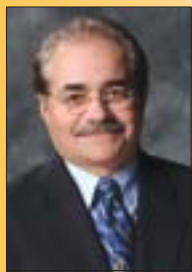


What Better Christmas Present for Our Current and Future Retirees...

GM Fills Funding Gap on UAW-Negotiated Pension Benefits

President's REPORT

by Craig A. Nothnagel



The UAW negotiated pension plan with General Motors for hourly and salaried employees in the U.S. will be almost fully funded by the end of this year with the sale of Hughes Electronics generating \$4 billion toward the pension gap.

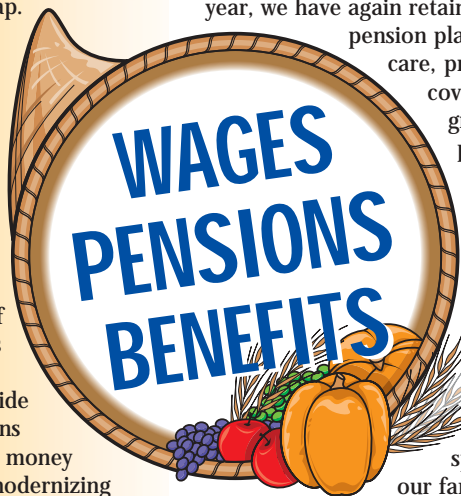
That would mean that GM has added \$18.5 billion to the \$60 billion it had in the funds at the beginning of the year. Coupled with returns of more than 18 percent for the year, GM will have nearly wiped out a U.S. pension deficit that approached \$20 billion at the beginning of the year. GM was not in danger of bouncing pension checks to its 452,000 retirees and spouses, but requirements that it set aside more money for future pensions were threatening to take away money for developing new cars and modernizing plants to compete with foreign and domestic rivals.

The automaker borrowed \$13.5 billion of the money it put into its pension plans this year.

But by fully funding them now, GM should have enough to provide all of the retirement income it has promised not only current retirees, but also 200,000 employees who plan to retire in the future. So after the Hughes sales is completed, pensions should not threaten GM's profits or ability to invest in new vehicles for the rest of the decade, said John Devine, GM's vice chairman and chief financial officer.

It Pays to Belong

With eight (8) paid holidays this month and our new contract this year, we have again retained our pension plans, health care, prescription coverage, grievance procedure, SUB-pay, recall rights, and many other benefits. We must remember the sacrifices our retirees and their families endured so that we could have time away from the factory floor and spend the holidays with our families. These benefits were hard-won for us. Let's spend a moment this holiday season to reflect on those who made this all possible. "It Pays To Belong."



STOP Killer COKE



See story and photos on Page 8

UAW Reaches Tentative Agreement with Saturn

Congratulations to all our Brothers and Sisters at Saturn on their tentative agreement on a new National Agreement.

Medicare Rx Bill "Disastrous"

UAW President Ron Gettelfinger called the Medicare prescription drug reform bill, which passed the Senate, "disastrous" and a deplorable attempt by the Bush administration to privatize Medicare and force millions of retirees

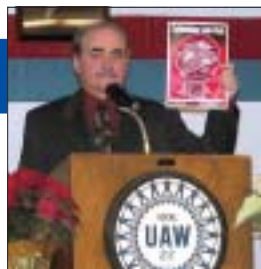
See PRESIDENT on Page 3

UAW LOCAL 22
4300 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210-3292

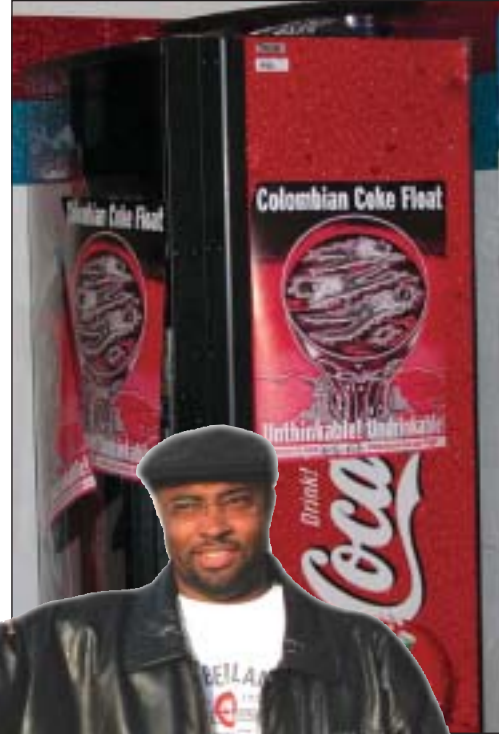
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1776
Detroit, MI

what's inside...

OFFICERS REPORTS	SEASONS GREETINGS	RETIRES REPORT	KILLER COKE CAMPAIGN
PAGE 2-3	PAGE 4-5	PAGE 7	PAGE 8



UAW PROPERTY - ILLEGAL TO DUPLICATE



STOP Killer COKE

On Sunday, December 7 at 1:30 p.m., Local 22 members packed the union hall to hear Ray Rogers, Director of the Campaign to Stop Killer Coke, who some say is a pit bull when it comes to fighting injustices. Flying in from the East Coast, he proved that a snowstorm in New York City was not going to stop him from speaking at our local.

The Union Hall was silent as Ray thanked the administration and all the members and guests who attended. UAW International Vice President Bob King was among those in attendance and was given a standing ovation.

Ray's speech left all in attendance in shock as he spoke of the Killer Coke casualties in Colombia. Many of our members had no understanding of the situation going on at the Coca-Cola bottling plants in Colombia, where the union that represents workers is SINALTRAINAL.

These bottling plant workers have been threatened, kidnapped, tortured, and even murdered for being members of a union. But Ray told us that Coke says that they are not responsible.

In one day, a SINALTRAINAL member leader named Isidro Gil was shot to death by armed thugs, another union leader was kidnapped at his house, and a union office was set on fire. SINALTRAINAL says that the Coke bottling company in Colombia was responsible for these crimes, but the CEO and other fat cats at Coke are saying "no comment."

Rogers talked about the many facets of the Corporate Campaign against Coca-Cola and its financial support network and how unions and students are banning Coke machines and products from their union halls and campuses. It became clear that no union brothers or sisters should be buying Coke products. We're not going to give them any more of our money. And brothers and sisters, after Ray was done talking, it was power-



ful to see how members of Local 22 responded. I heard people saying they wanted to smash up the Coke machines and jam up the coin slots. I heard people say they were switching to Pepsi from now on; they wouldn't drink Coke any more. Now the Coke machine in our union hall has been disconnected and the president made calls to the bottler, telling him we no longer need the Coke machine and Coke products. We are going to try to do the same in all our plants.

If we don't support our union brothers and sister in Colombia, who will? Solidarity doesn't just mean here in Detroit, or in America, but supporting workers whenever the boss threatens or attacks them, even if they are as far away as South America.

And the feeling of solidarity I felt after Ray Rogers spoke made me know that Local 22 is supporting those Coke workers, and that we're going to keep on supporting them until they get some justice.



Story by John Martinez, Editor

