

ENVISION

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OUR PURPOSE IS TO EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE AND ENERGIZE ENLOE EMPLOYEES. *ENVISION* WILL SHOW UP BIWEEKLY. [SEIU-UHW...ENLOE](#)

To vote for somebody who will truly help you, is to...

Vote for yourself

Too often we, as voters during an election campaign, get sidetracked by what some label as hot-button issues. Things like gay marriage, gun control, a woman's right to choose. These

issues strike strong emotional chords in most of us. Though they are very important issues, they may distract us so much that we may end up shooting ourselves in the foot by voting for people who work against our economic interests.



There are laws and constitutional amendments that serve those hot issues.

What isn't being served is YOUR economic wherewithal. If you struggle each month to pay your bills, if you have inadequate health insurance, if you wonder whether you will be able to afford to send your children to college, then you are not being served.

These economic issues cause us more worry and stress than those hot issues. They eat away at our health, our emotional equilibrium, and even our marriages.

Like it or not, we are in a struggle between those who have (the corporate elite) and those who are kept from having (most of us ordinary workers). It's time we join with other struggling workers, and vote for ourselves, our families and our futures.

On June 6th, we have a chance to vote for our own economic interests. Let's. **E**

An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.

— PLATO

When CNAs need assistance

MMeet Barbara Garcia [photo at right], an Enloe Certified Nurse Assistant. She's hard-working, dependable, caring, and worried.

Barbara loves taking care of people in need, and at Enloe she does that all day. At night she takes care of her family, her son and her granddaughter [see photo].



It would be nice if her Enloe job allowed her to adequately provide for her family, but it doesn't. "Just like most of the people I work with," she says, "I am struggling to make it. I can't stretch my paycheck any farther. For the last couple of years, overtime was my saving grace, but lately, there is no overtime, and without it I'm bouncing checks."

She rents a small apartment on the south side of Chico, an apartment that eats one of her two monthly paychecks. Her other paycheck goes for groceries and bills. If she worked overtime, she'd have something left over.

"I don't go out," she says. "I find things to do that are free, like, going to the park with my granddaughter, or reading magazines at the bookstore, or even going to the auction on Friday nights."

Things can't be that bad!

Barbara has a car. An older '92 Nissan with a sick clutch. "I don't have the extra money to fix it. I'd like to get another car, but a car payment isn't possible right now." With gasoline at over three bucks a gallon, her use of the car is restricted to just a few weekly errands.

"My PG&E bill has been crazy lately, and I've cut back on using the heater or air conditioner as much as possible, but I'm still looking at a \$200 bill."

So it's bad, but not really, really bad. Right?

Barbara has to pinch her pennies pretty hard. There are places

she pinches that none of us want to pinch. "I don't go to the doctor, but have used the clinic once in a while for things like earaches and such. I can't afford to be sick. One more bill would put me under."

Back at her job...

Her job is hard and getting harder all the time. But that doesn't mean she will pick up some more overtime. "Patient acuity is higher," she says. "The number of patients I

care for is going up as the RNs maintain their patient ratio."

The solution: a 20-year projected sacrifice

Recently, her department was asked to think of ways to manage an increase in patient loads during this period of low census. "We were told our department needs to stay within a certain budget," she says, "in order to finance the 20-year Century Project." They are being asked to sacrifice as their responsibilities are increased to the breaking point, and their vacation time is being eaten up with mandatory low census.

"I'm fed up with sacrificing. I work hard and feel the job I do is important enough that I shouldn't be providing minimum care at work, or be expected to live below the poverty level at home." **E**

Barbara's plea

"Get me to the bargaining table, and we will show you how we can make this a better place to work and a better place to receive care."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FYI

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Union organizing was a lot harder 69 years ago

On May 26, 1937, thugs hired by Ford Motor Company brutally attacked United Automobile Workers president Walter Reuther and his fellow union organizers in Michigan. Those were the days when union busting meant just that!

A couple of items from Jack Rasmus: "The War at Home"

And we thought voting for an oil mogul was going to make our lives better...

All the gains in family incomes achieved in the past 20 years, due to both adults in the family having to work – and work more hours – were wiped out by the George W. Bush recession of 2001-2002 and his jobless recovery that followed.

American labor gets Bushwhacked again

More than two million US jobs in manufacturing, information technology, and business processes and services have been lost to offshoring since George W. Bush took office. When will we ever learn?

ENVISION OPINION

No fan of Dan

By now you must have some inkling of the troubles of our CEO, Dan Neumeister. After more than eight years of pretty much getting his own way at our dear Enloe, he now finds himself caught between our medical establishment and the Board of Directors, which he, up until now, apparently controlled.

Doctors, who usually don't like to complain in public, have finally taken the bold step of speaking out, and addressing Dan's eight-year grab for power. They have called for the removal of Dan from his position as our chief.

Dan, what were you thinkin'?

Dan may be able to get away with mistreating our service unit, our cafeteria workers, and our housekeepers. After all, to senior management types, they're just undeserving, uneducated, greedy ne'er-do-wells.

He had a more difficult time mistreating our nurses. Still, he almost forced them to strike.

But to mistreat our doctors, the most respected members of our community? Did corraling the CEO job go to his head? You know what they say: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

But, what else can we expect from a professional administrator? Their whole concern is over wealth, power and advancement. One could *hope* they really cared about people, being in the healthcare industry, and all, but the proof is in the pudding. And the pudding is his over half-million-dollar-salary. Dan, really...what were you thinking?

Cast your Vote

May we suggest you vote for:

- **Mickey Harrington** – advocate for workers
- **Phil Angelides** – another advocate for us
- **Proposition 82** – Preschool for All

– Please see today's insert for information –

THE CALO COMMENTARY

And now...disgruntled doctors

Recently, in the local paper, there was a letter from a doctor who, after 21 years of service to Enloe, left. The same letter mentioned other doctors, and even nurses who had also left.

