



The Flame



Northern Michigan University Clerical/Technical Union Local 1950
<http://uaw1950.nmu.edu/>

January 2007

The membership is the highest authority of Local 1950

“With Congress, every time they make a joke, it’s a law. And every time they make a law, it’s a joke.” Will Rogers

The FLAME Wins Journalism Award

The results of the 2006 UAW Local Union Press Association Excellence in Journalism Contest are in!

Congratulations to all winners and to all local union journalists and webmasters who keep our members informed and motivated.

Here are the top honors in the General Excellence print category:

Division I: **Local 1950, The Flame.**

Division II: Local 2244, Labor News, and Local 2166, Truckin’ News (tie).

Division III: Local 598, Eye-Opener.

Division IV: Local 3000, Guide.

Division V: Region 1A Retiree News.

Judges’ comments will soon be posted on the LUPA Web site. Contest certificates will be mailed the first week of January. Entry forms for the 2007 LUPA contest will be posted in January. Thanks to all who participated.

In solidarity, Vince Piscopo
UAW Local Union Press Association coordinator

(Story continued on p. 4)



Dawn Wilder, Webmaster and FLAME Editor, and Phyllis Zaenglein, Assistant Editor

The New Democratic House

THE FIRST 100 HOURS

The new Democratic House leadership intends to spend the first “100 hours” of the legislative session to vote on legislation the Democrats believe are important to the voters. Here’s how viewers weighed in on the issues...

Lower Medicare Prescription Drug Prices

Should Congress repeal laws that prevent the government from negotiating discount drug purchases from drug companies?

- 85% say Yes, the government should negotiate for prices the same way big companies do for purchases.

- 15% say No, government interference will create price fixing, which will lead to fewer new drugs being developed.

Fund Stem Cell Research

President Bush vetoed a bill to increase federal funding for certain types of stem cell research, but Democrats will try again this year. Do you support a bill for public funding of embryonic stem cell research?

- 63% say Yes, we need public funds for stem cell research to ensure this research is done quickly.

- 37% say No, tax dollars should not be used for research that many find morally wrong or is best funded privately.

Pay As You Go Rules

To help reduce the deficit, House Democratic leaders propose budget rules requiring Congress to pass spending cuts or tax hikes to offset any new spending or tax cuts. Do you support this?

- 82% say Yes, Congress needs rules to prevent it from spending more than it takes in.

- 18% say No, this makes it harder for Congress to pass needed tax cuts to help the economy

(Cont. p. 4)

We'd like to announce new babies, (your children and/or grandchildren), graduations (yourself or family members), marriages, and other special events. Please send your announcement, including a picture, to pzaengle@nmu.edu.

Thanks, Phyllis

When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country.

-Elayne Boosler-

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Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission.

-Eleanor Roosevelt-

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The hardest years in life are those between ten and seventy.

-Helen Hayes (at 73)-

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Inside every older person is a younger person — wondering what the hell happened.

-Cora Harvey Armstrong-

Table of Content

LUPA Award	1
New Democratic Congress	1
Take a Break Winners	2
Thank You	2
Employment Changes	3
Grammar Watch	3
So You Think You Know	
Everything	4
Historic January	5
Health Care - Wellness	5
Chaplaincy Corner	6
Committee Reports	6
Senior Corner	6

Thank You

Thank you for thinking of me during my injury. The chocolates were a great pick me up.

Stacy Busch
Ticket Office

Members of UAW 1950,

Thank you very much for the \$250 scholarship for the 2007 Winter Semester. I am very appreciative of the help, and the money will be used for costs concerning my education at Northern Michigan University.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steven Shirkey
(son of Gloria Alexandra)

The Lake Superior Hospice Association gratefully acknowledges your contribution. Every gift is spent wisely toward our goal of supporting a patient-family coping with the stress of a terminal illness.

Thank you!

Dear UAW Local 1950:

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your donations of \$75.00 will help ease the burdens of our less fortunate neighbors. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your consideration.

It is only through the cooperation and generosity of the many caring people like you that we are able to assist the needy in our community.

Thanks again for the donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

UAW Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for thinking of me during my recuperation. (0797)

The chocolates were delicious, and you know chocolates always make a person feel good.

Thanks a bunch.

Rhonda L. Peterson

The December "Take a Break" drawing winners were:

Sheri A. Trotochaud, Registrar; Randy C. Krieg, Printing and Mail Services; Linda L. Roe, Dean of Students; and Marianne Eyer, Learning Resources Division



EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Nancy Anderson's position, Senior Clerk in Financial Services, was removed from the bargaining unit effective 11/28/06. It was reclassified as an AP position.

1-09-07 This is to advise you that due to budget constraints, the University will take the following action effective July 1, 2007: The Principal Secretary 4B position in the Finance and Planning Department currently held by Ms. Darlene Rantala will be eliminated.

