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A quarterly publication of Callifornia State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association/Summer 2005

Propositions on hold; depend on governor

**By Milt Dobkin, Humboldt
Health Benefits Committee chair**

At this writing we don't know whether the governor will proceed to have the November election on the propositions which are still approved for the ballot.

So far two propositions have been removed from the ballot by court action (energy regulation and redistricting) and others are still being challenged, though there may be appeals filed to the decisions already made. In late July the State Supreme Court ordered Proposition 80 on energy re-regulation restored to the ballot.

Whether the governor's attorneys will find a way for him to cancel the election for purposes of "cutting losses," or

whether he wants to do so is unclear.

However, if the election happens and more propositions qualify (some have until Sept. 1 to submit required signatures) there could be a dangerous impact on our members' retirement benefits.

It is this impact which was the basis for Executive Committee concerns at its July meeting.

For example, Proposition 76, which has qualified, would remove the funding "guarantees" established by the former Proposition 98 for K-12 and community colleges and give the governor unchecked authority to reduce all such funding, including compensation contracts and benefits for employees if he decides that the state budget requires such action.

This proposition, which is the product of a trustee of the CSU,

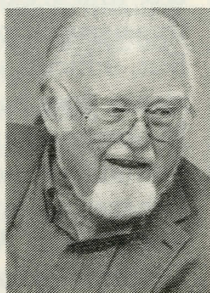
is being touted as the "Live Within Our Means Act."

Unlike the line item veto process which contains the ability of the Legislature to override the governor's cuts by a two-thirds vote, there is no such check. There is only a 45-day waiting period in which the Legislature may act.

The potential impact on retiree benefits, including those of CSU-ERFA members, as a means of coping with the consequences of a funding reduction, is great. As is noted in a page 5 story, our members' health plans are in major part funded by annual state appropriations which contribute part of the monthly premiums.

Lurking in the weeds are other propositions as yet uncertified with enough signatures which more directly have the potential to do our members damage.

Please turn to page 8.



Dobkin



Meeting of the Executive Committee — Seated, front, from left, Donald Dewey, vice president; David Elliott, president; Judson Grenier, secretary; in back, Max Norton, grant awards; Wilma Krebs, at large; Howard Seemann, Reporter editor; Iris Shah, at large; Milt Dobkin, at large; Bob Kully, executive director. Taken at July 16 meeting by Linda Zimmerman.

Executive Committee**2005-2006****David H. Elliott** (San Jose), president**Donald O. Dewey** (Los Angeles), vice president**Judson Grenier** (Dominguez Hills), secretary**Robert Maurer** (Chico), treasurer**Jerome Beamish** (Stanislaus), past president**Wilma Krebs** (Sacramento), at large
Milton Dobkin (Humboldt), at large**Eleanor Price** (Dominguez Hills), at-large**Iris Shah** (Northridge), at-large**Howard L. Seemann** (Humboldt), Reporter editor**Robert D. Kully** (Los Angeles), executive director**Committee chairs****Max Norton** (Stanislaus), grant awards**Wilma Krebs** (Sacramento), legislative**Milton Dobkin** (Humboldt), health benefits**James Lindsey** (Chico), membership**Sam Wiley** (Dominguez Hills), pre- and post-retirement**Howard L. Seemann** (Humboldt), publications**Kurt Bohnsack** (San Diego), archivist**Liaisons****H. Dieter Renning** (Stanislaus), liaison to CFA**Ronald Kroman** (Long Beach), liaison to CSU Academic Senate**Sidney Albert** (Los Angeles), liaison to California AAUP**Administrative staff****Linda Zimmerman**, office manager**Cynthia Cohen**, administrative assistant

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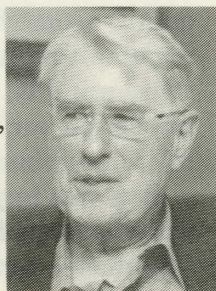
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From the president

Here's our group's new leader**By David H. Elliott, San Jose CSU-ERFA president**

I suspect that most of you will recognize at least some of the faces in the photo of the Executive Committee on page 1.

