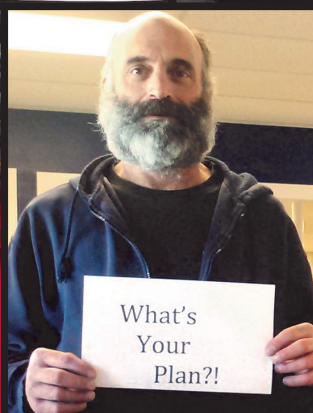
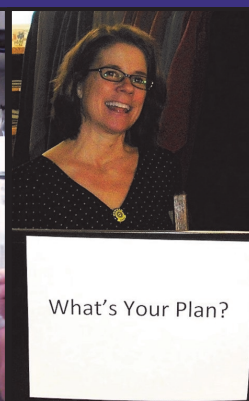
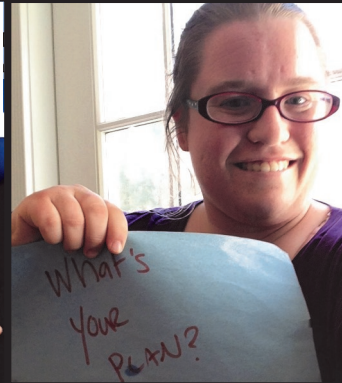


We Have a Plan...





Movie Review: *Cesar Chavez*

By Ryan Quinn, Servicing Representative

Midway through *Cesar Chavez*, John Malkovich's character "Bogdanovich", a grape grower in Southern California fighting against the hunger-striking Cesar Chavez, is asked by his son, "how long can a man go without food?". Bogdanovich's answer inadvertently sums up the flaw of most biopics on labor and civil rights leaders when he replies "it depends on the man...everything depends on the man." By focusing on an individual's struggle, the importance of collective action and group processes are often lost in films of this type. *Cesar Chavez* clearly endeavors to do a better job with the early history of the United Farm Workers than other films of the genre have done with their subjects.

Cesar Chavez succeeds at illustrating the methods of collective action used by the United Farm Workers in the 1960's and early 1970's. Chavez begins meeting with groups of farm workers in their homes and in the fields, they develop organizations that serve the community, they begin striking and picketing, and when faced with an injunction against striking – or even saying the word "huelga" or "strike" – the group adopts a legal strategy of defying the injunction to clog the local jails. When that strategy proves too costly, they adapt their plan to develop a boycott, beginning with one winery before moving onto a boycott of all grapes.

The progression of these activities could be used to illuminate a model of escalating actions and the need to adapt to opponent's use of force and laws, but the film's discussion of strategy is largely limited to a young but wise Chavez declaring what the next move for his organization will be. In the two scenes where his direction is

challenged, one sets up a subplot of conflict in his home life, and the other glosses over the debate within the United Farm Workers over nonviolence by portraying the opposing sides in

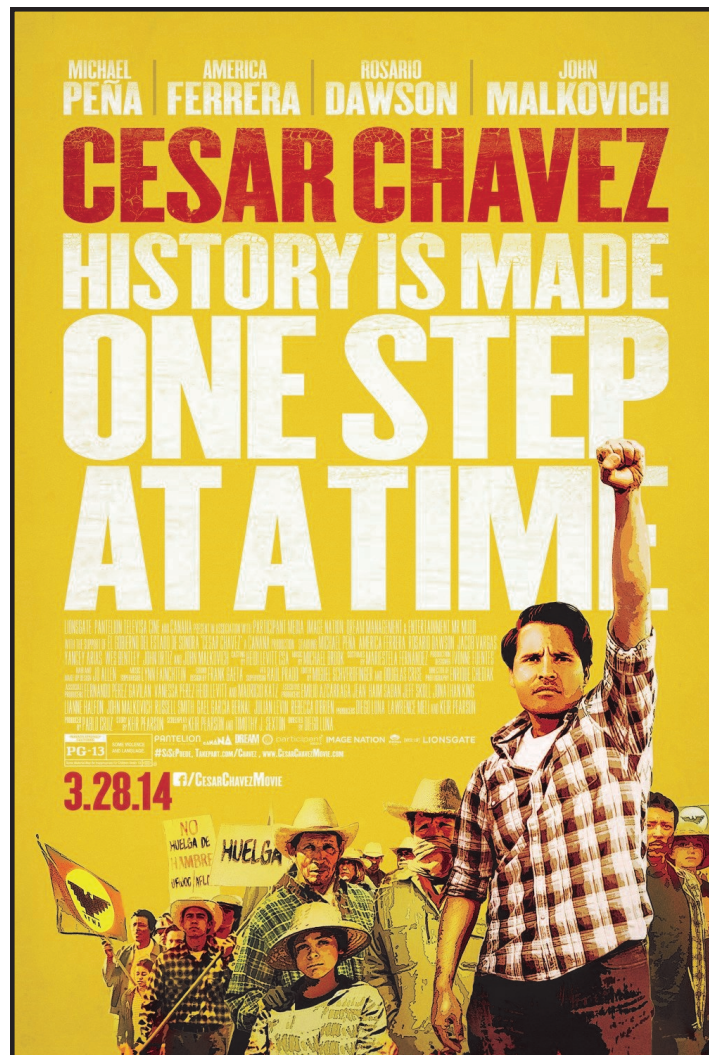
telling that Rosario Dawson, who portrays Huerta in the film, is now calling for a feature film centered on Huerta). Huerta, who co-founded the United Farm Workers, actually directed

stage with him at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. It certainly seems like an odd choice to focus on Chavez's reaction to the news when the United Farm Workers' co-founder was a part of the event where Kennedy was assassinated.

