February 2002

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The corporate Web: Whacking Workers Worldwide

The global corporate rulers know very well what their agenda is—to maximize their wealth and power by siphoning off as much of the social wealth as possible and making of those who produce that wealth, the world's workers, get as little as possible. The way they have gone about it has been vari-

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Then there's the Social Security double whammy. Despite Bush's campaign promises to not touch the retirement fund workers have been paying into their entire work life, he will now use some of that to cover the tax cuts for the rich and the corporate class. Spending. Having created his own self-fueling prophecy, Bush will then tell Social Security fund is insolvent and should be privati-

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By James Spinosa

ILWU International President

The ILWU is about to enter into negotiations for the longshore contract that covers all ports in California, Oregon and Washington. These upcoming talks are critical and we should be seriously trying to resolve technology and jurisdiction issues that have festered since our last contract almost three years ago.

The Longshore Division has been preparing for these nego-

talks practically since our members ratified the last contract two-and-a-half years ago. Our technology and jurisdiction committee, pension and welfare committee, safety committee and others have been meeting regularly to explore win-win solutions, ways to resolve our conflicts with the employers that work for both of us. But instead of choosing the path of cooperation, the PMA has chosen confrontation.

On Sept. 12, the day after the terrorist attacks, we submitted a proposal to the PMA asking it to work with the ILWU to develop real and effective evacuation and security plans to protect workers in West Coast ports. But instead of responding to our request, in these times of tragedy, the PMA chose to cynically exploit the situation.

The employers are supporting all the most egregious parts of the Morro do Ouro ("Mountain of Borax") mining and processing Local 30 contract that covers all ports in California, Oregon and Washington. The ILWU is about to enter into negotiations for the longshore contract that covers all ports in California, Oregon and Washington. These upcoming talks are critical and we should be seriously trying to resolve technology and jurisdiction issues that have festered since our last contract almost three years ago.

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The ILWU is about to enter into negotiations for the longshore contract that covers all ports in California, Oregon and Washington. These upcoming talks are critical and we should be seriously trying to resolve technology and jurisdiction issues that have festered since our last contract almost three years ago.

"We are asking for information in a timely fashion is considered bargaining in bad faith and is a violation of federal law. Because the ILWU cannot proceed with meaningful negotiations without this information, we were forced to file an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board, the feder-

al body that oversees labor law. The NLRB is currently investigating our allegations and it finds merit in them, it will prosecute the PMA for its illegal activities.

Faced with this confrontational attitude the Coast Committee, Vice President Bob McElrath, Coast Conference Chairman Randy Ortiz Jr. and Joe Werol and myself, have been busy building a case. If our case push does come to show. We have notified all AFL-CIO unions of our upcoming negotiations and received pledges of solidarity from them, including and especially the maritime unions. We have a new solidarity agreement with the Teamsters and the East and Gulf Confer-

dent Committee, and a major worldwide inquiry in early March to affiliate with them and get those dockers' unions from around the world on board with us.

But the most important thing is the solidarity within our own ranks. If the ILWU longshore workers stand united. Don't listen to rumors or the slanders in the press. Get your information from your local officers who will be getting updates from the Negotiating Committee as needed. And finally, get your individual financial house in order.
F
or the second year in a row the
community of Tacoma was treat-
ed to a Black History Month cele-
bation program that sang, rocked
and inspired. Put on by two ILWU
members, Willie Adams of longshore
Local 23 and Mike Chambers of walk-
ning bosses Local 91, the star-studded
February 2002 ebration program that sang, rocked
than 600 at the Tacoma Sheraton
Hotel's Grand Ballroom Feb. 20. The
only disappointment was the couple
hundred people who could not fit into
the packed theater.

Keynote speaker Ossie Davis, the
award-winning actor, director and
author, was the highlight of the day.
With the charisma and wit that has
made him a star of stage, screen and tel-
vision, he expounded on the event's
theme—labor and Black history. He
told his audience that the history of
African Americans and the history of
labor are really one, that blacks had
come to this country as laborers.

"When we were invited to come
over to America and participate in the
great democratic experiment, we
were having the time of our lives in
Africa," he drily said. "They said, 'All come over, we need some help.'
So we decided in a neighborly spirit to
accept the deal.

It was Black slave labor that built
America, Davis said.

"I'm sorry my history is unpleasant,
at least you don't have to worry about
unemployment," he continued. "We
had a place in the American econo-
my—at the bottom."

The Civil War was all about labor,
the conflict in the economy between
the slave labor in the South and the
wage labor in the North. After the
war Blacks were used as cheap labor
and later as unskilled labor in the fac-
tories. But the recent switch from a
production to a service economy has
changed things.

