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Standing up to the WTO

By Brian McWilliams

The World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle Nov. 30-Dec. 3 gives us a rare opportunity to express first hand our outrage at how workers have been treated across the planet in the profit frenzy of globalization. It further gives us the chance to express our resolve to fight back against a system where workers pay such a high price for corporate greed.

Understandably there is some confusion about the role of the World Trade Organization and the other international trade and monetary institutions (GATT, NAFTA, IMF, World Bank, etc.) touting and rationalizing the burgeoning global economy. But there should be no confusion to workers that the goal of these groups is to facilitate unlimited access to the world marketplace and underwrite any risk in capital investment with little or no consideration for labor or environmental impacts.

In hand with the rise to power and influence of the “Free Traders,” the wealthy have seen their purchasing power steadily decline since the 1970s. This decline has been so extreme the generation of workers who grew up in this era have been told all along by various media that they will never have the ability to enjoy the wealth and opportunities their parents did. At the same time corporate profits and CEO compensation have shot through the roof.

And the basic standard of living for workers worldwide has declined.

Because the Free Traders, the corporate CEOs, politicians and their media minions, all try to brand WTO opponents as protectionists and anti-trade types, it is particularly important for the ILWU to have a strong and visible presence among the tens of thousands of demonstrators expected in Seattle. We make our living off trade, so we are in a unique position to make the case that we are not against trade, we are for fair trade.

This has been the position of the ILWU for more than 50 years. It has been reaffirmed and memorialized over the last decade in a policy statement on NAFTA by the International Executive Board in 1992 and similar resolutions on NAFTA by both the union’s 1994 and 1997 International Conventions.

We believe in and demand a world where trade and its benefits are shared fairly among the working people everywhere. We believe in and demand a world where trade isn’t geared just to enhance the profits of transnational corporations, but enhances the quality of life for all the people in all the societies engaged in it; a world in which trade brings dignity and fair treatment to all workers; a world in which trade enhances the advantages of local economies and encourages healthy and environmentally sensitive development; a world in which trade furthers a cultural understanding among peoples of different nations; a world in which the interconnectiveness of trade promotes peace.

No one can make that statement more strongly or with more moral authority than the ILWU. That is our history, our legacy and our ongoing responsibility. We have always stood up, walked the picket line and marched in protest when working people’s rights were trampled. We used the power we have to impact cargo movement in order to get the attention and results needed to help bring justice for workers caught deep in the jaws of corporate greed.

In 1974 the ILWU joined an international boycott of Chilean cargo following the overthrow and murder of democratically elected President Salvador Allende by a CIA-backed military junta led by General Pinochet. Our Longshore Division also refused work coffee from El Salvador in 1988 because the government supported the transnational corporate growers campaign to bust union organizing.

We boycotted cargo on apartheid South Africa ships because it was trade supporting racism and the worst kinds of oppression of workers.

In support of the United Farm Workers’ grape boycott, we honored UFW picket lines, preventing non-union grapes from being loaded aboard ships.

The Neptune Jade ILWU members refused to carry cargo loaded by scabs working for the same employers who sacked the Liverpool dockers.

Just last year Locals 13, 63 and 94 declined to work the Columbus Canada’s scab-loaded cargo out of Australia when that country’s government conspired with employers to bust the Maritime Union of Australia.

So let’s have our presence felt in Seattle. The ILWU is joining with the rest of the labor movement to mobilize for the WTO conference. Our International Executive Board has asked all locals and divisions to endorse the Seattle demonstration and participate in it to the greatest extent possible. We have asked each local and division to select an individual to coordinate activities with the International in order to work better with other unions, environmental groups and community organizations.

It is important to have each local Executive Board set policy similar to that of the IEB, take those resolutions to your membership meetings for further discussion and, when requested, presentations from the labor community and WTO speakers bureau and, most importantly, join with the rest of the labor movement in packing the streets of Seattle on Nov. 30.

We will not be ignored. The ILWU banner will be there and we need as many members as possible to march behind it. Those locals that can send representatives or coordinate members going on their own need to step forward to get the job done.

This will be the only opportunity in our lifetimes to make such an important statement to the multinational captains of industry and finance. It is a critical chance for us all to force the issues of fair trade on those who dismiss workers rights as subordinate to the needs of capital in the global economy. We must not stand idly by.

ILWU Titled Officers

BRIAN McWILLIAMS
President

JAMES SPINOSA
Vice President

LEONARD HOSHOU
Vice President

JOE IBARRA
Secretary-Treasurer
A handful of bike messengers sped up San Francisco's Cesar Chavez St. late in the evening after the vote count at Professional Messenger, whipping past empty lots and quiet sleeping buildings. "Whoa! We did it! It took 21 months, but we did it," Curt Halsted exulted as he pedaled, and they whipped past the freeway overpass, the Litterbug and spun through the Mission District.

A tight collaboration between bikers and drivers brought the ProMess couriers the closest victories in their Sept. 16 election: 43 workers voted for representation by ILWU Local 6 and 41 voted against. The company challenged another eight voters and the union challenged three.

The election victory marked a milestone rather than an end in the ProMess campaign. The company filed pages of spurious election objections with the NLRB in an attempt to deny the messengers their win. Pulling the victory out of red tape will take every bit as much creativity and determination as winning the election itself—and the messengers will have to draw on their community and their allies to make it happen.

WINNING PRO

Union supporters at ProMess overcame a vicious management campaign using every tactic at its disposal. The company hired Littler, Mendelsohn—the Darth Vader of union-busting—and filed a series of unfair labor claims the first working day after the election. Drivers lived and work spread out over five counties. Many never met another employee, and the company's lawyers also filed a NLRB election petition. The union's efforts got the election chive rolling when it joined a campaign strategy plan to circulate a contract petition to ProMess under Section 12B of San Francisco's administrative code, which requires companies that do business with the city to offer equal benefits to spouses and domestic partners. The busy downtown corner departed, which carried a few more names than it did last year.

"These deaths from purposeful violence—we can't call them accidents—can be prevented," said Manuel "Rak" McWilliams, ILWU president. "But today is important because it's really great to be able to sit down at the table and state our demands," said Manuel "Rak" Affonso, a bike messenger on the UltraEx negotiating team. "All you messengers from other companies step up and fill out your union cards and you'll be able to sit down at the table as well."

Wrapping up close to the end of the rally, ILWU International President Brian McWilliams kicked off the year's accomplishments. "But today is important because our movement is more than a string of NLRB elections."

At ProMess, there were few of the usual anti-union workers who'd just won a struggle in North Carolina. "We get paid sick days, and management doesn't pull the petty crap they used to because they know we'll raise hell," she said.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano presented the City's official proclamation for the day, and Mayor Willie L. Brown was expected to make an appearance and speak. "It's great to be able to sit down at the table and state our demands," said San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. "The law is not in our favor, so if we can't do it, so can we."

