



N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 29, No. 3

Janet Nortrom, Editor

November 12, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In August, MATC learned that district property values had come in higher than budgeted. As a result, the District Board voted to increase the levy at their October meeting. This will only cost the average homeowner \$1 more a year, but will allow MATC to increase its funding by \$1.2 million. At a time when state support continues to decline, this was the right thing to do! Recall that state support of MATC has fallen by almost 50%, from over 30% of operating costs in 1990 to slightly more than 15% today.

Last year, the administration had a similar opportunity and decided not to take the property tax dollars. The result was a budget deficit that forced cuts in services to students, cuts in services to the community like the elimination of the jewelry program and tremendous acrimony between the college's educators and administration.

The problems that Local 212 members raised about state mandated changes in the AAS degree have proven to be true. So far, the only new "baccalaureate level" courses to actually be implemented here are in Natural Science. Courses that were transferable before are now being declined for transfer by UW schools, when all that changed was the course number - no competencies changed.

For example, NatSci 161 Microbiology was transferable to UWM as Microbiology in the past. After the state aligned baccalaureate level course NatSci 197 was implemented this fall, UWM will only accept it as an elective, not as Microbiology. So a student who takes 197 here will have to repeat microbiology at UWM.

Nothing changed about the course except the course number, but now our students are worse off than they were before this alignment.

We were supposed to implement the first of the state aligned math classes (the technical mathematics series) in fall of 2005-06. When these courses were submitted to the UW system, many UW schools would not transfer them as courses but only as electives or not at all. This is likely because the UW system does not offer a course like tech math which combines intermediate algebra with trigonometry.

UW doesn't need such a course, because in a 4 year school, students take all general education in the first 2 years, and then take courses applying them in the major as juniors and seniors. An architecture major, for example, won't need to have completed his math classes in the first year at UW, so algebra and trig can be separate one semester courses. But at MATC,

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

AND IN THIS CORNER...

I don't know which I feel worse about: the realization that I will not live long enough to see a Supreme Court that represents my progressive values, or the recognition that a significant minority of Americans could be so successfully manipulated to vote against their own economic self interest by the Goebbels-like propaganda of Karl Rove.

In either case, the re-election of George W. Bush leaves me feeling like a German in Berlin in 1936. Our students will suffer as a result, both in their lives and their education. Our constitutional protections will continue to erode under the right wing onslaught of fundamentalists who have increased their majorities in both houses of Congress to go with control of the White House. Checks and balances may still be taught in our political science classes, but they don't exist in Washington.

There was some good news, however. We did our part by winning Wisconsin for Kerry. The margin of Kerry's victory in both the city and county of Milwaukee exceeded that of Al Gore in 2000 and was the deciding factor in Wisconsin's ten electoral votes going for Kerry. Gwen Moore's election to Congress gives us an articulate warrior for progressive causes, rational policies, and, especially, for public education.

Russ Feingold's victory is not only pleasing but provides an instructive comparison. Feingold had the courage and wisdom to stand up and vote against both the Patriot Act and the Resolution on the War in Iraq. The people of Wisconsin gave him the largest election victory of his three races, with many who voted for Bush also voting for Feingold.

Yet in South Dakota, Tom Daschle, the most powerful Democrat in the Senate and a three-term incumbent, lost his race. Remember that after September 11, 2001, Daschle was the Senate Majority Leader. His used his power to bully Democrats into voting for the Patriot Act without even having time to read the whole bill and later into voting for the Iraq War. Then Democrats lost the majority of the Senate in 2002, and now Daschle is history.

Does anyone doubt that if Daschle and Kerry had, like Feingold, voted against the Patriot Act and the Iraq War they would have won election?

Democratic Party leaders take note: candidates who have the courage to stand up for progressive principles have a better chance of attracting independent voters than ones who hold their fingers in the air to test the political wind before taking a position.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

FROM THE PRESIDENT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

students take courses requiring trig in the second semester of their program, so math classes have to include the trig in the first semester.

The WTCS VPs voted that we would have to redo tech math to make it acceptable to UW system. If we do that, students will not get trig until the second semester, and could not take program classes requiring it until the second year of the program. This makes no sense in a two year program. No instructor who actually works with students has ever claimed that any of this makes sense.

