



# N E W S L E T T E R

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Janet Nortrom, Editor

February 11, 2005

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Filthy Campus

Did you know that over the holiday break, the men's bathroom on the second floor of MATC's downtown campus was closed? The sign on the door said it all: "Closed; rat inside."

Despite frequent emails and concerns, the downtown campus remains filthy. On Monday, Feb. 7, the second floor bathroom in the T building smelled like an overused outhouse by 1:30 PM. Perhaps the infamous rat had died in there. Rancid water covered the floors. And this was not an exceptional occurrence! The downtown campus, our flagship, is filthy!

Why can't the administration keep the buildings clean? Is it because it is trying to save money by holding building service worker positions open? Or is it that team cleaning doesn't really work? I don't know. But the administration needs to make this issue a priority. Filthy buildings, classrooms and labs do not attract students and their families. Nor do they create a positive learning environment. We appear to have money for flashing information screens and new signage featuring a new logo, but not sanitation! It's like buying a big flat screen TV while failing to clean the house! Before we build a dormitory, we need to figure out how to keep our classrooms clean! This problem deserves immediate action!

### Parking and Traffic

Parking and traffic problems continue to escalate. **The lack of affordable parking is the biggest obstacle to downtown student attendance.** I have never heard a student complain or even ask if MATC provided housing. But hundreds of students complain about the lack of parking and the parking ticket problem.

Last year, we tried to address the problem by getting the city to turn off the meters at 6 PM. This was a step forward for our evening students. But parking remains a critical problem that the college needs to address. With the Pabst development lining up to receive almost \$40 million in public subsidies, we need to insist that they include parking that is reasonably priced in their plans. Otherwise, the city should refuse their request for public dollars! The Cole Administration should make this a top priority.

The traffic problems are also out of control. Highland has been turned into a main artery now that the Marquette interchange reconstruction has begun. One of our members recently suffered three broken vertebrae when he was hit by a car on 6<sup>th</sup> and State. More accidents will follow unless something is done to slow

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## AND IN THIS CORNER...

### Doyle Comes Through For Tech Colleges

Governor Jim Doyle's budget excluded the technical college system from any tax freeze. In his budget message, Doyle praised the role of the WTCS in providing education and training.

Now the ball is in the Republicans' court. Because the GOP controls both the Assembly and the Senate, they will control the process of responding to the governor and sending him a budget. Doyle has proven he's our friend. We'll watch closely to see if the Republicans are as well.

Please call (608-266-1212) or email (<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp?locid=19>) Governor Doyle to thank him.

### Burmester For State Superintendent

There is a primary election on **Tuesday, February 15** that has only one race, but it's a very important one for us: the race for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Elizabeth Burmaster** is the incumbent and has been enthusiastically endorsed by Local 212 COPE. That's because she has been a consistent and strong advocate for the technical college system. While the Superintendent of Public Instruction's focus is on K-12, she also has a seat on both the WTCS Board and the UW Board of Regents.

Last year, when Michael Rosen and others contacted her about how the WTCS administration's changes in the AAS degree were hurting our students, she took a firm position to slow down the process and appoint the committee that would give faculty the voice that the administration had previously prevented. Rosen is now on that committee.

Her main competition is State Representative Gregg Underheim (R-Oshkosh). While Underheim has been a moderate Republican in the Assembly, he has moved to the right in this race, obviously trying to appeal to the pro-privatization voucher forces and the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers and Commerce whose main objective is lowering taxes for corporations and the wealthy.

If you want to contribute to Burmaster's campaign, contact Rosen, Andrew Berns or myself.

### Property Tax Freeze

Last year Governor Doyle protected us when he vetoed the Property Tax Freeze that would have devastated MATC. But the Republican majorities in both the Assembly and Senate are determined to undermine public education by bringing back the Property Tax

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT,  
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the flow of traffic on the boulevard! We were successful in getting the city to put up a light. But more needs to be done to control the traffic on Highland!

While cleanliness, parking and traffic control may not be high profile, headline grabbing issues, they are critical to attracting and retaining students.

