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While the ILWU has been keeping an almost laser-like focus on the November election and the re-election of Bush, the other work of the union continues. It keeps on organizing, negotiating contracts, building solidarity and advocating for its members. In this issue we report on some of this work.

Workers at a landfill in the East Bay city of Livermore, California, laid off on the grounds they were earning less wages than union workers doing the same job at nearby dumps, decided they wanted to join the ILWU and move into a warehouse Local 6 members (see page 9). Even though 13 of the 16 workers in the unit signed cards saying they wanted ILWU representation, Representation Services, ignored their demand. Frustrated, the workers took direct action. They downed their tools and picked up picket signs. With some truckers respecting the line and other union workers joining them, the company relented within a few hours and consented to talk to the union. Within three weeks, they agreed to recognize and bargain with Local 6.

In Hawaii, where nearly everything but the tourists come in by ship, members of the Islandboatmen’s Union, the ILWU’s Marine Division, are essential to the day-to-day economic life of the state. They operate the tugboats that guide the cargo ships to berth at the Port of Honolulu and the barges that then shuttle goods around the islands.

Still, when their contract expired, the employer, Hawaiian Fage & Del Monte (see page 6). Del Monte threatened to send the military to seize the workers and manned the picket lines. In four days they had a deal and took our jobs. He threatened to invoke the dreaded Taft-Hartley injunction should we exercise those rights and strike. And in an unprecedented move he did impose Taft-Hartley on the workers and their union when the employers closed all West Coast ports with their lockout.

His blatant bias and callous disregard for the lives and well-being of working people weren’t demonstrated just in the ILWU’s situation. Every policy he has initiated in the last four years has had that intent and effect. His tax cuts for the rich and subsequent catastrophic budget deficits are aiding working and poor people; his proposals to privatize Social Security and individualize pensions for the good of Wall Street bankers and investors at the expense of workers’ retirement; his war in Iraq that has cost the lives of a thousand sons and daughters of American workers, created a budget deficit of unprecedented size and made the world safer only for oil profits—the list could go on and on. What they all have in common is that the rich get richer and the workers get screwed.

The American labor movement will not likely survive another four years of these policies. And the ILWU, with the longshore contract expiring in the summer of 2008, will be in the crosshairs of a Bush lame duck presidency.

We cannot let this happen and we won’t. As part of our strategic plan the ILWU is working with the AFL-CIO on its nationally coordinated effort to beat Bush. As part of that, like almost every other union in the AFL-CIO, the ILWU will be sending rank-and-file activists to key battleground states to get out the vote, to get the working people of this country to register voters and make sure they get to the polls. (Contacts in your area are listed on page 5.) It is your responsibility not just to vote for Kerry, but to make sure all your friends, family members and neighbors do too.

It is an unfortunate but well-known fact that campaigns of this magnitude require money. For the last few months the ILWU has been raising money for our Political Action Fund and many of our members have already contributed generously. Others have not yet and they need to step up because time is growing short. Instructions on how to make your contribution are on page 10 of this issue of The Dispatcher. You will also be receiving a mailing at home soliciting a political action donation.

We will be using these funds to power our get-out-the-vote effort and to contribute to key Senate and Congressional races around the country, targeting pro-worker candidates so that when Kerry does win the presidency, he’ll have a Congress that will pass his programs.

Do not be discouraged by polls that imply Bush is leading this race. These polls have many statistical irregularities. Mostly they only measure “likely” voters, defined as those who voted in the last election. We have been recruiting many new voters, people who felt disillusioned or powerless in the past, but now, motivated by Bush’s disastrous policies, see the need to get involved. The polls can’t measure the passion of the opposition and the united activism Bush has incited. Remember, the only poll that matters is the one taken on Nov. 2.

Do not let others define the terms of the debate. We’re up against a corporate media machine that sows confusion and blows smoke to cover up the real issues. Some of our members have deeply felt concerns on social issues that may push them towards Bush. It’s up to us to keep the focus on the real stakes in this election. We are fighting to save our unions and any hope of a decent future for the working families of this country.

We will win this election because we must win and because the working people of this country are the majority. And when we unite, organize and mobilize the American labor movement cannot be beaten.

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

More than a year ago the democratically elected delegates to the ILWU International Convention voted resoundingly to make the defeat of George W. Bush in this November’s election our number one priority. Since then, even while doing the day-to-day work of the union, negotiating and administering contracts, organizing new workers and defending our jurisdiction, we have kept our focus on that goal. We have been planning and building toward it, coordinating our collective imagination and energies. Now we are in the final stretch of the race, time to pull out all the stops.