"I think the workday is easier," she added, prompting energy from dozens of other trades sat side-to-side on stage, united by their decision to organize for dignity and justice.

MESSANGER APPRECIATION DAY

ProMess couriers have begun systematic efforts to keep their co-workers informed and focused on why they need the union. The organizing committee plans to circulate contact survey to find out what improvements would people like to see on the job. And they're planning to enlist community and political support to pressure ProMess to do the right thing.

"To let your organizing just fall into the Board pit is death," Local 6 West Bay business agent Fred Pecker said. "The law is not in our favor, so if we rely solely on legal remedies we'll hurt ourselves. We need to keep pressure on the company so they have to keep responding to us."

"Our biggest obstacle was just trying to find people," bike messenger Steven Hosea Kizziah said. "Many drivers live and work spread out over five counties. Many never meet another employee. It's great to be able to sit down at the table and state our demands," said San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. "The law is not in our favor, so if we can't do it, so can we."

"We know the importance of a good contract," Harvey Milk Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club President Criss Romero told the audience at the Messenger Appreciation Day rally in San Francisco Oct. 8. "We did not fight long and hard to see companies pull stunts like this."

Photos by Tom Price

Below, L to R: Steven Hosea Kizziah, America Meredith and Robert Joseph. Kizziah, an 18-year veteran bike messenger, received the first-ever SFBIAM President's award at Messenger Appreciation Day. Joseph cycles for Western Messenger and plays with Family Scott. (Right) San Francisco Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Dave Snyder introducing the Bike Rights Hotline.
There are members of Congress pressuring the Clinton Administration to include labor and environmental conditions in trade deals, but the general consensus among most members of Congress and the Administration is that weaving labor and environmental enforceable rights is impractical. Besides, the Washington elite considers some members of Congress pushing these radical ideas of enforceable labor and human rights flaky. They may even point to WTO criticisms of John Travolta, Jr. OH! A member of Congress who has never heard of a professional haircut, and believes his suite look fine after being washed and tumble dried in genuine all-American washer-dryer machines. If you can get past his looks, sometimes he makes some sense. Witness what he said during the steel import crisis: “Just knowing that the President would veto any steel quota bill, in one month steel imports from Japan rose 40 percent; from Korea, 50 percent; from Malaysia, 123 percent; from Indonesia, 140 percent; and from Russia, our good buddies in Russia, a 25 percent increase in one month. Unbelievable.

The Clinton Administration is getting tennis elbow over there from putting themselves on the back for killing the steel bill, foreign compa-
The ITF marches inland

By Tom Price

The long reach of international worker solidarity can be seen from Venice, Italy and the U.S. West Coast to help workers struggling for their jobs and union recognition in Las Vegas.

The conflict began several years ago when billionaire Sheldon Adelson bought the Sands Hotel, which had been union since the 1950s. He promised the Sands' long-experienced staff they would have jobs in his new enterprise, the Venetian Hotel.

"The workers had a high level of seniority and they were a close knit group," said Debbie Anderson, Assistant Director of Hotel Operations for the Sands and Restaurant Employees Union. "Adelson asked them to stick with him till the doors were closed. He was going to blow the place up to build the new hotel. They gave him loyalty and he said they would all have jobs.

But Adelson didn’t follow through. Without even the legally required 60-day notice he replaced the hotel crew. This is in sharp contrast to most of the other mega-hotels in Las Vegas, where labor-management relation are generally good and can be a model of what is possible.

"Some coffee shop waitresses had been there 30 years," Anderson said. "And not put in to Culinary Union agencies asking for some hard body type, which isn’t unusual for cocktail waitresses, but not for a coffee shop."

Liddle, who ran a creation tactic with the ITF, subcontracted the hotel’s restaurant, the Pinot Brasserie, to Jim McMillion, a chef who owns restaurants in Los Angeles. He’s taking the lead from Adelson and not put in to Culinary Union Local 226.

Splichal is also “culinary consultant” to the Windstar Cruise Lines, the up-scale division of Carnival Cruise Lines. With their 300-400 member capacity the ships are small and “intimate,” and the cruises can cost as much as $15,000. Splichal, it turns out, is one of the celebrities the cruise passengers try to get to find out that kind of money is worth to intimate with.

When Anderson found out that the Windstar captain cruise ships were originating from the real Venice, Italy and that the cruise line had headquarters in Seattle, an ILWU port, she got on the phone. The first call went to Washington UMF in May.

"I worked in the labor movement for many years on the West Coast, so I know the ITF represents people in the ports and I know the union’s International President, Brian McWilliams," said McWilliams contacted with ITF Inspector Barry Binsky, who got in touch with other unions.

McWilliams promised the Sands’ long-experience ITF Dockers Section President Kees Marges in London.

I suggested leafleting the cruise ship’s passengers as a good way to get the word out," Binsky said. "The cruise line won’t even like anything that disrupts the ambiance of the ship."

Meanwhile Anderson called the three main culinary worker unions in Venice, and told them about the pseudo-Venice spa ship. Marges contacted local ITF Inspector Antonio Blasi of the ITF-affiliated Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Trans- port, a docks’ and sailors’ union in Venice. Soon a Venetian dock and culinary workers got together and made plans to help out.

Venetian unionists spread the word throughout the region. Department heads from the University of Venice signed a petition expressing their outrage at the anti-labor stance of the ITF. They were joined in its extreme outrage of bad taste, Venice Mayor Massimo Cacciari sent letters of protest to Las Vegas. IBU National Secretary-General Ciriaco Cacciari was sent letters of protest to Las Vegas. IBU National Secretary-General Ciriaco Cacciari was protesting the architectural rip-off and saying the labor dispute violated the history and tradition of Venice. The three labor confederations in Venice got together with HERE to denounce Adelson and what he was doing with the Venetian Hotel.

"Splichal needed to know that he couldn’t screw around with the union and his employees with impunity," Anderson said.

To make certain the Italian workers held a demonstration on the Venetian docks and leafleted all the passengers boarding the M.V. Wind Surf Aug. 28. A month later culinary workers from Venice, representing 11,000 members, and Venice Deputy Mayor Michele Vianello visited Las Vegas. They attended rallies and spoke to the workers.

In a futile and obviously hypocritical public relations fiasco Venetian Hotel director of government relations Andy Abbound claimed Vianello was a communist and his presence in Las Vegas was a misuse of union dues.

For his part Vianello, a member of the Democratic Left Party, spoke with all the local politicians, reminding them that the right to organize was enshrined in the Italian constitution.

The international actions helped kick off the union drive and bring pressure on management to deal with the workers at the Venetian. They want card-check union recognition and employer neutrality.

"In an increasingly global economy international solidarity among workers is very important," Anderson said. "What happened in Venice, Italy is an example of how that international solidarity works."

