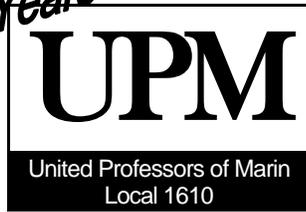


37 Years Strong!



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Volume XXXVI No. 7, July 2011

Union Press

Ponderings of the President

by Ira Lansing

From 1962 to 1981 CBS Evening News employed a broadcast journalist named Walter Cronkite. Cronkite's career actually spanned six decades, dating back to before World War II. He was the voice of what was happening in the country and throughout the world. Opinion polls consistently showed that his trust level ranked higher than presidents and Supreme Court justices (which in those days actually meant something). He was known for his extensive television presence during U.S. space program events, and it was his distinctive voice that shared the excitement of moon landings and the tragedy of presidential assassinations. He ended every news broadcast with his catchphrase: "And that's the way it is." Unlike many TV personalities of today, Walter Cronkite basically did just the news. He did do a few cameo appearances, but his focus was on the news. To that extent he did have one project called "You Are There." This was a television series where Mr. Cronkite

would do a remote interview with historical figures in a setting that was contemporary to the character. For example, he might have interviewed George Washington just before he got into the boat on the Delaware River. Cronkite's questions would always probe the political or social circumstances of the figure and the times. It allowed the viewer to sense first hand what was really happening, or at least to the extent the writers believed it to be the case.

"You Are There" came to mind recently after spending a morning in the UPM office talking with two members from the non-credit ESL program. They wanted to share with me questions and concerns from one of the larger single groups of faculty in the District, and one of the groups that is unlike most others. For example, did you know that non-credit ESL instructors who teach during the semesters (not quarters) on campus are paid on the credit salary schedule even though they are non-credit?

Continued on 2

Did you know that while other part-timers on the credit salary schedule are paid 95% pro-rata, these ESL instructors are paid 80%. Both of these are beneficial consequences of previous negotiations, since all other non-credit instructors, and not just in Marin, are paid on a lower hourly rate salary schedule. These members wanted to know why only 80% during the school year and why during the summer, if they teach the exact same class as during the fall or spring semesters, are they no longer paid on the credit salary schedule.

I actually had the answers to both those questions since *I was there*. I was involved in the Union and was present during the negotiations when we successfully moved these non-credit instructors onto the credit salary schedule. I was there when we negotiated part-time pro-rata pay up from 80% to 87% and ultimately 95%. I am sure I could have found someone in UPM with the answers if I did not have them, and that will always provide UPM with an advantage in future bargaining situations or grievances. We do not have to guess why certain language is the way it is; we know. Someone sitting at the bargaining table or testifying before an arbitrator was there when it was written and knows the intent—and that’s the way it is.

But will this continuity, this oral history if you like, always be the case? One of UPM’s “historians” recently retired.

Michael Brailoff was there when UPM was created, when the first contract was written, and he was there for most of our major lawsuits, and now he is retired. Yes, other people are still around, but who will follow them? You cannot just step into someone else’s shoes, at least not too successfully. There is too much riding on our mistakes and too many people can be affected. You don’t hear the story around the campfire only once from your elder and then become the storyteller yourself. You must become part of the history, part of the traditions, and that only happens if you become involved. There are many different ways and many different opportunities to gain and share experiences. As I have related over the past few columns, UPM is undergoing major changes in how we interact with our members, with other labor organizations on campus and with the community at large. But it cannot always be the same people; those same people will not always be here. As Walter would have said: “And that’s the way it is.”

Think about. Opportunities will present themselves. Grab one. You can always change your mind, but I think you will find the undertaking fairly satisfying. It cannot happen without you. And as I always say, in homage to Mr. Cronkite: Stay in touch, stay informed and stay involved.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, but come back ready and willing.

