

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



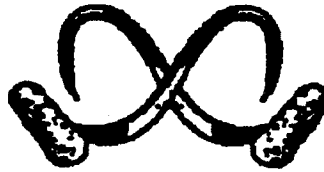
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**MEETINGS:**

October	7
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## WHO WILL BLINK?

When James Spinoso asked the question about why Bush was threatening to use the military against West Coast waterfront workers when fighting a war against terrorism he made a connection between war against enemies overseas and what Bush and most of the corporate world considers an enemy at home. To them unionism is an enemy at home. That is true because it challenges corporate profits. They think all wages should be kept at subsistence level, or in many instances nowadays below. That's the level where wages were before unions began the slow, dangerous, painful struggle to organize, strike and make some gains. They were fought at every turn. In fact the first labor law enacted in the US was one declaring unions illegal conspiracies. Most corporations believe the same today. Bush agrees.

It was not until after the Great Depression and World War II that unions gained legitimacy under the Wagner Labor Relations Act and its National Labor Relations Board. And that came only as a result of huge mass unemployment movements and riots in the streets during the depression and millions of workers striking after World War II. But the corporations never gave up. With their millions in campaign contributions and high paid lobbyist's those hard won gains were whittled away with passage of the Taft-Hartley Act and other legislation infringing on labors' rights and finally Bush appointing bureaucrats opposed to all union rights. Bush and his corporate bosses will try to break the ILWU and start the whole process of lowering living standards as close to the subsistence level as it was before '34.

They never give up.

But Bush's corporatism cannot win. The ILWU will survive his anti union conniving and troops. We have the most powerful force in the world on our side - the strength of solidarity. Unions everywhere are pledging support. Central to that is full backing of Teamsters, the East Coast ILA, the national AFL-CIO, and central labor councils all along the coast. But more than that there are 200 local unions overseas ready to back us all the way. More than that we have the full backing of the International Transport Workers Federation Dockers Section representing 400,000 dockworkers in 170 countries. They would all like to see the butt kicker get a come uppance. If that happens we think it will something very big and something very new might appear. We can imagine that: A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE because we will begin to see that curbing corporate power is the way to go. Working people and people everywhere are getting fed up. They're tired of corporate CEOs getting untold millions of dollars for little effort while millions have to work hard and scrape to get by. People are tired of being jerked around by more and more demands on their time and energy - of 24/7.

A victory for unionism and a defeat for Bushism would put the people in a position to explore the idea of having a better world - a world free of war, poverty, and disease. A world rid of anti-democracy, anti-welfare, discrimination, recession, unemployment, poor education of youth, anti-environment, and - you name it!

## WHO WILL BLINK?

*From pg. 1*

But what is most important is the central role of our membership. We are the ones who play the key role in forcing the PMA to back away from an all or nothing position. From the very beginning they have said, "agree with all our demands or we will lock you out." That is not a negotiating position. That is a union busting position. They know we will never agree to sign our own death warrant.

So we are now working without a contract. Basically each side is waiting to see if the other will take the next step. Will we go on strike? Will the PMA pull a lockout? Neither side is ready to make that decision. Who will blink? If the PMA goes lockout they put themselves at a decided disadvantage. They would be the bad guys in the eyes of the public, related industries and of course the entire labor movement. They will be seen as the disrupters of positive labor relations. Even Bush could not support that. Of course a lockout could bring Bush intervention on the side of PMA. That may be their hold card. But even then, they still remain the trouble-makers and Bush's anti-labor position would be crystal clear for all to see.

Will our union hit the bricks? If we do we will only do so because the PMA refuses to bargain in good faith. We might shut down the docks but we would do it for a different reason than the PMA. In contrast to the PMA we are fighting for our union existence and our welfare as workers. We would be striking to hold our own. The PMA and Bush are fighting to return to nonunion conditions on the waterfront. In that case we have the advantage of fairness and striking to enforce the long tradition of positive labor relations on the waterfront. It would not be hard to make our case for public support, for strong union support and even from some sections of PMA employers who are anxious to continue making greater profits from increasing global trade under a fair contract. In this situation the PMA is the disrupter - we are the good guys.

