

# AFL-CIO grants charter to flight attendant union

**United Press International**  
BAL HARBOUR, Fla. — AFL-CIO leaders voted to grant a separate charter to the Association of Flight Attendants, making the airline union the federation's first to be headed by a woman.

To become the AFL-CIO's 96th affiliate, the union of 21,000 flight attendants severed its relationship with the Air Line Pilots Association. The flight attendants union has been an autonomous affiliate of the pilots' union, but

without separate standing in the AFL-CIO.

Linda Puchala, 35-year-old president of the flight attendants, called the decision "really a cause for celebration for ... all flight attendants."

"We feel the fact that AFA now is a chartered organization in the AFL-CIO that our organizing campaigns will intensify because we do have recognition from the labor union movement as the national flight attendants union," Puchala said.

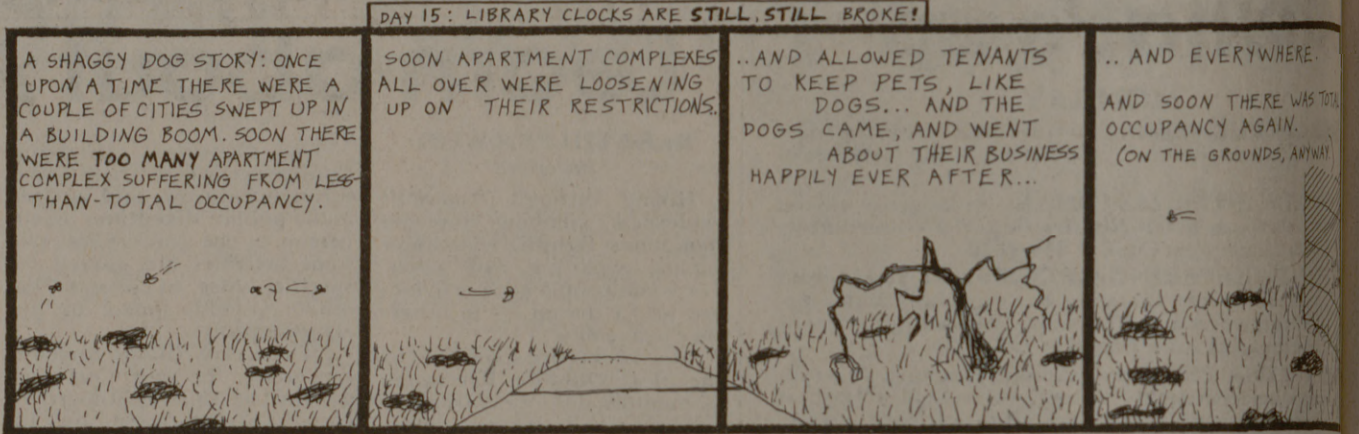
There are about 60,000 flight attendants in the nation, with about 40,000-45,000 of them unionized.

Puchala said a prime target of new organizing efforts will be independent unions at several major air carriers, such as Trans World, American and Pan American airlines.

The union now represents flight attendants at United, Republic, Western, USAir, Piedmont, Frontier, Aloha, Ozark, Hawaiian, Alaska, Flying Tigers, TransAmerica, Braniff, and Airlift airlines.

"We think this is tremendous. ... We have seen consistent progress over the years in terms of women and I think it will serve as a rallying point for organization in terms of women coming into the trade union movement," said Joyce Miller, an AFL-CIO vice president and member of the executive council that granted the charter.

## Warped



# David buried on shady hill

**United Press International**

CONROE — David, the 12-year-old immune deficient "bubble boy" who died after an experimental attempt to cure him failed, was buried Saturday on a shady hillside after his priest exhorted others to live as full a life as the boy "who touched each of us in the heart."

Traffic stopped and passersby stood silently watching along the route from the church to the cemetery, where the small bronze casket was lowered into the ground and a Fire Department dispatcher radioed via a receiver at graveside. "This is the last call for David."

Five hundred friends, relatives and admirers crowded into Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the town 40 miles north of Houston to hear the Rev. Laurence Connelly tell them:

"To those who measure life by production, this life was a total and complete waste. But to those who measure life by giving and receiving, David's life was one of the fullest I've ever known."

"David was born with a handicap, but he was one of the few people who didn't know it be-

cause he lived life to the fullest. David became what God meant him to be. He developed all his talents. That is the challenge to all of us."

