



On Wednesday November 21 we reached an agreement in principle on a Partial Plant Closure. I am writing this article so you will know what happened as the Local Union worked to get a Partial Plant Closure Agreement that, given the sometimes contradictory language contained in Master Agreement, gives our people the options needed to best serve their individual needs as they face lay off from the Tyler plant due to the discontinuation of tire production here.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by  
**Jim Wansley**

As I warned the membership at the ratification meeting in January, this Master Contract language becomes even more difficult if the plant doesn't close entirely. In addition, no plant has ever had to work out a Partial Plant Closure Agreement where plant closure benefits are paid out and the plant kept operating. It really has been uncharted waters for your Negotiating Committee and for the Local Management people who have had to get an agreement we can all live with, while being second-guessed and constrained by Goodyear Corporate.

Your Committee dug in its heels and, despite ultimatums from Goodyear and though our members became increasingly frustrated and upset with how long it took, stuck to their guns to get this Agreement. In fact, no one at the International Union thought we could get one that **paid Plant Closure benefits and yet kept some form of recall for our members if employment opportunities arose here.** Another sticking point for Goodyear was our ability, in our Local Contract, to gain two years of seniority without being recalled to work when the Master Contract, as well as the Pension & Insurance Agreement, stipulates that an employee can only gain that two years if recalled from lay off. Having an option that will allow an employee to gain **two years of seniority through a traditional lay off without being recalled, while keeping the ability to draw income continuation and other plant closure benefits at a later date if and when the plant does shut down,** was a major concern for your Committee. Yet another was the ability to **recall to Tyler from another plant after Preferential Hiring to that plant,** which Goodyear was adamant wouldn't happen. In all three cases, we prevailed. Yet another accomplishment is following the principle of asking the senior, forcing the junior while keeping the **ability to draw plant closure benefits for those senior employees who accept lay off and let the junior people continue to work.** The Agreement reached isn't as a simple one, but it provides the ability to do all that

This week the Company will be getting informational packets together and scheduling meetings so that hourly employees can know their options and what benefits are available when an option is selected. We will be working with the Texas Workforce Commission so they can also be at those employee meetings to go over benefits available through them and other outside agencies. Then a canvass of employees will be made to determine who will go and who will stay.

Once that is done, those staying will be assigned jobs. Some jobs will be of a Transitory nature, associated with cleaning out inventories and items that will no longer be used to produce tires, while others will be of a Permanent nature, associated with the continued production and shipping of rubber and some components for other plants. Some people will be kept out of line with seniority while the Company trains their replacements. During the latter part of December tire production will be ramped down, though the Company hasn't finalized how it's going to be accomplished as this is written.

At the end of all this Tyler will be a Mixing operation employing about 130 hourly employees. Some 600 hourly employees, and most of the UNNICO and salaried employees, will be gone. The hourly employees, due to their union contract, will have a safety net of choices and benefits that the other two groups will not have. Our people will still have Local Union representatives to serve their contractual rights and benefits needs, at the union hall and in the plant. We will continue to represent those leaving, as well as those staying.

I could talk volumes about the unfairness of this plant being the one to suffer this partial closure or about how it represents a bad business decision for Goodyear. We all did a lot to make Tyler one of the top two plants in Goodyear, often with no support from Corporate, then saw our state refuse to support keeping these jobs and watched the investment and future we earned go to Alabama instead. It is a bitter pill to swallow. But now those leaving and those staying will have to deal with the new realities facing them. This Local Union, with help from the International Union, will be there to help as we do just that.

For those leaving I wish you and yours all the best, especially during this difficult time.

# AFL-CIO Discloses Long List Of Anti-Worker NLRB Cases

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The AFL-CIO-led protest against the rulings of the Bush-named 3-man majority of the National Labor Relations Board was not just another battle in the 7-year struggle the nation’s unions have had to wage to defend themselves against the anti-worker GOP president.

Instead, the protests, which drew more than 1,000 people marching through downtown Washington to NLRB headquarters on Nov. 15—and thousands more descending on agency offices in 25 other cities nationwide—were based on a catalog of heavily anti-worker rulings the labor federation says pervert both the agency’s mission and the intent of U.S. labor law.