Along with the three members who were not able to be with us when the photo was taken (Jerry Beamish, Stanislaus; Bob Maurer, Chico; and Eleanor Price, Dominguez Hills), they are all well-known colleagues, with many years of experience as CSU leaders.

**Elliott**

I have known several of these folks (Don Dewey, Los Angeles; Judson Grenier, Dominguez Hills; and Wilma Krebs, Sacramento) since the early '70s when I was elected to the CSU Academic Senate and have admired one of them (Milt Dobkin, Humboldt) as a disciplinary colleague for over 40 years.

Bob Kully (Los Angeles), our executive director, likes to say he taught me all I know about argumentation, because almost 50 years ago, when we were both graduate students at the University of Oregon, he filled in for the professor who was teaching one of my classes — for one day. I am able to suffer this indignity, because Kully later found himself serving as my vice chair during the two years that I was chair of the CSU Academic Senate (1977-79).

I will spare you details about my history with the Executive Committee. Those I have not known as long are also distinguished academics with long

records of service. Three (Dobkin, Maurer and Beamish) are former presidents of CSU-ERFA and two (Eleanor Price, Dominguez Hills, and Iris Shah, Northridge) are experienced members.

Howard Seemann (Humboldt), the editor of the Reporter, is a distinguished journalism educator, with professional experience.

This year's Executive Committee is comprised of veteran leaders, who are dedicated to serving this association and its members. But, difficult as it is to say, experience does have its down side. In opening our first Executive Committee meeting for the year, I shared an anecdote I recently heard about William Penn.

Penn was converted to Quakerism as an adult and, after his conversion, he found himself confronted with a moral dilemma.

Like most men of his time, Penn had always worn a sword. And the more he learned about his new religion, especially its position on violence, the more uncomfortable he became. In desperation, he went to one of the men who had been instrumental in his conversion and asked him what he should do. His friend simply replied, "You should wear your sword as long as you can."

Most of us would probably find this kind of advice reassuring. But, as I said to the Executive Committee, the truth is that all of us will eventually need to lay our "swords" down.

This brings us to the real point of this message. Because all of us will be obliged to shed our swords at some point, those of us who are privileged to lead are obliged to make sure that there

Please turn to page 3.

By Max Norton, Stanislaus Grant Awards Committee chair

CSU-ERFA is pleased to announce the calendar for the submission and awarding of grants.

The deadline for submission to the CSU-ERFA office is Jan. 31, 2006.

Announcement

of the awards will be made April 22, 2006.

As a retirement association CSU-ERFA would be pleased to assist in funding projects dealing with retirement concerns including but not limited to:

ONE. Medical and social adjustment concerns of the elderly population.

TWO. Issues pertaining to con-

tinuing education and employment opportunities for retired faculty.

THREE. Studies related to the management of convalescent

facilities for the geriatric populations.

FOUR. Opportunities for retired

faculty to participate in the governance of the California State University System.

The Executive Committee is committed to assisting affiliates in addressing the retirement concerns of its members.

Please feel free to contact us at our Northridge office if you wish to receive a copy of the guidelines for the awarding of grants.✓

Here is calendar for CSU-ERFA grants

More about ...

From the president

Continued from page 2.

will be other colleagues on hand to take them up, as this becomes necessary. As I see it, this need is especially urgent in relation to our committee appointments. The work that Sam Wiley and his Retirement Concerns Committee did in response to the governor's attack on our retirement system was not only excellent but vital (see "Resolution Opposing Proposals to Impose Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for State and Local Public Employees," in the winter Reporter).

Also, as is reported elsewhere in this issue, both Milt Dobkin, our Health Benefits chair, and Wilma Krebs, our Legislative chair, continue to provide representation for retired faculty that is indispensable. I was impressed again at our first meeting with the extraordinary expertise and dedication that these unpaid col-

leagues bring to the table. They are unparalleled in my experience. We are very fortunate to have these colleagues.

