

## WRITING'S THE RAGE

by Marcia L. Taylor  
Instructor

Writing has become a vibrant part of some Local 1010 members' lives. Since the publication of *The Heat*, writers from that book and writers from our writing classes at JobLink have become local celebrities doing readings at Borders, local universities and coffeehouses, as well as, speakers at local community groups. They've been published elsewhere, videotaped, recorded for CDs and most recently filmed for a TV series, TV 411. What's all the fuss about? Steelworkers, we have discovered, have incredible stories to tell.

This all began in 2001, when the Institute for Career Develop-

ment, the organization that oversees all steelworker programs, organized a class with steelworkers who like to write. They brought in a professional writer, Jimmy Santiago Baca, who led a workshop that helped the writers tell their stories of the mills and steelworkers. The effort culmi-

nated in the publication of *The Heat*. Of the eleven writers in the anthology, five were from ISPAT Inland: Chuck Canty, Bill Corrigan, Joe Gutierrez, Jennifer Jones and Joe Orellana.

Once that was produced, an astute JobLink participant came

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*The Heat crew photographed for the New York Times – Inlanders include Joe Orellana, left front; Chuck Canty, in white shirt; Jennifer Jones, on Chuck's right; and Joe Gutierrez second from the right. (Photo by Scott Olson)*

## THE \$2,000 CEILING

by Diane Lentz, Coordinator

### Issuance 13 The \$2000 ceiling on customized courses

The new guideline—Issuance 13—that came from the Governing Board of Career Development has raised many questions for Local 1010 members. The first question is who is the Governing Board? The Governing Board is comprised of the top executives of the various steel companies, as well as, the top leadership of the USWA. They determine the rules under which **ALL** the career development programs, like JobLink, operate. This was by no means, a local decision that only impacts JobLink.

The second question centers around how many courses can be taken for \$2000. Working with the vendors I was able to achieve a maximum per class cost of \$400

per student. If a course tops out at \$400, then you can safely plan on taking 5 courses for your \$2000. However, some courses, like our in-house computer classes or the one/two day courses are less money. The computer courses vary somewhere between \$250- \$300 per student depending on how many students are in that particular class. After you have taken 5 courses, call JobLink and check to see how much money you have left before the next registration.

**Again, a rule of thumb will be: For \$2000 you can take approximately 5 customized courses; however, if some of those are computer courses or one/two day courses, you may be able to take 6-7 courses in 2003.**

That brings us to the third important point. How is the class cost determined? Each instructor has a fee that he/she needs to achieve. Working with me, they also set a minimum and maximum number of students in each class. Once the minimum number has been achieved, the class will run. The cost of the class is determined by dividing that minimum number of students into the total cost. Again, next year, I will work to keep each class under \$400. In addition, we can continue registering students until the maximum number is reached. If we reach the maximum, the class cost is reduced as that number of students is now divided into the cost of the class. The more students in class, the less the class cost per student.

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In cooperation with The School City of Hammond



ISPAT INLAND INC.

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Institute for Career Development



Local 1010



## From Diane's Desk

*Diane Lentz  
JobLink Coordinator*

### What's your 2003 New Year's Educational Resolution?

Don't wait until New Year's Eve to decide what changes you would like to make in your life. If you have ever heard yourself say any of the following phrases....JobLink has the solution! Just make the resolution!

"I'm tired of picking at the keyboard with 2 fingers"...Keyboarding course- **1 hr. for 10 wks.**

"We never have enough money at the end of the month"...Any financial planning course-**2-3 hr workshop. Only 1 day.**

"The computer locks up and strange things happen that I cannot understand"...any computer class **2 hr. for 10 wks.**

"I need to make electrical changes in my home, but I want to do it the right way"...Residential wiring courses **3 hrs. for 8 wks.**

"We have a spot in the house where we need a uniquely-sized shelf. I wish I could learn cabinetmaking"...

Cabinetmaking **3 hrs. for 15 wks.**

"I've always wanted to have a small business out of my home"...Start a Small Business **2 hrs. for 8 wks.**

"After retirement, I want to work in the world of computers, but what area?"...Information Technology Workshop **2 hrs. for 4 wks.**

"I want to be able to stay in touch with my family that lives in different states"... Introduction to the Internet **1 hr. for 10 wks.**

"That old motorcycle is just collecting dust in the garage"...Introduction to Motorcycle Repair. **2 hrs. for 7 wks.**

"I need to become a better reader. I have a hard time remembering what I read."... Speed Reading. **1 hr. for 8 wks.**

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## ...Viewpoints...