"Now they don't need us in the
economy, they're putting us in prison,"
Davis said. He called on the audience
to remember their history and the way
unions with Black and white joined
unions showed wherever you are, you
have an opportunity to make a change,
to reach out and build community,"
she said.

Black history is world history, she
added, and she urged everyone "to
everyday thank somebody who made
Black history in our lives and pledge
ourselves to making Black history, to
making world history.

ILWU Coast Committeeman Joe
Wenzl, representing the Coast
Committee, spoke of the ILWU's
history of integra-
tion and how its "rich tapes-
stry" made the union strong. He
also introduced Paddy
Crumlin, National Secretary of
the Maritime Union of
Australia. Crumlin spoke of
how the white settlers in
Australia stole the land from
the black aboriginals who had
lived there for 40,000 years.
He said every labor movement had
to overcome past racism for it
to be strong.

The talks were inter-
spersed with music and poet-

Agrippa the Poet sings Paul Robeson's "Waterboy."
BUSH'S BUDGET SHIFTS WORKERS

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

A national budget represents the values and priorities we place on problems and issues confronting the country, deciding limited resources to meet them. President Bush just released his proposed budget, the upcoming fiscal plan. It includes huge increases for military spending, a massive infusion of money for "homeland defense" and endless tax cuts for the wealthy. The budget slashes funding for workers' programs and other programs important to organized labor. Real defense is a critical function of every government, but so is a defense against poverty, inadequate health care and a crumbling transportation system. If you add up the increases in military spending, homeland security and tax cuts, it leaves the government unable to meet the general welfare needs of the public—especially those unable to meet the general welfare needs of the public—especially if Bush had the inclination to do so.

As for any advancement of America's workers, the creation of good, safe jobs, the President's budget falls far short of that mark. Last year in looking at the Bush budget tells workers to go to hell. The workers' department within the Department of Labor, received a seven percent cut in discretionary spending under the proposed budget, nothing to project to pay for cuts, it leaves the government unable to meet the general welfare needs of the public—especially when Bush ignored the stock market scheme will make the stock market the answer to their retirement security. The Enron collapse and the instant evaporation of thousands of workers' 401k retirement savings is the perfect example why we must strengthen and preserve Social Security, and fight against its privatization.

The Administration's budget would make the massive tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy permanent rather than letting them expire at the end of the year 2010 as currently scheduled. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this tax cut would deprive the U.S. Treasury of $4 trillion in revenue in the decade after 2011, the same period when the baby boomers will begin to retire in large numbers, causing the cost of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid long-term care to rise substantially. The best actions indicate that during that decade Social Security will move from annual cash surpluses to annual cash deficits as benefit payments begin to exceed tax revenue under the Bush plan.

Substantial revenues from outside Social Security would be needed then to ensure the solvency of the Trust Fund if drastic benefit cuts are to be avoided. The permanent extension of the tax cut would render such transfers of revenue to Social Security virtually impossible unless severe cuts were made elsewhere in the budget or sizable tax increases were enacted. Bottom line: Bush's push for deficit reduction could doom the future of Social Security.

The Bush plan also slashes funding for transportation programs. Since January 2001 the ILWU has lobbied Congressional leaders to spend transportation funds to relieve congestion at our nation's ports. The ports and highways have received a short shrift over the years compared to other intermodal areas of the country. The union had hoped that the Department of Transportation would tap into funds authorized by TEA-21 (the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) to fund infrastructure and congestion relief projects. But proposed cuts to this program could have a public impact in the near future.

The Bush budget slashes spending for TEA-21 by a whopping $9 billion. This 29 percent drop in funding would affect the construction of bridges, roads and public transportation that groups estimate those losses could reach 380,000 jobs over the next 10 years. The Ports, Railroads and Pipelines Department estimates that the construction and manufacturing that are dependent on an efficient transportation system.

ILWU members and their communities face many transportation problems, including the need for dredging and congestion relief. Dredging of vital waterways such as the San Francisco Bay and the Columbia River must occur to accommodate the growth of the port industry and save maritime jobs. The Seattle/Tacoma area of Washington State has terrible traffic problems. The 710 Freeway that serves the Port of Long Beach has seen truck traffic double in one decade. The Port of Los Angeles has seen traffic during the day and residents, commuters and visitors are forced to drive in bumper-to-bumper traffic jams. These significant transportation problems require federal assistance.

