Red & White gives IBU the blues

page 3

ILWU members lobby in Sacto

page 4

Union rescues portraits of its past

page 6

INSIDE
UNITE takes on giant sweatshop laundry ........................................ p. 3
Mourn for the dead, fight for the living ........................................... p. 8
Local 6 revs up for master contract talks ....................................... p. 9
SSA gets contract to run Iraqi port .................................................. p. 9
SAFETY FIRST

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

This has got to stop and we have to be the ones to stop it.

In the last year, between March 2002 and March 2003, the ILWU has lost eight members to fatal accidents on the job. (Most recently, longshore Local 4 lost Rick Lynch and Local 24M/R lost Douglas Luncford, both on March 19.) This is not the kind of record we need to be setting.

When problems of this magnitude come along, the natural tendency is to look for a culprit, someone or something that is at fault. But there is plenty of blame to spread around. Let’s start with our employers.

We all know the employers’ main concern is their bottom line. Maximizing profits takes priority over safety concerns for them.

We saw this clearly in our last set of longshore negotiations. Every proposal our Safety Negotiating Committee brought to the bargaining table that had any cost associated with it was quickly and thoroughly rejected. Since one of the most widespread dangers we face on the docks is congestion and traffic control, our Safety Committee proposed installing speedometers on all UTRs and other power industrial trucks. What more logical way could there be to adhere to and enforce speed limits? But the employers refused that demand. Arguing in their convoluted logic that speedometers would make the docks less safe.

Of course we know what the real reason is and always has been—their desire to speed up the work to increase productivity. It’s the same reason the employers are always trying to downsize the workforce, to have fewer people assigned to do the work. And it’s the same reason we rejected a proposal on faulty and unsafe equipment—it would simply cost more to have it serviced regularly and maintained at optimal levels.

During the time the Bush administration imposed the Taft-Hartley injunction on us last year, we were successful at getting government agencies responsible for workplace safety—federal OSHA, CalOSHAn and WISHA (Washington Industrial Safety and Health Agency)—onto the docks to monitor the problems caused by the severe congestion following the employers’ lockout. Their work made a big difference in our being able to keep injury rates down during a time when the employers and the court were pressing for speedups. We need to develop the ILWU’s relationship with these agencies and they need to redouble their efforts in light of the increasing fatality rates.

But part of the blame and part of the responsibility for turning the situation around falls on us. While most of the fatal accidents of the last year are still under investigation, and many are surely the fault of poor equipment and failed systems, we all know how easy it is for human error to creep into the equation. We know potential dangers lurk in our work sites, that the heavy equipment and hazardous materials we deal with are like accidents waiting to happen. Everyone who has worked the docks for any length of time has either had an accident, seen one happen or can tell stories of close calls that only luck or providence has kept from being another statistic.

Sometimes the work gets so routine, we get so familiar and comfortable with it that we drop our guard momentarily. Sometimes we get tired and we lose our focus and concentration just for a minute. And that’s when it can happen and we never see it coming. We have to remind ourselves everyday that constant vigilance is needed if we are going to go home to our loved ones at the end of the shift.

The best time to remind yourself about “safety first” is, of course, at the beginning of your shift. Go through a mental checklist, starting with the equipment you’re driving. Are all the warning safety lights and the horn working? Are the mirrors adjusted properly? Are the windshield wipers and the steering gear? It’s your responsibility to report any defective equipment to the foreman and it’s your right not to work on it if it isn’t safe.

Take a look around the yard. Are all the areas properly lit? Check out the traffic controls. Are there congestion problems anywhere around you? Keep an eye out for pedestrian workers. Remember to drive safely and keep to the speed limits.

And remember, a good day’s work doesn’t mean you have to buy into the employers’ idea of productivity standards. Never work faster than it is safe.

The PCLCD gives workers an important safety advantage: procedures to follow if they believe a job is unsafe, and the right to refuse unsafe work. Use it—and when you do, remember that ILWU brothers and sisters under other contracts have their own pressing safety issues and often have less leverage to use on them.

IBU barge and ferry workers, for example, have to fight for sufficient staffing to run boats safely and cut down on hazards caused by fatigue. Clerical workers and warehouse workers alike are vulnerable to ergonomic injuries from repetitive work at poorly designed jobs. They may spend too many hours at a computer work station, or lift too much weight too many times in a shift. Such ergonomic injuries hurt or cripple almost two million workers each year.

Instead of strengthening the OSHA standards to protect people, the Bush administration has worked with the employers to roll them back. We need to work with other unions and the AFL-CIO to restore these standards, and support our ILWU brothers and sisters when they try to get better safety language in their contracts.
March 2003

THE DISPATCHER

Red & White gives IBU the blues

By Marcie Rein

The IBU tried to help Tom Escher when he took over three Red & White Fleet boats and saw workloads rise and ferry business fall five years ago. The union got slapped for its pains. The company undermined the first contract and now is stonewalling talks on the second. "The workers gave, and Red & White has taken advantage," said IBU San Francisco Bay Regional Director Marina Secchitano.

The IBU took a two-year wage freeze in the first contract, as well as a smaller pension contributions for two years, fewer vacation days and smaller employer contributions on health insurance.

On top of that, the company began changing the rules on vacation and sick leave and cutting staff.

