

## Political Candidacy Policy Un-American

By Caral Turner

Are you interested in running for a political office? Do you wish to serve your community by becoming a township treasurer or serving on a county board? You may have trouble doing so while keeping your job at CMU.

The CMU Board of Trustees approved a revised Political Candidacy policy at their December 4, 2008 meeting. The revised policy includes stipulations for getting permissions from your supervisor and Vice President or Provost before announcing your candidacy. CMU states that public service is part of its "Vision Statement". So why are they making it more difficult for employees to aspire to a political office?

Following is an excerpt from the revised political candidacy policy approved at the December meeting.

*'Any employee of the university who becomes a candidate for nomination and/or election to any federal, state, county, or local office, whether it be part-time or full-time, paid or unpaid, is required, upon filing for candidacy, to present to the applicable personnel office (either Human Resources or Faculty Personnel Services) a statement from her/his supervisor and the applicable vice president or the provost (or president with respect to members of the president's division) of CMU attesting that appropriate arrangements have been made to ensure that their candidacy in no way will interfere with the full performance of their university work and that their candidacy will pose no conflict with professional standards or ethics.*

*Further, any employee of the university, who is elected or appointed to any public*

*office, shall present to the appropriate CMU personnel office, within twenty (20) work days after having been elected or appointed, a statement from her/his supervisor and the applicable vice president or the provost (or president with respect to members of the president's division) of CMU attesting that appropriate arrangements have been made to ensure that the duties associated with the public office in no way will interfere with the full performance of their university work and that those duties pose no conflict of interest with respect to CMU employment. If the duties associated with the public office will interfere with the full performance of the employee's university work, or do pose a conflict of interest, then an alternate relationship with the university must be arranged, which may include a change from full-time university status to that of part-time, an unpaid leave of absence, or termination of employment.'*

If an employee is denied their request to file for candidacy what recourse does the employee have? According to Human Resources, none, except to sue the university.

The question of the legality of this policy has been raised and it will be interesting to see what happens. In the not too distant past the university asked employees to tone down their displays of patriotism so as not to offend those of our community from other cultures. And every year we are asked to be "politically correct" during the holiday seasons and not use cultural or religion specific phrases when wishing someone good will.

The revised political candidacy policy is yet another restriction on the rights of CMU employees and is simply un-American.



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Sneak Peek

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## Know Your Contract



**OP4-6 Student Employees** It is recognized by the Union that, as a matter of policy, the University is committed to providing work opportunities for student employees. It is not the intent of the University to use student employees to cause the lay-off of bargaining unit members.

*It is very important for our members to know of and understand this contract language. In these hard economic times, with vacant positions remaining unfilled, it is imperative that our union know where the duties of a vacated position are going. If you see OP work being given to students, or any other employee group, make sure your District Representative or a Board member is made aware of it. Your union cannot act on contract violations if it doesn't know about them.*

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## Different Drug Problem

*Editor's note: The following letter appeared on the Internet.*

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in Mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of Dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin: and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us.

Submitted by a concerned citizen

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## Personnel Transactions

### **New Hires**

Christine Betka, Sr Spec Clerk/PT OP5, Spec Olympics, 5/18/09  
Keturah Torres, Adm Clerk OP6, Univ Stores, 6/1/09

### **Reclassifications**

Sharon Jackson, Exec Sec/PT OP6, Honors, 1/1/09 (prev. Admin Sec/PT OP5)  
Monica Folske, Exec Sec/PT OP6, Ctr for Applied Res, 1/29/09 (prev. Adm Sec/PT OP5)

### **Retirements**

Marilyn Walker, Adm Clerk OP6, Univ Stores, 6/30/09  
Theo Coker, Spec Clerk OP4, ProfEd, 5/31/09

### **Separations**

Misty Oebel, Sec/PT OP4, Fac Mgt, 5/15/09  
Christine Colebank, Sr Spec Clerk/PT OP5, Grad Studies, 5/22/09

# Workers Independent News

## **Steelworkers President: Workers Must Fight To Save Auto Industry, Manufacturing And To Reverse Trade Policies**

By Doug Cunningham

United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard is on a tour of more than 30 cities to drive home the point that manufacturing and the U.S. auto industry are vital to America. Gerard says the Obama administration must reverse trade policies that are eviscerating domestic manufacturing. Gerard says exporting jobs and closing auto plants with U.S. tax dollars is NOT the way to save the U.S. auto industry. And workers, he said, must fight back against it.

[Gerard]: "We're not gonna stand around while Wall Street and incompetent management in the car industry destroy our kids' future. We're not gonna stand a round and let it happen without a fight. You've gotta be prepared to fight, you gotta be prepared to go in the streets, you gotta be prepared to drive to Washington, you gotta be prepared to block roads, you gotta be prepared to occupy plants."