Let your legislators hear what you think those needs are. You can reach them through the ILWU Web site, www.ilwu.org. From there, click on the Legislation and Elections button on the left-hand side of the page. Then, click on "E-Mail link to Congressional Office." Click on the issues and fill in a letter. You will be able to send a letter to Congress. To reach your legislators by phone, call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for their offices. Representatives can be contacted at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. Senators can get them at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.
by Tom Price

Forget about New York's posh and pretentious clubs where only the rich and beautiful get past the velvet ropes and nasty guards. The World Economic Forum met at the Waldorf Astoria. The guest list included nine bishops, sheiks and queens. For its part, the city extended the velvet ropes four blocks out with a wall of 4,000 cops to create a protest-free zone. Billed as an exchange of ideas, the rich and powerful actually make private deals that profoundly change the lives of millions at this corporate schmooze.

As many as 12,000 uninvited guest braved the wintry streets as anti-corporate globalization demonstrators staged peaceful rallies, teach-ins and marches. Three ILWU members, Joel Shorer, Robert Irminger and Jeff Engels, all from the Inlandboatmen's Union, flew out to join in. "It had been a while since I could focus on the globalization movement after the Sept. 11 tragedy," Shorer said. "But I think it's important for workers to make an appearance in solidarity with the people on the streets, especially in light of the heavy police presence and the bias of the corporate media."

The WEF met in New York instead of Davos this past year in what its founder, Klaus Schwab, considered a solidarity act for those who are_negotiating the WTO in Seattle. Schwab's gesture demonstrated WEF's public relations campaign to present a softer face on the corporate globalization process. WEF workshops grappled with weighty topics ranging from "recommended priorities to reconcile environmental and developmental agendas" to psychosocial factors in health and healing.

Humility fairly dripped off the stage as Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates and his financiers, a dichotomy about whether the rich world is giving back what it should to the developing world. Even U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan got into the act in his wrap-up speech before the last cocktail party: "Every one of us must do all we can to help the world."

"The perception, among many, is that this [world wide poverty] is the fault of global elites and that globalization is driven by a global elite, composed of, or at least represented by, the people who attend this gathering." Annan later said he didn't agree with that perception, and that globalization was the best chance for the pooling of resources.

On the streets former ILWU organizer at Powell's Books in Portland, Tricia Schultz, saw things from a different angle. "I was walking with a group banning pots and pans in solidarity with the people of Argentina, more victims of neo-liberal policies," she said. "I just got back from Guatemala, where you see the results of neo-liberalism. They were forced to slash the budget and raise taxes at the same time to meet IMF/World Bank requirements." Schultz said, "I do think I thought I could go to New York and protest these policies."

The real work at WEF occurs in the small meetings between world rulers and world owners, according to Public Citizen, a public interest research group founded by Ralph Nader. What goes on is secret, but some light occasionally leaks out.

"The WEF claims in its 1999/2000 Annual Report that it is responsible for pushing the change from the consensus-based decision making process of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by providing a venue for a meeting of 17 key trade ministers," Public Citizen wrote in its Jan. 2002 report on the WEF. Founded shortly after WW II, GATT worked out trade issues through consensus. Major corporations wanted a binding tribunal to sort out things, and that became the World Trade Organization.

The WTO was born at that meeting. WEF claims. In 2001 it set up another meeting to restart the WTO talks stalled by the Battle of Seattle in March.

"Robert and Joel and I held an IBU banner, unofficially representing our outfit," Engels said. "When the protesters see the ILWU their eyes light up. Young people back east heard about our leadership in Seattle at the Nov. 1999 meeting of the WEF."

Schultz joined the three IBU workers in protesting GAP sweatshops. It's important that trade unionists stay out on the streets," Engels said. "This kind of solidarity work is important for the ILWU, especially with our upcoming contract negotiations."

"The work we do for the community comes back to us when we need help. The old timers certainly knew that."
By Maria Brooks

There was a time on the waterfront when you might see a longshore worker pull out a sketchpad. Standing by, he’d pencil a few quick lines, then stuff the pad into his jeans. Today, the worker-artist is not so easy to spot—but he’s still around.

“We have members here who are talented—I mean really talented,” says Robert Costa, the Sergeant-at-Arms of Local 10. Talent turns up in every ILWU local. Among the rank and file you can find stained glass artisans, lithographers, screenwriters, poets, web masters, potters, carvers, musicians and watercolorists. The list runs on and on, reflecting the kaleidoscopic interests of ILWU members.

