



The Flame



Spring 2003	Northern Michigan University
Spring Luncheon Tuesday, May 20- Noon to 1:15 p.m. Explorer Rooms In-gathering – donations for our Troops	

THE BIG FIX--A PRESCRIPTION FOR PROFITS--Why are working families and retirees struggling to pay skyrocketing costs for life-saving prescription drugs while the pharmaceutical industry's profits soar? "The Big Fix: How the Pharmaceutical Industry Rips Off American Consumers," by Katharine Greider, published May 7 by Public Affairs, shows why. Prescription drug prices have risen in price by more than 15 percent a year--five times the rate of inflation--and pharmaceutical giants have (5721) prospered. Even in 2001, as the economy tumbled and corporate profits sank for the average Fortune 500 company, profits for drug companies on the top 500 list skyrocketed 33 percent. In the past decade, drug firms' profits were 5.6 times larger than the median return of other Fortune 500 companies. "The Big Fix" explores the industry's profit-over-research priorities, its bizarre and unregulated pricing practices, excessive influence on the doctors who write prescript-

tions and cozy relationships with the nation's lawmakers. "The Big Fix" can be ordered online at www.aflcio.org/shop A special report from the May issue of America@work explores the book, profiles three people struggling to buy medicines to treat life-threatening diseases and provides charts and graphs on the prescription drug crisis and a look at efforts to pass affordable prescription drug legislation at the state level. Visit www.aflcio.org to download the article and tools.

AFT'S WOLVERINE WIN--Seeking a voice to remedy low wages and job insecurity, a strong majority of the 1,300 non-tenure track faculty at the University of Michigan's three campuses voted April 29 to join AFT. Lecturers' Employee Organization, affiliated with the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel, includes part- and full-time lecturers, adjunct faculty and visiting faculty at the Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn campuses.

TAILOR MADE FOR UNITE--At a Phillips-Van Heusen tailored-shirt factory in Ozark, Ala., 550 workers won UNITE representation via card-check in late April. With a card-check, an employer agrees (8298) to recognize a union if a majority of workers signs authorization cards. The new members join the Southern Regional Joint Board.

AMERICA'S CHOICES--During the next two months, some 500 central labor councils will hold meetings with their delegates and other union activists that will include special forums on America's Choices. These forums will focus on jobs and the economy with special emphasis on the impact the economic policy choices of the Bush administration have on working families. The forums will examine the Bush record on job loss, the proposed new tax cut for the rich, the states' fiscal crises, infrastructure needs and other critical issues such as protecting overtime pay,


health care, retirement security and education. For information on a special presentation examining these issues, call Ken Grossinger at 202-637-5393.

The Other Woman

After 21 years of marriage the spark of love. A little while ago I had started to go out with another woman. It, I discovered a new way of keeping alive was really my wife's idea. "I know that you love her," she said one day, taking me by surprise. The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who had been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only (9865) occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. "What's wrong, are you well," she asked? My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. "I thought that it would be pleasant to pass some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment then said "I would like that very much." That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's. "I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting".

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entree, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said. "Then it's time! that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each others life. We talked so much that we

May Birthdays		June Birthdays	
Kimber Olli	May 4	Janet Koski	June 7
Christi Little	May 5	Jean Paquette	June 8
Tina Simula	May 9	Gina O'Donnell	June 10
Karen Smith	May 9	Lorraine Deshambo	June 11
Ryne Richards	May 9	Vicki Hedstrom	June 14
Leslie Herman	May 15	Roxanne Rastello	June 17
Cheryl Lajoie	May 16	Carolyn Basal	June 18
Terry Johnson	May 18	Keith Greising	June 21
Sue Laforais	May 21	Marsha Bartle	June 23
Carol Marjomaki	May 26	Barbara Munson	June 23
Ray Liubakka	May 28	Kathy Maki	June 23
Darlene Rantala	May 29	Pauline Gould	June 24
		Tina Sehl	June 26
		Carol Schirtzinger	June 27
		Linda Meldrum	June 30
July Birthdays		August Birthdays	
Tina VandeZande	July 6	Craig Buchanan	Aug 2
Luann Dagenais	July 7	Bev Pascoe	Aug 3
Erin Baldwin	July 10	Denis Johnson	Aug 4
Juliana Clement	July 11	Lori Rintala	Aug 4
Linda Cleary	July 13	Lisa Alto	Aug 13
Phyllis Zaenglein	July 14	Stephen Brisson	Aug 16
Sue Ann Salo	July 20	Penny Derocher	Aug 17
Jodee Larsh	July 22	Kathryn Solka	Aug 17
		Patricia Cooke	Aug 17
		Annette Brown	Aug 20
		Sarah Woods	Aug 22
		Linda Hares	Aug 24
		Rhonda Peterson	Aug 26
		Kay Schwartz	Aug 25
		Janet Biolo	Aug 26
		Sandra Klaboe	Aug 26
		Judy Hopper	Aug 29

missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you". I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. (5300) "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I was almost sure that I couldn't be there but, never-the-less, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you."

