## Cuomo seen as wounded 'Tyrannosaurus Rex'

By CRAIG McGUIRE Gazette staff writer

He's been called a 600-pound gorilla by both friend and foe. Now he's being called Tyrannasaurus Rex.

"If the New York political landscape were Jurassic Park, then Mario Cuomo, though wounded, is still Tyrannasaurus Rex, "said pollster John Zogby.

The recent Zogby poll, giving the governor a four-point edge over possible Republican challenger Alfonse D'Amato was positively received in both camps. State Democratic Party Chair Al Gordon said that to still be leading "the supposed savior" of the Republican party after these past difficult years is a good sign.

Gordon added that if D'Amato is encouraged he should declare his candidacy.

Spokesperson Zenia Mucha said Senator D'Amato was encouraged by this poll and "everybody knows that if Al D'Amato runs, Al D'Amato will be the next governor."

The Zogby poll is an independent non-

commissioned quarterly poll. The results of the first two are distributed and select parts of the last two are sold.

The poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus four, shows 43 percent of registered voters prefer Cuomo. D'Amato is not far behind with 39 percent. Eighteen percent remained undecided.

Other highlights:

- New Yorkers give President Clinton a failing grade (39 percent unfavorable to 38 percent favorable)
- In a hypothetical presidential run-off

Clinton(37 percent) sits atop the poll, leading Ross Perot(26 percent) and Republican U.S. Sen. Robert Dole(21 percent).

- More New Yorkers consider themselves financially worse off than four years ago. (36 percent to 20 percent) Forty one percent reported no change.
- A majority of New Yorkers (55 percent) remain pessimistic about the immediate future of the state's economy while some (32 percent) are optimistic.