The future of the Global Mariner

The Global Mariner, the International Transport Workers’ Federation of sailing museum that called on West Coast ports last spring, is now more than two thirds of the way through its journey around the world. Since her launch in July 1996 more than 400,000 people have visited the vessel and viewed its moving exhibition on the working lives and standards of seafarers aboard flag of convenience ships.

The ITF purchased the cargo ves- sel, then the Lady Rebecca, refur- bished and converted it, reflagged and renamed it. Now as it nears the completion of its mission the ITF Executive Board and the ship’s crew are having second thoughts about the original plan to sell it at the end of its journey to recover the $1.5 million spent on it. They fear—and cannot abide by the idea—that the Global Mariner may yet end up in the hands of a substandard operator who would gain the benefits of the ITF investment and the efforts of its crew that have brought it up to its high standards.

The ITF has decided to seek ideas and proposals for the future of the ship either in commercial opera- tion under a bona fide national flag with acceptable crew conditions or performing some non-commercial function. This could be, for example, as an exhibition ship, a training ves- sel or for use in the transport of relief supplies.

To that end the ITF is launching a "competition" among its affiliates and the maritime industry for origi- nal and imaginative ideas for the future use of the Global Mariner. Submissions may be sent to:

David Cockcroft
ITF General Secretary
ITF House
49-60 Borough Road
London SE1 1DS
England

ITF Inspector Antonio Blasi dons a chef’s hat while protesting the treatment of Las Vegas hotel and restaurant workers. Blasi and several dockers and culi- nary workers stood on the Venetian docks and leafleted each of the 300 pas- sengers on the liner Wind Surf, driving celebrity chef Joe Splichal away for his role in union bashing at his Las Vegas restaurant.
When I came back from vacation, I was in good health, and I had learned some important lessons about life. I was determined to make the most of the opportunities that were presented to me.

I decided to focus on improving my work habits and personal relationships. I was determined to make the most of my time and resources.

I began to take a more active role in my community, volunteering for local causes and organizations. I was determined to make a positive impact on the world around me.

I also began to take a more active role in my personal life. I was determined to make the most of my time with my loved ones and to cherish the memories that we made together.

In conclusion, the important life lessons that I learned from my vacation were to take a more active role in my work and personal life, to be determined in my efforts to make the most of my time, and to cherish the memories that I made with my loved ones.

*The End*
LOCAL 142 FIGHTS NEWSPAPER CLOSURE

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin announced Sept. 16 that it would close down its operations, Hawaii faced losing one of its only two daily newspapers and more than 150 jobs—at least a third of them ILWU jobs.

In a special exemption from anti-trustin law, the Star-Bulletin, the Honolulu Advertiser joined in a Joint Operation Agreement in 1962 that allowed the two papers to share printing, production, advertising and circulation departments. The JOA created the Hawaii Newspaper Agency to handle those joint functions and some 250 ILWU members work in its mailroom and circulation departments.

The intent of the JOA was to allow both papers to survive and keep competing editorial voices in the community. In announcing the Star-Bulletin’s closure its owner, Rupert Phillips, said that although the paper was still bringing in a 12 percent profit, he could make more money in papers on the mainland. But rather than sell the paper, Phillips was accepting a buyout of $25.5 million to leave town from Gannett, one of the biggest newspaper publishers in the country and owner of his competitor, the Advertiser.

"We drew a line in the sand in Hawaii because we feel this is a worthy battle," said W. Kamaka Ohashi Division Director for the ILWU. "There’s a certain corporate arrogance that they’re not going to leave here and weren’t stopped. But we’re insulated here in the Pacific so its almost like a laboratory setting where you can see the impacts of closing down one paper where there aren’t others in adjoining areas to pick up the slack like on the mainland."

The ILWU flexed its political muscle and got the Hawaii Congressional delegation to write a strong letter to the U.S. Department of Justice seeking an investigation of the closure deal as a violation of the Newspaper Preservation Act and anti-trust laws. They got Gov. Cayetano and Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris on board. They contacted other union members and worked to pass a resolution urging the closure and a search for a buyer for the paper. Then working with community groups they formed a coalition called Save Our Star-Bulletin—or SOS.

"We have a lot of good will in the community, so when we made our calls they came and made it their fight too," Camacho said.

SOS started a petition gathering campaign, getting 10,000 signatures to sign on to a statement calling for an end to all newspaper to close the paper. They also started a letter-writing campaign, got out bumper stickers and set up their own Web site, www.sosstarbulletin.org. They also ran a large in the Honolulu Advertiser headlined "Why save our Star-Bulletin?—or SOS.

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The AFL-CIO opened its biennial convention in Los Angeles by honoring newly organized workers—the future of the labor movement. Some 250 newspapers from around two dozen unions participated in the ceremony, including nine in the ILWU contingent, (left to right) Jeannie Tober, Pauline Becker and Myrna Mendoza, who were fired for trying to organize at Cruise and Tours Services, and Professional Messenger organizing committee members Bill Bridges (behind Mendoza), Steve Coco and Sam Servesie. UltraX organizing committee members Manuel "Rak" Affonso and Nana Robinson and Ian McCullough from Powell’s Books were also present.

"People always say they feel part of something big in situations like this," said Bill Bridges. "That feels real and true.

Local union banners and huge, colorful backdrops bearing AFL-CIO ban-
ners lit up the cavernous LA Convention Center during the ceremony. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson called a few groups of new union members to the stage at a time, then led the audience in call-and-response.

"And these people said..." said Gannett. "We drew a line in the sand on one side of the room who would roar back. ‘Yes!’ the other side trumpeted.

The new union members represented all races, all ages, all sorts of trades—janitors, doctors, hotel workers, printers, plumbers, professors and more. The energy of their common determination gave even jaded observers chills.

"Ibarra told them that was nonsense,” said Camacho. "The Department of Justice, which oversees anti-trust laws, also filed an anti-trust lawsuit to block the shutdown.

"It is inconceivable that one newspaper can simply pay a competitor to shut down, but that’s what seems to be happening in Honolulu,” said TNG-CWA President Linda Foley. “Despite profits of 12 percent last year, Phillips and Gannett are trying to carry out this shutdown scheme and haven’t allowed any other group to make a bid for the Star-Bulletin.

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The Hawaii Attorney General Earl Cassada also filed an anti-trust lawsuit against the shutdown.

In response to the lawsuits U.S. District Judge Alan Kay granted a preliminary injunction Oct. 13 halting the planned closure, forcing the Star-Bulletin to stay open until the Dept. of Justice, which oversees anti-trust issues, has time to investigate the alleged illegals. In his ruling Kay noted that Liberty had made no effort to sell the Star-Bulletin before entering the termination agreement with Gannett, that the state was likely to prevail in its contention that the closure is a violation of anti-trust laws and that once the newspaper was closed, it would be impossible to start it up again. That same day Gannett filed a motion to suspend the injunction but the court denied it two days later.