This program is not driven by ideology, by some partisan distaste for a Republican presidency. It comes out of our own experience.

We must never forget how Bush abused the office of the president during our 2002 longshore contract negotiations. He interfered on the side of the employers with the intent of destroying the ILWU. He directly threatened to send the military to seize the docks and take our jobs.

The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) draws 600,000 members from all other unions including the ILWU. Several ILWU International Officers and the International Affairs Director went to the ITF Dockers’ Section Conference in Singapore to build solidarity, confront the threat to seafarers, dock workers and their unions worldwide (see page 7).

Unions always deal with bread-and-butter issues that keep families alive—pay, health care, pensions. But nothing hits closer to home than your house. On Hawaii’s main island of Oahu some 300 people, mostly ILWU pineapple workers and their families, live in a Poamoho Camp, old plantation housing run by their employer Del Monte (see page 6). Del Monte was about to give up its long-term lease on the land and the camp residents faced eviction. But the tight-knit community organized with the help of ILWU Local 142, the ILWU’s Political Action Fund welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 2004.
Black ferry workers targeted, arrested

By Steve Stalnake

Washington State Ferry ticket seller Dana Clark said he was under arrest when, on June 4, a state trooper surrounded his booth, arrested him on tape “commingling funds” and charging him with theft and violating cash/check handling procedures. John B. Rogers, the WSF manager, handed Eaton a suspension letter.

June 4 - 7

“Romain Jackson was the last of the four to arrive at Colman Dock June 6. As he took the elevator to the mezzanine to start his 11:30 p.m shift, that Sunday, he noticed a state trooper with a badge who worked only Monday through Friday, never Saturday. He said, ‘I’m surprised, a state trooper didn’t recognize him by the lobbies door.’ It was a racial tinged set-up,” said Eaton.

Richelle Gregory worked the booth next to Gregory, got arrested at the same time. She was handcuffed and posted to the door with a sign that read “Local 10 President.”

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Richelle Gregory worked the booth next to Gregory, got arrested at the same time. She was handcuffed and posted to the door with a sign that read “Local 10 President.”

Eaton was hauled off to the county jail, informed he was under investigation for theft and released on his own recognizance at 2 a.m.

The other three African American ticket sellers had similar experiences. Richelle Gregory worked the morning shift and was supposed to go home by 1:45 p.m., but her supervisor asked her to stay late. Alcoholics Worked in the ticket booths and told him that there were videotapes of him reselling tickets. Eaton asked for an attorney.

During the interrogation, Steve Rogers, the WSF manager, handed Eaton a suspension letter. The “Notification of Leave Due to Violations” letter instructed him to cooperate with the FBI and permitted him to have an attorney present.

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Make your vote count

Fraud and theft at Florida polling places threw the 2000 election to George Bush, and this sorry story rang a huge wake-up call. A closer look at elections around the country revealed voting rights violations everywhere, from intimidation and lies to spoiled ballots and bad purges of voter rolls.

"Millions were denied their right to vote as much by faulty technology and lack of preparation as by purposeful fraud that breaks to compa- nies that send American jobs overseas. Kerry's plan will lower private health care costs and expand the number of Americans so they get the same coverage as 95 percent of the Black electorate votes 90 percent of the time. Kerry has stated publicly that he agrees with the ILWU that seal checks of container contents should be part of an overall port security strategy. He wants to focus more on terrorist threats and security programs without attacking the civil lib- erties of longshore workers and other workers.

On the critical issue of health care coverage, Kerry plans to extend the affordable health care to 95 percent of the Black electorate votes 90 percent of the time. Kerry has stated publicly that he agrees with the ILWU that seal checks of container contents should be part of an overall port security strategy. He wants to focus more on terrorist threats and security programs without attacking the civil lib- erties of longshore workers and other workers.

The AFL-CIO is producing a "Voters Bill of Rights" tailored to each battleground state and advises union members and activists to take some basic steps to secure their votes:

• Call the local election office to be sure you are registered and know where to vote.

• Be especially sure to check your registered and if you recently changed your name or have not voted recently.

