



# The Flame



Northern Michigan University Clerical/Technical Union Local 1950  
A double LUPA Award Winning Publication

<http://uaw1950.nmu.edu/>  
**September, 2005**

## Thoughts for Labor Day

by Julie Polter

**Labor Day: Justice. Workers. Solidarity.** The sweat of the brow. Sixteen tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Or...Picnics. Beaches. Hot dogs. TV telethons.

**This is the common dilemma** of Labor Day. The day of rest we set aside to honor labor is usually remembered more for the fun things we do on a day off than for the workers it honors. That in itself is not a unique look at Memorial Day or Christmas and how easy it is to be so busy enjoying them that we forget what they're supposed to be about.

But it is good and right that we all spend a little time thinking about labor and what a life of faith calls us to in relation to the work that runs the world we're in. Having had the choice not to work on an assembly line or in the field - a choice partially bought for me by those who came before - Labor Day (4678) reminds me of those who labor still.

**What do we know about the people** who grow our food and ship it to us, who build our houses and cars and sew our shirts, who pick up our garbage and clean our college dormitory, and who may one day feed us and bathe us if we are hospitalized or in a nursing home? What do we know about how they are treated, the dangers they face in the course of their jobs, the wages they receive?

As people of faith we should both mourn and act to change things when God's words from *Isaiah 65* are sinfully reversed, when people build houses but don't get to live in them, plant food but don't get enough to eat, bathe our sores but don't make enough to keep their water turned on.

The instructions in *Leviticus 19* are clear about where we should stand in relation to the poor and the worker: "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob them. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."

**Of course, we all know** that the call to action against injustice is relatively easy to make, but actually following through on it is hard, frustrating, often failure-filled work. And seeking labor justice, like most other kinds of justice, can feel overwhelmingly complicated.

(Cont. page 7, col 2)

## August 19 STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE RESULTS

**Yes: 100**  
**No: 2**

Thank you for your continued support of the Bargaining Team and this negotiation process.

We will return to the table and work for an equitable agreement.

Grace

## August 31 RATIFICATION VOTE RESULTS

**Yes: 92**  
**No: 53**

165 Members were eligible to vote

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## 2004-2005 Officers

**President** - Sue Tollefson  
**Vice President** - Dawn Wilder  
**Secretary** - Michelle Kimball  
**Treasurer** - Rita Leppanen  
**Sergeant at Arms** - Phyllis  
Zaenglein  
**Guide** - Karen Smith  
**Tustees** - Kelly Dore', Joann  
Jordon, Rhonda Peterson  
**Bargaining Team** - Grace Albert,  
Gary Jerry, Jeff Roo, and  
Pat Woods

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## District Representatives

Chief Steward - *Grace Albert*

District 1 - *Jan Crawford* -  
Cohodas, UC, A&D, Gries

District 2 - *Beth Sanderson* -  
Services Building, Jacobetti Center,  
PEIF, Superior Dome, Berry  
Events Center

District 3 - *Gary Jerry* -  
West Science, Learning Resources,  
Magers, New Science Facility,  
Whitman

District 4 - *Kimber Olli*  
McClintock, Thomas Fine Arts,  
and Hedgcock

**You have contributed  
another 21 cartridges  
to Redeemer's youth.**

**Thanks so much.**

In the October 2004 National Geographic magazine, appears an article by Joel K. Bourne, Jr., entitled *Gone with the Water*. The headline reads, "The Louisiana bayou, hardest working marsh in America, is in big trouble—with dire consequences for residents, the nearby city of New Orleans, and seafood lovers everywhere." To read the entire article, go to <http://altreligion.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0410/feature5/>



## Employment Changes

Janice Hampton accepted the Principal Secretary 4B position in Communication and Performance Studies effective 7/11/05. She replaced Sue Ann Salo.

Kristi McClure filled the Senior Secretary 4D position in Housing and Residence Life effective 7/6/05. She replaced Christi Johnson.

Sally Roo accepted the Senior Secretary II 4C position in the Academic Senate effective 8/1/05. She replaced Pat Frenn.

The grant contracts for Jean Olson and Marianne Eyer were extended from 7/1/05 through 6/30/06.

