Gearing Up for the 2008 White House Run

By UAW Region 8 Webmaster John Davis

In just 12 months, we should know who the candidates will be on the 2008 Presidential ballot. While much jockeying remains between now and then, the importance of this election can't be emphasized enough. America's working families have been squeezed for the past seven years, as health care, good wages, secure pension plans and a promise of the American dream have been eroding by a White House that sits hand in hand with big business.

In a time while working families have suffered, the big boys at the board tables have been raking it in. In the past six years, CEO wages have climbed 209% according to a recent MSN report. Of course few are making it as good as the oil companies these days. Since January of this year a gallon of unleaded gas is up 43%, while hourly wages are up 2% - before the adjustment for inflation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, families with incomes of around $35,000 spend about 5% of their income on gas for the car, while those making $250,000 spend about 1% of their income on gasoline. Shared sacrifice at the pump is a myth, for the working class is paying more in comparative terms of their income.

There are still those who bewail the fact that gasoline prices in Europe are still higher than ours. This is true, but when you factor in that gasoline prices in Europe help cover the cost of their universal health care and the cost of higher education, it isn't quite the same. In the United States, subsidies and tax breaks help secure these ridiculous profits the oil companies have tucked away. Recently a friend of mine pointed out that almost $1.00 of the cost of gasoline is taxes, but you have to remember that President Bush's energy plan slashed taxes the oil companies pay.

(continue p. 5)

Right-to-Work laws inhibit the right to organize.
Right-to-Work laws do not guarantee any rights. Right-to-Work statutes prohibit employers and unions from voluntarily negotiating a union security agreement. A union security agreement requires employees who benefit from the union's representation to pay dues that cover the costs of union negotiations, contract administration, and other union-provided job services.

Right-to-Work laws are designed to financially cripple the union movement.
Federal law requires unions to represent nonmembers. For example, if a nonunion worker is fired illegally, the union must finance the expensive legal proceedings to defend him or her. Right-to-Work laws allow workers to enjoy a union's services without paying dues. Not only does this discourage workers from joining the union, but it undermines worker solidarity.

Right-to-Work laws decrease wages for everyone.
Because workers' organizing rights are diminished in states with Right-to-Work laws, an average worker earns about $7,131 a year less than workers in free bargaining states ($30,656 versus $37,787).

(continue p. 6)
CONGRATULATIONS

Lucas Robert Smith
Born: September 4th, 2007 at 9:45 AM to Jeremy and Jeanie
Weight: 9 lbs, 0.6 oz.
Length: 21.75 inches
His Gramma is Karen Smith, Degree Audits

Zahra Madih born
June 6, 2007 - 2.6 kilos (6 lbs. 2 oz.) They don’t record height.
Birthplace: Casablanca Morocco
Parents: Evelyn and Adnan Madih
Resides in: Windhoek, Namibia
Zahra’s gramma is Sue Tollefson, USOEC.

Bruce and Jean (retired)
Paquette recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the Marquette Armory.
They were married September 14, 1957 at St. Louis the King Parish in Harvey.

Charles Myrduff Fairchild is the first grandson of Pat Wooldridge (Human Resources) to her son and daughter-in-law. Born on May 30, at 3:54 PM PST in Novato, CA, he weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 inches.

Table of Content

2008 White House Run ............ 1
Right to Work ..................... 1
Congratulations .................. 2
Employment Changes .......... 2
Sympathy—Mary Richards ....... 2
Thank You .......................... 3
Take a Break Winners ........... 3
Meetings Schedule ............... 3
Attitude is Everything .......... 4
Clam Chowder Recipe .......... 4
House for Sale .................... 5
Senior Citizen Corner .......... 6
History October .................. 6
Legislative News ................ 7-8
Steward Report .................. 8
Committee Reports ............... 9
Chaplaincy Corner ............... 9

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Patricia Cooke retired effective 9/1/07.