For more information, go to www.mvotemyright.com, e-mail vot- ingrights@aflcio.org or call the AFL- CIO Voter Rights Dept. at 202-637-5270. For a copy of "The Long Shadow of Jim Crow," go to www.plave.org.
Still hanging back, thinking about doing some election work? It's true that a trainer from the AFL-CIO Political Dept. to give core union members a feel-good thing. Sometimes, I go to leave them with more information. That's a feel-good thing."

"Philbrook said. "I always stay a step back, but just tell people we're union volunteers talking to other union members."

Philbrook is one of a half-dozen ILWU members who are helping the AFL-CIO coordinate its work in the battleground states of Washington and Oregon. Dozens of other members in those states are logging miles in precinct walks to educate and register union members. So are members of the Legislative Action Committee, organized by the Legislative Action Committee, with 150 members.

ILWU officers make presence felt at the DNC

The ILWU on all levels has pledged to remove George W. Bush from the White House by organizing union members to register voters and to vote Bush out. The ILWU and their allies are the most organized workers in the country, and the ILWU leadership is well aware of that fact.

"As far as I know this is the first time an international officer of the ILWU has been a delegate," Adams said.

"What impressed me was that finally the Democrats had a loud, clear message. It didn't matter what part of the Democratic Party you were from, we were all on the same page. But Bush was also very eloquent, like Bill Clinton or Barack Obama, everybody was saying the same thing—"it's time for a change. Somehow in America we got off course, and we've got to fix it.""

"Bush ran on theory of being a compassionate conservative and a uniter. Yes, he's united the Democratic Party against him," Adams said.

ILWU officers went to workshops and received training focused on passing legislation and registering voters. They have gathered voter information and are busy trying to build the labor movement's biggest one-day election mobilization ever. They set a goal of fielding 15,000 people to knock on a million doors Sept. 2 while George Bush accepted his nomination at the Republican Convention.

"Forget the stage fright, Philbrook said. "It's easy and it's positive when you go to other unions and tell them to get involved."

"Sometimes I go to leave them with more information," Philbrook said. "It's a feel-good thing."

"Middle America," he said.

"The ILWU plans to send around 400,000 federal jobs, and his Patriot Act threatened military intervention against the ILWU in the 2002 longshore lockout, and more jobs were lost just hanging back than any time since the Great Depression. Massive trade deficits have wiped out U.S. jobs and Bush's tax cuts for the rich have defunded social programs. Add to that an intractable war in the Middle East and limitless defense budget increases and union families have plenty of reasons to be active.

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Hawaii Local 142 has trained more than 130 members to register voters. While the volunteer registrars on Maui are visiting ILWU families at home, registrars on other islands have found they do better talking to coworkers on the job. After the Sept. 12 primary, they will re-focus their efforts towards informing people about the candidates endorsed by the union and getting them to vote. Wherever they go, the ILWU volunteers try to make the union connection and practice respect to win voters over with different priorities.

"When we say we're longshore workers coming out because we want to share this information, it lights people up a bit," said Local 31's Holly Michael, who's brand-new to canvassing. "I try to tell them to just look at the issues and decide for themselves. Sometimes they have other issues like abortion and guns. I tell them people's jobs and supporting our families are important.

"It's easy and it's positive when you go to other unions and tell them to get involved," Philbrook said.

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"The ILWU plans to send around 400,000
LOCAL 142 HELPS MEMBERS KEEP THEIR HOMES

The 300-plus residents of the tight-knit Poamoho Camp community are looking forward to buying their homes instead of losing them, thanks to their own determination and strategic help from ILWU Local 142.

Poamoho is an old pineapple plantation camp run by Del Monte for its Poamoho grew up here, just like me," said Haunani Tyrell, who also was strategic help from ILWU Local 142.

"Many of the people living at Poamoho grew up here, just like me," said Boyd Iose, chair of the ILWU Unit at Del Monte. "We know each other and have a bond. Even though the camp is along the main highway, it's still a little secluded and lets us preserve our country lifestyle with gardens, chickens and other animals." The place has a unique history, said Haunani Tyrell, who also was raised there.

"Poamoho was a great place to grow up," Tyrell said. "We kids could go into anyone's yard, help ourselves to a fruit, play with the animals, talk story. Everyone treated us kids like their own family even though we were of many different cultures. There's no place like Poamoho. I can't imagine it gone. It holds so many fond memories for me. My roots are there."

The union helped the Poamoho residents organize and mobilize political and community support, said Union President Vaeleti Tyrell, who introduced the resolution to either the Poamoho Camp Community Association or another group of the residents' choosing. Poamoho residents rallied at the state capitol and testified at a hearing on the resolutions April 2.