The two newspapers then appealed to a three-member panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to postpone Kay’s injunction until the full court could hold a hearing to decide whether to uphold it or not, but the panel turned them down Oct. 20. The panel did agree, however, to speed up the process and could issue a decision toward the end of November.

"They weren’t taking us seriously at first, but now they’re getting nerv-
ous,” Camacho said. "The Dept. of Justice is getting at all their files.

State Sen. Steve Stallone

OFFICE CLERICALS REACH AGREEMENT WITH MATSON/SSAT IN OAKLAND

A determined membership and a bargaining committee armed with a unanimous strike vote held out for a good agreement between Matson/SSAT and its office clericals in Oakland.

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The World Trade Organization sets the

By Steve Stallone

A national economies become global, a handful of extra-governmental institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have quietly taken more and more control over national and local economies. But none has done so more insidiously—or with more danger to working people everywhere—than the World Trade Organization.

The WTO was established four years ago to devise and enforce global trade regulations. Like a worldwide "free trade" and "free market," its regulations, making the planet one large free-trade zone and global economy. And "free market," its regulations act the punishment for those violations. It does all this without a hint of democracy or accountability.

The new rules approved at previous WTO meetings dealt with trade in agrarian goods, "trade experts" review the case and determines whether the law in question is "free trade" or not. The WTO panel on the other side of the planet will then sit as judge and jury deciding the "free trade" of the genetic codes of plants and animals.

But while WTO supporters preach a philosophy of "free trade" and "free market," its regulations are actually designed to make the world safe for corporate-managed trade. If they are carried out, the WTO's policies will hit the world the same way NAFTA hit North America. Well-paying industrial jobs will be shipped to poor countries with lax labor and environmental standards. De-industrialized "developed" countries will suffer unemployment and underemployment. Underdeveloped countries will face super-exploitation of their workers and massive degradation of their environments (see sidebar, page 9).

And the WTO plans to get its way. It has the blessing and backing of the governments of 143 countries, representing about 90 percent of the world's trade and, of course, all the transnational corporations. Microsoft CEO Bill Gates and Boeing CEO Phil Condit co-chair the host committee of the Seattle WTO meeting.

They are selling tickets to a dinner with WTO delegates—the trade ministers and representatives of all 134 countries—for a mere $75,000 each.

HOW IT WORKS

In 1947 the leaders of the victorious countries of WWII set up GATT—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. GATT dealt with banning down tariff protections, the laws regulating trade between countries. Having taken that as far as they could over the last 50 years before running into national sovereignty issues, the heads of governments and transnational corporations turned their attention to breaking down the laws countries developed to promote and protect their own economic interests. This gave birth to the WTO.

Its member nations gave the WTO authority to act like a planetary super-government, ruling over the economic activity of all nations. It legislates the new rules of the new corporate-managed global economy, then sits as judge and jury deciding what local or national laws in any country violates its dictates and finally executes the punishment for those violations. It does all this without a hint of democracy or accountability.

But all these agreements are supposed to be made by the representatives of democratically elected governments, the actual process is far more. The WTO's four most powerful members—the U.S., Japan, the European Union and Canada—develop these policies in consultation with the largest transnational corporations in those fields. They, of course, write rules that will favor their further domination of world markets.

The system set up to enforce these rules is simple. When one member nation decides that another has a law it considers a barrier to trade between them, it files a complaint with the WTO, challenging that law. A three-member panel of WTO "trade experts" reviews the case and determines whether the law in question is "free trade" or not. The WTO panel on the other side of the planet will then sit as judge and jury deciding the "free trade" of the genetic codes of plants and animals.

The trade bureaucrats who sit in judgment of the rules are accountable to no one, their tribunals are held in secret and all documents, hearings and decisions may be kept from the public.

World Trade Organization

what the WTO, claiming it created an unfair trade disadvantage for its machinery, which they said was not up to EPA standards. The WTO sided with Venezuela. The Clinton administration, whose policies were approved by WTO decisions, lowered the air quality standards set by the democratically elected Congress and sought to prevent some people breathe dirtier air as a result.

Another recent WTO decision directly attacked public health and the right of governments to protect the health of their populations. In this case the European Union had banned the sale of beef treated with the artificial growth hormone BSE out of concern for its long-term health effects on people. The U.S. challenged ban because it kept most American beef out of Europe. In siding with the U.S. the WTO said that it was not "necessary to ensure the health of their populations."

Continuing this public health approach, the WTO's "free trade" is now threatening to destroy public health in the name of "free trade." The corporate promoters of the WTO's "free trade" policies often like to paint their opponents as backward anti-trade nuts. But the livelihoods of longshore workers, farmers, small-scale farmers, hotel workers who thrive on a growing global economy all depend on trade. And the ILWU has for more than 50 years promoted the notion of "fair trade"—that is, that the power of the people, they have the right, can be the source of jobs, higher living standards for all workers and a peaceful world.

But the current notion of free trade being promoted by the WTO has none of those objectives. The only thing free about it is joking when he quipped to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "if you have something to hide, the best way is to give out 5,000 sheets of paper and dare people to find it."

THE WTO'S SEATTLE AGENDA

When the world's trade ministers meet in Seattle Nov. 30-Dec. 3, they will be reviewing their previous agreements with an eye towards expanding them and considering new agreements to extend the WTO's reach to more sections of the world economy. Included in this will be a discussion of maritime services, including access to and use of port facilities.

Among other proposals under consideration at the Seattle WTO meeting are agreements limiting government regulation of investment and currency speculation, one expanding global consumption of forest products and another expanding restrictions on how governments can choose to spend their tax revenues.

The agreement on investments could include forbidding governments from considering a company's or country's human rights, labor or environmental records when making investment decisions, preventing governments from promoting local economic development by granting foreign corporations rights to enter mar-

Free trade v

The corporate promoters of the WTO's "free trade" policies often like to paint their opponents as backward anti-trade nuts. But the livelihoods of longshore workers, farmers, small-scale farmers, hotel workers who thrive on a growing global economy all depend on trade. And the ILWU has for more than 50 years promoted the notion of "fair trade"—that is, that the power of the people, they have the right, can be the source of jobs, higher living standards for all workers and a peaceful world.

But the current notion of free trade being promoted by the WTO has none of those objectives. The only thing free about it is
Empty cans: empty lives—
the WTO’s impact on labor

So far the WTO has rarely dared to attack organized labor directly as a trade barrier that should be eliminated. Mostly it has been content to whittle away at union strength through back-door measures—but one of the times the WTO did take aim at labor should be a warning for the ILWU.

