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Mine workers visit
Two of the 17,000 mine workers who are on strike in seven states briefly Bay Area supporters in a solidarity visit to the ILWU.

The United Mine Workers of America have been on strike since May in a bid to win job security for their members. Under current contracts, when a mine plays out coal companies simply lay off the workers and reopen another mine elsewhere.

Steve McGriff had 20 years of experience in southern Illinois when his mine played out. When he went to work “across the street” at a new mine owned by the same company, he started as an entry-level miner.

“I have nothing after 22 years,” McGriff said. “And the only thing different was the name on top of the check. That’s the paper game they’re playing back there.”

John May, 43, figures there’s about seven years left in his mine, also in southern Illinois. At age 50, his mine will close and he’ll be out on the streets.

“At that age, who’s going to hire me?” May said. “I want a job at the next mine.”

The two men said in unison. “The money’s there,” McGriff added.

The two men said they’ve told their families and members not to expect any major strike action this year.

Some miners were wearing the familiar UMWA camouflage, which they said shows solidarity when they wear it back home, and also makes it difficult for the bosses to tell miners apart on the picket line.

The miners also visited Locals 10 and 54, and collected a total of $40,000 to help the Bay Area, half of which came from ILWU support funds. Send donations made out to “UMWA Miners Relief Fund” to ILWU headquarters, or call (415) 775-0833 for information on t-shirts and other items.

Local 13 elections
Local 13’s day business agent is Marko Milosevich; the night man is Ray Ortiz, Jr.

Labor councils oppose vouchers
At least $5,300 would be sucked out of the public schools for every child who transfers to a private school if Proposition 174 passes, the presidents of southern and northern California District Labor Councils say.

The council says the half of a million children already attending private schools would receive credit for $2,600, no matter what their income level.

The loss of public funds would force the state to either raise taxes or cut other vital services to make up the difference.

Public school children would face larger classes, fewer arts and music and reduced or eliminated extra courses.

The voucher initiative, on the Nov. 3 ballot, would also allow private schools to deny admission to any student.

State of the union, Labor Day 1993
By DAVID ARIAN, ILWU International President

I have just returned from two weeks of hard duty in the Hawaiian Islands. Bobo Lapenia, president of Local 142 suggested that I check out Labor Day Hawaiian-style. I attended labor picnics on the Big Island, Maui, Kauai, and Oahu. There are three things that stand out from these celebrations: first, the old-timers turn out in big numbers; secondly, the union is trying to generate more interest among the rank and file; and third, hard times have hit Hawaii.

The column will focus on the difficult position that labor is in, as seen through the eyes of this union. The ILWU is at a turning point in the history of its survival. With this in mind, the titled officers propose some major changes at the International Executive Board meeting in Canada last month.

Local 142 in Hawaii is the largest local counting full-time and part-time workers. Last year, the union averaged an estimated 26,000 workers.

The recession that started California three years ago is now impacting Hawaii. Agriculture, business operations, such as sugar and pineapple, are way down. Some plantations and factories are closing down. Due to the poor performance of California and Japan, tourism is way down. The end result is that Local 142 has lost or is losing over 4,000 dues-paying members.

The Hawaii experience is matched here on the mainland where jobs have been moving south, or south of the border, for a while. In addition we see the nation’s new five-dollar word “down-sizing,” which means new technology and non-union supervisors doing our work. The Capitalist money interests see the need to reorganize production by investing in the area where labor is the cheapest and profits the greatest.

NAFTA is a continuing effort to make greater profits at the expense of the U.S., Canadian and Mexican workers. Today there is more wealth than ever before in history, but we are moving into a depression.

EFFECT ON THE ILWU

This union has always been based on 45,000-50,000 union members. We are structured where the locals are independent and most of the money is on the local level. The international budget is less than some locals’ budgets and the national budget is less than some locals’ budgets. The Capitalist money interests see the need to reorganize production by investing in the area where labor is the cheapest and profits the greatest.