A week and a day later, the residents voted to approve an offer by local housing developer Peter Savio to take over the lease, buy the land, and then sell the homes to them. Details took some time to work out, but by June 12, the residents were ready to celebrate their successful fight against eviction.

At a press conference held before the party that day, Community Assoc. President Vaeleti Tyrell thanked the state legislators who introduced the resolution, their behalf—State Senate President Robert Bunda, State Reps. Marilyn Lee, Michael Magasa and Marcus Oshiro—as well as City Council Chair Donovan dela Cruz and Council member Ann Kobayashi. (The City and County of Honolulu covers the whole island of Oahu.)

HAWAII IBU STRIKES TO WIN

Hawaiian Tug & Barge/Young Brothers played hardball with the Inlandboatmen's Union when contract talks began in early May. They kept it up until the old contract expired June 30 and the 60 IBU members who run the islands' lifeboats walked out on strike. Four days of pickets changed the game. The company agreed to a new deal that gave members the extra time off they needed to make the place become something for profit," Takano said.

Though the ILWU has experience converting plantation camps into affordable housing, the Poamoho project will be challenging, he said. The union is helping the residents find financing and find their way through the maze of permits and paperwork needed to upgrade the 1930s-era homes.

"Residents have a lot of work ahead of us before we can call our homes secure in our homes, but we will continue to work with all parties to save the camp," Tyrell said.

The residents are studying ways to form a cooperative, because they want a structure that will let them keep their community and lifestyle, said ILWU International Rep. Tracy Takano.

"The community supported them preserving their lifestyle and housing, and they feel they shouldn't let the place become something for profit," Takano said.

"We have a fair agreement now," negotiating team chair Kenny Ho said. "We're just looking forward to working hard and making this profitable for us and for the company."

The IBU members at HTB/YB's last, best and final offer fell far short of the union's demands. The company also proposed cutting one crew where the union demanded to create another threat to safety, and making several unacceptable changes in work rules. Not one IBU member voted for the offer.

"We're dealing with Mother Nature and heavy equipment, sometimes working around the clock for days on end. People get injured," he said.

In these conditions, members' safety and well-being depends on adequate rest time. For every day at sea, they accumulate time off, and increasing the accumulation rate became the union's top negotiating goal.

The time off in HTB/YB's last, best and final offer fell far short of the union's demands. The company also proposed cutting one crew which would create another threat to safety, and making several unacceptable changes in work rules. Not one IBU member voted for the offer.

"All different unions were dropping off food and water and walking the lines with us. The ILWU longshore brothers showed solidarity. We also had the ILWU International, AFL-CIO affiliate unions and building trades members with us," he said.

The four-year deal worked out during the strike provides six hours of accumulated time off for each eight hours worked, an increase of two hours over the old rate. It maintains the six-person crew and the employer-paid health benefits, though a co-pay will kick in if costs rise more than 3 percent. It includes a small pension increase after the first year, and cleans up some troublesome work rules.

Union members voted 42-1 to accept the deal early in the morning of July 4, and returned to work immediately.

Marcy Rein
ITF Dockers' Section Meets in Singapore

Dockworkers from around the world spent two days at International Transport Workers Federa-
tion (ITF) Dockers' Section Conference in Singapore July 13 and 14, planning to defeat port privatiza-
tion, protect seafarers' shore leave and ensure the new maritime security system does not de-
unionize seafarers.

The ITF, representing 9 million workers from 600 unions in 140 countries, said it was opposed to port deregulation.

ILWU International Council said in its statement, "Bizarrely, this is the 5 million transport workers from 600 unions in 140 countries who marched the last November. Another bargaining session worldwide if they got the chance. But the issue is money, both the seafarers and the contractors, as opposed to those who directly work for the firm.

ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft met with the seven internat-
ional ship owners' associations. Together ship owners and the ITF will meet with U.S. ambassadors or consulates to find ways to ensure seafarers' rights to shore leave.

"The world of shipping is united in its concern that innocent seafarers are being treated like terrorists," Cockcroft said in his statement. "Bizarrely, this is the only way to do it, out of sea ISPS Code, a measure that tightens into a race to the bottom in wages and conditions.

The UN's International Maritime Organization recently passed the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code, a measure that tightens port security and imposes strict security regu-

"Okay, the final step says to dismantle the whole thing and ship the jobs overseas."

