



N E W S L E T T E R

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Janet Nortrom, Editor

May 12, 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO CLOSE LEARNING LABS

Once again the MATC administration is proposing to eliminate Childcare Center Learning Labs.

This time the proposal is to "consolidate" the four centers into two by closing the West and North campus facilities. Only the Downtown and South campus center would remain.

The administration may feel more comfortable utilizing corporate double speak like "consolidation," but we all know they are proposing to close two centers that will never reopen.

The bottom line is that these centers are Learning Labs. Early Childhood Education students learn how to be responsible professionals by working in the labs under the guidance of experienced teachers.

This is no different than our Automotive Technician, Culinary Arts or Barber Cosmetology Learning Labs. None of these programs are self-financing. Taxpayers know that they are educational programs worth funding.

Why is the administration holding Early Childhood Education to a different standard? The only possible conclusion is that the Cole Administration simply does not value the importance of Early Childhood Education or the importance of Child Care for students to succeed. Every argument the administration made to justify the closings was disingenuous.

1. The administration argued that this was the first step to reviving the centers as profit making ventures.

However, high quality and affordable childcare for low-income people is not profit-making -- in the US or any other country. In fact, a recent editorial in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* recognized this and argued that Wisconsin needs to increase its public subsidy of early childhood education.

2. When the administration reported its plan to the MATC Board, it failed to discuss the impact on our students who have children in the centers. When asked about this, administrator Rick Kettner admitted that they did not know the impact on students, but he hoped that students who were using the shuttered childcare centers would shift their children to the two remaining centers.

Does anyone really believe a student taking classes at North Campus has the time to drop a child off downtown and then get back up to North for class?

In the 1970's MATC made the decision to build regional campuses because it was important to make technical education accessible to our students -- people who are juggling families, school and work.

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AND IN THIS CORNER...

PERKINS FUNDING

The MATC administration could learn a lesson in collaboration from deans at Gateway Tech.

Perkins Act funding is a federal program that pays for many important students services at MATC from Academic Support Centers to Special Needs to Bi-Lingual Services. One out of three MATC graduates in 2005 was helped by Perkins Grants.

Yet, each budget President Bush has proposed has totally cut Perkins Grants. Thankfully, each year some Republicans have joined all Democrats in the Congress to restore that funding.

CONGRESSMAN PAUL RYAN

One of the jobs of union leadership is to help protect funding sources for our students by lobbying elected officials and candidates to make sure they understand MATC's needs. So Local 212 set up a meeting last week with Congressman Paul Ryan, whose southeastern Wisconsin district encompasses MATC's Oak Creek campus.

The meeting was held at Gateway Technical College at Ryan's request, so Local 212 invited Gateway faculty and administrators to be part of the meeting. Of course, we also invited MATC administrators.

The meeting went very well. Despite being a close ally of President Bush, Paul Ryan has supported Perkins in the past by voting to restore funding. He was very engaged in the conversation, asked good questions, and even suggested how we could improve our lobbying with those who aren't such strong supporters.

Thanks to C.J. Iglinski, Patty McKenzie, Greg Johns, Cynthia Galvan, Becky Quesada, and Cheralyn Randall for driving to Kenosha to support our students in the meeting. Two deans from Gateway participated in the meeting.

Of course there was no problem having MATC and Gateway administrators in the same room lobbying with faculty and staff represented by two different unions. That's because we all had the same objective.

ADMINISTRATION REFUSES JOINT LOBBYING

It makes one wonder what Dr. Cole's agenda is. His administration has refused to engage in lobbying with Local 212. There is a Legislative Committee that includes Local 212, MATC Board members, administrators and students.

Mike Rosen and I sit on that committee and have offered to work with the Cole administration in our lobbying. But Vice President Rob Hartung has made clear that he and Dr. Cole will not collaborate with 212 leadership in lobbying.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT CONT FROM PAGE ONE

Childcare Centers were added to all campuses later in response to the North Central Association demand that child care was necessary for students to succeed.