All of these problems developed because faculty and the WTCS faculty unions were not involved in the decision making process even though these are curriculum decisions which the faculty should control. Rather, the curriculum decisions were made by non-academics, the WTCS presidents, who are motivated by the political desire to appease legislators concerned about the inability of WTCS credits to transfer. The classroom needs of the majority of our students were never taken into account, and faculty were ordered to redesign courses based on non-existent UW standards. That's right. The UW system doesn't have a single standard because the faculty at each individual UW campus control the curriculum!

Representative Gard claims that the recent elections were a mandate for a property tax freeze. Yet in Wisconsin's three contended districts where Senators had voted to uphold the Governor's veto of this fiscally irresponsible and politically motivated freeze, Senators Breske (Eland), Wirch (Pleasant Prairie), and Hansen (Green Bay) were all re-elected despite heavily financed campaigns against them by tax freeze advocates. In Colorado, where the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) was first passed, its advocates were defeated as voters rejected closing fire stations, and laying off even more policemen and teachers. There was no mandate! Expect this issue to rear its ugly head again in January. And remember that if Governor Doyle had not vetoed it last session, MATC's funding would have been cut by \$17 million. That's a lot of education and jobs no matter how you slice it!

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

AND IN THIS CORNER . . .
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Those same party leaders could also learn a great deal from the grassroots efforts of organizations like MoveOn.org and America Coming Together, groups that registered and energized voters to turn out in record numbers. The Democratic Party needs to focus on efforts like those, not cozying up to the same corporations that own George Bush.

In that regard there is something else to feel good about in this election. Local 212 members were incredibly well-organized and volunteered hundreds of hours in this election, leading to victories by Moore, Feingold, and Kerry in Wisconsin. The American Federation of Teachers in particular and labor in general did marvelous work in our state.

So we have a foundation to build on and to work with. And we'll need it to fight back against the destructive policies, both foreign and domestic, that we'll face in the next four years.

CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

ARE YOU READY TO CLEAR THE AIR?

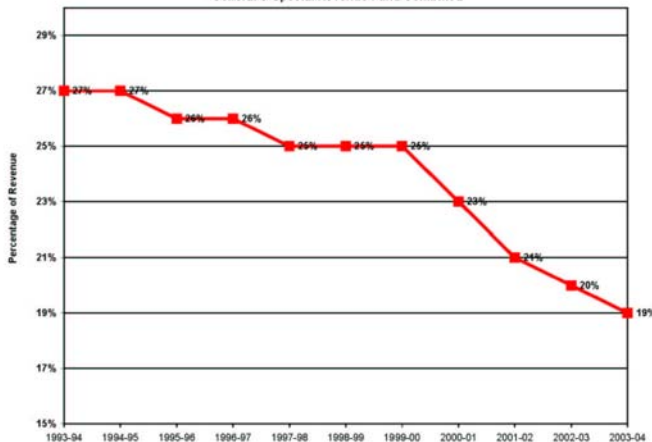
On October 30, I gave two IAQ workshops for 20 participants at the Education Minnesota Conference in Minneapolis. The first workshop, "Clearing the Air," provided an overview of indoor air quality issues and how to recognize problems. The second one, "Becoming a Building Detective," showed how to do an investigation, and how to use union power to organize for changes that impact health and safety on the job.

The AFT Health and Safety Department provided workshop handouts on 1) "What You Should Know about IAQ," which includes a checklist and survey, 2) "Tips for Investigating Moisture and Mold Problems in Schools," including guidelines for cleanup, and 3) "School Renovation: Protecting Staff and Students".

If you'd like copies of the handouts, please contact me. If you'd be interested in attending these workshops, please let me know. I'd like to offer them next semester for Local 212 and Local 587.

SUE RUGGLES
CHAIR, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Decline in MATC's State Revenue
 General & Special Revenue Fund Combined



Student Loan Consolidation

AFT members can take advantage of the lowest interest rates on student loans in history and cut their monthly student loan payments up to 54 percent. Learn more about the program today by calling an AFT-dedicated loan counselor at **800/936-4976** or visiting **www.aft.org/aftplus/consolidation**.



