Dear Editor,

Letters to the Dispatcher

We encourage letters from our readers. Please try to keep them short; e-mail to ers. Please try to keep them short; e-mail to editors@ilwu.org.

Dear Editor,

You folks in the hierarchy of the ILWU are Democrats and that is sim...
News & notes from the field...

CALIFORNIA: Local 13’s crane operator Jennifer Lakos was featured in a recent news story in the Torrance Daily Brezoe that included several photos along with compliments from President Mike Mitre and co-workers who praised her skills and determination.

The story didn’t shy away from the dangers involved in dock work, and it explained the progress that women and other workers are making with jobs that were traditionally done by men…Essay finalists at five high schools won college money from Local 13 by writing about Harry Bridges for the union’s sixth annual scholarship contest. “This is a chance to look at what they most admired about Harry,” said Dave Serrato, who served on ILWU Local 13’s essay-pen committee that worked with each school to select the finishers. The union awarded $1,000 to first-place winners, $700 to second-place winners, and $500 to third-place winners. Serrato also presented portraits of IDC members.

ILWU warehouse Local 5 Secretary-Treasurer Britta Duncan (back) with her daughters Angela (left) and Alyssa (right) and longshore Local 23’s Gail Ross pause during the July 20 rally at See’s Candies headquarters. Not in the picture, but at the rally: Fran Grove and Debra Pallares from foremen’s Local 94, Audrey Corral from warehouse Local 17, Carmen Brannan from Local 5 and Samantha Levins from the IUB.

Sisters visit Sees for Solidarity

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO—More than 100 woman union activists from all over the West Coast rallied at See’s South San Francisco headquarters July 20. They made a joyful racket, singing and shouting homemade noisemakers. They carried some wacky signs—“It’s so Sees-y, just say ‘Nut-trality’” for one.

But they came with a serious purpose. They wanted the candy maker to use its power as a major purchaser of almonds from Blue Diamond Growers to urge BDG to sign a neutrality agreement with the ILWU. A neutrality agreement would help the workers at Blue Diamond make their own decision on unionization, free of threats and coercion.

“I’m third-generation longshore,” said Fran Grove of ILWU foremen’s Local 94. “Everything I know is from the union, and I know how important it is. We’re asking See’s not to stand aside, but step up to the plate and ask Blue Diamond to do the right thing.”

Women make up half of the workforce at BDG. “We’ve come a long way, but there’s still a long way to go,” Grove said.

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“See’s doesn’t care to hear from the people?” said ILWU Local 94’s Debra Pallares.

“You need to hear us louder?” asked Gail Ross from longshore Local 23. “We’ll be back,” she said, and the delegation and then the whole crowd took up the chant.

Dockworkers around the world meet in Long Beach

The third meeting of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) was held in Long Beach, California on September 12-14. The event was hosted by the ILWU and brought together unions representing dockworkers in 48 countries in South America, Central America, North America, Europe, and North Africa.

HISTORY OF ACTION AND SOLIDARITY

The IDC was formed to coordinate solidarity efforts that support workers, their unions, and confront abuses by the global shipping and stevedoring industries. The group coalesced in the mid-1980’s when many unions, including the ILWU, supported dockworkers in Liverpool, England who were fighting a privatization scheme at their port with the full backing of their parent union – making it difficult for the International Transport Federation (ITF) to lend support.

The IDC first met in 2000, when dockworkers in Barcelona, including one from Caroline (known as the “Charleston Five”) were fighting trumped-up conspiracy charges brought against five I.U.A. union activists who challenged a union-busting effort at their port. Those charges were later dismissed after the ILWU and other unions protested and provided legal defense support.

RECENT VICTORIES

In January of this year, the IDC helped lead protests against industry and government efforts to weaken dockworker unions within the European Community. The effort was successful, following protests involving 10,000 workers in 150 ports around the world that included 56-hour strikes in Portugal, France, Greece, Cyprus, and Sweden. Dockers in Belgium, Holland, and Finland also struck for two hours to show their support for the global campaign.

CALLS FOR UNITY

International President Bob McEllrath opened the event in Long Beach with an address that praised the victories and accomplishments of the IDC, but also challenged delegates to consider working more closely with the ITF.

“The ILWU is committed to helping dockworkers around the world whenever they need help, whether they’re affiliated with the IDC, the ITF, or any other group,” he said. “The most important thing is for dockers to work together,” he said.

Paddy Crumlin, National Secret- tary of the Maritime Union of Australia that is affiliated with the ITF, appeared briefly as a special guest speaker but made a dramatic appeal for unity. “I know there have been disappointments and mistakes in the past, but the ITF has been changing and improving,” he asserted. Crumlin said the two dockers groups should consider joining forces to build a united dockworker movement on a global level.