Demonstrators Denounce Sweatshop Suppliers to Levi Strauss, Wal-Mart

Workers who make Levi's jeans for Wal-Mart in Haiti want to join a union, a score of anti-sweatshop "dockers" from nearby border and entered the Grupo workers from Sonoma, Calif.

Gallo's 400 wine grape workers have threatened to strike immediately at the port since last Nov. 1. Another bargaining session will meet with U.S. ambassadors or consulates to find ways to ensure seafarers' rights, to shore leave.

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Recently United Airlines announced it will abandon the 401(k) plan, the corporate-governmental strategy of the last 20 years has succeeded in eliminating so many defined-benefit plans it is a question of whether the PBGC itself is about to go broke. Yet the current crisis in group pensions is far from over. Some 45 million workers and retirees are at risk of losing their pension benefits from the PBGC as the fund will run out of money to pay for future retirees' benefits by the end of 2006. According to the PBGC, there were 112,000 defined-benefit pension plans in 1983. Today there are only around 31,000 such plans.

CURRENT CRISES IN GROUP PENSION PLANS

Most American workers covered by group pension plans have been victims of union pension plans. Between 1974 and 2003, more than 164,000 defined benefit plans have gone under in the US Some 65,000 failed between 1975 and 1985. Most went down during the Reagan era of 1981-85, because of the efforts of the "runaway shops," corporate restructuring and "right-sizing" of the plans. From 1986 to 2000, more than 3,600 plans were closed, leaving workers with only 53 percent participated and many more have dropped out since.

The PBGC, the federal corporation that insures defined benefit pensions, will itself be forced into bankruptcy should it have to assume the nearly $8.5 billion of other companies' unfunded pension obligations. It alone will be forced to assume all the risks if the company or stock market fails. Because the PBGC is not funded by the federal corporation that insures pensions, in today's economic environment it is not an option to raise $8.5 billion in new capital. And it will not have any dollars under the imminent, large scale abandonments.

The Bush administration's decision this year to speed their decline, including one that plans to freeze $50 billion in pay-Helper's response to this growing crisis has been to go after individual retirement plans as a "contribution holiday." In April 2004, the administration issued a proposal that would mean an extra $215,000 in the worker's account upon retirement. Employees at Enron Corporation, who lost more than $2 billion when that company went bankrupt in 2002, worsened the $18.4 billion as recently as 1999, and it doesn't even include other business ventures. PBGC alone will generate $1.1 trillion in surplus between now and 2018. The PBGC will itself be forced into bankruptcy if the PBGC evaporates, the corporation will itself become insolvent at some point. By 2007, the PBGC deficit will be $404 billion as of the end of 2003.

The Bush response to this growing crisis has been to go after individual retirement accounts with troubled pension plans a "contribution holiday." In April 2004, it issued regulations that would allow people to withdraw their money from "paper-fixed" plans so it will be available to make offshore investments, to stimulate stock and bond markets and to fund other businesses. It is not just Social Security Group Pension plans. Between 1974 and 2003, more than 160,000 defined benefit plans have gone under in the US Some 65,000 failed between 1975 and 1985. Most went down during the Reagan era of 1981-85, because of the "runaway shops," corporate restructuring and "right-sizing" of the plans. From 1986 to 2000, more than 3,600 plans were closed, leaving workers with only 53 percent participated and many more have dropped out since.

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LANDFILL WORKERS SCORE STRIKING WIN

LIVERMORE, CA—All they wanted was union recognition. They walked out July 16 to get it. Their boss locked them out for two anxious hours. But the workers at Republic Services' Vasco Road Landfill held on.

"Every hour we're out here is food out of our kids' mouths," said Gigi Velles, the office worker at the landfill who joined her union counterparts "to want what's fair, nothing more and nothing less.

Ten weeks earlier, the workers asked management to recognize ILWU warehouse Local 6 as their bargaining representative. Five hundred and others workers signed a petition demanding that the company respect their decision. Florida-based Republic agreed, which employs 13,000 people at landfills and other waste management sites nationwide, declined to respond. Most other landfill workers in the area work under contracts with Local 6 or the Teamsters. All do better than the Las Vegas Road crews. 

"We need better wages and medical care to support our families," said Antonio Flores, the front-end equipment operator. Local 6 members at Altamont Landfill, just six miles away, earn $6.28 per hour more in medical and pension benefits alone. Heavy equipment operators typically make between $18 and $24 per hour.