Lynne Sundblad



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Officers of Local 1950, but are those of the individual writers. Articles of interest submitted by Local 1950 members will be printed as space provides; however, they must bear the name of the writers. All articles are subject to review and editing as necessary and are subject to the approval of the Editor, the Local President, and the Officers of Local 1950.

Each issue of the Flame contains 5, 4-digit numbers of the member's choosing. If you see your number, call Rita Leppanen @ ext. 2495. She will issue a \$5 check to you. Pauline Gould, Carolyn Basal, Gary Jerry, Andrea Jordon, and Mary Bourdeau were the December winners.

Grammar Watch

The purpose of this column is to help us recognize and correct mistakes in speech and writing. Please share your questions, ideas, and or peeves!

It is NEVER "The First Annual"; it is The Inaugural". You can't have an annual event until you have the (3372) second one; then it becomes annual.

The improper use of "anxious". Most people truly mean "eager" as in "I was eager to see my new grandbaby". To be anxious means to have anxiety over. Eager means you're looking forward to something.

Thanks to *Sue Tollefson*
Olympic Education
Center

2004-2005 Officers

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

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

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

FLAME Award (conclusion)

This is a great honor for The FLAME. We submitted the October, November, and December 2005 issues. Thanks to you, D.W. and I have been fortunate enough to attend two LUPA conferences, which have helped us make The FLAME what it has become. LUPA is a national UAW press (9029) organization.

Our Website (<http://uaw1950.nmu.edu>) won 3rd prize in this contest.

Also, thanks to all of you who have sent articles and suggestions to us.

*Phyllis Zaenglein
Assistant Editor*

So You Think You Know Everything!

- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
- A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

The New Democratic House (conclusion)

Ethics of Congress

Democrats propose an ethics package that will ban gifts from lobbyists and require full disclosure of earmarks (what some call "pork") in spending bills. Will this improve ethics in Congress?

- 92% say I support the ethics package of gift bans and earmark disclosures. It will help clean up Congress.

- 8% say I oppose the ethics package of gift bans and earmark disclosures. It's more posturing than substance.

Minimum Wage Increase

Democrats say the minimum wage should be increased from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour. (5552) Do you agree?

- 65% say Yes, raising the minimum wage will help families and other low income workers.

- 35% say No, raising the minimum wage will hurt small business and eliminate jobs.

9/11 Commission Recommendations

Democrats in Congress propose implementing the security measures proposed by the 9/11 Commission including a requirement to screen all cargo coming into our ports. What do you think of this specific measure?

- 92% say Yes, we should do whatever it takes to prevent terrorist attacks no matter the cost.

- 8% say No, screening cargo will only slow down commerce, raise costs and have no real safety impact.

Source: congress.org



Where is it?

The FLAME is a member of the Local Union Press Association (LUPA) and the Michigan Labor Press (MLP). The FLAME is published monthly September – May by the Education Committee of UAW Local 1950 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan 49855. Contributions to The FLAME from UAW Local 1950 membership are greatly appreciated. Submissions must be made to the Editor, Dawn Wilder at dwilder@nmu.edu, or Assistant Editor, Phyllis Zaenglein at pzaengle@nmu.edu, by the 5th of each month in order to be reviewed for the next newsletter.

HISTORIC JANUARY

January 1, 1863 - Official end to the U.S. slave system proclaimed.

January 1, 1990 - Victory in Pittston coal miners' strike.

January 1, 2000 - Zapatista rebellion begins in southern Mexico protesting "free trade" policies.

January 2, 1920 - Palmer raids begin. Justice Department agents arrest and deport thousands of radical immigrants.

January 3, 1964 - Strike by 450,000 public school students in New York strike against substandard, segregated schools.

January 9, 1912 - African National Congress founded in South Africa.

January 9, 1939 - Southern Tenant Farmers Union begins interracial sit-down strike in Missouri.

January 11, 1912 - "Bread and Roses" textile mill strike begins in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

January 11, 1937 - Michigan sit-down strike against General Motors Corporation begins.

January 15, 1929 - Birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of U.S. civil rights movement.

January 16, 1893 - Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii overthrown in U.S. operations.

January 17, 1915 - Ralph Chapin writes the anthem *Solidarity Forever* for a hunger march in Chicago.

January 19, 1812 - Luddites burn Oatlands Mill in Yorkshire, England.

January 19, 1920 - Sugar plantation workers on Oahu, Hawaii strike for better wages, conditions and paid maternity leave; 8,000 Filipino and Japanese workers join.

January 20, 1932 - First U.S. unemployment compensation law enacted in Wisconsin.

January 22, 1905 - Revolution against the Russian Tsar begins in St. Petersburg, Russia.

