

"The labor movement means just this: It is the last protest of the American people against the power of incorporated wealth."
—Wendell Phillips

HE DAMPENS SOME FLAMES, KINDLES OTHERS

On October 16 YC-AFT staff interviewed a hot instructor. After all, Bob Cassel is used to taking the heat; he is a veteran firefighter with 32 years of active service. It is not a surprise, therefore, that district administrators approached him in 2004 to offer him work. Would he be interested in assisting in setting up a fire academy for the Woodland College campus? His answer was yes.

Bob helped acquire educational materials, suits, gear, and equipment. The first three years were taught at the Woodland Fire Station No. 3. Two years after the program started he became facilitator of the Fire Academy and continues

to teach, not only in the Yuba Community College District, but also at Esparto High School. But Bob is much more than an instructor. He gathers deep satisfaction serving as a mentor for many of his students and is implicated in some student success stories.

One story is of a troubled teen who was struggling academically and socially. She hated high school and was not on the path to a successful future when she entered Bob's Emergency Responder class. But, the class captured her attention. With a new sense of focus, the young lady successfully completed it, finished her Junior and Senior years in her third year of school, and graduated under

an independent study program. After high school she went on to waitress and found soon enough that it was not what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.



Bob Cassel

One year had passed since Mr. Cassel heard from her. One day she called him asking for a recommendation. With it she was accepted into a medical office training program. Currently she works for Memorial Hospital
Continued page 3

CFT ANNOUNCES 2011 RAOUL TEILHET SCHOLARSHIPS

On October 29th, the California Federation of Teachers announced its Raoul Teilhet Scholarship Program for 2011. Since the program was established in 1997, the CFT has awarded 297 scholarships.

The CFT offers scholarships to high school seniors and college students, in good standing, who are chil-

dren or dependents of CFT members or children of deceased CFT members. Students enrolled in four-year courses of study are eligible for \$3000 scholarships; those enrolled in two-year courses of study are eligible for \$1000. Award selection

achievement, special talents and skills, participation in extracurricular activities, community service, financial need, and a 500-word essay on a social issue about which the applicant feels strongly.
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Raoul Teilhet Scholarships
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS and CONTINUING COLLEGE STUDENTS

Continued from page 1 Teilhet Scholarship

Scholarships are awarded for any one year of higher education. Students who received scholarships as seniors are not eligible for another scholarship during college.

The program began in 1997 when delegates to the CFT Convention voted to establish scholarships that could help children and dependents of members achieve their higher education goals.

The scholarships were established in honor of former CFT President Raoul Teilhet, the charismatic

leader of the union during the 1970s when California education employees won collective bargaining. Teilhet served the organization as president from 1968 to 1985. In 2003, Convention delegates extended eligibility to continuing college students and dependents of deceased CFT members.

As part of the application, parent and guardian members will be asked to have their local union president verify membership. More scholarships and professional grants are available to members and their dependents through the

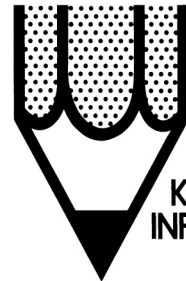
AFT and the AFL-CIO.

How to obtain an application

To download a scholarship application, go to www.aftyuba.org and look for CFT's Teilhet Scholarships. To have an application mailed to you, phone the CFT Costa Mesa Field Office (714) 754-6638.

Application deadlines

High school seniors: January 10, 2011
Continuing college students: July 1, 2011



ADJUNCT ORIENTATIONS & UNION MEETINGS

NEW & IMPROVED YC-AFT WEBSITE —Mary Benson

The YC-AFT website at www.aftyuba.org is updated and ready for you! Would you like to view the updated the Executive Board roster? Or do you want to an easy way to contact us? Perhaps you are interested in any of the following:

Reference materials include past issues of our Going Adjunct newsletter, YC-AFT Bylaws and Constitution, and our current adjunct faculty contract. Also you'll find postings of our Executive Board minutes and financial reports.

