

**Valentine's Day** celebrates love and happiness, and although real life offers plenty of true stories with happily-ever-after endings, many of us look to literature for inspiring tales of passion's power. Get in the mood for love by rereading the novels, plays, and poetry about these famous lovers (not all of whom lived happily ever after):

- **Romeo and Juliet.** Shakespeare's tragic tale of young love: Teenagers from feuding families meet, fall in love, marry, and ultimately end their lives rather than live without each other.
- **Tristan and Isolde.** A medieval tale of doomed love. Tristan falls in love with Isolde, who is betrothed to his uncle, Mark, King of Cornwall. Despite their enduring love, they are forced to marry others.
- **Odysseus and Penelope.** A happy ending for this one. Penelope remains faithful to her absent husband for 20 long years; Odysseus persists in his quest to return home after the Trojan War. Both overcome temptations and obstacles to be reunited at last.
- **Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester.** Charlotte Brontë's classic 19th-century novel tells the tale of a young governess and a gruff, lonely landowner with a dark secret. But love triumphs in the end.
- **Ralph and Alice Kramden.** OK, not a book, play, or poem, but a classic TV show. Despite bickering, working-class struggles, and the occasional threat to send Alice "to the moon!" the couple stayed together with love and devotion—and lots of laughter—for years and years.



## The most dangerous game

You think your job is tough? The Bureau of Labor Statistics rates the most dangerous professions using a ratio that compares the number of deaths in a job to the total number of people employed in that field.

Here are the top 10:

10. Law enforcement officers
9. Waste collectors
8. Truck drivers
7. Electrical power line installation and repair personnel
6. Roofers
5. Farmers/ranchers
4. Iron/steel workers
3. Aircraft pilots/ flight engineers
2. Loggers
1. Fishers

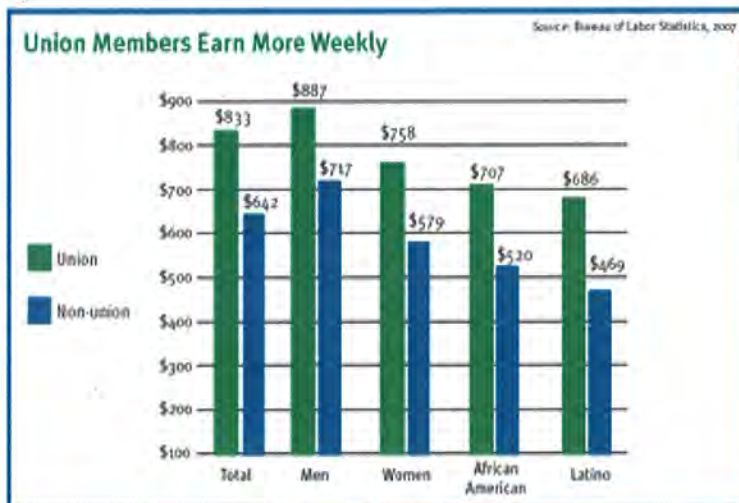


## Why do I need a union now?

Big corporations and anti-worker politicians are attacking public employees and the services we provide. Their goal is simple: privatize our jobs, strip us of our rights and dismantle the public sector. They're going after our wages, our pensions and our health care. And in 2005, newly elected governors in Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri took away the bargaining rights of all state employees. This can happen anywhere.

In Washington, D.C., and in state capitols across the country, it's the same old thing: politicians side with the rich and powerful, and neglect the needs of middle-class families.

Whether you are a public employee or work for a private company providing public services, we have to act now to stop the right-wing rush to lower our wages and benefits and eliminate our rights. That's why building a strong union is so important now.



<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Median Weekly Earnings of Full-time Wage and Salary Workers by Union Affiliation*, January 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in Private Industry in the United States*, August 2007.

## Does AFSCME offer special benefits for members?

Yes. The AFSCME Advantage programs offer many money-saving services for full, dues-paying members only. Services are offered at greatly reduced costs, only available to union members. These benefits are continuously enhanced and expanded. Popular services include:

- AT&T Wireless
- AFSCME Advantage MasterCard
- Mortgage and real estate
- Motor Club
- Travel Center
- Health Club
- Flower discount
- Scholarships

To learn more about AFSCME Advantage, call 1-800-588-0374, or check our [website](#).

## *History of Local 1067*

*We are looking for members interested in tracking the history of our local. The first group of table officers all the way through today. If you are interested in taking this task on please contact Kevin Hanley at [khanley@bhcc.mass.edu](mailto:khanley@bhcc.mass.edu). Any and all information will be helpful. We plan on running a story in the May issue of the newsletter.*

Check us out on [Facebook!](#)

Become our "Friend" and show your support for your union!!