In Sympathy
Mary E. Richards, 61, passed away Saturday, September 15 at her home in the comfort and loving care of her family and caregivers of Lake Superior Hospice. Mary received her Associate degree from NMU and later worked in our bookstore for 25 years, retiring in 2004. We send our condolences to her family.
Membership meetings
October 10, 2007 - Explorer Rooms
November 14, 2007 - Explorer Rooms
December 12, 2007 - Michigan Room
January 9, 2008 - Michigan Room
February 6, 2008 - Michigan Room
March 5, 2008 - Michigan Room
April 2, 2008 - Michigan Room
May 7, 2008 - Explorer Rooms

Executive Board meetings
October 2, 2007 - Pioneer A
November 6, 2007 - TBA
December 4, 2007 - TBA
January 3, 2008 - TBA
January 29, 2008 - TBA
February 26, 2008 - TBA
March 25, 2008 - TBA
April 29, 2008 - TBA

2006-2007 Officers
President - Sue Tollefson
Vice President - Dawn Wilder
Secretary - Michelle Kimball
Treasurer - Rita Leppanen
Sergeant at Arms - Phyllis Zaenglein
Guide - Karen Smith
Trustees - Kelly Dore', Joann Jordon, and Rhonda Peterson
Bargaining Team - Grace Albert, Gary Jerry, Jeff Roo, and Pat Woods

District Representatives
Chief Steward - Grace Albert
District 1 - Terri Williams, Angie Zorza is alternate - Cohodas, UC, A&D, and Gries
District 2 - Ray Liubakka - Services Building, Jacobetti Center, PEIF, Superior Dome, and Berry Events Center
District 3 - Dawn Wilder - West Science, Learning Resources, Magers, New Science Facility, and Whitman
District 4 - Kimber Olli - McClintock, Thomas Fine Arts, and Hedgcock

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like all my Union brothers and sisters to know how much their thoughts and prayers meant to me and my family on the recent loss of my dear sister.

Her legacy is long and rich with warmth, compassion, and a love for life most of us never get to even dream about. She gave to everyone and will be dearly missed.

Thank you for remembering her and our family in your prayers.

Susan Henderson

To My UAW Friends,

Thank you for your kind wishes for my retirement. I will miss all of you as we have been friends for a long time. (7395) Some of us even walked the streets together.

Thanks for the memories. You are the greatest!

Fondly,
Nina Parkkonen

UAW Local 1950

Thank you for the box of chocolates & well wishes sent to me after my recent surgery. I’m feeling better every day. Times like these remind us of our great benefits.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Hillock

September Take-A-Break winners were Julie Bonner, Controller’s Office; Gina O’Donnell, Housing & Residence Life; Mary Kuczwara, College of Arts & Sciences; and Bernadette Norden, Center for Student Enrichment

United Nations Day October 24
ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING!

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today?" So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "H-M-M," she said, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today?" So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. (7255) "Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did and she had a fun day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "YEA!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything.

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly... and leave the rest to God.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... it's about learning to dance in the rain.

Thanks for Pat Woods, Music

Classic Clam Chowder
This recipe was in Healthy Notes—September 2007

INGREDIENTS
2 slices thick-cut bacon, cut into small dice
1 large onion, cut into medium dice
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves 2 bay leaves
1 1/2 cups leftover mashed potatoes 1 cup water
2 (8 ounce) bottles clam juice
4 (6.5 ounce) cans minced clams (clams and juice separated)
9 new potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
1/2 cup heavy cream Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS
In a large soup kettle, fry bacon over medium heat until bacon crisps, about 5 minutes. Remove bacon; set aside.

Keep 2 tablespoons bacon fat in pan. (If necessary, add oil to yield 2 tablespoons.) Add onion and saute until soft, about 5 minutes. Add thyme and bay leaves; cook until fragrant, 30 seconds or so.

Whisk in mashed potatoes, clam juice (bottled and what you've drained from the clams) and 1 cup of water. Add new potatoes and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat; continue to simmer, partially covered, until potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in clams, cream and parsley; season with salt and pepper.

Heat through and serve, garnishing each bowl with reserved bacon.

NUTRITION INFORMATION
Servings Per Recipe: 8 Amount Per Serving Calories: 322
Total Fat: 8.8g Cholesterol: 87mg Sodium: 538mg Total Carbs: 32.6g Dietary Fiber: 2.9g Protein: 27.6g

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Myla Angelo

New employees, please call me about choosing a number for the monthly drawing. Phyllis 2125

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. Sarah Stanley, Jan Hampton, Diana Waters, Patti Rizzio, and Lisa Alto were the September winners.
These taxes on gasoline are paid by the consumer – not the oil companies. So, they get tax breaks on their income while we see increases in taxes at the pump.

