

## Rewards in store for 'reformers'

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The "coalition government" that took control of the Senate last week planned a set of 12 committee chairs for "reform Democrats" but did not fill in the names, according to one of the planners.

However, Democrat William Stachowski, of Buffalo, was offered the powerful Finance Committee chairmanship he has desired, two knowledgeable Democratic sources said.

And this did not sit well with Sen. Carl Kruger, D-Brooklyn, who has held that post the past five months.

But as the 30 Republicans and two Democrats who last Monday voted out Sen. Malcolm Smith as majority leader attempt to solidify their power, offers are still outstanding. Sen. Thomas Duane was offered the chance to get his gay marriage bill to the floor and that could happen. Sen. Martin Malavé Dilan, D-Brooklyn, could maintain leadership of the Transportation Committee. Sen. John Sampson, D-Brooklyn, could maintain his hold on the Judiciary Committee.

Instead, the Democratic conference is trying to push back on the effort to enlist them and are trying to set up at least a 31-31 split of the 62-member conference by luring back Sen. Hiram Monserrate, D-Queens. He joined Sen. Pedro Espada, D-Bronx, to split from the conference and vote with the Republicans last week, but is under enormous pressure from constituents and the powerful Queens Democratic Party.

Where's that \$20,000?

State employees wondering if they are eligible for the \$20,000 buyout are going to have to wait a little longer. The Paterson administration said it is still working out details with the Civil Service Employees Association and the Public Employees Federation.

The governor seeks to give 4,500 people whose jobs will be eliminated the buyout, and the likelihood is those posts will be among the PEF and CSEA

universe, where the governor hopes to find savings. He has already gotten savings from the nonunion work force by withholding the 3 percent raise that group was supposed to get; he was unable to get the unions to reopen their contracts and give back that raise. Another 2,500 jobs that are on the books but vacant will be eliminated.

Nxivm's Senate ties

The odd bedfellows that joined to overturn the Senate have some links to the intriguing Nxivm. The Capital Region company runs some executive success programs that employ questionable tactics to break down clients, according to some people formerly associated with the group, which has made a one watchdog's list of suspected cults.

Senate lawyer Jack Casey, the longtime Rensselaer County Republican Chairman, has represented NXIVM and was a student of one of their courses.

Steve Pigeon, Tom Golisano's political advisor and director of Golisano's Responsible New York PAC, represented the Bronfman sisters, Sara and Clare, who are major benefactors of Nxivm and devotees of its programs.

Pigeon, the former Erie County Democratic Party chairman, helped topple the Democratic control of the Senate. When it happened, Casey took charge as Senate parliamentarian.

Pigeon said that as a lawyer he did some real estate legal work for the Bronfmans but has nothing to do with Nxivm. He said he did not even know Casey.

The Bronfmans provided their jet and donated thousands of dollars to the Senate Republicans.

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