

Local Lodge 1746

# insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 — Telephone: 568-3000

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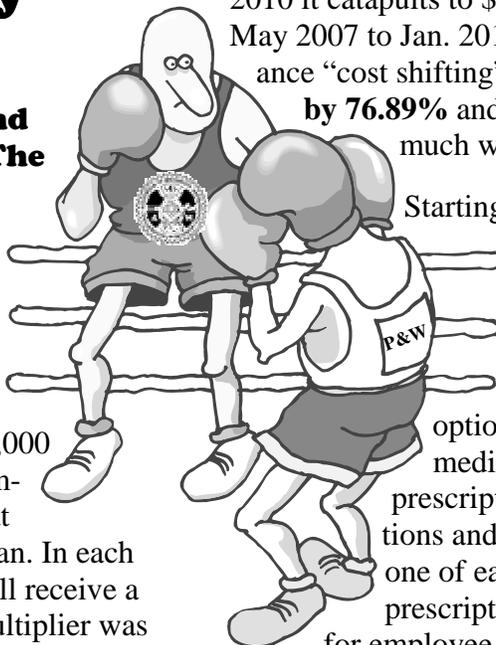
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## Get Ready to Rumble

### Hamilton/Sundstrand Contract--The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

As many of you know, our union brothers and sisters at IAM LL-743 recently ratified a 3 year contract with Hamilton/Sundstrand (UTC). They received a \$3,000 signing bonus, with the company matching 50% of what is deposited into savings plan. In each year of the contract they will receive a 3.5% raise. The pension multiplier was increased by \$8, to a maximum of \$57 per month per year of service. In addition, they were able to continue their **quarterly** COLA, receive 38 holidays over the 3 year agreement, with increased matched contributions to the savings plan as well as the individual medical account. That's "**The Good**" news, that you may have heard or read. What follows is "**The Bad and The Ugly**"

*The "cost shifting" on healthcare was, is, and will be the bad news.* The increases are ominous. For example, let's assume you choose Cigna and are insuring yourself and family. At Hamilton, effective May 7, 2007 the weekly insurance rate for employee and family will be \$35.05 per week. In Jan. 2008, the weekly insurance rate for employee and family jumps to \$46.90 per week. In Jan. 2009, it



jumps to \$53.90 a week and then in Jan. 2010 it catapults to \$62.00 a week. From May 2007 to Jan. 2010 the health insurance "cost shifting" per week **increases by 76.89%** and it gets worse... much worse.

Starting Jan. 2008, current employees at Hamilton will be building their own medical (insurance) and prescription drug options. There will be five medical options and three prescription (Rx) drug options and everyone has to pick one of each. If you choose prescription **Rx option one** for employee and family, add another \$9.50 per week to your weekly insurance rate. In 2009 the same prescription **Rx option one** goes to \$10.90 a week followed in 2010 to \$12.50 per week. If you calculate in the added cost of prescription drug coverage, from May 2007 to Jan. 2010 the healthcare "cost shift" to employees increases by **112.55% -- from \$35.05 to \$74.50** (using this example: insuring employee and family using Cigna and with prescription option one). I'm not done...you guessed right; it gets worse.

Depending on the options you choose for this new "**build your own**" medical and prescription drug plan you will have differing deductibles, co-pays, and out of pocket maximums. Starting Jan 2008 if you use the emergency room, an urgent

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care center, home health care, a laboratory, radiology services, or need an MRI, MRA, CAT, or PET scan, durable medical equipment, physical therapy or rehabilitative services, you will now be subject to the deductible first *as well as co-pays applied to negotiated rates*. It couldn't get worse could it? I won't bother telling you about the dental and vision care plan, because it's more of the same. All this is based on choosing "in network" providers. If you choose "out of network" you'll have to get a job at the Gold Building...but at least you'll have the same insurance plan as George David does, so they have told us.



