



Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

Perspective



New kids on the block

Tough times, but three new AFT local presidents step up to the plate.

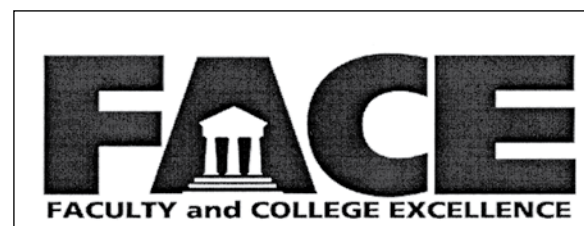
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Prop 25

The Majority Vote Budget Act will reduce the unworkable 2/3 supermajority in the Legislature to simple majority—if you help.

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Saving FACE

CFT pushes FACE resolution through Legislature.

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November 2010 Election Recommendation

ALLOT MEASURES

STATEWIDE OFFICES

**Election 2010:
California at the crossroads**

Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown (D)
Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom (D)
Secretary of State Debra Bowen (D)
Attorney General C. Gary Kistner (D)
State Controller John Chiang (D)
Commissioner of the State Board of Equalization Betty Yee (D)
Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson

Board of Equalization, District 1 Betty Yee (D)
Board of Equalization, District 2

YES 25 Majority Vote Budget

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**Complete state
candidate and ballot
recommendations**

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Taking the lead

Carl Friedlander, CFT Community College Council President

Small but significant wins

We've been able to scratch out some small but significant wins over the last few months. Here's a list:

- State Chancellor Jack Scott agreed to add a CFT classified representative to the Statewide Consultation Council.
- The U.S. Dept. of Education officially notified the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that it is in violation of federal regulations in the way it selects its Commissioners.
- CFT legislative staff succeeded in getting a FACE resolution (ACR 138, Nava) through the legislature.
- The Chancellor's Office terminated its ill-conceived agreement with for-profit Kaplan University.

None of this guarantees us an adequate 2010-11 budget, the defeat of Whitman, the passage of Prop. 25, or an end to the media assault on public employees and their pensions, but all are noteworthy gains warranting some comment.

CFT Classified Representative

Ever since passage of AB 1725 in 1988 established the Consultation Council, the Council's lone classified representative has been appointed by the California School Employees Association (CSEA). This summer Chancellor Scott agreed to add a second classified representative, from CFT's Council of Classified Employees (CCE). His decision came after the introduction of a CFT-sponsored bill by Assemblyman Furutani and a presentation to the Consultation Council that was well-supported by its employee representatives, including CCA/CTA and CSEA. In his announcement, Scott explained that he chose to have the second rep from CCE/CFT rather than from the Classified Senate because "unlike the Academic Senate, the Classified Senate is not recognized in statute and it does not exist

on many college campuses." CFT lobbyist Dolores Sanchez deserves special credit for making this long-held goal a reality.

USDOE Letter to ACCJC

Back in May Chancellor Scott, on behalf of the Accreditation Task Force, wrote to the U.S. Dept. of Education (USDOE) about the procedures used to select ACCJC Commissioners, which, he complained, "led to hand-picked Commissioners who tend to support the views of...Barbara Beno." In late August the USDOE notified ACCJC that "the Commission's processes and procedures by which Commissioners are selected do not meet the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition." The Commission had been rather dismissive of issues raised earlier by Chancellor Scott on behalf of the Accreditation Task Force. We expect that ACCJC will pay much closer attention to concerns raised by the USDOE.

ACR 138

Kudos to Judy Michaels and CFT legislative staff for getting ACR 138 (Nava) through the Legislature. ACR 138 expresses, as legislative intent, the goals of AFT's Faculty and College Excellence (FACE) campaign to increase the number and proportion of fulltime faculty and move part-time faculty toward *pro rata* pay and benefits. As a resolution, ACR 138 does not require the signature of the Governor and has no funding attached to it. But it will certainly be helpful in statewide and local advocacy for the goals and principles of FACE (see article on page 6.)

Kaplan Deal Undone

We were stunned to learn in February 2010 that the Chancellor's Office, without bringing the idea to Consultation, had signed a two-year MOU with for-profit Kaplan University offering our students a discount

None of this guarantees us an adequate 2010-11 budget, the defeat of Whitman, the passage of Prop. 25, or an end to the media assault on public employees and their pensions, but all are noteworthy gains.

on Kaplan classes. Kaplan recruiters, long on promises but short on articulation agreements, showed up in force on community college campuses across the state.

We urged Chancellor Scott to create an *ad hoc* Task Force to review the MOU and the process that led to it, and to make recommendations. He agreed. I served on the Task Force, along with ASCCC President Jane Patton and CCA/CTA President Ron Reel. We were clear about the recommendation we wanted to see from the Task Force: invoke the provision in the MOU allowing either party to terminate with thirty days notice.

In the three months since we made our recommendation, America's for-profit colleges have provided ample evidence that our recommendation was a wise one. The media have been filled with stories exposing the sleazy practices of the for-profit

higher education world. Federal investigators have published videos of for-profit recruiters lying to undercover investigators (who the recruiters believed to be prospective students) about costs and job prospects. The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, chaired by Tom Harkin, has shone a bright light on these scoundrels in a report entitled *Emerging Risk?: An Overview of Growth, Spending, Student Debt and Unanswered Questions in For-Profit Higher Education* and in an ongoing series of compelling hearings. And Kaplan has been shown to be one of the more serious abusers.