**Bush Eliminates Perkins Funding**

Finally, the Bush administration's 2006 budget proposes to eliminate all Karl Perkins funding! This is one of the few federal programs that invests in post secondary adult vocational education. MATC received \$3 million from the Perkins program, funding the Multicultural Office, the Bilingual Office and Special Needs. In other words, this program funds essential student services, yet Bush wants to entirely eliminate it. Please call your Congressperson and urge him or her to restore the Perkins funding. If you need additional information on who your representative is or how to contact them check our web site: local212.org.

**MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT**

**DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE 2 GPA'S  
(CUMULATIVE AND PROGRAM)?**

A student's Cumulative Grade Point Average is not the same as his/her Program Grade Point Average. That is why there is sometimes a different value for each on the student's Program Sheet. In fact, if a student were to fail (U) a course and later retake the course to obtain a better grade, the better grade does replace the (U) and is reflected in the Program Grade Point Average but the Cumulative Grade Point average still uses the (U) in its final score. The (U) still shows up on a student's transcript.

**DAVID STINNETT**

**FACULTY ADVISING LIAISON TEAM MEMBER**

**OVERTIME AGREEMENT**

I have been asked recently about the language in the paraprofessional labor agreement regarding overtime. The language on overtime has not changed in decades. Under the labor agreement, the employer can require work beyond 40 hours/week. That means they can require that you work overtime. The language on overtime is on pages 7-8 in the contract.

Furthermore, while overtime can be required, there are parameters your supervisor must follow. Written notice must be given as far in advance as possible of any changes in hours or days worked (this would apply to overtime situations or just changes in hours). This language can be found on page 4 of the labor agreement. If you have any questions, contact me or Ed Putnam at 297-6743. Thanks.

**FRANK SHANSKY  
DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS**

**AND IN THIS CORNER...  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE**

Freeze, both as a bill, and as a Constitutional Amendment called TABOR.

Here's how such a freeze would hurt us.

Over the past fifteen years state government has slashed its share of technical college funding from 30% of our budgets down to 15%. This means the property tax has had to make up the difference for MATC and other technical colleges to keep offering education and training.

A freeze would mean that as the value of property in our area increases, MATC and other governmental units would NOT be able to capture increased revenue.

Put another way, if Governor Doyle had not vetoed the freeze last year, and if his veto had not been upheld by Democrats in the legislature, MATC would have had to reduce its budget by **\$17 M over the next three years**, the equivalent of completely eliminating our programs in police science, fire science and nursing.

Clearly, a budget deficit of this massive proportion would be catastrophic for Milwaukee and would mean huge jobs cuts for faculty and staff.

TABOR is an attempt to do the same damage by constitutional amendment. It is a threat, but a longer range one. Passing a constitutional amendment requires passage in two sessions of the legislature followed by a state-wide referendum.

When these come up, we will be asking you to contact your legislators to let them know how damaging they will be to our college and the local economy.

**CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE V-P**

**DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!**

Smoke-free entrances at MATC moved a little closer to reality last month. Local 212 and Local 587 reps on the Joint Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Committee met with the Student Life Committee to get student input on the plan. Under the new proposal, the main entrances of all campus buildings would be designated smoke-free. The plan got more than 75% support in a 2003 faculty and staff survey. Pilot projects at the Mequon and West Allis campuses have been in effect for over a year.

UWM, Marquette, WCTC, and other colleges across the country are moving toward smoke-free entrances in response to concerns about health and compliance with the ADA. Second-hand smoke at entrances can pose a barrier for people with asthma and other respiratory impairments. Smoke can also re-enter the building through doors, stairways, and air intakes. Under the plan, smoking would not be allowed within 25 feet of doorways that are posted smoke-free.

If you have any suggestions or input, please contact me at ext. 76276 or [ruggless@matc.edu](mailto:ruggless@matc.edu).

Thanks for your support.

**SUE RUGGLES, LOCAL 212 IAQ REP**

**ONLINE BALLOT FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS ON APRIL 27, 2005**

On behalf of the Elections Committee (Ken Brodzik, Maria Castro, Alain DeMars, Larry Domine, Jean Dueling, Mary Kay Flynn, and David Stinnett) I'd like to let you know that Local 212 will not be using a paper ballot for the Executive Board Elections this April. The Election Committee has recommended with the Executive Board's approval to use an online ballot for this election.