What the AFL-CIO calls “The September Steamroller” is so bad that the 61 rulings it cited led protesters to demand the board shut down until a new president succeeds the present GOP regime and names a new board.

The cases run the gamut from making it harder to win back pay from labor law-breaking firms to making it easier for thinly disguised company-run “decertification” campaigns to throw unions out of workplaces, to letting firms sue unions in retaliation for virtually anything and get away with it, to letting employers threaten workers with dire consequences should they unionize.

“In case after case, these decisions reverse the course” of the National Labor Relations Act, the federation said. The board’s Bush-named GOP majority is turning labor law “away from its original purposes of fostering workplace democracy and redressing economic inequality and towards a regulatory regimen that protects employer prerogatives instead of workers.”

“This board is resolving the doubts in borderline cases in the wrong direction,” the federation quoted former University of Michigan law school dean Theodore St. Antoine as saying. Among the key cases that not only drove the unionists into the streets but also drove the AFL-CIO to file a formal complaint against the Bush board with the International Labour Organization are:

The *Dana* and *Metaldyne* cases, involving the Auto Workers and two firms that voluntarily agreed to recognize UAW at their plants after a majority of all workers signed union election authorization cards—the “card-check” process. Normally, when unions are recognized, they have a year of being free from challenge by dissenters, called “decertification.” And decertification needs signatures from only 30% of workers.

The Bush board, by a party-line vote on Sept. 29, said that if the union wins recognition by card-check, the board would send the firm a notice—which the company must post—telling dissenters that if they file a decert petition with enough signatures within 45 days of card-check recognition, it’s valid. Then the board holds a decert election. Often, bargaining hasn’t even started within 45 days of recognition.

In other rulings that same day, the Bush majority accepted something less than cards—signed slips of paper—as a decertification petition, and said that if an absolute majority of workers signed cards calling for a decertification election, the company could immediately dump the union, without a vote.

In an 8-year-old case, *St. George Warehouse*, from Kearney, Neb., the Bush majority reversed more than 40 years of prior rulings—as it did in the UAW cases—and cut the amount of back pay workers are owed once the board finds they were illegally fired. It did so by saying workers must prove they are owed back pay for all the time they were out after the firings—by proving they sought work. The precedents told firms to prove fired workers were not seeking work, in order to cut the back pay.

In a related case, the Bush board majority also said workers who stalled for two weeks seeking interim work—in hopes the employer would come back to bargaining and settle—would get nothing for those weeks. The board’s dissenting Democrats said “requiring this search for ‘interim interim’ employment is entirely without precedent.”

Again overturning previous precedents, the Bush board majority ordered that all a Wisconsin employer had to do to remedy its continuous and outrageous labor law-breaking was hold a second election. The employer, Intermet Stevensville, threatened to close the plant, threatened to eliminate jobs, made “widespread statements about the futility of selecting” the Auto Workers, demoted and cut the pay of a pro-union worker, confiscated literature, removed bulletin boards and committed other violations.

“This is conduct of a type that the board and the courts have previously found is likely to have a long-lasting impact on the workplace, creating an atmosphere of fear in which there is little or no possibility of a fair election,” the AFL-CIO said. The normal remedy for that in the past has been to order the firm to immediately recognize and bargain with the union, here the UAW. The Bush board instead ordered a rerun vote.

The AFL-CIO pointed out the long delays in many of the rulings. “Of the 61 decisions... a total of 33 decisions— more than half of those issued—had been pending more than 4 years,” it said. One case from Brooklyn, where 202 workers were illegally fired, stretched back to 1989. Those workers have yet to receive any back pay.

The board majority gave employers far more leeway to threaten workers, in a Sept. 20 ruling involving Suburban Electrical Contractors of Appleton, Wis., and IBEW supporter Randy Reinders. As two supervisors walked near Reinders, one asked “‘Well, Dave, did you ‘take care of’ our union problem yet?’” The other, pointing to Reinders, replied: “What, you mean Randy?” The board’s administrative law judge called the exchange “an unlawful threat of adverse consequences” for Reinders. The Bush majority called it “ambiguous” and threw out the case.

