Laurie Ordin’s “Ponderings of the President” column will not be appearing this month. It will return for our next issue. In its place, our UPM Co-Chief Negotiator John Sutherland, offers the following:

A MORE PERFECT UNION

In her recent articles, our UPM President, Laurie Ordin, has written about the need for our Union members to step up to fill vacancies left by 20 retirements, and I’d like to continue that thought. In a more perfect Union, I wouldn’t need to mention it, just as Laurie wouldn’t have had to mention the topic in previous newsletters. But it’s not perfect.

It’s not perfect to a great degree due to the Fran White years, during which President White pitted faculty against faculty to “divide and conquer,” to try and gut our contract and to give us nothing in return but strife.

Fortunately, since President Coon has come on board, the mood has changed. Yet despite the great efforts by many faculty members, especially by many Academic Senators, to mend hurt feelings and to restore trust among us, residual animosity and distrust remain. No, it’s still not perfect.

But there are signs.

When UPM recently called for participants on the Executive Council and on UPM committees, new names and faces appeared. Well, not “new” really.

But people who have been at the college for years applied for the first time, to become members of these UPM committees.

These “new” applicants create hope because their interest reveals the growing understanding that we must be united to survive and thrive. It’s not that there won’t be differences, even more strife at times. No, no one expects that. But hope lies in the realization that UPM positions, on the Exec. or on UPM committees, share a common goal: better working conditions.

Just as the Academic Senate looks to maintain the academic integrity of our institution and uphold our professional and academic rights, UPM strives to improve our day-to-day work environment and our professional opportunities, and raise wages and (Continued on page 2)
maintain benefits. In order to form a more perfect Union, our Union, we all need to do our part, and our teaching is only one component of our duty.

This year, UPM will begin a new round of contract negotiations, the central purpose of which is to improve our working conditions so we can better educate, and the recent upswing in interest in serving as a UPM officer or committee member bodes well for all of us, our professional situations and our students. Is it perfect yet? No, not quite. But with the recent resurgence in bettering where and how we work, there’s hope, which is more than we had during the darkness of the White years. Yes, there’s hope. And it’s within your power to act on this hope and in doing so, make this Union and our college a more perfect one.

The next time you see an announcement for a UPM position, consider your future and make an effort to improve life for yourself, your colleagues and our students. Our Union is made more perfect with your participation.

□

When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: ‘Whose?’

Don Marquis
EDITORIAL

If dogs could make New Year’s resolutions, do you ever wonder what they might be. Surely they wouldn’t resolve to lose weight, or quit smoking, or get out of debt. Nor would eating healthier diets or learning to play a musical instrument be on a dog’s resolution list for 2013.

What you might see on their list, however, is: **I WILL NOT CHASE THAT STICK UNTIL I ACTUALLY SEE IT LEAVE THE HAND.** It’s a resolution which, if followed, would save Poochie a lot of commotion and disappointment.

Perhaps our COM faculty might consider making that same resolution for 2013. If we did, it would also save us a lot of commotion and disappointment.

Consider the ‘sticks’ that our Administration has waved over our heads, and teased us with, during the past few years, but which never left their hands. The stick they waggled assuring us that they would save the Bolinas Lab. And the stick teasing that there would be a joint Masters Degree Nursing Program with SFSU. And that stick Dr. Middleton waved that would turn IVC into a regional Technology Center equal to Silicon Valley. And the stick that President White continually twirled over our heads promising how grand our campus would look if only we spent a quarter billion dollars on some new buildings. What happened to that stick? And the most recent stick, promising to reduce non-instructional expenditures to equal the money that the District is taking away from our teaching units. How come that stick hasn’t left our Administrator’s hands?

We were hoping that under Dr. Coon’s leadership things would be different, but if the District continues to play with us like puppy dogs, tempting us with promises that they are unwilling or unable or incapable of fulfilling, then maybe for 2013 our faculty needs to keep a more wary eye on the District when they ask us to play fetch.