So we all breathed a sigh of relief when we read the Aug. 17 memo from the Chancellor's Office abrogating the ill-advised agreement.

These victories are worth talking about. But given the huge battles we now face, we'd best not dwell on them. ☐

MARK YOUR 2010 CALENDAR

November 2	Election Day
November 6	CFT Executive Council, CFT Office, Burbank
December 4	Community College Council, Hilton Oakland Airport, Oakland
January 8	Executive Council, CFT Office, Alameda
January 29	CFT Committees, LA Valley College, Los Angeles
February 7-8	CFT Leadership Conference, Crowne Plaza, SFO

Perspective

The California Federation of Teachers is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

The CFT represents over 120,000 educational employees working at every level of education in California. The CFT is committed to raising the standards of the profession and to securing the conditions essential to provide the best service to California's students.

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Stepping up

Three new local presidents face budget cuts and challenges

It takes courage to run for election as local president when state spending for education is being slashed, and community colleges are feeling the impact in cancelled classes, pink slips for instructors and cutbacks in services. But in three of California's largest districts, Los Angeles, Ventura and San Francisco, new leaders have stepped forward to help their unions make it through the tough times.

"This clearly wasn't going to be easy," says Alisa Messer, who began her term as president of the San Francisco Community College Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2121, on June 1. "But it's also an opportunity to find ways in which all of our members can work together, and to reinforce the connection between their welfare and what's happening in the world outside our campuses."

For Joanne Waddell in Los Angeles, it's an even bigger transition. She's been a health and physical education teacher at

vanized our union, and made us pay attention to politics in a way we never had before. We hadn't really understood the power of the board over people's lives, or the power of a mobilized membership to influence decisions over what's good for education."

Waddell ran for executive board of the local in 1992, but still felt like an outsider when she came to meetings. She became her campus' grievance representative four years later, and then her campus chapter president. That's when she says

ment has been increasing. The district says we're more productive now, but can we really say that 60 people in a math class sitting on the floor is a situation we can accept?"

One decision made by the local helped to avoid even further cuts. A year ago faculty joined CalPERS. "By changing our approach to healthcare, we saved the district between \$12-20 million dollars," she emphasizes.

The union contract expires June 30, so among the challenges Waddell faces are identifying

ence as dean helped in negotiations. "It's useful to have a basic understanding of management's perspective on how things should work," he says. "During negotiations its easier to anticipate the other side's response, and to articulate arguments that can help bridge the gap and find common ground. Our board is not anti-faculty. They're willing to meet and listen."

To keep that board friendly, the local has a political action program that is endorsing a candidate for the open board seat, and will work for that candidate's election. "We are also going to contribute actively to the CFT effort to pass Proposition 25, to remove the two-thirds requirement for voting on

explains Alisa Messer, the local's new president. "There's not a lot to cut except people."

In that situation, it's easy for cuts to fall heavily on programs providing services to students, especially working-class students of color, like those funded by Equal Opportunity Programs and Services. "We need to do all we can to ensure that students have access to these programs. These don't build FTE or revenue directly," Messer says, "but they are the ones that help students do well in the classes we teach, and affect their educational experience generally. And they're also staffed by our members, so we've worked with the district to maintain them and to avoid layoffs. In the local there's been

It was a big jump from being a teacher doing union work to becoming a full time union officer.

Valley College, one of the nine campuses of the huge Los Angeles Community College District, since 1977. "I'm still getting used to not teaching," she explains. "It's a huge change. I've never even worked in an office before."

And for Steve Hall, the new president of the Ventura County Federation of College Teachers, AFT Local 1828, it's one more change in his relation to the traditional divide between administration and union. Hall began teaching math at Oxnard College, one of the Ventura district's three campuses, fifteen years ago. After several years he became Oxnard's Dean of Math, Science and Health, a position he held for six years. Then family reasons led him to return to teaching, and not long after, he joined the union negotiating committee. When the team's leader stepped down, he stepped in. Then local president John Wagner stepped down, and Hall was persuaded to run unopposed for the position.

Layoffs mobilize faculty

Waddell's commitment to the union dates from 1986, when an earlier budget crisis led to huge staff cuts. "The layoffs of 1986 were seared into my brain," she recalls. "That's what really gal-

she truly began to understand the protections in AFT Local 1521's contract. "I used it to help win things for people, and even district personnel told me that 'it makes us better administrators,'" she recalls. "One of the best parts of having that contract is that faculty are not afraid to speak up."

Nevertheless, it was a big jump from being a teacher doing union work to becoming a full time union officer. At the same time the previous union leadership was stepping down, the district was also seeing the departure of key personnel in human relations and benefit services. "That leadership void means that the old relationships that got things done aren't there anymore. So the first thing we had to do was to figure out who was responsible for what, and then work to establish new relationships between the people involved," Waddell says.

That had to be done while the budget crisis was causing havoc throughout the state. "In Los Angeles we made cuts over the past three years, so we didn't experience layoffs or furloughs," she explains, "but a lot of classes were eliminated. That deeply affected our adjunct faculty, who make up half our membership. We lost hundreds of sections and the adjuncts who taught those classes, at the same time enroll-



Joanne Waddell, Steve Hall, and Alisa Messer.

new leaders for the negotiating team, and surveying the membership. "We know the money's not in the state budget, so that's our big challenge. But we also have the chance now to concentrate on quality of work-life issues that don't get as much attention in other times."