So, our entire leadership team is committed to doing all it can to ensure the continuity of CSU-ERFA as a vigilant and robust advocate for the interests of retired CSU faculty. We have already commenced a review of our governing documents, our policies, our committee structure and our recruiting mechanisms.

But we cannot succeed without your help. Our very survival depends on the willingness of campus associations to assist us in identifying and recruiting promising colleagues who are willing to serve on the State Council and accept appointment to CSU-ERFA committees.

We also need your help as individuals, and as members of campus associations, in recruiting new members to CSU-ERFA. If you have suggestions for people who could help us

Send your news for next Reporter

Your post-retirement activities are of interest to our readers.

Please send details on what you are doing to keep busy. Such brief items may include publications, honors and recognitions, and lectures. Please include a phone number or an e-mail address.

Please send items to:

Howard L. Seemann,
2123 H St., Eureka
95501, or e-mail to
howsee@cox.net or call
707/445-0286✓

remain strong, we want to hear about them. I can be reached at <dpeajrnd@comcast.net> and the e-mail address of the CSU-ERFA office is <csuerfa@csun.edu>. We look forward to hearing from you.

Voltaire once said, "I advise you to go on living solely to enrage those who are paying your annuities. It is the only pleasure I have left."

I must admit that there are times when this sort of advice resonates with me. But, in my better moments, I am more inclined to view these senior years (I will be 75 this summer) as an opportunity to help prepare the way for those who will follow.

In this regard, I am impressed with the advice of Edmund Burke, who said, "A state (organization) without means of some change is without the means of its own conservation." New challenges call for change and change, I have found, is difficult to achieve without the insights of new eyes.✓

Introducing our new vice president

Dewey moves in after years of campus service

Donald O. Dewey, emeritus professor of history and emeritus dean of Natural and Social Sciences at CSU Los Angeles, is the new vice president of CSU-ERFA.



Dewey

Born and raised in Portland, he graduated in journalism from the University of Oregon in 1952. The draft board took a dislike to his glasses so he sacrificed the opportunity for heroism and worse in Korea, married Charlotte to whom he is still married after 53 years. They have two daughters, a son and two grandsons.

He went to Oregon as managing editor of the Condon Globe Times. In 1953 he became city editor of the Ashland Daily Tidings.

In those days when the Oregon Shakespearean Theatre advertised "Stay four days and see four plays" he reviewed all plays for two years. He returned to college to make himself a better newspaperman by studying history.

With a master's degree in history from the University of Utah in 1956, he found that publishers resisted hiring him because "how do we know you'll stay?" By 1957 he was at University of Chicago.

When he received his doctorate in 1960, with a dissertation on Madison, he was advanced to associate editor and instructor at the University of Chicago. In 1962 Don moved to Los Angeles State College of Applied Arts and Sciences, planning to remain for two years, but he's still there.

1970 was a banner year. He

had turned down the Academic Senate chair to remain vice chair for the previous two years because of book contracts. With both books finished by June he was elected chair.

While seeking support for the Senate from the president he was asked to become dean of Letters and Science, a position for which he was not a candidate. In 1996 he retired after 14 years as dean of Letters and Science and 11 as dean of Natural and Social Sciences.

In 1976 he was named Outstanding Professor. Thirteen years later he was nominated as the CSU Los Angeles candidate for the statewide award.

His 13 books range from three volumes of "The Papers of James Madison," "Marshall Versus Jefferson: The Political Background of Marbury v. Madison" and "Union and Liberty" to "Invitation to the Dance: An Introduction to Social Dance" and "That's a Good One: Cal State LA at 50."

He had served in the Senate for 30 years when he retired in 1996. After a furlough of three years, he was elected emeritus senator.

He was president of the campus emeriti association from 2000 to 2003. He was elected to the CSU Academic Senate 1971-1976.

When he became a member of the CSU-ERFA council he was delighted to see the campaign of its leadership to protect the rights of all faculty, the tenured, the untenured and, of course, the retired. As vice president he is committed to supporting colleagues such as Executive Director Bob Kully as he helps retired faculty cope with the niggling problems that a bureaucracy so

large as ours can devise; Wilma Krebs as she alerts us of pending legislation in Sacramento and Washington and lobbies for the best outcome; and Milt Dobkin as he monitors changes in our health benefits programs.