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When we celebrate Labor Day, we celebrate the sweat and blood of millions of workers, and the labor of love of millions of workers, and the labor of love of millions of workers.

We set up convention preparatory committees made up of locals, maritime members, and key convention officers.

The Coats Committee also present a plan for reorganization of the longshore division at a caucus next February. The committee will propose the elimination of the two VPs if the executive board approves the recommendation.

These are just ideas, but we must turn the tide, we must grow.

There are other alternatives. We can start looking around for a union and see if we can find a way to bring the union in. We can circle the wagons and hope for the best.

These are not the best alternatives. The idea that I am asking you to think about is consolidating, shifting resources, and add support to organizing new workers into this union.

For the survival of this union we must develop a system that allows us to organize 3,000 new workers each year. At the 1994 Convention, we will be faced with the singular question of how we will carry on our historical task of speaking for all workers.

If we cut and we do not grow, we will die as the ILWU. The officers have proposed cuts, a wage freeze for officers, the elimination of both Hawaii and mainland VPs, and reductions in various departments.

We also proposed a national director of organizing to build a new organizing department and effort.

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In preparing for the next few months leading up to the 1994 convention, we will be faced with the singular question of how do we survive as the ILWU, intact with the ability to defend our membership and carry on our historical tasks of being an independent working-class union that speaks for all workers who are down and out.

FRED PAULING PASSES ON

I was able to attend Fred’s funeral in Hawaii. The support for the family and the statements of love and appreciation for what Fred did for this union was very clear to me. Let us remember a man who helped to hold this union together.

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Built the ILWU!

Coast Committee member Richard Austin resigns; replacement to be named in October

Coast Committeeman for the Pacific Coast, Richard Austin, announced his resignation effective July 31, 1993.

In his letter he stated: "I am convinced the bedrock of our success is to be found in the democratic participation of the rank and file. "To each of you I want to say thanks for entrusting me with the awesome responsibility of being an officer in the ILWU. I will be returning to the Northwest where my children live, and I will be putting a hook back into my pocket."

The ILWU President, chair of the Coast Committee, will appoint a replacement in October.
NAFTA opposition grows

Even while President Clinton bucked many in his own administration to kick off his NAFTA ratification campaign Sept. 15, opposition from within his own party continues to mount.

The senior Democrat in Congress charged with mobilizing support for party measures announced he will use all the resources of the majority whip's office to oppose the trade pact. Rep. David Bonior of Michigan, the No. 3-ranking Democrat in the U.S. House, publicly revolted against NAFTA as a "left-wing" union. The ILWU was called a "left-wing" union. The ILWU was called a "left-wing" union.

The House majority leader, Richard Gephardt of Missouri, denounced the labor and environmental side agreements hours after they were completed, and said he is unlikely to support the pact.

NAFTA would gradually eliminate import tariffs and other trade barriers between Canada, Mexico and the U.S. If approved by a simple majority in both houses of Congress, it would go into effect Jan. 1. A few dozen undecided House Democrats are likely to determine NAFTA's fate.

California Democrats still listed as undecided as of Sept. 15 by the San Francisco Chronicle are Sen. Diane Feinstein; Reps. Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco; Anna Eshoo, Palo Alto; Norman Mineta, San Jose; Howard Berman, Panorama City; Henry Waxman, Los Angeles; Lucille Roybal-Allard, Los Angeles.

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Hawaiian Labor Day activities

How many of you remember Labor Day of 1952? Jack Hall, the ILWU's Regional Director, stood accused of being a Communist and advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government. Back then, the ILWU was called a "left-wing" union. The theme of Labor Day 1952 was "Union Defense"—defense of Jack Hall, defense of hard-won gains that had been made by pioneer unionists, and defense against attacks on unions...which sought to curtail union activities and punish union leaders...[Several] editorials were written...which said that...unless industry-prospers and workers develop a genuine capacity for growth...They could not see that just the opposite was often true—that companies could not prosper and grow without good workers, and that often, union members were treated as enemies first by the government and management, and only fought back to gain fairness and dignity on the job.