Like most tourist-oriented businesses, ferryboat cruises have busy seasons and off-seasons. Most IBU contracts are for one season, lasting 2,000 hours or more in a year as regular employees, so they can accrue vacation and sick leave. Red & White decided only full-year employees would be entitled to both. If the five or six top-seniority workers got vacation and sick leave, people who got sick leave couldn't "bank" unused days for emergencies.

IBU members Jozan Stevens and Tom Gogarty, who each had 40 years' service as a captain in the Coast Guard and on commercial boats. "I'm coming up on the job for 10-15 years and they talk about whether to continue with the contract," she said.

The IBU's first contract with Red & White expired Oct. 31, 2002, and the union went two years behind their counterparts in several Cintas employees filed a lawsuit in the US District Court in San Francisco March 19 charging the company deliberately withheld tens of millions of dollars in overtime pay from them over the last three years. The suit may eventually involve hundreds of workers now and former Cintas delivery and service workers who have been routinely required to work unpaid overtime. UNITE is helping the workers with the lawsuit.

At the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Hollywood, Fla., in February, the union endorsed campaigns to organize 530,000 new workers last year. Acuff said, and the recession and the threat of Sept. 11 combined to cut membership by 72,788, to 13,181,283. "It's insane," Siamas said, but pointing out problems to management has proved futile. "They tell you how to do the job when they're done doing it," she said. "We've done the job for 10-15 years and they talk to us like we're children." The IBU's contract with Red & White expired Oct. 31, 2002, and the two parties agreed to extend it to March 31. The workers hoped to catch the boat up on wages and make improvements in staffing. The freezes put them two years behind their counterpart parts under a newer IBU contract. If they don't recruit, workers at other companies could suffer too. "We'd like to catch up to other companies," Goldthorpe said. "They're looking to cut costs and looking at what Red & White is getting, and they're getting cheap." But the company still sees gaining nothing meaningful. The company took language from another contract drawn up by the infamous union-busting Little, Menard & Sibley law firm and asked for another two-year wage freeze, now a COLA of less than two percent, then two more years.

Just days before the contract extension expired, one of the ticket agents and three stewards said that Escher had his son in the ticket booth learning to sell tickets. The stewards believe his son will be IBU's chief financial officer, who has been representing the company even in its public relations.

"He told me, 'We're training Tom Jr. to sell tickets in case you go on strike,'" she said. No strike vote had been taken.

The two sides began meeting with a federal mediator two months ago, and the IBU is making its own plans to move negotiations along.

"We may need support from other ILWU brothers and sisters in the area before all this is over," Secchitano said.

Launching what President Bruce Raynor said could be a "two, maybe three or four year drive," UNITE opened a campaign Feb. 5 to organize the 200 Cintas laundries around the country.

Over the last three years, UNITE has organized 30,000 industrial launders in Southern California, Raynor said. "To organi-

izate, we have to fight the biggest, baddest and dirtiest of the dirty. Under the new contract, only IBU members can detail Cintas employees with a condition. "Unions will literally withhold tens of millions of dollars in overtime pay from them over the last three years. The suit may eventually involve hundreds of workers who wear Cintas-launched uniforms committed to help the company save money than any other company on the West Coast. For instance, according to a report by the ザラグループ, Cintas thought they were just up the recycling curve, but they're going to find out they're up against the bureaucratic nature of the process," ILWU International Representative Jerry Kertesz said.

"This is why the ILWU is also actively exploring non-Board strategies," Kertesz said. The national AFL-CIO will use the Cintas campaign to gear up and mobilize state federations and central labor councils to help local organization, Acuff explained.

Acuff also said that as part of changing organizing, unions nation-

ally will reach out to community groups, with a condition. "Unions will develop a relationship with allies dependent on the deckhands to organize for the right to organize," he said.

That goes for politicians, too, members of the AFL-CIO Organizing Summit in January reported to the council. They recommended other additions to the new law that could strengthen the Act:

• Greater exposure of employer abuses, rather than framing of the issue to the public;

• Requiring politicians "to support the Act, rather than prevent it from being enacted";
• Broadening participation of workers, including paid union staff, in organizing; and

• Increased use of card-check recognition in bargaining new contracts, requiring employers to agree to it in unorganized workplaces; and

• National dramatic acts, at an appointed time, more national council. With a condition. "Unions will literally withhold tens of millions of dollars in overtime pay from them over the last three years. The suit may eventually involve hundreds of workers who wear Cintas-launched uniforms committed to help the company save money than any other company on the West Coast. For instance, according to a report by the ザラグループ, Cintas thought they were just up the recycling curve, but they're going to find out they're up against the bureaucratic nature of the process," ILWU International Representative Jerry Kertesz said.

"This is why the ILWU is also actively exploring non-Board strategies," Kertesz said. The national AFL-CIO will use the Cintas campaign to gear up and mobilize state federations and central labor councils to help local organization, Acuff explained.
Get on the bus, Gus—Sacramento is waiting for us

By Marcy Rein

Three empty green AC Transit buses hunker along the sidewalk by the ILWU Longshore Local 10 hall. Where are the masses of members ready to organize the union's concerns to their state legislators? Who's in charge? Mild confusion rules.

Local 10 Director Captain Josh Williams rounds up a few of his crew. A few other Local 10 guys who don’t have business cards.

