



## Contract Ratified

After 6 months of hard bargaining, 70 graduate students filled Gilfillan Auditorium to vote on the contract that the Bargaining Team won over the summer.

The contract was ratified with an unanimous vote of 42 yes. Since CGE has just received the officially, "Bargaining Unit List" the 29 other votes that were previously uncounted, will be counted as soon as the Elections Committee can reconvene.

### Bargaining Team Members

**Brett "Magic" Nair**, AFT Lead Negotiator

**Joe Tyburczy** Vice President Bargaining, '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**John Osborne** CGE President, '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Allison Weinstein** VP Communications, '05-'06, '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Rob Hess** VP Bargaining (new), '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Jay Zarnetske** '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Phoebe Zarnetske** '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Sean Jones** '07-'08 Bargaining Team

**Chris Knutson** '07-'08 Bargaining Team

### Upcoming Events

**EC Strategic Retreat**  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 am- 12 pm

**Building Representative Meeting**  
Date TBA, Westminster House

**Meeting with President Ed Ray**  
December, Time TBA

**Executive Council Meetings**  
Anyone is welcome! Thursdays, 9:30 am,  
Westminster House.

Members celebrate the end of bargaining.



# CGE Audit Results- in the green!

Brian Collins (Public Policy), Matt Parks (Botany), and Jay Frentress (Botany), along with CGE Staff and Secretary/Treasurer, Angela Brandt (Zoology) spent a lot of time going through CGE's finances from the last year. Results show that CGE has a slight cushion to help transition into Fairshare; we can expect no future contributions from AFT after January 1, 2009. CGE will, for the first time ever, be self-sufficient!

Recommendations from the Audit Committee include:

1. Monthly check book balancing.
2. More formal EC Meeting procedures were CGE's finances are reported and accepted at *each* meeting.
3. Create a procedure for determining the yearly budget and have it approved at an EC meeting.
4. CGE needs to invest in larger liability insurance coverage.
5. CGE needs to conduct inventory incase of property damage.

This is a tall order of recommended improvements, so if you're interested in volunteering some of your time to CGE, please contact the office! Thanks to everyone who participated and helped in the audit.



## Welcoming Barbeque

On September 24th, ~40 CGEers gathered at the Avery Park Maple Shelter for an evening of good times, good food, and good company. No one seemed to even notice the scattered droplets that fell. Well, no one except for President John Osborne, whose job it was to light a fire with damp material that kept getting more damp. Fortunately, more charcoal and lighter fluid proved to be stronger than the showers.

Among the guests were several of our brothers and sisters from U of O. That's right, the GTFF's drove their huge pick-up truck to deliver a congratulatory cake. That was a mighty sweet cake!

## Fall Barbeque

Grads and their families gather at the Maple Grove Shelter for an evening of food and comradery.

Soggy weather couldn't dampen spirits, especially with the sweet cake from the GTFFs!



## General Membership Meeting

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Nearly Normal's. Thanks to all the members who attended, it was great to see so many NEW members there, too!



### Membership Drive Results

- ~100 Number of new cards signed this term
- 56 Number of cards sign at office visits
- 40 Number of cards signed at orientations
- 19 Number of cards signed in Geology
- 18 Number of cards signed in Chemistry
- 16 Number of cards signed in Zoology
- 24 Number of hours Dennis spent doing visits
- 7 Number of cards collected by a single officer at a single visit

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and conducted office visits!

Organizer  
Dennis, rocks!



### !!Looking for Artists!!

CGE seeks new designs for this year's tee shirts and beanies. Replace the "pencil fist" with *your* drawing. Slogans are great, too!

Bring or email your design to the CGE office. Drawings, sketches, slogans, we want it all!

If no one submits new art work, Allison will have to come up with something... Allison is one of the least creative people you know.

### Grad School Orientation Resource Fair

On Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> CGE presented and handed out information at the Graduate School Orientation Resource Fair.