Gerard says 7.2 million U.S. jobs depend on the domestic auto industry. Since NAFTA passed, Gerard says, the U.S. has accumulated a trade deficit of \$6.5 trillion.

[Gerard 2]: "Somebody needs to tell me why that's good for America, and why our government tolerates it." The United Steelworkers union wants to see an industrial trade policy focused on domestic production and U.S. jobs creation.

## **CWA Rejects AT&T's "Last Offer" As A Step Backward For Workers At The Profitable Company**

By Jesse Russell

CWA workers are unhappy with AT&T's final contract offer. On Wednesday AT&T put what the company calls its "last" contract proposal on the table, a proposal that was immediately shot down by Communication Workers of America negotiators. According to the union, which represents 27,000 workers in five states, the new offer is a step backward and ignores a proposal made last Monday of increases of 4.5 percent, 4.25 percent, and 4 percent over the next three years. Instead, the company offered a raise of 2 percent this year followed by successive 2.25 percent raises in 2010 and 2011. The workers in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma are currently operating under a contract that expired in April. Overall the CWA represents 80,000 AT&T employees, nearly a third of the company's workforce.

## **LA. Teachers Cancel One Day Strike, Civil Disobedience And Picketing Will Happen Instead**

By Doug Cunningham

Faced with a court injunction exposing striking teachers to big fines and possible loss of their teaching credentials, a one day strike May 15th by United Teachers of Los Angeles was cancelled. Picketing and civil disobedience will be used instead to protest budget cuts, layoffs and bigger class sizes.

## **AFL-CIO Legislative Director Says Employee Free Choice Act Will Pass Without Gutting the Main Thrust of the Reform**

By Doug Cunningham

AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel says labor's number one priority - the Employee Free Choice Act labor law reform - will become law. It makes it easier for workers to join unions by taking employer intimidation out of the picture. And Samuel says the bill won't be gutted by compromise that destroys its original intent.

[Samuel]: "Yes, I think the Senate Democrats and particularly those in the leadership understand that this bill has to be meaningful. Although a very small number have said they might not be able to support the bill as it's currently crafted, that's really code for suggesting that there may need to be some small changes. But not changes that would undermine the basic thrust of the bill."

Business has mounted a strong effort to derail the labor law reform, but Samuel says once Minnesota's Al Franken is seated in the U.S. Senate Democrats will pass the legislation despite business opposition.

[Samuel]: "Clearly the business community is going to spend more money than us, they have more money and they're determined to protect their privilege and their right to block workers from exercising this basic right. But I think at the end of the day we're gonna pass this bill and Democrats are going to be proud to be on the side of working families."

## **The Lower Your Education the Higher Your Joblessness**

The jobless rate for workers who only hold a high school diploma is nearly 15 percent, significantly higher than the 4.4 percent rate for those that hold a bachelor's degree. That's according to a study by the Center for American Progress who added that the jobless rate for workers without a high school diploma leapt by 7.3 percent from December 2007 to April 2009. For those holding only a high school diploma it was up 4.7 percent.



Morgan Reese Tracy  
Born April 5, 2009  
Granddaughter of  
Lorrie Thompson,  
Geology

## Congratulations!

To Loree Recker for receiving an International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) Midland chapter Star Performer Award for the month of March. The award was given for her dedication, hard work, volunteering, and input as a member of the IMPACT Committee for the chapter.

### Quote of the Month

*"It is a sad commentary upon our form of government when every decision of the Supreme Court seems designed to fatten Capital and destroy Labor."*

*John L. Lewis, in Words for Workers in Changing Times, 1993*



## June Birthdays

LESLIE DEVINE  
KIMBERLY GARBER  
JANICE HETHERINGTON  
JANICE HINES  
VALERIE MOUTSATSON  
DAWN MUSSER  
TERRI NELSON  
MICHELLE NESTOR

ASHLEY SIAN  
DENISE SMITH  
JACALYN STONEMAN  
CAROLYN STUDEBAKER  
VICKI SWARTHOUT  
NANCY TILMANN  
ALEXIUS WEBER

### Executive Board

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President

Laura Hope  
1st Vice President

Caral Turner  
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Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah Young  
Recording Secretary

Patti deHarde  
Guide/Trustee

Betty Lewis  
Trustee

Terri Moeggenberg  
Trustee

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Members are invited to contribute letters to the editor, articles, photos, or cartoons. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject any material. Views expressed herein are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the UAW, District 1-D, Local 6888's Executive Board, or Bargaining Committee.

This newsletter is "Labor Donated".

Deadline for material submission is the 20th of the month prior to the month of issue. Send all materials to Caral Turner, Warriner 308 or via e-mail to [turne1cj@cmich.edu](mailto:turne1cj@cmich.edu).

**REGULAR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETINGS  
HAVE BEEN  
SUSPENDED  
FOR THE  
SUMMER**