



AUTOMOBILE • AEROSPACE • AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS of AMERICA (UAW)

LOCAL 974 NEWS

REPRESENTING WORKERS AT CATERPILLAR, LTD INDUSTRIES, TAZEWEILL MACHINE, NORFORGE, AND DELAVAN CITY WORKERS

 62 VOL 59.2 • APRIL 2011

“You will find some people saying
that they are for the so-called
‘right-to-work’ law, but they
also believe in unions.

THIS IS ABSURD –
it’s like saying you
are for motherhood
but against children.”

*From remarks made during congressional consideration of the 1947
Taft-Hartley Act, passed by the 80th Congress over Truman's veto.*

HARRY S. TRUMAN 33rd U.S. President 1945-1953



UAW LOCAL 974 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Dave Chapman

Executive Vice-President

Randy Smith

Second Vice-President

Kevin Peterson

Chair. of Insurance & Benefits

Jim Arrowood

Chair. of Bargaining Committee

Rick DeGroot

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

John Shallenberger

Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Sergeant-At-Arms

Shane Hillard

Guide

Rochelle Torres

Trustee

Terry Freeman

Trustee

Donnie Barker

Trustee

Greg Larson

TTT Member-At-Large

Harry Thompson, Jr.

TBU Member-At-Large

Barry Parrott

Mapleton Member-At-Large

Dick Woodmancy

Morton Member-At-Large

Melissa Bugg

Tech Center Member-At-Large

Jim "Huey" Pardieck

Mossville BB Member-At-Large

Dale Riggen

Mossville DD Member-At-Large

Loren Benson

Skilled Trades Member-At-Large

Rick Corbin

SPBU (CPM) Member-At-Large

(Open)

Plantwide Safety Chairman

Stephen Mitchell

Retiree's Chapter President

Jane Evans

Admin. (Peo) Member-At-Large

(Open)

Bargaining Chairman - LTD

(Open)

Bargaining Chairman - PMP

(Open)

Bargaining Chairman - Norforge

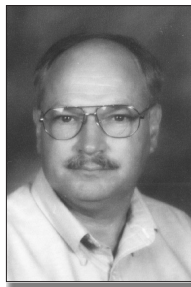
Pamela Smith

Bargaining Chair. - Taz. Machine

Nickolas Kneip

Bargaining Chair. - City of Delavan

Jerry A. Littlefield



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DAVE CHAPMAN, President

President's Report submitted by Randy Smith, Vice-President

As you all know by now, we have reached an agreement with Cat. We tried very hard to address everyone's needs. I want to thank everyone for all the help in bargaining, especially Rick DeGroot.

Make sure you get out to vote April 5th. Your vote counts so support candidates that support working men and women. Just look at what's happening in Wisconsin and other states and what they are trying to do to Labor.

Make sure you get your email to the Union Hall.

Hope everyone has a happy and safe Easter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 9 10:00 am Union Hall

DIE CAST & TOY SHOW

Saturday, April 16 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Union Hall



**As always, stop by my office,
I'm willing to listen I have never
learned anything by talking.**

UAW AMALGAMATED LOCAL 974 TRIENNIAL ELECTION NOTICE

The following elections will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2011, from 5:30 AM until 7:00 PM at the Amalgamated Local 974 Union Hall, and those satellite poll areas previously announced. Runoff will still be May 17th as previously announced.

ALL UNITS MAY VOTE:

TRUSTEE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Don Barker

Terry Freeman

Greg "Tiny" Larson

Bobby Koller

UNIT 1 ONLY:

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEEMEN

TRACK TYPE TRACTORS

Brent Kubiak (Bldg LL, 1st)

Anthonie Newton (Bldg LL, 1st)

James E. Spencer (Bldg LL, 1st)

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEEMEN

CAST METALS ORGANIZATION

Michael A. Culbertson (1st)

Jonathon C. Zimmerman (1st)

Chris Grimm (1st)

Randall (Shawn) Ragle (1st)

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEEMEN

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS UNIT (BLDG KK)

Craig L. Miller (2nd)

Bill Moore III (3rd)

Kenneth (RADAR) Gregory (1st)

Brian K. Kerr (1st)

Jerry D. Lloyd (1st)

Election will be held at Amalgamated Local 974 UAW Union Hall and outlying satellite areas.

Election Committee:

A. J. Milloy, Chairman • Gary E. Hall, Co-Chairman

Jay Nerdrum, Recording Secretary • Chris Dickerson, Sergeant-at-Arms

ELECTION FOR

TRUSTEES

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

TRACK TYPE TRACTOR

(LL 1ST SHIFT)

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

CAST METALS

(MAPLETON)

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS UNIT

(BLDG. KK)

Will be held **MAY 3RD** from 5:30 am until 7:00 pm at the Amalgamated Local 974 Union Hall.