In the 1970’s, 10% of lower income families shifted to a higher tax bracket. In the 1980’s that statistic was cut to 5%, held steady in the 1990’s and saw a reversal since 2000. While the percentage of higher income families have held steady, the percentage of lower income families have grown as the middle category has reduced. This is further proof that the trickles down policies of the Reagan and Bush administrations have been failures. When tax breaks are levied to those at the top, the extra cash doesn’t trickle down. These reductions in federal income taxes have simply resulted in lower tax subsidies to state and local governments who are forced to raise sales tax to make up the difference. Sales tax is essentially a usage tax, so those who are forced to live off of their income end up shouldering a greater burden of the tax code, while those who sock their earnings away or invest in commercial enterprise once again benefit from capital gains tax cuts and see further reductions in their taxes.

This has helped to contribute to a 2.6% reduction in real income between the years of 2000 and 2005, adding up to a reduction of about $1900 per year. This equates to a reduction of $9500 over the course of time that comes out of grocery stories, clothing stores, car dealers and etc. When this happens the economy feels the impact through the reduction of expendable income and people lose their jobs. As real wages drop, the necessity of credit spending increases. Many working class families have resulted to credit card debt to simply make ends meet. During the Republicans time of control, legislation has been passed raised the limit on the percentage rate that credit card companies can charge, along with a change to the bankruptcy code that eliminates a person’s ability to get out of their credit card debt in a person bankruptcy. A final point on this issue must be made that the number one corporate sponsor to President Bush’s 2004 reelection bid was credit card mogul MBNA America.

For the fifth year in a row, the number of Americans without health care continued to climb. From 2000 to 2005, the number of uninsured Americans grew by 1.7% or 7,000,000 individuals. The greatest surge in these numbers occurred where employer provided health care was lost. The stagnate labor market, complicated by the addition of these new short sighted trade deals, helped push more and more families to the rolls of the uninsured. Individuals in the lowest 20% income bracket were the most likely to be uninsured, and were probably those who needed it the most due to the fact they can least afford preventative health maintenance. These are just a few of the issues that voters must consider when going to the polls next year. For far too long working class Americans have allowed misinformation and lies to distract them from the real issues they face. This election is vital to the survival of working class families and it should be approached from this perspective. Labor communicators are committed over the next 15 months to educating our membership and working class Americans in general on the issues that will determine this election. The American Dream shouldn’t be limited to the top 1% on the income bracket, but should stand true for every citizen. As the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated the time has come “for American to live up to the meaning of its creed that all men are created equal.” Hopefully, the 2008 presidential race will be a step toward fulfilling the dream of Dr. King and countless working class Americans.

Want to know which of 18 (yes 18) presidential candidates positions align with yours?

Click on the website below. It was put together by a newspaper serving an area of Iowa and Illinois along the Mississippi River. It might be worth a few moments of your time.


Thanks for Dawn Wilder, M&CS
Old Hollywood Squares …
(Back in the days when the answers were ad-libbed)

Q: Do female frogs croak?
A: Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water long enough.

Q: If you are going to make a parachute jump, how high should you be?
A: Charley Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

Q: True or False: a pea can last as long as 5,000 years.
A: George Goble: Boy, it seems like that sometimes.

Q: In bowling, what is the perfect score?
A: Rose Marie: Ralph, the pin guy.

Right-to-Work
(conclusion)

Across the nation, union members earn $9,308 a year more than nonunion members ($41,652 versus $32,344). Clearly these laws only provide a right to work for less.

**Right-to-Work states have more poverty, higher infant mortality rates and poorer schools.**

Right-to-Work states have a poverty rate of 13.5 percent, compared with 12.2 percent in free bargaining states. The infant mortality rate is 7.94 percent higher and the uninsured population rate is 15 percent higher on average in Right-to-Work states. And Right-to-Work states spend on average $1,680 less per pupil in elementary and secondary school. The lack of spending results in lower teacher salaries and student test scores—average teacher salaries are $6,943 lower and composite ACT scores are 3.55 percent lower in Right-to-Work states. **It is in states’ economic interest to keep unions strong.**

Studies show that unions increase productivity by encouraging new technology, labor management coordination, and increased training. (5499) To compete, nonunion businesses often increase their use of technology and train workers in new skills, making them eligible for higher wages. As wages rise, consumers have more money to spend, and more jobs are created. The ultimate beneficiary is the overall state economy.