Even temporary replacement workers can become permanent—and workers forced to strike are out of jobs. In a case involving Jones Plastic & Engineering of Camden, N.J., the 3-man Bush-named majority said that “replacement workers can be treated as permanent and given preference over strikers even if they were informed” when they were hired that they would be working at the employer’s discretion and could be let go for any reason—including taking returning strikers back.

The 61 rulings are not the only problems workers face, the fed noted. It also pointed out a consistent pattern by the Bush-named majority of the board to shrink the numbers and kinds of workers covered by labor law’s incomplete protections. And in a case the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago later overturned, the Bush majority allowed a company to lock out strikers who offered to return to work—overturning 40 years of precedents—while still employing those who crossed picket lines.

“Instead of shrinking the (National Labor Relations) act’s coverage, protections and remedies, the board should be trying to figure out why virulent anti-union campaigns are still the norm, why workers ace such fear and intimidation when they try to form an union, why so many organizing campaigns still involve so many violations of workers’ rights and why the rights guaranteed by the act are still outside the grasp of so many workers,” the federation concluded.

We had around 50 members present at the meeting, on November 12th, 2007; at Ryan's Steak House. We all enjoyed a fantastic meal and had a lot of fun visiting with everyone.

We had the drawing for the rifle and Mr. Byron Allen from Lindale won. Congratulations Byron on your win, we know that it came at a good time for you. Byron, you were the envy of everyone present.

John Nash spoke about trying to keep the Pharmacy open after the plant shuts down. We all hope that this will be possible.

On November 28th, 2007, the SOAR men will decorate the Union grounds for Christmas. The SOAR ladies will decorate the Activity Building and the Union Office.

There were 37 members plus 2 not members who went to Branson and we all had a great time. We saw several good shows and had some really delicious meals. Of course some of the ladies went shopping and we had good time shopping and seeing all the stores decorated for Christmas. Some of us really got into the Christmas spirit. I also want to say we have a very nice and polite bus driver and also very humorous, his name was Mr. David Gordon with Lone Star Bus Lines. We definitely want to get him for our future trips.

At our next meeting December 10th, 2007, we will have a cov-

**UNITED STEELWORKERS**  
**SOAR**  
**STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES**  
**RETIREES' CORNER**  
 by  
**Helen Young**

ered dish to go with turkey and ham. We will not have any kind of entertainment at this meeting not until after the first of the year. This year instead of bringing a \$5.00 gift for a man or woman; we will bring a \$5.00 toy gift if single and a \$10.00 toy gift from a couple, we will give these gifts to the Fire Department for the children. Please bring the gifts unwrapped. Or we can just bring

the money and give it to the SOAR ladies and they will go shopping for the toys and will take these toys to the Fire Department.

Our next 42 Tournament will be January 14th, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. and the SOAR meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. that evening at the John Nash Activity Building. If you are interested in the 42 tournament and would like to participate call Deno Robertson at 903-561-1467 or Roy Stanley, 903-592-3260.

**SOAR Auxiliary Ladies**

The Auxiliary Ladies met in November and we had 9 ladies present. We do want to encourage all of our new retiree's ladies to join our Auxiliary Club. We meet the first Tuesday of each month; December 4th, 2007; at John Nash Activity building at 10:00 a.m. will be our next meeting and we bring a covered dish. Ladies we will bring a \$5.00 gift to this meeting for a lady. Also Linda Bateman has a surprise project in the works for us.



**Above**  
**Ladies Auxiliary meeting on**  
**November 6th, 2007.**



**Above**  
**The SOAR Club at Ryan's Steakhouse for the November meeting.**



**Below**  
**The SOAR members loading**  
**the bus for Branson.**



**Below**  
**The marquee at the Melody**  
**Lane Inn expecting SOAR**  
**Tours.**



**Below**  
**The group that went to Branson.**

# Report: Unregulated Imports Threaten Consumer Safety

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Unregulated imports of everything from toothpaste to toys threaten consumer safety, says a new study by the Campaign for America’s Future.

*Toxic Trade: Globalization and the Safety of the American Consumer* also points out that while trade has increased almost five-fold since 1974, the main agency charged with protecting us, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, has seen its staffing fall from 786 at its 1974 start and almost 1,000 at its 1980 peak to just over 400 today. Its \$62 million budget is approximately 43% of its 1974 budget, adjusted for inflation.

