. But that's not the true picture, according to Rockland Psychiatric Center CSEA Local 421 President Glenda Davis, who insists employees are still working alone at the facility.

Being fully staffed on paper is one thing, Davis points out, but when large numbers of employees are out at any given time with injuries received on the job, the reality is that the facility is actually dangerously understaffed.

"You may have three or four people assigned to a ward," a nursing supervisor agrees, "but they're usually detailed out" with one or two therapy aides sent to a local hospital to accompany patients and another perhaps assigned exclusively to monitor a suicidal or dangerous patient.

"Then you've got maybe one or two

employees left to work on a ward with 24 patients."

A therapy aide who has worked at Rockland Psychiatric Center for 10 years says therapy aides definitely are working alone.

"You have six wards in a building. Two wards are next to each other, and if you only have one therapy aide on a ward you're told to call the adjoining ward if you need help," he says. Usually the adjoining ward is also understaffed and unable to provide assistance.

Davis said staffing is being accomplished with smoke and mirrors by forcing exhausted employees to work double shifts.

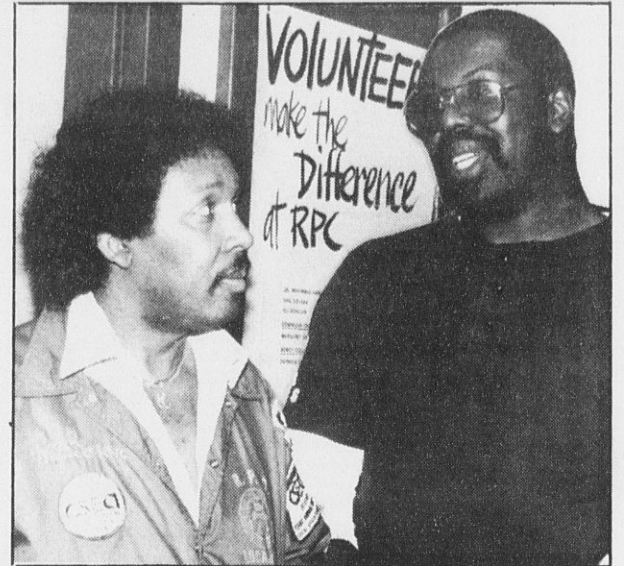
"As soon as therapy aides comes in the morning, they're asked to work overtime," Davis said. "If they refuse, they're brought up on charges."

Employees, because of understaffing, are being refused personal or vacation leave, which further burns out the already overworked staff.

Therapy Aide Larry August, who lives over an hour away from the facility, says overtime really takes a toll. He works extra shifts frequently.

"Chances are, another therapy aide will be hurt," he says. "We're on the front lines. There's no one to protect us. I feel we're not safe."

Conditions at the facility are remarkably similar to those 10 months ago which contributed to the death of Clara Taylor, says Davis. Understaffing, mandatory overtime and double shifts continue to increase the risks for everyone.



ROBERT DUMAS, right, talks with CSEA Local 421 Grievance Chairman Vernon Cason. Both Dumas and his wife work at Rockland Psychiatric Center. He complained when he heard his wife was left alone on a ward with 27 young patients but, "They told me it was not my concern." Dumas says he frequently works alone also with occasional help from a trainee part of the day.

Accused murderer found incompetent

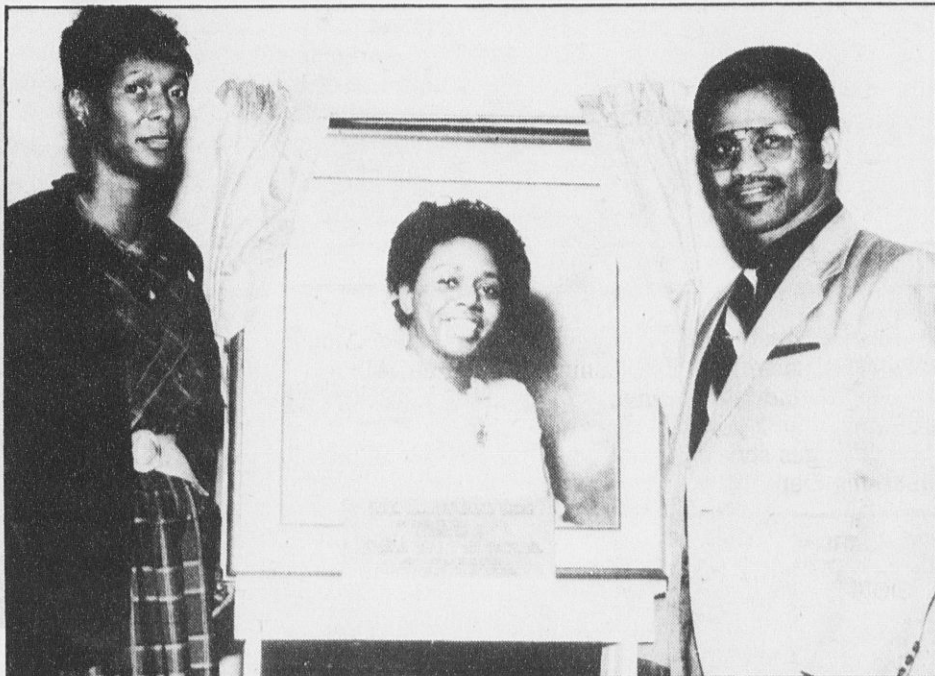
Larry Logan, who was a patient in the transitional ward at Rockland Psychiatric Center the night Therapy Aide Clara L. Taylor was murdered, has been found incompetent by a Rockland County grand jury to stand trial for her murder.

The ruling means that Logan will be incarcerated in a secure facility until such time as he is declared competent to stand trial on charges he beat Clara Taylor to death last July 17.

Community residence named in memory of Clara Taylor

The first state-operated community residence on the grounds of Rockland Psychiatric Center has been officially named the "Clara Taylor House" in memory of the therapy aide murdered on July 17, 1987, while working alone on a night shift at the facility.

The 24-bed Clara Taylor House community residence provides a transitional setting and support program enabling clients to return to the community.



A PLAQUE AND PORTRAIT of Clara Taylor will hang in the "Clara Taylor House" community residence. Admiring the portrait and plaque unveiled during dedication ceremonies are CSEA Local 421 President Glenda Davis and Rev. Elvey Taylor, Clara Taylor's husband.

Dangers in DMV

By Anita Manley
CSEA Communications Associate

YONKERS — Working in downtown Yonkers has not been easy for any of the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) workers in Mid-Hudson State Employees CSEA Local 009. Last year, the roof of the DMV building leaked, there was no heat and state officials were dragging their feet to find a new office location.

A new office was finally found and is scheduled to open this summer, but employees are concerned because the new building is located in a run-down neighborhood, and parking will not be enclosed.

Another serious concern is the design of the the counters inside the office. In the current building, at least half of the clerks are safely stationed behind glass partitions because they must handle hundreds of dollars in cash.

"Now the state says they're not going to install glass partitions in the new building because they're not cosmetically appealing," said Region III Field Representative Dolores Tocci. "And there are no plans for a security guard, either."

Counter design is important. Just ask Deon LaVigne. When a client became angry over paperwork that had to be completed, LaVigne found her life in danger.

She was behind a counter with no glass partition. The angry client easily leaped over the counter and attempted to strangle and beat her. Petite in stature and pregnant, LaVigne said that only two co-workers saved her from more serious injury. As it was, she was out of work for more than two months

after the incident.

Worse, the irate client ran out of the building and was never apprehended because there is no security guard assigned to DMV on a regular basis.

Shop Steward Tina Pastorek said incidents with unruly customers occur regularly.

"Our clerks and supervisors are verbally abused and threatened constantly," she said. "You never know who is carrying a knife or a weapon."

Security guards are brought in for two or three days a month, but they spend most of their workday directing traffic in the parking lot, Pastorek said.

Recently, a security guard came in and spotted a man carrying a gun. The police were called to escort the man out of the

building.

Pastorek is not looking forward to the move to the new building.

"We've already been told that the commissioner expects us to have more contact with the customers," she said. "Our booths have no partitions and the money will be right out in the open. They're not the least bit concerned for our safety."

Tocci and Region III President Pat Mascioli say they are extremely concerned for the state employees and will push for changes in plans for the new office before it opens.

"I'm furious that 'the powers that be' would sacrifice security and safety for aesthetics," Mascioli said. "The priority should be protection for our members."



MOTOR VEHICLE CLERK Deon LaVigne, center, shows Region III Field Representative Dolores Tocci and Region III President Pat Mascioli the counter that an irate customer jumped over before he tried to beat and strangle her.



CSEA: 'Stop that tax!'

The response has been overwhelming — nearly 60,000 CSEA members have signed petitions protesting Internal Revenue Service plans to tax the leave time accrued by public employees. CSEA Lobbyist Damaris McGuire and President William L. McGowan plan to present the petitions to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Meanwhile, McGuire, left, CSEA statewide Political Action Committee Chair Joseph Conway, center, and Political Action Director of Operations Joyce Dimitri are thrilled with the response. The union hopes to convince legislators that the IRS plan should be quashed.

OCA contract progress slow

ALBANY — Contract negotiations between CSEA and the state Office of Court Administration are progressing slowly, according to Deputy Contract Administrator Donald Kelly.

The CSEA negotiating team has tried several times to set up meetings, offering more than 20 possible dates during May and June. However, only three days were then scheduled, Kelly said.

"CSEA will continue to use its best efforts to conclude negotiations and arrive at an agreement within the shortest time possible," Kelly said. "However, we will not sacrifice employees' rights and benefits in order to enter into an early settlement."

America works best when you say:

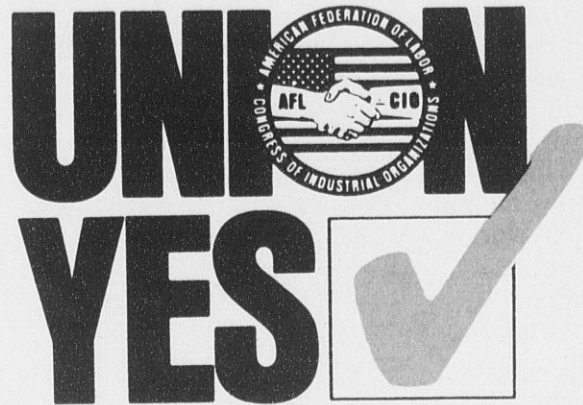
No matter where you live, chances are you're going to be seeing and hearing a lot about unions in the near future.