"What's this going to do to stop the war?" drill team member Carlos Minor asks while we wait for more folks to show. Depends what war you're talking about, said a few California Republicans have launched a barrage of anti-worker bills this session, including rollbacks in daily overtime and workers' comp. They're also digging in to block any revenue increases to close the $30-$34 billion state budget gap. Union members will be fighting hard to fend off take-backs and service cuts—apart from trying to pass some positive bills.

ThIEU's Chuck Billington checks in their riders. After a flurry of cell-phone consults with the ATU Local 192 president and the IBU's San Francisco Regional Director, everyone piles on one of the buses and we hit 30 m.p.h. March 18.

Some folks go back to sleep, hats pulled over their eyes. Ed "Lieutenant" Thomas of the drill team is trying to stay awake. He worked night shift, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. to the hall to catch the bus. If he falls asleep, he says, it's all over.

"I'm here to support the union," he says. "It's all about labor. Where would I be without labor?" He likes the idea of Burton "pay or play" health insurance bill, SB 2. It would require employers who don't offer health insurance to pay into a state fund that would be used to cover the state's uninsured workers.

"I have it good, but what I have I want to go around," Thomas says. "Everybody needs some kind of insurance."

IBU's Shauta Latin explains the "Transit Wars" coalition that's bringing together IBU ferry workers, AC Transit drivers (ATU Local 192), San Francisco MUNI drivers (TWU Local 250-A) and BART workers.

State Sen. Ron Perata (D-Oakland) is sponsoring a bill, SB 916, that will sponsor the idea of the Burton "pay or play" health insurance bill, SB 2. It would require employers who don't offer health insurance to pay into a state fund that would be used to cover the state's uninsured workers.

"I'm going to support the union," said Sidney Ragland, who'll take us home in the afternoon.

Local 10 President Henry Graham and Secretary-Treasurer John Castanho make a welcoming committee for the longshore folks. ATU members pass out glowing yellow "Transit Works" T-shirts and we head across the lawn, through the metal detectors to the hearing room.

Already the MUNI folks are there, in bright red T-shirts, along with the members of the BEKB AFTRA, the Air Line Pilots Association, San Francisco Firefighters, OPEIU, Roofers, Plumbers and Pipeliners, packing the place to standing-room-only. ILWU warehouse Local 6 sent President Richard Sierras, Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker, Business Agent Elen Alarcon and pensioner LeRoy King.

The San Mateo and San Francisco Central Labor Councils have arranged the meetings, and San Mateo's Executive Secretary-Treasurer Shelley Kessler acts as MC/ringmaster for the event. The legislators take half-hour turns. Assembly member Paul Koretz (D-Los Angeles), chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and a great friend to the ILWU, joins the line-up of key Bay Area representatives—Assembly member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), Assembly member Gene Mulin (D-South San Francisco), Roger Dillon, principal consultant to Senate President Pro Tem John Burton (D-San Francisco), State Senator Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto), Assistant Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), and Senate Secretary Jackie Speier (D-San Mateo).

All are receptive, and each has a particular style. Koretz crosses a-as earnest, well-informed, friendly.

First-terms Mullin seems to know his stuff inside and out, though he talks to the group like neighbors who stopped by while he was mowing the lawn.

"I'm just the guy down the block," he says—and in fact, he lives next door to San Francisco Labor Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson. He's energetic and photogenic, gives the crowd a rousing pep talk.

"You guys are as influential as anyone can be," he says. "You have to be a factor in the battle of the budget. We did not come on to this earth to take services away."

"We've got vision, that's why we're going to succeed," she says.

Suddenly we're husting back to the bus—without even time for a nature call—and boarding home.

"I think they heard us," Lieutenant Thomas says. He's looking at another shift when we get back to the hall. "I might take something physical—if I have to, I'll fall asleep," he says. His local brother Dewayne Cleghorn is a little more skeptical. "As long as I know I was there, it's cool, but I don't have high expectations."

Just being there intrigued the IBU's Greg Thierry and Ty Willis.

"Outside of voting, you feel disconnected," Thierry said. "Being part of the group and being there makes you feel like part of the process."

The Northern California District Council decided to focus on seven out of the 19 bills the California Labor Federation is sponsoring this session. They are:

SB 2 (Burton)—Require employers to provide health insurance or pay into a state fund that will be used to buy insurance for workers and their families.

SB 57 (Burton/Alarcon)—Index the minimum wage to the cost of living.

SB 60 (Cedillo)—Make all California residents eligible for driver's licenses, without restrictions based on immigration status.

AB 274 (Koretz)—Give workers who exercise their rights more protection from employer retaliation.

AB 331 (Kehoe)—Allow locked-out workers to be eligible for unemployment benefits immediately, without the one-week waiting period usually required.

SB 576 (Alarcon)—Make it easier for California workers to qualify for 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits.

SB 640 (Burton)—Deny state contracts to companies that re-incorporate offshore to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Several anti-worker bills will also demand union members' attention. They include attempts to repeal daily overtime (AB 244), make it harder to claim workers' comp for on-the-job injuries (AB 8431) and make it harder to claim permanent disability benefits.

The Southern California District Council is re-organizing, and will select its priorities after studying the issues thoroughly.