As for the new president, Dewey told the L.A. emeriti upon the election of Dave Elliott that CSU-ERFA had made the best possible choice. It's an impressive team and he will be a team player. ✓

Pensions in jeopardy

— across the nation

By Wilma Krebs, Sacramento
Legislative Committee chair

At a CalPERS meeting in July, board members were informed that recent federal government and national trends can have disturbing effects on our pension protection efforts — in particular, Social Security "reforms."

We have a contract to coordinate our pensions with Social Security retirement income. This contract could be threatened by a significant increase in Social Security premiums, or by President Bush's plan to divert a portion of Social Security taxes into personal savings accounts.

Diminished support of pension plans will mean people will have to have more individual savings to supplement their pensions.



Krebs

Please turn to page 9.

Governor still pushes Defined Benefit change

By Wilma Krebs, Sacramento
Legislative Committee chair

Although the governor withdrew his initial attack on our Defined Benefit pension plans, he stated that he proposed to reintroduce his proposed changes in June 2006 — unless agreement is first reached in the Legislature.

CalPERS has sponsored a bill to smooth out the state contributions (instead of low amounts in prosperous years and higher amounts in recession years.) However, there are bills that are unacceptable. Among them are:

- ACA5 (Richman) which would require employees, hired after July 1, 2007, to be enrolled in a Defined Contribution plan. These plans are very risky and may result in inadequate retirement, or even no retirement pension at all. Our Defined Benefit plans offer adequate and secure retirement.
- Richman's AB 511 would result in totally inadequate pensions or survivor allowances.
- Ashburn's SB 88 would limit the employer contribution to only 6 percent.

On the positive side:

- AB 247, by Walters, would increase the death benefit from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to take care of the rise in funeral expenses to an average of \$5,000.
- Long-term care insurance bills designed to assist members in paying for LTC insurance: AB 247 (Walters) offers a tax credit up to \$1,000 (one person) and \$2,000 for joint tax returns.
- In health plan coverage, AB 1698 (Nunez) would require health plans to cover dependents to age 26 (many adult children could still be in college, or still unable to buy their own coverage.)
- Coverage for the disabled is still a hot topic. Acceptance of any and all disabled could boost rates so much that very few could afford to buy a policy. Is there any workable solution? AB 1643 (Fromer) would require study of this issue.
- SB 840 (Kuehl) universal health coverage — (a single-payer plan) — has broad support but stands little chance because of a very tight budget.

Members are urged to inform their friends how important a decent retirement system is in hiring the qualified faculty for our schools.✓

Health care premiums leave many confused

By Milt Dobkin, Humboldt
Health Benefits Committee chair

Random conversations between some Health Benefits Committee members and other CSU-ERFA members suggest that there is some confusion as well as misunderstanding about 2006 health care premium rates and how they are agreed upon and funded.

When CalPERS negotiates rates with carriers for specified health plans it attempts to get the lowest out-of-pocket costs for members electing various types of coverage which may be available in the geographic areas served.

Rates for active CalPERS covered persons are different from those available to retired members. Given the complex variables, when the media report that CalPERS has been able to hold rate increases down to an average of 8.7 percent for 2006 (a good number, compared to "the industry") that figure may not have meaning for the individual retiree.

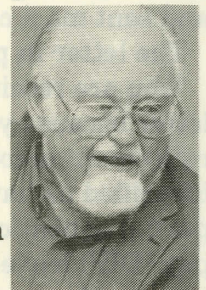
(What comes to mind is the apocryphal tale of two men. One died of thirst and the other drowned in a stream which averaged two feet deep annually.)

What the individual CSU-ERFA member will face depends on what the state contribution will pay in 2006 to cover the negotiated premium for the plan chosen. State support will increase on the basis of the recently adopted budget and will vary in impact on the number of persons covered (one person, two people or family). The individual member pays the difference or benefits from a positive balance.