"We're not in it from Republic's customers backed up the workers' direct action for recognition. The cities of Berkeley and Emeryville, which employ respectively 13,000 and 1,000 workers at the landfill and we certainly hope to port our families," said Antonio Velles, the office worker at the Vasco Road crews.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates wrote to the company supervisors asking each person politely if they were ready to go back to work. But they wouldn't. Bates then asked the union to driver the City of Berkeley trucks. After two-and-a-half days, as they prepared a delegation to management, the other workers responded back to work, only to be told not to return.

"The officers, the officers on the onestand union non-members union at Kaiser in Portland. Their co-work-ers, contract out their work and set to hire new people for their disposal. Kaiser forged the partnership in place, the officers' -a -frame base on narrow technical issues to bring uniform -cleaning contract fights and strikes. The part-nership committed the company to do business in organizing campaigns and creates labor-management commit-tees at all levels of operation. In return, the unions agreed to help market Kaiser services.

For years the company signed a recognition agreement. In this type of contract fights and strikes. The part-nership committed the company to do business in organizing campaigns and creates labor-management commit-tees at all levels of operation. In return, the unions agreed to help market Kaiser services.

In 2004, the company signed a recognition agreement. In this type of "Workers all over are still having benefits taken away by cheap employers who make them ICs, and that's a definite move backwards on workers' rights," said Debi Barbour said during the drive.

"People have quit because they saw the picture, their raises have lagged behind those given to union workers. They've been laid off, but not the union. They've watched management heap on new tasks, contract out their work and shuffle their shifts.

"Because we're not union, every-head back to the road and threw up the line again.

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecora recently reclassified its work-ers to independent contractors. Since the ILWU filed unfair labor practic-es, which the Board upheld. Kaiser argued the union had majority sup-port in 2000 and the company's crimes were so serious it should be ordered to bargain a contract.

Two years later, a three-member NLRB panel returned a party-line decision. The two Republican appointees voted to bargain- ing order on narrow technical grounds. The one Democrat argued strong rationale that the Board's "The Bush Board's decision in First Legal荧 usted would be overturned. First Legal荧 usted would be overturned.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council cited this case in its stinging rebuke to the Bush appointees. "The Bush Board's decision in First Legal荧 usted would be overturned. First Legal荧 usted would be overturned. Kaiser sues them at work. Still, Kaiser was downsizing the security force and filling in the gaps with contractors. "They were using contractors and more of our people less," said Jerry Hardman, also a shop steward. Every year there was the fear we'd be wholesale contracted out. Kaiser and the other organizing committee members first met with ILWU International Organizer Bill Stu Velas in February. After a few months of quiet base-building, they got 50 of their 90 co-workers signed on to a recognition petition and authorization cards in just two-and-a-half days. As they prepared to hand deliver to management, the other unions in the partnership—SEIU, the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals and the Oregon Nurses Association—contacted health-care workers on their behalf. Management wouldn't go with card-check recognition, but agreed to stay neutral and have the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service run an election. On May 17, the officers voted 46 to 5 to join Local 28, which also represents the watchmen at the Port of Portland.

Negotiations began less than a week later, using an "endless game of chicken" process. In this type of negotiations, the two sides start with nothing they agree on how to split up the table, then move to the higher items.

"Everybody treated everybody else in a very professional manner," Rudo said. They emerged with a deal that gave them 13 percent wage increases over three years and 20 percent hikes in pension. Kaiser agreed to bring contracted work back into the unit and to bring uniform-clearing in-house, which will save about $100 per month for full-time officers. The security officers voted to join the partnership coalition, so they now enjoy the strong job security protections in the national partnership agreement. They also sit on commit-tees to hire new people for their department, make the schedule and plan for a new clinic.

"We will be able to raise security issues ahead of time, have some say on safety and let other employees know more of what we do," said Barbard. "We're very excited about that." -Marcy Rein

CONTRACTING SCAMS TAKE HITS

Two recent decisions by state and federal agencies slapped courier companies that "converted" their employ-ees to independent contractors. Since the ILWU began organizing with bike messengers and drivers five years ago, several companies have used this scheme to cut costs and undercut unionizing efforts. Everyone longer have to pay workers' comp and disability for con-tractors and the law bars them from organizing them. They also have to pay more taxes and lose the protection of wage and hour laws. They aren't even guaranteed a minimum wage.

King Courier reclassified its workers as independent contractors in September 2002. King's bicycle mes-sengers began organizing to protest the conversions. The company retracted by firing four active union supporters.