HISTORIC OCTOBER

**Events in October**

October 08  Columbus Day
October 10  World Mental Health Day
October 16  Boss’ Day
October 21  Apple Day
October 24  United Nations Day
October 31  Halloween

**Symbols**

October’s Birthstone is Opal or Tourmaline
October’s Birth flower is Calendula or Cosmos

**Dates to Remember**

October 03, 1904  Mary McLeod-Bethune establishes a school for African American girls in Florida with only $1.50.

October 05, 1979  2000 Native American and allied activists protest uranium mining in the Black Hills, SD 1979

October 06, 1986  1700 flight attendants win a $37 million law suit against United Airlines which had fired them for marrying.

October 09, 1937  Chinese Workers Mutual Aid Association was founded in San Francisco to help workers organize restaurants, laundries, farms and docks.

October 15, 1969  The Moratorium to End of the War in Vietnam brings out 2 million protesters across the United States.

October 16, 1859  John Brown leads an attack on the arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, WV to launch the insurrection against slavery.

October 16, 1919  Deportation Act against “alien” anarchists passed.

October 17, 1950  “Salt of the Earth” zinc miners strike begins in Silver City, NM.

October 26, 1983  U.S. military forces invade the island of Grenada. Supposed caches of modern weapons are never found.
Dear Ms. Wilder:

I thought you would be interested in action the Senate has taken to help students and their families afford college tuition.

Access to a higher education is increasingly important in a competitive, global economy where training beyond a high school education is frequently required. On average, a student who has earned a bachelor’s degree will earn 70 percent more than a student who has only a high school diploma, which amounts to significantly greater earnings over an individual’s lifetime.

On September 7, 2007, the Senate passed the conference report to the College Cost Reduction Act (H.R.2669). This legislation currently awaits the President’s signature, which is expected soon. It opens the door to many who have been denied educational opportunity because they could not afford the cost of higher education. This legislation represents the single largest federal investment in higher education since the GI Bill and includes an additional $17 billion in college aid. This is a great victory for Michigan students and families and those across America.

Michigan will receive over $80 million in new assistance above the current $429.8 million for the upcoming academic year and an additional $689.6 million over the next five years.

This legislation also raises the maximum Pell Grant award from $4,050 to $5,100 in 2008 and raises the income level limit below which a student is eligible for the maximum Pell grant. In addition, it limits monthly student loan payments, provides loan forgiveness for borrowers who commit to public service, and simplifies the financial aid process.

Finally, this legislation reforms the student loan system to ease the burden of debt on student borrowers. Interest rates will be cut in half, from the current 6.8% to 3.4% for undergraduate students with subsidized loans. Also, monthly student loan payments will be limited to no more than 15% of the borrower’s discretionary income, so students will no longer have to decide between buying groceries and paying off their loans. For graduates with careers in public service, such as teaching, nursing, and law enforcement, the balance of federal student loans will be forgiven after 10 years of service.

You may be interested in reading my statement before the full Senate, located on my website, at http://www.levin.senate.gov/senate/statement.cfm?id=279643 and a recent column I wrote, also on my website, at http://www.levin.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=282100.

Sincerely,
Carl Levin

From Michigan Senator Ray Basham’s E-News:

Basham Introduces Legislation to Protect Michigan Water

Senator Basham joined other members of his caucus in offering legislation that will help protect Michigan’s water. The package of bills ensures large scale water withdrawals won’t hurt our water resources, eliminates loopholes for water bottlers, and strengthens tools of Michigan citizens to safeguard this precious resource.

Basham’s bill will lower the water withdrawal thresholds that require assessment. It also requires permits for large withdrawals to ensure those withdrawals will not harm citizens’ rights or access to water or the water resources themselves.

Other key elements of the package include:

Eliminating the loophole that allows water bottlers to ship unrestricted quantities of water out of the state. (0620) Currently, Michigan law permits the withdrawal and shipping of water out of the state as long as it is shipped in individual containers smaller than 5.7 gallons.

Requiring the use of an interactive, web-based tool developed by the Groundwater Advisory Council, which can predict if a withdrawal of a given size at any place in Michigan will damage the fish communities in nearby water bodies.

Reaffirming that our waters belong to the citizens of Michigan and are held in the public trust.