UNIT 2, LTD

5:30 am until 6:30 am & 3:30 pm until 4:30 pm

UNIT 3, NORFORGE

6:30 am until 7:30 am & 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm

UNIT 4, TAZEWEEL MACHINE

At UAW Local 974

UNIT 6, CITY WORKERS OF DELAVAN

6:30 am until 7:30 am & 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm

Runoff election will be held May 17th in conjunction with the Unit 1 Grievance Committeemen Chairman's race from 5:30 am until 7:00 pm at the Amalgamated Local 974 Union Hall only.

Election Committee:

A. J. Milloy, Chairman • Gary E. Hall, Co-Chairman

Jay Nerdrum, Recording Secretary • Chris Dickerson, Sergeant-at-Arms



BARGAINING CHAIRMAN

RICK DeGROOT, Bargaining Chairman

Bargaining Chairman's Report submitted by Dave Neulinger

As of this writing, March 1, 2011, I just want to give a big thank you to all of my brothers and sisters for your support and patience you have given me while I sit in for our Bargaining Chairman Rick DeGroot. I would not have been able to do this without all of us sticking together.

By the time you read this, we should have a new agreement with Caterpillar. When you see your Bargaining Team give them a big thank you because they work day and night for all of us. If you have not given the Union Hall your email address, please call 694-3151 and provide us with that information. This is the way we are going to give the latest updates.

As of March 1, 2011, we have 5,116 total number of employees in Amalgamated Local 974 and 4,924 in Unit 1 Caterpillar. There are 92 active discharges and separations at this time and 3,798 active grievances in the arbitration backlog.

Remember when you are receiving disciplinary action, always ask for your Union Rep even if you are a supplemental or full time employee. This is your right. Right now we need everyone to stand together and wear your Union shirts.

Need Help?

If you have problems managing finances, paying your utilities, mortgage, credit card bills...

If you are having family, marital, stress, substance abuse, emotional, or legal problems...

CONTACT YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPS

MORTON: Melissa Bugg, Judith Poulsen, Rochelle Torres, Maxine Wilson-Jones
TTT: Chris Dickerson, (SS), Shane Hillard, (LL) MOSSVILLE BB: Marcia McCann

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UAW Retiree – Bob Allsup, CEAP/CADC/SAP

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT

JOHN SHALLENBERGER, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

In February the newly elected Republican Governor of Wisconsin decided that he would cut cost by doing away with the service workers right to collective bargaining, along with this he wants the union members to pay more for their healthcare and pension plan. The union workers agreed to both of these increases, but they will fight to keep their union. Meanwhile the Governor is continuing to push for a vote to shove it through that would strip workers of their rights!

This shortfall for Wisconsin’s budget started long before this fight. Just take a look at how many jobs have been outsourced in the last ten years. Didn’t anybody stop and think there goes our tax base that helps fund the service workers wages and benefits, along with their roads and infrastructure. Not to mention the millions that this Governor is giving in tax breaks to his rich businessman who also were his big donors to fund his political campaign.

When you look back to our leader of this great union Walter Reuther, one of his famous quotes was **“What the Union FIGHTS FOR AND WINS at the bargaining table, CAN BE TAKEN AWAY in the Legislative halls.”**

UNION DUES

On dues, if you owe dues from drawing S.U.P. pay, which is one hour of your wages a month, or when you rehired in and did not come to the union hall and rejoin in your first month then. It’s a good possibility that you could have fallen behind on your union dues. My office has been going through our records and if you are behind we will be sending out letters letting you know. If you are in question feel free to call the dues office so we can check for you.

SOLDIERS BIBLE

Bill Brandon, a brother from Local 2488, has pocket-sized Bibles for our members that have served or are still active. Feel free to contact me and drop by and pick up your copy. These Bibles were donated but we are asking for a freewill donation to help maintain an adequate supply for the membership.

PLEASE CONTACT DUES OFFICE

If you are on Medical, Worker’s Compensation, Family Leave, or Military Duty, or if you have recently retired or separated, please contact the Dues Office with this information. This will be of great assistance to the Local in order to keep our records accurate and current. It will also help keep records for you if needed

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

As always, please keep all the soldiers and families in your thoughts and prayers.

In Solidarity,
John R. Shallenberger
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

LAURA VALENTINE MEMORIAL RIDE

Since 2004, the year that our daughter, Laura Valentine passed away from the cancer that haunted her most of her childhood, a wonderful group of people have helped us “payback” St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by supporting the annual Laura Valentine ride.