So the administration's decision to close the west and north campuses is simply creating another obstacle to the success of our students.

3. The administration also announced that no employees would lose their jobs. But when pressed on the matter, it admitted that 14 part time educators would be laid off!

4. The administration's report suggests that this closing is because legislators and students have raised concerns. But only last year all of Milwaukee's legislative delegation sent a letter to the board urging it to keep all the centers open. Lieutenant Governor Lawton has publicly urged the administration to continue childcare at all four campuses.

The Student Life Committee has voted \$100,000 to help fund these learning labs because they are so important to students.

5. The greatest dishonesty is neglect. Last year a Task Force of the state's early childhood education experts met for months to study MATC's childcare centers and provided the administration with a report that identified 19 steps the college could take to improve the administration of the centers and raise revenue for them.

However, the MATC administration has ignored all but one of these recommendations!

The administration can sugarcoat the closings in Orwellian language, but it does not change the fact that their proposal to eliminate our childcare centers is bad for our students and bad for the state's economy.

Please attend the MATC District Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:00 to let the Board know how you feel about the closing.

REMOVAL FROM WTCS BOARD

Many of you emailed me regarding my removal from the state board. I was removed on a party line vote by the Republican caucus.

They met behind closed doors and would not explain why they had targeted me for rejection. They claimed that they were the majority caucus and they could. Dirty politics pure and simple!

While I would like to continue to serve and believe I played an important and constructive role on the state board, the pain of removal was minor because of the overwhelming support you gave me in the 212 elections.

Frankly, the support of my colleagues is far more important to me than the secret machinations of a handful of politicians whom I have never worked with or, in most cases, never met. Thanks.

**MICHAEL ROSEN
PRESIDENT**

AND IN THIS CORNER ...- CONT FROM PAGE ONE

The reason he gave was that we are in negotiations, so it wouldn't be "productive" to have both sides meet with legislators.

Well, it always has in the past. In fact, all four presidents I've experienced before Cole engaged in joint lobbying with Local 212. Yes, even during negotiations.

I can remember driving to Madison with President Russ Slicker and the MATC Board Chair to jointly lobby during the same month that Local 212 was doing informational picketing against Slicker and the board over contract negotiations.

Sure those negotiations were contentious and emotional. But we were all mature enough to put that to the side when the needs of our students and the college were at stake.

It does make a person wonder!!!

**CHARLIE DEE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT**

**A THANK YOU
FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Elections Committee, I would like to thank all of the members that volunteered their time as poll workers on Wednesday, April 26th. This election contained a large number of positions and candidates. With the combination of an online and paper ballot, things were a little different, so I appreciate your patience and assistance in helping to explain the procedure to voters.

The time you donated is greatly appreciated. For the first timers, feel free to tell your colleagues what an interesting and enjoyable experience it was. A special thanks to all of the campus coordinators. The list of volunteers is as follows:

Jim Augustine, Wayne Babich, Lucy Betz, Bob Brzycki, Ginger Carney, Helen Chester, Layne Davis, Mary Dess, Jean Dueling, Randy Farchmin, Joel Frank, Julie Gensrick, Pat Gunn, Sandra Hendricks, Martha Henry, Sharon Lysaught, Dorothea Macon, Mark Mankowski, Jennifer Medved, Veronica Neumann, Sue Noyes, Hector Pena, John Pludeman, Peg Pomplin, Wayne Printz, Dave Racer, Sue Retzer, Joanne Shansky, Kay Snowden, Mary Lou Stebbins, Betsy Stern, Andrea Sullivan-Jurek, Alexandra Topping, Dick Tupta, and Cliff Winkelman

Also, a special thanks to the individuals that made sure the computers remained operational: Pam Bautch, Gayle Beitzel, Greg Davis, CiCi Garcia, Willie Ferguson, and Dick Simon.