The AFL-CIO recently launched a two-year \$13 million communication effort called the UNION, YES campaign.

The campaign is designed to improve organized labor's public image by stressing the benefits unions have achieved for all working people.

The AFL-CIO is particularly concerned that this message reach young people who may not be aware of the positive role that unions can and do play.

By improving the public's understanding of how unions work to gain fair treatment and respect for people on the job and in the



community, the campaign will encourage a new generation of American workers to say UNION, YES when they have the opportunity.

But there is another dimension to the campaign as well. Under the banner of UNION, YES AFL-CIO locals and affiliates will launch their own communication efforts to strengthen the labor movement and energize individual members.

You can star!



If you'd like to appear on TV with actor Jack Lemmon to tell the world what CSEA's done for you, then here's your chance.

The UNION, YES campaign is now airing broadcast spots across the country with TV stars Tyne Daley and Howard Hesseman among others, promoting the positive role of unions.

But you could be the real star come next fall.

In 25 words or less, tell how CSEA helped you solve a problem on the job and send it to the AFL-CIO. If your entry is selected, you'll appear with Lemmon in the TV campaign.

Send your story along with your name, address, telephone number, name and number of your local and the job you perform to: **Why I say UNION, YES c/o AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 27543, Washington, D.C. 20006.** Your entry must be postmarked no later than July 4.

and



The UNION, YES campaign will be a strong positive influence on CSEA organizing drives according to CSEA Director of Organizing Larry Scanlon.

"The most important thing we do in an organizing drive is help workers understand the many ways CSEA can help them improve their lives, working conditions and wages," Scanlon said. "It takes a lot of work because very often the workers don't know a lot about unions and management uses union-busters to scare them with misinformation.

"Having the AFL-CIO undertake a major campaign like this is a big help. It lays the groundwork for us by emphasizing the good that unions do. Then when we come in and reinforce that message it's more easily understood," he added.

If recent events are any indication, CSEA is already doing a good job getting that positive message out to unorganized



CSEA Director of Organizing Larry Scanlon

workers. Over the past few months CSEA has organized hundreds of new members in more than a dozen new units.

"We're making gains because it's getting across to people that CSEA is interested in helping them as a whole person. We're not just there to negotiate better wages and benefits — we're there to help with family issues like child-care, make sure there's pay equity and protect their safety and health on and off the job," Scanlon explained.

Scanlon is also encouraged by the

involvement of rank and file union members in the UNION, YES campaign to help tell the story: "It's very important to have the first-hand comments of members telling others about what the union has done for them — it has much more impact than any organizer can hope to have alone."

At the same time, the campaign has tremendous internal organizing value by bringing out the union pride in all members. And that can go a long way toward making CSEA stronger.



Pail of cash turns out to be 'funny money'

A busted dream in a rusted can

BEACON — At first they thought they found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Instead, what Anthony Verdile and George Wells found was an old paint can packed full of counterfeit money under the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

The two were walking on the catwalk under the bridge recently when Verdile spotted the dented, rusty paint can on a beam. The two members of Bridge

Authority CSEA Local 050 thought they had discovered the answer to their dreams.

"It looked like there was money sticking out of it," said Verdile. "I wasn't sure. As I moved toward it, I could see it was jammed full of \$20 bills."

But their dreams of instant riches faded quickly. Wells looked through the cash and compared it to a \$20 bill he had in his pocket. He discovered the bills in the paint can all had the same serial numbers.

Without hesitation Wells used his radio to call a co-worker to inform state police of the

discovery.

In all, police counted nearly \$40,000 in counterfeit money in the old paint can.

State police later said the can was among several that have been found near the Hudson River, all filled with the "funny money" and linked to a counterfeit operation in New York City.

Bridge Foreman Joe Seeley says Wells has a problem now.

"No one will cash a \$20 bill from him anymore!"



NOT FOR REAL — Anthony Verdile, George Wells and Local 050 Vice President Joe Seeley stand on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, on which Verdile and Wells found a rusted paint can full of counterfeit money recently.

Thruway Workers Find Cash in Can But Are Faked Out

BEACON (AP) — It seemed the stuff dreams are made of. Then again, maybe not.

Two New York State Bridge Authority workers, during a routine inspection Tuesday morning, found almost \$40,000 in a paint can nestled on the bank of the Beacon-Newburgh bridge.

The money was in \$20 bills. What more could anyone ask for?

"I thought my rainbow had come in," said George Wells, 56, of Middletown.

Wells and a co-worker, Anthony Verdile, 24, of Beacon, were walking along a catwalk on the bridge over the Hudson River doing a routine check when Verdile spotted the rusted paint can about 30 feet down from the road and went down to investigate.

As he tore back the cover of the can, lo and behold!

"There ain't nothing but money in here," Verdile recalled calling up Wells. "Oh boy, I got a sh..."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS sent a story on the "funny money" find across the wire service to news media.

Send for your FREE blood pressure information booklet

Learning the facts about high blood pressure and how it can be treated and controlled is important to your health and well-being. High blood pressure affects millions of Americans, perhaps yourself or someone you know. But until you find out, what you don't know can hurt you. To find out about blood pressure and what it means, send for a FREE copy of the booklet "High blood pressure and what you can do about it." Send the coupon at right today.

SEND TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Mail coupon to: Communications Department, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210

Abrams details workplace dangers

You are at risk!

ALBANY — Thousands of people die from occupational disease in New York every year, but most cases go unreported so the situation isn't taken as seriously as it should be.

At the same time, health department officials believe that given higher priority, all occupational disease could be prevented.

That was just part of the startling information presented at a recent seminar sponsored by state Attorney General Robert Abrams, CSEA and other unions.

"Whether you work in a factory or an office or a laboratory — in the private or public sector — you deserve to know about the hazards in your workplace," Abrams told the participants.

Unfortunately, Abrams explained, many workers are in the dark about their rights and benefits where occupational disease and injury are concerned. And more needs to be done to correct that problem.

The attorney general pointed out that unions like CSEA can play an important role in getting information out to people. He added that unions can also help create pressure on issues that need to be pursued more aggressively.

Among them:

- * More vigorous enforcement of worker protection laws;
- * Assuring better worker access to occupational disease diagnosis;
- * Improving medical screening benefits;
- * Encouraging employers to improve safety and health conditions.



CSEA OSH Director James Corcoran, Region III OSH representative Bob O'Conner and Region I OSH representative Dan Mora.

"You're our eyes and ears — let us know about the problems to point us in the right direction," Abrams said.

"Having the attorney general set up a program like this sends out a very good message that more needs to be done on worker safety and health," said CSEA Director of Occupational Safety and Health James Corcoran.

"But when we do bring problems to his attention we're going to have to see some real action," he commented.

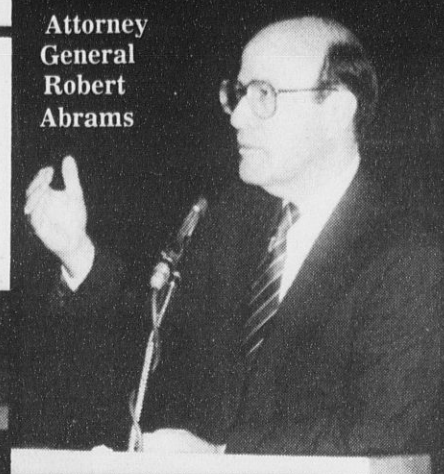
A large portion of the session detailed the plans for a network of occupational health clinics across the state. Programs are already operating at SUNY Stony

Brook on Long Island; Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City; and the Union Occupational Health Center in Buffalo.

Additional funding passed as part of the new state budget will be used to get clinics off the ground in Albany, Rochester and Syracuse.

The programs provide workers with a place to receive diagnosis by professionals trained to investigate links between illness and workplace causes. It is also hoped that the network will provide meaningful information on the extent of occupational illness across the state — information that, until now, has been available only through estimates.

Attorney General Robert Abrams



SUMMERSCAPE AT SUNY

SUMMERSCAPE, a unique and inexpensive vacation and education program, is again being offered exclusively for CSEA members or retirees and their families at three State University of New York (SUNY) college campuses.

SUMMERSCAPE will operate from July 16 to Aug. 6 at SUNY at Buffalo, SUNY at Plattsburgh and SUNY Maritime College. You may participate in SUMMERSCAPE for a single night or for up to a week or longer. For details, complete the coupon below and send to the appropriate campus at which you are interested in staying.

SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORMS, CONTACT
Richard Bizar
Vice President for Administration
Fort Schuyler
Bronx, New York 10465
(212) 409-7200

SUNY AT BUFFALO

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORMS, CONTACT:
Office of Housing/Residence Life
479 Red Jacket Quad
Buffalo, N.Y. 14261
(716) 636-2171

SUNY AT PLATTSBURGH

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORMS, CONTACT
Kate Chilton
106 Hawkins Hall
Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901
(518) 564-2050

Send the coupon below to the campus you are interested in visiting through SUNY SUMMERSCAPE.

I'm interested in visiting your campus this summer as a participant in the SUMMERSCAPE Program. Please send me information regarding reservations, seminars, campus activities and local attractions. (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



Learning laundry safety

WORKING ON LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT is mechanic Charles Louis, a member of CSEA Local 406.

QUEENS — A skull and crossed bones aren't stamped on everything that's dangerous to your health and safety on the job. That's why CSEA workers at the state's world-class metro area laundromat were anxious to learn more about toxic substances they use every day.

CSEA Creedmoor Psychiatric Center Local 406 members employed at the massive Office of General Services (OGS) laundry were among the first state laundry workers to be trained in how to read Material Safety Data Sheets. They are also learning safer procedures for handling bleaches, detergents, softeners and germicidal agents. Washing thousands of pounds of institutional laundry annually from metro area mental health and retardation facilities that include Manhattan, Bronx and Queens Children's



AN EMPLOYEE operates a drying machine in the huge laundry at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center.

psychiatric centers, Bronx, Kingsboro, Manhattan, Creedmoor and South Beach psychiatric centers, as well as Downstate Medical Center linens, they are New York's supreme ring-around-the-collar experts.