March 2003

Giving legislators a piece of our minds: ILWU warehouse Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker (left, standing) lays out the local's concerns to Roger Dillon (bearing on table), principal consultant to Senator Pro Tem John Burton.
Women’s Roundtable spins strategies for health care bills

By John Musson
President, Puget Sound District Council

T
aking the charge for rank and file initiative in political action seriously, 17 delegates from the Puget Sound District Council, lobbyist Gordon Baxter, and members of the IBU’s political action committee descended on Olympia to lobby the Washington State legislature Feb. 11. Delegates included members from Longshore Local 4, Hero Local 2024, 724, 30 and 52 as well as from the IBU Puget Sound Region. They started the morning with a briefing by Baxter and the Washington State Labor Council President Rick Berck, who opened the day’s work. The delegates focused on a few primary issues: preserving and promoting IBU jurisdiction on the passenger-only ferries in the Washington State ferry system, funding for the Neah Bay Rescue Tug, developing workplace protection for the IBU’s newly organized geoduck harvesting unions, and preserving the Marine Employees Commission.

Washington State faces a $2.5 billion budget shortfall for the next biennium—so every state program that does not have dedicated funding, meaning funding required by law, is at risk for budget cuts. The legislature is split, with Republicans controlling the Senate by one vote and Democrats controlling the House. This usually creates a situation where nothing of any consequence is accomplished. This usually creates a situation where nothing of any consequence is accomplished. The situation is complicated by the fact that Washington State has 490 tax exemptions on the books that the Legislature is intended to remove, although no one has actually attempted to change the method of funding these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

ILWU and IBU members lobby Olympia

The Capitol lawn exploded with bright T-shirts, drumming and impasioned chanting as some 15,000 students, staff and faculty from California community colleges protested deep budget cuts and steep fee hikes March 17. They came by plane and train, bus and car, making the student-led event the largest rally seen in Sacramento for many years.

The 108 community colleges will get hit harder than any other schools as the state tries to close a budget deficit of around $30 billion. The University of California system, the California State Universities and K-12 schools will get small budget increases. But community colleges seem like the schools will get hit hardest by this legislature.

“I see the future right here, the people who are going to build the new century. Don’t shut the doors on them!” California for Community Colleges, a coalition of more than a dozen unions and other community groups, said in an ad in the Feb. 11 delegation to Olympia included:

Local 4 Rick Anderson, Cager Claibaugh and Todd Walker
Local 7 John Musson
Local 51 Jeff Davis
Local 24 Max Vekich
Local 12 Ron Modahl
Local 47 Sherman Will
Local 52 Celso Tolman
IBU Local 47 ITP Inspector Lila Smith
IBU produck divers Mark Wright and Dug Mc Rae
IBU locals Stuart Downer, Dennis Conklin, Jeff Engels, John Ross and David Mc Kenzie

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.

Three other Federation-sponsored bills in the State Assembly aim to make organizing for health reform easier by requiring more financial disclosure by hospitals (AB1629, Dario Frommer, D-Glendale), medical groups (AB1213, Juan Vargas, D-Chula Vista) and pharmaceutical companies (AB103, Sarah Boyes, D-Fresno). SB228 by Sen. Richard Alarcon aims to contain medical costs in the workers’ comp system by creating a single, comprehensive fee schedule for all treatments. Working in their small groups, Roundtable participants hatched dozens of ideas for organizing around those bills in their workplaces, locals and communities. The suggestions ranged from lobbying and holding rallies to enlisting the support of employers who provide care and targeting those who don’t.

In putting these bills out now, the Federation hopes to improve not only access to health care but also the composition of the state and federal governments.

“We want to win the legislation and get Gov. Davis to sign it, but we also want to use these bills to mobilize for the 2004 election,” said Federation Chief-Of-Staff Kirsten Snow Spalding.

—Marcy Reif

BRAINSTORMING AT THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SAN MANOLO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL’S RECORDING SECRETARY ED PROCTOR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELLIE KESSLER AND SHOP STeward SHARON LAVIOLET SHOW THAT STRATEGIES CAN BE FOUND.
The 1934 maritime strike was rocking San Francisco when 18-year-old Pete deLappe came home from art school in New York. She immediately got swept up in the excitement.

"A friend of my family was head of the Women's Auxiliary—the most amazing collection of women in various relationships to the guys," deLappe remembers. "We walked the picket line on the Embarcadero, up and down. We also had a flatbed truck and went all over town to raise money for the strikers. They'd use me as a sort of 'come-alle-y' because I could yell loud and get everyone together. We had no mike—we just hollered from the back of the truck."

DeLappe got arrested on the picket line for vagrancy. "That's the easiest they use—no visible means of support." It was ridiculous," she says. She also put her talent and training to work drawing cartoons and caricatures for the Fo'c'sle Head, the mimeographed newsletter of the Marine Workers Industrial Union.

The Big Strike fired the imaginations of artists all over the city, who contributed drawings and prints for leaflets and posters and did paintings and murals that captured the moment. The strike also inspired many of the Coit Tower murals, which were the largest of the New Deal-funded art projects. The Tower was set to open to the public July 7, 1934, the day San Francisco's unions declared the General Strike—but fearful authorities kept it closed. The Artists and Writers Union threw up a picket line for vagrancy. "That's the moment. The strike also inspired them as relatives," deLappe says. Some were longshoremen and seamen and some were seamens, and sadly, no one thought to record their names. "The new hope is that people who see the pictures might recognize them as relatives," deLappe says.