We cannot begin to thank everyone individually, we have been overwhelmed with the number of you that rode, sponsored riders, donated, provided food and drinks and designed and printed the t-shirts, all to raise money to help the children of St. Jude in Laura’s memory. We hope you will join us once again August 6, 2011 for the 8th annual ride. Every dollar brings St. Jude closer to a cure, a dream of ours so that no child and family will ever have to have the same journey we had.

Thank you so very much,
Stan, Sandy, Doug, Chandra and Jack Valentine

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Durbin Chiropractic | Stephen, Fiddes, McGill & Associates |
| UAW Senior Citizens Center | Wisconsin Vision (Heartland Vision) |
| Cusack, Gilfillan & O’Day | Peoria Area CAP Council |
| Williams, Williams & Loeffel PC | Peoria Area Labor Management Council |
| Boilermakers Local 60 | Total Income Tax (Bill Sharp) |
| Leonard Unes Printing | Silver Bullet |
| UAW Local 2488 | Friends of Rep. Jehan Gordon |
| Monica Shallenberger-Connett | West Central IL Building Trades Council |
| Representative Mike Smith | Advance Systems Design |
| Friends of Senator Dave Koehler | Carpenters Local #183 |
| Ron Davis for Sheriff | United Food & Commercial Workers |
| Union Local #536 | Image Pointe Printing |

RECAPITULATION as of January, 2011	
Income	\$ 256,846.31
Expenditures	<u>234,381.29</u>
Excess of Income over Expense	\$ 22,465.02
Regular Dues received on	4,759
Sub Dues received on	0
Initiation fees received on	29
Bonus dues received on	0
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	\$ 114,137.34
CAP Council	7,359.92
CAT Council	5,466.35
Retirees Dues PCT	288.60
Ag Council	186.84
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
IPS Council Pooled Arb. Fund	<u>10.75</u>
Total	\$ 127,633.80

RECAPITULATION as of February 28, 2011	
Income	\$ 238,811.31
Expenditures	<u>276,983.33</u>
Excess of Expense over Income	\$ (38,172.02)
Regular Dues received on	4,633
Sub Dues received on	4
Initiation fees received on	19
Bonus dues received on	0
PER CAPITA TAXES:	
International Union UAW	\$ 114,015.84
CAP Council	7,354.13
CAT Council	5,442.87
Retirees Dues PCT	677.30
Ag Council	187.00
Labor Council of West Central IL	184.00
PALM	300.00
IPS Council Pooled Arb. Fund	<u>12.12</u>
Total	\$ 128,173.26



INSURANCE & BENEFITS REPORT

JIM ARROWOOD, Chairman Insurance and Benefits

As we followed events unfolding in Wisconsin I noticed an oversight. The news

media was not reporting on how these Union workers ended up fighting for their rights. To identify how workers arrived at this point, we only need to look at recent events. In 2008 and 2009 the collapse of our economy at every level was on the front pages of every paper across the country. When George Bush left office after his second term in 2008 all the ingredients for collapse were in place. During the Republican regime, corporations were taking advantage of cheap labor and incentives to off shore most living wage jobs. As a result, for years our tax base which was supported by these jobs dwindled. The deficits grew and states and cities faced larger and larger deficits. To reverse the red ink states like Wisconsin and others choose to blame collective bargaining and the Union members for the eroded

financial condition created by the mass exodus of our manufacturing base due to off shoring of our American jobs.

We will continue to be targeted as part of the deficit woes until we stand up and expose the true reason for our eroded tax base.

If you believe teachers, firefighters and police are the reasons for our city and state budget dilemma, you are not following events that led up to this crisis.

Collective bargaining has not, and never will, create huge budget deficits. To the contrary, the give and take of collective bargaining makes it possible for communities to fund services and receive taxes to support the needs of their citizens. The agenda from governors like Walker in Wisconsin is not to solve budget deficits. If this were the goal he would be addressing the need for more decent paying Union jobs in his state.

States with high paying secure Union jobs are able to fund public services and operate within their budgets. Keeping and supporting jobs should have been a priority in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

We now know how we got into this mess. We also know how the Republicans intend to use us as a way to divert attention away from greedy corporations who outsourced our middle class and now use governors to spearhead the movement to eliminate the rest of us by autocratically removing our rights to fair wages and benefits, not to mention eliminating our dignity.

Once again, hope all is well at the Harris farm south of West Plains, Missouri. All the best to Doffless and Wilene. Your son, Jim.

