Going Green in Your Home May Save You Some “Green”

With winter heading our way and energy prices on the rise, many Michigan residents are looking for ways to save money and cut their energy usage. Going “green” by adding insulation, replacement windows, and certain high efficiency heating and cooling equipment to your home can earn federal tax credits if the products are installed between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

Visit [http://www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for information and tips. Credits may also be available if you have recently purchased a new fuel-efficient vehicle—see the Web site for details.

RAYMOND E. BASHAM
State Senator
8th District

Anti-NAU Warriors Beginning to Move the Rock Uphill!

By Tom DeWeese

Just a year ago most would have predicted there was no way to stop the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) which many believe will become a North American Union (NAU). The proponents are rich, powerful and determined. From the White House to huge, wealthy international corporations, these proponents of the SPP are used to getting their way. (5881) The little people back in their grassroots are just silly pawns to be manipulated or ignored.

But there are signs that the huge rock at the bottom of the hill that is the unmovable NAU is beginning to budge uphill as heroes are emerging in the fight. Some close to the movers and shakers are beginning to hint at a concern that they just might not be able to implement the SPP – that darned opposition just won't go away. At the same time, anti-NAU forces are beginning to see signs of progress as the movement is getting energized. Victory is certainly not in sight, but now there is hope. Read the rest of this very important article at [http://www.michnews.com/artman/publish/article_18178.shtml](http://www.michnews.com/artman/publish/article_18178.shtml)

Thanks to Dawn Wilder, M&CS

The sole purpose of government is to protect its citizens. Ours is failing, and it seems apparent to all but them. Let's send a message to Washington that it's time to live up to our expectations and do the job they were elected to do – let's boycott all Chinese products for the next 30-days and buy American. Tell our leaders that if they won’t protect us, then we will.

Select the month and year, then click on the product line and scroll down to see where the product was manufactured. American Made Toys can be purchased at [http://channel.cameoez.com/Scripts/PublicSite/?template=Links](http://channel.cameoez.com/Scripts/PublicSite/?template=Links).

Our government won't protect us by securing our boarders nor by assuring the products we import are safe for consumption. Let's do what the every-day people in Iraq seem to be doing. Let's take the bull by the horns and get things done from the bottom up. We can do this, after all, it's in our blood!

Thanks to Dawn Wilder, M&CS
CONGRATULATIONS

Logan David is the 8th grandchild of Cindy Schwartz (ACAC). He was born Nov 4th, to Tami and Steve Treder, in St. Paul MN. Logan weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz and was 20 inches long.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Jan Marana was placed on a leave of absence effective 11/6/07.

THANK YOU

Dear UAW Local 1950

Thank you for the chocolates that you sent to me for my recent surgery. I’m fortunate to have such a great support group.

It was nice to be thought of.

Sincerely, Jan Marana

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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 - Angie McCabe, Joann Jordon, and Rhonda Peterson
Bargaining Team - Grace Albert, Gary Jerry, Jeff Roo, and Pat Woods

District Representatives

Chief Steward - Grace Albert

District 1 - Open - Cohodas, UC, A&D, and Gries
District 2 - Open - 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
Beware of Garbage Trucks

By David J. Pollay

How often do you let other people’s nonsense change your mood? Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, or an insensitive employee ruin your day? Unless you’re the Terminator, for an instant you’re probably set back on your heels. However, the mark of a successful person is how quickly he/she can get back her focus on what’s important.

Sixteen years also I learned this lesson. I learned it in the back of a New York taxi cab. Here’s what happened.

I hopped in a taxi, and we took off for Grand Central Station. We were driving in the right lane when, all of a sudden, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car’s back end by just inches.

The driver of the other car, the guy who almost caused a bad accident, whipped his head around and he started yelling bad words at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was friendly.

So, I said, “Why did you just do that”. This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!” this is when my taxi driver told me what I now call “The Law of the Garbage Truck.”

Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garage piles up, they need a place to dump it. If you let them, they’ll dump it on you. When someone wants to dump on you, don’t take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. You’ll be happy you did.