Three of the four challenged the conversion in court. The Portland and a federal agency slapped the company with a $10,000 and $12,000 each and held the company, the two owners and the National Independent Contractor Association (NICA) all liable. Kaiser argued the company companies, turned to NICA to help with their contractor "conversion." NICA argued the workers were independent contractors, and advises employers on how to run their companies without being "caught" by the ILWU. Kaiser then reclassified its workers as ICs, and that's a definite move backwards on workers' rights. 

First Legal Support Services Illegally converted its employees to contractors to sidestep an ILWU organizing drive in November 2000. The company also threatened, harassed and coerced the union members first met with the company. After a few months of quiet base-building, they got 50 of their 90 co-workers signed on to a recognition petition and authorization cards in just two-and-a-half days. As they prepared to drive to management, the other unions in the partnership—SEIU, the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals and the Oregon Nurses Association—contacted health-care workers on their behalf. Management wouldn't go with card-check recognition, but agreed to stay neutral and have the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service run an election. On May 17, the officers voted 46 to 5 to join Local 28, which also represents the watchmen at the Port of Portland.

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Several trucks turned around on twisting, treacherous Vasco Road rather than cross the line of landfill workers on strike to get ILWU Local 6 recognized.

PARTNERSHIP OPENS DOOR FOR KAISER SECURITY

"We have a voice now," said veter-ans security officer and Kaiser shop steward Tommy Rudd. "Before the union, we didn't.

Rudd and other members of the security staff at Portland-area Kaiser medical facilities ratified a first con-tract with ILWU security officers on July 28-July 15, not quite two months after they voted to join the union.

Before the union vote, the officers stood out as the last non-union group at Kaiser in Portland. Their co-work-ers, residents and patients and staff to the health-care giant's "Labor Management Partnership." With the partnership in place, the officers drive unraveled without the union-bashing, bickering and stalling by man-agement that usually scar elections and negotiations.

Kaiser forged the partnership with five international unions and 28 locals in 1997, after a series of bitter contract fights and strikes. The part-nership commits the company to do business in organizing campaigns and creates labor-management commit-tees at all levels of operation. In return, the unions agreed to help market Kaiser services.

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The ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco Aug. 26 and 27, reviewed the union’s finances, considered the new organizing strategies and finalized plans for the union’s work on the November elections.

International Secretary-Treasurer Wilie Adams, and the Trustees, prepared for November election the union’s finances, considered the union’s work on the November elections. The ILWU’s 32nd International Convention adopted the 2004 budget. The increases will most likely be covered by the per capita of an expanding membership, especially the registration of new longshore workers.

The convention’s National Organizing Committee, overseen by International Vice President, Mainland Bob Morrison, elected International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado, has hired back former Organizing Director Peter Olney to run the program again. Olney outlined his department’s new strategic approach to organizing.

The program will build on and amplify the ILWU’s current jurisdictions, selecting targets where the union has leveraged its strength, what will build full union coverage. The International will form an Organizing Committee composed of IEB members and local leaders from all areas and divisions to get their input and support for the program. All members will be coordinated, going after costwise targets whenever possible, and in a disciplined and accountable fashion.

“We want to go after numbers that make sense in a program you understand and can ask questions about,” Olney told the board.

The board backed up its action of last April endorsing Sen. John Kerry for President by unanimously passing a Statement of Policy explaining the union’s support for Kerry (see statement below).

Local 63 Secretary Peter Pyton laid out the union’s plans for the November election. The ILWU, in coordination with the AFL-CIO, will be sending about 50 members to swing states to help with Kerry’s campaign, as well as demonstrating member activity in Oregon and Washington (see story page 5).

Longshore Local 10 and Northern California area IEB member Lawrence Thibeaut presented a resolution asking the board to endorse the Million Worker March, a non-partisan demonstration with pro-worker demands scheduled for Oct. 17, 2004, in Washington, D.C. The action’s initiators, Local 10 Executive Board member Thomas, argued the case for the union’s support. The march would support to ILWU's PAF. Bush, Thomas said, since its wide-ranging demands of universal health care, workers’ rights and ending the Iraq war would still be needed no matter which one won the election.

Various board members opposed the motion, arguing that while they supported the positions of the march, organizing for an October event would divert energy and resources from what was a union’s number one priority—defeating Bush. The board decisively turned down the motion, and Thomas compone one to donate $150,000 to organizing the march, on a voice vote.