**Please call for an appointment
if you need to discuss our
benefit language. Thanks.**

CATERPILLAR BENEFITS CONTACT INFORMATION

HYATT LEGAL SERVICES 1-800-821-6400

HR SERVICES CENTER-AMERICAS/PANAMA

Toll-free: 1-800-447-6434 OR 1-309-494-2363

E-mail: HR_Service_Center@cat.com

CAT ESCALATED ISSUE RESOLUTION TEAM*

Toll-free: 1-866-494-4562

*If you have an issue or question about your benefits, always call UnitedHealthcare (UHC), Hewitt, RESTAT, MetLife or the HMO first. Employees should use this number only to help resolve active, unresolved issues with the vendor that have not been resolved through previous, direct contact with the vendor. Contacting the Escalated Issue Resolution Team is completely voluntary and is not required as part of the benefit plans formal appeal process.

DENTAL BENEFITS CIGNA Dental

Customer Service: 1-800-244-6224

Web: cigna.com OR myCIGNA.com

CIGNA Dental Claims Mailing Address:

CIGNA Dental

PO Box 188037, Chattanooga, TN 37422-8037

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Cat Healthcare Plan (UnitedHealthcare PPO)

Customer Service: 1-866-228-4215

Web: myuhc.com

UHC PPO Claims Mailing Address:

United Healthcare

PO Box 740800, Atlanta, GA 30374-0800

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS – RESTAT

Customer Service: 1-877-228-7909

Claims Mailing Address:

RESTAT

PO Box 758, West Bend, WI 53095-0758

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (FSA)

Healthcare and Dependent Care FSAs

Claims Administrator: UnitedHealthcare

Customer Service: 1-866-228-4215

Claims Mailing Address:

UnitedHealthcare

PO Box 981178, El Paso, TX 79998-1178

LIFE INSURANCE & VOLUNTARY BENEFITS

Claims Administrator: MetLife

Customer Service: 1-888-228-1811

Web: metlife.com/mybenefits

ELIGIBILITY, PENSION, INVESTMENTS

Plan Administrator: Hewitt

Caterpillar Benefits Center: 1-877-228-4010

Web: resources.hewitt.com/cat/

HEALTHY BALANCE

Healthy Balance: 1-888-228-9494

Web: CatHealthBenefits.com>Healthy Balance

WORK.LIFE.SOLUTIONS

(Cat Employee Assist. Program) 1-866-228-0565

Web: CatHealthBenefits.com>Work.Life.Solutions

CatHealthBenefits.com

Claim forms, provider directories and links to other Caterpillar vendor websites.

UAW MEMBERS

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RETIREES CHAPTER

UAW LOCAL 974

WEDNESDAY POTLUCKS APRIL 20 & MAY 18

We invite and encourage all the new Retirees to join us for dinner and Bingo after the meeting. **(Please bring your own table service.)**

We also encourage the spouses of deceased members of Local 974 to join us. Surviving spouses are Associate Members of our Retiree Chapter and we invite you to participate in our activities.

MEMBERSHIP & RETIREES DANCE

Sunday, April 17 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Music by Midnight Wind

Come one, come all! You don't have to dance – come and listen to the music and socialize. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

BUS TRIPS

Tuesday, April 26 – Catfish Bend

Tuesday, May 24 – Jumer's Rock Island

HOW CAN I JOIN THE RETIREE CLUB?

Upon retirement Local 974 members in good standing are encouraged to register at the Dues Office to become Chapter members. Retirees and their spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend the Retiree Chapter Meetings and activities.

We have a **Potluck the third Wednesday of every month** – meat, coffee and doughnuts are furnished. A variety of other activities are planned throughout the year. To assist in financing these activities a \$2 per month voluntary membership dues can be established at the Dues Office. The largest portion of the dues dollars goes to the International Retired Workers Advisory Council which is concerned with retired workers programs and policies and other matters that affect the welfare of retired workers.

Contact Retirees' Officers at 309/694-3151

Jane Evans, Chairman
Velma Walton, 2nd Co-Chairman
J.F. "Jack" Hidden, Financial Secretary
Dave Blumenstock, Trustee
Jack "Honey" Evans, Trustee

David J. LaHood, Co-Chairman
Bill Corum, Recording Secretary
Dale Cassel, Guide
Jim Tabor, Trustee
Ted Hoak, Sergeant-at-Arms

SHORT TERM LOAN OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The Retirees have the following items that can be loaned out to our membership for their use on a short-term basis. Items can be checked out at the Dues Office.

Wheelchairs • Walkers • Cane Walkers • Canes
Crutches • Hospital Beds • IV Stands • Porta-Potties



WANTED – Donations of used medical equipment, the equipment will be used for lending to our Retired and Active membership.