**Steve Wagner**  
*Local 1010 Representative*

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. With the end of the year approaching, many of us are thinking about our 2003 New Year's resolution. You remember... this is the time when we promise ourselves to do something throughout next year to reach our desired goals. We make promises like spending more time with our kids, losing weight, fishing, golfing, working less overtime, etc.

Has anyone considered establishing an educational goal for 2003? Our union negotiated educational benefits provide us with numerous opportunities to receive an education in an area of our own choosing. For those who are taking classes, revisit your educational objective and make



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**Joe Medellin**  
*Management Representative*

Education. How important is it to you? "Education is the exercise of the mind," and if you stop educating yourself or stimulating your mind through some sort of new learning, your mind could go the way of your belly ( at least my belly).

I can recall enrolling in school many years into my career at Ispat Inland, and thinking, " This is going to be a tough, long haul." But then I realized my classes led to better ideas, stimulating conversation, feelings of self worth, and a sharper focus. As a matter of fact, I intend to enroll in a class or two this winter to learn some new skills, and re-engage the brain cells. You can, too. With 2003 around the corner, and the hopes of a business upturn in the new year, you should consider new learn-



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*Links* is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center  
Student Editor: **Tom Zmigrocki**      Student Staff: **Wendell Harris Sr., Joe Orellana, and Wayne Shinkle**  
Contributing Editor: **Marcia L. Taylor**  
**JobLink Subcommittee:** Diane Lentz, Joe Medellin, Steve Wagner

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*Cont. from page 2, Lentz*

"With the kids and the wife's schedule, I can't attend classes at JobLink"... Tel Sim On-line classes. ***Courses at home, on-line.***

"I'm going to go back to college, but my math is bad"... ALEKS on-line classes. ***Courses at home, on-line***

When that "**NO TIME**" **de mon** tries to talk you out of your resolution, see how little time a course can take. Don't let your 2003 resolution be something that **goes in one year and out the other.**

Have a wonderful and safe holiday. **Hope to see you in your classes in 2003.**

## SOMETHING NEW EVERYDAY

**by Wayne Shinkle**  
*Retiree, 2A/21" Mill*



The old question is "Why try something new?" With all the classes offered at JobLink you could probably find a hundred reasons. I was a little hesitant at first to take a class there. I looked over the pamphlets and decided to take a class that seemed interesting. I started with construction classes. My garage was in need of a paint job, so I gave it a new look with vinyl siding. I saved myself about \$2500 by doing that job by myself. Boy, did I like that vinyl siding class then. I should save about \$1000 when I roof my house and another \$1000 when I tuckpoint my house. Saving money is always a good motivator when taking a class. You can find your reason, can't you? I bet the wife can find one or two.

I don't want you to think that money is my only motivation. My wife saw one of the pamphlets I brought home. She wanted to take a Spanish class. So Linda and I took a Spanish class at JobLink together and we really enjoyed it. But her work schedule changed, so classes were impossible. She saw that JobLink was offering a ballroom dance course at night. So I signed up with my two left feet. In the beginning, it was a little new to me. Well, I can now say my wife and I have had some of the best times in that class. It was more than a dance class. Sometimes we go out after class to dance at a local club and practice what we learned in class. Some of the students from the other classes would join us and we help each other. It was time we shared together and with our new friends.

Speaking of friends. There are Friends of JobLink, workers just like you and me, only they devote time to help promote JobLink in the mill. They put pamphlets throughout work so everyone can get the needed information for upcoming classes. The list of classes seems to be getting longer. There are always new classes added every year. Next time you see one of the JobLink friends, give a thanks.

Writing this article gives me an opportunity to thank the staff and instructors at JobLink. I know you will continue to do the best you can to support the people and spouses of ISPAT Inland Steel and provide the help to

keep the program running smoothly. Thanks again for everything.

Now that I'm retired from Inland, I have several avenues I can take. Some of them I've tried, and they don't seem to work for me. But that's okay. There's always something new waiting around the next corner. To date, I have benefited in some way from every class I have taken at JobLink.