Local 50's Columbia River Labor Day picnic drew over 2,000 unionists, families, children and friends. A popular corner was the hot dog stand where the sandwich boards sported the "No Sales Tax" signs. Oregon citizens vote on a sales tax at the special Nov. 9 election.
Together we can make a difference.  

Edit the document to make it more readable and concise.
Asian-Pacific labor alliance meets

By SUE CHIN

LOS ANGELES—Organize the unorganized, strengthen labor and community alliances and advance an agenda representing workers of all colors, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance president told delegates to the second national convention. APALA National President Kent Wong urged delegates at the convention, held Aug. 19-21 at the Los Angeles Hilton and Towers, to go back into their communities and live up to this year's theme of "We Are One—Labor and Community Working Together."

Delegates elected ILWU member Richard Gurtiza, of the Inlandboatman's Union, Local 37, Seattle, as the new Secretariat.

One of this year's honorees was Yuri Kochiyama, who was pictured on a Life magazine cover with the dying Malcolm X. Kochiyama, a resident of Harlem in New York City, is a Japanese pioneer whose struggle for civil rights places her in the forefront of leaders fighting and protesting against the injustices of wars, for redress for Japanese Americans and atomic bomb victims, and against nuclear proliferation.

Another honoree, Frank Antonio of ILWU Local 37, was the original plaintiff in Antonio v. Ward Cove case. Antonio, of Samoan heritage, has struggled for more than 17 years to win justice for the Ward Cove workers who were segregated and discriminated against in a manner worse than the old-time shipping industry's "two-pot" system.

Other honorees included: David Trask Jr., a former Hawaii state senator and advocate of labor rights for sugar cane and pineapple workers and Fred Korematsu, who challenged the relocation of Japanese Americans in camps during WWII.

In the 1944 case, Korematsu v. U.S., the Supreme Court upheld his lower court conviction of violating a military order; however, Judge Patel of the 9th District Federal Court vacated that injustice in 1983.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke out against the killing of Japanese exchange student Masakura Kuriyama, who was shot in Concord Aug. 19. Kuriyama died two days later.

Rev. Jackson has called for a state and federal investigation by the attorney general into this and other Asian-bashing incidents.

IBU members took to the picket lines with brothers from S.F. area unions

IBU dredge contract after strike

From IBU San Francisco reports

Dutra Construction Co., agreed to a contract with the Inlandboatman's Union after a 19-day strike that brought the dredging project in San Francisco Bay to a halt.

Contract negotiations with Dutra broke down Aug. 2, 1993. At each meeting the company had no proposals and no responses to the IBU proposals. All the while, Dutra was threatening to run the dredging equipment non-union under another company name.

During the last contract period, despite IBU's efforts to work with this employer, the company flagrantly violated the contract. On Aug. 3, the IBU struck.

With the assistance of the Alameda County Labor Council, a meeting was called by the federal mediator with owner Bill Dutra himself on Aug. 18 to get the parties back into negotiations. Another meeting was then scheduled for Sat., Aug. 21, with several people in attendance, while both the IBU and the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) met with Dutra and the federal mediator. After eight hours, an agreement was obtained. It took 19 days, but you can bet Bill Dutra finally came "prepared."

The settlement included:

* Annual wage and fringe benefit openers July 1st of each year, with the right to strike.

* On any job or project in the San Francisco Bay Area within the jurisdiction of the IBU, Dutra agrees that any work will be performed under the IBU contract.

* The IBU began meeting with the Operating Engineers Local 3 last year, knowing its support of the strike would be crucial. Throughout the strike the support of the Operating Engineers and the Pile Drivers Local 34 for the IBU grew as the IBU grew as an agreement was obtained. It took 19 days, but you can bet Bill Dutra finally came "prepared."

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* Seventy-five cents per hour increase, allocated to health and welfare.