So this was it: The “Law of the Garbage Truck.” I started thinking, how often do I let Garbage Trucks run right over me? How often do I take their garbage and spread it to other people, at work, at home, on the street?

It was that day I said, “I’m not going to do it anymore.” I began to see garbage trucks. Like in the movie, “The Sixth Sense”, the little boy said, “I see dead people.” Well, now I see garbage trucks.

I see the load they’re carrying. I see them coming to drop off. Like my taxi driver, I don’t make it a personal thing; I just smile, wave, wish them well, and I move on.

Sometimes making money is a waste

By Mort Crim

Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz was a 19th century naturalist and paleontologist. He was absolutely passionate about the scientific work to which he dedicated his life.

Every free moment was pressed into his research and writing. He was never happier than when immersed in fossils and other relics of ancient life.

A distinguished group of scholars once invited Agassiz to talk about his latest research. He refused. Quite simply, he didn’t want to take time away from his work.

The group persisted. They would pay Agassiz for his time. But the pocketbook appeal fell on deaf ears.

“There’s no inducement to me!” Agassiz exclaimed. “I can’t afford to waste my time making money.”

Most of us, of course, need to work because we need to earn a living. To pay bills. For us, making money is hardly a waste of time.

But is that the only reason we work? Does our daily routing bring us no other satisfaction — no reward except a paycheck?

If so, then we’re wasting more than our time. We’re wasting out passion and enthusiasm.

Today’s Thought: To waste time on the wrong priorities is, ultimately to waste life.

Thanks to Kimber Olli, Registrar’s Office
Dear Representative Lindberg,

Please support the Great Lakes, Great Michigan bills (HB5065-HB5073). These bills will strengthen protections for Michigan’s water, our greatest natural resource. These new laws are needed to ensure that special interests will not be allowed to divert our world-class water resources or damage wetlands, streams, and underground aquifers through excessive withdrawals.

Your support for this package of bills will;
1) bring Michigan into compliance with the eight-state Great Lakes Compact, and
2) protect Michigan’s valuable water for generations to come.

Such a package of legislation will create strong protections for the Great Lakes and our valuable inland lakes, streams, groundwater and wetlands. It will also ensure that the vibrant industrial, tourism, farming and recreation economies that rely on water will be protected.

Sincerely,

Dawn Wilder

Dear Ms. Wilder:

Thank you for writing to share your support of House Bills 5065 - 5073. It is always nice to hear the opinions of concerned constituents.

I have reviewed these bills and I am currently in support of all of them. I agree with the importance of keeping water from the Great Lakes in the Great Lakes basin.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact my office. (7151)

Regards,

STEVEN LINDBERG
109th District State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0498 (main)
888-429-1377 (UP toll free)
517-373-9366 (fax)

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**2007 Night Before Christmas**

Twas the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.
Why the Politically Correct Police had taken away,
The reason for Christmas - no one could say.
The children were told by their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.
It might hurt people’s feelings, the teachers would say,
December 25th is just a "Holiday".
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod
Something was changing, something quite odd!
Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.
As Targets were hanging their trees upside down
At Lowe’s the word Christmas was no where to be found.
At K-Mart and Staples and Penny’s and Sears
You won’t hear the word Christmas; it won’t touch your ears.
Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.
Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton,
Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.
And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace.
The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season, stopped before it started.
So as you celebrate "Winter Break" under your "Dream Tree"
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.
Choose your words carefully, choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS, not Happy Holiday!
Union Plus: How to avoid foreclosure

Five ways to help your home and your wallet:
1. How to avoid foreclosure
2. What’s the best way to rebuild credit after bankruptcy or foreclosure?
3. Save 12% on the hottest holiday gifts
4. Extended deadline for union member $50 cell phone and accessories savings
5. Other holiday discount ideas

---------------------------------------------------------

1) HOW TO AVOID FORECLOSURE
http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/17z9ZqY1_u0d/

Do you have an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM)? Do you know when it resets and how much interest you could be paying? If you’re not sure, you’re not alone; many union members and their families face similar confusion.