Challenging time to negotiate

Steve Hall in Ventura says that "it's a challenging time to negotiate." The Ventura district, with 1100 current faculty, lost over 200 part-time positions. The union contract was recently settled by rolling over the old agreement, two months after it had expired. "We're three months into the budget year, and there's still no information from the state. With the current economic uncertainty, we felt the best we could do was to maintain the status quo, including no change in our healthcare benefits."

Hall believes that his experi-



the state budget. That would mean an enormous improvement for us."

Hall helped the local prepare a list of challenges, which starts with the election activity. Other items on the list include providing leadership and mobilizing members for negotiations, developing the resources for stewards, a communications plan focused on increased use of Internet tools, and reviewing the union's governance practices.

Spreading the sacrifice

In San Francisco, Local 2121 tried to ensure that the impact of budget cuts didn't fall disproportionately on any one group of faculty. The compensation agreement for this year includes a one-year 1% across-the-board reduction to spread what was deemed a necessary sacrifice among all faculty. "Ninety percent of the district's budget goes for personnel, and we're getting \$20 million less from the state,"



PHOTOS BY CHRIS HANZO AND CHERRI SENDERS

a lot of unity around these issues. No one's happy to lose wages, but we've protected jobs and allowed the district to continue classes that would otherwise have been cut."

That can be a hard decision, especially for a new local president who faced a contested election. "In good times it's easy to do things for people," Messer points out. "I'm coming in at the most challenging budget time in anyone's memory. Everyone's had to share the pain here; even administrators have had their salaries cut. But there's an incredible dedication among our faculty."

For many years Messer was a freeway flyer, and her introduction into union activity was as a part-time representative and newsletter editor at Cabrillo College. Later she became northern California chair of the part-time committee of the CFT's Community College Council, and eventually the council's vice-

Continued on page 7

Jerry Brown in 2010

Governor's race offers clear choice

When Jerry Brown was governor of California—just one chapter in his lifetime of public service—California's K-12 schools and higher education systems received adequate funding and delivered on the promise of the state's master plans for education.

Example: I graduated college and went to grad school at public universities in California while Brown was governor. When I finished my post-baccalaureate education, I was poor, but not in debt. I had earned two masters degrees, which allowed me to teach in community colleges, and ultimately buy a home and support a family—my own little version of the American dream.

Of course, this was not all Jerry Brown's doing. The 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education, which laid out the principle that free higher education was a right for all Californians who chose to pursue it, was drafted during the first (Pat) Brown administration. And the dominant paradigm in that era—unlike in the past thirty years—supported the notions that government existed to help, and funding schools properly represented an investment in our collective future well-being. Jerry Brown's ability to govern well rested on this consensus. But Brown moved the ball farther down the field, too.

Brown's legacy

Among other accomplishments, Brown signed collective bargaining laws for public employees and agricul-

tural workers, including SB 160, the Educational Employment Relations Act, which enabled community college faculty to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with community college districts. These were historic gains for enormous groups of people who had been left out of the National Labor Relations Act, and form the basis of what economic leverage remains today for public school employees in the Great Recession.

Brown made major investments in the California education system, both for K-12 programs and for higher education. Under Brown's leadership, funding for K-12 education quadrupled, and he substantially expanded funding for the University of California and California State University systems. Brown also increased the funding for Cal Grant awards by 50%, helping more low-income students attend college.

Jerry Brown has a direct understanding of community college issues; his first elected office was as a trustee on the Board of the Los Angeles Community College District. This may explain why Brown as governor improved funding for apprenticeship programs and established the California Worksite Education and Training Act (CWETA). CWETA provided job-training programs and jobs to students in areas such as farming, electronics, and nursing.

Brown wants to turn around the trends that have been moving in the wrong direction for decades. As he said recently, "When I was governor, the price students paid for a higher education was a fraction of what it is today. At that time, the state devoted 3 to 4 times more to higher education than to prisons; today that ratio is even. That's not right." Brown is also committed to encouraging

the State Board of Education to provide better support for English learners and promises to expand after-school and summer school programs to complement English Learning programs.

Whitman's Wall Street Ways

By contrast with Brown's progressive actions, his opponent in the November election, Meg Whitman, offers an extension of Arnold Schwarzenegger's corporate-oriented, anti-education, anti-union agenda, only worse.

The Wall Street vision Meg Whitman wants to bring to California is responsible for millions of lost jobs and home foreclosures. She has longstanding ties with some of the most notorious players responsible for collapsing the economy and taking billions from taxpayers in bailouts. While sitting on the board of directors of Goldman Sachs, Whitman personally netted millions in profits while rubberstamping the creation of complex financial transactions such as mortgage-backed securities that laid the basis for the housing bubble and collapse.