11/04

MORE STUDENTS AND LESS MONEY

Certainly the largest challenge facing community colleges over the next five years will be the drastic increase in the numbers of students seeking admission to open-door institutions, coupled with the continued decline in financial support for all of higher education. While other colleges and universities may be able to continue to increase tuition and fees, the nation's community colleges will be caught in a very difficult financial bind, since so many of their students come from families with incomes below the federal definition of poverty. In addition, these students, who are new to higher education, will need more direction and assistance than traditional students. These students will be the first in their families to attend college, often without family encouragement or support; they will be single mothers; and they will be people working at full-time jobs.

All of this means that our community colleges must be more focused and more aggressively entrepreneurial in seeking new sources of revenue, if we are to keep our doors open. If institutions are not more creative in generating constituent and financial support, we will face a future with more students and less money, resulting in an overall decline of services and instruction.

JOHN E. ROUECHE, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY-COLLEGE-LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN; EXCERPT FROM THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION – COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OCTOBER 29, 2004 ISSUE.

THE DEADLY TOLL OF ASBESTOS

Did you know that asbestos has been banned in 30 countries, but not the US? Did you know that more than one million American workers are exposed to asbestos every year? In fact, there are 3000 manufactured products containing asbestos still on the market, which put all of us at risk.

The results are devastating. More than 10,000 Americans die every year of asbestos-related disease. More than 10 million deaths are predicted worldwide from a growing epidemic of asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma.

Find out what you can do as a union member to protect yourself, your coworkers, and your family from this deadly plague.

On November 20th, WisCOSH will present "A Call to Action on Asbestos," featuring Edwardo Williams and Steve Cagle from the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council. A panel discussion with representatives from other unions will follow.

Join us Saturday, November 20th, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, at the GCIU Hall, 633 S. Hawley Road. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. Please contact me for ticket and registration information, at ext. 76276.

**SUE RUGGLES
CHAIR, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

AGAIN, CONTRACT VIOLATIONS IN CHILD CARE

In their never-ending long-term goal to privatize child care at MATC, the Administration is again in violation of the contract which they promised to honor. Apparently Dan Ryan has told his coordinators to hold the yearly work hours down to 860 for para child care specialists. Senior employees are not being offered available extra hours because of arbitrary decisions made by bosses behind closed doors. The child care specialists are entitled to up to 1,040 hours per year according to the labor agreement. A grievance has been filed listing four contract violations. The bosses seem immeasurably more concerned about the opinions and desires of their fellow administrative manipulators than they are about following the contract and listening to those of us who are in the trenches every day. While we're working on enriching the lives of children, the bosses seem to be busy trying to figure out how to save money by cutting our hours and violating our contract to their advantage.

**JOSIANE SCHNOOK
SEVENTH VICE-PRESIDENT
PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

PARKING ON 6TH AND WELLS

There continues to be problems with security at the 6th and Wells lot near the downtown campus. Recent incidents involving early morning security have again forced us to demand that the administration provide more attention to the lot. We have been told that security will check the lot early in the morning every day, but I urge all of you to be vigilant. There have been no assaults recently that we are aware of but there have been incidents of unsanitary situations that could have been avoided by stricter oversight.

Many of you have rightly pointed out that if the administration had to park in this lot, it would take the issue of security more seriously. I urge all of you to report any incident to security and to the Union office so we can follow up immediately.

FRANK SHANSKY, DIR. OF LABOR RELATIONS

CONDOLENCES TO

Cliff Winkelman, Air Conditioning and Welding, on the passing of his father-in-law.

Karla Hartzheim, Medical Laboratory Technology, on the passing of her mother.

Preston Baity, Police Science, on the passing of his brother.

Michael Rosen, Economics, on the passing of his father.

Ruth McClinton, Child Care Services, on the passing of her daughter.

TIDBITS FROM THE AFT-WI CONVENTION

EVERYONE NEEDS HEALTH CARE.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

"Wisconsin and the U.S. are facing a true health care crisis: rapidly increasing costs will soon put quality health care out of reach of a majority of the American population . . . There has to be a more cost-effective (less fragmented) way to provide health care to workers and their families! We know that a large purchasing pool can lower costs dramatically."