As in past elections, you will still need to go to a campus to vote but, the ballot will be on a PC and you will use a mouse to select your candidate and cast your ballot. As usual, your name is **NOT** attached to the online ballot which keeps it a secret vote. The counting of the votes will be done by a third party software company named Campus Vote. Yes, there will be a paper trail if someone asks for a re-count. Also, we will still send out absentee ballots to those members requesting them.

For this year it is a pilot program/process. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the online voting (with your input) and then decide whether to continue it for future elections. More information and details will follow in the near future. On behalf of the Election Committee, thank you for your cooperation in this new endeavor.

**BOB BRZYCKI**  
**ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**GREEN WORKSHOPS IN APRIL: VEHICLES, BUILDINGS, COLLEGES**

Please mark your calendars! On Fridays April 8, 15, and 22 (Earth Day), MATC will host three exciting and informative workshops in the increasingly important areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Friday, April 8 GREEN VEHICLES: Learn the latest on *Hybrid and Alternative-Fuel Vehicles*. Outstanding presenters and a *variety of new* vehicles will be on hand at the Milwaukee campus Student Building (S120).

Friday, April 15 GREEN BUILDINGS: Overview of *Energy-Efficient Construction*. Outstanding presenters at the Milwaukee campus Student Building (S120) plus *afternoon tours* of great green buildings in Milwaukee.

Friday, April 22 GREEN COLLEGES: Find out what's happening in Curriculum and Facilities Development. At least five colleges will share details of their initiatives in renewables and sustainability at MATC's Mequon Campus. MATC's new *photovoltaic system* will be unveiled after lunch.

These workshops will begin at 8:30 AM (coffee) with presentations from 9 to Noon and special events after lunch. Earn CEU's! Bring your classes and encourage students (with special assignments

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

**GREEN WORKSHOPS, CONTINUED FROM COLUMN ONE**

and extra credit). Nominal registration fee (students free!). For more information, contact George Stone (414-297-7430 or [stoneg@matc.edu](mailto:stoneg@matc.edu)).

Details of programs and flyers will be available soon. Please save these dates and help spread the word!

**GEORGE STONE, INSTRUCTOR**

**TEACH-IN ON THE WAR IN IRAQ**

Local 212 is planning a teach-in on the war on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 11:15am – 12:30pm, in the C-Auditorium. We'd like to organize a panel discussion, with speakers from veterans' groups, military families, and MATC students. If you know of a student or grad who has served in the military during the war in Iraq, or in the previous Gulf War, please contact us.

We're also talking about organizing a debate with pro- and anti-war speakers, film showings, and a talk by a labor leader and/or journalist who has been to Iraq.

If you're interested in helping us out, or if you have ideas for other activities and events, please call or e-mail Sue Ruggles (ext. 76276) [ruggless@matc.edu](mailto:ruggless@matc.edu), or Joanne Lange (ext. 77417) [lanzej@matc.edu](mailto:lanzej@matc.edu).

**SUE RUGGLES**  
**JOANNE LANGE**  
**U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR**

**TAX NOTICE REGARDING PORTION OF 2004 DUES THAT ARE DEDUCTIBLE**

Local 212 does not have the ability to keep track of the total dues paid by each of our more than 1700 members. The total dues paid during 2004 should have appeared on your final check stub for the year.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Service code section 633 (e)(1)(A) we are required to report the amount of dues paid by members that relate to lobbying and certain political expenditures. Please be advised that 17.87% of the dues paid by you during 2004 related to lobbying and certain political expenditures and are non-deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code section 162(e)(1). Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual reporting requirements.

**JIM BENEDEM**  
**2ND V.P. – FINANCIAL**

**CONDOLENCES TO . . .**

Joan Cook, Accounting Instructor, on the passing of her sister.

Alain DeMars, Visual Communications Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

Ken Ketelhohn, Accounting Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

Mary Neal, Disability Specialist, Special Needs, on the passing of her mother.

Pat Palasz, Library Technician, on the passing of her husband.

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS' EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ISSUES**  
**STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

Social Security for nearly 70 years provided a predictable, guaranteed benefit to millions of older and disabled workers and their survivors. This benefit, funded exclusively by Social Security payroll taxes paid by workers and their employers, is one that can and should be safeguarded for generations to come.

The Bush administration claims that radical changes to Social Security, including privatization, are necessary to maintain the solvency of this program. Significant changes to a program of such consequence require and, indeed, demand informed discussion and should not be reduced to sound bites, platitudes or scare tactics.