**Spring
Diecast and Toy Show**

Saturday, April 16, 2011
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Admission – \$1.00

Local 974 UAW Union Hall
Door Prizes • Food Available

Event sponsored by and all proceeds go to the
Heather Henninger Scholarship Fund
For more information contact Dave Chapman (309) 694-3151



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9 (10:00 am Rain or Shine) Local 974 Union Hall
Prizes for the kids (Four Age Groups / Ages 1-12)

Bring your own baskets

Great fun for everyone!
Come on parents and grandparents,
bring the kids out for some fun!
For more information call 694-3151

Sponsored by Local 974 Retirees
Peoria Area CAP Committee
Heather Henninger Scholarship Committee

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Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters

On behalf of the Officers, Members and Retirees of Local 974, may we offer our deepest condolences to the families of our brothers and sisters who have recently passed away. May God comfort all of you in your loss.

January

Kenneth E. Wright	R	01/01/2011	John R. Keiser, Jr.	A	02/03/2011
Ben A. Johnson, Jr.	R	01/03/2011	Donald G. Crawford	D	02/04/2011
Warren A. Oakley	R	01/03/2011	Jesse E. Hall	R	02/07/2011
Carl E. McMeen	R	01/12/2011	Lawrence L. Larson	R	02/07/2011
Keith F. Fuller	R	01/15/2011	Paul E. Wheeler, Sr.	R	02/07/2011
Richard L. Hitchcock	R	01/15/2011	Dillard C. Frye	R	02/08/2011
Ina Boker	R	01/16/2011	David C. Schroeder	R	02/09/2011
Robert H. Roskamp	R	01/17/2011	Roy L. Wages	R	02/09/2011
Ernest L. Jackson	R	01/18/2011	Dorsie B. Graves	R	02/13/2011
Claude E. Craig	R	01/19/2011	Jerry J. Zimmerman	R	02/13/2011
Walter L. Smith	R	01/19/2011	Charles D. Greene	R	02/18/2011
Harry J. Williams	R	01/22/2011	Norma J. Haynes	R	02/18/2011
Elsie L. Aeschlimann	R	01/25/2011	Orval S. Wall	R	02/18/2011
James W. Osborn	R	01/28/2011	Richard D. Hendricks	R	02/20/2011
Jacob J. Rose	R	01/28/2011	George D. Bean	R	02/24/2011
Marvin T. Cearlock	R	01/29/2011	Edsel L. Burgess	R	02/25/2011
Roland L. Anderson	R	01/31/2011	Walker E. Garnett	R	02/26/2011
Ramona K. Brown	A	01/31/2011	Hugh C. Heath	R	02/27/2011
			Abernathy Crumby	R	02/28/2011

February

UAW LOCAL 974 CALENDAR

APRIL

Sat	9	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00am
Sun	10	Executive Board Meeting	11:00am
		General Council Meeting	1:00pm
Sat	16	Die Cast & Toy Sale	9:00am - 2:00pm
Sun	17	Membership & Retiree Dance	7:00 - 10:00pm
Wed	20	Retiree's Chapter Dinner	11:30am
Thu	21	Safety Council Meetings	8:00 / 10:00 / 4:00pm
Fri	22	Good Friday – Union Hall Closed	
Sun	24	Easter Sunday	
Tue	26	Catfish Bend Bus Trip	8:00am
Thu	28	Steward Council Meetings	8:00 / 12:00 / 4:00pm

MAY

Tue	3	Local 974 Newsletter Article Deadline	
Sun	8	Mother's Day	
Sun	15	Executive Board Meeting	11:00am
		General Council Meeting	1:00pm
Wed	18	Retirees' Chapter Meeting & Dinner	11:30am
Thu	19	Safety Council Meetings	8:00 / 12:00 / 4:00pm
Mon	23	Red Cross Blood Drive	11:00am - 5:00pm
Tue	24	Jumer's Rock Island Bus Trip	8:00am
Thu	26	Steward Council Meetings	8:00 / 12:00 / 4:00pm
Mon	30	Memorial Day – Union Hall Closed	

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DICK L. WILLIAMS

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DICK B. (RICH) WILLIAMS

has concentrated his practice in Bankruptcy Law and Driver's License Reinstatement for twelve years.

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Social Security Disability
Drivers' License Reinstatement



WILLIAM C. LOEFFEL

has concentrated his practice in criminal law (both federal and state), expungements and DUI for twenty years.

Criminal
DUI
Federal

UAW PREPAID LEGAL BENEFITS PANEL ATTORNEYS
UAW LOCAL 974 LEGAL BENEFITS PLAN LISTED LAW FIRM



The Editor's Desk

By Rick Corbin

It is refreshing to come across an article on a local paper editorial page that so closely aligns with the beliefs of those of us in organized labor.