On Super Bowl weekend, not all eyes will be on Cowboys Stadium in Dallas. On Feb. 5, the day before the big game there, the NFL Players Association ([NFLPA](#)) and the **AFL-CIO** will host a special all-star football game at San Antonio's Alamodome. What's special about it is that we're working to fill the stadium with workers who have lost their jobs, members of the military and youth. And you can help by donating a ticket for someone who's having a tough time.

The annual NFLPA Texas vs. The Nation game features the football stars of tomorrow—draft-eligible college seniors playing before hundreds of NFL scouts and other personnel. Unlike the hundreds or even thousands of dollars folks will spend to watch the Super Bowl, tickets to the NFLPA Texas vs. the Nation game are just \$10. You can donate \$10, \$20, \$40 or more, and your gift will be matched 100 percent by the NFLPA—so for every \$10 you donate, you'll give the gift of football to two jobless workers, people in [military service](#) or children.

## Scholarships

Several [scholarship](#) programs are available for AFSCME members and their children, along with our locals. To check on the local 1067 scholarship check our web page.

Click on an individual scholarship from the list below to download an application and for information on requirements and deadlines.

- [AFSCME Family Scholarship](#)

\$2,000 renewable scholarship awarded to 10 high school seniors each year.

- [Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship](#)

This scholarship is for dues-paying union members or staff employees of an AFL-CIO affiliated organization interested in enrolling in the National Labor College.

- [Union Plus Scholarship](#)

Active and retired AFSCME members, spouses and dependent children are eligible to apply.

- [AFSCME Scholarships for National Labor College Degree Programs](#)

AFSCME members and staff enrolled in the NLC Bachelor's degree program may be eligible for a Nadra Floyd Memorial Scholarship worth up to \$2,000 per year. Full-time AFSCME local, council or international staff and local union officers with substantial organizing responsibilities may qualify for a \$10,000 Joey Parisi Memorial Scholarship.

- [AFSCME/UNCF/Harvard Union Scholars Program](#)

AFSCME has joined with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to let eligible college students experience what it's like to be part of the labor movement.

- [AFSCME Affiliate Scholarship Programs](#)

Many AFSCME affiliates have special [scholarship programs](#) designed to help their members pursue educational [opportunities](#) to advance on the job.

- [Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship](#)

A collegiate scholarship for juniors and seniors who major in political science; it includes a summer internship in the AFSCME Political Action Department in Washington, D.C.

- [Jerry Wurf Memorial Fund](#)

Provides three scholarships for the six-week Harvard Trade Union Program for full-time AFSCME staff planning a career in the trade union movement or an AFSCME member holding an elected position who is willing to take leave.



## Time for spring? Or more winter?

### Ask the groundhog

Everyone knows that on Feb. 2, a groundhog coming out of its burrow to look for its shadow will either signal an early end to winter or predict another six weeks of snow and cold weather. The science may not be accurate, but Groundhog Day has become a major event in many U.S. towns and cities.

How did it start? Many historians believe that Groundhog Day is related to Candlemas Day, a medieval Christian celebration that falls on Feb. 2. An old sailor's saying from English lore states:

*If Candlemas Day is clear and bright,  
winter will have another bite.*

*If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,  
winter is gone and will not come again.*

Another possible source for the belief may be the fact that the first official day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere's western lands comes almost seven weeks after Feb. 2, while under the early Julian calendar, the spring equinox fell on March 16—ex-actly six weeks after Feb. 2. Groundhog Day may reflect the confusion created by dueling calendars.

# Governor's Proposed *FY12 Budget*

## Dear AFSCME Local 1067 Members:

Earlier this week Governor Deval Patrick released his proposed FY12 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011.

As expected, the governor's proposed spending plan includes deep cuts. While we are still analyzing individual line items to determine the specific level of cuts, it is fair to state now that virtually all areas of the budget are impacted. In total, the governor's budget represents \$570 million in spending reductions – the largest decrease in spending in 20 years.

Fueling the need for cuts was the loss of billions in one-time revenue included in the current FY11 budget such as federal economic stimulus funds, which were secured thanks in no small part to the aggressive lobbying of AFSCME International, Council 93 and the grassroots activities of AFSCME members. The current budget includes \$3.2 **million** in one-time revenues. In contrast, the proposed FY12 budget includes just \$385 **million** in one-time revenues.