*Machinists from East Hartford, Cheshire, Middletown & District 26 Rally to Support Hamilton/Sundstrand Workers.*



*"If we cancel their eyeglass benefits, the union won't be able to read the fine print."*

## 2007 Workers' Memorial Day

*Sister Deb Belancik gave the following speech at the State Capitol on Saturday, April 28, Workers' Memorial Day.*



This is a very solemn occasion. It honors all those who have died, gotten sick or injured on the job. This is a day that we hope someday we won't have to observe. Because the workers won't be getting hurt, sick or killed at their jobs. Right now that isn't a reality. We need better working conditions and laws that will help protect workers and their families. We need work-places that will respect safety and health on the job.

We also need better workmen's compensation laws that help the workers and not the corporations. No one chooses to get hurt or sick from working on the job, but if they do, help should be there for them. We need more safety and health committees at workplaces; it is a proven fact that companies with active safety and health committees improve workers' morale, safety and well being. Some of the workplace hazards include; poor ergonomic designs, indoor air quality, violence in the workplace, job stress, safety hazards and chemical poisoning, just to name a few.

We need fewer chemicals and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals on the job. Toxic chemicals are contributing to an epidemic of chronic illnesses. Look at OSHA: in over 35 years OSHA has added only 28 new chemicals to regulate...and people keep dying. 60,000 a year die from occupational illness. In the European Union (where there are also powerful businesses) they have just passed a resolution to ban 1500 of their worst chemicals. If they can do it there, we can do it here. Let's all push for a safer chemicals in our work places.

If you are working with toxic chemicals, know what they are and make sure that you have a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) to know what the risks are when handling them. Wear your protective clothing and equipment and don't take short cuts. Be aware of your surroundings and watch out for one another.

Let us not forget to honor the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice at the workplace. Let us not forget our troops that are fighting for freedom, and our veterans. ***Please keep them all in your prayers.***





*Machinists joined thousands to rally at the State Capitol May 5th for Universal Health Care in CT.*

## Do the Math

5,000 activists came down to Bushnell Park in Hartford on May 5<sup>th</sup> to show their support at a rally for universal health care in Connecticut. It should've been 50,000. You might have said, *“How can I go? The weather is so nice. It's the first warm weekend of the year. The ballgame is on and the grass needs cutting. It's Saturday and I have so much to do. Rallies are just singing and cheering and shouting and clapping. And Hartford is such a hassle. There are lots of others who will go. They won't need me.”*

Lots of people *did* go. The SEIU sent hundreds, marching through the park in a sea of purple T-shirts. The UAW had a booth at the rally to receive all of their members. The faith-based groups, the municipal workers, the elderly, the unfortunate and the disenfranchised—mingling together to show their support. The Machinists were there, too, but only about forty of us.

**Do the math.** With approximately 4,000 members at three locals, it adds up to about 1% of the membership.

You may say, *“Well, so what? We got ours. We have health insurance. It may be more expensive than it used to be, but it's still better than most people have.”*

That may be true. But UTC does the math, too. And it always equals the bottom line. If the corporation has to choose between floating your health care plan and financing George David's next yacht, you'd better put on your lifejacket. Every Local that slides its tray down the UTC mess line is getting served the same cold hash for health insurance. It doesn't matter if they strike, like Sikorsky's Teamsters, or if the UTC cooks dress it up with a *pension carrot* and *signing-bonus parsley*

like they did for our brothers and sisters at Hamilton Sundstrand....

**it's still the same cold hash.** And we're next in line, so keep moving and hold out your plate.

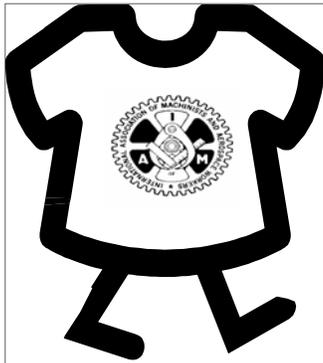
But don't give up yet. There's still time to make a difference. Contrary to what the Hartford Courant and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association might be saying, two bills that could bring Connecticut residents significant health care reform are both alive and kicking in legislative committees. —the “single payer bill” (SB 1371) and the “large pool” bill (HB 7314). Rallies have their place, but personal appeals to your senators and representatives can be just as effective, if not more so. See, politicians **do the math**, too. 5,000 people in the park on a sunny Saturday afternoon means something to them. 500 voice mails, emails, letters, and postcards from their voting constituents mean something more.