The ILWU encourages these endeavors and has put money where its heart is. Its locals not only support their own artists, but they often commission art from the community. At Local 10 murals were commissioned for its walls to illustrate the union’s history. The hall, once dark and bland, became bright and colorful. Workers noticed. These pictures reveal the emotional power of the waterfront—what it feels like to work under the hook, or to walk a picket line, or to beg for a day’s job in a shape up. The artist, James Grosso, had met the artist and stopped by his studio to view his work. They liked what they saw. Within months the union had purchased the entire collection of Grosso’s waterfront art.

James Grosso had established himself in New York. But on the West Coast there were many other artists on the docks who found inspiration from the vitality of their workplace. Someone might wander why this particular union has so much talent. The answer appears surprising simple. It’s time. Longshore workers can control their time, that shifty essence that makes dreams possible.

“We’re freed up to pursue whatever the hell it is we want to pursue,” says Herb Mills, a pensioner who earned a doctorate while working in Local 10. “We’re the original inventors of flex time. The union gives everyone, whether he’s an artist or not, a wonderful opportunity to structure his life the way he wants.”

Lots of things demand our attention today, so why spend time on creativity? It’s question that inspires simple, “Work on the Waterfront, A Longshore Artist.”

By Maria Brooks

There’s nothing in Arnautoff’s book that would look unfamiliar to Larry Yamamoto. He, too, is an artist, an accomplished watercolor painter and a retired longshore worker.

“I don’t think in words too well,” says Yamamoto at his studio in Muir Beach. “I think in shapes and light and color. It’s hard to describe.”

Yamamoto worked for 31 years, moving from warehouse to warehouse to the waterfront in Locals 6, 10 and 34. His paintings are exhibited in galleries and art festivals. They have won prizes. His art has been purchased by private collections on the West Coast, Hawaii and Japan.

“He’s exceptional,” says Parun, “a truly fine artist.”

Yamamoto’s studio and home is perched on a cliff not far from San Francisco. Favorite paintings hang near his easel. One of these is called, “The Winch Driver.” It’s an image of man, standing ramrod tall. He peers at the viewer, bundled to his nose in clothing. Yamamoto knows the feeling of the work since he was a winch driver for several years.

Yamamoto often carries a palette and brushes to the hillsides near his studio. He works primarily in watercolors. His colors are bright and lumina.
The Shape-up by James Grosso (oil)

The place was abuzz with life. Jazz clubs and art galleries and pool halls clustered together on the waterfront. "I felt secure," he recalls. "There were Mexican families and black families around the neighborhood. We all got along."

But suddenly life changed. Yamamoto was sitting with his buddies at a movie matinee, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. As he left the theater he saw the black headlines of war. "I go through my paintings once or twice a year and throw out the ones I don't like," he says. "My ideas change. The main thing, for me, is to keep working."

In our world where hustle and self promotion are common place, Yamamoto appears free of ambitious striving. He doesn't fret about attracting patrons or winning prizes or getting reviews in the right magazines. He simply works every day at his craft for the sheer pleasure of it.

"I enjoy painting, but it's a struggle—an enjoyable struggle. My goal is to paint something and do it well. Painting makes me feel good. I paint primarily for myself," says Yamamoto, his long white hair tied back like a Samurai warrior. His eyeglasses dangle on a chain around his neck. Every so often he nudges them up his nose.

His studio looks out a garden filled with bird baths and berry trees. "I go through my paintings once or twice a year and throw out the ones I don't like," he says. "My ideas change. The main thing, for me, is to keep working."

"These shows are important because the community can see the other side of longshore workers," says Costa. "We could send our best bakers, our best lift drivers, our best tractor drivers to compete with other locals," he adds. "We'd demonstrate our skills. Competitiveness brings out that pride in our work."

Costa envisions this festival with many facets. The union's artists would exhibit their works and offer mini-workshops for members and their families. Master artisans from the waterfront would demonstrate stained glass techniques or how to play a saxophone or paste a collage.

"We have nothing today that brings us together and gives us cohesiveness," says Costa. "The workplace doesn't do that any longer. Although we're doing similar work, we're becoming too separate, too alienated from one another."

Yamamoto was born in Hawaii. His parents were second generation Americans. The family moved to Los Angeles during the Depression where his father worked as a gardener.

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Costa spends long hours at the Local 10 hall surrounded by paintings and portraits. "I'm proud of this place. When people walk in here, they see what we are all about, what it means to be a longshore worker," he says.

"The hall, too, is the only ILWU local guarded by a saint. A large granite statue of St Francis, purchased by the members years ago, stands between the union and the bustle of Fishermen's wharf."