Martin Hill accepted the Senior Library Assistant 4C position in Academic Information Services/Library effective 8/8/05. He replaces Kay Schwartz.

Season Holdwick resigned effective 8/20/05.

April Bertucci transferred into the 8.5 month, 30 hour per week Senior Clerk II 4D position in Admissions effective 8/17/05. She replaces Sally Roo.

Sarah Stanley's grant contract was extended from 7/1/05 through 6/30/06.

# Union Plus Scholarship Program

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their secondary education. Over 1,300 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

## Outstanding Scholarship Recipients

The students selected for university, college, trade school or technical scholarships represent a wide sampling of backgrounds, union affiliations, goals and accomplishments. Congratulations to the recipients of our 2005 college scholarships.

### Union Plus Scholarship Program Information:

- How to apply
- Scholarship eligibility
- Scholarship evaluation criteria
- Scholarship award amounts
- 2005 scholarship recipients

### How to apply:

- The 2005 scholarship deadline is past. Check <http://www.unionplus.org> to be notified when the 2006 scholarship application is available in September 2005.

**Eligibility for Scholarships:** Members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses and their dependent children (foster children, step children, and any other child for whom the individual member provides greater than 50% of his or her support) can apply for a Union Plus Scholarship. (Participating union members from Puerto Rico, Canada, Guam and Virgin Islands and U.S. citizens are

eligible.) Members do not have to purchase any Union Plus program product or participate in any Union Plus programs to apply for the scholarships and scholarship awards are not based upon participation in a Union Plus program.

The individual must be accepted into an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. (7127) Graduate students are not eligible.

**Evaluation criteria:** The scholarship program is open to students attending or planning to attend a college or university, a community college, or a technical college or trade school. Applicants for scholarships are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

Scholarship applications are judged by a committee of impartial post secondary educators. Applications are first reviewed by a panel of independent career professionals. Semi-finalists are chosen based on a point scale, and their applications are then provided to judges for further review and selection of finalists and awards. Program judges include representatives from the American Association of Community Colleges, the United Negro College Fund, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

**Scholarship award amounts:** The amount of the award ranges from \$500 - \$4,000. This is a one-time cash award sent to individual winners for undergraduate study beginning in the fall of the same year.

This is from the 7/18/2005 UnionPlus Newsletter. The site is <http://www.unionplus.org/>.

### UAW Parade Participants:

Sue Tollefson, Phyllis Zaenglein, Tony Tollefson, Ed Yohe, Andrei Wilder, Chris Wagner, Nespel Albert, Grace Albert, Jana Nichols, and Gerry Nault.

Photographer: Dawn Wilder



*Thanks so much for all your work for us.*



**August Birthdays**

Graig Buchanan	Aug 8
Denis Johnson	Aug 4
Lori Rintala	Aug 4
Lisa Alto	Aug 13
Stephen Brisson	Aug 16
Kara Cox	Aug 16
Kathy Solka	Aug 17
Patty Cook	Aug 17
Annette Brown	Aug 20
Sarah Woods	Aug 22
Linda Hares	Aug 24
Rhonda Peterson	Aug 25
Kay Schwartz	Aug 25
Janet Biolo	Aug 26
Sandra Klaboe	Aug 26
Judy Hopper	Aug 29

**September Birthdays**

Nita Thomas	Sept 6
Terri Williams	Sept 7
Norma Miller	Sept 8
Diana Waters	Sept 9
Randy Krieg	Sept 10
Jerry Gary	Sept 12
Mary Beth Reed	Sept 14
Jana Nicholls	Sept 17
Chyrl Hemmila	Sept 17
Kathryn Malay	Sept 18
Stephanie Bengry	Sept 18
Michelle Kimball	Sept 21
Krystal Rintala	Sept 22
Dawn Wilder	Sept 23
Luanne Thruston	Sept 23
Patti Rizzio	Sept 30



Our bargaining team: Pat Woods, Grace Albert, Sue Tollefson, Dan Leppanen, Gary Jerry, and Dawn Wilder. Not pictured, Jeff Roo.