Polls have shown that the majority of state residents favor universal health care, so it's imperative that we make our will be known to our legislature. Stop letting lobbyists like the CBIA peddle their interests while diminishing the quality of our health care. Your daughter, your son, your parent, your neighbor, your best friend—sooner or later someone you care about is going to feel the financial pinch or limited choice of inadequate health insurance, and when that happens there may nothing you can do to help them.

You can do something right now. The 2007 legislative session ends June 6<sup>th</sup>, so now is a critical time to call, write, or email your state senator and representative and let him or her know you support universal health care in CT. All the contact information you need can be found at [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org). Please, do it today!



*Brother Lloyd Williams of Dept 353, made it up from Clinton to attend the Universal Health Care Rally. IAM 1746 members rode a bus to the rally to get our message across.*



## Who Likes Red T-shirts?

Maybe not all of us agree with the war in Iraq. But I do believe that most of us, as Americans, think of the troops who are over there fighting for our country.

Right or wrong they are

there--putting their lives on the line 24/7!!

Below is the Baghdad forecast for May 9<sup>th</sup> thru May 13<sup>th</sup> ...and it's not even summer yet. The gear of a soldier in Iraq weighs approximately 150lbs. Just imagine how uncomfortable that is.

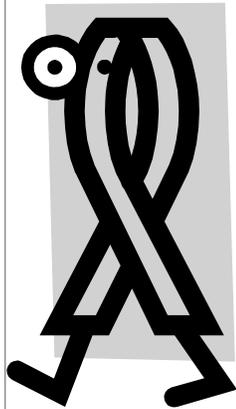
Lately, a few of our more "fashion-conscious" members have complained about wearing the red T-shirts on Fridays to show support for our troops. I can definitely relate to that. I always hated red T-Shirts and never owned any. But after reading the Wear Red T-shirt article in last month's issue I realized it was the least I could do. I wanted to show support in any way I could.

Thus, I brought my first red T-shirt. I think it makes a strong statement to society if we all can stand together and wear RED on Fridays, no matter how much we may hate the color.

One day a week I would have to take time out of my busy scheduled and think about all those troops over there in Iraq. If they're wearing red, it's probably blood...or maybe that fine red dust from the desert wind storms. I'm sure they hate that more then I could ever hate red T-shirts. When I get dressed on Fridays now, I always remember that I am not putting on the red for me,

*but for them.*

## Wear Red on Fridays!! Baghdad, Iraq 5 DAY FORECAST



## Cancer Study Update, May 2007

Tara Alcazar and Steve Lacey, Cancer Researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, were in the Pratt & Whitney Plants during the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>. They spoke with employees from each of our facilities in East Hartford, Cheshire and Middletown.

The researchers were very impressed with all the information they received from employees on the processes and job titles at Pratt and Whitney. Each person was interviewed about processes, procedures, environmental, health and safety issues at their various work locations and jobs through years of employment. Those interviewed were very precise about items of concern for the researchers, and about the hazards that they worked with during their time at Pratt. Most of the employees interviewed had 25 plus years' of seniority.