Connelly directly addressed David's parents, Carol and David, and his sister, Katherine, 15, whose last names have been kept secret to protect their privacy.

"Certainly there is a loss," he told the family, "but what a tremendous gain that he touched each of us in the heart ... and because of David's life and death, other young men and women will be freed to live a normal life."

Connelly praised the doctors and nurses at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where the boy died Wednesday.

"In this age of science and technology, which is very dehumanized, these were people who led from the heart," Connelly said.

"David had every excuse to quit. He didn't do it. ... David took life by the horns. He was the type of young man who came out guns blazing, throttle open."

John McCarthy, auxiliary

bishop of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, and David's great-uncle, a deacon from Baton Rouge, La., assisted Connelly in the service.

The organist sang "Ave Maria" in Latin during the service, then played "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," as pallbearers took the casket out of the sanctuary.

All along the 3-mile route from the church to Conroe Memorial Cemetery, traffic stopped, cars pulled to the side of the road, and people stood silently watching as the mile-long procession passed.

The graveside ceremony — under blue skies on a tree-shaded hillside plot — ended with a radio call from Conroe Fire Department dispatcher Chuck Clark that was shared with mourners through a receiver at the grave site.

"Attention all Department Six personnel: This is the last call for Honorary Member David. David was born Sept. 21, 1971. He died Feb. 22, 1984. Repeating, this is the last call for David."

David was born into a sterile isolator prepared for him at Texas Children's because a

brother, also named David, died of severe Combined Immune Deficiency Syndrome year earlier at age 7 months.

After doctors diagnosed the ailment, they moved David to permanent isolation, hoping that as he matured his body would develop the disease-fighting mechanisms he was born without.

David never did. What he intended to be at most was a living in isolation to protect him from common germs that could kill him, turned into years, 4 months and 17 days of plastic bubbles enlarged as he grew.

An intelligent and handsome child, David traveled between isolators in the hospital and home in a special van. One thing he touched was his own even his communion wafers.

He had a near-normal life as ingenuity and government grants could give, including telephone hook-ups to his space suit, which he quickly grew.

# Universities face freshman deluge

**United Press International**

Two years after being rattled by a drop in the number of incoming freshmen, many private colleges — particularly the most prestigious ones — are being deluged by a record rush of applications.

Bolstered recruiting, reduced fear of student aid being cut and an increased desire for a good education are among the reasons offered for this welcomed surge.

But the boom is also somewhat puzzling. It comes when there is a decline in the number of students graduating from high school and a rise in the annual cost of an education at private schools to up to \$15,000 a year.

A survey by United Press International of three dozen top private schools — from Stanford in California to Amherst in Massachusetts — found all but a few with an increase in applica-

tions. The average rise was about 10 percent.

Seven of the eight Ivy League schools have received more applications this year than last year, including Columbia University in New York City, which saw a 12 percent jump in applications director James McManis smiling.

"Part of the reason is due to the economy, which takes away part of the pressure anxiety as to whether college is possible," McManis said.

"But there are other dynamics recruiting much more aggressively than at any time in the past," he said. "And schools are applying to more students now than they used to be up to a half dozen or more."

At Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., admissions director Fred Hargadon sees a 10 percent increase in applications and shakes his head.

"It's our second largest increase in a row," Hargadon said. "Last year we were up 1,100. Everyone's guessing as to why. If I had a good idea, I would tell you. But I don't."

A spot check by UPI of applications at public schools is a mixed bag. Some, like the University of California at Berkeley, are enjoying an increase. Others, such as Pennsylvania State University, are experiencing a decline.

Undergraduate enrollment at the nation's colleges, public and private, rose during the 1950s and 1960s. But since the mid-1970s it has held steady at 12 million.

In 1982, the number of incoming freshmen at schools again remained constant, but fell at private schools by 4 percent, sending a message of fear through halls of education.

This concern was compounded by a shrinking number of high school seniors' efforts by the Reagan administration to reduce federal student financial assistance.

While the number of students graduating from high school each year continues to fall, slipping 5.3 percent in 1983, Congress has responded with the White House significantly slash student aid.

Julianne Still Thrift, her perspective as executive director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, an organization of 900 schools.

"This time two years ago people read on the front page of President Reagan's proposal to deeply cut student aid," Thrift said. "This causes concern and anxiety, particularly by those interested in private school."

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