Statement of Policy: ILWU endorses Kerry

Not since the days of Senator Joe McCarthy have U.S. workers found themselves so destroy- ing and dismantling the American labor movement as the administration of George W. Bush. Every event, no matter how tragic or per- verse, from Sept. 11th to the Iraq war, has been used as an excuse to harass and intimidate working people not only in this country but throughout the world.

From his tax cuts for the rich, free trade policies, and international excursions alienating many former friends, Bush has destroyed in a few years what took decades to build. His wars harming innocent civilians outside financial trouble. And there are the friends, Bush has destroyed in a few years what took decades to build. His wars harming innocent civilians overseas, and the ILWU's current jurisdictions, selecting targets where the union has leveraged its strength, what will build full union coverage. The International will form an Organizing Committee composed of IEB members and local leaders from all areas and divisions to get their input and support for the program. All members will be coordinated, going after costwise targets whenever possible, and in a disciplined and accountable fashion.

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PENSION ASSAULT

seas and his no-bid contracts for his corporate friends are virtually bank- noting the national single-payer health care proposal, Bush, which is available for pre- ordering from his website: http://www.kyklosproductions.com, along with offerings of other plans, books, music and videos.

If all these schemes continue, an even larger number of defined-benefit plans will become financially unviable and have to be taken over by the PBGC. And as the PBGC’s losses accumulate, and stable plans continue to opt out, it will be unable to survive without a massive government bail-out. When this point is reached, the Bush administration will recommend legislation similar to that planned for Social Security—legislation that will allow, or even require, companies and workers in defined benefit plans to transfer their contributions and/or their remaining accrued funds into individual retirement accounts.

The Republicans and conserva- tives in Washington are intent on using the crisis to provide more hand- outs and subsidies for their corporate friends at the expense of the public. And they will attempt to use the crisis as an excuse for a radical restructur- ing of the pension system in America.

The ILWU International Execu- tive Board hereby goes on record fully supporting the candidacy of John Kerry for President of the United States. The ILWU’s International Convention committed support for a national single-payer health care pro- gram. It would go further than the proposals to back other measures necessary to improve health care coverage for everyone. Kerry’s plan would significantly reduce the majority of Americans, far better than anything the Bush Administration has proposed. Kerry’s opposition to the Bush’s proposal to privatize Medicare and push seniors into HMOs, as well as his support to expand prescription drug benefits without reducing coverage for those who have it in their union contracts.

John Kerry supports expanded funding for public education, lifting higher pay for teachers. He opposes the concept of vouchers that are nothing more than a band-aid aiding only a small segment of society.

While Kerry supports free trade agreements that would require strong labor and environmen- tal standards in all future negotia- tions, another huge difference from the Bush Administration.

The labor movement has incorpo- rated a tendency to quickly and easi- ly trade off its endorsements, money and volunteers without getting suffi- cient guarantees for its positions in return. If Kerry is elected president, the ILWU will commit itself to making him accountable for all promises to labor and will continue to push him to be accountable on issues surrounding health care, outsourcing, port security and free trade agreements (the upcoming CAPTA agreement).

The ILWU International Execu- tive Board hereby goes on record fully endorsing the candidacy of John Kerry for President of the United States.
Bloody Thursday remembered along the Coast

SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly 200 people gathered at longshore Local 10’s hall to remember the first Bloody Thurs- day, exactly 70 years before on July 5, 1934. This annual commemoration is marked by longshore Local 10 President Joe Mosely reading the proclamation making Kagel an honorary member of the

“Ruth Brown volunteered, and the Local 13 ID casual longshore workers put in hard work for the day,” Serrato said. “But Bloody Thursday isn’t about the food, it’s about the history. It was about the men who built and the old timers who built this union. I believe this is the strongest union in the world, and it’s up to us to hold it together, because it looks like times are coming back to 1934.”

San Pedro—Peck Park in San Pedro brims with ILWU families and friends for the remembrance of Bloody Thursday July 5. As many as 3,000 turned out, according to the ever-changing crowd at longshore Local 13’s Dave Serrato.

It was the 70th anniversary, Serrato said, but still a family event with rides, clowns, old time car shows, music and a few speeches. Greetings from LA Mayor Hahn and his sister, Janece Hahn, Council member, closed the barbeque event.

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Pensioners’ Chair Evertt Roberts and Pensioners’ Club came down to his- toric Bloody Thursday.

Local 10 past President Joe Mosely read the proclamation making Kagel an honorary member of the

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