What would happen if the ILWU Coastwise Agreement came under WTO scrutiny? Could the jurisdiction of the ILWU be ruled a trade barrier? Could the ILWU raising that guaranteed ILWU jurisdiction from the earliest days of the union come under attack, and might the U.S. government overturn it in order to avoid serious trade sanctions?

Seem far-fetched? It almost happened to the All Japan Dockworkers’ Union in 1997. The European Union went to the WTO to force changes in the system of “Prior Consultation” established by the Japanese dockers and the Japan Harbor Transport Assn. over the years to dispatch dockworkers. “Unfair and inefficient,” they cried.

The Japanese system sounds a lot like the ILWU’s Coastwise Agreement and that is no coincidence. The two unions worked together through the All Pacific and Asian Dockworkers’ Conferences held in Tokyo in 1959 and attended by Harry Bridges, who worked closely with the Japanese dockers on the strategy. The ILWU supported their strike later that year, when they won passage of the Dockers’ Bill of Rights. The Prior Consultation agreement evolved from that through collective bargaining.

In late 1996 the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission joined the EU and WTO, threatening to use the U.S. Coast Guard to intercept U.S.-bound Japanese ships on the high seas and fire them $100,000 each if the Japanese government didn’t bow down to the agreement.

But the WTO and the FMC hit a brick wall of labor solidarity when the ITF, the ILWU and other maritime unions came in at the Japanese side. The ITF pressured the EU, and ILWU International President Brian McWilliams issued a statement that the union would ignore any government order to not unload Japanese ships. The 25,000 Japanese dockers held a one-day strike Nov. 21, 1997 with 193 ships in 40 ports affected. The EU withdrew its WTO complaint and the FMC put its guns away as the Japanese regime stood by its laws. The dockers and the employers association negotiated some management efficiency improvements, but left its coastwise agreement in place. Labor solidarity one, WTO nothing.

But that’s no reason to celebrate. One of the proposals on the table for the Seattle WTO meetings will encourage the privatization of ports. As Lisbon, Mexico and Brazil have seen, privatization is the way just before union busting. And already Mexico and Thailand have taken the position that any global labor standards would be an unfair trade barrier since the most competitive commodity they have to sell—like most developing countries—is their cheap labor. This can only lead to a race to the bottom in workers’ wages and conditions worldwide.

The free trade policies of the WTO facilitate the flow of investment capital to low-wage parts of the world and encourage, speedup and enforce the export of well-paying American union jobs. Doing their dirty work indirectly, the transnational corporations make it look like no one is responsible for the decline of unions—it was just the inevitable result of the invisible hand of the market.

The vast majority of American jobs lost to WTO-style free trade policies have been in manufacturing, the well-paying jobs and the workers who have been the backbone of the American union movement. Their demise has lead directly to a drop in American exports and to the U.S. trade imbalance.

Every time a container full of American air pollution leaves the docks somebody’s job is in jeopardy. Odds are that’s the job of a U.S. manufacturing worker, and as many as 500,000 of them will lose their jobs in 1999, enough jobs to employ a city bigger than Detroit.

When that container arrived at West Coast docks it carried manufactured imports. When it left empty it represents lost American jobs, lost to globalization. When the books are closed on the year 1999, the U.S. will have imported $300 billion more than it has exported, a figure comparable to the Pentagon budget.

The shipping companies lose money moving air, and that’s money union members can’t bargain for as long as full if it doesn’t hold exports made by American workers as well. If that empty can isn’t carried to a U.S. company for filling up with U.S. products, but instead sits on the dock waiting for space abroad to return to Asia, the rail workers, teamsters and barge operators lose work. This is a downward spiral in which the U.S. can’t export to those workers who have what used to be U.S. jobs because they don’t make enough to buy American products because their low wages are why they got the jobs in the first place.

—Steve Stallone and Tom Price

MOBILIZING FOR SEATTLE

Understanding that a corporate managed world economy will ultimately destroy good union jobs, local economies, the environment and human and civil rights, more than 800 unions, environmental organizations, civil libertarians and human rights groups are organizing to take their concerns to the streets of Seattle when the WTO meets.

One major force will be a massive demonstration in the afternoon of Tues., Nov. 30. The ILWU’s International Executive Board has endorsed the demonstration and instructed all locals to do all they can to help send members to Seattle for the protest. The ILWU has also signed on to a statement calling for a labor moratorium on any further WTO agreements, committing the union to campaign against any such proposals and calling for an in-depth review of the impacts of the current agreements.

Although the WTO appears to be an unstoppable economic force, in many ways it is a house divided against itself and vulnerable to political pressure and the strength of organized workers. Its attempts to act as a united force for corporate profits carries the same logic as all forms of capitalism—for one side to gain, another must lose.

The biggest split in the WTO is between the industrialized “developed” countries and the “developing” countries. Many of the poorer, Third World developing countries want to slow the pace of the free trade policies that allow transnational corporations to take over their economies. They want to use tariffs and other protectionist measures to develop their own industrial base, starting from scratch. This is opposed by the First World transnational corporations that want to force those countries to concede control of their economies so the corporations can buy up all the privatized resources. Other splits come from each country’s desire to take advantage of its economic strengths and protect its weaknesses. For example, the EU and Japan want to protect their small-scale agriculture against foreign corporate competition. At the same time the EU wants to break down all government protections against foreign investments so its large banking interests will be able to dominate other countries’ economies.

The conflicting interests are a crack in the WTO’s armor and a weakness workers and other opponents of its free trade policies can exploit in the fight against corporate global domination.

October 1999

Jill Semel

the global corporate economic agenda
Fast forward?

Working longer, harder and for less in the 24/7 economy

By R. Dennis Hayes

More than a century ago American workers led a big campaign for the eight-hour workday. By the 1960s, labor movement leaders were calling for a six-hour day. Today, the eight-hour workday is expected to be the norm. New technologies require workers to give more and expect less. It is a world of miracles and minuscule benefits while working less.

Reversing social history

The decline in productivity growth and increase in work hours confirmed by the ILO survey comes as something of a surprise. Over the last two decades the U.S. invested trillions of dollars in workplace-based information technology. This was supposed to automate job tasks, boost output and reduce time at work for everyone. Instead, working conditions and compensation have lurchcd away from the late 19th century. It is a staggering reversal that remains unacknowledged by the corporate media and most of academia, that continue to herald the "overabundance" of the "New Economy." Such analyses overlook the inconvenient facts:

• Across the country, a "peace-time" business boom in U.S. history, the wages of the average worker have declined and the only now reaching their 1989 level, and are still below the level reached in 1973.

• Average incomes (adjusted for inflation) of American families in the U.S. are only slightly higher than it was in 1989, while the cost of housing and education have soared.

• Americans are now deeper in debt and paying more interest on debt than at any other time.