**LOCAL 1950 NEWS**

**TIME FOR A BREAK!**

We've been told there is no evidence of an increase in productivity because there is no record of overtime or comp-time. Now, do you remember that coffee break you've been meaning to take every morning and afternoon? How about that lunch hour you worked through to get the job done? You're losing \$\$\$ by donating your time to NMU. (7794) Here are some figures that might make you think the next time you contemplate skipping your break! And, don't forget, we have \$3300 dollars in Health Insurance pay-backs over the next three years!

If you don't take breaks:

15 Minutes x 2 Breaks = 30 Minutes/Day  
 30 Minutes x 5 Days = 150 Minutes/Week (2.5 Hours/Week)  
 2.5 Hours x 44 Weeks = 110 Hours (excludes vacation, holidays, sick leave, etc.)  
 110 Hours x \$14/Hour = **\$1,540 Per Year**

Now, if you work 10 minutes overtime twice a week:

10 Minutes x 2 Times = 20 Minutes/Week (.33 Hours/Week)  
 .33 Hours x 44 Weeks = 14.52 Hours/Year  
 14.52 Hours x \$21/Hour (Overtime) = **\$305 Per Year**

And, if you work through your lunch hour just once a week:

1 Hour x 44 Weeks = 44 Hours/Year  
 44 Hours x \$21/Hour (Overtime) = **\$924 Per Year**

Your total donation to NMU would be **\$2769 Per Year!**

**SOLIDARITY**

## Keepers

I grew up in the sixties with a practical parent —my mother, God love her, who ironed Christmas wrapping paper and reused it and who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it... It was the time for fixing things — a curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, reheating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful.

Waste meant Affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and I sat in my kitchen that Sunday afternoon reading her old handmade cookbook in a binder, I was struck with the pain of feeling all alone, learning that sometimes there isn't any "more." Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return.

So...while we have it... it's best we love it....and care for it.....and fix it when it's broken.....and heal it when it's sick. This is true..... for marriage..... and old cars..... (0880) and children with bad report cards..... and dogs with bad hips..... and aging parents.....and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away —or—a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special.....and so, we keep them close!

Thanks to *Yvonne Niemi*

A lot of folks can't understand how we can have an oil shortage in this country. Wee, there's a very simple answer. Nobody bothered to check the oil. We just didn't know we were getting low.

The reason for that is purely geographi- cal. Our oil is located in Alaska, California, Coastal Florida, Coastal Louisiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Our DIPSTICKS are located in Washington, DC.



Thanks to *Sue Henderson and Pat Woods*

## FOR SALE

**Women's clothing** - Mother-of-the-bridal to relaxing wear. Mostly size 16. Reasonably priced (cheap) Phyllis 2125

**2000 Ford Taurus SES**,  
low mileage (67100),  
good condition,  
\$6,200 OBO,  
Maggie, 238-  
4227 or  
1125.



Some reasons to be grateful if you grew up speaking English:

- 1] The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2] The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3] The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4] We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5] He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6] The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7] Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8] At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.
- 9] When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10] I did not object to the object.
- 11] The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12] There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13] They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14] The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15] A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16] To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17] The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18] After a number of Novocain injections, my jaw got number.
- 19] Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 20] I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 21] How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Contact your congressmen.....for the sake of your children's generation.

What better way for us to kill Social Security than by having corporations outsource American jobs overseas. When an American worker collects his paycheck there is 6.2% taken out for FICA (Social Security). A corporation is required to match this by paying 6.2% in FICA taxes to Social Security. By outsourcing American jobs to India, a corporation not only sees their wage and salary costs drop significantly, but the corporation also does away with the painful 6.2% match required for Social Security and another high percentage match required for Medicare. Outsourcing leaves Social Security STARVED of the 6.2% collected from the American Worker and the matching 6.2% collected from their American Employer.

If Politicians attempt to shore up Social Security by increasing the level of FICA taxes you will see corporations outsource more jobs as a way to avoid the then increased FICA match.



Each issue of the Flame contains a 4 digit number of the member's choosing. This month there are 5 hidden in the newsletter. If you see your number, call Rita Leppanen @2495. She will issue a \$5 check to you. Stephen Brisson, Bev Evans, Ruth Ann Holm, June Nelson, and Nita Thomas were the Summer winners.