Now 86 and living in Petaluma, deLappe seldom dresses without some bright splash of color, or goes long without a mischievous glint in her eye. She can walk down a street you travel every day and point out things you never saw. She still produces the drawings and lithographs for which she became well-known, despite the less-than-supportive attitudes of some of her early art teachers.

"Very nice, dear," one said, "but of course you're just going to have babies."

She did in fact have three children and put in 19 years' time at Moore Business Forms in Emeryville to help feed the family. She also worked as a journalist and contributed her political cartoons and clever, sparsely drawn caricatures to many union and political publications after the Fo'c'sle Head, notably the People's World, which became part of her life for 40 years.

In 1952 she helped found the Graphic Arts Workshop, a cooperative of class-conscious, socially engaged artists. They saw their work in the tradition of public artists like Mexican muralist Diego Rivera.

"We wanted to get out to people who wouldn't otherwise see art," deLappe says. "It impressed me so much, seeing murals in public buildings in Mexico and seeing who was looking at them—peasant families who were totally illiterate. It was moving and beautiful to see people saying, 'This is our history, this is our life.'

The eight watercolor portraits now hanging in the large conference room at the Harry Bridges Building, which houses the ILWU International Office, were the earliest rank-and-file who built this union, said International Secretary-Treasurer Joe Ibarra. "One of the Association's primary purposes is to educate the community and union members about our past, and these paintings help do this in a very meaningful way," Ibarra said. The strong lines and planes of the pictures reflect the strength of their subjects. Most of the men sit with thoughtful, serious expressions, a few with muscular arms folded. One wears a vest and tie, with his shoulders rolled up to show the heartbeat tattoo on his forearm. He is reading intently. A young Swede, maybe Latino, seems like he's about to crack a grin. Though they don't look like photographs, the portraits are so robust and lifelike you expect them to talk back after you've stared at them for a while.

"Ain't this something? I'm having my portrait done by a real artist," the burly Swede might say. "I didn't think they painted guys like me."

"You can tell the Swede was a jolly fellow," deLappe chuckles. "We had a good time. Most of them were right nice guys. We'd just shout the breeze while I was drawing."

"The word went out to the hiring hall and they came down to my studio on Washington and Montgomery. It took me about a day to do each portrait," she says. Some were longshoremen and seamen and some were seamens, and sadly, no one thought to record their names. The hope is that people who see the pictures might recognize them as relatives," deLappe says. Now 86 and living in Petaluma, deLappe seldom dresses without some bright splash of color, or goes long without a mischievous glint in her eye. She can walk down a street you travel every day and point out things you never saw. She still produces the drawings and lithographs for which she became well-known, despite the less-than-supportive attitudes of some of her early art teachers.

"Very nice, dear," one said, "but of course you're just going to have babies."

She did in fact have three children and put in 19 years' time at Moore Business Forms in Emeryville to help feed the family. She also worked as a journalist and contributed her political cartoons and clever, sparsely drawn caricatures to many union and political publications after the Fo'c'sle Head, notably the People's World, which became part of her life for 40 years.

Pete deLappe poses with one of the portraits of longshoremen and seamen she painted in 1935. Six other portraits in the series appear below. The pictures now hang in the large conference room at the Harry Bridges Building, which houses the ILWU International Office.
Habbor workers hold their own

Harbor officers fended off health care take-backs in their recent negotiations with the city of Unalaska, despite the city’s desire to standardize municipal workers’ contracts.

The six harbor officers keep traffic moving smoothly in the port of Dutch Harbor, which handles more fish than any other U.S. port, according to shop steward Steve Van Marenholz.

We make sure boats are anchored in the right places, keep track of who comes and goes, stand security watch for cruise ships, take care of scheduling and handle water rescue for small craft,” von Marenholz said. The two other members of Unit 201 of ILWU Local 200 do the office work for the port.

Though the harbor workers’ contract had expired July 1, 2002, they did not sit down with the city until Dec. 6. When they did, they knew health care would be the big issue.

“We heard from some of the other unions in the city that the city wanted the right to change our health insurance,” von Marenholz said. The difference turned on one word, as it so often does in negotiations. The city wanted any “reasonable” health plan. The workers wanted a “comparable” plan.

Negotiating with the help of ILWU International Organizer Paul Bigman, the workers won the language they sought and basically maintained their benefit levels. They also won the right to refuse unsafe or illegal work.

But because the talks started late, the city was able to use their desire for retroactive pay increases against them, von Marenholz said.

The harbor workers saw their holiday pay cut from straight time plus double-time to the straight time plus time-and-a-half that other city workers get. They asked for an 80-cent per hour raise for everyone, but had to settle for 3 percent raises in each year of the three-year agreement or losing the retro pay.

Getting the percentage instead of the flat rate put the hit on the lower-paid workers, including von Marenholz, but they did get their retroactivity. At a meeting Jan. 25, the unit voted five to three to accept the contract rather than strike.