Kaiser members are the only ones who will profit from a substantially reduced personal fee. That results from Kaiser being able to enroll its program as coverage for the new Part D of Medicare thereby receiving a drug subsidy which will enable it to reduce premiums to its members.

The details are not known about what other uses of the subsidy may take place, but the announced premiums bring the program "average" down.

We won't reproduce all the program figures here. You may get the total breakout at the CalPERS website after clicking on Health Plan Benefits.



Dobkin

Pension letter 'was sent to you in error'

By Robert D. Kully

CSU-ERFA executive director

On June 20 CSU-ERFA member Daniel Cornford (San Jose) received a letter from Darryl J. Watson, chief, Member Services Division, CalPERS, informing him that his "retirement account" (i.e., pension) would be reduced.

Daniel took exactly the right first step — he called CSU-ERFA and sent me a copy of the letter.

The letter in part stated:

"You are receiving this letter because your CalPERS retirement account has been identified as having one or more partial sabbatical/difference in pay (DIP) leave of absence(s) reported by your California State University (CSU) employer(s). . .

"In order to ensure that service credit has been correctly credited to your retirement account, CalPERS is reviewing all accounts where the member was reported as being on one or more partial sabbatical/DIP leave of absence(s). In some circumstances, an error occurred in the posting of service credit because the full-time pay rate was incorrectly reduced to equal the part-time earnings. This would cause CalPERS retirement accounts to be incorrectly posted with full-time service.

"In these instances an adjustment to your retirement account would be required to remove the excess service credit. . .

"You will also have the opportunity to purchase the balance of the unpaid partial sabbatical/DIP leave of absence(s) and receive full service credit for retirement purposes. . .

While each member's cost calculation is dependent on

many individualized factors, on average, the cost to purchase three months of service credit is approximately \$5,000.00 - \$6,000.00."

The possibility that retirees might have their retirement account adjusted downward following retirement seemed unfair, absurd and unacceptable to both Daniel and me.

I called the Member Services Division frequently and talked to a number of staff persons. They were quite confident they could review the documents of all CSU retired faculty. Of course, they would also review active faculty.

The staff during my first calls seemed somewhat arrogant, pleasant but arrogant, that they could accomplish what was in Watson's letter. I also called Wilma Krebs, chair of CSU-ERFA's Legislative Committee, and Milton Dobkin, chair of the Health Benefits Committee.

Both work with and know members of the CalPERS Board of Administration and their staff. Of special interest was to get CalPERS Board member George Diehr involved. He is a faculty member at CSU, San Marcos. Also, writing letters of support were David McNeil, CSU Academic Senate, and Pamela Chapin, senior manager, Benefits and Salary Administration, CSU.

As I continued my calls to the Member Services Division, I noted a change in the attitude. By the end of June, I was confident that the review of retirees' service credit would be reversed. I wrote this to Daniel, but suggested he not relax until he received something in writing.

He didn't have long to wait. In a letter dated July 1, Watson

wrote that "This is to confirm that the letter you received was sent to you in error."

Daniel later wrote that he wanted "to thank the CSU-ERFA for their great efforts to rectify a mistake by CalPERS and their help in resolving the matter."

He also wanted to thank others who helped resolve this error and "to personally thank George Diehr for being incredibly responsive and supportive as he always has been with everyone I know who has had dealings with him. He's a real treasure."

Daniel "strongly suggested that CFA and active CSU faculty do all they can to fight this decision [review of service credit]."

CSU-ERFA members who received similar letters from Member Services Division, should contact CSU-ERFA.✓

Consider the alternatives

At the July off-site meeting of the CalPERS Board, George Diehr and Milt Dobkin (Humboldt) discussed dealing with laws and regulations requiring CalPERS to calculate service credit based on salary earned for full-time periods of employment.