With all the talent in the union, perhaps it will be art that brings the membership together. Those cool cats in the gin joints of North Beach were probably right. After you make a pile, it's art that makes life easy.
ILWU delegation gets down to work in Brazil

by Tom Price

In central Brazil, 250 miles north of the capital Brasilia, a 1,200 miners toil away on low-grade ore to produce vast wealth for their employers. Rio Tinto. Until recently, their labors seemed isolated, just them and the largest mining conglomerate in the world. But in December an international delegation of workers arrived to show them they weren’t alone.

Their district, the Morro do Ouro, means “mountain of gold,” and indeed it is for the owners. For the workers to show them they weren’t alone.

The 109 convention delegates were elected South Bay Business Agent Neecke marine clerks Local 34, and some of these workers who hadn’t gotten their due.

There were workers who hadn’t gotten their due. "We’re going to all over the houses to introduce ourselves. We’ll work on them according to their needs. We’re all in this together," he said. "It looked like the 1940s," he said, "It’s time we organize the rank and file. We’ll fight hard to put this contract in place together. Now it’s up to you to pick up the baton." Esquivel said. "And networks like this make that a reality." Esquivel saw another commonality with the Brazilians. "The way we look at it: ‘Could this be us in ten years?’" he said.

Local 6 celebrates “Moving Forward”

"Our moment is coming," said Use Use, 40-year rank-and-file member of ILWU warehouse Local 6, taking the mic at the local’s convention, arms outstretched, almost dancing. "How sweet it is.

Local 6 members gathered for their 55th Convention in high spirits—but these were tempered by knowledge of the huge task ahead in righting the local after nearly a year and a half of turmoil.

The Feb. 23 convention brought together a larger and more representative group than any in recent years.

"Ahora somos unidos," he told the crowd in Spanish, then in English: "We are united, all together."

The 109 convention delegates were joined by 125 guests. Some of these were workers who hadn’t gotten their black hats. Others came from other locals and the International. Warehouse Local 19 brought seven people. IEU member and former local pres- ident Lawrence Thibeaux represented longshore Local 10, local President Joel Neecke, local Secretary-Greasers Local 34, and Secretary-Treasurer Joe Ibarra the International.

Ibarra, who comes out of ware-house Local 26 in Los Angeles, is the only Titled Officer from the Warehouse Division. He brought greetings and a message of respect from the parent organization.

"The strength of this union is its diversity," he said, referring both to the ILWU as a whole and Local 6 itself.

Newly elected Local 6 President Richard Sierras—former North Bay Business Agent, second-generation ILWU member and 31-year member of Local 6—echoed the convention theme: "Moving Forward," all through his report.

"For the first time in many years the membership in all five divisions voted in unity," he said. "The local-wide elections produced a united vote. In the January and February membership meetings and the General Executive Board meetings we have seen unanimous votes—all five divisions together.

"With a united membership joined with a new group of enthusiastic officers, the door is open for a new day in Local 6," he said.

The new officers inherit a labor on shaky financial ground, though they aren’t yet sure how shaky. "We’re learning, evaluating, getting all the information," said John Cortez, new chair of the Board of Trustees.

The business new agents have hit the ground running. "We’re going to all the houses to introduce ourselves and find out their issues," said new East Bay RA Darrin Woodward. "Then we’ll work on them according to their level of severity.

"We’re long road ahead, but we’re all in this together," he said.

If we have a problem, we can ask one of the other business agents for help," Gutierrez added. "There’s no ego, nothing like that.

"Organizing internally and externally came up frequently in discussions at the convention. ‘Management has taken advantage of our situation and inter- preted the contract in the favor,’ said Gabriel Gallo, General Executive Board member and vice president of the East Bay District. ‘It’s time we organize ourselves and get together to see the contract is inter- preted for what it is.’

Sierras pledged to use all the resources available from the International, the AFL-CIO and labor studies programs at local colleges to fortify the local’s organizing efforts.

At every turn those at the convention highlighted the importance of the rank and file. ‘The rank and file members are the final authority in this organ- ization,’ Barry said. ‘And many of us were quick to point out that this authority carries responsibility.

‘Now that the members are awake, we need to keep them participat- ing in the movement,’ said Buddy Trujillo, a GEB member from the West Bay. Or, as pensioner, Alpha Hyten admonished the crowd, her black hat bobbing and white handkerchief fluttering. ‘We fought hard to put this together. Now it’s up to you to pick up the ball and carry it on.

‘Come together, stick together and tell the membership, leave the TV for a little while and come down, because the membership is where it’s at.’ —Marcy Rein
COURIERS FACE TOUGH TALKS FOR SECOND CONTRACTS

Workers in San Francisco's first two unionized courier companies found the going tough. Can they renew and improve the one-year contracts won after a high-profile campaign waged while million-dollar lawsuits hung over their bosses?

