



Local 1610

College of  
MARIN

## The Local Counterpoint—October 9, 2007

### A whole lot is happening...

—or not happening—depending on your perspective. It becomes even more important that everyone stay as current as possible on what is going on. To assist with this goal, the **UPM Executive Council** has authorized this *weekly* publication so you can be as informed as possible. In addition, there will be *monthly* membership “get togethers” with UPM President **Ira Lansing** or other members of the Executive Council, where issues can be discussed, information shared and questions asked and answered. Tentatively these meetings will occur at the end of the month and be held as follows:

Thursdays: 3:30 pm

Fridays: 11:00 am

Mondays: 4:00 pm

Exact dates and locations will be sent out in a flyer beforehand

### Bargaining team meets with the District!

Slowly progressing—or not—depending on your perspective, representatives met to discuss **salary** for the next three years. UPM has taken an opening position based on an average of Basic Aid districts in the State. The District has offered 0% in the first year, 0% in the second year and 0% in the third year. As explained by **Al Harrison**, the District’s fiscal representative, the District has no money to put into on-going salary increases. This despite the increases in property tax revenues that have occurred over the last 3 years, the 4.73% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) the District will receive on apportionments provided by the State, and ending balances (don’t call them “reserves”, Al says) in the District budget that are in the neighborhood of *\$3 million dollars* and slated to increase even more. To provide a raise to faculty would be fiscally imprudent, District representatives indicated.

## **“Fiscal house in order.”**

This was the phrase used by Board of Trustee incumbent and candidate for re-election **Phil Kranenburg**, in his statement in the Marin *Independent Journal*, and echoed by the other incumbent candidates **Eva Long**, **Carol Hayashino** and **Barbara Dolan** (it is not clear if incumbent **Harry Moore** also expressed similar sentiments).

Hopefully this fiscal order does allow for budgeting increases in utility costs and increases in legal and bargaining costs for the District, even if increases in salary would be fiscally unsound. Increases in health care costs would presumably be passed on to the employee!

Discussions at recent meetings of the Board of Trustees have reinforced these principles by alluding to the need to be more fiscally conservative in the event that the housing market in Marin collapses and property taxes fall, or a big earthquake hits, also disrupting housing. Shades of the **Bolinas Marine Biology Laboratory!** This was the argument given by the Board of Trustees as to why they could not repair, remodel or use the Bolinas site—it was contaminated, no it could be wiped out by a Tsunami; oh, no, we mean it is on an earthquake fault line, so we cannot put money into it. Even though there is a bequeathment to the District specifically to be used at the Bolinas facility!?

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