At that moment I understood the importance of saying, in time: "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is

more important than God and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off to "some other time".

Yesterday is a canceled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is cash... Spend it wisely.

If this made the impression on you, as it did on me, pass it on to those you care about too!

Thank yous and other info....		
<p>Hi everyone in Local 1950</p> <p>I am back for the second time and feeling much better this time. The card from you was lovely and I always appreciate your thoughtful gesture. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yoko Atkins</p>	<p>Friends and Co-workers –</p> <p>Thank you for the beautiful fall flower arrangement sent during my recent surgery. It's wonderful to be thought of and they're still nice looking after a month.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Renee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gratefully acknowledging and thanking your for your kind express of sympathy.</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cheney & family</p>
<p>Thanks to everyone for remembering me on my special day. I enjoyed being a part of my family of union brothers and sister. Solidarity forever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Steve Mahaffey</p>	<p>It has taken some time to be able to write clearly again with my right hand .. thus the tardiness of this note.</p> <p>I want each of you to know what a time brightener "Chicken Soup for a Women's Soul" was for me during those long days after my accident.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kay Harrington</p> <p>P.S. I've passed it on to a friend in need!</p>	<p>Members of Local UAW 1950</p> <p>I would like to thank every one for the gift card. It has been my pleasure to work with you. Take care, As ever,</p> <p>Bob (Niemela)</p>
<p>Members of UAW Local 1950</p> <p>One year has passed us by on this strike line.</p> <p>Once again, we can say we do not stand alone, but stand with the support everyone has shown us, union and nonunion.</p> <p>We will continue day by day to stand strong, and we will win this battle.</p> <p>Thanks again,</p> <p>Members for the Operating Engineers Local 324 Striking at Fabco Equipment</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Assistant Steward William Champion</p>	<p>Such heartwarming and humorous stories – just what we all need.</p> <p>Thanks for your thoughtfulness!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kay Harrington</p> <p>P.S. I've passed it on to a friend in need!</p>	<p>UAW Local 1950</p> <p>I greatly appreciated receiving the UAW Local 1950 scholarship. It helped me pay for my books this semester, which usually drains my bank account. Now I can use the money that it saved me to help support my new family. I am truly honored that I was chosen to receive the scholarships. Thanks a bunch!</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeremy Weiger</p>
<p>"The Flame" is a member of the Local Union Press Association and the Michigan Labor press AFL/CIO. "The Flame" is published by the Education Committee, UAW Local 1950, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.</p> <p>Topic ideas and submissions can be made to the Education Committee Chair/newsletter Editor, Dan Leppanen, or Asst. Ed., Phyllis Zaenglein.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>UAW Officers: President, Sue Tollefson; Vice President, Dan Leppanen; Financial Secretary, Rita Leppanen; Recording Secretary, Pat Frenn; Guide, Karen Smith</p>	<p>Mark Curran, of Curran & Co., a NON-UNION builder, has started a new business in Marquette called Cruise-N-Coffee. Mr. Curran has stated that he does not want any Union People near any of his properties. Make sure that you let your friends who are Union (school teachers, steelworkers, county and city employees, miners, NMU workers, state employees, prison guards, RN at MGH, Building Trades, and other Union Members) in town know of this. DON'T GO TO CRUISE-N-COFFEE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>This appeared in the March issue of Carpenter District Council News Letter.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">March 31, 2003</p> <p>Project NEW Horizons Greetings!</p> <p>As a support of Northwoods AirLifeline, we're pleased to announce the arrival of our new aircraft, a superbly equipped 1998 Piper Seneca V. We'd like to invite you to its dedication in our hangar at the Ford Airport in Kingsford, Saturday, April 12 from 1 pm to 4 pm Central Time. Come join us in celebrating our successful fundraising that resulted in this fine airplane which will serve patients in the UP and Northern Wisconsin for many years to come.</p> <p>Teresa Louys Director of Public Relations, NWALL</p>