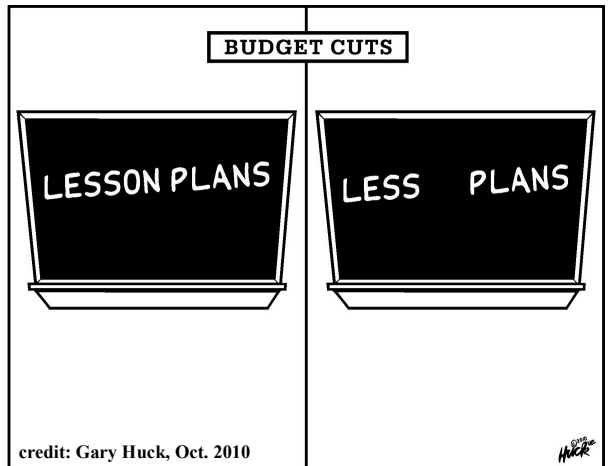
Resources include links to the Yuba College Board of Trustees meeting schedule so you can attend their meetings and be informed about administrative decisions as they happen. Links are also provided to the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), the national and state offices of our union.

If you have any issues you'd like to bring to our attention, whether grievance or newsworthy items for a future article in our newsletter, you'll find contact information on the www.aftyuba.org home page.

Since our contract is expiring this coming June, we will be keeping you updated on the current status of negotiations. Our "Sunshine Letter" is posted which outlines issues we will include in our next round of negotiations. Check us out. Let us know if you did not find the information you were looking for—we'll be happy to add it to make the website useful to you. (To contact website administrator email mary_benson@att.net)



Marysville: January 12th 2011
3:30 p.m. New adjuncts, Room 843
4:30 p.m. All Adjunct, Room 803
5:00 p.m. All Adjunct Break-out Sessions
6:00 p.m. All Adjunct Dinner, Cafeteria
8:00 p.m. YC-AFT Meeting, Room 846
Woodland: January 13, 2011
4:00 p.m. New Adjunct Faculty. Room 852
5:00 p.m. All Adjunct Faculty Dinner, Room 800
6:00 p.m. All Adjunct Faculty Meeting
7:30 p.m. YC-AFT Meeting, Room 800
Clear Lake: January 13, 2011
5:00 p.m. Orientation, Room 401
7:00 p.m. YC-AFT Meeting, Room 401



Continued from page 1 KINDLES FLAMES

in Woodland, loves her job and makes a good salary to boot.

What else lights Cassel up about teaching? "Teaching allows me to infect a whole lot of future fire fighters—who then go onto a lot of different fire stations. I stress ethics, non-traditional work environments that now include minorities and women, and that one should always question the way we do a job. I tell my students not to get bound by tradition—to show

us a better way if there is one."

The reason Mr. Cassel teaches, he explains, is that it is how he makes a positive impact on the American Fire service. "Everything I have done career-wise I've measured against my personal mission. Working in individual fire stations did not let me meet my mission."

Nonetheless, Bob's fire station experience ranges from serving as a fire marshal in Wyoming, investigating fires, to fire chief of

Grover Beach in San Luis Obispo, Fire Commander/Fire Chief for Rohnert Park and serving as interim Assistant Chief at the Yocha De He Fire department that serves the Cache Creek Casino and tribe.

Toward the end of the interview we asked Bob why fire fighters are always cleaning their fire trucks. He said that some of this is a leftover from the time that horses were used to pull fire wagons. Some traditions never die.

JERRY BROWN'S ED PLAN REFLECTS REALISM TOWARD SCHOOL REFORM

—Charles Taylor Kerchner

Gov.-elect Jerry Brown's education plan is smart, pragmatic, and, in one respect, a little bit pregnant. Brown's adviser and Stanford professor Mike Kirst suggested I reexamine the governor-elect's plan, this with the assurance that the governor-elect means to do what he said. A close reread opens the eyes to possibilities for substantial reform that can be accomplished, or at least begun, in these tough budgetary times. Smart. Pragmatic.

(My comments follow with page and paragraph references to Brown's plan <http://toped.svefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/govrace-brownplan0728102.pdf> for those who want to follow along with the original.)

In a world where "you campaign in poetry, but govern in prose," Brown didn't get the poetry part, but the prose is good. He and Kirst

have moved well beyond the simplistic I'll-be-an-education-governor, blow-it-all-up rhetoric. When was the last time anyone heard a candidate say that schools in California are making progress toward measured cognitive achievement goals? (page 1, para 2). In fact, they are.