Subsequently, Dobkin, who serves as CFA's chair of the standing committee on Health and Retirement Benefits, will be asking the group to consider alternatives from which recommendations for action can be proposed to CFA. Among these will likely be questions of legal and/or funding action to protect faculty who are still actively employed from losing service credit if they have been on less than full pay sabbaticals. These include leaves for more than a term and DIPs (difference-in-pay leaves).✓

Serving Native Americans

Bonnie Biggs, San Marcos, has been working for the university as Tribal Liaison for the year since her retirement and has found

numerous opportunities to tie our "brain trust" to the 18 reservations within San Diego County.

She was coordinator for Public Services; Assistant to the Dean — Library Coordinator, University Arts and Lectures until retirement in 2004. She is Cherokee.

"We've found ways to collaborate with Education Centers, Indian Health Councils, and a variety of social service agencies on the reservations and are working to establish a formal Native Advisory Council to the President.

During the past year, Biggs was honored by all 18 tribes at their annual Native Graduation Banquet for her years of service with the tribes and simultaneously, saw the publication of "Library Services to Indigenous Populations: Viewpoints and Resources" for which she wrote the historical perspective.✓

Correction

In the spring issue of the Reporter, the name of an organization was misstated in the page 1 article on pension protection.

In the sixth paragraph it should read "California Families Against Privatization of Retirement."✓

Invitation to Perm

Faculty are invited to join a del-

egation to the Perm State Medical Academy in Perm, Russia, April 10-15, 2006.

Persons with academic fields relating to medicine, dentistry and nursing are especially welcome, but all participants will be invited to give presentations and/or lectures.

For more information contact Rita Jones after Sept. 1 at 714/633-4625 or Al Baca at 818/769-2831 or e-mail at albert.roy.baca@csun.edu.✓

Jensen shows photos

Carl Jensen, professor emeritus of communication studies and founder of Project Censored, Sonoma State University, is exploring a new talent.

He recently had an opening of a photo exhibit titled "Reflections of Cotati" at the Redwood Café in Cotati.

The 28-picture exhibit of reflections in potholes taken during the past wet winter will be up through this summer.✓

Welcome, new members

We welcome the following new CSU-ERFA members:

BAKERSFIELD — Nancy J. Bailey

CHICO — James W. Karman
DOMINGUEZ HILLS — Eunice L. Krinsky

FRESNO — Bernice A. Stone
HUMBOLDT — Sara M. Turner

NORTHRIDGE — Joyce R. Linden

POMONA — Kathleen K. Dunn

SONOMA — Judith A. Hunt✓

More about ...

Health premiums

Continued from page 5

Meanwhile, here are brief illustrations of some pertinent facts about 2006 rates and funding:

- State funding for individual retiree premiums will increase per month by \$32 for a member, \$59 for two-party coverage and \$75 for family coverage. These increases make the totals/month provided, respectively, to become \$394, \$738 and \$933.

Please note that some of the state propositions mentioned in this issue point out that passage would give the governor the ability to unilaterally and arbitrarily reduce these funds.

- After applying state funding, the differences in impact on individual retirees can be illustrated by Kaiser's premiums dropping to \$218.59 for one person, \$437.18 for two-party coverage and \$655.77 for family.

On the other hand, those retirees living in rural areas or in certain out-of-state locations who elect the more expensive of the only two plans available to them will suffer about a 20 percent increase in costs over 2005 rates; \$347.20 for one person, \$694.40 for two-party coverage and \$1,041.60 for family coverage.

Note that these are the premium costs and do not include calculations of drug co-pays and deductibles which increase the PERSChoice and PERSCare substantially, depending on the need to use medical care. Neither is true for Kaiser.

If you are in Blue Shield or Western Health Advantage, you may wish to consult the CalPERS website. Their costs are between the Kaiser-PERSCare ranges.✓

From here ...

Briefs

... and there

Hank Walch Jr. dies on birthday

Joined San Diego faculty in 1955; he was 83

By Harold B. Moore, San Diego State
Emeritus professor of microbiology

Henry (Hank) A. Walch Jr. was working on his doctorate when I entered the graduate section of the microbiology department of UCLA in fall 1951.