MCC District Statements of Legal Expenses

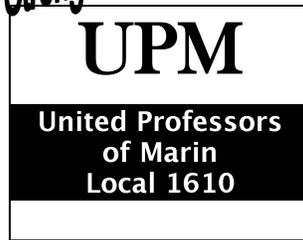
June 28, 2011 Board packet:

Frierson (April) \$2050.00

July 19, 2011 Board packet:

School and College Legal Services (April and May) \$23,527.89

37 Years Strong!



**UPM LOCAL 1610
ANNUAL UNION MEMBERS LUNCHEON
AND
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011
12:00 TO 1:25 PM**

- Please note that this year both the luncheon and meeting will be held in the **KTD Campus Cafeteria!** Lunch and dessert service is provided by Comforts Catering.
- Special Guests:
 - Daniel Martin, Executive Director of CFT
 - Terry Elverum, Regional Manager of CFT
(Who assisted UPM with fact-finding)

PLEASE NOTE: THE MEETING AND LUNCHEON WILL START PROMPTLY AT 12:00 PM. FOOD WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 12:40 PM!

General Membership Meeting Agenda

- 1. President Report:**
 - Future lunch funding - Action item
- 2. Treasurer Report**
- 3. Collective Bargaining Report**
 - Discussion
- 4. Questions and discussion**

CONNECTING THE DOTS

News and Opinion
by Arthur Lutz

EYES ON THE PRIZE

From 1947 through 1961 the legendary comedian Groucho Marx hosted a quiz show on radio and television called ***You Bet Your Life***. The program was really a showcase for Groucho's wit, but it also gave contestants an opportunity to win prize money by answering a series of questions. If they answered correctly their earnings could increase to thousands of dollars. However if a contestant was unsuccessful Groucho would ask a final consolation question to insure that no one left the stage without at least a nominal award of \$25. The consolation question was made foolishly simple to insure that even the least informed participant would be able to answer. Questions like: "*Who is buried in Grant's Tomb?*" or, "*How long does it take to cook a three-minute egg?*" or, "*Why is the President's house in Washington D.C. called the 'White House?'*" For all the years that the show was aired, no contestant ever left without winning the consolation prize. If I were a contestant however, I'm not sure that I would have won.

I would have answered that, "*no one is 'buried' in Grant's Tomb because it is an above ground mausoleum.*" And, "*at high altitudes a 'three minute egg' might take four or five minutes to cook, because water boils*

at a lower temperature at higher elevations."

But the question that surely would have doomed my chances was the one about the *White House*. I would have said that its name had nothing to do with the color it was painted – because it had been painted white since its construction in 1798, yet it wasn't called *The White House* until 1901, over a hundred years later. It was then that President Theodore Roosevelt officially ordered that it be named thus. Prior to Roosevelt's executive order it was called the *President's House*, or the *Executive Mansion*, or the *Presidential Palace*.

The story of why Roosevelt ordered the name change is told in a fascinating new book by Clarence Lusane called, *The Black History of the White House*; (City Lights Books; 2011).

The story is as follows:

When Theodore Roosevelt assumed the Presidency in 1901 upon the assassination of William McKinley, one of his first acts was to invite the African-American political leader/educator, Booker T. Washington (a former slave) to the presidential mansion for dinner. Washington was President of Tuskegee Institute and Roosevelt was keenly aware of Dr. Washington's influence with black voters and was hoping to secure the black vote in the next election.

Continued on 5

But when news of the dinner was reported by the Associated Press, numerous Southern politicians and newspapers expressed outrage and issued scathing denunciations. Typical of their criticism was an editorial in the *Memphis Scimitar* which read:

"The most damnable outrage which has ever been perpetrated by any citizen of the United States was committed yesterday by the President when he invited a nigger to dine with him at the Presidential mansion."

The editorial went on to assert that, *"Southern women with self-respect can no longer accept invitations from the President, nor is President Roosevelt welcome in Southern homes."*

As a result of this white Southern backlash, the very next day after the dinner, Roosevelt (fearful of losing the Southern white vote) announced that henceforth the presidential residence would be called the **WHITE HOUSE**. And for the next 30 years no African-American was ever invited by a president to dine within its walls.