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A man's work complements the ILWU's mission

By LYDIA DeLaROSA

"We cannot change the nature of the alcoholic addict's addiction. We can help to change the old lie 'Once an addict, always an addict,'" by striving to make recovery possible," reads Fred J. Brown from the text of a 12-step recovery program.

And, he says, "Alcohol is a drug." Brown, who had his own addiction, believes that this disease influences his own artistic creations.

The Black Messengers. Two of these musicians, Ahmed Ali and Jack London Village, Oakland. Al-Waajid says he learned from them. He also has a high interest in helping people.

The veterans Administration inpatient program for 96 days. He was told he could not see his deceased husbands.

Fred will be celebrating 12 years of recovery in October. He is proud to say his daughter recently celebrated her first birthday in recovery. Fred J. Brown has helped many others through his work. "Sobriety is a gift from God, that there is an end to loneliness, and that alcoholics and addicts can find peace of mind."
Executive Board prepares for 1994 ILWU Convention action

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Dave Freiboth of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) became the newest member of the International Executive Board. Freiboth, who replaces former IBU President Bruce Hatton, has said he will go along with IBU agreements.

Gratz said the southern California division is building an in-plant strategy to win grievances, contracts and solve other problems. One company, Brunswick Drug, recently successfully decertified the union at one of its warehouses by offering a 65-cent an hour raise, then pulling the raise after the decent to pay for increased medical payments, then closing the warehouse altogether. Another problem is the federal government's approval of special visas allowing companies to bring in foreign workers to undercut pay, Gratz said.

Local 142 President and Hawaii member of the ILWU's executive board, Dave Freiboth gave his first report as a member of the board at the IEB meeting held Aug. 26-27 in Canada. Freiboth has been a member of the union since 1965. Hatch resigned to become executive director of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). Canadian Area President Gordon Westrand welcomed board members and explained that the Canadian jurisdiction includes Saskatchewan and British Columbia, with a total membership of 9,800. Of those, 6,700 are in the rest in longshore. The board meets in Canada every three years.

Westrand had good news for the board about the Canadian "march inland," saying the ILWU's pursuit of affiliation with a 2,800-member grain services union looks very positive. The grain such routes are being considered on the prairies of Ontario and Manitoba. The union's executive board will visit with major companies in the area for recognition to its convention next March.

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HONOLULU—Frederico "Fred" Paulino was an example of how the union can bring out the best in human beings and turn everyday working people into great leaders. Paulino was president of Local 142 for the last 12 years, died Aug. 27 of a heart attack.

Paulino was born in Paia, Maui, on Aug. 1, 1929, and spent his boyhood days in Honolulu. He came to Hawaii in 1941. In 1950, two years after graduating from McKinley High School, Fred started working at Murphy-Aloha Motors as a service station part clerk and salesman.

In 1952, even while ILWU leaders were being tried under the Smith Act for alleged un-American activities, and employer groups were branding the ILWU as a Communist conspiracy, over 350 production, maintenance, and service workers at Murphy-Aloha Motors and Universal Motors organized and voted overwhelmingly to join the ILWU.

Fred Paulino was one of the first to sign a petition to join the ILWU and was already acting as a shop steward for the dozen workers in the service station department at Aloha Motors. When the first union contract was signed, Fred's pay jumped more than 26 percent to $1.35 an hour. Auto workers were on their way to steady improvements in their wages, benefits, and working conditions.

From 1955 to 1956 Fred served his country in the US Army's Seventh Division. He was stationed in South Korea after the Korean conflict divided the country. When Fred completed his military service, he returned to Hawaii and resumed his union activity. He was elected as a unit trustee and headed up the Aloha Motors union sports committee. He captained the bowling team and organized teams of auto workers to participate in the ILWU sports program.

In 1962 Fred worked as a parts clerk; he was married with two young children. He ran and was elected as the chairman for the Aloha Motors unit. A short article in the ILWU Auto Union News bulletin introduced Fred:

"Our newly elected young, aggressive, and very eager unit chairman for the two years. Not very active in union affairs until a few years ago, he has nevertheless come along pretty fast. Within a short span he has become a leader of very great value."