If I missed someone, I apologize. Let me know and I will make sure your name is included in the next issue. Again, without your help the election can not take place.

Many Thanks!

**BOB BRZYCKI
ELECTION COMMITTEE**

350,000 IN NYC MARCH AGAINST THE WAR

"I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours." –Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, 1967, Riverside Church, New York City.

Nearly four decades after Dr. King's historic speech on the Vietnam War, we are marching again, this time to stop the war in Iraq. On April 29, I joined with hundreds of thousands of people in a March for Peace, Justice, and Democracy in New York City. It was an experience I won't soon forget.

I found myself in a vast sea of people in colorful caps and t-shirts, their banners and signs bobbing up and down. People flowed in from all directions—African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and whites; young and old; families with children; men and women. We represented military families, veterans, students, teachers, union members, immigrant workers, feminists, environmentalists, and the faith community.

We came from all over the country—from the entire East Coast, the Midwest, and as far away as California. There was a bus from Milwaukee organized by Peace Action-Wisconsin, and three union buses from Chicago organized by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

We came together for a common purpose—to stop the war. The military families and veterans said it best, "Bring the troops home now, and take care of them when they get here!"

The march kicked off with a rally featuring Roger Toussaint, President of Transit Workers Union Local 100, who had been jailed following a transit workers strike. Welcomed as a hero, Toussaint issued a strong denunciation of both wars—the war in Iraq and the war against working people and unions here at home.

A delegation from Military Families Speak Out and Iraq Veterans against the War demanded the immediate return of our troops as the only meaningful way to support them. There were veterans from previous wars, family members of active-duty soldiers, and friends and family of those killed in Iraq.

John Wilhelm of UNITE HERE thanked USLAW for organizing what turned out to be the largest antiwar labor contingent in U.S. history. Wilhelm and Toussaint took their places behind the USLAW banner, joined by thousands of union members from the AFT, AFSCME, CWA, SEIU, NEA, IBEW, USWA, UE, UAW, Teamsters, OPEIU, and LCLAA.

With strains of "We Shall Overcome" and "Solidarity Forever" sung by the New York Labor Chorus ringing in our ears, we were fired up and ready to go.

Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and Susan Sarandon led the march down Broadway, joined by Faiza Al-Araji, a peace and women's rights advocate from Iraq. It was a vast jostling throng, chanting and singing, that filled Broadway for as far as the eye could see. When we arrived at Foley Square two hours later, there were still people waiting to step off.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

NYC MARCH CONT. FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Organizers estimate that 350,000 people joined the March for Peace, Justice and Democracy. It was historic, bringing together the peace, labor, social justice, immigrant rights, women's, and environmental movements. Mobilized to end the war in Iraq, and to support the rights and dignity of all people, including immigrants, the march was a powerful show of unity, and a powerful demand for a change in our national priorities.

It was organized by United for Peace and Justice, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, National Student and Youth Peace Coalition, Climate Crisis Coalition, the People's Hurricane Relief Fund, Friends of the Earth, National Organization for Women (NOW), USLAW, and Veterans for Peace. Both AFT-Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO endorsed the march, as well as the Milwaukee County Labor Council.

SUE RUGGLES, USLAW

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL NEWS

May 16 – The political mobilization of labor for the fall elections is called "LABOR 2006" and a coordinating meeting will be at 2 P.M. at 633 S. Hawley.

May 17th – Mayor Tom Barrett will host an open Brown Bag lunch meeting for all union members at noon at the Milwaukee Labor Council, at 633 S. Hawley.

May 25th – David Newby, Wisconsin AFL-CIO President, will be a guest on the 4th Street Forum discussing labor sponsored health care initiatives. Taping at noon at Turner Hall and all are invited. Broadcasts will be on May 26th and 28th.

The Steel Workers Union reminded us that May 5th was the 120th anniversary of the Bay View Massacre where seven workers were killed while demonstrating for an 8-hour day.