Thanks to Dennis, John, Rob, Allison and Angela!



**Did you get \$300 in your October paycheck? Thank your CGE bargaining team and supporting members!**

## **CGE passes Motion: Vote NO on Measure 64**

If Measure 64 sounds like something you've voted on before, it's because you have. This is the fourth time Bill Sizemore has placed this—or a nearly identical—measure on the ballot. Every time in the past, Oregon voters have rejected it.

Measure 64 would prohibit all public employees from using convenient, voluntary payroll deductions to donate to charities, non-profit organizations, and their union's political advocacy work. It would bar teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers, and many, many others from pooling small contributions in order to have a voice in the political process.

For decades, the members of organizations like AFT-Oregon have been on the forefront of advocating for Oregon's schools and students, fighting for adequate, stable funding for our classrooms and policies that ensure that every Oregon student receives a world-class education. But Measure 64 would end that, limiting members' ability to advocate for better schools.

The measure has been placed on the ballot by Bill Sizemore, whose organizations have been caught multiple times engaging in fraud, forgery, and racketeering in order to get on the ballot. His 2008 measures are all currently being investigated by the Secretary of State's office for signature fraud, and he just found himself in court once again for using a shadowy Nevada-based charity to launder political funds from his top donors.

Measure 64 has been bankrolled entirely by Nevada multi-millionaire Loren Parks, who pays Sizemore to file dozens of initiatives every two years. When Sizemore wants to raise a million dollars, he's one phone call away from all the money he needs.

The rest of us, however, rely on our ability to pool small, voluntary contributions in order to have a say in the process. But Bill Sizemore wants to stop us from having that right.

Measure 64 goes even further. Because it is so poorly written, it would have serious unintended consequences for Oregon's charities, like the Oregon Food Bank, United Way, and Oregon Humane Society. They would lose funding from the charitable donations of public employees, and they'd lose all the funding they get through the Charitable Check-Off program.

This measure does nothing to address the real problems facing the state, like the power and influence of corporate special interests on the legislature. Instead, this is just another unfair attack on working Oregonians from Bill Sizemore.

# AFT-Oregon Recommendations

## 2008 Ballot Measures

**YES on Measure 56.** *This measure restores the principle that voting matters by revoking the “double majority” requirement. Under Measure 56 local bond measures win by the majority of people who actually vote, restoring fairness to local elections. (Legislative Referral)*

**NO on Measure 58.** *This measure imposes a one-size-fits-all teaching mandate for students learning English, and makes no exceptions for learning disabilities. It would cost the state an estimated \$250 million a year for at least two years, and would make it more difficult for students to learn English. Measure 58 takes away the local control from parents and teachers. (Sponsored by Bill Sizemore)*

**NO on Measure 59.** *Measure 59 would cut \$2.4 billion in funding for education, public safety and healthcare. While Oregon’s wealthiest taxpayers could deduct an unlimited amount of their federal tax on their state income tax return, 75 percent of Oregonians would not receive one extra dollar. Count this as another Bill Sizemore attack on working Oregonians.*

**NO on Measure 60.** *Measure 60 calls for teachers’ salaries to be based only on “classroom performance,” not qualifications or experience, or even a need for cost-of-living raises. However, the measure does not define how teachers’ performance would be quantified. That means more standardized tests. Measure 60 punishes the teachers who take the most challenging assignments – where students don’t test as well. (Sponsored by Bill Sizemore)*

**NO on Measure 61.** *This rigid one-size-fits-all approach to crime would require the construction of at least three more prisons, to the tune of 1.3 billion dollars. Overall implementation of the measure would end up costing an additional minimum of \$160 million. That’s way too high a price tag for sentencing gimmicks that just don’t work. (Sponsor by Kevin Mannix)*