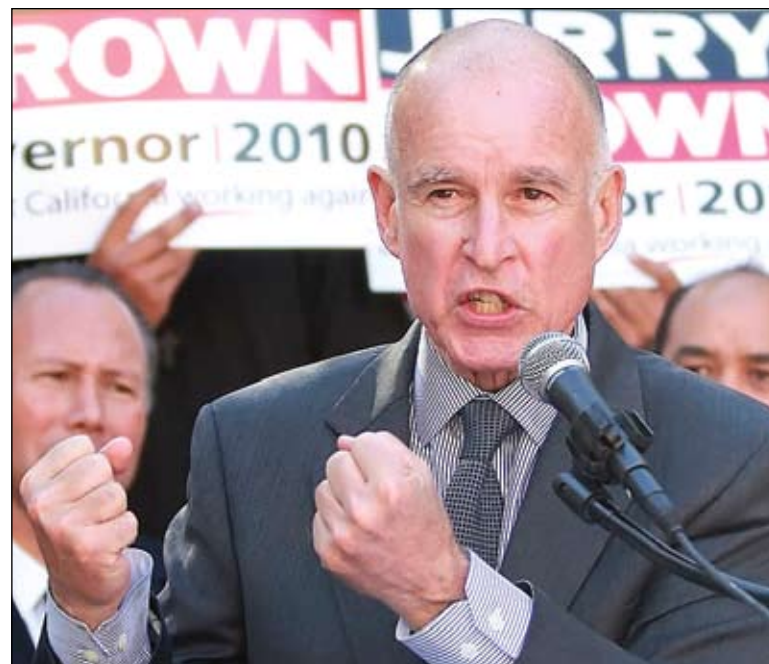
Everywhere billionaire Whitman goes, private sector jobs disappear. She cut 10% of her own workforce at eBay, leaving more than 1,000 workers unemployed. She has a long record of aggressively supporting outsourcing as a corporate executive. She says the first thing she'll do if she becomes governor is slash the jobs of 40,000 nurses, teachers, librarians and other state workers. And she wants to increase funding to higher education—by cutting a billion dollars from services to the poorest Californians.

Meg Whitman has spent more than \$120 million to buy the GOP primary and, she hopes, the general election November 2. This is the most money any rich person has ever spent on purchasing an elected position. Her plan to buy the Governor's office with her corporate fortune directly poses the question: is our democracy for sale to the highest bidder?

Unlike Jerry Brown, who has the experience of serving the people of California in local and state elected offices for decades, Meg Whitman has so little concern for the issues facing ordinary California families that she couldn't even bother to register—let alone vote—in most California elections. She now agrees that this was "wrong."

Let's let her know just how wrong. Jerry Brown for governor. ☐

Fred Glass



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KEN LANE PHOTO

Top: Jerry Brown speaking at Laney College rally. Bottom: Jerry, shown here in 1976 with then-CFT president Raoul Teillet and Legislative Director (later president) Mary Bergan, has always been accessible to CFT.

What's at stake on November 2

In this election are two opposing camps. One supports public education. The other would accelerate the decline of public education and other important services. One gubernatorial candidate, Jerry Brown, stands with working families and a commitment to restore the promise of public education.

The other candidate for governor, billionaire Meg Whitman, has voted just a few times in her life. She is attempting to buy the election with the fortune she made as a corporate CEO. She is committed to slashing public employee pensions and retirement benefits, and to cutting one billion dollars worth of services to the poorest Californians.

The ballot measures present a similar clear choice. We can restore democracy to the state budget by voting Yes on Prop 25; add support to education and public services with Yes on Prop 24; and prevent oil and insurance corporations from polluting more and escaping public oversight with No on Props 23 and 26.

Information on these pages was drawn from a number of sources, including the web sites of the campaigns, the Consumer Federation of California, and the California Labor Federation, among others. For more on the elections go to www.cft.org.



Proposition 24: The Tax Fairness Act

During the 2009 state budget disaster, Sacramento politicians and big corporations cut a deal behind closed doors to give huge tax breaks to some of the state's largest corporations. This deal with legislators was deferred for two years, but will mean \$1.7 billion in tax breaks yearly for the state's biggest and wealthiest corporations starting in 2011.

Prop 24, the Tax Fairness Act, proposes instead to keep our Legislature from making deeper cuts to public schools and services by repealing these harmful special corporate tax loopholes.

These corporations made no guarantees that a single job would be created or saved to get

this handout. The corporations receive these tax breaks, but can still send jobs overseas or to other states.

In 1980, California corporations contributed nearly 15% of the state budget through fair tax revenues. Today, before enactment of the provisions of this tax loophole, corporate tax revenue is down to 11% of the state budget. When large corporations pay less, California taxpayers pay more. Prop 24 will end tax loopholes that unfairly benefit a tiny number of California's wealthiest corporations. Voting yes on Prop 24 puts our public schools, health care and safety ahead of unnecessary and unreasonable tax breaks for large corporations. ☐☐☐

Proposition 26: Polluters Should Pay For The Harm They Cause

As if we don't have enough trouble in California due to our status as the only state in the nation that requires a 2/3 vote both to increase taxes and to pass a state budget, here's yet another nasty example of enormous corporations attempting to reduce democracy in the legislative process, and to increase corporate influence, by creating yet another 2/3 bar.

Currently it takes a simple majority of the Legislature or a local government agency to levy a mitigation fee on a business activity that harms the environment, public health or safety. Prop 26 would reclassify these

fees as taxes, therefore making them subject to approval by two-thirds of the Legislature for state fees or by a two-thirds majority vote in a local election for local fees.