The financial realities of maintaining the International Dockworker Council raised another set of challenges for the meeting in Long Beach.

continued on page 4

continued on page 8
**Local news cont’d from p. 3**

continue to endanger other workers...

The local is moving forward with the hiring process for a new group of foremen who are undergoing a series of evaluations, written tests, and interviews. Local 26 has a new arbitration award totaling just under $300,000 that helped many security guards, but wasn’t covered so the local is waiting to hear from the arbitrator about compensation for another 18 workers. The Local reached a verbal agreement with SSA over security and staffing issues at two facilities that included bringing those operations into compliance with the contract, but the local wants to see the terms in writing and will pursue arbitration if the writing doesn’t reflect the verbal agreement. Bargaining is underway with United Parryline and American Extrusion Products...

Negotiations were successful with the Henry Company that produces roofing products, and also with the Mead Paper Note Center. Local officials met with Congressmembers during the PMA’s attack on the ILWU. Kids built a giant 6-foot ship out of Lego while parents tried their skill on the crane simulators. Everyone feasted on a BBQ prepared for 2000 visitors... The Local is helping fund a Pacific Northwest History. Meeting this fall...President Jeff Smith says he “worked his butt off” in a new job that was only signed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski that will allow workers to collect unemployment benefits if they are “locked in” a multi-employer dispute, such as the 2002 PMA action, when workers in California and Washington were eligible for unemployment - but Oregon workers were not. The governor says he signed the new law to “level the playing field.” Local 28 has a little over 100 members who help as security officers at the ports of Tacoma and Portland, and also provide security at Kaiser Hospitals in the Portland area. Security officers at the port of Tacoma are currently bargaining and hope to catch-up with better wages earned by their counterparts up and down the coast. Local 50 in Astoria is a smaller local but they put together a huge Labor Day picnic. This is their 49th annual event – it usually lasts 5 hours and attracts over 500 but sometimes tops 1,000. They welcome the entire community – even a few friendly politicians – but the speeches are brief. The highlight of the Labor Day picnic is always a 400 pounds of beef and plenty of fresh Oregon salmon. Local 12 has been trying for six years to get fresh fish cargo into Coos Bay. They had to deal with port commissioners who were too naive and tried to trade away prime waterfront land. The commission even issued a study claiming that the Coos Bay port wasn’t viable. After many meetings and several years of getting nowhere with the old commission, the local petitioned the Governor and politicians to make some changes. The Governor appointed a new port commission and asked the ILWU to join a search committee that found a new Director of the Port of Tacoma. Now things are looking more positive for containers coming into Coos Bay, and even better since the Governor signed a $60 million bill for dredging the shipping channel and even better since the Governor appointed a new port commission and asked the ILWU to join a search committee that found a new Director of the Port of Tacoma.

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Rank and file education workshop held in San Francisco

September 2007

Their efforts.

(Between 9:22-26, Vice President Joe Radisich, Local 23 President Conrad Spell, and Northern California Area Director Joe Caldwell were among the education officials who traveled to Guatemala on a fact-finding and solidarity mission. The group met with Guatemala’s Attorney General, the Human Rights Commission, Port Authority, and the U.S. Ambassador.

“We made it clear that Pedro’s murder appeared to be more like a political assassination than the random act of violence that some officials had suggested,” said Radisich. “We told them Zamora’s murderer is being discussed at City Councils and in Congress, and that it could impact foreign aid funding for Guatemala.”

To back up those claims, Radisich brought resolutions and letters of support from the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Carson, plus the Los Angeles Port Commission. The resolutions and letters condemned the killing and called for Zamora’s assassins to be brought to justice. The documents were formally presented to Zamora’s son during a visit to Guatemala.

Meanwhile, Fred Gilliam (Local 8) and Gene Vrana (ILWU education director) provided to the workshop participants as handouts for future reference.

The education committee and instructors met frequently throughout the week to evaluate the proceedings and keep the schedule on track. From left: Rich Austin, Jr. (Local 19), Rich Austin, Sr. (Pacific coast pensioners), Studio Clark, Local 9, Rich Castaneda (Local 23),庞 Colton, Local 1, Mike Vigilante (Local 5), Dave Varra (ILWU Education Director), Marlene Mearing, Local 6, Patricia Aguille, Local 62, and Dan Ari

The sign translates approximately to: “United dockers say no to malicious intentions in the construction of the container terminal: The people united will never be defeated.”

ILWU joins delegation to probe murder in Guatemala

When Pedro Zamora, a leader of Guatemala’s dockworkers’ union was murdered on January 15, 2007, ILWU joined other labor leaders to demand justice for this cold-blooded killing that occurred during a struggle against privatization at the Pacific Port of Quetzal.