The companies can technically sue for paychecks lost on their success. Future courier organizing starts here too.

"If we try to put more pressure on you fighting for things and getting something, they'll say 'We'll just walk,'" said Lor O'Rourke, a Professional Messenger snagged in a three-month strike before the tentative agreements from previous negotiations from previ-

us contract. The contract, they were supposed to be paid hourly. O'Rourke told them in July they were being switched to commission-and they'd be fired if they couldn't make minimum wage. Walkers cover short distances downtown, so no individual job "or tag" they do costs much, and the messengers only get 40 percent of the cost of the tag. Soon three walk-

er are gone.

More recently, O'Rourke fired negotiating team member Manuel "Rak" Affonso for being absent due to a family emergency, suspended veteran messenger and union supporter Rick Condrin for a week for not wearing a helmet, fired Roy Robinson for a no-call, no show and threatened to fire the tea-hard working Howard Williams for being late to work when he was scheduled to attend a bargaining session. The union filed NLRB charges on behalf of Affonso and Condrin, claiming they were being discriminated against for their support of the union.

Both companies have played hard-to-get at the table. Speedywalk away from negotiations in July. After getting a letter signed by a majority of the workers, and seeing a Local 6 infor-

mational picket in front of their office on a couple of mornings, management agreed to come back to the table.

They lasted all of 10 minutes," said former West Bay Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker. "To call it "bad faith bargaining" is being polite." O'Rourke wanted to scrap all the agreements from previous sessions and work from the exist-

ing contract. But the company came with a fistful of takeaways and a same high-priced union-busting lawyer from Little, Mendelson they used for the first contract.

"When I looked at their proposed contract, I almost broke out laughing," said new West Bay Local 6 BA Jerome Johnwell. "There are people on welfare probably making more money than some of those folk." It didn't help. The Board ruled guards the company employs belong to the International Union of Security Officers), so it went to the NLRB claiming the allocators were overpaid and should be brought into the IUSO.

"You can't say anything or critique something without being given a neg-

ative union security and make it easi-

er for them to discipline workers or "take wages out of competition"—COURIERS FACE TOUGH TALKS FOR SECOND CONTRACTS
May is medical dental choice month

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical plans during the open enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2002. The change will be effective July 1, 2002.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choice is Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 29, 29, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon/Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92.

In the Washington state area, the choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Group Health Cooperative and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan.

DENTAL PLANS: For Los Angeles locals, dental choice is between Delta Dental Plan and the Sutakai, Simms, Simon and Sugiyama group plan. For San Francisco locals, dental choice is between Delta Dental Plan and Naisnath group plan. For Portland/Vancouver locals dental choice is between Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan and Oregon/Washington Dental Service.

Information on the dental plans, and Kaiser and Group Health Cooperative medical plans, and forms to change plans can be obtained at the locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office. The ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan description booklet is under preparation and will be furnished as soon as it is available.

All enrollment cards must be submitted to the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the change to be effective July 1.

HEADS UP! LEAD is coming!

The ILWU will hold its 2nd Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Institute Sept. 15-19, 2002 in Palm Springs, California.

LEAD instructors will come from the ranks of active and retired ILWU members. They also interpret "collegiate" to apply to study at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

Trustees are Norman Leonard, retired counsel for the ILWU and for Local 10, Reino Erikkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, Associate Director of Education and Librarian for the ILWU.

At this, a Local 10 member, have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, you may want to apply for one of these scholarships.

Here's how to do it:

Write at once to Norman Leonard, 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 201, San Francisco, California 94109 with the following information:

1. Your name, address and ILWU registration number 2. The name, birth date and Social Security number of your son or daughter who plans to enter, or to continue, college next fall. If more than one child plans to continue college, include the information regarding them, also. 3. The name and address of the college where he or she has been accepted. If, or if not yet accepted, where he or she expects to attend.

Inclusion of your letter, Norman Leonard will write your son or daughter giving him/her all the information needed to make a formal application. If you need more information before writing to Norman Leonard, you may phone him at (415) 775-6400.

Smolin-Melin Scholarship deadline for Local 10 members

Trustees of the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund are prepared to accept applications from longshore Local 10 members for the academic year 2002-2003. Now is the time to indicate your interest. June 1st is the application deadline.