"A job that takes a lot of time on and off the job, attending meetings and such, but he gives his spare time and energy to make sure work is done smoothly. What he lacks in experience he makes up in his drive to help others to his fullest. With a little seasoning, he will be one of our top officers."

These were prophetic words, as Fred did gain a lot of experience; he did become one of the ILWU's top officers; and he did become a leader of very great value.

Almost immediately after taking office as chairman, Fred Paulino's leadership abilities were put to the ultimate test when ILWU auto workers were forced into a four and one-half month (134 days) strike. There were now 13 automotive units in the ILWU, and the three largest auto dealers signed a pact to destory the union. Murphy-Aloha Motors, Schuman Carriage, and Universal Motors agreed to a contract that would be signed with the union unless all three companies accepted the contract within 134 days.

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When bargaining finally broke down, the auto workers walked off the job and began picketing the companies. No one knew how long the strike would last, but the auto workers, under the leadership of men like Fred Paulino, organized one of the most solid and effective strikes the ILWU has ever seen. A morale committee organized activities for the entire family with Family Nights, Sports Movie Nights, ping-pong tournaments, and tours of ILWU units such as Love's Bakery. A publicity committee put out strike bulletins and kept everyone informed of strike activities.

Other ILWU units began showing their solidarity by taking over picket duties to give the auto workers a day off. ILWU member Davio Ng donated his services and gave everyone free haircuts at strike headquarters. Donations poured in for a Fourth of July picnic. A soup kitchen was set up at the ILWU Atkinson Hall and began turning out more than a thousand lunches a week for the strikers.

Finally, after 134 days and with thousands of unsold cars collecting dust, the companies agreed to a settlement worth 30-45 cents an hour, compared to the 10 cents offered before the strike. The strike proved that ILWU auto workers could organize and hold together to insist on fair bargaining. The strikers understood that they weren't just striking for themselves, they were defending unionism, collective bargaining, and a better standard of living that comes with unions for all people in Hawaii.

When over, Fred Paulino said, "The strike has brought unity and solidarity among our members at Aloha Motors and I feel that they never had before. We've learned now how important it is for each one to do his share in this, and how important it is to have regular membership meetings."

It was a solid and impressive victory for the auto workers. But in 1965, when it came time to negotiate a new contract, George Murphy refused to extend the contract and refused to meet with the union to bargain for a new agreement. The Aloha Motors membership voted 100 percent to walk off the job. Another strike was called; Universal and Schuman also refused to extend their contract, but ILWU members there agreed to work and agreed to give 25 percent of their wages—along with the striking Aloha Motors workers—to the striking Aloha Motors workers and do picket duty after work.

At unit chairman Fred Paulino also headed up the Aloha Motors strike committee, but he now had a core of seasoned and veteran workers who knew exactly how to organize and prepare for a strike. As Fred said, "It's not only the leadership, but the rank-and-file members, who are doing themselves in this strike, as we got our machinery moving into high gear from the start."

The unit held strong and lasted 115 days, until Murphy, with thousands of dollars at stake, was forced to reach a settlement with the union. It was another tremendous victory and set a record within the ILWU.

Local 142 president lauds Paulino's service

ILWU Local 142 President Eusebio Lapenia issued the following statement:

"On Friday, Aug. 27, 1993, the ILWU lost a good friend and a great leader when Frederico "Fred" Paulino died after a heart attack. Fred was serving his fifth and last term as vice president of Local 142, as he planned to retire after the Local 142 Convention in 1991. He had just observed his 64th birthday. For over 43 years, Fred gave outstanding service to this union and his community.

"He served as a Division member and membership service director for 10 years, then provided invaluable leadership as vice president of Local 142 for the last 12 years. We will all miss Fred Paulino for his friendliness, his humility, and his great devotion to this union and our members."