Big oil, tobacco and alcohol producers spent over \$2 million to qualify Prop 26 for the ballot—and are spending millions more to win in November. The measure would shift the costs of pollution cleanup or remedying harm to public health off of industry and onto the backs of the rest of us.

If Prop 26 had already been law, it would have taken 2/3 for fees on paint manufacturers to

test children for exposure to lead paint, and fees on oil companies to enforce used oil recycling programs.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, Proposition 26 would blow an additional billion dollar hole into the state budget.

Proposition 26 closely resembles Prop 37, which appeared before voters ten years ago. CFT belonged to a progressive coalition of labor, consumer, environmental, and public health groups that defeated it. This year, big oil, tobacco and alcohol corporations plan to spend even more money to pass Prop 26. ☐☐☐

Proposition 25: Majority Vote Budget

The polls show that California Legislators are about as popular with the public as a visit to the orthodontist. Californians are angry at the Legislature because our elected officials are not doing one of the most important parts of their job: devising a state budget in a timely fashion.

But what most people don't know is that Legislators are prevented from performing this aspect of their job. A requirement that 2/3 of the Legislature is needed to pass a state budget has created political gridlock through a tyranny of the minority. The Majority Vote Budget Act would restore democracy to Sacramento and break open the gridlock through majority rule.

As of this writing California has gone 75 days over its deadline for a budget. School and community college districts, and health clinics, have begun to borrow money to meet their obligations. California's credit rating has plunged to the lowest in the country, costing taxpayers more for the state to do its business.

Only three out of fifty states

require a 2/3 vote for a budget. Changing California to majority rule would bring back a functioning government. We elect Legislators through majority rule, and in a democracy they should be able to conduct their work through majority rule.

The 2/3 requirement opens the door to control of our state by corporate special interests, who can manipulate a small group of legislators to do their bidding. All it takes to block passage of the state budget—on which thirty seven million people depend—is the refusal of one third of the State Senate, or fourteen individuals, to vote for it. The Assembly, with eighty members, may have passed a budget. The governor might want to sign that budget. Twenty-six out of forty senators may want to pass it. But just 14 senators can stop the whole process in its tracks.

What kind of damage can an ideologically inclined minority do by holding up the budget process? We only have to look at 2008. As the budget stalemate dragged on, the

Legislative majority grew increasingly concerned about a looming shutdown of state services to the disabled, the sick, and the elderly. To prevent this from happening, the majority agreed to \$2 billion in corporate tax loopholes demanded by the minority. These loopholes benefit a tiny number of large corporations, at the expense of adequately funding schools, public safety, and public health programs.

Other items unrelated to the budget, but on the political wish list of the minority, have been inappropriately thrown into the end game of the process over the past several years. These non-budgetary items have included

- elimination of time and a half pay for working more than eight hours in a day;
- gutting environmental regulations; and
- holding up the entire process until the majority agreed to place a measure on the state ballot in exchange for one legislator's budget vote!

Such actions result in the budget deadlocks we experience each year. As a result, the CFT, along with a number of allies, is proposing reform of this dysfunctional budget process. Under Prop 25,

- the undemocratic and unworkable Legislative two thirds vote on the state budget would become a simple majority, like it is in almost every other state;
- Legislators would forfeit their pay permanently for each day the budget is late;

- the two-thirds requirement for raising taxes (a separate constitutional law) would be maintained; separate action will be required in a future election to address the issue of adequate revenue for education and other social services through progressive tax policies.

Coalition partners include, in addition to CFT, California Nurses Association, California Professional Firefighters, Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, California State PTA, and many others. For more information: www.endbudgetgridlock.com. ☐☐☐



November 2010 Election Recommendations

BALLOT MEASURES

- NR 19**
Legalize Marijuana
- NO 20**
Redistrict Congressional Districts
- YES 21**
VLF Surcharge for State Parks
- NR 22**
Prohibit the State from Taking Local Funds
- NO 23**
Suspend Air Pollution Control Laws (AB 32)
- YES 24**
Repeal Corporate Tax Loopholes
- YES 25**
Majority Vote Budget
- NO 26**
Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Fees
- YES 27**
Eliminate Commission on Redistricting

STATEWIDE OFFICES

- Governor**
Edmund "Jerry" Brown (D)
- Lieutenant Governor**
Gavin Newsom (D)
- Secretary of State**
Debra Bowen (D)
- Attorney General**
Kamala Harris (D)
- Controller**
John Chiang (D)
- Treasurer**
Bill Lockyer (D)
- Insurance Commissioner**
Dave Jones (D)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction**
Tom Torlakson
- Board of Equalization, District 1**
Betty Yee (D)
- Board of Equalization, District 2**
Chris Parker (D)
- Board of Equalization, District 3**
No Recommendation
- Board of Equalization, District 4**
Jerome Horton

ACT AS IF PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPENDS ON THIS ELECTION. IT DOES.

More info: www.cft.org



Legislative Update

Judith Michaels, CFT Legislative Director

At Last: Legislature votes for Faculty and College Excellence (FACE)

ACR 138 passed both houses on a bipartisan vote of the California Legislature just before the session ended August 31, 2010. It expressed the intent of the Legislature that California's community colleges provide part-time faculty with equitable pay and benefits, and that the state's community colleges have 75% of their faculty on the tenure track. It was chaptered and filed September 9, 2010 with the Secretary of State. According to the Resolution, it will be transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the Assembly to the governing board of each district of the California Community Colleges. The CFT Community College Council will be discussing tactics to ensure that local district governing boards work on making FACE a reality.