January 23, 1943 - Warsaw Ghetto uprising begins. 70,000 Polish Jews confront Nazi power.

January 25, 1787 - Shays Rebellion. New England farmers take up arms against imprisonment for debt.

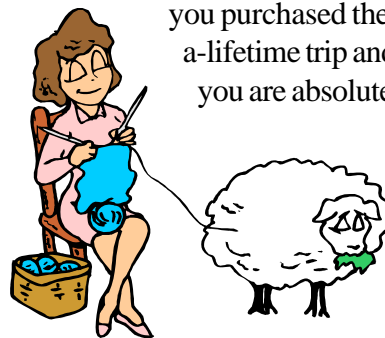
January 27, 1990 - South African rail strike won.

January 29, 1936 - Rubber Workers' Union sit-down strike in Akron, Ohio. Establishes it as a national union.

Famous January Birthdays

Betsy Ross	b. 1/01/1752
Paul Revere	b. 1/01/1735
Richard Nixon	b. 1/09/1913
Albert Schweitzer	b. 1/14/1875
Martin Luther King, Jr.	b. 1/15/1929
Benjamin Franklin	b. 1/17/1706
Cary Grant	b. 1/18/1904
Edgar Allen Poe	b. 1/19/1809
Robert E. Lee	b. 1/19/1807
John Hancock	b. 1/23/1737
Paul Newman	b. 1/26/1925
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	b. 1/27/1756
Oprah Winfrey	b. 1/29/1956
Dick Cheney	b. 1/30/1961
Franklin D. Roosevelt	b. 1/30/1882

"The changes of running out of yarn on a project are directly related to the difficulty that you will have getting more. For example, if you purchased the yarn for a dollar at your local yarn shop, and the owner has set aside an extra 10 balls for you, you are going to have plenty, even without going back. If, however, you purchased the yarn in Italy on a once-in-a-lifetime trip and it was very expensive, you are absolutely going to run out, regardless of careful planning."



Source: *At Knit's End: Meditations for Women Who KNIT Too Much* by Stephie Pearl-McPhee, page 12.

For those of you who knit or love any other craft, you know this to be absolutely true. pz

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Acting in faith

“That is why we live by believing and not by seeing”.

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 NLT

Fertile lives

Most of us try to get through life on human wisdom. Some of us succeed. Others of us make so many mistakes that we die with innumerable regrets. If only we could get guidance from above, we would get this “life” stuff right. If only we could hear the voice of the One who knows. If only.

The truth is that we can. The Voice has spoken. His words are available to us. But there’s a catch. We have to be willing to obey it. Otherwise, we won’t have what Jesus calls “ears to hear.” Those who obey what they already know of God have their ears opened to more; and those who have ears open are readily obedient.

The root of the problem is that most of us have trouble, however minor it may be, with obedience. We lose our “ears to hear,” and as a result, we fall back on human wisdom. Our lives never match those of the biblical heroes. Why? Human wisdom would not have pushed (7667) Abraham up a hill to sacrifice his son; it would not have led God’s people to the edge of the Red Sea with an army in pursuit; it would not have marched around Jericho seven times and blasted a trumpet for the wall to fall; and, most strikingly, human wisdom would not have vilified the Son of God on a cross in order to save a wretched race.

Really, when it comes to it, would you prefer to live by the human logic that results from losing your ears to hear? Or would you prefer the cutting-edge, risky-but-real life of a true, radical believer? The answer isn’t clear for everyone. But we’ve seen who lasts. Your Bible is full of their stories. They lived by faith, not by sight.

Adapted from The One Year® Walk with God Devotional by Chris Tiegreen, Tyndale House Publishers (2004), entry for May 30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Care – Wellness Report

Dawn Wilder
C/T Rep, Health & Wellness Committee

Minutes to these meetings are on our Website in the Member’s Only section. At December’s meeting, Ms. Kristen Portale, chair of the committee, reported that health care costs were up approximately \$62,000 for the month of October 2006, compared to October 2005 and up approximately \$268,000 for this year compared to the same period last year (September and October).

Also on our Website under Health Care - Wellness are the top 50 drugs by usage and by payment from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. Please keep in mind that these are 2005 figures and may not be an accurate picture of the 2006 usage.

Senior Corner

Medicare Part B Premiums to Wipe Out Entire Social Security Cost of Living Increase by 2012 for Almost 10 Million Seniors

December 6, 2006 (Washington, DC) – The Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), intended to help seniors keep up with rising inflation, will be completely eliminated for an estimated 9.9 million seniors due solely to disproportionately rising increases in Medicare Part B premiums by the year 2012, according to a new study released today by TREA Senior Citizens League.

Read more at <http://www.tscl.org/newcontent/102794.asp>

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.