Local 406 President Mickey Cruz, who observed the safety training program, said it's important to "know what chemical you are dealing with, what it can do to you and how to protect yourself. Speaking for the union, we are elated that the state is finally supplying this needed information to workers as required by the Occupational Safety and Health law. I remember how long and hard CSEA fought to get this law through and now laundry workers are getting some of the benefits."

Catherine Barthel, Albany-based OGS trainer who conducted the program, said that OGS is going over "every product in use at the laundry." The first employees to be trained would be supervisors and mechanics because they give guidance to other workers and use more chemicals, she said.

Laundry Supervisor and CSEA member Robert Moore had his initial eye-opening toxic substance experience more than 20 years ago when he first joined the washroom crew. Bead-like bleach crystals (sodium metasilicate) fell on his sneakers and ate holes right through them.

"For the last eight or nine years now we have had rubber gloves and rubber shoes to wear when using this escolide bleach, but in the years before the state provided gloves, I remember how this stuff really burned your hand if you had any kind of a cut," Moore said.

Moore described sodium metasilicate as fine, bead-like crystals, similar to rock salt, that cause tearing eyes. "Inhaling this stuff can cause sneezing, nasal irritation, running

nose and colds," he went on, recalling respiratory problems he had over the years as a result of exposure to laundry chemicals. He required care from his family physician to deal with the symptoms.

Today the state supplies masks to wear. Moore observed that newer laundry employees are generally receptive to using the protective masks. "They don't want to take any chances inhaling the chemicals like the older employees have done for years," he added.

Assistant Mechanic Jose Hernandez, who has serviced the mammoth washers, dryers and ironing machines for five years, agreed that ongoing safety training is vital.

"The dust masks used by the washroom crews are not made to screen out the chemicals that mechanics routinely spray," he said. "I am more worried about getting chemicals in my eyes and always use safety goggles."

The training was thorough, Hernandez said, and it's important for employees to understand that "you have the right to know what you're using and you're not going to be fired if you refuse to do work when management hasn't provided you with the proper safety gear."

"We should have had this safety training 20 years ago when I first started work in Creedmoor," added Robert Moore. "We were just happy-go-lucky kids then and didn't know any better or realize that we had to be so careful about the way we handled this stuff. Nobody told us anything back then.

"We have a right to know about all these chemicals and after 20 years here, this is the first and only training about this I ever had."

Mill towns strikers take their case to Big Apple

Something smells at Avon

The tough, gritty struggle of beleaguered strikers against the giant International Paper Company moved from the paper mill towns to New York's posh Fifth Avenue this month. There, strikers from Maine and Pennsylvania were joined by angry union activists, including CSEA members, to picket the annual Avon stockholders' meeting at the exclusive Hotel Pierre. The unionists marched under the AFL-CIO-endorsed "Jobs With Justice" banner. Under the "Jobs With Justice" campaign, union members pledge solidarity with other unionists involved in disputes with management.

By Lilly Gioia

CSEA Communications Associate

"I'm here because 'Jobs With Justice' is standing with these strikers. If they lose, we all lose. It's as simple as that," said Denise Berkley.

Berkley, first vice president of CSEA's Metropolitan Region, pounded the pavement around the Hotel Pierre on New York's famous Fifth Avenue, site of the annual meeting of Avon stockholders. She joined other union activists from throughout the metropolitan area and a group of striking employees of the International Paper Company who came by bus from Jay, Maine, and Lockhaven, Pa.

The strikers and their union supporters called for Avon to remove Stanley Gault from its board of directors because Gault is also a director on the board of International Paper. Employees are engaged in a bitter, protracted strike against International Paper.

Berkley expressed deep support for the strikers, members of the United Paper Workers International Union, in their year-old dispute against the corporate paper giant.

"Why is International Paper insisting on contracting out jobs, destroying seniority and hiring scabs in the face of the company's biggest profits in history?" asked

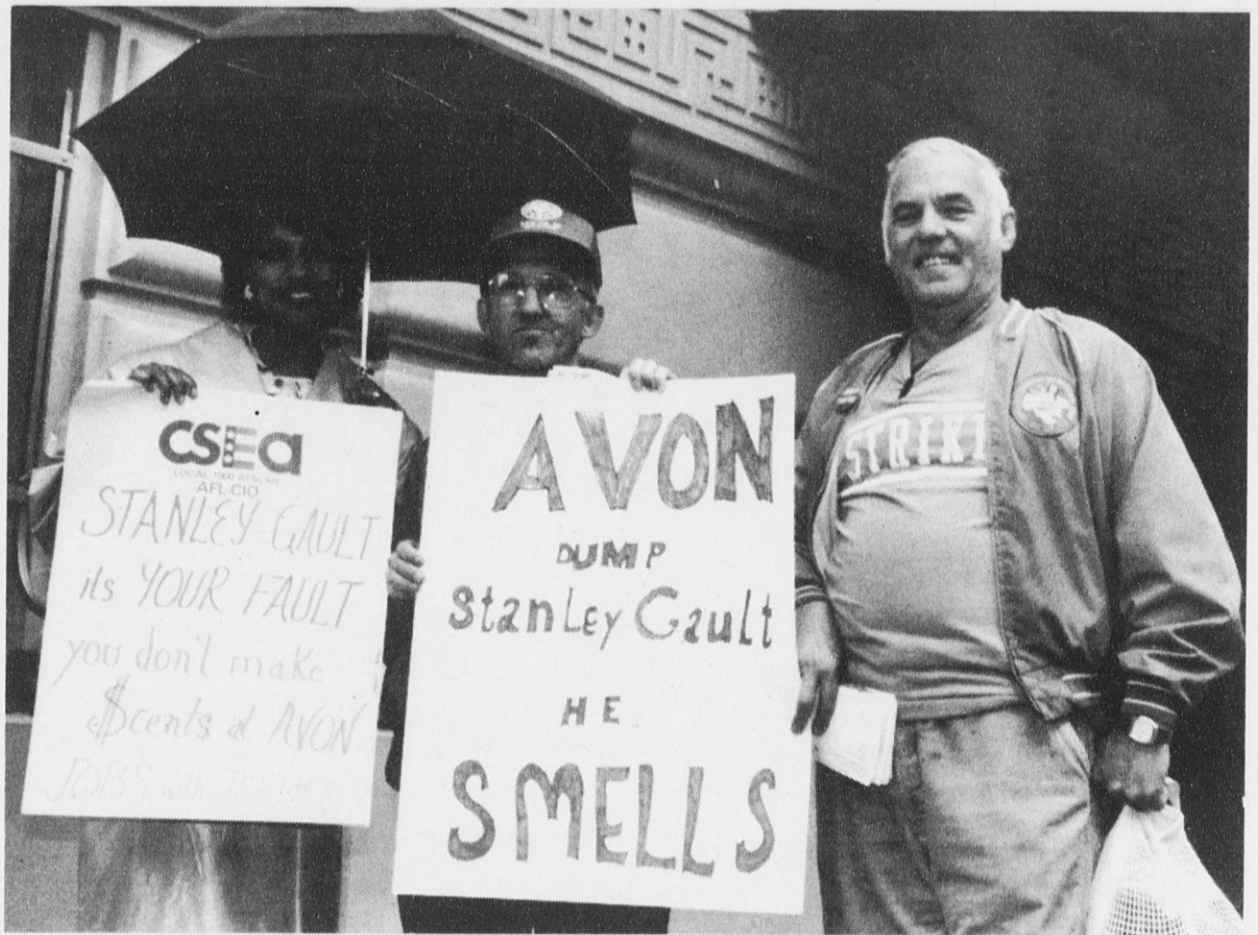
Strikers need your help

United Paper Workers International Union officials say donations of money and food are needed to aid families of striking employees at plants in Lockhaven, Pennsylvania; DiPierre, Wisconsin; Jay, Maine; and Mobile, Alabama.

Individuals who wish to contribute may send checks, payable to "I.P. Strike Fund," to:

United Paper Workers
International Union
P.O. Box 1475

Nashville, Tennessee 37202



DENISE BERKLEY, first vice president of CSEA's Metropolitan Region II, joins striking International Paper workers Albert Landry, center, and Bert Plante, both from the Maine plant, outside the Hotel Pierre in New York City.

It's about time we stood with each other to show labor solidarity. That's what 'Jobs With Justice' is all about.

Berkley. "This is a horror story of incredible greed with no conscience at all."

Albert Landry, a maintenance worker at International Paper's Jay, Maine, plant, said the strikers remain committed to their cause. Before the strike, he said, "lots of people didn't go to the union meetings. They were kind of complacent. Now we get over 1,000 people every week to our union rallies in Maine. Nobody takes the union for granted any more."

Landry's case is somewhat typical of strikers from the one-industry paper mill towns affected by the strike. A father of six, he has 34 years of service with the company. Three of his children are still at home and one is in college. The strike has taken a bitter toll on everyone, he said. His wife is now forced to work in a town laundromat to help make ends meet. His 24-year-old son who worked at the Maine plant is also out on strike.

He said the workers had no choice but to reject a company offer.

"If we had accepted their offer we would have agreed to sub-contract out half the jobs in our local, signing off on almost 500 of our fellow workers," Landry said. "They wanted to eliminate seniority and put everybody on a point system." He said the company

mailed all strikers letters advising them they've been permanently replaced and to find jobs elsewhere, but that the strikers remain resolute.