I'm currently learning the retail business with Walgreens as an Assistant Manager. this is giving me a new challenge everyday. I hope there isn't a day that goes by that I haven't learned something new.



Kudos to Dana McCue, the 2002 Window Box Contest Winner! Dana's flowerbox bloomed patriotic with red, white and deep blue flowers. Thanks to Dana and all of the others who planted flowers for our deck, helping to make our little corner of the world that much prettier.

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*Cont. from pg 2, Medellin*

ing opportunities. JobLink offers a catalogue of classes for enrichment of mind and body, including tough subjects or just new skills and knowledge.

Take a moment and check out the website @ [www.joblink2000.org](http://www.joblink2000.org) or stop in at JobLink to check the boards. After you enroll and complete your class, whatever it may be, let me know how you feel about your experience. Nine times out of ten, it will be a positive one.

Enjoy the holidays!

## *The Faces of Steel Exhibit*

*by Wendell Harris Sr., retiree, Metallurgical Department*

This past summer steel mills and steelworkers were seen in a different light - the gallery light. Faces of Steel, a collection of photographs and brief writings by steelworkers about their lives and work, made its way from the ICD national conference in Pittsburgh to the Northwest Gallery at IUN in July.

According to the exhibit's curator, Ann Fritz, the show brought in much larger crowds than usual. "There's a lot of support for this exhibit", Fritz reported to the Post Tribune. "This is something that all of us in the region can relate to. We all know the mills."

For Wendell Harris Sr., a retiree of Inland Steel and one of the photographers in the show, the experience

showed him how much respect the general public has for the Steelworkers of America. "The Faces of Steel are stories and photos from steelworkers letting the world know what we are all about. Our families are very proud being a part of this."



*The Faces of Steel Exhibit at IUN*

## *Staff News* **Who's Doing What at JobLink?**

*by Joe Orellana, MMD*

Karen Farrer has joined Joblink as a part time administrative assistant. She is a native of Chicago and is a graduate of Saint Francis De Sales High School. She has acquired a certificate as a medical office assistant from Davenport University and has completed various courses in finance at South Suburban College.



*Karen Farrer  
administrative assistant*

Mrs. Farrer is every child's dream of a mother. She is dedicated to her children totally. She manifests her dedication by being accessible to them whenever possible. When I asked the proud mother of Katie, Shannon, and Justin what she'd like to be doing five years from now, she responded with a gleam in her eyes and beaming smile: "Enjoying my children; growing up with them; learning with them; supporting them in their adventures, sports, and school activities."

When I asked her what she liked about working at

**Visit JobLink on the web  
at [www.joblink2000.org](http://www.joblink2000.org)  
to see more photos and  
writing from this class.**

Joblink, she responded with: "I like the people I work and interact with; I like assisting those that come in requesting information or inquiring about enrolling in a particular course. I also enjoy learning new things, and there's a lot to learn that's work related. I'm just thankful that I'm surrounded by folks that are willing to teach me."

Karen is a personable woman who is accessible to whomever may need a helping hand. She is patient and very comfortable working at Joblink. It's an excellent arrangement--JobLink needs a part-time employee and Karen gets the part-time job she needs that gives her time with her children. She is very glad that things are working out with her training. The staff and students are expanding the Joblink family by one very nice lady, Karen.

*Cont. from page 2, Wagner*

sure you're on target. For those who are not currently using their educational benefits, pick something you would like to learn and go after it.

Our career development program provides us a tremendous opportunity to learn something new or improve on something we already know about. Take a few minutes and reflect on what you would like to learn and make a **2003 Educational Resolution Today!**



## Personal Computing: The XP Experience

by Tom Zmigrocki, Plant 1 Machine Shop



Windows XP, the latest operating system from Microsoft, evokes many different reactions from the average user. You either love it or hate it, understand it or are totally confused by it, fear it or embrace it. Possibly you have no opinion concerning the XP operating system. Regardless of your feelings, this *is* the operating system of the future.

Almost every PC sold within the last year comes with either the XP Home or Professional edition already installed. If you are planning on upgrading your operating system, XP is the only logical choice. Most new hardware and software on the market today is designed to take advantage of XP's increased stability and power.