I came across this article written by Editor Michelle Teheux of the Pekin Daily Times and was very pleased by the position she took on issues very close to the heart of those of us in labor.

I spoke briefly with Michelle and she graciously gave permission to print her article in our Union paper.

Take the time to give this a read.

Rick

When in America, do as Germans do

What's the No. 1 thing that threatens the future of the U.S.?

You might guess radical Islamists, or Sarah Palin, or President Obama, depending on your personal politics.

Or you might say it's our lack of rigorous education that is, despite federal meddling, leaving many children behind. Or the festering national debt.

You might guess a lot of things, but I think it comes down pretty much to one thing:

The things that are good for America are not necessarily the same things that are good for big business, and big corporations are more concerned about making profits than in making America strong.

Corporations have one reason for being. One. And that is to make money. Period. And if outsourcing to China or anywhere else is more profitable, that is just what they will do — even if it badly hurts our nation.

I've got nothing against making money. But while a real person, such as your local shop owner, will make decisions based on a number of factors, including not just profits but well-being of employees and personal



Michelle Teheux

Times columnist

morality, the artificial person we call a corporation must, by its charter, consider only profitability.

Obama addressed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Monday. An Associated Press story quoted him as saying: "As we work with you to make America a better place to do business, ask yourselves what you can do for America. Ask yourselves what you can do to hire American workers, to support the American economy, and to invest in this nation."

He was wasting his breath.

Big business is making big bucks and just had a particularly awesome fourth quarter, but those bucks are not trickling down to workers. You would think as big business make big bucks, that they'd also have a need to hire more workers. You would think wrong. That just isn't

happening.

In the words of musician Jarvis Cocker, "Now the working classes are obsolete/ They are surplus to society's needs/ So let 'em all kill each other/ And get it made overseas." (Warning to those who might Google this song: It contains some rather explicit lyrics).

Once, our workers weren't obsolete. They were a big part of what made America great. Some countries still understand that.

My son, who was home from college this weekend, asked why Germany — such a relatively small country compared to the U.S. — was such an economic powerhouse.

We have no economists in our house, but we do have my husband, who grew up just minutes from the German border. He said when you're in Germany, you don't see many non-German cars on the roads. Germans buy German goods. Workers have strong unions and enjoy good wages and benefits. They take their nice salaries and spend their euros on German goods ... which enriches German companies ... which are then profitable enough to hire more Germans ... who then buy more German goods ... kind of

like how it used to work in the U.S.

Do you remember when U.S. companies hired U.S. workers instead of outsourcing work overseas? Do you remember when U.S. residents purchased U.S. goods?

We can't have it both ways, folks. We can keep buying cheap stuff from China and save a few bucks. But how will you have enough money even to purchase cheap stuff when your job is outsourced?

Of course, if your job has already been outsourced, or you're stuck trying to support your family on a low-wage service job, it's going to be difficult to convince you to pay extra to get a U.S.-made item.

So this request goes out to those who are lucky enough to still have a decent job: Buy American-made products whenever you can — while you still can. It might be one of the more patriotic things you can do.

Hey, it works for Germany.

Editor Michelle Teheux may be reached at 346-1111, ext. 661, or at mteheux@pekintimes.com. The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Pekin Daily Times.

BACK TO BASICS STEVE MITCHELL, Plantwide Safety Chairman

I just returned from the ratification vote, and it was an enlightening experience. I witnessed a high level of emotion regarding whether the proposal brought for ratification was worthy of our members or not. As part of the team that brought this proposal to the membership, I was somewhat taken aback at the response by some, but I respect the opinion of each and every member who voted. In the end, a decisive majority of our members thought the proposal was worthy of their vote and ratified the contract.

To those who are disappointed with the outcome, I encourage you to become involved in the local union-run for a position as steward, grievance committee member or even the executive board. By engaging in the inner working or day-to-day workings of our union, you will be in position to lead the next time negotiations are conducted.

A recurring theme heard during the health and safety subcommittee negotiations was that the Company did not know about the numerous issues we presented as proof of the need for the new contract language in our proposal. The union was told that Caterpillar had not heard of these instances before, or that these were isolated incidents, and were not indicative of Caterpillar as a whole. We were told these issues should have been handled at the local level. What the Company did not seem to understand, is that we tried to handle the problems at the local level, using the agreed upon procedure.

We presented pie charts of ergonomic injuries based on OSHA 300 logs, repeated OSHA citations for violations of particular standards, specific instances where workers had identified particular hazards to management that went unabated and proposals for

updating hazardous chemicals exposure levels to modern standards, instead of 40 year-old science. Maybe I'm not exactly the most objective person concerning our proposals, but I thought the union made its case for the requested improvements crystal clear. However, we all know that we tend to see what we want to see. In the end, we agreed on significant improvements in the safety committee language and on the one Company proposal in the safety language — they want us to tell them when there is a hazard in our workplaces. Duh!