Despite the need for sweeping cuts, the governor has proposed level funding for the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) and he **IS NOT** proposing any increases in employee contribution rates. Instead, the Patrick Administration plans on introducing a new tier of lower cost plans in addition to the existing plans offered through the GIC. These plans would be presented as an **option** for employees. Not only are these plans expected to save the state money, they are also expected to result in less out-of-pocket costs for workers who choose to move to one of these plans. The Patrick Administration estimates that workers who choose to move their coverage to one of these plans would save \$800 annually for an individual plan and \$1700 annually for a family plan.

It is important to remember that the governor's proposed budget is just that – a proposal. It represents the first step in crafting the budget for FY12. The next steps include a proposed budget from the House of Representatives in April followed by a proposed budget from the Senate in May. Any differences between the House and Senate budgets will be resolved by a six-person conference committee charged with presenting one budget to the governor in time for the start of the fiscal year.

We will keep you informed as the budget process unfolds and of course, we will be working aggressively to protect current health insurance contribution rates and minimize cuts to the essential public services delivered by AFSCME members. Finally, we will be contacting you in the future to request that you work with your members to assist us with grassroots efforts related to the budget and we ask that you please forward this message to your members. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

In Solidarity,

Peter Wright

Jim Durkin

Nancy McGovern

Kevin Hanley

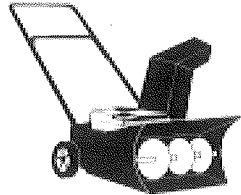
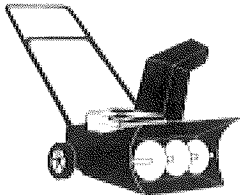
## The origins and essentials of Black History Month

February is Black History Month, honoring the achievements and contributions of African-Americans to U.S. history. It has roots in “Negro History Week,” established in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the second black man to receive a degree from Harvard University.

Together with Rev. Jesse E. Moorland, Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by African-Americans.

Woodson designated “Negro History Week” as the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. President Gerald Ford officially proclaimed February as “Black History Month” in 1976, and every U.S. president since then has done so, too.

The organization founded by Woodson and Moorland, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, continues to promote, preserve, and research the history and culture of African-Americans year-round.



The National Safety Council and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recommend these precautions when using a snow blower:

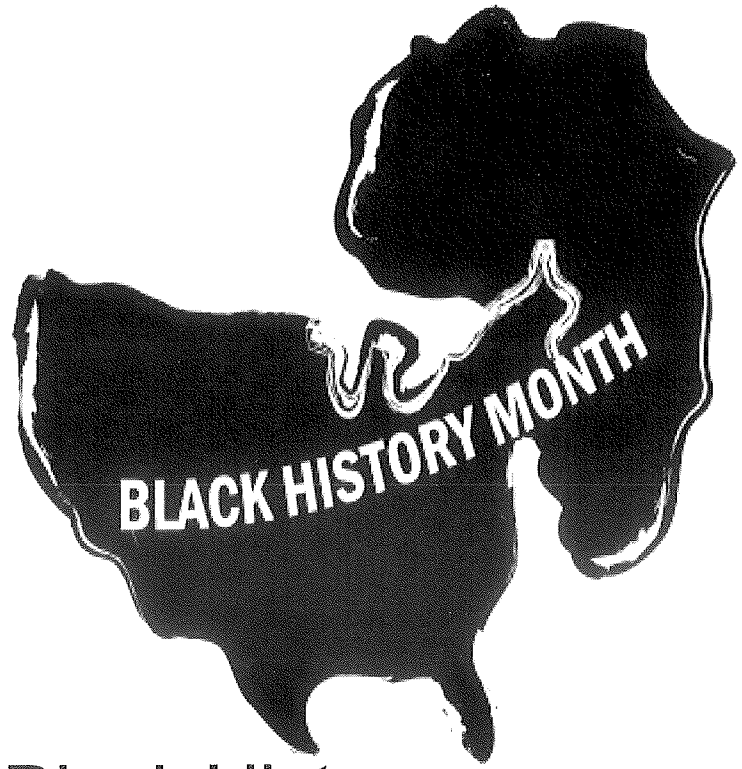
—’ Fill up with fuel before you start when the engine is cool.

—’ Read the owner’s manual before starting the snow blower. Understand the safety steps.

—’ Make sure that all pets and people are out of the way before you begin.

—’ Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove blockages. Turn the machine off and wait a few seconds. Then use a stick or broom handle to remove the clog.

—’ Do not leave the snow blower unattended when it’s running.