That the entire health system needs reforming was the premise of a panel of presenters at the AFT-WI convention composed of Drs. Linda and Gene Farley, physicians for a national health program and the Coalition for Wisconsin health, and Joann Ricca, Wisconsin Legislative Rep., AFL-CIO. To move in this direction the panelists support a forward-thinking plan. The Wisconsin Health Care Plan is based on our current system of providing health care access and is inspired by Wisconsin's nationally emulated workers compensation and unemployment insurance. Legislation to implement the Wisconsin Health Care Plan is currently being drafted for introduction in the Wisconsin legislature in early 2005. Let Wisconsin once again pave the way. Prepare to reform our health care system.

RITA CZUKAS

SOCIOLOGY TEACHER, LIBERAL ARTS

WACKY AGENDA

Jim Hightower, the progressive optimist addressing AFT-WI, inspired activists to challenge the "wacky agenda" of the radical right. In order to take the \$500 billion debt off the back of our children, Hightower urged us to defeat George Bush. Door-to-door canvassing is the most effective strategy.

As we know, it doesn't end November 2nd. "We've got to do the heavy lifting for democracy." We can't let Kerry do it alone. In order to take back the country, let's elect people like Barbara Toles to local seats and Gwen Moore for Congress. Let's "restore America to its own people" urges Hightower.

PAT MCFARLAND

CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

BEWARE – IDENTITY THEFT

One of the workshops that was offered at the 73rd annual AFT – Wisconsin Convention was Identity Theft, which was very interesting. We took a quiz on "your risk factors for identity theft." The same quiz is available at this web site <http://www.privacyrights.org/itrc-quiz1.htm>). Take the quiz and get some feed back. To start with it will make you think about how you dispose of all that mail you get.

Identity Theft: Prevention & Survival was presented by – Attorney Michele Peters, Shneidman Hawks & Ehlike; and Lieutenant Scott Gerard, Two Rivers Police Department.

RICHARD BOLDT

MCLC DELEGATE

PRESS AWARDS – AFT-WI 2004 CONVENTION

The MATC Local 212 Newsletter received 5 Press Awards at the state 2004 AFT Wisconsin Convention held at Fox Hills, Mishicot, Wisconsin, October 27-30.

Best Feature Story titled "Local 212 Members attend Summit on Immigration" by Alexander Topping, ESL Instructor.

Best News Story, FTAA Lite" by Veronica Neumann and Sue Ruggles.

Best Editorial, "Bush Equals No Jobs" by Tony Stanislawski, Legislative Chair.

The Best Original Poster "212 UNITED" BY PAM BAUTCH, OFFICE MANAGER

BEST WEB PAGE, www.local212.org, Susan Retzer, Website Coordinator.

Congratulations to all who submit articles for the newsletter. You may be a winner next time.

JANET NORTROM, LOCAL 212 NEWSLETTER EDITOR

REFLECTIONS FROM VISITING NETHERLANDS INSTRUCTOR

Jos Werkhoven, Visiting Instructor from the Netherlands, and guest of Local 212 to the AFT-WI Convention, sends his thanks for the opportunity to view the democratic process at the AFT-Wisconsin convention. He notes that there appear to be more opportunities for AFT members to voice their concerns at our convention than is the case back in the Netherlands.

BILL NOOK

ECONOMICS INSTRUCTOR

TAKING A STAND AGAINST IRAQ WAR

AFT-Wisconsin voted to oppose the war in Iraq, calling on the AFT "to demand an end to the military occupation of Iraq, and the speedy return of all US military personnel to their homes and families." The convention delegates also voted to support a "repeal of the Patriot Act, and the reordering of national priorities toward meeting human needs."

In support of these aims, AFT-Wisconsin joins with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO and hundreds of other local, state, regional, and national unions in affiliating with US Labor against the War, which is working to end the war and occupation of Iraq. USLAW will convene a leadership meeting in Chicago on December 4-5.

SUE RUGLES

CHAIR, HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

American Federation of Teachers, Local 212 -

Milwaukee Area Technical College,

AFT-WI, AFL-CIO, MCLC

739 West Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Telephone: (414) 765-0910

Janet Nortrom, Editor: (414) 297-7000, Ext. 79399

Pamela Bautch, Office Manager

Mary Tews, OPEIU Local 9, AFL-CIO, CLC