The language in 8.3 of the Safety Complaint Procedure was changed from, *An employee who believes that a condition has developed which presents a significant threat to his health or safety should promptly notify his Supervisor of such condition, to... shall promptly notify...* Bringing these issues to management's attention does not involve the team leader (he/she

MARCHING IN SOLIDARITY IN MADISON

RANDY HOEPKER, Assembler, KK, East Peoria

On February 26th some 300 Wisconsin and Illinois UAW members marched in solidarity with the Wisconsin public workers unions in Madison, at the Capital Building. I was part of a contingent of 50 Illinois members from Locals in Peoria/ Bloomington and the Rockford area. It was an uplifting experience to be with tens of thousands of others who believed in the power of Union brotherhood.

As many as 100,000 people showed up that day to exercise their democratic rights and express their opinions. The crowd was well-behaved and well-informed about what was happening with their state government and Governor Walker's agenda. More than half of the crowd was composed of women with many of those from the public education field. Wisconsinites thanked us for our attendance and support of their efforts to maintain their rights and freedoms. We in turn thanked them for standing up for all Union people across the country and igniting a revolution for Union rights.



While marching I even met a former UAW member who was a teaching assistant in southern California not long ago and who belonged to the newly formed UAW Local of teaching assistants! She was ecstatic to see UAW members supporting her in Wisconsin where she now lives and teaches.

I think of Governor Walker as a “corporate nazi.” The prank phone call pretty much told it all regarding who he really believes he works for. It's clear that he sees himself as working for his political benefactors. It seems Wisconsin is dealing with another full-blown narcissist, like Illinois had in its governor's office not long ago.

You have to ask yourself, if people vote for a Republican, who are they really voting for? Is it for themselves or those who pour millions into the RNC's coffers and control the Republican Party's national agenda? Their agenda doesn't seem to include the middle class of either color or collar and certainly not Union people, as demonstrated by Walker and other radical Republican Governors. Who are you going to fight for?

We can all thank Scott Walker for the one thing he should have tried to avoid at all costs as a Republican reigniting the Labor movement. Thanks Scott! Once again we learned how it is to stand up for our rights and for those with no voice.

During this ordeal I have seen a resurgence in my workplace of Union pride. UAW shirts have come out of the closets and people are excited about what is happening all over the country and locally.

We need to educate our younger members and ourselves about democracy and what our Union means to us. I suggest you watch progressive talk show hosts like Ed Schultz or Lawrence O'Donnell. These guys are progressive attack dogs and will give you the real truth as well as offer their critiques of both parties' actions.

There is a new hate fad out there, beat up on someone who has something they wish they had like good pay, benefits, etc. We should never apologize for being represented by a Union or for having better compensation than a jealous non-Union person. If you are confronted by such a person, be diplomatic and suggest that the jealous person should form a Union in their workplace. Offer to put them in contact with someone from your Local!

This is a revolution, although it is a “soft revolution” or non-violent one. It is different than those that have recently occurred in North Africa and the Mideast in that we are not demanding a new government, but seek to prevent a political reform of the government against the wishes of a large percentage of its constituents.

The only thing you have to answer is this – Which side are you on and are you going to join this revolution? Make a choice and then **“Let's get it on.”**

In Solidarity!
Randy Hoepker

is not your Supervisor), it means you have to specifically tell **your Supervisor** of hazards you identify.

We may have gotten away from this process, in some instances, but both parties agreed to this revised language and we should do our best to uphold our end of the deal. So from now on, whenever there is a damaged sling, lifting device or bar-knob in your area, I want you to tell your Supervisor. If you are expected to lock something out and don't have the locks, training or specific lock-out procedures, tell your Supervisor. If you work on machine tools that allow you to open the doors and approach the point of operation while it is running, tell your Supervisor. If the coolant on the machine you operate is not clean and properly maintained to the correct proportions, tell your Supervisor.

Since we now have a contractual obligation to bring any and all hazards to our Supervisors attention, we can also expect our concerns to be addressed in a timely manner. If you identify a hazard and you don't think it has been addressed in what you think is an appropriate timeframe, the UAW and Caterpillar agreed on a procedure to address these concerns. Section 8.1 says, in part, *Therefore, the parties agree to place renewed attention, emphasis, and effort into the use of the local safety complaint procedure.* The Safety Complaint Procedure in 8.3 does not mean you submit a C/I card. The language means that if you think it has taken your Supervisor too long to address your concerns, you need to ask for, and as it says, your Supervisor **shall** send for your UAW Safety Representative. This is the procedure Caterpillar and the UAW agreed upon; let's use it to make our workplace safer and healthier.