This legislation is supported by Clean Water Action, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Sierra Club, and Tip’o the Mitt Watershed Council.

Thanks to Dawn Wilder, M&CS
Bargaining Committee Report
By Grace Albert, Chief Grievance Officer

On September 10, 2007 the Bargaining Committee met with Segal/Sibson, Art Pickering and Lynne Sundblad. At that time we were each given a draft of their proposal for compensation - the C/T Bargaining Team Update. We were also given a copy of their proposed Position Questionnaire and the Valuation Tool. The Position Questionnaire is completed and submitted to the Supervisor. The Supervisor uses information on the Position Questionnaire to complete the Valuation Tool. Both documents are submitted to Human Resources and the Job Classification Committee for job evaluation.

The Bargaining Committee had a lunch hour meeting and then decided to hold an after-five meeting in order to address each document. Each member of the committee reviewed the documents and sent their reactions to/comments on the documents to Grace Albert. Comments were incorporated into one document and are in the final revision stage. That document will be sent by Sue Tollefson, as President, and to Art Pickering to be forwarded to Segal/Sibson.

We have been told not to contact the consulting group directly.

Briefly, our response to the documents are that the proposed system is not different from our current system. The questionnaire is very similar to what we have and the review is conducted by HR and the Job Classification Committee. We also continue to strenuously point out that we are concerned with the lack of communication on this whole process. In addition, we have asked to be supplied with the data that will be driving their proposal to the university.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Message sent to the following recipients:
Senator Levin
Senator Stabenow
Representative Stupak

Dear Senators Levin and Stabenow, and Representative Stupak,

The House could vote on the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 (H.R. 811) as early as September 17, 2007. Please oppose H.R. 811 or any of its companion legislation if it makes it to the Senate floor.

H.R. 811 is supposedly about verifying votes via a paper trail, but the 62-page bill is packed with federal controls that would make the EAC (Elections Assistance Commission) into a federal regulatory agency over US elections. Over half of the states have already begun to require a paper trail in voting, so why should the Congress add federal controls at the same time? Instead, Congress could constitutionally pass a resolution informing the states of the dangers of not having a paper trail and that it could refuse to seat a member in case of a questioned election where such votes exceed the plurality.

In addition to opposing H.R. 811 please consider sponsoring legislation that would ensure accurate and honest elections in America by repealing the so-called Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Sincerely,

Dawn Wilder (M&CS)

Not the real thing

Wickedness, when you examine it, turns out to be the pursuit of some good in the wrong way. You can be good for the mere sake of goodness; you cannot be bad for the mere sake of badness. You can do a kind action when you are not feeling kind and when it gives you no pleasure, simply because kindness is right; but no one ever did a cruel action simply because cruelty was wrong—only because cruelty was pleasant or useful to him. In other words, badness cannot succeed even in being bad in the same way in which goodness is good. Goodness is, so to speak, itself; badness is only spoiled goodness....Evil is a parasite, not an original thing.

C. S. Lewis in Mere Christianity

Thanks to Dawn L. Wilder (M&CS)
Grace discussed a situation in the Bookstore. Earlier this year Consultants were called in to evaluate the Bookstore. The suggestion was that the Bookstore relocate and reduce their personnel expense ratio. The goal is (in 5 years) to reduce the ratio from 16.2% to 13%. Mike Kuzak is committed to finding a way to avoid eliminating positions. Bookstore employees asked Grace to attend a meeting Mike scheduled with all CT employees on August 30th. Their main concern was his proposal to incorporate Saturday hours into their 40-hour work week, thus eliminating overtime. Grace contacted Mike and he welcomed her attendance at the meeting. Mike Kuzak and Paul Wright offered suggestions to the employees (increase sales, reduce student hours, reduce temps, reduce overtime). Employees expressed their concerns and offered suggestions (work all day Saturday and get another day off, consideration of “extra” days – parent’s weekend, commencement, evening specials, etc., phase in the changes, wait until December to make any drastic changes). Mike agreed to continue reducing student and temp hours and suggested re-evaluation of the situation after a year. That timing would be best because it would be reviewing an entire year. Grace pointed out she would argue that incorporating Saturdays into the regular work week would be a change in working conditions and should only be done on a voluntary basis. She then cited the Contract:

12.3.2 When the regular job opening is posted, the posting will note the classification, the pay grade, the minimum qualifications, the department, the position attributes (e.g., full-time, 11 months), and the closing date for receipt of applications.