On July 22-26, Vice President Joe Radisich, Local 23 President Conrad Spell, and Northern California Area Director Joe Caldwell were among the education officials who traveled to Guatemala on a fact-finding and solidarity mission. The group met with Guatemala’s Attorney General, the Human Rights Commission, Port Authority, and the U.S. Ambassador.

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This notice applies to all ILWU-represented employees, ILWU members, nonmembers and new hires working in an ILWU bargaining unit, including members and individuals who happen at any time to become financial core members by any means, including by choice, suspension or expulsion, that are limited to union members. In addition, a financial core member has no right to vote on dues expenditures, financial reviews and practical experience confirm that the nonchargeable percentage of 11% stated above for the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 11% stated above and, additionally for those working in the ILWU Longshore division, an appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of only 9% of the nonchargeable percentage of 9% stated above.

Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security clause to work in a union shop, to contract to arbitrate grievances, and union organizing of establishments within competitive markets of ILWU-unionized employers, and other activities reasonably related to the effectuation of the union’s repre- sentative rights. Financial core activities such as political activities, lobbying (hereinafter called “nonchargeable activities”)—which activities most workers know how to help build a better climate for us all in bargaining with our employers—are limited to union members who file timely objections.

It is important to know that the vast majority of ILWU represented workers believe that the little extra cost in dues for maintaining union membership and enjoying all the valuable benefits of full participation to its dues and fees.)

Please be advised that individuals working under a union security clause contained in a collec- tive bargaining agreement, notwithstanding the specific provisions of such clause, are only required as a condition of employment under such clause to pay uniform dues and any required initiation fees. Financial core members are not required to pay union fees greater than that based on the nonchargeable percentage of 11% stated above for the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 11% stated above and, additionally for those working in the ILWU Longshore division, an appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of only 9% of the nonchargeable percentage of 9% stated above.

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When you retire, ask yourself: 
What would Harry do?

When Harry Bridges retired, the struggle didn’t end. He helped organize the California Congress of Seniors (CCS) into a powerful political force. Since then, CCS has emerged as a major force in California politics and is devoted to legislative and community affairs that deal primarily with the interests and rights of retired workers. CCS is deeply committed to the beliefs that shaped Harry Bridges’ generation — that’s how much respect we all had for Harry,” said Roland Yorke who helped organize CCS and was a member of the original organization. “But didn’t he want anything to get in the way of the mission of CCS. So the union was formed off to a good start.

The CCS was formed out of the efforts of retirees from various unions and elder advocacy group such as the Gray Panthers organization. CCS is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization. Hundreds of organizations are affiliated, giving CCS a combined membership of over 600,000.

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

RETIRED:
Local 1—Roger Bishup; Local 10—Robert Antonelli, David-J. Brown Jr., Lenoral Loan; Local 13—Fred R. Ponce, Anthony S. Orsini, Dino Laplante, Tony Iacono, Lujo Moretti, John Charboneau; Local 19—Charles Bryant (Charlot); Local 21—Ronald Brier; Eugene Manning Jr.; Local 23—Emuel Whelan, Charles Tuba; Local 24—Joseph Muñoz (Norma); Local 34—Robert Whelan (Catherine), Eddie Williams; Local 35—Joseph A. Briones; Local 50—Willie Whittaker; Local 52—Charles Black (Wilma); Local 53—Charles Kasper (Debra); Local 54—Sanford Gauza (Molly); Edwin Hogan (Donna), Hubert Laplante; Local 57—Frederick Von Nogol (Alyssa and Christy). Judith Montoya (Arthur), Robert Cherry, John Polando, Dale Elta, Philip Pavlich, Local 7—Gregory Bowden (Marjorie); Local 8—Charles Bryant; Local 10—Philip Walczak (St., Sarah Clark Jr. (Destiny), Tony Iacono, Lujo Moretti. (Survivors in parenthesis.)

DECEASED:
Local 4—Keith Will (Elano); Local 8—Gale Hansen; Local 9—Emmanuel Lee (Katherine), Odell Halbrook (Joanna); Local 10—Gilbert Mugary Jr. (Lucas); Local 15—Cecilia Mora, Local 16—Francisco Quintero (Silvio); Pierre Casabonne (Rosario), George Fields (Maxine), Gerald Johnson (Aubaine, Local 19—Jack Ginn Jr. (Carole), Josephine Barnett (Kathyrn), Donald Rampone (Evelyn); Local 21—Barbara Johnson, Jimmy Lee, Local 24—Dale Phillips (James), Local 33—Frederick More (Maxine); Local 34—Frank De Leon, Local 35—Edward Black (Wilma), Local 46—Alfredo De Leon, Local 47—Marjorie Beltz; Local 51—William Davis, Local 52—Dorothy Walker; Local 53—Grandmother; Local 54—John Lovett (James), Local 55—Joseph Catalano, Local 57—William Reynolds; Local 58—John Davis, Local 63—Robert Myer; Local 65—Jeffery Miller, Local 70—Ray Wilkins, Roberta Lee, Local 71—Joseph Gilmore, Local 72—Robert Stoltz (Marie), Local 73—Joseph Black, Local 74—Shirley Reynolds, Local 75—Quinby Laskin, Local 76—Joseph Black (Linda), Local 77—Joseph Black (Mary); Local 78—Joseph Black (Carole), Local 80—Joseph Black (Maxine), Local 81—Joseph Black (Doris).