He was working in the lab of Orda Plunkett on a course in microbiology required for all majors. His lectures were so detailed rumor had it that dropping your pencil could cost you at least one grade.

Plunkett's laboratory always looked cluttered, making it difficult to find materials. Nevertheless, Hank was the teaching assistant in mycology his entire graduate career working for Plunkett.

He died June 3 on his 83rd birthday.

When he joined the San Diego State faculty in 1955, Walch taught most of the courses in the microbiology major. He and Mabel Myers constituted the department. In addition to teaching Walch also was active in research at the San Diego Zoo.

With his continuing interest in valley fever,

Walch started examining soils collected from San Diego County. He succeeded in isolating *Coccidioides immitis* from the Lakeside-Santee area of East County. Efforts to keep those areas posted were not too successful.

Mycologists knew about valley fever and that the fungus was endemic in the soil in San Joaquin Valley, Arizona, Mexico and arid regions of Central and South America. However, it was shocking to discover that a young man from the Pacific Beach area had developed the illness.

The mystery was solved when Walch discovered that topsoil from the endemic area used in a planter box at a Pacific Beach home from which he isolated *C. immitis*. Similar cases involving topsoil, as well as infections in gardeners and bulldozer operators, prompted physicians to include "cocci" as a suspect in cases of meningitis, pulmonary disease and flu, all because of his isolation of the organism.

As he gained recognition as a researcher, he also was recognized as an outstanding teacher. He was always available for advising and counseling.

He was a tough grader, so an A in his course meant the student was outstanding. I never knew a student who did not admire and respect Walch.✓

More about ...

Propositions up to the governor

Continued from page 1.

These carry the temporary numbers of 1096 (Fiscal Emergency) and 1098 (State Budget) which more generally confer unchecked power on the governor to choose to reduce adopted budgets in cases of "emergency" without any legislative authorization.

If you are as concerned as the Executive Committee, please prepare to campaign personally against passage of these propositions if they appear on the November ballot.

I wonder how many members have had a similar experience with a signature collector for Proposition 76.

I was approached in front of an Arcata supermarket and asked if I was willing to sign "in support of a proposition to secure funding for education." I replied that I might but only if I could read the proposal first. I was then handed the signup sheet with the ballot proposal which clearly removes the current guarantee of funding for public education.

That he was committing fraud to get signatures did not bother the petition circulator in the least.)✓

In memoriam

The following CSU-ERFA members have died since the last Reporter:

CHICO — Donald P. Veith

LONG BEACH — Harriet A. Christian, Ruth D. Lindsey, Clare G. Rodney

LOS ANGELES — John A. Dahl, Alvin E. Tuohino

POMONA — Mae C. Hauk

SACRAMENTO — Paul R. Waldo

SAN DIEGO — Mary E. Denman

SAN FRANCISCO — Henry C. Lindgren

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Marjorie A. Cass✓

Check your pressure?

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked.

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."✓

More about ...

CFA and the state budget

Continued from page 10.

This message was effectively underscored, especially among the legislators, by a largely student-produced DVD, "Listen to the Students." It documented the hardships imposed on students across the system by the budget crunch — difficulties getting into needed classes, class sizes, compaction of individual programs — as well as by the cumulative increase in student fees.

It is clear that CFA will keep up the pressure, both in Sacramento and in the Chancellor's Office, for higher CSU budgets in the future.

Meanwhile, a different challenge makes this a busy summer for the CFA: The special election scheduled for November. From the beginning CFA was opposed to the election in general, but as a partner in a 10-member "Alliance for a Better California" (ABC, which includes the CTA, CFT, AFSCME, CSEA and SEIU, among others) it has come out in opposition to several proposals.

Among them is the "paycheck protection" (its critics renamed it the "paycheck deception") initiative, which would require members of public employee organizations to renew their consent every year for use of their dues for political advocacy and campaigns. CFA and its allies see this as an attempt to prevent public employees from organized participation in the political process.

The ABC's opposition to redistricting is moot, since it was removed from the ballot by court. The same goes for an initiative, which ABC supports, that would regulate the electricity industry.