The monthly payments on many adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) are rising steeply after the loans reset. As a result, many working families are finding themselves overextended, and some are losing their homes.

The good news is you can take the first positive step by calling the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline.
http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/1pz9ZqY1_u0c/
Call 1-866-490-5361 for a free consultation with a HUD-certified housing counselor who can help you develop a budget, answer your questions and develop an action plan to get your financial house in order, preferably before you reach a crisis stage with your mortgage.

For the complete article, see www.enews@unionprivilege.org
Disapproval of the U.S. – Mexico Totalization Agreement
From the Desk of Representative Virgil Goode (VA)

The United States has several Totalization Agreements with countries in Western Europe, Canada, Japan, and a few others. These are countries which have U.S. workers in them and which have workers from that country in the United States. In these instances, the number of persons in both countries is relatively small in number and there are about the same number in each country. However, the Totalization Agreement that is proposed between the United States and Mexico will benefit far more Mexican workers than U.S. workers because there are more Mexican workers in this country by far than U.S. workers in Mexico.

The agreement was signed on June 29, 2004. It has a negative impact on the U.S. Social Security System and puts American seniors at risk. Under the Totalization Agreement, immigrants, both legal and illegal, would be eligible to draw from the U.S. Social Security System for their work in this country. Because of the number of illegal immigrants, it is difficult to devise an accurate estimate of how much this agreement will cost our system. Some say that it will be in the millions; others, including me, believe that the cost will run into the billions.

My position is supported by a report from the Government Accounting Office. That report says, a common border and economic disparity between the United States and Mexico have fostered significant and longstanding unauthorized immigration into the United States, making an agreement with Mexico potentially far more costly than any other. Thus, for the Mexican agreement, additional analyses to assess risks and costs may be called for. The report goes on to say that the current solvency issues require Congress to think carefully about future trust fund commitments resulting from Totalization agreements.

It is vital for the House to express its disapproval of the Totalization Agreement, so that it will not take effect. We are responsible for taking care of seniors who have worked in this country legally and paid into a system upon which many rely for their sole source of income. We cannot allow agreements that will encourage more illegal immigration and which will harm the Social Security Trust Fund.

I have introduced H.Res. 18. We currently have 45 co-sponsors. We need more co-sponsors of this resolution, which resolves that the House of Representatives, pursuant to section 233(e) (2) of the Social Security Act, hereby disapproves of the Totalization agreement establishing Totalization arrangements between the Social Security system established by title II of such Act and the Social Security system of Mexico, signed by the Commissioner of Social Security and the Director General, Mexican Social Security Institute, on June 29, 2004.

**Status:** This bill is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills go first to committees that deliberate, investigate, (0125) and revise them before they go to general debate. The majority of bills never make it out of committee.

**Last Action:** Jan 11, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

*Thanks for Dawn Wilder, Math &CS*

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**Preamble to the Michigan State Constitution**

We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.


*Thanks to Dawn Wilder, M&CS*
UAW ETHICAL PRACTICES CODES

The UAW Local 1950 Education Committee in an attempt to keep our members informed will be printing excerpts from the UAW Constitution approved by the 34th Constitutional Convention in June, 2006. First in this series of UAW Ethical Practices Codes is Democratic Practices. The first principal assures each member’s freedom of speech. However, as stated in the last sentence of principal #1, these rights are not without limits.

Democratic Practices

The UAW is proud of its democratic heritage. Its Constitution is carefully designed to insure each member her/his full democratic right, both as an individual and through her/his elected representatives, to express her/himself freely and to participate at all levels in the decisions governing the Union. Moreover, individual rights as a UAW member are protected against infringement or abuse, for a member may appeal complaints concerning the administration of the Union, to the Local Union, the International Executive Board and the Constitutional Convention; and has the right to submit her/his appeal to the UAW Public Review Board, comprised of citizens with national reputations outside the labor movement, whose decisions are final and binding.