**NO on Measure 62.** *Measure 62 would take nearly \$200 million right out of the State School Fund. The result: fewer teachers, lower pay, larger classes, fewer classroom supplies and materials. This measure is brought to the ballot by Kevin Mannix and funded primarily by Nevada businessman Loren Parks, who has invested millions into Mannix and Sizemore efforts over the years.*

**NO on Measure 63.** *Labor unions, renters advocates and environmental groups are joining together to oppose Measure 63, which would allow residential and farm property owners to build structures on their own property valued at \$35,000 with no safety permits or inspections whatsoever. This measure would override state and local codes now in place. (Sponsored by Bill Sizemore)*

**NO on Measure 64.** *This measure would silence the voices of working people by stopping public employees from using voluntary payroll deductions to donate to charities, unions or any other organizations. Sound familiar? It should. Bill Sizemore has gotten this measure on the ballot three times already, and three times, Oregonians have voted against it.*

**NO on Measure 65.** *Voters of any party could vote for any candidate in a primary and only the top two winners would move on to the general election. A drastic change to the system we have now, Measure 65 would shut out minor parties, eliminate party endorsements, and could leave a major party without a candidate to vote for. (Sponsored by Phil Keisling)*



## Members of the Month Jay and Phoebe Zarnetske

Jay and Phoebe have been dedicated CGE members for over 2 years and members of the bargaining team for over a year. Even though bargaining has technically ended, they are still busy proof reading the final contract. During this time, both Jay and Phoebe have been self-paying members. Also, since they are on fellowship, Jay in Water Resources and Phoebe in Biology, the contract does not even apply to them! Joe has participated in, well, everything! Phone banking, office visits,

CGE thanks Team Zarnetsky all their hard work on helping put together and win an awesome contract that puts more \$\$\$ into every ones' pockets (but theirs)!

### “A page from the ol' Organizer”

There has been a lot of discussion in the office and on the CGE blog about what it means to be a member of CGE, and perhaps the biggest benefit we've seen lately is that members have the right to vote on ratification. But you may not know as much about some of the other benefits we get with membership. Not only are we members of CGE, we are also members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and their state chapter, AFT-Oregon. All those members (1.4 million at the national level) translate into substantial purchasing power, and thus both AFT and AFT-Oregon are able to negotiate for discounts, coupons and special offers for members only.



Obviously, you won't find everything to be useful, but I want to point out a few that you might be interested in. You can get discounts on tires and service at Goodyear, a coupon off Jiffy Lube services, or discounts on car rentals. You can even get a few hours of free legal service or debt counseling through AFT + Member Benefits Program. As a new member, you also have the option of a \$12,000 life insurance policy, free for one year. You can name anyone (even a charity) as your beneficiary, and they ask you if you want to continue after a year. A little strange to contemplate, yes, but it's something you can take advantage of if you want. You can also get enrollment discounts at Costco or AAA and even a 10% discount at some hotels. And in case you're curious, no member dues are ever used to fund these deals.

To access these benefits, you need to have your new, plastic AFT member card. These have already been mailed out, so if you don't have it in hand, please send an e-mail to [vp\\_organizing@cge6069.org](mailto:vp_organizing@cge6069.org) with your full name and I'll send it up the chain for a replacement. You can read more about these various benefits at the following addresses:

AFT-Oregon: click [here](#) or go to <http://or.aft.org/>, scroll down and click “Exclusive Member Benefits”.

AFT + Member Benefits (the national-level program): click [here](#) or go to <http://aft.org/aftplus/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about how to get access to these benefits, please feel free to e-mail me ([vp\\_organizing@cge6069.org](mailto:vp_organizing@cge6069.org)) or Susan Miller, the Member Benefits representative for AFT-Oregon ([SusanM@aft-oregon.org](mailto:SusanM@aft-oregon.org)).

Have some creative suggestions for deals around town that we could work on? Let me know, and I'll see what we can do.

*Jim Duncan* (Geosciences) VP Organizing

Office Hours for the Fall Semester:  
Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm.

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