Given this history it becomes clear how and why *The White House* got its name. It had lots to do with color – but little to do with paint.

This story is instructive because it illustrates the obvious and unmistakable institutional racism that shaped our nation's history.

(One might also consider other equally pervasive symbols of institutional racism – e.g. the giant white phallus that looms over the mall at our nation's capital. What message do you think that sends to Americans, especially to Americans of color?)

Clarence Lusane's account teaches us something about American history, but it also suggests that when we answer questions, even foolish questions like the ones that Groucho asked, we should ponder and answer carefully.

I'm thinking about some of the questions that Marin County voters should be pondering and answering carefully when they enter the voting booth in November to elect members of our CoM Board of Trustees. Questions like:

Since the College of Marin is an Educational institution, wouldn't it be appropriate to have trustees who can be called Educators? – who respect and support our college faculty? – who place academic and student needs above the needs of consultants, contractors and litigious attorneys? – Shouldn't we have trustees who are more than just bean-counters, or public relations flacks, or absentee fund-raisers?

If the voters of Marin ponder and answer these questions carefully, we'll all be prize winners.

New UPM Display Case

When you return to the college later this month, you'll notice a new display case outside the UPM office. One goal of the new display is to make Union information more accessible to Union members.

Executive Council member Bonnie Borenstein has taken charge of the display. If you have ideas about it or would like to contribute, contact Bonnie for more information.



UPM Quarter and Annual Budget Reports

The UPM Quarter and Annual Budget reports are available in the UPM office for review. If you would like to view the reports, contact UPM Executive Secretary Teresa Capaldo to set up a time.

CFT/Raoul Teihet Scholarships

Applications for the Raoul Teihet Scholarship are now available at CFT.org.

- Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and continuing college students who are children or dependents of CFT members in good standing, or children of deceased CFT members.
- High school applications must be postmarked by January 10, 2012; college applications must be marked by July 1, 2012. More reminders to come.



August 16–17, 2011

Sheraton Grand Hotel
Sacramento, CA



**California Labor Federation
UFCW Women's Network**

2011 Women of Labor Conference

*Sponsored by the California Labor Federation
and the UFCW Women's Network*

Standing Up, Speaking Out:

California's 2010 Women of Labor conference started a tradition...

- Getting together to empower union women and learn new skills.

- Learning new ways to make a difference at work and in our communities.

- If you joined us last year, join us again. If you missed out, then come see what Women of Labor are all about!

- This year we will "Stand up and Speak out." We will hear from leading labor women and then take our voices to the Capitol to advocate on issues affecting California's women and families.

UPM Membership Application

I hereby apply for membership in the United Professors of Marin, AFT Local 1610

Date: _____ Email: _____

Name _____ SS #: _____

Address: _____ Department: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Campus Ext.: _____

Check the appropriate category:

I am a permanent credit or non-credit employee or leave replacement.

I am a temporary non-credit employee on the quarter system.

I am a temporary credit or non-credit employee on the semester system.

Return to UPM Kentfield campus mailbox or UPM Office, Science Center 136

United Professors of Marin UPM-PAC Payroll Deduction Form

The UPM-PAC (Political Action Committee) provides financial support to candidates and measures that support or benefit education in Marin County and the College of Marin in particular. If you would like to support the UPM-PAC with a monthly contribution, small or large, please fill out the form below and send it to the Payroll Office.

To: Payroll, College of Marin
Date: _____

I hereby authorize the Marin Community College to deduct from my earnings the sum of _____ beginning in the month of _____, _____ (year), and each month thereafter, and to remit this sum to the United Professors of Marin PAC #990958 until I revoke this authorization in writing.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

SSN: _____

UPM

United Professors of Marin
American Federation of Teachers
Local 1610
Box 503
Kentfield, CA 94914

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CCC REPRESENTATIVE Open		
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