CFA, statewide and at the chapter level, is preparing for what promises to become a lively special election. This will be the main focus of the CFA Board's Aug. 19-20 meeting in Los Angeles. Yet, at the time of this writing a big question has begun to float around: Will the governor cancel the special election or not? If the answer turns out to be "yes," it will take some of the pressure off CFA and the ABC — but none of them will be under the illusion that the issues will be scrapped.

What about CFA-CSU bargaining for a new contract? The new round of negotiations got under way in late April. Since then there has been a number of bargaining sessions, but very little progress, mainly due to budget uncertainties. More is expected in August. However, there has been one important development: In late June the CFA and

CSU signed an agreement to extend the current Unit 3 contract by 90 days.

Finally, outside the bargaining process the CSU and CFA reached an agreement which came about, at least partly, as a result of legislative discussions concerning CFA-sponsored legislation, ACR 56, which would have required the CSU campuses to provide information about budget allocations and expenditures affecting instruction, libraries, student services and administration.

According to the agreement the CSU administration will, by the end of this year, make available campus budget information, broken down by program. Once those data are compiled, they will be available on the CSU administration's web site (www.calstate.edu/). CFA has recommended that ACR 56 not be pursued this year. ✓

CFA Retired Faculty Committee

The Retired Faculty Committee of the CFA has a new chair: Dieter Renning (Stanislaus) has replaced Milt Dobkin (Humboldt). "Not without serious reservations," Renning says,

"Milt and I don't wear the same shoe size!"

Dobkin remains on the committee. Other members are Wilma Krebs (Sacramento), Dominic Perello (San Luis Obispo) and Herb Rutemiller (Fullerton). ✓

More about ...

Pension threats

Continued from page 4.

This is becoming a national problem. There is a claim that pensions are draining state and local budgets, leading to higher taxes, which may cause businesses to move to other states. Low-paid workers in the private economy are also concerned.

We can predict a widespread movement to replace Defined Benefit retirement plans with Defined Contribution plans. Many will have inadequate pensions.

Our members should know that it isn't just our governor taking actions that threaten our pensions — it's the whole country and the federal government.

We need to work with our congressional representatives, particularly on Social Security measures. We also need to encourage our Pension Coalition to coordinate its efforts in anticipation of a much more widespread attack.

Donations (send to CSU-ERFA office) will be very helpful. Letters to your congressional representatives will be invaluable. Let's begin by talking to our fellow members. ✓

CSU has a budget

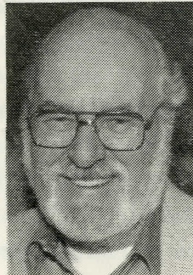
But there's not much to begin cheering about

By Dieter Renning, Stanislaus
Liaison to CFA

On July 11, only 10 days past the constitutional deadline, the governor signed the state's new budget.

It includes a \$2.6 billion general fund budget for the CSU, which is 5.4 percent higher than last year's.

Yet, even if this were not the middle of the summer break, you wouldn't see faculty dancing in the hallways right now, because the \$134 million increase in the total CSU budget recoups less than



Renning

a quarter of the budget cuts the system has suffered over the last three years.

Furthermore, about \$100 million of the augmentation will be generated by student fee increases, which amount to \$186 (8 percent) for undergraduates and \$282 (10 percent) for graduate students next year.

While the CSU administration expressed its satisfaction with the outcome of the budget process, the California Faculty Association expressed its disappointment — though not surprise — that the administration hadn't been pushing for adequate funding.

As CFA President John

Travis (Humboldt) put it, "It is distressing to see confirmed what we had suspected: The governor's 'compact' with the California State University administration defined a 'ceiling' in terms of his commitment to public higher education" — rather than a floor, as CFA had hoped.

Still, it could have been worse, and there is a good feeling among the leadership that CFA's involvement in this spring's rallies and public discussions around the state has helped to get the message out how important adequate funding of the CSU is for California's future.

Please turn to page 9.

California State University- Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

The Retiree Center
18111 Nordhoff St.
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