“The FLAME” is a member of the Local Union Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press AFL/CIO. “The FLAME” is published monthly (Sept-May) by the Education Committee, UAW Local 1950, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

Contributions to the FLAME from our members are greatly welcome. Submissions may be made to the Education Committee Chair/FLAME Editor, Dawn Wilder or to Asst. Editor, Phyllis Zaenglein.

## Thank You

Thank you very much for the large donation of health and beauty items to the Women's Center/Harbor House. Many of our clients come to us in need of these items, so we truly appreciate your kind gesture! Your donation will help many of our clients look good and feel good! Sincerely,

The Women's Center &  
Harbour House Staff

August 18, 2005

Thank you,

We deeply appreciate your recent and generous contribution. You have helped to keep our annual SafetyPup® program successful again this year.

Each day we hear of preventable accidents and drug issues that occur with our youngsters. The need to reach children with accurate and vital facts and information is important, if we are to keep them safe.

We cannot always be with our children. We must trust intelligence and good judgment in preventing an incident. As your Sheriff, I feel it is my duty to teach children to be alert to the dangers on their environment. The SafetyPup® program gives children the knowledge to become safety aware and to know what to do if they suddenly find themselves confronted with violence or any other dangerous situation.

The National Child Safety Council, a federal tax-exempt (MICS #3098) not-for-profit organization, provides the material and services selected for our use. Contributions to our child safety program stay in our area for our children.

Thanks again from the Sheriff's Department, myself and all the individuals lives we touch with the help of your caring hand.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Lovelace, Sheriff  
Marquette County Sheriff's Office





Behind the UAW banner was Gary Jerry in his 1975 Vette. Pictured are Andrei Wilder, Pat Woods, Ed Yohe, and Phyllis Zaenglein. Photographer: Dawn Wilder

**WHY MEN ARE NOT SECRETARIES...**

**Husband's note on refrigerator for wife:**

**Someone from the Guyna Colleges called. They said the Pabst beer is normal. I didn't know you liked beer.**

Thoughts for Labor Day (cont. from p. 1)

In a world filled with massive multinational corporations, it's hard to know what thread to pull in what country in order to unravel a given mess. Jobs may be lost here when a plant is moved to Mexico, but the move may be no great benefit for the workers of Mexico either, with its astonishingly low wages and lack of air and water pollution standards.

We hear when some absolutely awful abuse of workers happens, such as the fire in the chicken plant in Hamlet, North Carolina, a few years ago that killed 25 people because the doors were locked to keep people from stealing chickens. But so many of the other ways that dignity and health and life get chipped away go unreported.

There's no at-a-glance boycott list to make labor activism easier, but our faith can offer a unique source of energy for wrestling with the intellectual and ethical implications of living, working, and consuming in this world of ours.

**A housemate of mine once offered** one of the most powerful graces before dinner that I've ever heard. She simply told us about a family of migrant workers she knew when she lived in a Catholic Worker house in Phoenix, Arizona. The family survived by harvesting onions.

My friend described in detail the backbreaking work of doing so and this family's frequent hospitality to her after their long day of work, and how she couldn't slice onions without (2576) thinking of them. She invoked for us, in loving detail, all the hands that brought our food to our table. The meal became a sacrament of their work.

**This is the big lie the world tells us:** that the universe is connected by trade agreements, electronic banking, computer networks, shipping lanes, and the seeking of profit-nothing else. Whereas this is the truth of God: all creation is one holy web of

relationships, and gifts meant for all; that creation vibrates with the pain of all its parts, because its true destiny is joy.

Take anything you use every day: a shirt, your computer, your corn flakes. Think about all the people who designed it, mined or grew the raw ingredients in it, molded or sewed the pieces, and transported it.

**I suggest this not as** a sentimental exercise, but as holy discipline. Thinking about the things we have or the services we enjoy does not bring justice to the people who provide them. But remembering these people with gratitude, and remembering God, who is the source of all things, in that gratitude, can give us the energy to pursue that justice.

Julie Polter is an associate editor of [Sojourners](#), which first published this piece in their Sept-Oct 1994 issue (Vol. 23, No. 8, pp. 8-9).