Kuvakas passes cont’d from p. 6

financial reasons and because their government had objected.

The conference praised the ILWU’s light foot and good track record in the face of mechanization and modernization. The conference also advocated formal registration lists for dockers, as supported by the International Labor Organization’s conventions. Chosen for the meeting, they would sell the support. If for not for ourselves then for Harry Bridges himself.

And so from 1977 until now, the CCS has been carrying on in the tradition of Harry Bridges and continuing the fight for the struggle for human dignity and justice for all. For more information about joining CCS, call me at 310-748-7422 or visit our website at www.seniors.org.

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continued support. He noted that she serves on the Transportation Committee and it’s important to have her on that side as well.

The project should be completed by 2010 and could double the number of workers in that area. The company also plans to add a new facility for the processing of small fish, which will be completed in 2011. The project should be completed by 2012.

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**ILWU Warns Ag Dept.** cont’d from p. 7

“Would the gentleman [DeLauro] agree with me that the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to deny serious labor lawbreakers taxpayer assistance to you and your family for alcohol and other problems—we’re all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU to promote indoor heat regulations through CAL/OHSA, California’s Health and Safety Policy, research, Advocacy and Organizing.”

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**Dockworkers meet cont’d from f. 3**

Many groups had failed to make their minimum contributions to support the IDC, despite earlier pledges to do so, leaving a degree of uncertainty about how the group can continue to operate.

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**INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

The ILWU organizing team delivered a brief presentation to the IDC, offering special thanks to our Spanish counterparts. We were thrilled to support the ILWU organizing support for Blue Diamond Almond workers. La Coordinadora, a labor rights group that was part of the global industry conference in Spain that featured the CEO of Blue Diamond who was upstaged by Spanish activists who challenged his union—disrupt a global industry conference in Spain that featured the CEO of Blue Diamond with a standing ovation for his leadership as General in 2007.

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**Worksafe! to hold safety policy conferences**

The non-profit safety advocacy group Worksafe! collaborated closely with the ILWU to promote indoor heat regulations through CAL/OHSA, California’s workplace safety agency. The plight of Rite Aid workers in the sweetsurging desert in Lancaster, Calif. spurred these efforts.

**A Helping Hand...**

...when you need it most. That’s what we’re all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcohol, drug abuse and other problems—and we’re just a phone call away.

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**ILWU Organizing Division**

August 19, 2010—The ILWU Organizing Division will host a “3rd call” on Fridays in the month of October...Safety concerns have increased since the state agent for OSHA conducted an inspection for the company’s safety and health program. The ILWU also gave direct input when the USDA held a hearing July 25 on changes to the rules governing MAP. The hearing drew a raft of agency comments that embraced or rejected some of the changes proposed in the hearing record. The exchange between the two, something known on Capitol Hill as a “colloquy,” became part of the Congressional Record. Such colloquies affect how an agency handles cruise ship contracting work when available, but the agency is being ignored. Unit 225 filed charges with the Department of Labor this past July, but the agency moved so slowly that the case went by before any investigation took place. Bakers says the problem can be resolved and could generate more jobs at many ports but better statewide coordination and political support is required. The National Marine Union is struggling with Southeast Stevedoring over jurisdictional issues. The company and cruise ship operators have been fighting for years over whether to use U.S. labor to do their stevedoring work when available, but the law is being ignored. Unit 225 filed charges with the Department of Labor this past July, but the agency moved so slowly that the case went by before any investigation took place. Bakers says the problem can be resolved and could generate more jobs at many ports but better statewide coordination and political support is required. The National Marine Union is struggling with Southeast Stevedoring over jurisdictional issues. The company and cruise ship operators have been fighting for years over whether to use U.S. labor to do their stevedoring work when available, but the law is being ignored. Unit 225 filed charges with the Department of Labor this past July, but the agency moved so slowly that the case went by before any investigation took place. Bakers says the problem can be resolved and could generate more jobs at many ports but better statewide coordination and political support is required. The National Marine Union is struggling with Southeast Stevedoring over jurisdictional issues. The company and cruise ship operators have been fighting for years...