The Kennedy assassination scene serves as a turning point for the grape strike. Without a strong ally in the Senate or in the Oval Office, Chavez, Huerta, and the United Farm Workers have to deal with California Governor Ronald Reagan and newly-elected president Richard Nixon. The film adeptly handles this political reality by illustrating those politicians' roles in shaping public opinion and in coming to the aid of the growers. Nixon handles the growing boycott by offering to purchase surplus grapes to feed soldiers and to make trade deals to make it easier to sell the grapes in Europe. The lesson here is clear: direct action may get the goods, but political work is necessary to create an environment where it will succeed. Chavez's response to the Europe ploy – to expand the boycott worldwide – provides another example of the United Farm Workers' ability to adapt to changing political and economic circumstances.

Film is an excellent medium for glorifying individual protagonists, but it often fails at portraying movements and organizations accurately. *Cesar Chavez* makes a solid attempt to do both, but comes up short in some places. However, as a film that can introduce people who know little or nothing about Chavez to his life and to the United Farm Workers, *Cesar Chavez* succeeds.

Cesar Chavez came out on March 28, 2014.



very simplistic terms. The real-life Chavez made important contributions to the theory of nonviolence in the American civil rights and labor movements, not the least of which was the work he did to get members within his own organization to accept those principles.

One other shortcoming of the film is its portrayal of women in the United Farm Workers, particularly Dolores Huerta (it is

the grape boycott depicted in *Cesar Chavez*, but the film portrays her as subordinate to Chavez throughout. The scene where Chavez learns of Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination is perhaps the most clear example of the film sidelining Huerta. In this scene, Chavez hears on his car radio that his ally Kennedy was shot, and he pulls off the road. What the scene doesn't show is that on June 5, 1968, when Kennedy was shot, Dolores Huerta had been on the

Goddard Staff and Faculty ask "What's Your Plan?"

By Ryan Quinn, Servicing Representative

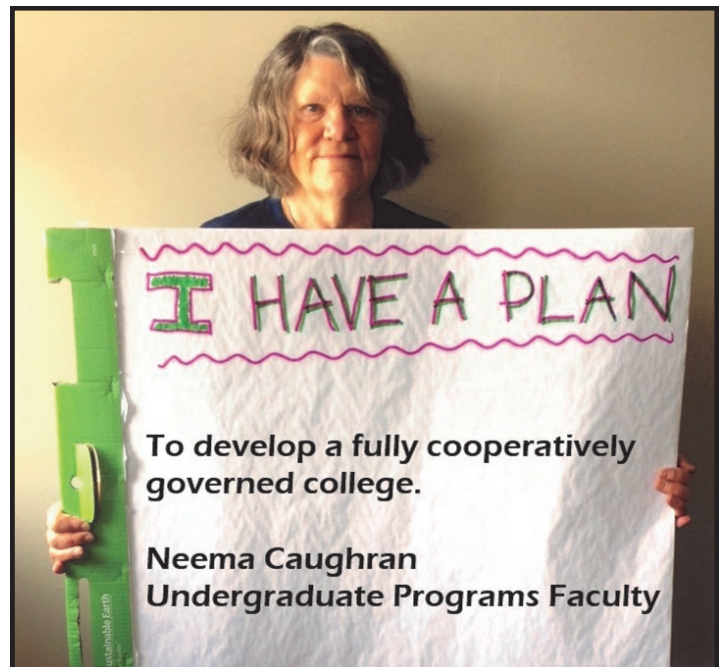
Goddard College staff, faculty, students, and alumni are joining together on Tumblr (<http://whats-your-plan.tumblr.com/>) to share their "plan, vision, [and] hopes for the future of Goddard College", and to ask The Goddard College Corporation what their

plan is to sustain and strengthen the college.

This new initiative, led by staff member and union activist Helen Linda, is a positive approach to questioning the administration on their plans. Given that management has

repeated their mantra that "everything is on the table" in response to union inquiries about the sale of the college or some of its programs, community members are quite serious about asking "what's your plan?", and equally serious about offering construc-

tive suggestions. These suggestions illustrate how creative and innovative the Goddard community is, and how committed they are to maintaining a strong college despite ongoing economic problems.



Pictured on this page (clockwise from top left): Molly Riverstone, Neema Caughran, Goddard College Kitchen staff

Pictured on front page (left to right from top left): Kyle Brooking, Elaine Dutile, Vanessa Steck, Lisa Couture, Robin Mascitti, Paulo Gahagan, Anne Marie Lavalette, Tim Audy, Karen Murray, Heather Byrd, Helen Linda, Shannon Trainor, Sharon Cicilian, Adam Woogmaster, Mark O'Maley

See the plan at <http://whats-your-plan.tumblr.com>

Upcoming Events!**UAW 2322
Executive Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 10

6:00–8:00 PM

UAW 2322 Holyoke Office

4 Open Square Way

Holyoke, MA 01040

UAW 2322 Skating Party

Sunday, April 13

12:00–1:50 PM

Mullins Center, UMass Amherst

UAW 2322**Joint Council Meeting**

Thursday, April 24

6:00–8:00 PM

TBA (Please call the office)

UAW 2322 Ice Skating Party!

When: Sunday, April 13, 12:00 – 1:50 PM**Where:** Mullins Center at UMass Amherst (free parking!)

- No cost to members and their guests.
- Bring your own skates or use the free Mullins Center skates (kids sizes are limited)
- Refreshments! Water, coffee, and delicious local cider donuts from Atkins Farm
- All are welcome! Skating is not required for this union party.

Have fun AND help our neighbors!

Our Community Services Committee is asking all guests to please bring a non-perishable food item that can be donated to the local food pantry.



UAW 2322 members enjoy a spin on the ice at the 2013 skating party!

For more information, contact UAW 2322 at 413-534-7600 or info@uaw2322.org.