The democratic principles which have always governed the International Union, UAW, and its Local Unions are:

- Each member shall be entitled to a full share Union self-government. Each member shall have full freedom of speech and the right to participate in the democratic decisions of the Union. Subject to reasonable rules and regulations, each member shall have the right to run for office, to nominate and to vote in free, fair and honest elections. In a democratic union, as in a democratic society, every member has certain rights but s/he also must accept certain corresponding obligations. Each member shall have the right freely to criticize the policies and personalities of Union officials; however, this does not include the right to undermine the Union as an institution; to vilify other

For What It’s Worth . . .

To stop nighttime coughing in a child or adult, put Vicks Vaporub generously on the bottom of the feet at bedtime then cover with socks. Even persistent, heavy, deep coughing will stop in about 5 minutes and stay stopped for many, many hours of relief. Works 100% of the time and is more effective in children than even very strong prescription cough medicines. In addition it is extremely soothing and comforting and they will sleep soundly.

It was a surprising finding and found to be more effective than prescribed medicines for children at bedtime, and in addition, to have a soothing and calming effect on sick children who then went on to sleep soundly.

The writer of this article tried it on herself when she had a very deep constant and persistent cough. It worked 100%! She said that it felt like a warm blanket had enveloped her, coughing stopped in a few minutes and believe me, this was a deep, (incredibly annoying!) every few seconds uncontrollable cough, and she slept cough free for hours every night that she used it.

So, if you have Grandchildren, pass it on, if you end up sick, try it yourself and you will be absolutely amazed by the effect.

Anonymous

Constitution (conclusion)

members of the Union and its elected officials or to carry on activities with complete disregard of the rights of other members and the interests of the Union; to subvert the Union in collective bargaining or to advocate or engage in dual unionism.

- Membership meetings shall be held regularly, with proper notice of time and place and shall be conducted in an atmosphere of fairness.
- All Union rules and laws must be fairly and uniformly applied and disciplinary procedures, including adequate notice, full rights of the accused and the right to appeal, shall be fair and afford full due process to each member.
- Each Local Union shall maintain adequate safeguards so that all of its operations shall be conducted in a democratic and fair manner. No corruption, discrimination or anti-democratic procedure shall ever be permitted under any circumstances.
Chaplaincy Corner

Some call it being stubborn, others call it perseverance. I guess it's just the way you look at it. I don't like failing, so I have a tendency to keep trying long after others have quit. Sometimes I succeed, but many times I fail. Thank God for allowing me to forget those failures, because if I could count them all, I'd probably see that I lose more than I win, and so I'd probably quit trying. Thank God for a selective memory. My refusal to quit has gotten me through many very difficult things in life. The single most-important thing I've learned in life so far is: When events in life knock you down and stomp on you, you have two choices: you can quit, or you can get up again and try one more time. And all you really need to do is "try one more time," because one of those "one more times" will be the last time.

A Scripture Passage:
"To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7

A Reflection:
"Overcome," is a word that means "To conquer," "To prevail over by mental or moral effort." If you look back carefully on your life, you will see many instances where you had overcome, succeeded, conquered. God remembers all your successes, large and small, even though you may not. Don't look at what you can't do; rather, look at what you can do. Don't look at what you didn't do; look at what you did do. If you look at your little successes, it will help you to have a more positive attitude. And keeping a positive attitude is essential in being able to overcome the big obstacles. Remember, you CAN overcome; you DO overcome; you HAVE overcome before. So, what's stopping you from overcoming now? Nobody but you. God is there for you at every step, and if you reach out and ask Him, He will help you to overcome.

A Thought:
People who consistently overcome are good at forgetting (and forgiving) their failures.

A Prayer: Father, help me to overcome these obstacles and these fears I face today. Help me to press onward with renewed strength. Though I am exhausted, send people to energize me, to lift me up, and carry me forward until I can stand, once again, on my own, with you at my side. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Social Security Info

by Phyllis Zaenglein

Last month I signed up for Social Security benefits. Egad! I can't believe I'm that old. This is what I learned.

You need to take an official birth certificate to the office. At that time you make a date and time for a phone interview.

The interview will take about 30 minutes. You need to provide the routing number of the bank where the money will be deposited, the kind of account (checking/savings) and, of course, the account number.