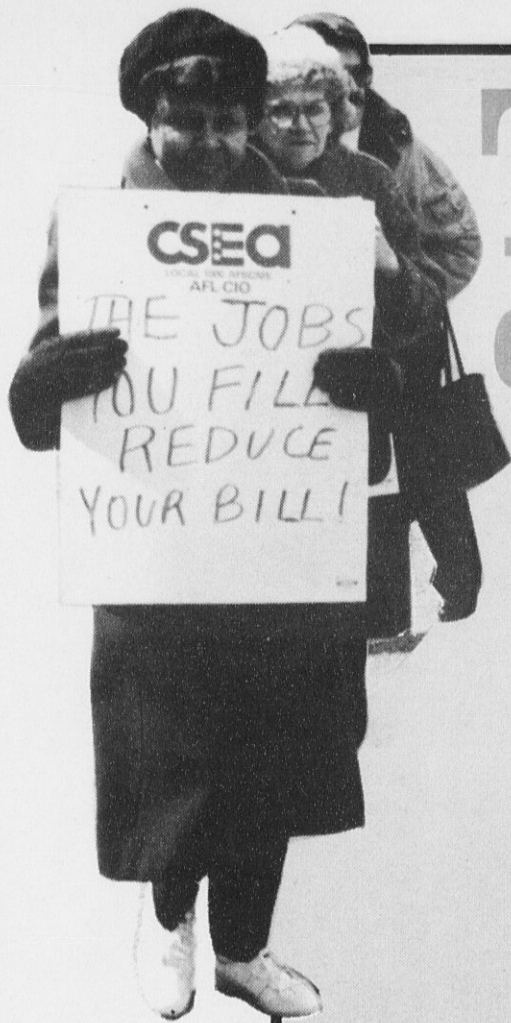
"I'm proud that CSEA members support the 'Jobs With Justice' idea," said Berkley. "It's about time we stood with each other to show labor solidarity. That's what 'Jobs With Justice' is all about. I know that union women who hear about Stanley Gault will want to think twice before buying Avon cosmetics when this company is so closely associated with blatant union busters."

Berkley said CSEA "Jobs With Justice" activists are mailing postcards to Avon, asking the corporation to remove Stanley Gault from the board of directors.

Join 'Jobs With Justice'

To join the CSEA "Jobs With Justice" activist list and be notified when your participation is needed at future actions in the metropolitan area, write:

JOBS WITH JUSTICE
c/o CSEA Metropolitan Region II
11 Broadway, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10004



TAKING A WALK can get you somewhere

The withholding of labor services under certain conditions by going on strike is an accepted and legal action for millions of working men and women, such as the striking employees of International Paper Company described on page 9 of this issue.

The right to strike, however, is largely limited to private sector workers. Public employees are rarely seen walking picket lines on strike, particularly in New York state where the tough (and unfair) Taylor Law prohibits public employee strikes and extracts harsh penalties for any one who does.

Still, the sight of public employees, often in very large numbers, walking lines is not unusual these days. But instead of "hitting the bricks" on strike picket lines, public

employees are most often seen walking informational picket lines. And they're likely to be doing so on their own time during lunch hours or at night outside buildings where government officials may be meeting or at other designated target areas.

Informational picketing has been credited with causing many politicians and legislative bodies to re-think and alter positions which public employees had found intolerable and worthy of public demonstrations of protest.

On these pages are photos of a number of recent demonstrations conducted by CSEA members to protest a variety of issues.

Erie members apply heat to unthaw a job freeze

BUFFALO — More than 400 members of Erie County CSEA Local 815 used a lunch period to picket instead of picnic recently.

They picketed the offices of the Erie County executive to protest a newly-imposed job freeze at a time when 140 Social Services jobs remain unfilled, causing delays in delivery of services to the needy and an unfair workload to understaffed department employees.

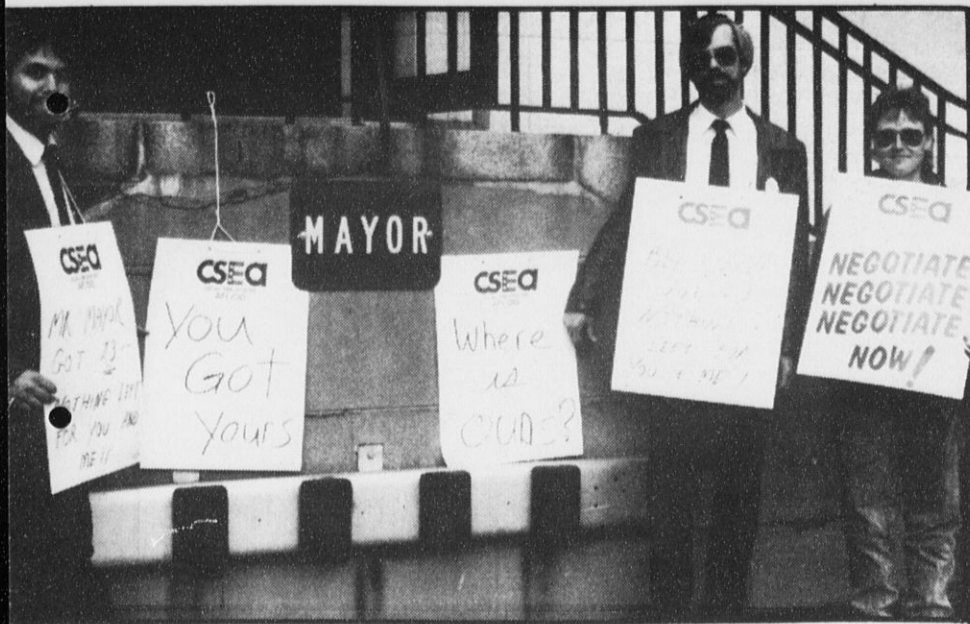
Unit President David Wilbur said up to 90

percent of the jobs are funded by state and federal budgets and that the county should not hide behind a claim of a budget deficit.

"The public should not be penalized for a short-sighted policy which threatens the ability to deliver services, ignores substantial outside funding and needlessly burdens county workers," said CSEA Region VI President Robert Lattimer, who joined employees on the picket line.



PUBLIC EXPOSURE of concerns and problems is one benefit from informational picketing. In above photo, Erie County Social Services Unit President Dave Wilbur is interviewed by Buffalo television reporter Marie Rice about issues raised by the union. Some of the 400 county employees who conducted the informational picketing are seen in the photo at left.



THE MAYOR OF MT. VERNON was conspicuously absent from a recent city council meeting, but more than 150 CSEA members showed up to protest an impasse in negotiations with the city. Shown gathering in the mayor's vacant parking spot are Field representative Glenn Blackman, Unit President Paul Sousa and CSEA member Vicki Urban. The members and supporters demonstrated with an informational picket before and during the council meeting.



MORE THAN 150 CSEA MEMBERS turned out on a rainy night to demonstrate their solidarity with an informational picket line outside the Chemung County Office Building.

Can't dampen their spirit

ELMIRA — A rainy night failed to dampen the spirits of 150 Chemung County CSEA Unit members and supporters who turned out at a meeting of the county legislature to protest the lack of a contract.

Unit President Larry Habecker said the protest was designed to send a message to the legislature that county employees are angry over lack of a contract. County employees have worked without a contract since Jan. 1.

The union president warned county legislators to respond positively to the demonstration.

"We will remain united and grow stronger until we get a contract," he promised. "We have been assured of CSEA's total support ... (and have the help of) hundreds of state employees who also live, work and pay taxes in Chemung County."



Local 658 members march for state salary parity, better health insurance

ALBANY — Angry over a lengthy impasse in their contract talks, members of NYS Teachers' Retirement System CSEA Local 658 recently conducted the first informational picketing in the local's 25-year history.

Several hundred retirement system employees walked picket lines around the retirement system headquarters recently prior to the start of the normal workday. The primary issues involved in the impasse are increasing salaries to state employee wage levels and health insurance coverage.

Political action at work

CSEA keeps the wheels turning for legislative, political gains

ALBANY — Legislative and political action are invaluable tools that CSEA uses to achieve important goals for the members, goals that otherwise might be impossible.

For example, the union is in the midst of a major legislative campaign to overcome an Internal Revenue Service plan to tax public employees' accrued leave. CSEA's Legislative and Political Action Department has led a petition and letter-writing drive asking New York state's legislators in Washington, D.C., to defeat the plan.

At the state level, letters, petitions, testimony and a demonstration at the state Capitol helped prevent proposed staff cuts in mental hygiene facilities and even won some additional jobs.

Every year, CSEA has a package of bills that it supports and succeeds in seeing many of those proposals become New York state law.

That's the primary concern of Damaris "Demi" McGuire, CSEA's lobbyist. She spends a great deal of her time working with legislators and their staff to be sure lawmakers are aware of the union's concerns. In addition, she is involved in reviewing hundreds of bills that go before the state legislature to see if CSEA will actively support or oppose them.

Using political action, CSEA adds to its influence by helping elect lawmakers who are sympathetic to union concerns. For example, CSEA endorsed the new county executive in Suffolk County and the incumbents in Nassau and Dutchess counties.

The union is well equipped to help out in

campaigns, explained Joyce Dimitri, director of operations for the Political Action Department. First of all, CSEA has members who are willing to help a campaign at the grassroots level by staffing phone banks and stuffing envelopes.

Secondly, using its direct mail capabilities, CSEA can send letters to all of its members encouraging them to vote and reminding them who the union has endorsed.

To some politicians, those kinds of services can be more valuable than a campaign contribution, Dimitri said.

Endorsements for state and federal offices are made through the statewide Political Action Committee (PAC), said Chairperson Joseph Conway. The only full-time statewide committee chair, Conway said his committee must review politicians' records and listen to what regional and local PACs say.

In the end, though, the real political and legislative power of CSEA rests with the members. To be sure CSEA makes the most of its biggest asset — a membership of 250,000 potential voters — the department has made voter registration a priority, Dimitri said. She oversees CSEA PRIDE, a program that works on the local and regional level. The six regional political action coordinators work with member activists who encourage fellow members to register to vote. The more voters CSEA represents, the more political clout the union wields, she explained.

For example, in Onondaga County last year, the county legislature was holding up contract talks. Using political action resources, it was learned that 200 members of the county unit were not registered voters.

A major drive resulted in 150 of those members registering to vote, giving CSEA that much more clout when it approached county officials and reminded them that CSEA members whose contract was being



Joyce
Dimitri

stalled had long memories at election time. Without a decent contract, they would vote those officials out of office.

Then, again using political action department resources, the union sent letters to all CSEA members in the county, urging them to support the county unit members.