What then if neither side chooses to make the fatal move - strike or lockout? In that case we continue to work. We can do that for some time to come. In this case time seems to be on our side, unless there is a new terrorist crisis or Bush declares war against Iraq. If either happens Bush will declare a national emergency and we don't know how that will work out. We would probably continue working by federal orders presumably under the present contract until the emergency is lifted. When the emergency will be lifted depends on the wishes, strength and determination of the people who will oppose an indefinite extension of warfare without end.

Then the proposition that,  
A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE comes alive!

## WHERE PROFITS COME FROM

It is generally considered that profits come from investment of money in industry, finance or agriculture. Few would question that.

But there is another form of Investment that is seldom recognized but which is just as important - labor. Labor is taken for granted - sort of as a recipient of the product of industrial production when jobs are available, that is. It is easy to think there would be no jobs if there weren't factories to offer jobs. Nowadays we see jobs being lost by the thousands as factories close or cut production - or, as a functioning factory cuts work force in order to increase profits.

We seldom ask the question, how does the factory get there in the first place? It gets there by the efforts of labor. It does not get there by a financier putting some money on the site and waiting for the factory to take root and grow. The only thing that makes it grow is labor. The same goes for all the materials used and the transportation of the materials to the site. Labor digs the ore, cuts down the trees, produces all the other necessary materials needed and transports them.

Now this is not to say that money is not necessary for production. But it is to say labor is a totally indispensable ingredient in all productivity. Every capitalist agrees that profit depends upon labor productivity. This is the only reason the PMA is demanding the introduction of technological innovation in checking. It makes the necessary labor part of production less expensive and increases profits by replacing workers with technological instruments. This is the rule under the capitalist system. - founded on profits legal or illegal. We recognized that when we signed the M&M agreement in 1960.

For instance take a look at the very small share of productivity that goes to workers in the maritime industry as compared to shipping line income. By 1967 before M&M got fully under way longshore workers got \$2.62 for every \$100 of cargo. Now those workers get 30 cents in wages for every \$100 of cargo. If benefits are added in, they get 55 cents. Productivity was enormously increased and so were profits. In other words the shipping lines are not hurting. Their labor costs have gone through the floor. Yet as the system operates they want more and more. Where and when will it end? It will end when we take the profit system out of society. \*

\* Above information from the Weekly Peoples world.

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### US AND THEM

A period of negotiations such as at present between our union and the employers - between the ILWU and the PMA - brings on serious examination of our relations with them, the employers. In a relatively peaceful period after a contract has been signed for a certain period, say three years, we begin to feel everyone is getting along fine. We are making good money, the shipping lines are making good money and, except for occasional grievances that are settled peacefully, everybody is getting along pretty good. Of course the contract needs some amendments here and there and that is taken care of in the next round of negotiations.

This is pretty much the way waterfront labor relations have been since 1948. Those conditions came about from long and bitter labor struggles led by our union from 1934 to 1948 in which the employers were finally forced to accept the union and bargain in good faith.

**WHY CANNOT WE CONTINUE ON THAT SUCCESSFUL PATH?**

We cannot continue that way because the employers have decided to disrupt the whole program and roll back the clock to 1934. They are doing so for one simple reason - MORE PROFIT. One might say that more profit is the goal of every industry. The recent "scandals" of corporate crime and fraud shows to what lengths they will go by inventing profits that don't exist and thereby fleecing workers and small stockholders of millions of hard earned dollars.

**IN OTHER WORDS INCREASED PROFITS COME FROM FLEEING WORKERS BY LEGAL OR ILLEGAL MEANS!**

Is that what the PMA is up to in the present negotiations? We are not saying the PMA is using the criminal methods of the Enrons, Worldcom, etc., but we are saying the result is the same - lowering the wages and incomes of waterfront workers. Crime, by whatever name stinks just as rotten.



We need to stop such gouging of our living standard by the PMA.