This doctor pointed out something many of us were unaware of: that Enloe's doctors had been leaving for at least five years. Why? Many of these doctors who left were dissatisfied with Enloe CEO Dan Neumeister. Who isn't?

Remember during the city's discussion about the Neumeister Tower, and how those of us Enloe employees who complained about our 'meister's heavy-handed management style were called "disgruntled employees"?

Remember, how shortly afterwards, Enloe nurses began complaining about the CEO, and how he wanted so much control, even over the nurses' bulletin boards? Disgruntled nurses!

And here we are now with the vast majority of doctors complaining about the same thing – our CEO and his quest for control. So many disgruntled employees!

Let's ALL join the disgruntled ranks

Let me ask you a question, or two. Have you, personally, ever complained about heavy-handed management? Have you ever thought that management's over-concern about unions was...well...over the top? Have you ever gone to one of those mandatory meetings about unions "on hospital time," and your supervisor told you unions can't guarantee anything? And then, have you ever been told not to even speak about unions "on hospital time" and thought, "Gee, that's not fair!"?

You've wondered, and maybe complained on the quiet. Quiet, however, doesn't do it. *The squeakiest wheel gets the grease.*

You've probably noticed – the Compass workers weren't quiet, and their "wheels" got greased; the RNs weren't quiet, and their "wheels" also got greased; and now the doctors are beginning to squeak loudly. Get out the grease!

It's simple: we all get together, then we all squeak LOUDLY, and then we all get greased. Those are the steps. If you still think there are no guarantees, just ask our fellow-healthcare workers up north in Redding, who also happen to be union, and very well greased. **•PC•**

Please take the time to read your voters' pamphlet, and then vote. We tend not to trust our politicians, but not all of them are only trying to enrich themselves or their corporate donors at the expense of us regular workers, our families, or our environment. Vote to stop corporate greed and to stop the corporate violation of our planet. Please.

ENVISION CONTACTS: **SEIU-UHW...CHICO** • PHONE: **624-4256** • EMAIL: **Info@EnloeWatch.org** • OR YOUR UNION DEPT. REP
 ENVISION'S ADDRESS: **SEIU-UHW, 1009 SYCAMORE, SUITE B, CHICO, CA 95928**
 VISIT THESE WEBSITES: www.enloewatch.org AND www.enlomedicen.org
 ENVISION STAFF: BEN CALO • BARBARA GARCIA • JIM NORTH • ALICE RYAN

Uncovered...unveiled...uncensored...

The straw that broke the community's back?

After nearly a year and a half of futile negotiations, Enloe's respected – and well-liked – anesthesiologists said enough is enough.

In December 2004, Enloe's Anesthesia Associates of Chico (AAC) and Chief Enloe Officeworker (CEO) Dan Neumeister began negotiations in order to renew a three-year contract set to expire July 2005.

Friend? Or Foe...

In an attempt to have more control over those who work for the hospital, our Enloe CEO hired yet another six-figure consultant who would come up with data that would support his virtual takeover of our anesthesiologists. After several months of "negotiations" his high-priced consultant called for replacing anesthesiologists with nurse anesthetists, thereby saving about ten million dollars a year, which in turn would be used for...[Just what *would* he do with all that money? Would he put it in a bank? And, would he laugh all the way to that bank?]

In April of this year, our anesthesiologists offered to settle the impasse with mediation by the American Health Lawyers Association. Our CEO refused with no explanation.

Though our half-million-dollar-a-year CEO would like us to believe our anesthesiologists are simply being greedy, they're not. They only asked for local market rates in order to be able to keep and recruit their staff. If our CEO had offered the same rates used at Feather River Hospital, or Fremont-Rideout in Yuba City, our anesthesiologists would have signed. Ironically, our CEO will have to pay those same market rates to the locums he is using to replace our anesthesiologists.



More power to WHO?

Our CEO wanted the new contract with the anesthesiologists to contain restrictions against criticizing the hospital's administration, with a possible penalty of immediate termination. He had one of our anesthesiologists chastised for having a yard sign which supported our service unit's fight to get our CEO to the bargaining table. Then, there is the "smoking-gun" tape, where we find out that our chief office worker demanded our anesthesiologists fire two of their own.

We could go on about our nurses' struggle, the struggle with Compass, his stalling to obey the NLRB's order, his control of the Board of Directors, the elimination of our former CEO, and taking over both the CEO and the COO jobs. Enough? **Enough!** **E**

How much confidence do we have in Dan?

Let's take a look at how much confidence we have in our Chief Enloe Officeworker. Last week, Enloe's medical staff held a meeting, heard a tape, and took a vote. A couple of weeks before that, Dr. Doug Benson put up a web site asking people to vote "confidence" or "no confidence" in Enloe's administration. Below, you will find the results of these votes.

	No Confidence	Confidence
Medical Staff (Doctors) vote	116	16
Doug Benson's web site		
TOTAL VOTE	240	17
Doctors only	62	2
Nurses only	97	4
Others who voted	81	11

What if...

Enloe's Board of Directors does not legally have to be open with the people of Chico? But what if Enloe was a real community hospital and our Board of Directors was elected by the community Enloe serves? Then that elected board would have to have open meetings. No more surprises, like selling the Bruce road property, like expanding into an old residential neighborhood, like outsourcing our fellow-workers, like switching to locum tenens. In a democracy, it might somehow be possible.

Don't forget to vote on June 6th

"The 20th century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: The growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy." – Alex Carey

Vote for those who will help you get out of the paycheck-to-paycheck hole