We drafted FACE as a resolution rather than a bill because of California's economic situation and because resolutions do not demand a governor's signature in order to be codified. Given Governor Schwarze's track record on teacher rights during layoff, seniority, and collective bargaining, we doubted that a signature would be forthcoming.

Catalyst for strategy

Local community college district elected boards must engage constructively on the need to hire additional full-time faculty and the imperative to treat their part-time faculty fairly. This resolution will serve as a catalyst for community college administrators and faculty working together to develop a long-term

strategy for implementing an equitable and sustainable staffing structure to serve the needs of California's students.

The resolution achieves an important policy goal of the American Federation of Teachers, and our Legislature's approval of ACR 138 will serve as an incentive for other states to match it. Nearly five years ago, in response to the national academic staffing crisis, the AFT began a two-pronged approach, linking collective bargaining with state legislative action. While collective bargaining remains the most effective way to bring about change for individual faculty at specific campuses, legislative pressure can change the tone at bargaining tables. Districts have traditionally resisted bargaining staffing levels; history reveals that, despite

successful contracts throughout California, state officials can waive the full-time ratios embodied in law.

The national campaign strives to enact two core beliefs:

- our system of higher education benefits from having a full-time instructional workforce with job protections, and
- all faculty members, whether working full- or part-time, should be compensated fairly.

CFT supports phasing in these goals over time through organizing, legislative advocacy and collective bargaining to ensure that contingent faculty do not lose assignments. Our union documents this approach through many convention resolutions, coupled with introducing bills into the legislature on the subject, the first being AB 1343 in 2008.

National effort

Eleven states, including California, introduced FACE legislation in 2008. These measures alerted state legislatures to the problem, and set the stage for victory in Oregon last year

and California this year. As in California, Oregon legislators stopped the bill on fiscal grounds until a work group proposed amendments to make progress on at least some issues. Oregon's new law places the goals of FACE in statute, gives faculty who teach at multiple institutions access to a health insurance benefit pool, and requires mandatory reporting of the number of adjunct faculty, a critical first step to obtain consistent data.

budget. These three categorical budget lines may be unique in the country.

As long as employers deny part-time faculty members such basics as health and pension benefits, and the ability to participate in college governance, our colleges and universities will continue wasting crucial human resources, with students finding it more difficult to achieve their educational goals. Students need additional full-time positions, better-supported part-time



California had taken this step in studies done early this century by the Bureau of State Audits and by the California Post-Secondary Education Commission, as a result of the passage of AB 420, signed in 1999 by Governor Davis. Earlier legislation had created two budget line items to assist districts in funding part-time office hours and health benefits. Governor Davis included the part-time faculty parity line item, at CFT's request, in his

positions, and real opportunities for adjunct faculty who wish to move into full-time positions. CFT will continue to fight for quality education in the legislature, at the bargaining table, and on the campaign trail.

ACR 138 is now part of the foundation of these efforts. Congratulations to all of the activists who were instrumental in making academic staffing a legislative priority in California. ☐

Judith Michaels

Book Brief

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU, by Harvey Schwartz University of Washington Press

One of the most important tools available to the historian of recent social movements is oral history. A few practitioners of this art have achieved renown—Studs Terkel comes to mind—but fame and fortune are not precisely what the field is about. A focus on the lives of ordinary working people who happened to be union activists, in their own words, should be required reading in our high school curriculum, so that students, most of whom are future workers, might understand how each generation

has to defend its rights lest they erode and disappear.

Solidarity Stories is an especially sharp example of the genre. Author Harvey Schwartz, a member of AFT 2121 at San Francisco City College, draws on oral histories he conducted for the past thirty years for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. His subjects present us with unvarnished but often moving tales from one of the country's most militant and progressive unions.

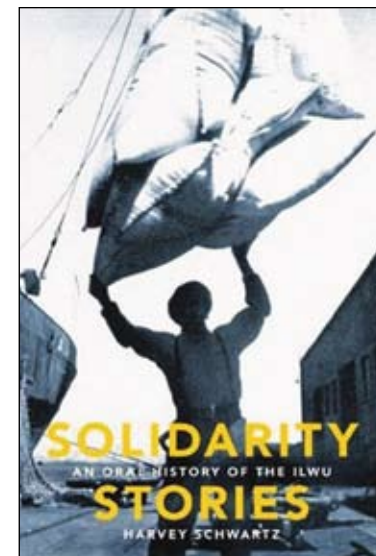
Schwartz's interviews reach back to the era before the San

Francisco General Strike of 1934. Harry Bridges colorfully details the conditions that led to that massive eruption of worker power. The legendary longshoreman and labor leader, however, is joined in the pages of *Solidarity Stories* by workers who most people outside the ILWU have never heard of, like Walter Williams, who battled discrimination against African Americans during World War II in defense work in Los Angeles. We find Loyd Seeliger, who taught Latino community activist Burt Corona how to organize. And

in a more contemporary vein, we hear from Mary Winzig, who helped her fellow workers gain a union and first contract at Powell's in Portland, Oregon, the largest independent bookstore in the United States.