“Americans have come to depend on the CPSC and other regulatory authorities to ensure the safety and quality of the products they buy and the food they eat,” write the report’s authors, Robert L. Borosage, Eric Lotke, Christopher Rasmussen and Alex Carter. But due to lack of funding under both GOP and Democratic regimes since 1980, the agency can’t do its job, they added.

Investigative reporter Marla Felcher made the same point to a meeting of Wal-Mart Watch activists at SEIU headquarters on Oct. 30. She specifically discussed the agency’s inaction against hazardous baby cribs, including those that stayed on the market, and killed toddlers, even after CPSC recalls. The crib case is “the canary in the coal mine” about CPSC’s failings, Felcher added.

While CPSC can recall dangerous products, including the cribs, she said, it rarely uses it. And when it does, it often issues the recall only after long negotiations with the product maker’s or distributor’s lawyers, who go to great lengths to minimize publicity and financial damage to their clients.

As a result, for example, of all the defective cribs on the market, fewer than 12% of those that should have been returned after recalls actually came back. The cribs kill toddlers by being constructed in such a way that they easily collapse on the children.

One crib, the Simplicity Crib, killed a Chicago suburban toddler whose parents were friends of Felcher’s. That started her on the investigation and crusade. The toddler was the seventh child to die in just three years from that crib.

But it’s not just baby cribs and it’s not just a case of faulty

products getting through U.S. inspection, the report says. Instead, it notes CPSC and similar agencies are so understaffed and hamstrung they don’t have the people or money to do their jobs in the first place.

“The understaffing and the increasing imports create a toxic combination,” the Campaign for America’s Future report says. “Lead-based paint in toys from China is a case in point. The Toy Industry Association claims 80% of the toys Americans buy are Chinese imports”—a figure it later says is uncheckable due to no accurate records.

“Yet CPSC reports more than half of its product recalls are of products originating in China. . . . Over the summer, more than 20 million toys manufacture in China were recalled because of lead-based paint and other hazards, despite the fact that lead paint was banned in toys in the U.S. 30 years ago,” the report notes.

Just in the first two weeks of October, CPSC recalled 290,100 toys of various types for high levels of lead—along with 350,000 bookmarks and journals, 2,400 Christmas ornaments, 1.6 million Cub Scout totem badges, 192,000 key chains and 11,200 water bottles.

“The very reason a domestic consumer protection agency was created was because companies, facing fierce competition, simply could not be trusted to police themselves,” the report declares. “Now global outsourcing is putting people at risk.”

Besides giving CPSC the budget and staff it needs to adequately inspect toys and other consumer products, the report also advocates huge penalties—\$100 million per violation—against companies that put toxic and dangerous goods on the market. That way “penalties are an actual deterrent, not just a cost of doing business,” the report says. It also favors creating tracking labels on children’s products to ease recalls, tighter standards for lead-based paint in those products, and terminating import licenses for firms that repeatedly bring in hazardous goods.

Those measures are in legislation—opposed by Bush regime CPSC chairman Nancy Nord, a former Kodak lobbyist and U.S. Chamber of Commerce official—sponsored by Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.).

## Funny Stuff

\*Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, “Why is the bride dressed in white?” “Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.” The child thought about this for a moment, then said, “So why is the groom wearing black?”

\*A police recruit was asked during the exam, “What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?” He answered “Call for backup.”

\*A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “Honor thy father and thy mother,” she asked “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat one little boy answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

\*Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after

hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, “What do you think about all this Satan stuff?” The other boy replied, “Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It’s probably just your Dad.

\*At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, “Johnny, what is the matter?” Little Johnny responded, “I have pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.”

\*An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive, I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.

**You don’t stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing!**

# Goodyear Employees' Children in the Spotlight

## Olivia Levoy



Olivia Levoy is a 14 year old ninth grader at Robert E. Lee High School and is on the A-B Honor Roll. During the East Texas State Fair this year, her lamb that she raised, won Reserve Grand Champion. Last year, her lamb won Grand Champion at the Junior Invitational show, which was held at Kiepersol Estates. Also last year, her lamb was top in Region 5 at the Texas Junior Livestock Show.