The ILO survey may understate the growth for nearly three four to four percent in the post-WWII years to about one percent since 1973—a level not seen in the U.S. in more than 100 years and more in line with that of Europe and Japan, 16 percent in France and the average European worker.

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WHAT HAPPENED?

The decline in U.S. living standards and the increase in work time and pay-related stress go hand in hand with the decline in unionization. By comparison, shorter work weeks and higher incomes and productivity correlates with more unionization, having a strong union base and a trajectory of worker self-management and codetermination.

In Germany, Austria, Scandinavia and other European countries, workers have the right to representation in their workplace, to union representation of workplace and management decisions involving technology choice and implementation, as well as safety issues. Workers also receive extensive training for new assignments or new technology, and not to mention a full range of health and social benefits and a high degree of job security. It's worth noting that case studies in the U.S. confirm that increasing worker self-management and decreasing work time improves productivity.

The ebb in U.S. labor organizing and the failure to cultivate an American codetermination model help explain the about-face in economic progress for working people. The paradox remains: How have we come to work harder, longer and for less amid the technological plenty that America has lavished on its workplaces? A large part of the answer may be found in the shift to service sector work and the "information model of innovation" that has evolved in Silicon Valley. The U.S. leads the world in making and deploying workplace information technology—about $500 billion per year. Most of it (80 percent) is invested in the service industries, which employ most U.S. workers. Here the workdays are longer, least, least and among the most stressful. Why? Silicon Valley artificially—and with increasing speed—scrapes and replaces entire systems because doing so is more profitable. In effect, the new familiar and dreadful "24/7" cycle has become a productivity cycle.

At the same time information, communication and increasingly computers use to compute that the time someone is "employed" is scrapped as soon as possible in favor of new, often radically different and faster work programs. Instead of incrementally modifying workplace computers and computerized work programs with well-tested and easy-to-use improvements, the Silicon Valley model envisoned and copied by most American capitalists, favoring placing entire systems because doing so is more profitable. In effect, the new familiar and dreadful "24/7" cycle has become a productivity cycle.

Our advanced technology—the product replacement cycle—tools becomes the U.S. model—extends and speeds up work itself and reduces labor time. Engendering a "24/7" lifestyle where work comes home with the dinner is unionization. By comparison, shorter work weeks and higher incomes and productivity correlates with more unionization, having a strong union base and a trajectory of worker self-management and codetermination.

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At the Sept. 14 rally kicking off contract talks, bargaining team member Carol Edwards lays out the main behind the Powell's workers living wage proposal.

left over for savings. Powell's workers on average earn $8.24 per hour, 20 percent less than the living wage. Only three percent of the workers hired there were making a living wage.

Under Powell's old compensation system, someone had to work there for an average of nine years before reaching $10.96 per hour. Under the new system, instituted last year, they might never get there. Annual increases under the new plan run from 0 to 3 percent, but just 5 percent of the workers get the largest increase.

In addition to a living wage Powell's workers want a transparent, consistent process for advancement. Now there are no set timelines or skill markers for moving up the wage scales. Supervisors parcel out "merit raises" on a seemingly arbitrary basis just once a year.

"It's frustrating not to know what you'll be making in a few months or years," Edwards said. "It's especially problematic if you'd like to stay in a job.

The low pay and uncertainty lead directly to high turnover, upsetting many of the workers most involved in organizing.

"I'm tired of seeing good people burn out and quit because they can't afford to keep working here," bargaining team member Gerry Donaghy said.

Over the last year Powell's has hired about 200 people, 129 of whom are still there.

"This is a problem for the business," Cowing said. "I'm concerned that at some point we might not have enough experienced people to train the new ones and run the store." Cowing's concern points right at the most basic issues on the table.

How should workers at Powell's be treated, and what kind of place will it be? Will it opt for the "use 'em and lose 'em" lowest-common denominator of retail, skimping on wages and crimping service? Or will it train and retain workers, rewarding experience and remaining a unique cultural institution?

"The idea of retail work not being worth much is pretty entrenched, but we want to challenge that in our contract negotiations," team member Stacy Friedman said. "Powell's is successful because of what we do. This is about what we'll make it worth.

Powell's management at least gave lip service to employees' contributions in the past with rhetoric about worker participation in decision-making. But the first proposals Amburgey brought to the table read like wish list of management's rights.

They would allow managers to unilaterally change rules on attendance, performance evaluations and a host of other matters. If the workers went for this, they'd give up rights under labor law, which says that employers can be required to bargain over changes in working conditions.

The proposals would also cut out the core of progressive discipline, permitting supervisors to begin the disciplinary process at any stage they choose, rather than going through set steps in each case (verbal warning, written warning, etc.). And they let the employer hire temp workers or scabs during strikes "or other disruption or restriction of work."

"Can this be called good-faith bargaining" asked one of 25 workers who sat in on negotiations Oct. 4.

The team asked their co-workers to witness the talks whenever possible, to remind them what we can do when we're united.

Local 40 members attended. "I've been working down here 20 years," one of the Powell's workers reminded me what we can do when we stick together," said George O'Neil, a Laboratory Services employee whoryed for re-election from Local 8. "I was going to wish Michael [ILWU organizer Michael Cannarella] a good-bye, then negotiating a contract, luck has nothing to do with it. It's been preparation, and lots of hard work, and they've already shown they can do that."

To support the contract campaign, call 503-223-6057—or if you're in the area, stop by the ILWU's SW Oak office, SW Oak Suite 205—right across the street from Powell's corporate suites.

MOLOKAI RANCH HANDS WIN CARD CHECK

From the get-go the "ag cowboys" at Molokai Ranch support the ILWU union drive at the ranch, an eco-tourist destination and the biggest employer on one of Hawaii's smallest and quietest islands.

"We wanted the union to secure our jobs," said Uncle Henry Paleka, who in charge of pasture maintenance. "The company can get rid of you at any time without a union."

Paleka, two ranch hands and a stable hand, all came forward as supporters of Local 142's drive to organize the ranch. Then the NLRB ruled they could not join the unit, saying they were agricultural workers and had to go through the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB). For a while they hung in and waited until the ILWU won the June 28 election, bringing 98 cooks, campsite coordinators and other groundkeepers into the local. Just a week later, ILWU International Rep. Mike Furtado filed with the HLRB for the cowboys' election.

To their surprise Molokai Ranch management called the day before the HLRB hearing and asked for a neutral mediator.

Rev. Robert Nakata, a state sena- tor from Oahu, did the card check at the Seafood Lab in downtown Honolulu July 28. Paleka and his family finally became mem- bers of Local 142.

Furtado hopes the newest mem- bers of Local 142 can make a repre- sentative committee to begin negotiating a first contract Sept. 28. The first contract proposal a repre- sentative committee and begun the process of meeting and consulting on a contract proposal.