Perhaps for 2013 we should make a resolution to be more like a watchful Weimaraner, and less like an accommodating Cockapoo. ☐
“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”
A SAMPLING OF MYTH, MIRTH AND MISCELLANY FOR THE UNION FAITHFUL

JANUARY LABOR HISTORY

On January 18th, 1876, Jack London was born in San Francisco. Although it was his adventure stories that made him famous, he wrote many articles, essays, short stories and novels about the lives of working people around the world. He was a passionate advocate for the rights of workers and their unions and an enemy of those who obstructed union solidarity. In 1915 he wrote this definition of a scab:

**THE SCAB**

“After God finished making the rattlesnake, the viper and the vampire, he had some evil left over and he made a scab. A scab is a two-legged animal with a twisted soul, a waterlogged brain and a backbone of jelly. Where others have hearts, the scab carries a tumor of rotten principles. When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs, angels weep in heaven and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out. Judas Iscariot was a gentleman compared to a scab. For betraying his master Judas had the character to hang himself – the scab hasn’t. There is nothing lower than a scab.”

Jack London died in 1916 at the age of 40.

□ □ □

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Our UPM office is now located in Building TB-1, Room 124; Dean Arnold’s former office. It’s in the temporary building that houses the Police Department. Our campus phone number remains the same, Ext. 7754 as does our outside phone line (415) 459-1524. Our new FAX Number, however, is (415) 459-3474.

Our office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9:30AM to 3:30PM and on Fridays from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Our office is staffed by our Executive Secretaries, Nancy Faw and Josette Lambert.

It’s a friendly atmosphere. Drop by and say hello!

UNION YES

There has been a concerted effort by wealthy corporate interests, to impugn, assail and blame Unions (especially Public Employee Unions) for the financial difficulties that our country is experiencing. This is all very strange, because Union membership is lower now than it was fifty years ago when our economy was booming.

There’s no reason to be ashamed of our union affiliation. Perhaps the following message seen on the back of a tee-shirt at a union picket line, says it best:

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**I’m a Union Member! We LIVE HERE, and PAY TAXES HERE**

*We WORK HARD to support our Families! We’re NOT the problem, and we’re NOT the ENEMY! If you’re jealous of our benefits, FIGHT FOR YOUR OWN, not against ours!*  

*The RICH created this problem, and they’re pitting the Middle Class Families against each other.*  

**FIGHT BACK! Join a UNION!**
“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER” (2)

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

In 1940, the world famous philosopher Bertrand Russell was denied a teaching appointment at CCNY in New York City when an Episcopal Bishop charged that by appointing him the school would be encouraging atheism, communism and sexual immorality on campus. The dispute only last several months because Russell opted to pursue other employment opportunities, but the controversy was a dress rehearsal for the subsequent witch-hunts of HUAC and Senator McCarthy.

Immediately after Russell was denied employment, the New York State legislature created the Rapp-Coudert Committee to examine the extent of “subversive activities” in New York State’s schools and colleges. More than five hundred public college faculty, staff and students were subpoenaed and interrogated about political activities and encouraged to reveal names of acquaintances and colleagues whom they thought might be members of the Communist Party. None of these witnesses were allowed to have lawyers present. The committee also subpoenaed the membership lists, financial reports and minutes of the meetings of the New York Teacher’s Union and the College Teacher’s Union.

As a result of these hearings, hundreds of teachers were dismissed for alleged Communist affiliation, and suspect union leaders were forced to resign their union positions under threat of prosecution.

Not too many years later, the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) and Senator McCarthy pursued these same tactics, and many more hundreds of instructors and Union leaders were fired for “communist activities.” Most were black-listed and were never able to find teaching or union leadership jobs again.

Many people believe that those days are over and done with; that those attacks on political free speech were an aberration, a result of political paranoia or cold war politics, and will not be repeated?

Perhaps, but you might be interested in knowing that even today, Section 44932 of our California Education Code states that among the reasons a California school employee (faculty included) can be fired is, “membership in the Communist Party.”

Most of us are acquainted with the statement of Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemöller (1892-1984).

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.

None of us expect that the terrible days that Pastor Niemöller wrote about will repeat, but given recent events in Wisconsin and Ohio and Arizona and Florida, neither should we be so unperturbed and apathetic to think that it could not happen again, or happen here. □ A.L.
As a COM faculty member, UPM represents your interests and will advise, support and defend your contractual rights, whether or not you pay union dues or have opted to pay the equivalent agency fee.

But there are ancillary benefits that UPM dues paying members receive, including the important right to help determine the contractual improvements that we wish to bargain with the District.

So if you have not joined our union, please consider doing so by filling out the form below. The cost to you will be the same, but you will have a greater voice in union affairs and can help determine our faculty’s wages, benefits and working condition.

______________________________

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