All of this is pretty amazing by itself. When you consider that Olivia has had SMA Type 3 Muscular Dystrophy since she was 4 years old, her accomplishments are really outstanding. Since she has become involved with raising lambs, her condition has actually improved in several areas. Her doctors are very pleased with her improvements.

Olivia is the daughter of Steve and Amanda Levoy. Steve is a pipe fitter on 1<sup>st</sup> shift.

## Sarah Robertson

Sarah Robertson, center, is a member of the Candy Crocker School of Dance. She recently participated in the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader Competition. Her team won the Grand Championship and will perform at the pre-game and half time of the Dallas Cowboys vs. Philadelphia Eagles game on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah is the daughter of Todd Robertson, 1<sup>st</sup> shift 39 ARF and niece of Tony Robertson, 1<sup>st</sup> shift belt Duplex Head operator.



## Texas Fire Fighters Use Ballot Box To Win Collective Bargaining

FORT WORTH, Texas (PAI)—Fire Fighters in two Texas municipalities—the big city of Fort Worth and the smaller town of Pampa—used the ballot box earlier this month to win themselves collective bargaining rights.

With Texas being a right-to-work state and with other restrictions on public workers' rights here, IAFF Local 440 in Fort Worth and Pampa Local 3293 got referendums on the ballot asking voters to approve collective bargaining rights.

They won by a 55%-45% margin in Fort Worth—over the 7-1 opposition of its city council and from the Chamber of Commerce—and by a 516-447 margin in Pampa. No dates were set for bargaining to begin. Fort Worth and Pampa are the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> cities in Texas where Fire Fighters now have the right to collectively bargain.

In Fort Worth, the Fire Fighters exposed the lousy benefits for first responders. Key selling points with voters were that collective bargaining could give the Fire Fighters health insurance and retirement benefits, Local 440 political director David Dodson said.

“This is a great victory for the fire fighters and citizens of Fort Worth,” Local 440 President Jim Tate told IAFF. “It was a tough fight against well-organized and well-financed opposition, but we prevailed.”

In Pampa, the issues were the same but there was extra help, from the Political Referendum Operations Fund that IAFF established in 2006. That fund—which gave its first aid to Local 3293—“helps provide interest-free loans to state associations and local affiliates to finance campaigns related to referendums, ballot initiatives and constitutional or charter amendments,” IAFF says.

# Exposing Corporate America's Wealth Creation Myth

By Sam Pizzigati, Special to PAI

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Amid the sub-prime mortgage meltdown, CEOs on Wall Street are starting to drop like flies. Also taking a hit: The notion that our contemporary CEOs are “creating” wealth with their reckless rushes to glory.

Apologists for our current economic order have a ready rejoinder whenever anyone dares suggest that top CEOs just might make too much. These execs, comes the retort, are creating wealth. They deserve a decent chunk of whatever wealth they create. The facts, however, may say otherwise.

E. Stanley O’Neal, as the CEO of Wall Street financial giant Merrill Lynch, certainly pocketed one of those decent chunks—and then some. O’Neal took home \$46.4 million last year. His fans considered O’Neal well worth every penny. After all, they noted, Merrill Lynch made \$7 billion wheeling and dealing in 2006, over triple the \$2.2 billion the company raked up in 2002, the year O’Neal first became Merrill’s CEO.

But this year, unfortunately for O’Neal, Merrill Lynch lost \$2.3 billion in the third quarter alone. Late last month, the Merrill Lynch board forced him to resign. So what does this short, sad story of E. Stanley O’Neal tell us, in the end, about CEOs and wealth creation?

Let’s first acknowledge that top executives can indeed help create wealth—if they’re serious about building truly effective enterprises. Executives can help nurture effectiveness, management researchers tell us, by fostering enterprise-wide teamwork and promoting initiatives that tap employee wisdom and grow employee skills.

But all that nurturing takes time—too much time for executives larded with princely incentives to show results fast. Not surprisingly, few contemporary big-time CEOs take this slow-and-steady, effectiveness-building approach to wealth creation.

Instead, top executives gamble. They roll the dice with big, bold business moves. They might orchestrate a major buyout, for instance. Or order a huge downsizing. Or plow corporate cash into incredibly complex speculative financial instruments.