Whether they negotiate with the others or not, Paleka and his co-work- ers feel most strongly about getting back some of their paid holidays and having weekend days off.

"Now we work Saturday and Sunday," Paleka said. "We want at least one day off on the weekend to be with our families."
Pensioners Convention emphasizes international union solidarity

By Arne Auvinen

PCPA Secretary-Treasurer

In its 31-year history the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association held its convention in San Diego to British Columbia and Hawaii 262 delegates gathered Sept. 13, 14 and 15 in B.C. The PCPA members and consummated the union of the United States and Canadian West Coast members with the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association.

In the name of "international solidarity" the convention voted to send a delegation to demonstrate the United World Trade Union and in concert with the PCPA. In further action it was extend an invitation to the PCPA to throughout the world the MUA came hard to organize this historic gather- through its own demo- set aside old animosities and unite to set the pace for all workers to set the pace for all workers.

The British Columbia ILWU locals and pensioners hosted the con- and reconciliation so that our union can go forward and fight for the best possible for ourselves, our families and our community.

The members of the ILWU sacri- for no better reason than that they share the opportunity to work at half-baked democracy where the of presentations by instructors International Secretary -Treasurer Joe lbarra (center), ILWU International Research Director Russ Bargmann (right) and ILWU International Librarian and Associate Education Director Gene Vrana (left), and ILWU counsels Bill Carder and Rob Remar, the conference covered such topics as Back procedures, appropriate union expenditures, bonding requirements, internal controls, the role of trustees, local elections procedures and records management and retention.

ILWU International President Brian McWilliams' speech to the PCPA Convention

In Washington/Puget Sound, Theodore L. Swicker; Northern California, Joe Harvey; Alternate, Elie Harvey; San Francisco, George Kuvakas; Southern California, Ray Pucka.

Mr. Auvinen.

Illegible text...
Maverick maritime history a good read

It takes a mighty chorus to tell the story of maritime workers and their organizations. Until now we have been missing the voice that could or would articulate the views of those who were ardently pro-union but vehemently anti-ILA, anti-CIO and anti-Communist. Not until now has the story of maritime workers and their unions come through operations like the 1934 strike to San Francisco and the Northwest. With the publication of "Maritime Solidarity: Pacific Coast 1929-1938," by Ottilie Markholt, we are given a rare insight into the world of maritime unionism that is as original and detailed as it is maddening, misleading and controversial. Above all, she is passionate and has the ability to convey the events that those who defended, weakened or attacked the mighty house that maritime unions built along the coast from San Diego to Canada between 1929 and 1934.

By her own account, Markholt is an ex-Communist (she was a party member in the United Party of Everett) and a firm believer in the party policy on the Sailors Union of the Pacific (who has lived a life of travel and is probably best known for her book "Everett Wash."). Even though often a participant (or intimate observer) of many of the events she relates, she lays an impassioned claim to have written a book "without intruding my opinions" that is told in the words of waterfront workers themselves. The verdict on this book is that it does not measure up to this standard. It is really about her own view of internal ideological battles and the form and nature of an "offshore" movement among longshore unions that is not evident in the words of waterfront workers themselves.

But she is also too superficial and underestimates the importance of events and experiences that culminated in the showdown in 1934. She points out, for example, that the upsurge of support for coast-wide unionism and bargaining was triggered by employers' moves in 1930 to 1932 to set age limits on the work force as well as compulsory fitness exams. Workers in ports like Everett, Wash., were goaded into counteracting a wave of employers' moves that hadn't before, and calls were made at the convention of the Pacific Coast District of the ILA for a coast-wide longshore agreement—three years before the centrepiece of the showdown in 1934.

She also helps us to understand the split with the CIO in 1934. Many of the events surrounding the workers was influenced by the influx of Depression-era casual waterfront workers who were indifferent to the militancy of the ILA activists—those who mixed with the emigrants,寻常 in the new wave of refugees who had been part of the militant and bitter strikes between 1916 and 1921, and had survived the anti-union decade of the 1920s. The greatest contribution of Solidarity is Markholt's ability to reconstruct the unique circumstances of organized labor in the Puget Sound region to a lesser extent in the Columbia River area—those events shaped how and why many of the region's longshore union activists did not feel it was necessary to accept the organizational choice of either the newly formed ILWU or the CIO.

We learn, for example, how industrial craft divisions, for example, experienced in the region, were so well together in local councils and federated bodies. Even the conserva-
tive channels of AFL affiliates and councils often rang with the militancy of the lumber workers influenced by the radicalism of the IWW. Unlike the AFL councils and federations elsewhere on the coast and across the nation, where bureaucracy and divisive craft unionism held sway, labor solidarity and worker militancy was often the standard.

It is therefore not surprising to learn that men like Paddy Morris who emerged as leaders in Tacoma and represent the best of the tradi-
tional Marxist values so highly. He was devoted to the union cause, he was a radical with regional roots, and to the end he resisted paying homage to a leader or headquarters based far away. He was too independent for the Communist Party or the CIO.

When the stakes grew higher in 1934, and those men met in confer-
ence, they each sought their own ends and the fate of maritime unionism, it also seems fitting that they looked to the Sailors Union. Lewis of the miners' union to promote industrial unionism and organize the unorganized primarily in basic industries, and it took root among east coast seamen and west coast longshoremen. The AFL leader-ship viewed this as a challenge to their authority and their tradition of craft unionism and quickly expelled the CIO. In both instances the particip-
ants argued over how to maintain organizational autonomy while sub-
mitting to the majority's needs and decisions. As Markholt quotes Bridges at the MFP's 1938 convention regarding the eventual departure of both the SUP and the ILA local in Tacoma from its coalition: "They have never been willing to accept majority rule and as long as they won't, we are better off without them.

The issue of majority rule is central to labor's many attempts to devel-

Maritime Solidarity: Pacific Coast 1929-1938 can be obtained from Pacific Coast Maritime History Committee c/o Central Labor Council, 3049 S. 36th St. #201, Tacoma, WA 98409

October 1999

WHAT THEY'RE DRINKING

Marine cooks and stewards staved off the San Francisco soup kitchen in the 1936-37 strike.

The major problem with the book is that in order to get at the heart of the history the reader has to wade through a plethora of rhetoric so pervasive that almost every page is awash with it and every attempt at analysis is tainted ultimately diminished by it.

If you have to buy into the notion that almost every problem encountered while building waterfront unions was caused by "the Communist," that every misstep on the road to solidarity was caused by "the Communist bloc," that Harry Bridges was a creation and a tool of the Communists; that the CIO—The Congress of Industrial Organiza-
tions—was created by the Communists to serve the party line; and that in the end true solidarity was sabotaged by the Communists.