## Black History Month

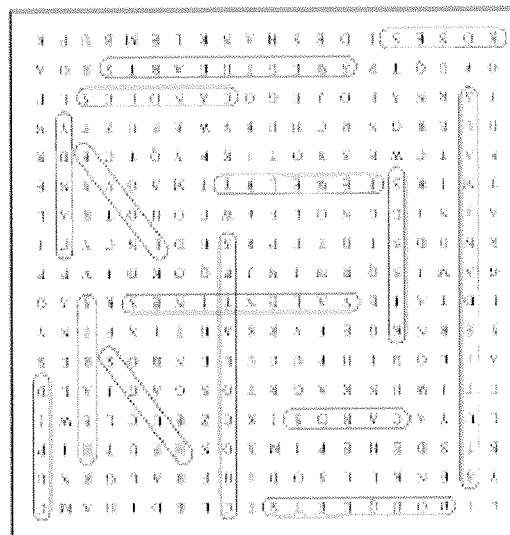
1. The Underground Railroad, the system in which slaves were helped to freedom, was an actual railroad with tracks and rail cars. True False
2. Dr. Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. True False
3. Harriet Beecher Stowe — author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, a book that helped sway public opinion against slavery — was a white woman. True False
4. The Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 instantly freed all the slaves in the US. True False
5. The United States Supreme Court voted against *Brown vs. Education* in 1954, which said that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. True False
6. Virginia was the first state to enslave Africans but also the first state to elect a black governor. True False
7. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play on a Major League Baseball team. True False
8. There have been a total of 12 black Senators throughout history. True False
9. In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution gave black men the right to vote. True False
10. Last year’s Superbowl marked the first time two African Americans coached in the championship game. True False

# Valentine's Day Jumble

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 O P U Q T P S W E E T H E A R T S R O A  
 R O S E S I D E S H A N R L E M B U F K

- ROSES
- CHOCOLATES
- VALENTINES
- CANDLES
- STUFFED ANIMALS
- JEWELRY
- HEARTS
- CUPID
- CARDS
- SWEETHEARTS
- CANDY
- BOUQUETS
- KISSES
- HUGS
- LOVE

## Answers



# February 2011

## *Monthly*

**American Heart Month.** Heart disease is the leading killer of men and women in the United States and worldwide, according to the Mayo Clinic website. In the U.S., heart disease is responsible for 40 percent of all deaths—more than all forms of cancer combined. But many forms of heart disease can be prevented or treated with healthy lifestyle choices and diet and exercise.

**Black History Month.** An annual celebration of achievements by black Americans, and a time for recognizing the central role of African-Americans in U.S. history. The theme of Black History Month for 2011 is “African-Americans and the Civil War.”

**National Grapefruit Month.** Grapefruit is an excellent source of many nutrients that contribute to a healthy diet. It's a good source of vitamin C, it helps lower cholesterol, and the pink and red varieties contain the beneficial antioxidant lycopene.

**Library Lovers' Month.** Check out a book (or a video or CD) and celebrate the value of libraries every-where. Support your local library, whether it's public, private, or school-based.

**Marfan Awareness Month.** Marfan syndrome is a disorder of the connective tissue that holds all parts of the body together and helps control how the body grows. About one in 5,000 people of all races and ethnic groups has Marfan syndrome. For more information, go to [www.marfan.org](http://www.marfan.org).

## *Weekly*

**Children's Authors and Illustrators Week, Feb. 1-7.** A weeklong celebration intended to promote literacy and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

**National School Counseling Week, Feb. 7-11.** School counselors play an important role in helping students succeed, both in school and all life long.

**International Flirting Week, Feb. 13-19.** Flirting—it's a great way to connect with people, make new friends (and romantic partners), and bring some romance back into your current relationship.

**National Engineers Week, Feb. 14-20.** A celebration to increase awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession, and to cultivate and support future generations of engineering talent.

**National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, Feb. 20-26.** According to the National Eating Disorders Association website, as many as 10 million women and 1 million men in the U.S. are fighting a life-and-death battle with anorexia, bulimia, or some other eating disorder.

## *Daily*

**National Freedom Day, Feb. 1.** Commemorating the signing of the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery on Feb. 1, 1865, by President Abraham Lincoln.

**Groundhog Day, Feb. 2.** The annual prognostication.

**National Job Shadow Day, Feb. 2.** A campaign to introduce young people to the world of work through job-shadowing experiences (whether the groundhog sees its shadow or not).

**Chinese New Year, Feb. 3.** Happy 4709, the Year of the Rabbit!

**Boy Scouts Day, Feb. 8.** The 101st anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

**Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.** Spread a little love and romance today—and all year.

**Presidents Day, Feb. 21.** Remember the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents, George Washington (Feb. 22, 1732) and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12, 1809).