Victor Smolin and Carlton Melin were long-term members of Local 10. They left a sum of money to establish the scholarship fund. They specified that scholarships were to be available to children of Local 10 members to further their collegiate education. Trustees of the Fund interpret "children of members" to include children of deceased members and children of retired members. They also interpret " collegiate" to apply to study at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

Trustees are Norman Leonard, retired counsel for the ILWU and for Local 10, Reino Erikkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, Associate Director of Education and Librarian for the ILWU.

At this, a Local 10 member, have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, you may want to apply for one of these scholarships.

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1. Your name, address and ILWU registration number 2. The name, birth date and Social Security number of your son or daughter who plans to enter, or to continue, college next fall. If more than one child plans to continue college, include the information regarding them, also. 3. The name and address of the college where he or she has been accepted. If, or if not yet accepted, where he or she expects to attend.

Inclusion of your letter, Norman Leonard will write your son or daughter giving him/her all the information needed to make a formal application. If you need more information before writing to Norman Leonard, you may phone him at (415) 775-6400.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Delegates to the 30th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, July 7-11, 1997, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read:

"SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union will not favor or disfavor any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than his/her proportionate share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the fund and the uses to which the voluntary contributions of the members are put will be made to the International Executive Board.

The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

"Up to One Dollar Fifty Cents ($1.50) of each March and July's per capita payment to the International Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund where those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment used for that purpose. The Titled Officers may suspend or alter any involuntary deduction if, in their judgement, the financial condition of the International warrants suspen- sion.

"For the three consecutive months prior to each deduction each dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the contribution or any portion thereof otherwise made in March and July. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of the contribution or less if they desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs.

"Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment diverted to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts wherever they wish."

No contribution—I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check for the entire amount of the Political Action Fund contribution ($1.50) prior to July 1, 2002.

Less than $1.50—I do not wish to contribute the entire amount to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute the difference.

I understand that I will receive a check for the difference between my contribution and the entire amount of the ILWU Political Action Fund ($1.50) prior to July 1, 2002.

More than $1.50—I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution ($1.50) to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $ .

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

February 2002
Norma Wyatt Kala, outspoken mainstay of ILWU Federated Auxiliaries

By Marcy Rein

NORMA Wyatt Kala stepped out as an activist when she was barely nine years old. Wagner dolls and dolls in tow, she and other young residents of North Bend, Oregon joined a march in support of paving the town’s main drag. Right up to her death at age 92 on Nov. 29, 2001, Norma kept walking the talk and speaking her mind. She brought her outspoken energy to several national offices in the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries from 1949 to 1969. She also served four terms as President of Auxiliary No. 1 in North Bend (1950, 1952, 1959 and 1962) and was elected assistant secretary and then secretary-treasurer of the Southwest Oregon Pensioners in 1963 and 1965. Though she lived in North Bend all her life, her concerns ranged far beyond the town’s borders—and while people often disagreed with her, they seldom disliked her.

“She voiced her opinion about lots of things around this town,” said her son Jerry Wyatt, retired from ILWU Longshore Local 12. “A lot of people didn’t like it...she talked about some of the world problems people wanted to turn their backs on. But I don’t think she had an enemy, nor one I knew of.”

For much of Norma’s lifetime, lumber fueled the economy of southwest Oregon towns like North Bend and Coos Bay, and union labor moved the lumber. Members of the IWW-Woodworkers of America worked the mills and the ILWU loaded the wood for export.

Norma’s family ties became ILWU ties as well. Her first husband, Ronald Wyatt, joined Local 12 in 1942. Both her sons belonged to Local 12, as did one grandson, her brother-in-law and her nephew. Her uncle’s wife was the sister of Harry Bridges’ first wife, Agnes Brown. Early in her ILWU history the female relatives, mostly wives, of ILWU members came together in auxiliaries to support the locals, help move their political agendas and help register the views in the community. Auxiliary 1 took its first political act in 1938, backing the union pickets in Tri-Cities against the blacklists. Later, local federated auxiliaries would work to get union members to vote. Over the 20-plus years that Wyatt helped lead her local she was known to be both a fierce union and local auxiliary, the group’s activities ranged from sponsoring Brownie troops to working with elected officials at all levels to defend and support the locals. Her activism and the accused atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg came together in auxiliaries to support the locals, help move their political agendas and help register the views in the community. They both met the workers’ leaders who took over a public meeting and disrupted plans for a march in the summer of 1943.

“The auxiliary has shown me that my every day living is related with politics; respect for the human rights of others and racial equality for all,” she wrote in her winning essay for the Federated Auxiliaries’ 1961 essay contest.