Schwartz's skilful interviews and editing, and the remarkable narratives of courage and creativity shown by the people who talked with him, make *Solidarity Stories* a fine reader for courses on social change and how it happens—from the bottom up. ☐

Fred Glass



Seattle heat wave

My adventures at the AFT National Convention

When I stepped out of my car in downtown Seattle the day before the AFT National Convention in July, I was hit by a gust of 90-degree heat that took my breath away. The pea soup atmosphere made the prospect of spending the next four days inside an air-conditioned convention hall with 3,000 of my union sisters and brothers much more palatable. However, as I was to find, several of us ultimately brought some of our own heat into the ballroom on the next-to-the last day of the convention.

The theme of this year's convention was "Building Futures Together," and delegates from all over the U.S. were fired up to see how the AFT national would deal with the tough times we're facing. As I had hoped, the AFT leadership is developing some key campaigns to address not only diminished public funding and support for education, but also the assault on teachers currently raging across the country.

On the first two days AFT National President Randi Weingarten (who, not incidentally, was running for re-election during the convention and used her platform to win overwhelmingly on the last day) gave some energetic speeches outlining the ways teachers have been lambasted for not doing enough, for being greedy, for being incompetent—you know the drill. From the "Pink Hearts Not Pink Slips" campaign, to the FACE project, which addresses the needs of higher education (see page 6), the AFT national has been working to change the

rhetoric about teachers and to make the point that real reform comes when all the stakeholders are at the table.

No CFT resolutions

As CFT President Marty Hittelman noted, none of the resolutions CFT brought to the convention made it to the floor, which was disappointing. However, there were still some encouraging things. For example, the Human Rights Committee brought an amendment to the floor that condemned Arizona's anti-immigrant law, AB 1070, which despite some dissenting voices, passed handily. Other resolutions addressed teachers' evaluations and curriculum reform.

On a bright note, CFT got the Militancy Award at the Higher Education Breakfast, which recognized the tremendous effort that went into the March for California's Future. I was proud of CFT's commitment to such an action and of Marty's powerful acceptance

speech. Some video clips from the March were also shown on the General Session floor though it was a bit disappointing that no one from California was asked to address the delegates about the March and the lessons it might hold for national AFT community outreach efforts. Instead, delegates were treated to a speech by someone from the NFL Players Association, which struck some of us as odd. AFT national has a ways to go before it can offer our members much guidance on social unionism.

Another highlight was AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who brought the house to its feet with a fiery address lauding the efforts of teachers and desecrating those who seek to de-professionalize us. It was fantastic to hear a labor leader make cogent and impassioned connections between other workers in social services and those represented by our union, and to honor the work we do with our students, clients, and communities.

Fallout from education "reform"

NAACP President Benjamin Jealous also spoke, as did an array of Washington state's elected officials, all supporters of education. Absent were representatives from the Obama Administration such as Education Secretary Arne Duncan. Since a good portion of the proceedings dealt with the fallout from education "reform" and Race to the Top inequities, the omission of these officials sent a message that teachers are serious when they critique reform efforts that happen in a top-down manner and don't allow for us—the professionals at the center of education—to have a hand in fixing our schools' problems. From using testing data in teacher evaluations to firing whole faculties in low-performing schools, much of the rhetoric coming from the Obama Administration with regard to education has been deeply troubling.

While the tough talk at the convention was a crowd pleaser, many of us in California wish the national had matched that with less compromise and accommodation when it comes to actual policy. Thus I thought it was wholly appropriate that no government officials were present at the AFT Convention.

The Bill Gates puzzler

Deeply puzzling to many of my colleagues in my local and to others in attendance, however, was the AFT Convention committee's decision to invite Bill Gates to be a keynote speaker given his penchant for privatization. Consequently, when it was time for Gates to speak, a group of us chose to walk out in protest. I was even more dismayed by President Weingarten's warm welcome of Gates, and her taunting of those of us who decided to walk out, because this flew in the face of the convention's overall message. Many of the delegates clearly did not share our ire. I hope that, in exercising our right to protest, we raised some questions in their minds about the pitfalls of compromising too much with those who have big wallets and suspect agendas.

The AFT Convention in Seattle was a mixed bag. Still, all CFT members should check out a national convention at some point in their lives. While it is not always what one might expect it is always interesting and it is important to know how the national does business. ☐

by Kelly Mayhew, VP of Political Action, AFT Local 1931, San Diego

ELLEN BANNER PHOTO



CFT president Marty Hittelman accepts the AFT higher education "Militancy Award" at AFT Convention on behalf of the CFT's March for California Future.

Member Profiles Continued from page 3

president. She finally got a job closer to home in San Francisco, became a member of AFT 2121's executive board, and after several years, gained a tenured full time position.

"I've always believed that we have to work together in the union to create the conditions that allow us to be the educators we want to be," she declares. "And I also believe strongly that we have to find the ways to connect our union, and our beliefs in social justice, to the world of our students and the communities we live in."

Those beliefs made her a good fit for Local 2121. As soon as the state budget crisis developed, the union began mobilizing members. Local 2121 funded the

majority of the college's dozens of buses to Sacramento for the rally to save community colleges on March 22.