“People wanted to support Steve, because he was getting screwed,” Bigman said. “But the three percent raises were exactly what other city workers got, and they beat back the concession on health insurance.” —Marcy Rein

LOCAL 23 OPENS NEW HALL

Longshore Local 23’s new hall opened recently and now just about everything is in place. Its 16-foot ceiling in the main room gives a feeling of spaciousness, while the large windows let in plenty of light.

Construction began in October 2001 and finished last September. The local went through many years of setbacks before construction could begin.

“We were trying for about 20 years to build it, but every time we took two steps forward we had to take two steps back because of money or political problems or deals just not materializing,” Secretary-Treasurer Robert Brown said. “Then the local traded some property with the Port of Tacoma, made a bank deal for the mortgage and construction got underway.

Brown, a third-generation longshore worker, played a key role in shepherding the project through. That was especially fitting since his grandfather Henry helped marshal the previous hall through to completion 50 years before.

The new hall keeps many of the traditions of the old. The sturdy dispatch hall benches, painted white, form ranks as they have for generations in front of the podium. Lists of names of everyone who has died on the waterfront and those who have retired will be inscribed on plaques hung on the wall behind the podium.

About a dozen of Fred Zinn’s huge paintings of vessels are up on the walls, each painting representing a vessel that was important to the port in some way. Zinn moved west from Minnesota in the 1940s and became a casual longshoreman. He often painted to pay off his bar tab, and his murals covered the walls of local taverns. The last mural for the hall was painted in 1957, and Zinn went back east after that. One painting depicts a sailing ship, the first wheat ship that called at the Port of Tacoma. The white benches also have a connection to the history of the hall.

About a dozen of Fred Zinn’s huge paintings of vessels are up on the walls, each painting representing a vessel that was important to the port in some way. Zinn moved west from Minnesota in the 1940s and became a casual longshoreman. He often painted to pay off his bar tab, and his murals covered the walls of local taverns. The last mural for the hall was painted in 1957, and Zinn went back east after that. One painting depicts a sailing ship, the first wheat ship that called at the Port of Tacoma. The white benches also have a connection to the history of the hall.

About a dozen of Fred Zinn’s huge paintings of vessels are up on the walls, each painting representing a vessel that was important to the port in some way. Zinn moved west from Minnesota in the 1940s and became a casual longshoreman. He often painted to pay off his bar tab, and his murals covered the walls of local taverns. The last mural for the hall was painted in 1957, and Zinn went back east after that. One painting depicts a sailing ship, the first wheat ship that called at the Port of Tacoma. The white benches also have a connection to the history of the hall.

About a dozen of Fred Zinn’s huge paintings of vessels are up on the walls, each painting representing a vessel that was important to the port in some way. Zinn moved west from Minnesota in the 1940s and became a casual longshoreman. He often painted to pay off his bar tab, and his murals covered the walls of local taverns. The last mural for the hall was painted in 1957, and Zinn went back east after that. One painting depicts a sailing ship, the first wheat ship that called at the Port of Tacoma. The white benches also have a connection to the history of the hall.
MOURN FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?

MORON FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

8 • The Dispatcher March 2003

SAFETY - FIGHTING FOR WORKERS safety - fighting for jobs

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST OPEN... U.S. FACTORY. YOU CAN KILL AMERICAN WORKMEN, I MIGHT ADD... AND BUSH WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TAX CUT

THE RISK OF HOMElessness... CAN WE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT?
Local 6 revs up for master contract talks

Local 6,-watchmen's Local 35, and the IBEW, as well as a delegation from the warehouse Local 17 headed by Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt. McDowell and Terry McAllister, President Richard Sierras said in his report to the members. Business agents have visited their areas often and made every effort to respond quickly to grievances, Sierras said. The local settled 10 old contracts and two new ones and played an active part in local labor councils and political mobilizations—all while trimming $120,000 from its budget. Despite the economies, the local ran at a deficit as it tried to cope with prior years’ mismanagement, Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said, giving me the members the first audited assessment to close the deficit. The only opposition came from members who wanted to keep up the grants. 

Lee and many other speakers stressed the need for political work. “I can’t overemphasize the importance of our own political work, electing public officials on behalf of working men and women,” Lee said.

Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown came a bit late, but wasn’t afraid to voice his strongly argument against the war. “I’m on layoff, but a lot of us are opposed to the war,” he said. “I’ll match anything you put up.” After debate, a motion to raise the assessment failed and the $40 passed with no voices raised against it.

The five-year ILWU-IBT master contract, which expires this year, covers some 500 Local 6 members in 14 houses about 275 Local 17 members at Farmers’ Rice and the Port of Oakland. It also sets the pension and health benefits for several other

Longshore Local 8 members, including Pat McClain, above with banner, joined with a large contingent of Local 5 members at the demonstration on the job March 7. The demonstrators began in the rain at Pioneer Courthouse Square, marched around downtown, and arrived back at the square. Both Locals 5 and 8 passed resolutions opposing the war on Iraq.

The five-year ILWU-IBT master contract, which expires this year, covers some 500 Local 6 members in 14 houses about 275 Local 17 members at Farmers’ Rice and the Port of Sacramento. It also sets the pension and health benefits for several other

Local 6 houses.

With health care costs spiraling sky-high, maintenance of benefits likely to dominate the master contract talks. Most of the employers under the master contract participate in the IEDA fund. This lets them enter the insurance market with a larger group of employees to cover and a larger lump of money, which helps them get a better deal.