All the pressure worked, winning the unit a good contract and more influence with county government.

And that is the goal of CSEA's legislative and political action department — to win on individual issues and to win the right to be heard by lawmakers.



Joe
Conway

In the regions . . .

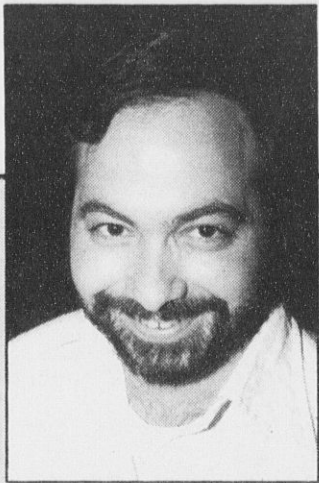
Below are the names of CSEA's regional political action coordinators, the professional staff members who help organize political action.

Region I	Stephanie Teff
Region II	Dominic Masters
Region III	Doris Mason
Region IV	Ed LaPlante
Region V	Dwight Evans
Region VI	Roger Sherrie



Demi
McGuire

If your employer asked you to take a lie detector test, would you?



MICHAEL MONGELLI
Nassau County
Educational
Local 865
Region I

"I couldn't see why not. However, I don't think it's necessary if the personnel department checks the background of the employees, as they do here."



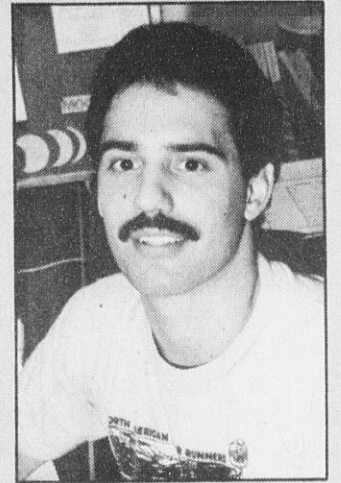
RALPH GELARDO
Westchester County
Local 860
Region III

"No, I don't believe in them."



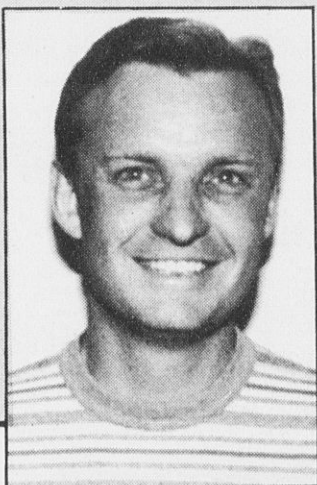
JENNIFER E. MITCHELL
New York City Dept.
of Labor Local 350
Region II

"I have nothing to hide, but I believe if lie detector tests are not reliable, they should not be used. A lie detector should not be the determining factor in a person being fired."



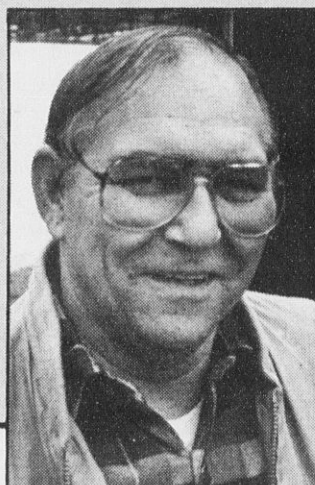
JOHN PULITO
Niagara County
Local 832
Region VI

"Having taken four lie detector exams in the past for pre-employment at various jobs and having passed them all, I would have no problem taking another, unless it involved breaching the confidentiality of one of our clients here at the hotline."



JOHN HUTCHINS
Schenectady County
Local 847
Region IV

"I'd check with my union rep first. That's what the union is there for — to help its members in such situations."



RON SALESKI
Central Barge Canal
Local 503
Region V

"No, because it could be intimidating. I know from personal experience the machines are not always reliable. A lot depends on the skill of the operator."



RED CROSS CONTRACT RATIFIED — With smiles of victory on their faces, members of the CSEA Red Cross bargaining team are joyful that a 13-month effort to negotiate a fair contract is over. CSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist Donald F. McCarthy Jr. is surrounded by Pam Willard, Jean McEvoy, Betty Duncan and Betty Taccone. Steve Cadalso is missing from the photo.

Red Cross Unit OKs contract

ALBANY — After more than a year of heated negotiations and union pressure, CSEA members employed by the Albany chapter of the American Red Cross have their first contract.

Members of the 13-month old unit approved the two-year pact recently.

The contract provides 6 percent salary increases each year for the 104 workers who are registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, technicians, clerical staff and maintenance workers.

Starting salaries will also go up 5 percent to help attract new staff.

The Red Cross employees voted in March 1987 to join CSEA. Since then, they have been involved in pickets and demonstrations to convince management to agree on a fair contract.

To add pressure, the CSEA Board of Directors voted to withdraw all statewide support of Red Cross fund-raising efforts until the contract was negotiated and ratified. Now that the contract is ratified, the resolution is no longer in effect.

Worker afraid to return to job after being beaten by visitor

MIDDLETOWN — A nursing supervisor who was beaten by a visitor at Middletown Psychiatric Center refuses to give his name for publication, and Alex Hogg said he can't blame the man for being afraid.

Hogg, president of the center CSEA Local 415, said the nursing supervisor fears retaliation because the man who beat him is walking the streets and could very well return for round two because there is no one to stop him.

The employee, call him John Smith, said he was alone in his office when he heard a female patient screaming.

"I went out into the hallway and a man — not a patient, but a visitor — was harassing a female patient," he said. "I told her to go back to her room and he went after her."

Smith then told the visitor to leave her alone.

"He said he wasn't a patient, so I told him to leave the building. He raised his hand to me," Smith recalled.

Smith then went back to his office to call for help, but the visitor followed him and suddenly jumped him.

"He grabbed me from behind, knocked me over my desk and began punching me in my glasses, scratching my face."

Smith was lucky. He was saved by a

patient who heard the commotion and pulled the man off. Smith then called for help.

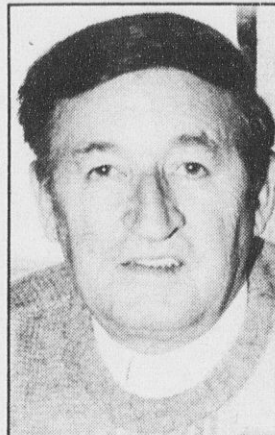
"It took six men to hold him down, one of whom was bitten in the process," he said.

Although the man was arrested, he was later released and is free to walk the streets and the open, unsecured wards of Middletown Psychiatric Center.

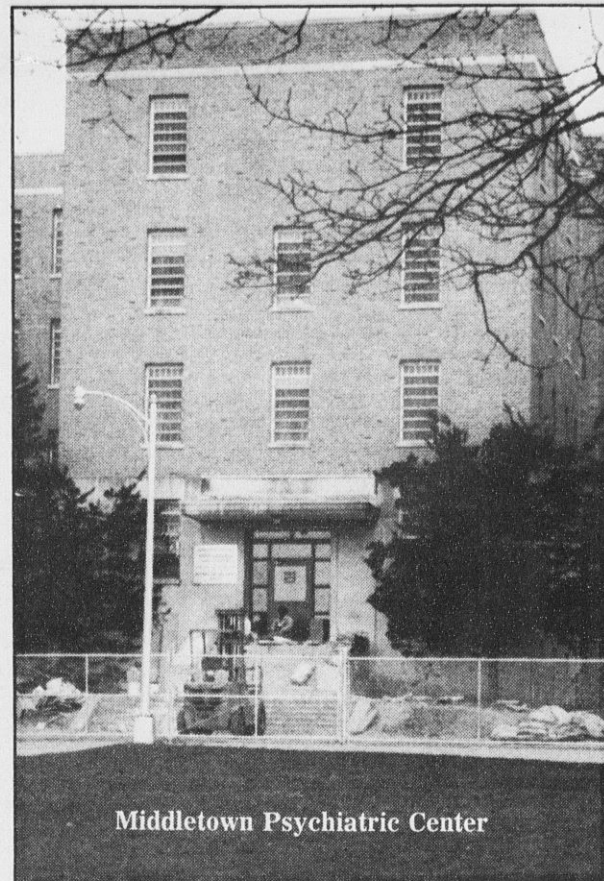
"If that patient hadn't come to this man's rescue, we would have had another murdered state employee," Hogg said. "There is no security to speak of, people can come and go as they please and there's no one to question it."

Hogg asked administrators to institute a screening process for visitors, but was told "we couldn't do that because this is not a prison but a psychiatric hospital. It burns me up," he said.

"The administrators have a very callous attitude. They don't give a damn about us." In the last three months, two other



Alex Hogg



Middletown Psychiatric Center

employees were attacked on wards before security arrived.

"Even a medical hospital requires visitors to have passes," Smith pointed out.

Smith, a 30-year-employee, said he was planning to retire soon, but has no intention of returning to work.

"I won't go back," he said. "I don't want to be alone in that situation again."

More understaffing dangers

Workers march to protest staffing levels

BRENTWOOD — Members of Pilgrim Psychiatric Center CSEA Local 418 marched with supporters at the entrance of the Regional Office of Mental Health recently to protest understaffing at the facility. The demonstration attracted local television and newspaper coverage.



PROTESTING UNDERSTAFFING, members of Pilgrim Psychiatric Center picket a state office. Leading the ranks are, from left, Stephanie Teff, Region I political action coordinator, Local President Pat Hahn and Sheryl Carlin, communications associate.

According to data compiled from the acute service and geriatric wards by Local President Pat Hahn, there were a total of 687 incidents resulting in injuries during the first six months of 1987.

The horrendous understaffing has become even more of a problem because patients are being transferred to Pilgrim from New York City. Each day, employees are being placed in dangerous situations without adequate training.

The danger increases as they are redeployed to other wards and forced to work overtime and double shifts, Hahn said. The undesirable conditions in the center have resulted in physical injury and poor morale, thus cheating the employees and the clients they are trying to serve.

"The facts are shocking, but what's more shocking is the fact that the state refuses to rectify this terrible situation," said CSEA Region I President Danny Donohue.