"We worked closely with student government and activists to sign people up, and made a commitment at the beginning of the year to help fund this. At a time when we faced the budget cuts, it showed that we really wanted to prioritize our political response," Messer says. "Now we're already working on Proposition 25. We've hired two field organizers to help us organize for the election. We're getting our members mobilized, and then we'll work on outreach to our students." ☐

David Bacon

Local Action

Los Angeles

Intern program helps students become political force

When the Los Angeles Community College Faculty Guild, AFT Local 1521, set up a student internship program several years ago, its goal from the beginning was to inspire students to take an active role in electoral politics. If Marcos Perez is at all typical, that goal has been fulfilled.

"This is the best thing I could have ever done," he says of his two years as an intern. Perez is a political science major at Los Angeles Valley College. "Before, I was just taking classes and working, not understanding the relevance of what I was learning. The internship has been a real learning experience. I can't even put a price on how much the organizing skills I've gained will mean to me. I want to teach poly sci now—that's my dream."

I think students became more active. They saw they could play a significant role in the basic issues that affect them—whether they'll be able to find classes this year, or how much more they'll have to pay in fees.

Perez is one of 54 student interns in the LA Community College District. Last year they arranged 72 meetings between students and state legislators. They told legislators what the impact of the cuts they were debating would mean in their own lives.

Student organizers

Students organized 18 rallies, often drawing hundreds of



Student interns Jessica Gallardo and Jonathan Recinos (right) register their fellow students to vote at Valley College in LACCD.

students. Legislators came out to the campuses to speak and, importantly, to listen. Explaining the budget impact to politicians changed the lives of students like Perez. "When students first speak to legislators, lots of them are shy," says Zack Knorr, the internship program's coordinator. "But the experience and the training we provide is so successful that

students go on to give training sessions themselves for other students, and even faculty."

Last year's rallies and trainings took place as an upsurge of activity swept through community colleges and the state's entire educational system. In March thousands attended a Los Angeles rally to save public education, and later that month, community college students and teachers from across the state descended on Sacramento to fight fee increases and

cuts to classes and services. Perez was there for both, as a participant and a photographer, documenting history as he helped to make it.

"Throughout this past summer, eight interns served full-time with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's Union Summer program," notes Carl Friedlander, CFT/CCC president. "It was really exciting for everyone, because they helped enormously in the Federation's key campaigns, like the Clean Car Wash effort and a hotel organizing campaign, and bused to Arizona to help there too."

"I think students became more active as a result," Perez says. "They saw they could play a significant role in the basic issues that affect them—whether they'll be able to find classes this year, or how much more they'll have to pay in fees."

As an intern, this year Perez is registering students to vote, and trying to explain why they should help pass Proposition 25. "I tell them, if there's no budget, no one gets a Cal Grant, that the writing center and math lab will close, that there will be fewer classes. Many don't realize it takes a two-thirds vote to pass a budget, and how that affects them. Commu-

nity college students are workers and commuters, so it's hard to get them involved unless you can show how the Proposition will make life different for them."

Political growth

"Most of our interns got involved at first by coming to a rally or event," Knorr explains. "But then they grow politically, and develop organizing skills." Thirty-six hours of training for interns is provided annually by the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute and the LA Trade Tech Center.

"Our biggest problem is that most students aren't registered," Knorr says, "so that's step one."

The activity that follows includes getting students to sign voter commitment cards. The internship program hopes to get 10,000 signatures for the November election. GOTV work by interns will include at least one Saturday of precinct-walking, and a total of 1400 hours at labor phone banks.

Throughout this period, education events will be organized on all the campuses, and interns will continue organizing meetings with legislators to ensure they're heard in budget negotiations. In addition, 30 interns will go to Arizona to register voters and protest the state's anti-immigrant actions. CCC

By David Bacon



Following a meeting at Merritt College in early September where U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan talked about the "profession" of community college teaching, Peralta Federation of Teachers president Debby Weintraub asks a tough question about the plight of community college part-timers in an era of increasingly contingent employment.

In Memoriam: Scott Suneson

Scott Suneson died at his home on May 5, 2010 at the age of 62. Over two decades he taught Political Science and Sociology at Sacramento City College, Sierra College, Yuba College, and CSU Sacramento.

A lot of people talk about the problems faced by contingent community college faculty. Scott Suneson didn't just talk. An activist against the war in Viet Nam, he continued the fight for social justice in his commitment to his students and to teacher unionism. One of his classroom assignments was meant to introduce his students to standing up for what they believed in. He would ask them to select a subject that interested them, and to engage in a public, peaceful demonstration to draw attention to the cause.

Suneson loved to teach, and received Sierra College's "Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award" three years running.

CFT Secretary Treasurer Dennis Smith, who served together



Bottom: Scott Suneson, left, confers with then-CCC president Tom Tyner before testifying at AB 420 hearing, 1999.

with Suneson on the Los Rios Community College Federation of Teachers executive board, recalled, "Scott Suneson was a giant in fighting for the rights of part-time community college faculty."

Scott served as CFT Part-Time Faculty Coordinator in the late 1990s. His work with then-CCC President Tom Tyner and CFT Political Director Judith Michaels eventuated in the passage of path-breaking state budget categorical lines to pay for office hours, salary schedule parity, and access to health care for part-time faculty.

Scott leaves his wife, Sandra Anderson, who he met at Sierra College, and his two children, Jeff Suneson and Lisa Rappaport. Suneson fought for nine years against liver cancer before succumbing to the disease.

The Sierra College Foundation established a scholarship in his name: Sierra College Foundation, 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin CA 95677, (916) 660-7020.