The United Auto Workers Union at Delphi Automotive asked for our members to contact our political representatives, especially at the Federal level, to ask for their support of Delphi workers while the company is in bankruptcy.

ROGER SANDS, MCLC DELEGATE

ER & D COURSE OFFERING LEARNING AND THE BRAIN

May 24 – May 26, 2006

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Rm. H238

Description: Learn more about environmental pressures that affect the brain and the genes that help to control its activities. The implications are staggering! Practice classroom applications which are based on current brain research. Develop a relevant project to help your adult learners succeed. Reach hard-to-reach students with effective structures; strengthen cooperative learning and demonstrate effective presentation techniques. (Working lunch included.)

PAT MCFARLAND

ER & D LOCAL SITE COORDINATOR

AAUW NEWS

Janet Nortrom was elected Vice-President of Programming for the State American Association of University Women. The National Association of over 200,000 women recently voted to welcome women with 2 year associate degrees into the organization. MATC is a college affiliated group. The Association promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. Janet is a member of the Milwaukee North Shore Branch.

"READERS TO WRITERS"

Each year the Key Newspaper, published by MATC, with editor Ginny Balistreri, publishes an award winning collection of essays, poems and short stories written by adult learners. Awards were given to many MATC students enrolled in Basic Education, GED, HSED, HS, and ESL programs on Wednesday May 3, 2006 at Centennial Hall, Milwaukee Public Library. A big celebratory reception with family, friends, MATC teachers and staff honored the students who got their writings published in a book titled this year "Moments in Time."

JANET R. NORTROM, MATC INSTRUCTOR AND EDITOR

Thanks to the following outgoing Local 212 Executive Board Members for their years of service to the Union:

Joan Cook
Treasurer

Michelle Mirhoseini
Grievance Rep. – Pre –College

Mary Neal
Grievance Rep. – Professional Staff

Cliff Winkelman
Campus Rep. – South

Dave Schall
Membership Committee Chair

Pam Malone
Public Relations Committee Chair

Liza Larson
Social Solidarity Committee Chair



Congratulations to **DR. ANDREW BERNS**, Psychology Instructor, on the birth of his son last month!

SICK BAY

Gary Stanwood, Full time Instructor is at home recovering from back surgery. We wish him a quick recovery.

A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

The election of 2006 is now part of our positive past. We prevailed over the obstacles that presented themselves to our leadership with a resounding victory for Mike Rosen and Charlie Dee. We are a strong union and it is more than important that our leadership continue to reflect that fact. There is a mountain of work ahead of us, but we have proven to ourselves and to each other that we are fit for the job.

The members of Local 212 are now in the process of doing what we do best, and that is helping students to attain their end of the school year goals. Final exams are filling the minds of both students and faculty as everyone plunges forward to a successful school year completion.

The AFT-Local 212 Civil and Human Rights committee will again be hosting the "Excellence in Education Award Celebration" in the Fall so be on the lookout for the announcements.

Until we talk again please remember, *If it matters, make it happen.*

**MARIETTA LOVE
HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Congratulations to the recently elected members of the Executive Board and a special welcome to the following members who are new or who will be serving in a new position on the Executive Board.

Sally Lindner
Sixth Vice President
Part Time Faculty

Tammy Metzke
Treasurer

Christy Breihan
Grievance Rep
Pre-College

Becky Quesada
Grievance Rep -
FT Professional Staff

Vivian Beckley
Grievance Rep
Part-Time Faculty

Ken Brodzik
Campus Rep
South

Robert Kurth
Professional &
Educational Problems Chair

Joe Tuttle
Student Life
Committee Chair

Liz Harris
Membership Committee
Chair

Mary Kay Flynn
Public Relations
Committee Chair

Susan Retzer
Social Solidarity Committee Chair

CONDOLENCES TO...

Jim Mihal, Math Instructor on the loss of his mother.

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