CSEA recently published a report, "Working in Fear," reviewing the injury rates of Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) employees. Based on the most recent data available, the report shows that four times as many New York state health care employees lose work time because of occupational injury than similar workers nationwide.

"With all of this information in hand, there should be no more excuses," Donohue said. "We've alerted the state to the needs of the employees and clients and now we must insist on some real improvements."

A letter to Donohue from Long Island Sens. Kenneth LaValle, James T. Lack and Caesar Trunzo commended CSEA "on its efforts to bring this most serious problem to the attention of the Office of Mental Health and the citizens on Long Island whom you serve."

Assemblyman Paul Harenburg also commended the union. "I both hear and echo your concerns," he said. "My goal as always is to improve the quality of life in each psychiatric center through better conditions for the dedicated members of our staffs, thereby enabling them to continue to deliver quality services to their patients."

Eviction!

CSEA fights for MPC members' homes

By Lilly Gioia
CSEA Communications Associate

NEW YORK — “There was a letter under the door when I came home from work. When I saw it on the floor, that’s how I found out the state was evicting me from my apartment,” said Winifred Gamble.

A dental assistant and 12-year member of Manhattan Psychiatric Center CSEA Local 413, Gamble is one of 22 angry CSEA members the state wants to evict from facility housing on Ward’s Island.

Threatened with homelessness, they gathered in front of their staff residence recently. Head housekeeper Sabina Carey held a sign saying, “I need my apartment,” to remind the state Office of Mental Health that there is a severe housing shortage in New York City.

She joined the center staff and moved onto the grounds 30 years ago.

“I was here when the old buildings were here,” Carey said. “How could they decide to kick us out? We are not kids. They could have called a meeting to tell us. It’s unforgivable!”

Carey and her co-workers have begun a letter-writing campaign to alert state legislators to their plight.

“It’s very hard out there to find housing and I was mad as holy hell,” she said.

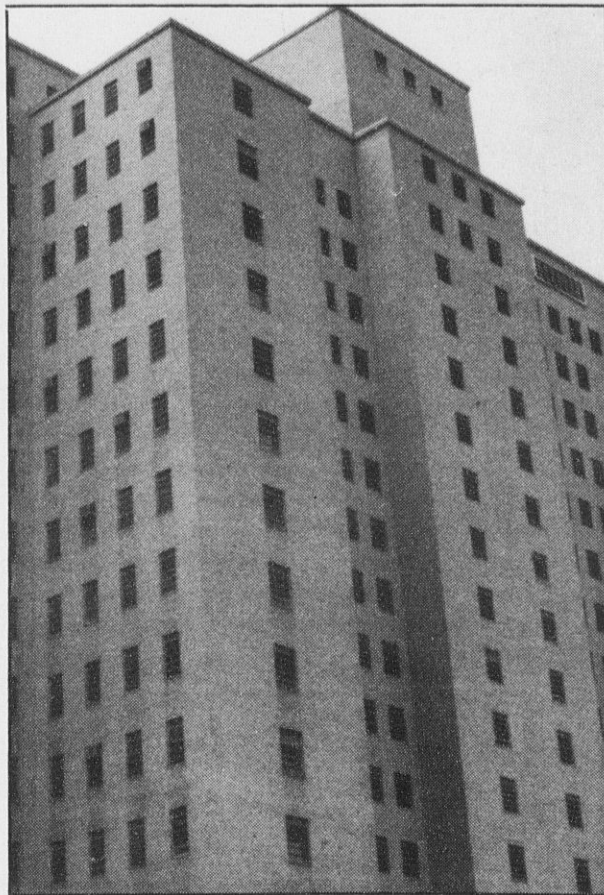
Carey believes the CSEA members are being victimized by an Albany-conceived plan to offer their apartments as enticements to coax foreign doctors and nurses to join the hospital staff.

CSEA believes top Office of Mental Health (OMH) officials Bruce Feig and Alice Lynn “dreamed up this gimmick because federal courts recently decreed New York state must hire more professionals for its grossly understaffed mental facilities,” said CSEA Field Representative Barton M. Brier. In lieu of decent salaries, the state intends to offer the union members’ homes, he argued.

CSEA Local 413 President Mohammed Hussain slapped management with Improper Practice (IP) charges, contending that MPC traditionally has provided housing on grounds of Ward’s Island for facility employees represented by CSEA. Residents in staff housing include therapy aides, stationary engineers, maintenance supervisors and plumbers who are able to be contacted easily in case of emergencies.

“I was here when the old buildings were here. How could they decide to kick us out?”

— Sabina Carey



Manhattan Psychiatric Center

Local 413 will provide transportation to any of the affected employees who want to attend the IP hearing scheduled in May.

Hussain said management’s scheme is “a

“It’s very hard out there to find housing, and I’m mad as holy hell.”

— Sabina Carey

“This really hurts after you’ve been on the job so long. Besides . . . they could make room for everyone.”

— Winifred Gamble

change in the terms and conditions of employment made without good-faith negotiations with CSEA.”

The union is petitioning the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to order that MPC continue to provide on-grounds housing for the affected CSEA members, Brier said.

If MPC does evict them, CSEA will seek a PERB order to mandate that management “reimburse the employees for any moving expenses, provide them with comparable off-grounds housing and reimburse them for the difference between their current housing rent and the rental cost of off-grounds housing.”

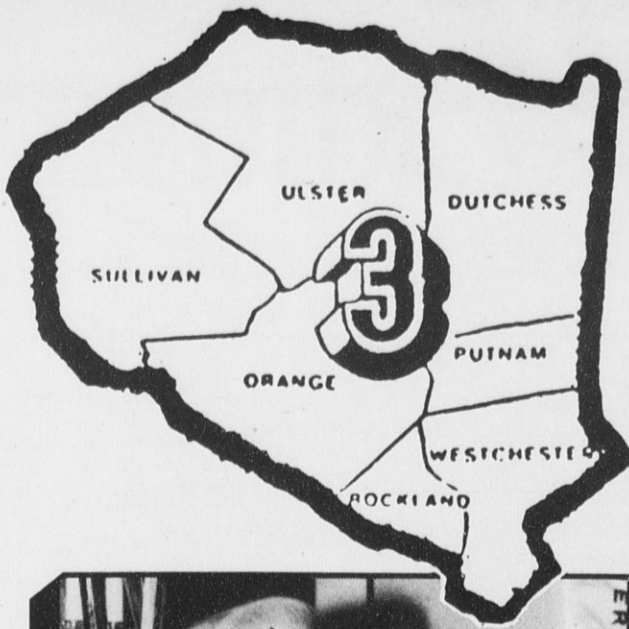
Veteran MPC housekeeper Aithme O’Donnell has lived in Ward’s Island staff housing for 29 years. She grimly clasped a placard stating, “Doctors and nurses can afford to pay more rent than I can.”

“I can’t believe they’ve promised housing that they don’t have just to bring in foreign nurses and doctors who make some big money compared to us,” O’Donnell said.

“This really hurts after you’ve been on the job for so long,” agreed Gamble. “Besides, they have so much ground here, they could build to make room for everyone.”



WORRYING ABOUT EVICTION, member of Manhattan Psychiatric Center CSEA Local 413 picket to protest state plans that would deprive them of their homes at the facility. Some workers have lived there for 30 years.



Region III hosts 2 PAC workshops

Political action was in the spotlight at two workshops in Region III recently.

More than 50 Political Action Committee (PAC) members attended a workshop in Nyack. They took advantage of seminars on leadership styles, effective lobbying and the role of politics in negotiations.

Rockland County Executive John Grant, the guest speaker, stressed the importance

of government and its employees working together.

"Without the support of our employees, county government is just a collection of people," Grant said. "With your support, we can be responsive."

He also stressed that the challenges that governments face are signs of progress.

"Tomorrow will come no matter what we do," he said. "We can shape our tomorrows or let them shape us."

At the PAC workshop in Poughkeepsie, activists heard Assemblyman Vincent Leibell's concerns about the privatization of the state's prisons, political appointments and the treatment of public employees.

"Government must live up to a social contract in order that we may attract and keep good employees," Leibell said. "We have to let them know that what they do is important. It's so easy to beat up on people."

Government also has a responsibility to provide a safe, healthy environment and to compensate its employees properly, he said.

"The final step in the social contract is retirement," Leibell said. "God willing, we'll all live long enough to collect."

Admitting that the state pension system is "not very good," Leibell said, "We have to be concerned with this. We're not living up to our social contract."

Participants at the Poughkeepsie workshop also learned about how to fight the Internal Revenue Service plan to tax the accumulated leave of public employees. AFSCME Legislative Department Assistant Mike Kerr explained the plan and urged members to write to their senators and representatives immediately. The legislators should be urged to support the bill labeled HR 4221, which would overturn the regulation.



ROCKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE John Grant speaks during the Nyack PAC workshop.



ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATOR Harriet Cornell greets her constituents during the Nyack PAC workshop.



STATE ASSEMBLYMAN William Larkin addresses CSEA PAC members at the workshop in Poughkeepsie.

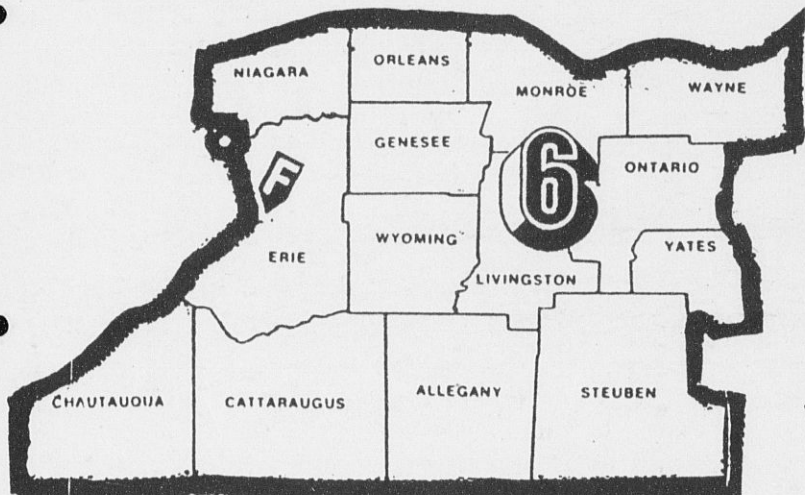


STATE ASSEMBLYMAN Stephen M. Saland talks with Dutchess County Unit President Carl Mathison at the Poughkeepsie PAC workshop.

