



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

Bits & Pieces

UPGRADE BOARDS – On a trial basis the Company will post jobs electronically on workstation Dell PC's and shopfloor widescreens that currently display safety info. Paper postings will also continue.

FARMOUT NOTICES – In the past two months the Union received eight farmout notices from Plant I. Most listed "machine down" as the cause.

BLISK BUMMER – Three weeks ago Bldg 74 planned a small celebration to recognize the first production blisk successfully produced on newly purchased machinery using the cellular concept. Instead, we got the discouraging word that this work will be shipped back to Hooksett.

STUBBORN ISSUES – The two oldest grievances on the Aircraft agenda are group issues. In one, the Union argues that the MJT operators in Plant II should be re-classified as R19 millers. In the other, the Union has proven that exempt management is performing production clerk work, and we are proposing those managers with repeated and consistent violations be denied computer access to the bargaining unit work.

FREQUENT ISSUES - Nine grievances on the Aircraft agenda involve members who accepted upgrades, but were not released within the proper time period by area management.

PAYSTUB ROUND TWO - The Company plans a second revision of the wacky paystub format that caused so much trouble last year. Due to Local 201's efforts, we kept the old format in the lower left corner. Corporate blackbelts haven't quit working this project. File this under – *"If it ain't broke, mess with it, until it is"*.

VACATION SCHEDULING – Members with short service and no vacation time, whose service anniversary later in 2006 entitles them to an additional week's vacation, can schedule a family vacation for a week this summer, with their manager's approval. If your supervisor agrees to code the week as vacation, it will not be considered an absence, and your vacation pay will be paid out at your service anniversary, and applied back to the week authorized as vacation by your supervisor.

PENSION INEQUALITY – According to a front-page Wall Street Journal article dated 6-23-06, the pension plans of U.S. rank-and-file workers at many large corporations are overstuffed with cash, while hidden executive pension plans are purposely under funded. The article criticizes companies that reduce, freeze or eliminate pensions for workers – complaining of legacy costs – while boosting executive pensions that create large unfunded liabilities.

Companies cited for executive pension obligations exceeding \$1 billion include GM, GE, AT&T, Exxon, IBM, Bank of America, Pfizer Inc.

At GE, all U.S. workers, union and non-union, and managers, are eligible for the GE Pension Plan, which is \$9 billion over funded. Improvements won by the Union during contract negotiations apply to all participants. GE has a separate Supplementary Pension Plan only available to its top band executives, which is \$3.5 billion under funded, according to the Wall Street Journal. The lucrative benefits paid to GE executives caught the public's attention during Jack Welch's divorce trial. How much is in your pension?