By no measure are the schools where they need to be, but they are moving in the right direction.

A couple weeks ago I talked with Laura Schwalm, the veteran superintendent of Garden Grove, whose district won the Broad Prize honoring urban districts several years ago. Even from a relatively high level of achievement, Schwalm says, "our worst school is now doing better than our

best school was then." There are similar stories throughout the state. And when ever has a governor-elect said: "I

approach this task with some humility, and a realization there is no silver bullet that will fix everything. Education improvement takes time, persistence, and a systematic ap-

proach." Humility? Refreshing (page 1, para 3).

Brown comes to this humility in part because he's actually tried to turn around schools. He started two charters in Oakland, and very like every other businessperson, philanthropist, or freelance politician who has tried to fix a school, he comes away with the conclusion that it is very hard work (page 2, para 5).

Brown would start with higher education: updating



the master plan that in the 1960s created the state's three-tier system of colleges and universities (page 3).

It's a good place to begin. Higher education plays a different role in California's society and economy than it did a half century ago, and the state's plan needs to reflect current reality.

To read the continuation of the article go to:

<http://toped.svefoundation.org/2010/11/19/jerrybrowns-ed-plan-reflects-realism-toward-school-reform/>

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Charles Taylor Kerchner permitted the reprinting of this article which was originally published by Silicon Valley Education Foundation.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are at the start of a new calendar year and half-way through a troubled and difficult academic year. In this year we have gone from extreme cut-backs based on disastrous financial forecasts to a new message that things are much better than was expected. We are going from a huge reduction in courses and programs, including canceling the 2010 summer session, to a full restoration of these, including a full 2011 summer session. We are going from a severe reduction in the number of full-time faculty to a substantial hiring program. We are going from salary freezes to a controversial raise for the district Chancellor.

Last spring the district asked the YCFA, representing full-time faculty; the CSEA, representing

classified employees; and us to extend our contracts, scheduled to expire June 30, 2011, for two more years with provi-

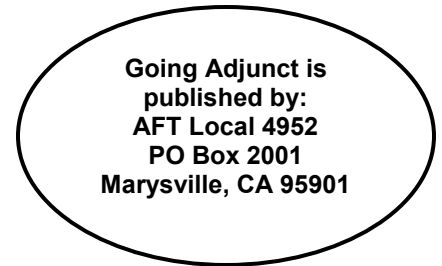


sions for cutbacks and no raises. The YCFA and the CSEA have done so. We agreed to extend with a minor change to allow the 67% teaching load just passed into law. The district never responded to our request to meet and agree on this. At this point with the drastically changed atmosphere within the district we are

preparing to file a "sunshine letter" with the board and move forward with the process of negotiating a new three year contract to include salary increases, based on the chancellor's precedent; the increased load limit; improved return rights based more strictly on seniority; pay parity with full-time faculty; pay for service on more committees; and other benefits. We will keep you informed of any progress.

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to improve your employment situation with the Yuba Community College District.

In solidarity,  
Jim Kitchen, President  
Yuba College-American  
Federation of Teachers  
Local 4952



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## TELL CONGRESS HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE DREAM ACT

-adapted from aft.org article Dec. 2, 2010 by Barbara McKenna and Earl Hadley

Democrats in Congress are taking one more crack at passing the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act before the 111th session adjourns.

The DREAM Act would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students who were brought to this country before the age of 16, have been here for at least five years, and have graduated from U.S. high schools or earned a GED. They could earn legal residency status by attending college for two years or through mili-

tary service, both rigorous requirements that will allow these students to fully contribute to their communities and the country. Each year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school, and many of them could benefit from the bill.

Under current rules, in some cases, they are unable to get a driver's license, a Social Security number or a job, and they may not attend college. It is a waste of talent, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has said in

recent weeks, and a waste of valuable assets to this country, as other cabinet members such as Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano have added.

More than 65 percent of Americans support the DREAM Act, a recent survey shows, and AFT members overwhelmingly support the legislation, which has been introduced in every session of Congress since 2001. AFT delegates have approved two resolutions calling for its passage. Currently, the union is part of a broad coalition

of groups working to pass the bill before Congress adjourns. Congress is expected to vote on DREAM in the next few days. Let your representatives know your view on the dream act.

For more information go to:  
<http://dreamact.info/>