Region VI stresses political activism



Barb Bienicki, Craeola Shelton and Terry Melvin review the issues at the recent CSEA Region VI political action conference.



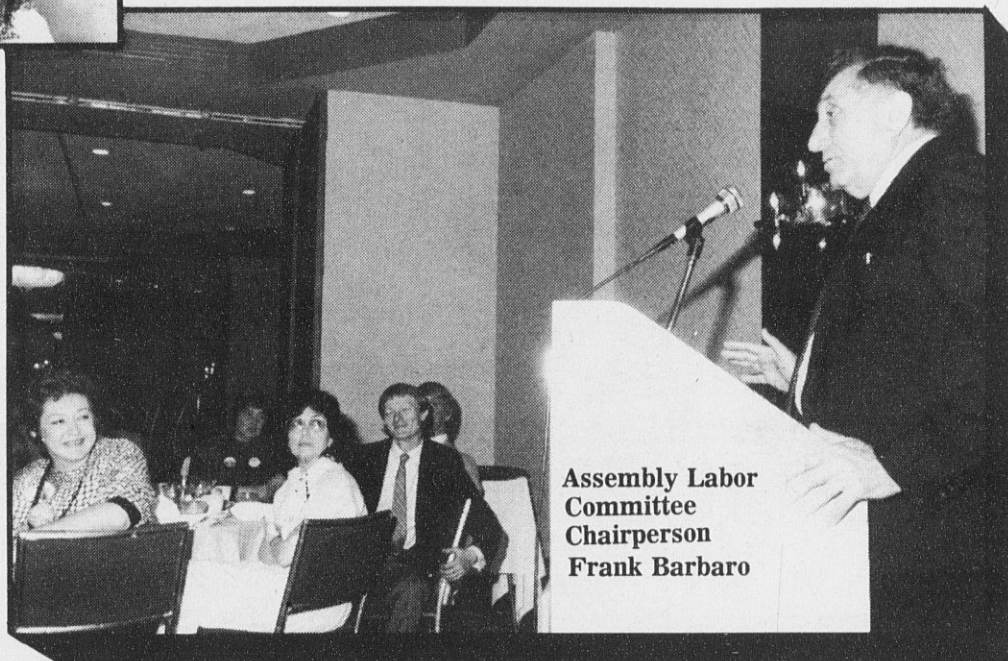
NIAGARA FALLS — The importance of political education and activism was the keynote message for CSEA Region VI members at a recent two-day conference in preparation for Election Year '88.

"Too many workers are not aware of the political process," said guest speaker Assembly Labor Committee Chairperson Frank Barbaro.

"There's got to be a union presence in Albany," Barbaro stated, adding that that happens only when unions get information out to their members.

"Our members' active participation and interest will determine our unions success and survival," commented CSEA Region VI President Robert Lattimer.

The program was coordinated by regional Political Action Committee co-chairpersons Flo Trippi and Tom Warzel and regional Political Action Coordinator Roger Sherrie. It included sessions on the background work that goes into making political endorsement, targeting key races and involving the membership in the process.



Assembly Labor Committee Chairperson Frank Barbaro

Long Island gets political update!

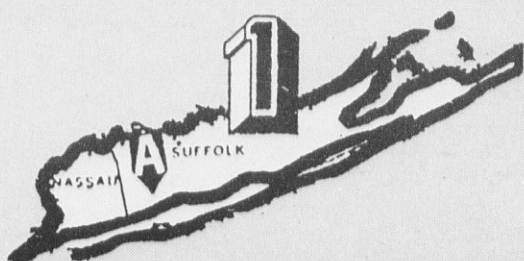
SMITHTOWN — The CSEA Region I political action workshop held here recently covered a lot of territory on issues affecting members every day.

More than 100 CSEA members attended the program which was presented by several local presidents and union staff. Among the topics of discussion: CSEA's statewide political action efforts — including legislative activities and candidate endorsement procedures; the impact of the state budget on mental health and mental retardation facilities; and contracting out.

"Political action is so important," said CSEA President Danny Donohue. "This should be just the beginning of our regional political activities. Togetherness is what makes political action effective."



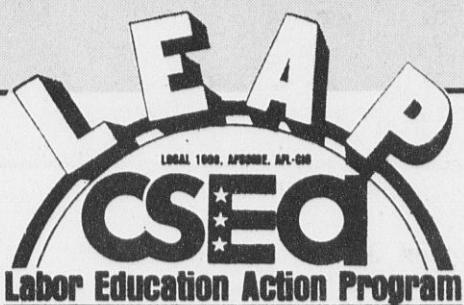
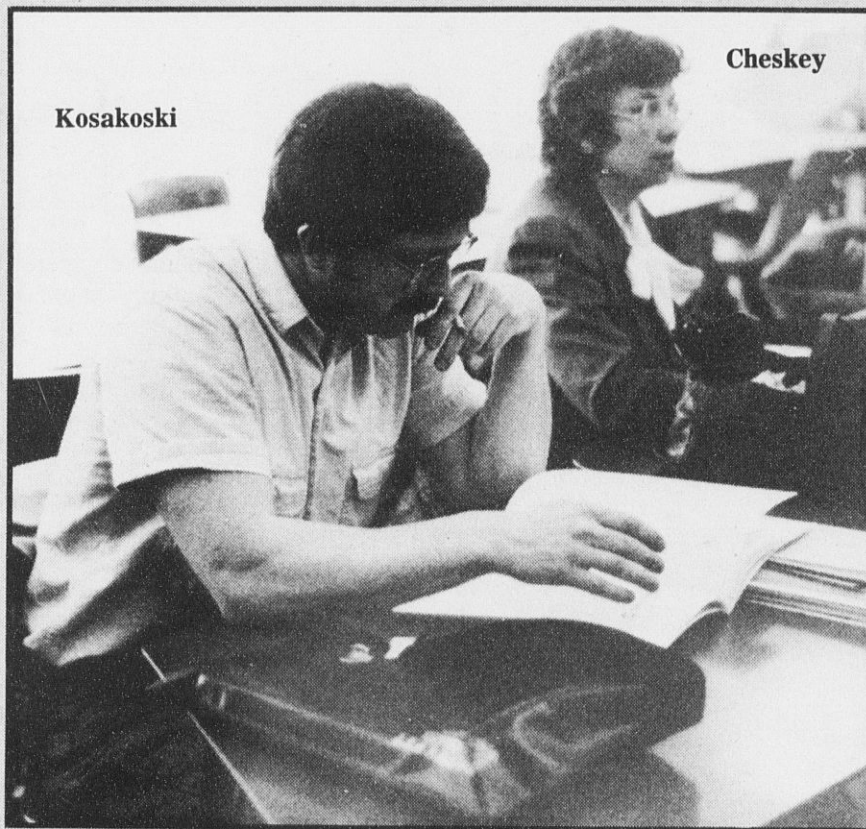
CSEA Region I Political Action Coordinator Stephanie Teff, AFSCME Political Representative Zena Sternback and CSEA Political Action Director of Operations Joyce Dmitri prepare for a Long Island political action seminar recently.



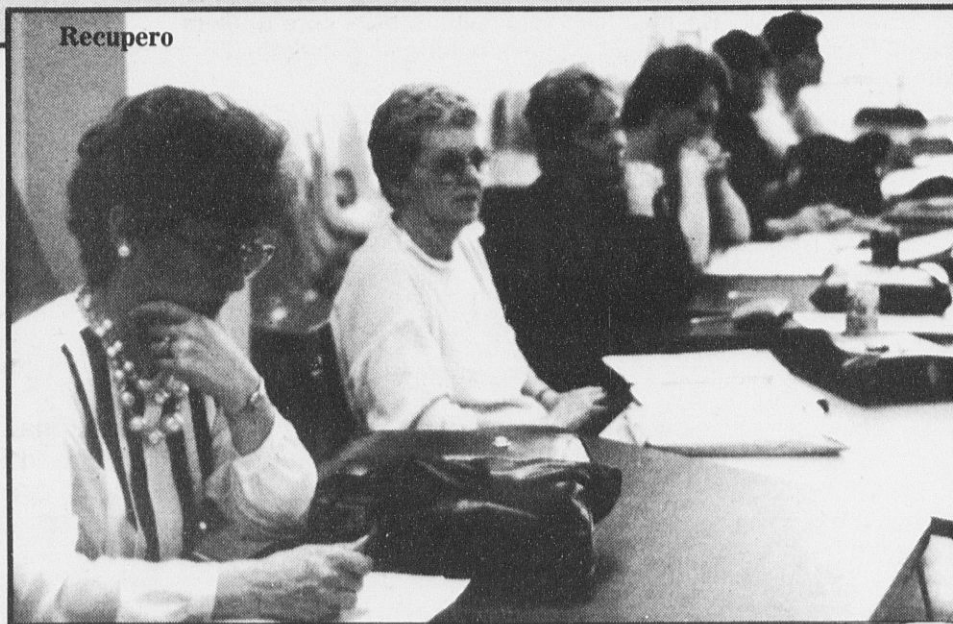
Empowered Learning:

You can get ahead too!

By Stephen Madarasz
CSEA Communications Associate



Empowered Learning will be offered again in locations across the state as part of LEAP's fall semester of courses. The new LEAP course catalog will be available for review at your worksite personnel or education & training office in mid-June.



So you're not quite sure what you want to do with the rest of your life. The choice really is yours!

But sometimes it is difficult to discover what your options really are. Not to worry — under a new pilot program offered through the CSEA Labor Education Action Program (LEAP) you can get the help you need to make the right decisions.

The program — Empowered Learning: Unleashing Your Career and College Potential — was offered at eight locations across the state this past spring and is included in LEAP's course offerings for next fall.

"This program is about opening doors for people," explained CSEA acting LEAP Director Debbie Baum. "It's designed to give them a realistic assessment of their strengths and weaknesses and help them set and reach career goals."