As I stated previously, these negotiations have been an enlightening experience for me personally, and I hope they have been for you as well. I respect all of the people who came to the ratification meeting and cast their vote, because that is how our union makes important decisions. If you want change, get involved; come to meetings, run for steward, General Council, Executive Board or Grievance Committee positions.

Remember...
YOU ARE THE UNION... WE ARE THE UNION.

In Solidarity,
Steve Mitchell



EASTER IS THE RESURRECTION

RUSS LINDAHL

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if Christ had not risen from the dead literally and physically? After reading the Bible book of 1 Corinthians I came up with a few reasons.

Here they are:

1. Jesus' body would have been found and all the verses in the Old Testament that predicted His resurrection would be a lie (starting at Genesis 3.15).
2. Christianity would be useless.
3. I am still in bondage in my sins. My testimony of how Christ saved me from drugs and alcohol would be just a figment of my imagination.
4. Death is the Victor. Therefore death is the end of everything. No one is "looking down smiling." There is nothing but gloom and doom. I have no hope of seeing my wife again (or any other loved one who accepted Christ).
5. There will be no true justice for anyone. If you did evil in this life and did not get punished, you got by with it. If you did good in this life and did not get rewarded, too bad.

But, **Christ is risen!** I will see my wife (and all loved ones who accepted Christ)! It is not goodbye only, I'll see you later! True justice will happen. No one truly gets away with anything because they will stand before the Judge who has all the facts and has seen everything! No one will get passed by for doing good! Death is not the Victor Jesus is the Victor! I am not in bondage to my sins. I am set free. There is new life in Christ. Christianity is true.

But what about you? If you have not trusted this living Christ and what He did on the cross on your behalf you should do so now. Behold, now is the day of salvation! What will you do with Him Who is called the Christ?

In Jesus,
Russ

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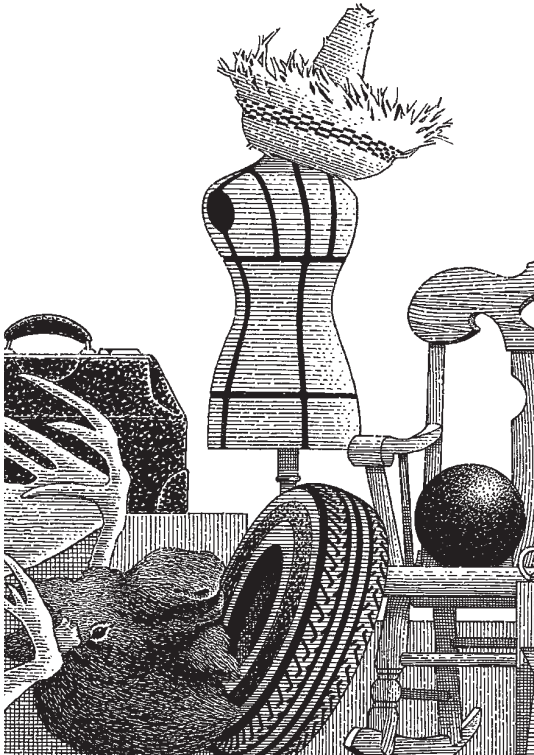
REAL ESTATE

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LOST AND FOUND

Looking for lost Morton classmates: September 2011 Reunion, get on mailing list, Morton Class of 1971, MortonHigh71Reunion@hotmail.com



LOCAL 974 NEWS – CLASSIFIED ADS

LIMIT 15 WORDS PER AD – ONE (1) AD PER ISSUE - DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF THE MONTH
Ads should be submitted to Insurance and Benefits Office, Jim Arrowood, UAW Local 974,
3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611-4801. No ads will be accepted on the telephone.
Ads will be accepted ONLY when they are submitted on this form.

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Phone Number with Area Code (_____) _____

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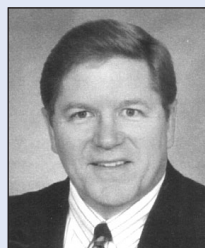
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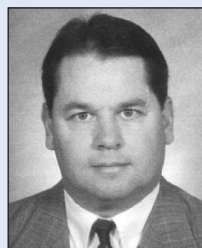
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***ALL UAW Caterpillar Employees
are entitled to the Full Protection of
the Illinois Workers Compensation Act.
No Exceptions!!!***

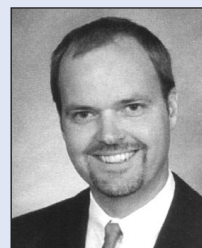
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