The underlined wording was added during the last negotiations to help avoid involuntary changes to work schedules.

Another Bookstore issue – Temporary Labor employees doing the job of regular Full-Time CTs.

Grace met with Mike Kuzak, Paul Wright and some employees to discuss temporary labor employees doing work that had previously been assigned to the CT’s. The work mainly involved the Reserve process. The Consultants recommended the Bookstore increase the textbook reserve service. The temps were doing the entire reserve process this fall. After listening to the CT concerns and suggestions, Mike and Paul agreed next semester to distribute the reserve work as follows: front office look up schedules; textbook staff pull books; front staff input.

Susan Tollefson discussed the “legality” of her appointing Stewards. Jim Tharp informed her that the Constitution states she can appoint Stewards only if they are already an Officer in the Union. The issue was discussed and it was recalled that when there were openings a notice had been sent to the membership. When only one person volunteered for that position it was noted that person would be elected (by default) so the appointments were appropriate.

The E-Board directed Grace to create a letter to Susie Piziali. The letter was drafted and sent to the E-Board for comment. The letter includes the assurance that she no longer has possession of any documents that rightfully belong to the Union (e.g., grievance paperwork). The letter will be completed and sent to Susie requesting her signature in the presence of a Notary (Patricia Woods).

Grace has not received materials from former Steward Beth Sanderson. She will send her a note offering to pick the materials up from her.

DW will send a note to the membership asking if they have appealed a decision from BC/BS and what the result of that appeal was.
Committee Reports

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Dawn Wilder, Vice-President

Nothing to report at this time.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Dawn Wilder, Vice-President

Yes, it’s time once again to solicit applications for the UAW Local 1950 Scholarship. Forms must be received no later than November 15th to be considered for the winter 2008 semester. Please visit our Website at http://uaw1950.nmu.edu for more information.

The Education Committee will be ordering a number of publications and videos from UAW that will be distributed through campus mail or shown at membership meetings. The supply booklet is on our Website at http://uaw1950.nmu.edu/local_alerts/Supplies.pdf. Please let me know if there is anything you see that is of particular interest to you, and I will make every effort to see that it is ordered.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE
Dawn Wilder, UAW 1950 Representative

The Health & Wellness Committee met on Friday, September 14th. I do not have the minutes from that meeting as yet, but I can say that it is not looking good for our January payback. I should have more information after the next meeting on Friday, October 12th. As soon as I hear anything definite I will let you know.

For What It’s Worth . . .

I’ve been getting a lot of e-mail asking me to support expansion of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). President Bush is against the expansion, and I got curious as to why anyone would be against insuring children – aren’t they our number one priority?

Here’s what I think might be the problem. Currently eligibility hinges on the Federal Poverty Level which is $20,650 for a family of four. (9072) The expansion that the House is calling for could increase that amount anywhere from 200 to 400%. Here’s what that represents in real numbers:

- 200% $41,300 ($20/Hour)
- 250% $51,625 ($25/Hour)
- 300% $61,950 ($30/Hour)
- 350% $72,275 ($35/Hour)
- 400% $82,600 ($40/Hour)

I find it hard to believe that a Legal American family of four with an income of $41,300 is unemployed or is employed with no health insurance. However, if that were the case (employed with no health insurance) I could see my way clear to support an increase in SCHIP up to 250% ($50,000). That would be my absolute, bottom line.

I guess I’d have to say I understand President Bush’s concern. His other concern is that this is socialized medicine through the back-door. I don’t know enough about socialized medicine to be for or against it. But, sneaking is never a good thing so at this point in time I am against it.

For more information on SCHIP go to http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/chiphome.htm

Thank you.
Dawn L. Wilder (D.W.) M&CS

CHAPLANCY CORNER

Have you known joy even in the midst of trouble?
We know that the same God who raised our Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself along with you. All of these things are for your benefit. And as God's grace brings more and more people to Christ, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day…. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:14-18 NLT

Too easily pleased
If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is not part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C. S. Lewis in The Weight of Glory Quoted in The Quotable Lewis edited by Wayne Martindale and Jerry Root (Tyndale House) p 352
Content is derived from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation and other publications of Tyndale Publishing House