"I wanted to see where I'm at and where I want to be," said Shirley Cheskey, a long-time state employee who now works for the Division of Housing and Community Renewal in Albany. "I really got a lot of personal help and that built up my confidence."

"It shows you your potential and motivates you to do more," offered Richard Giordano, a new employee with the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities central office. Giordano is starting fresh with a new career in state service after years of work in the private sector.

Giordano added that he would like to take more college courses and through the Empowered Learning program he has a much better idea about selecting schools and classes that could benefit him.

The program focuses on other practical information as well, such as resume writing, tips on preparing for civil service examinations and navigating through the civil service system. Aptitude tests taken during the sessions identify individuals' abilities, which can help in setting new career directions.

Still, having the information and ability to make the right choices only puts you on the road toward new opportunities.

"I've always had career goals and I took this course because I wanted to find shortcuts — but I discovered they may not be out there," said Florence Recupero, a CSEA member from the state Education Department.

"I have to go to school to get the background I need — I'll probably just chip away through LEAP courses toward an associate's degree," she added.

"The important thing for me was discovering that I have a number of options, even if my immediate plans don't work out," commented Bruce Kosakoski, a mechanic at SUNY Albany. "Most people don't really plan career change, but I learned it works out much better if you do."

While the participants had high praise for their instructors and the materials they worked with in the course, they discovered two even more important resources during the sessions.

The first was their fellow participants. Coming from a variety of backgrounds and numerous workplaces, they could offer unique perspective on career issues and form a supportive network to help with information about job opportunities — a network that is expected to continue outside the classroom.

Finally, and most importantly, the participants said they learned about themselves — uncovering hidden interests, aptitudes and aspirations. And that can make a big difference in their efforts for the future!

Florida Retirees local marks decade of service

More than 500 members were on hand for the 10th annual convention of the CSEA Florida Retirees Local 950 held recently in New Port Richie, Fla. The event brings together members from throughout the "Sunshine State" for information and updates on CSEA services and activities.

Among the highlights from this year's program: presentations by representatives of the New York State Retirement system and health care providers, including the Empire Plan; and the awarding of the local's annual scholarship.

AFSCME Retiree Director Steve Regenstrief also briefed the group on union efforts to address long-term health care financing issues.

The local also honored retiring CSEA President William McGowan for his years of service.



Florida Retirees CSEA Local 950 First Vice President Pauline Fitchpatrick addresses members at the local's annual convention. To her right is Local President Lou Colby.

Love those Mets!



CSEA Region I is sponsoring a trip to see the New York Mets vs. the Cincinnati Reds, on Tuesday July 5th at Shea Stadium.

The cost of \$23 per person includes ticket, transportation and refreshments on the bus.

The seats are located in the first two rows of the upper boxes.

Buses will depart from 300 Motor Parkway in Hauppauge at 4:45 p.m., and from 1101 Stewart Avenue in Garden City at 5:30 p.m.

Checks should be made out to L.I. Region CSEA and mailed to Barbara Harrington's attention at:

CSEA
300 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of the tickets.



Long Island CSEA members recently joined thousands of other caring people in raising \$650,000 during the March of Dimes Walkathon to fight birth defects. CSEA members also ran a table where walkers were greeted with hats, donuts and juice before beginning their 25-kilometer trek through Hauppauge.

This, that

AND THE OTHER THING

If you have an item of interest for *This, That & the other thing*, bring it to the attention of your CSEA regional communications associate. Their phone numbers are listed on page 2.

Act now for better child care

Rockland County CSEA members are making sure their congressional representatives know how they feel about the Act for Better Child Care.

The act, which is one of the top federal legislative priorities of CSEA and AFSCME, would establish federal guidelines for day care centers and provide money to states to establish local centers.

According to Rockland County Local 844 President Lee Pound, who also serves on the CSEA statewide Women's Committee, members have already sent about 650 letters of support for the act to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and U.S. Rep. Benjamin Gilman.

Pound also sent off a letter of her own to the Rockland Journal News emphasizing that the act would make child care more affordable for low- and moderate-income families.

"We in CSEA actively support this act," she wrote. "We believe that quality and affordable child care is necessary to enable parents to work without stress and problems, knowing that their children are safe and well cared for."

The act, which is supported by a broad coalition of people and organizations across the country, may come up for a vote in Congress in the next couple of months. CSEA members and locals are urged to take a cue from Rockland's efforts and blitz your own representatives with letters of support.



Pound

New Region III Safety & Health Specialist

Robert O'Conner, Jr. has joined the CSEA staff as occupational safety and health specialist in Region III.

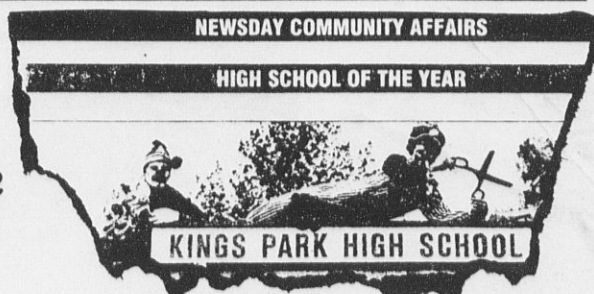
O'Conner graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie with a degree in personnel management.



New unit elects officers

The newly formed Town of Penfield Unit of Monroe County CSEA Local 828 recently elected its first slate of officers. They are President William Verhagen, Vice President Bruce Norton and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Ferguson.

Making the grade



CSEA school district employees always take a lot of pride in the work they do to make their schools better places for the students. But it's understandable if CSEA members at three Long Island high schools are 'really busting their buttons' these days.

The three schools — Kings Park, Massapequa and Lindenhurst — were among

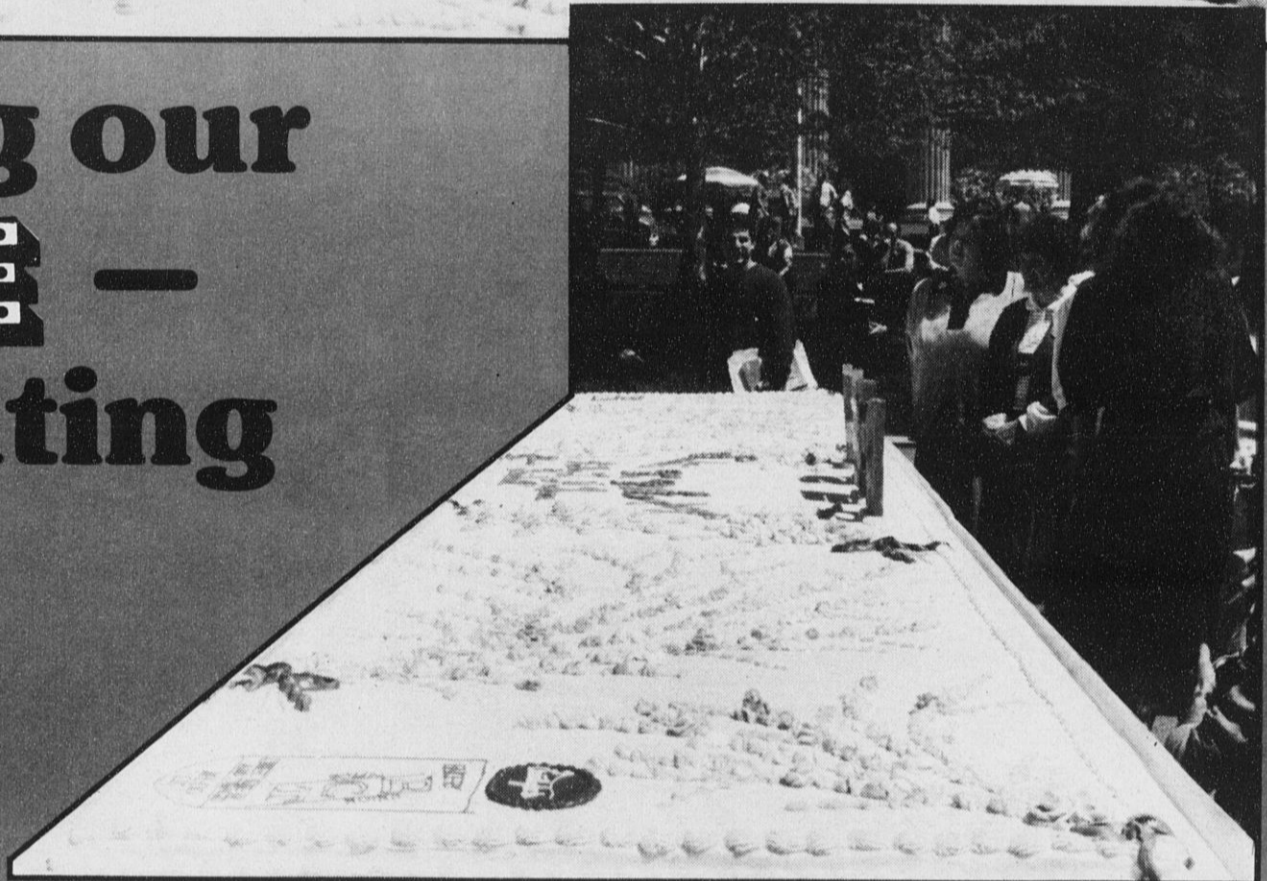
the four public school finalists in *Newsday's* "Outstanding Long Island High School of the Year" competition. To make the achievement even better, Kings Park won the award, outright.

So to the winners and the runners-up, CSEA says congratulations and keep up the good work — it's showing.



Having our CAKE — and eating it too!

Photos and text
By Stephen Madarasz
CSEA Communications Associate



ALBANY — What was 24 feet long, weighed 450 pounds and fed 3,500 people in under two hours? CSEA's "Supercake" served up in honor of Public Employee Day May 12.

CSEA President William McGowan, Secretary Irene Carr and Treasurer Mary Sullivan made the ceremonial first slices at the celebration, which is really the birthday of the New York civil service system.

The cake, baked by *Freihofer's*, was the longest ever made in the region. It required 60 pounds of cake flour, 225 pounds of sugar, 85 pounds of shortening, 36 dozen eggs and 10 pounds of milk.

By the way, there were no leftovers.

