

Chair Report

— *David Milroy*

The view from the bottom of the totem-pole!

I recently had the pleasure and great honor of joining other part-time faculty leaders and advocates in a meeting with representatives of the community college chancellor's office in Sacramento. While we were greeted most graciously, I had a vague feeling that our situation was oddly similar to that of Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow and the Lion as they stood before the all powerful wizard. They too had traveled a very long distance to ask an unseen power for help in finding a solution to their problems. Not unlike our heroes in Oz, our brave little band of brothers and sisters was directed to look elsewhere and that no help could be found within the hallowed halls of the chancellery. I'm sure we all remember that at the end of the story, Dorothy realizes that the answer to her problems was to be found within her own heart, her own courage, and her own determination.

And so our adventure continues. We are fortunate to have many allies within our own faculty ranks. Delegates to the annual CFT convention in March passed a resolution regarding funding for the part-time faculty line items in the state budget (see article on next page).

In these fiscally nervous times, one very important no-cost issue which CPFA and other faculty organizations will be working on is the out-dated, ill-conceived and horribly abusive 60% law which requires part-time faculty to drive hundreds of miles from campus to campus each week in order to piece together an income which adds up to less than half of a full-time teacher's salary.

According to Stacey Burke of CWA at Butte College, part-timers like CPFA Director of Finance John Martin in northern California are obliged to drive approximately 150 miles twice a week between Butte College in Chico to Shasta College in Redding, or about six hours of driving per week just to teach two classes! That's a 300 mile commute over dangerous country roads late at night with wild animals and even horses running loose in the middle of the road! CPFA's Director of Membership, Jackie Simon, in southern California is lucky enough to have only congested freeways as she drives over 75 miles each way to commute from Oceanside to Riverside. Personally, I drive from one end of San Diego county to the other, over 450 miles every week, when I could just as easily teach all of my classes at one college and spare myself the \$30 in gas and eight hours of driving! When you multiply these long commutes over an estimated 20,000 freeway-flyers in California, that's a lot of wasted gas, excess pollution and time which could be better spent teaching classes, holding paid office hours and correcting student papers and tests.

A coalition of part-time faculty is currently meeting with members of the California legislature to un-do this historic abuse of the majority of our community college teachers. The Abolitionist movement of the 19th century had a noble cause which is not unrelated to the cause of freeing our part-time brothers and sisters from the tyranny of the 60% rule by once and for all abolishing this unjust regulation.

Once again I must say, in order to make these changes, all of us will need to work together. I urge each and every one of you to join you local union, be it independent, CWA, CCA/CTA, or CCC/CFT, and to consider joining the faculty associations like CPFA, FACCC and AAUP in our efforts to present our message to the governor, the chancellor and the legislature in order to improve the working conditions of over 39,000 part-time faculty in California's community colleges.