If you were married for at least 10 years and your spouse makes/made more money than you, you might be entitled to additional money each month. (0894) The difference in incomes has to be considerable for this to apply. This is determined at the interview.

If you do qualify, there are documents you need to show Social Security; back to the Social Security office. One is an official proof of the marriage. This can be the certificate from the church or wherever with ink signatures. No copies. The other is an official divorce or death proclamation. Again, not a copy. The divorce papers cost $19 and the marriage papers at least $2 and can be gotten at the county clerk’s office where they are registered.

I also learned that you are supposed to sign up for Medicare Part A (hospital) 3 months before to 3 months after your 65th birthday. You don’t have to sign up for Part D (prescriptions) until you are no longer covered by your employer. There may be differences, depending on your retirement program.
Committee Reports

Health Care & Wellness Committee
Health Insurance Payback:
For your information, the cost of the University’s health care from September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007 exceeded the amount designated by the University. The budgeted amount for 2006-07 for all employee groups was $9,195 (per person) and the average cost was $9,996.37. As a result of the shortfall, bargaining unit members with health care coverage for the entire 12-month period owe $801.37. Individuals with health care coverage for less than the 12-months owe a prorated amount.

The Premium Conversion Plan Election Form authorizes a payroll deduction on a pre-tax basis for the amount you owe. “Premium Conversion” simply means that contributions will be withheld from your pay in a way that is not subject to state, federal, Social Security, and Medicare withholding. There are 5 payments plans (1, 4, 8, 15, or 24 deductions).

The form needs to signed and returned to Human Resources by Friday, December 14, 2007. Deductions will begin with the payday of January 24, 2008.

If you prefer to make payment by personal check, make the check payable to Northern Michigan University and send it to the Human Resources Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at 227-2470.

AAUP and Non-Represented groups will get a payback because they have been “front-loading” and paying in advance ($1200 Max). AFSCME will have a slightly lower payback because they didn’t take the $22 payback from last year and carried it forward to offset a payback this year. At least we didn’t hit the $1200 max . . . something to be thankful for.

So, if the payback is around $800, the “pre-tax” amount that we will have deducted from our paychecks will be around $560 (30%) which may not “seem” as bad as $800.

Health Care/Wellness Survey Results:
Results of the Health Care/Wellness Survey are on our Website under “Members Only”. A copy was submitted to Kristen Portale, Chair of the University Health Care/Wellness Committee for her review.

Education Committee
Winter 2008 Scholarship winners will be announced shortly.

A list of UAW publications that the Education Committee would like to purchase will be presented to President Tollefson by Friday, December 7th.

Community Services Committee
Our Adopt-a-Family Campaign is drawing to a close with the deadline for getting gifts in to the Committee Friday, December 7th. Christmas present wrapping bees will take place from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning on Monday, December 10th in WS 3802.

How your vote can work at the Michigan Primary on Tuesday, Jan 15
By Sue Tollefson, President

In September 2007, Michigan moved its primary date to January 15, which was upheld by the Supreme Court. However, Michigan is being punished by both parties by reducing or eliminating the number of delegates that can attend their nation conventions. Additionally, four democratic candidates have removed their names from the ballot, in deference to their party’s rules.

If you support one of the four candidates whose name will appear on the ballot, you should vote for that candidate.

If you support one of the candidates who have pulled their name from the ballot, you should vote for the uncommitted slot available on the ballot.

Unless a currently non-represented candidate formally files as a write-in candidate by the write-in filing deadline of Jan. 4, voting for that candidate as a write-in on Jan. 15 will not count in the primary election.

As mentioned earlier, the ballot for the primary will include the names of Clinton, Dodd, Gravel, and Kucinich; an option for uncommitted, and an option for write-in. Please note: A write-in vote as defined by state law, will not count unless the specified write-in candidate has properly filed as a write-in candidate by the Jan. 4 deadline date. So again, if you support a candidate who has pulled their name from the ballot and didn’t file in time as a write-in, you should vote for the uncommitted slot available on the ballot.

Decorating Idea ...
Place scented pine cones around the house for a pleasant wintery aroma.