JobLink has always been committed to offering you courses covering the latest software and hardware. Starting in January 2003, all the computers at JobLink will be running Windows XP Home Edition. This will give all students a chance to familiarize themselves with the XP operating system and find out what all the excitement is about.

New courses are being added to help ease the transition from your old operating system to Windows XP. These courses are designed with the beginning computer user in mind. They teach the fundamentals of good computing along with the basics of modern computing.

Experienced users will also benefit from the new advanced courses. Become an XP power user. Learn the latest tips and tricks to get the most out of your computing experience. Totally master the XP operating system.

Regardless of your computing ability, JobLink will have a course that is just right for you. Don't fall farther behind, come in today and find out what JobLink can do

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*Cont. from page 1, Ceiling*

If a student does not withdraw from a class before the start date, that student's individual cost for the class will be deducted from his/her \$2,000 annual limit. If you need to drop a class, you must drop it BEFORE the class starts.

The issuance is something new for all of us. As we offer our classes in 2003, new questions may come up. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. The sub committee is working to insure that each participant can maximize his/her educational benefit. Please plan your year realizing that the majority of you *will not* be impacted by this limit. Keep in mind that if you are going to attend an approved educational institution/ college, you also have your \$1800 Tuition Assistance funds available.

*cont. from page 1, Writing*

up with the idea of developing a class around that book. So in March of 2001, The Heat Class was offered in two parts: in the first, participants read and discussed the book and in the second, they wrote their own stories.

Stories seemed to abound. As one participant, Debra Murrell, put it, "The stories just bubbled out of me."

For a writing teacher, finding such an awesome vehicle to motivate people to write is a godsend. All of the elements of good writing, that normally have to be taught point by point seemed to be understood after participants' reading of The Heat.

The participants seemed to just understand that good writing comes from the heart and it's honest. Stories that are born in those things we know well have authenticity and that's what makes writing so special. Readers who have never stepped into a steel mill now have had the chance to glimpse the conditions, the friendships, the tension and the humor of this one-of-a-kind workplace.

What's the next step? Writers in that class collaborated on the writing of a series of skits that will be presented at the Safety Sharing Day in February. Some of these writers will also be involved in an upcoming class given through the Valparaiso University Theater Department. We might just be seeing steelworkers on stage!

### Steelworkers Get Press

*Recent articles in The Hammond Times, the Post Tribune, and the Chicago Tribune have all spotlighted the works of area steelworkers. Check out the October 29th issue of the New York Times to see the article on steelworker writers.*

### Writing Classes Start

Sign up to read The Heat and write *your* story in the upcoming two part class. The first part will be the reading and evaluation of The Heat stories and the second part will be the writing of your own story.

Mondays January 6 through 27

### Joblink Reminder



***JobLink will be closed over the holidays.***

No classes December 23 to January 3

Classes resume January 6th

Any questions, check with Yoti or Louise.

**Have A Great Holiday!**

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## **LEARNING TO LEARN**

*by Marcia L. Taylor, Instructor*

### **HOW TO TAKE A MATH TEST:**

One out of every five answers on a math test are careless mistakes made while working with simple numbers. I see students concentrate on figuring out how to do a problem, go through the steps very carefully, and then will multiply  $6 \times 7$  and get 40. Knowing this, and knowing that math tests require exact answers, means that you must be precise and systematic when taking math tests.

So do what your second grade teacher told you:

Write legibly!  
Write in straight columns!  
Copy accurately - double-check your figures!

Math is basically recognizing patterns and figuring out which pattern applies in a given situation and remembering what you do in that situation. Practice allows you to learn those patterns so well that you can recognize them quickly. So as in any test, enough preparation means you will do well on the test.

Unfortunately sometimes we get brainfreeze and all that practice seems locked up in that cerebral deep freeze. So here's a tip to avoid that - *the brain dump*. As soon as you get your exam, write down any formulas or information that you are afraid you will forget as you work through your test. Review right before the test, sit down and write out the information so once you've begun you have everything you need right there in front of you.

Lastly try estimating your answers before you tackle a problem. This strategy is particularly effective with multiple choice math tests. You can probably pass a multiple choice test just by estimating your answers. If it's not a multiple choice test, then estimate the answer, work out the problem and then make sure you are still in the same ball park.

If you are thinking of going to college and will be needing a math course, think of signing up at JobLink for ALEKS, an on-line program you can do at your pace in your home.