On Feb. 10, 1962, Norma blasted a virtual press blackout on the dangers of nuclear testing. Releases of radioactive isotope 131 from the Nevada Proving Grounds had so contaminated the milk supply that Utah pulled fresh milk from grocery shelves. Most newspapers resoundingly ignored the story.

“Suppression of news of such vital importance to the health and well-being of U.S. citizens should be vigorously protested in the common good,” Norma said. “It would appear that the black birds of death we dropped on Hiroshima have come home to roost on U.S. soil.”

Norma also took part in a local civil rights organization the Coos County Council of Concerned Citizens. The group drew the ire of members of the Birch Society, who took over a public meeting and disrupted plans for a march in the summer of 1943.

“Regrettably, she spoke about some of the world problems people wanted to turn their backs on. But I don’t think she had an enemy, nor one I knew of.”


DECEASED: Local 4—Richard Anderson (Jessamine), Charles Meininger (Margaret); Local 7—Frank Hewison; Local 8—Matthew Wolfe (Joan), John Holland (Mary), Richard King, Alt McNeal; Local 10—Dorothy Morgan (Nelvin), Christophe Borup (Debra), Clyde Parke Jr. (Deloria), Allen Jones, Gus Atrey, Herbert McGill, M.L. Simon, Vivian Baca, Frank Marino, Roy Lovlie, Leroy Baldwin; Local 12—Vernon Larson, Tedfo Lopez; Local 13—Douglas Jackson (Virginia); Fred Taylor (Ruth), John Adams (Christine), Mike Rivera (Theresa), Alexander Alvarado (Abigail), Joseph Redo, Phillip Ireland, Jose Padilla, Arthur O’Grady Sr., Prentis Gibson, Curtis Phillips (Beverly), Kurt Christiansen, John Gulick, James Oxford, Carl Larson, Albert Lacioppa, Floyd Richardson; Local 19—Leo Gauck (Carolyn), Bert Neville (Dorothy), Edward White (Laverne), John Ensebrad (Jessee), Donald Hoyt (Kathleen), Harold Casdiahler, Anthony Joseph, Paul Buxton, Local 23—Signal White (Bessie), Dee Parham (Charlene), Harold Lesser; Local 24—Joyce Loftin (Alice), Ted Puckett (Dorothy); Local 25—Glenn Bentley; Local 26—Richard Carter; Local 27—Gordon Windels, Lode Kardonsky; Local 32—Daniel Hayden; Local 34—Don Latimer (Linda), Allen Joy (Loona), W. M. Davis (Pamela), George Costa, Edward Clark; Local 47—Leonard Moon; Local 52—James Tracy (Frances), Paul Kuntz (Elna); Local 54—Sam Fuchusa, Richard Ogata; Local 62—Vincent Tudor (Winifred), Maurice Porter, Alan Hardcastle; Local 75—Charles Jurenes (Atsuko); Local 91—Perry Brown (La Dell); Local 99—George Hiltunen; Local 94—Charles Arbuckle (Marjorie), Louise Mardesich (Evelyn). (Survivors in parentheses.)

DECEASED SURVIVORS: Local 8—Agnes Hampton; Local 10—Alberta Robih, Florence Loring, Lelai Lagrone, Mary L. Lee, Helen P Wilson, Gladys Grant; Local 12—Edna Maslouski, Kathleen Warren; Local 13—Cesira Benedetti; Local 19—Elizabeth Lyons, Vuler Bloomer; Local 32—Dallas Shover; Local 34—Modesta Peterson; Local 40—June Heid; Local 51—Buelah Hansen; Local 53—Loretta Fish; Local 57—Marion Southard; Local 63—Theresa Espinosa, Lucille Pavlov, Violet Paulson; Local 94—Margaret Kala, Arlene Bolton, Neona Rizer.

Norma Wyatt Kala (second from right), then secretary for the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries, helps mail the call for the Auxiliaries’ 1959 Convention. She always pitched in when there was work to be done. Also helping on the mailing were Auxiliaries’ President Valerie Taylor (at typewriter) and (left to right) Doreen Shelton, Pat Richardson, and Jessie Browne of the North Bend, Oregon Auxiliary.

Auxiliaries’ President Valerie Taylor (at typewriter) and (left to right) Doreen Shelton, Pat Richardson, and Jessie Browne of the North Bend, Oregon Auxiliary.
BOOKS:
The ILWU Story: unrolls 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. $17.00
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
The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront by David Wellman: the important new study of longshoreing in the ILWU. $15.00 (paperback)
A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco by David Selvin: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. $16.50
The March inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938 by Harvey Schwartz: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. $9.00

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. $5.00
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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