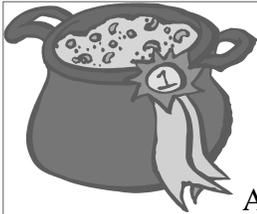
Thank you to all employees who participated...the response was terrific! This was a pilot program and there will be many more of them. The researchers would like to speak to salaried employees as well. If anyone would like a full report please contact me at anytime. (Work phone -- 860-565-4766)

Email – [debra.belancik@pw.utc.com](mailto:debra.belancik@pw.utc.com)

*I will also speak with you personally if you wish.*

*Debra Belancik IAMAW District 26*





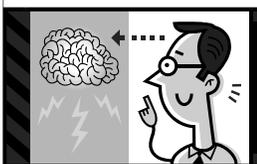
## “Will Work for Food”

*Adding insult to humiliation!*

Another *day in paradise* in M Building...**food** is again being offered to increase production. Rich Joseph promised the honey-comb cell workers a **bowl of chili** as a reward if they made their \$12 million dollars mark for the month. In the past it was **ribs** and it was a joke, because the ribs didn't come for months, but the work got out every month! The following is a letter submitted from a co-worker from M Building.

Guess what folks: our brilliant, B.U.M. (*Rich Joseph*), has done it again! Another one of his famous, **“if you get the work out, I'll buy you dinner”** promises. What a REWARD! Mr. Joseph gets the glory and a fat bonus we get a lousy bowl of chili. **Pretty cool, right?**

Mr. Joseph, how about if we give you a suggestion? If we make the \$12 million dollars, you can take the money you would have used for our food and give it to a soup kitchen, or maybe even start a program for the needy. As for us the workers, the union brothers and sisters that have made Pratt and Whitney what it is today, who make you look good and get you the bonuses, we only get a slice of pizza, an occasional grinder and now a **bowl of chili**. Some people take this as an insult. Although some of us may not have the college degree, there are a good number of us that are a lot smarter



than some of the college educated people who are running this place. So please use your brain and come up with a better idea to increase the production in M Building, if that is such a BIG priority for you.

Yours truly, A Proud Union Member

Some people may not agree with this totally and enjoy a meal as a perk for getting the work out. We at *insight* like to offer every member a chance to agree or disagree and to voice their opinion. We encourage any member to voice their opinion on this letter, or any other topic in the shop. Please submit in writing to [locallodge1746@snet.net](mailto:locallodge1746@snet.net).

*You may also give letters to the Union Representative in your area.*

## L-Building Rocks

Reported Tremors Just BUM Blowing Off Steam

During a morning production meeting last month, the BUM receives a call or a page, and ends up on the *speaker phone* in the meeting with everyone around (supervisors, engineers, materials and whoever else). The salary person on the other end is from surface treat, Dept 181...the message is **“we have an inlet case here with a dent in it”**.



After some discussion the BUM started swearing profusely and threatened the salary person with something like **“you have half an hour to find the \*#?#\* person responsible and fire them”**. I am told there was considerable foul language during this conversation. The BUM then slammed his hand down and broke the grill work on the speaker phone, resulting in a cut on his hand which drew blood. I hear he never went to medical about this injury, nor was there an injury report made.

Another little birdie mentioned it was all overheard by a female yellow-badge employee who was working at one of the desks near the conference room. She was thinking about filing a complaint with the company due to the loudness and vulgar language used.





**The Next Monthly Meeting is  
Sunday, May 20 at 11:00 am**  
Remember our Troops on Memorial Day



**In Memoriam**



James E. Elliot, a long time Pratt employee who worked in both the North Haven and East Hartford plants, passed away on May 1, 2007.

James was a union member, and most recently worked on the Third Shift in TMC, D-20051. He was an avid outdoors-

man, who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and co-workers.

**2007 Walk**

**Against Hunger  
Update**

*Walk Against Hunger-2007*

A record number of members from our local participated in the Greater Hartford Walk Against Hunger, held on Sunday May 6. Thanks to all from our local who participated in this worthwhile event, and to those who donated. See next issue of *in-sight* for a full report.



**May 2007**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*7 Months Until New Contract*

**WEBSITES:**

[www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)

[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)

[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

[www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org)



Please email your announcements & messages. Items for the next issue must be emailed by



June 1st, 2007.

[localldodge1746@snet.net](mailto:localldodge1746@snet.net)

**Don't Forget to Wear RED on Fridays**

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