As Merrill Lynch CEO, Stanley O’Neal took all three of these gambles. He started out by axing employees right and left, in the process shredding the little that remained of his company’s no-layoff ‘Mother Merrill’ institutional culture.

Then O’Neal speculated. He boosted Merrill’s stake in the

wild and crazy market for what Wall Streeters call “complex debt instruments” from \$1 billion to \$40 billion in just 18 months, right as the sub-prime mortgage market was beginning to melt.

Oops. In quick order, Merrill Lynch would see the biggest losses in the firm’s 93-year history. Finally, with Wall Street’s walls beginning to crash down upon him, O’Neal played his third wealth “creation” card. He tried to finagle a last-minute merger between Merrill and the Wachovia Bank.

For O’Neal, this merger made eminent sense. Under his CEO contract, any merger that led to his exit from Merrill’s top executive suite would entitle O’Neal to a pay-out worth as much as \$274 million.

Alas, O’Neal had waited too long to start his merger dance. The merger scheming blew up in his face. O’Neal will now to settle for an exit package most analysts peg at \$161.5 million.

Whatever sum O’Neal eventually reaps from his resignation will come, of course, on top of the \$160 million his five years of CEO labor already earned him.

Shad Rowe, the president of the watchdog group Investors for Director Accountability, sees all this as nothing short of disgusting. O’Neal, he charges, “was paid a tremendous amount of money to create a loss that is mind-boggling, and he obviously took risks that should never have been taken.”

But why should anyone be shocked? Top executives today routinely take outrageous risks because, in today’s Corporate America, outrageous risks can pay off in outrageously huge rewards. Sane people don’t take huge risks for small rewards. Huge rewards, on the other hand, can leave nearly anyone giddy—and greedy.

That won’t change until we, as a society, start reining in CEO pay. In Congress, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) last month proposed a step in that direction, a bill to deny corporations tax deductions on any executive pay that runs over 25 times the pay of a company’s lowest-paid worker.

E. Stanley O’Neal, for the record, last year pocketed over 2,300 times more than workers earning \$20,000 a year.

*Veteran labor journalist Sam Pizzigati currently edits **Too Much**, an online weekly on excess and inequality available at [www.toomuchonline.org](http://www.toomuchonline.org).*



## Joe Smith Needs a Job!

Joe Smith started the day early having set his alarm clock (MADE IN JAPAN) for 6 am. While his coffeepot(MADE IN CHINA) was perking, he shaved with his electric razor (MADE IN HONG KONG). He put on a dress shirt (MADE IN SRI LANKA), designer jeans (MADE IN SINGAPORE) and tennis shoes (MADE IN KOREA). After cooking his breakfast in his new electric skillet (MADE IN INDIA) he sat down with his calculator (MADE IN MEXICO) to see how much he could spend today. After setting his watch (MADE IN TAIWAN) to the radio (MADE IN INDIA) he got in his car (MADE IN GERMANY) filled it with GAS from Saudi Arabia and continued his search for a good paying AMERICAN JOB. At the end of yet another discouraging and fruitless day checking his Computer (Made In Malaysia), Joe decided to relax for a while. He put on his sandals (MADE IN BRAZIL) poured himself a glass of wine (MADE IN FRANCE) and turned on his TV (MADE IN INDONESIA), and then wondered why he can't find a good paying job in AMERICA ..

## OBITUARIES

**Kenneth Chaney, 62, died on November 1, 2007, in Plano, Texas. He retired from Kelly Springfield several years ago. Photo not available.**



**Jimmy Pierce died November 18, 2007. He was 59 years old. Jimmy retired November 1, 2003 and was a trucker in Dept. 441.**

## Improper Tire Pressure Top Car Problem

Incorrect tire pressure was top on the list of vehicle problems, according to U.S. car care clinics conducted by the American Automobile Association (AAA) and NAPA Auto Parts. "Low pressure in the tires can increase wear and fuel consumption," said Kit Johnson, NAPA's 2007 Technician of the Year. He encouraged drivers to check their tire pressure at least once a month to ensure the proper levels of inflation.