In truth, Social Security is not headed for disaster, but many people agree that modest steps should be taken to maintain the integrity of this program upon which millions of current and future beneficiaries rely. However, the financial strain privatization would impose upon the Social Security program would pose serious and long-lasting perils to the stability of this tremendously successful program.

Privatizing Social Security would add \$2 trillion to the already runaway federal deficit. The Bush administration's proposed changes to Social Security will do nothing to enhance this program's solvency. In fact, in order to restore solvency to a privatized Social Security program, younger workers' benefits would have to be cut by 26-45 percent – a prospect that is totally unacceptable.

Analyses of privatization proposals show that younger workers will get hit twice: once with a reduction in Social Security benefits and again with the burden they will be forced to carry to pay off the grossly expanding federal debt.

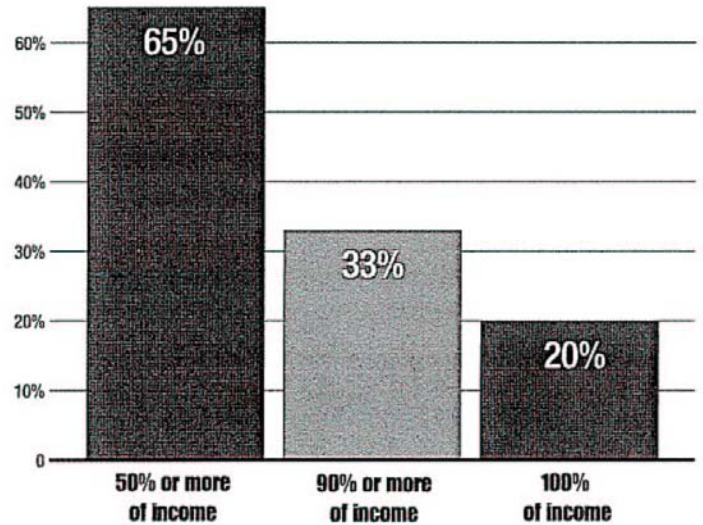
Popular assumptions that Social Security will "run out" before younger workers can collect the benefits they have earned are not supported by reality. Social Security taxes to be collected and money owed to the Social Security system are adequate to allow full benefits to be paid until 2042. Additional modest adjustments would further stabilize this important program.

Privatizing Social Security and reducing benefits would jeopardize not only younger workers' long-term retirement benefits, but also the disability and survivor benefits provided by this program. Thirteen million Americans currently rely upon such benefits, and it is safe to assume that few of them ever anticipated needing this life-saving benefit.

Privatizing Social Security will unnecessarily destabilize a program that has allowed hundreds of millions of Americans to live with dignity and security. The administration's current proposals would weaken the program and undermine its long-term financial stability. We will work with members of Congress, as well as with the labor movement and other allies, to strengthen Social Security to ensure that it will provide its promised benefits for generations to come. Workers have earned this benefit by paying into it over time and they should not be guinea pigs for a flawed social experiment.

**MOST RETIREES RELY ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THEIR INCOMES**

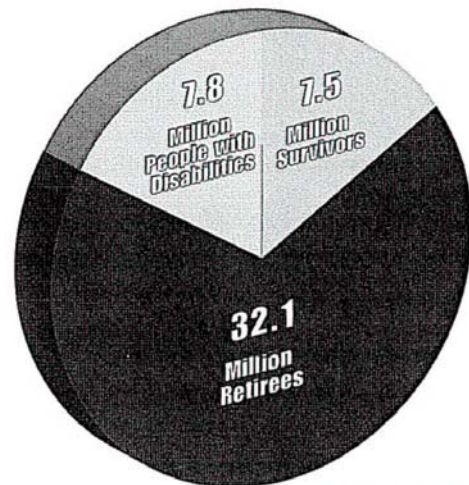
**Percentage of older Americans receiving Social Security benefits, by relative importance of benefits to total income**



Source: Social Security Administration, *Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security*, June 2003.

**47 MILLION AMERICANS DEPEND ON SOCIAL SECURITY TODAY**

Since President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Social Security into law in 1934, millions of American workers have earned benefits by paying into the system, creating a safety net that keeps retirees, survivors of workers who die young and people with disabilities out of poverty.



Source: Social Security Administration.

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