If you can get past this serious flaw, then you can read through this hefty tome of small type, narrow margins, a cardboard cover packed with details to learn a lot about some of the contentious forces inside and out-
side theshorehouse and offshore unions of the period. Fortunately there are an impressive number of extraordinary photographs and illus-
tions to add atmosphere and understanding to the text.

In Markholt's view the competing factions were represented by the Communist Party, the Marine Workers Industrial Union, the Industrial Workers of the World and the International Seamen's Union. Their heroes are men like Tacoma's Paddy Morris, an anti-Communist union militant, and the ranks of the Sailors Union of the Pacific as assem-
bled under the anti-Communist and anti-Bridges leadership of Harry Lundeberg.

If the reader understands these political lights Markholt uses to steer his narrative, it is easier to understand his overview of the upsurge of support for coast-wide unionism—except perhaps to prevent consolidation in a coalition he could not control.

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The ILWU Legacy Fund

The ILWU Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for education and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for organizing and educational programs and publications (such as those mandated but not funded by the 1994 Convention). The Legacy Fund will suffer from increased labor history conferences and development of exhibits and other materials for schools, colleges, museums and libraries.

- Classes and materials for newly organized ILWU members and/or new units or locals in the ILWU family.
- Matching funds for a major grant to conserve, arrange, describe and exhibit the photographic collections in the ILWU library.

Your contribution to the Legacy Fund, however large or small, will help to make these proposals a reality. All contributions of $25.00 or more will receive a commemorative ILWU lapel pin.

The ILWU Local 10's Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund, due to the generosity of the Melin family, the trustees have renamed the Fund as the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund. Due to the donors' wish that longshoremen enjoy perhaps the best education possible, the trustees also announced that in addition to scholarships for students attending four-year colleges and universities, the Fund can now also award scholarships to students attending community colleges who are children of Local 10 members.

The Trustees are also pleased to announce that scholarships in the sum of $1,000 each have been awarded for the academic years 1999-2000 to the following children of Local 10 members attending the following four-year schools:

- Dyllion K. Deely, University of Washington
- Dylcia K. Manna Deely, University of Washington
- Tanisha E. Silas, University of California, Los Angeles
- Amy B. Sundstrom, University of Berkeley
- Isokoski L. Swift, Tuskegee University
- Amy S. Smolin, University of Washington
- Jerel K. Melin, University of California, Los Angeles
Marlene Anderson retires as Local 23’s first longshorewoman

By Tom Price

Surely the 1970s were unenlightened times. The polyester leisure suit; grotesque shirt collars; disco—all this in the last dreadful years of Nixon’s presidency—changed to praise and a gruff respect in time, a respect earned with each bruise and bite, a member of ILWU who worked on the docks. So I decided to check into it.

She entered the state employment service at the crack of dawn to sign on as a casual, but found the line three blocks long. The next day she arrived earlier; when the line was only a block long, and she got in. Her first job at Runston Smelting had her shoveling ore.

“I thought I'd died and gone to hell,” she said.

That was March 4, 1976. The jobs would get worse before they got any better. One hundred-pound sacks of frozen meat and lumber all required some moving by hand, and as a casual Anderson got those shifts. Two of the shittiest jobs that left her got, she said, “I had bruises all over. I went through a lot, a gritted my teeth and stuck it out.”

Anderson had kids to feed, and the union job paid more in a day than a picker made in a week. In the middle of the 1970s Anderson supported four of her five kids picking berries and rhubarb in the valleys of Washington State. Her long, hard days built strength and endurance, and earned her the respect of the men on the job.


Recent Retirees:


Local 94—Michael Bustos, Frank Pacheco, Dale Franklin, Sharii Barlow; Local 98—Ted Bell.

Deceased:

Local 8—Albert Pearson (Shirley), Robert Annas; Local 10—Francis De Caires (Helen), George Giordanella (Goldie), Eugene Jamerson (Stella), George Stubbs, Louis Bueno, Alexander M. Ramirez, Ernest R. Condon Sr., Local 13—Edmond Mondor (Ruth), George Herbert (Margaret), George Carter (Elizabeth), Kuofo Abenhon, Daniel Gallegos, Edward R. Smith, Jack Breuer; Local 19—Raymond Wick; Local 24—Raymond Bene R. Smith, Local 29—Raymond Munoz; Local 31—Larry G. Davis, Eddie Hammett, Neil Palmer, Paul Souther; Local 23—James Ulanich, Alan H. Allen, Local 29—Dean, Mekmick; Local 32—James Boland, Richard Kirkhus, Carl Carlsen, Richard Q. Johnson, James Jerome; Local 34—Eleanor Perez, Ronald Lubzan, Mark Gonzalez; Local 45—Wade Van Zanten; Local 52—Roger Van Brocklin, Era Mae Williams, Luree Dellon; Local 63—James Mosich, Joseph Chartier, Roger Hoff; Local 91—Edward Perry, Donald Riggs, Antonio Grego, Charles Boykins; Local 92—Lindell Hill, Billy Rhymes, Thos Piper; Local 94—Michael Bustos, Frank Pacheco, Dale Franklin, Sharii Barlow; Local 98—Ted Bell.

Deceased survivors:

Local 8—Louise Feltner; Local 9—Joseph Williams; Local 10—Marty Booker; Local 11—Mary H. Hernandez; Local 19—Wanette McMaines, Margaret Casper, Marie McCann, Linnea Fox; Local 23—Barbara Hill; Local 63—Ann Mevert.

October 1999

The Dispatcher • 15

ITF Inspector Lila Smith honored

Lila Smith (on right), the International Transport Workers Federation Inspector for the Puget Sound area, was given the Mother Jones award by Washington State Labor Federation Secretary-Treasurer Al Link (left) and ILWU Puget Sound District Council President John Munson (center) at the last International Convention. For her work helping the stranded crew of the New Carissa and her role in publicizing the ITF campaign against flag of convenience ships with the Global Mariner project.

“I am honored to be able to stand for the ILWU and the ITF to be acknowledged for the work we do pursuing justice for workers,” Smith said.
ILWU Book & Video Sale

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices!

BOOKS:
The ILWU Story: unravels the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. $7.00
The Big Strike: By Mike Quin: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $6.50
Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremen, and Unionism in the 1930s: By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike. $13.00
Reds or Rackets: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront: By Howard Kimeldorf: a thoughtful and provocative comparison of the ILA and the ILWU. $11.00
The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront: By David Silver: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. $16.50
A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco: By Jean Gundlach and Jake Arnautoff: wonderful line drawings and text about longshore work. $7.00 ($5 benefits Bridges Chair at the University of Washington)

WORKERS ON THE WATERFRONT: A Longshore Artist's View: By Jean Gundlach and Jake Arnautoff: wonderful line drawings and text about longshore work. $7.00

VIDEOS:
We Are the ILWU: A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. $7.00
Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges: A 17-minute VHS video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. $28.00

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