But, Wyatt noted, “Kaiser went up about $100 per month per participant last November, and costs of care for seniors have just gone crazy.” In 1998, Medicare supplemental plans cost around $6.25 per month for most HMOs, he said. Now they’re running $211 per month, and the federal government has not raised its share. The team will do their best, Pecker said, but health care won’t be solved at the bargaining table.

The current tanker terminal in unrelated that this country doesn’t have the money for health care for elders, for children,” he said. “The American people have to get up and demand cradle-to-grave health care. From the bottom up, we have to make that change,” he said.

—Marcy Rea

SSA gets contract to run Iraqi port

A s if to pay back Stevedoring Services of America for its role in trying to bust the ILWDU in last year’s contract struggle, the Bush administration has awarded a $4.8 million contract to the Seattle-based company to operate the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr.

Before American and British forces have even conquered Iraq, the U.S. has been taking bids and awarding contracts to run and reconstruct the country. Likewise, even before the U.S. last year the contract administration gave SSA the contract to run Iraq’s most important port, the center for exports of oil and imports of military supplies.

During the ILWU contract negotiations, SSA took the hardest anti-union line of any employer in the Pacific Maritime Association. SSA opposed the contract settlement, but was oustved within the PMA. Then SSA enlisted the fanatically anti-labor Right to Work Foundation to start the union and PMA, in behalf of a group of rail and yard planners in an attempt to get the contract voided. SSA had outsourced those ILWU jobs and the new longshore agreement got them back. The case is still pending.

SSA has outsourced other ILWU work as well. The company runs several off-dock container storage yards under the guise of separate corporate entities so it can deny the ILWU jurisdiction. And when SSA took over Matson’s stevedoring operations at Los Angeles/Long Beach, it closed down the on-dock Container Freight Stuffing Station and moved the work to an off-dock, non-union site.

SSA does its political work to keep its business thriving. Earlier this year it set up its own lobbying office in Washington, D.C. As SSA maneuvers to get the contract to develop the new Houston-Galveston Megaport, it hired a Texas-based lobbyist, Reginald Bashur, a former aide to then-Texas Governor Ann Richards.

This is not the first time the Bush administration has acted on behalf of SSA. Last year the company proposed building a $500 million container terminal in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Unions staged hunger strikes and work stoppages to oppose it. SSA had wanted to take over the port and hand it off to USMTC (the port still needs to be widened and the port up and running quickly. But SSA has no money for health care for elders, for children,” he said. “The American people have to get up and demand cradle-to-grave health care. From the bottom up, we have to make that change,” he said.

—Marcy Rea

SSA gets contract to run Iraqi port

SSA has its eye on the Iraqi port. The U.S. Agency for International Development awarded the contract to SSA apparently without going through the normal bidding process, claiming it needed to move fast to get the port up and running quickly. But that’s not likely to happen. As the Wall Street Journal reported April 1, the port still needs to be widened and dredged and is miles from any pipelines. On top of that, there is no electricity. The docks are in disrepair after a decade of sanctions and the new dammage done by the invasion. To make matters worse the military officers in charge cannot find any Iraqi managers or skilled workers who are not members of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party. Apparently the military’s general planners forgot the need for skilled longshore workers to operate a modern port.

Steve Sattore

—Marcy Rea

SSA gets contract to run Iraqi port

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (left) presents a plaque honoring Local 6’s 56th annual convention and “its outstanding and invaluable service to our community.” To right is Local 6 visitors Richard J. McDowell, assistant secretary-treasurer; Executive Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson and Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker took on.

March 2003

March 2003

The Dispatcher • 9
The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at U.C. Berkeley seeks to interview members of the ILWU who lived or worked in Richmond during or just after World War II. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service and the City of Richmond, these interviews will be part of the new Rosie the Riveter/World War II Homefront Museum. If you would like to participate in this project, please call Jackie Thornton, project coordinator at ROHO, at 510-643-3565.

REMEMBER THE CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL?
Jass Rigelhaupt, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, is researching a dissertation on the California Labor School. He would like to meet any ILWU members who were involved with the California Labor School. Reach him at 510-967-1293 or via email at rjs@umich.edu.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND
Delegates to the 30th Triennial Convention of the ILWU meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 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 pro rata share of such fund. Any member who voluntarily permit the diversion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose. The Titled Officers may suspend either or both diversions if, in their judgment, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension."

"For three consecutive months prior to each diversion 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, shall be sent a check in the amount of the contribution or less if they so desire, in advance of the member making such determination."

"If 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 whenever they wish."

"No contribution—I do not wish to contribute the entire amount 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 March 1, 2003."

"Less than $1.50—I do not wish to contribute the entire amount to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I wish to contribute $______ (between $0 and $1.50) prior to March 1, 2003."

"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 $______.

SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS
LOCAL #

RETURN TO: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street • San Francisco, CA 94110
NOTES: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

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, 2003. The change will be effective July 1, 2003. San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Portland/Vancouver active and retired longshore workers may change dental plans in the month of May for coverage effective July 1, 2003. In addition to the May open enrollment period, members may change their health coverage once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 18 months of registration, After 18 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under Mid-Year/Annual Review requirements will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Portland/Vancouver will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choice is between Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34, 38, 38 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 74, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Local 4, 44, and 92. In the Washington State area, the choices for Locals 19, 23, 37, 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 Sakai, Simms, Simon and Suggage group plan. For San Francisco locals, dental choice is between Delta Dental Plan and Naiman 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 completed and submitted to the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the change to be effective July 1.
Rick Lynch dies in grain elevator accident

Douglass Lunceford has fatal accident

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

Recent Retirees:

Local 4—Richard Barzeh, Harold Jones, Wendell Stonelake, Steven Gill, Douglass Julian, Harry Kurtz, Gerald McRae, Ronald Jacobson; Local 10—Robert Gole, Carl Gilbert, Michael Magno, Anthony Majors, Bruce Egan; Local 13—George Good, Rudy Abril, Lloyd Hutton, Roy E. Wilson, Terry L. Lee, Raymond Cassell, Rudy Alverio, John H. Hughes; Local 19—Jeffrey Good, Robert Alvarez, David Darlington; Local 21—Vera Everman, Richard Jenson, Michael Duran; Local 23—James Santana, Norman Franks; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.

Deceased:

Local 4—Richard Wester, Roger F. Clark, Jerry Cowen, Stanley Slyter, Stephen Flanagan; Local 10—Fred Washington, Charles White, Margaret May; Local 13—Lawrence Quaidy, David McCorkick, Albert Soloden; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.

Deceased:

Local 4—Richard Wester, Roger F. Clark, Jerry Cowen, Stanley Slyter, Stephen Flanagan; Local 10—Fred Washington, Charles White, Margaret May; Local 13—Lawrence Quaidy, David McCorkick, Albert Soloden; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.

Deceased:

Local 4—Richard Wester, Roger F. Clark, Jerry Cowen, Stanley Slyter, Stephen Flanagan; Local 10—Fred Washington, Charles White, Margaret May; Local 13—Lawrence Quaidy, David McCorkick, Albert Soloden; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.

Deceased:

Local 4—Richard Wester, Roger F. Clark, Jerry Cowen, Stanley Slyter, Stephen Flanagan; Local 10—Fred Washington, Charles White, Margaret May; Local 13—Lawrence Quaidy, David McCorkick, Albert Soloden; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.

Deceased:

Local 4—Richard Wester, Roger F. Clark, Jerry Cowen, Stanley Slyter, Stephen Flanagan; Local 10—Fred Washington, Charles White, Margaret May; Local 13—Lawrence Quaidy, David McCorkick, Albert Soloden; Local 24—Lawrence Quaidy; Local 28—Grady Loveday; Local 34—Robert Santana; Local 40—James Hollingsworth, Donald Williams; Local 52—Isaac Oliver Jr.; Local 92—Darron Robbines; Local 94—Buddy Ball, Barbara C. Misse, Sherman Clark Jr.; Local 98—Raymond Sherman.
ILWU Book & Video Sale

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

**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. $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
- **The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront** by David Wellman: the important new study of longing in the ILWU. $15.00 (paperback)
- **A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco** by David Seim: 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

**ORDER BY MAIL**

- copies of **ILWU Story** @ 17 ea. = $___
- copies of **The Big Strike** @ 16.50 ea. = $___
- copies of **Workers on the Waterfront** @ 516 ea. = $___
- copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ 155 ea. = $___
- copies of **A Terrible Anger** @ 116.50 ea. = $___
- copies of **We Are the ILWU** @ 15 ea. = $___
- copies of **Life on the Beam** @ 128 ea. = $___
- copies of **The March Inland** @ 19 ea. = $___

Total Enclosed $___

No sales outside the U.S.

Name ____________________________

Street Address or PO Box ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ___________ Zip ____________

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to:

ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow at least four weeks for delivery.

A Helping Hand...

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

**ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION**

- **ADRP—Southern California**
  - Jackie Cummings
  - 870 West Ninth St. #201
  - San Pedro, CA 90731
  - (310) 547-9986

- **ADRP—Northern California**
  - George Cobbs
  - 400 North Point
  - San Francisco, CA 94133
  - (415) 776-8363

- **ADRP—Oregon**
  - Jim Copp
  - 3054 N.E. Glisan, Ste. 2
  - Portland, OR 97232
  - (503) 231-4882

- **ADRP—Washington**
  - Richard Borsheim
  - 506 Second Ave., Rm. 2121
  - Seattle, WA 98104
  - (206) 821-1038

**ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION**

- **DARE—Northern California**
  - Gary Atkinson
  - 22833 Hesperian Blvd., Ste. 277
  - Hayward, CA 94541
  - (800) 772-8288

- **DARE—British Columbia**
  - Bill Bloor
  - 746 Clark Drive, Suite 205
  - Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3
  - (604) 254-7911

**ILWU CANADIAN AREA**

- **EAP—British Columbia**
  - Jim Copp
  - 3054 N.E. Glisan, Ste. 2
  - Portland, OR 97232
  - (503) 231-4882

Bound Dispatchers for sale 2002 Edition Now Available!

Beautiful, hardcover collections of The Dispatcher for 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are now available. These are a must for Locals and individuals keeping a record of the union's activities. Get your copies of the ILWU's award-winning newspaper while the limited supply lasts. Send a check for $50.00 for each volume (year) to The Dispatcher at:

Bound Dispatchers
c/o The Dispatcher
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109