In addition, making sure tires are aligned correctly can prove beneficial to vehicle owners. "Keeping tires properly aligned will also help assure longer tire life and improve fuel economy," Johnson said.

During the clinics, technicians inspected over 6,082 vehicles through 25 different AAA clubs. Among incorrect tire pressure, technicians also found the following car problems:

- \*Clogged air filters;
- \*Insufficient tire tread depth;
- \*Low levels of engine oil; and
- \*Worn-out windshield wiper blades.

A recent Rubber Manufacturers Association survey found that 85 percent of drivers fail to check tire pressure.



## INFOAlert

### Taking Back Our Economy

#### What Do They Really Mean?

We already know that Corporate America and their allies in government are setting the rules these days. When we watch the news or maybe even sit down at the bargaining table, we hear terms like "labor market flexibility," "globalization," "small government" and "economic stability." When these issues come up, they are usually code for something that will benefit corporate interests and leave workers and America's middle class behind. The next few weeks we'll take a look at these terms and what they really mean, starting with "labor market flexibility" today.

#### Corporate Agenda Term #1: Labor Market Flexibility

Labor market flexibility is often code for union-busting and breaking commitments to workers. What they say and what they mean are usually two different things.

#### What they say:

**"We need labor market flexibility to run a profitable business."**

#### What they really mean:

- We want to use temporary employees instead of permanent employees; we want to contract the work out to other companies.
- We don't want to pay overtime.
- We want to schedule employees at the last minute and on irregular shifts. And, we want to mandate overtime.
- We don't want to pay health care or provide defined benefit pension plans.
- In short, we don't want any binding commitments to our employees. We want to use them as we want, when we want and pay them what we want.
- And, most importantly, we don't want a union or the government interfering with our doing so.

### Jury Duty Scam

This has been verified by the FBI (their link is also included below).

Please pass this on to everyone in your email address book. It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Most of us take those summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced.

The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo; your identity was just stolen.

The fraud has been reported so far in 11 states, including Oklahoma, Illinois, and Colorado. This (swindle) is particularly insidious because they use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

Check it out here:

[http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury\\_scams060206.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury_scams060206.htm)

# The Secret Behind the Number 11

Pretty Chilling - read to the bottom. Try it out. If you are a sceptical person - still read on as it's actually very interesting!! This is actually really freaky!! (Mainly the end part, but read it all first)

- \* New York City has 11 letters.
  - \* Afghanistan has 11 letters.
  - \* Ramsin Yuseb has 11 letters. (The terrorist who threatened to destroy the Twin Towers in 1993)
  - \* George W Bush has 11 letters.
- This could be a mere coincidence, but this gets interesting:
- \* New York is the 11th state.
  - \* The first plane crashing against the Twin Towers was flight number 11.
  - \* Flight 11 was carrying 92 passengers.  $9 + 2 = 11$
  - \* Flight 77 which also hit Twin Towers, was carrying 65 passengers.  $6 + 5 = 11$
  - \* The tragedy was on September 11, or 9/11 as it is now known.  $9 + 1 + 1 = 11$
  - \* The date is equal to the US emergency services telephone number 911.
- Sheer coincidence..? Read on and make up your own mind:
- \* The total number of victims inside all the hi-jacked planes was 254.  $2 + 5 + 4 = 11$
  - \* September 11 is day number 254 of the calendar year.
  - \* The Madrid bombing took place on 3/11/2004.  $3 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 4 = 11$ .
  - \* The tragedy of Madrid happened 911 days after the Twin Towers incident.

Now this is where things get totally eerie:  
The most recognized symbol for the US, after the Stars & Stripes, is the Eagle. The following verse is taken from the Koran, the Islamic holy book:

*"For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fearsome Eagle. The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah while some of the people trembled in despair still more rejoiced: for the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah and there was peace."*

That verse is number 9.11 of the Koran.

Unconvinced about all of this still ..?

Try this and see how you feel afterwards.

\* Open Microsoft Word on your computer, type in Q33 NY, then highlight it. This is the flight number of the first plane to hit one of the Twin Towers.

\* Change the font size to 48.

\* Change the actual font to the WINGDINGS... The symbols below is what you will get. What do you think now????



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