**SUPPORT OUR UNION WHATEVER IT TAKES.  
IT'S FIGHT OR LOSE!**

### COMMENDATIONS

We wish to commend two University of Washington professors, Michael Honey, Chair of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, and David Olson, Political Science, who boldly came out in the Seattle papers in defense of the ILWU position in our negotiations with PMA. They condemned any attempt by President Bush to intervene. Federal intervention, they said, would be on the side of PMA and totally unfair to ILWU. It would violate the principle of collective bargaining.

They have willingly joined the growing support our union is gaining around the world. When the present struggle is finished, we will remember their support for a long time to come. Their example sets a precedent that leads to growing support for labor's cause.

We salute them with many thanks!

### HARD-WON LABOR RIGHTS ARE WELL WORTH PROTECTING

By Michael Honey

Nothing is more fundamental to America's conception of itself than the freedom of speech and assembly. Unions, declared illegal in the early years of the republic, have fought for those rights for three centuries. But unionists have still not entirely won the most basic right: to organize at the workplace and to protest bad conditions by refusing to work.

Ever since President Reagan terminated 11,000 striking air traffic controllers, existing unions have been under attack and workers organizing on the job have faced harassment and firing. The worker's right to freedom of speech and action, won in the Wagner Act of 1935, has been nearly shredded.

The new political context makes the weakening of labor rights even more alarming. After 20 years of smashing unions and massive profit taking by CEOs, followed by tax cutting that has turned government surpluses into deficits, workers are fighting back. But we will now undoubtedly be told that some unions are too strong and we can't afford their demands.

Most worrisome, the Bush administration seems to have the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and perhaps other unions, in its sights. Not since Reagan has anyone threatened such a bold attack on unions as we are

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### HARD-WON LABOR RIGHTS ARE WELL WORTH PROTECTING

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hearing about during ILWU negotiations for a new contract with shippers. Abrogating the right to strike through federal intervention, breaking up the unified bargaining pattern of ILWU contracts or simply making unionists work at the point of a gun all seem to be government options if ILWU workers are locked out by employers or go on strike.

The administration's threat to use the law or troops to abort a longshore strike before it even happens -- justified, as is everything else, in the name of "homeland security" -- effectively undercuts collective bargaining. It comes in the wake of chilling police violence against people protesting the programs of global economic elites in Seattle, Genoa, Washington, D.C., and Toronto.

A successful attack on the ILWU, we can be sure, would be another heavy blow to the entire American labor movement and add a frightening new element to the president's increasingly anti-democratic "war on terror."

The struggles of this particular union are especially important. In the 1930s civil war over the battle for worker rights, police shot down longshore workers in San Francisco when they organized and went on strike.

Yet, under the leadership of Harry Bridges, the ILWU turned ~~abused and poverty-stricken workers~~ considered "wharf rats" into proud, well-paid workers.

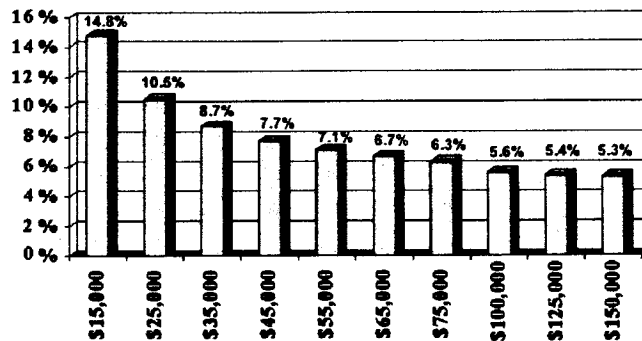
Its success opened up the right of workers to organize throughout the West Coast region. The ILWU subsequently helped employers modernize the waterfronts, maintained an independent stance toward government and sustained worker democracy within its own ranks. It is a powerful union, and its members do very well as a result.

Those gains can be wiped out, however. The government and even the AFL-CIO itself nearly destroyed the ILWU by persecuting it during the Communist scare and trying for some 20 years to deport Bridges as a subversive. The ILWU not only survived, but also became one of the strongest unions in America. It is too strong for the taste of George Bush.

I don't speak for unions, only for myself. But I think people today will not be silent in the face of attacks on union rights, as too many were when Reagan destroyed the air controller's union. Already, thousands of us have joined in demonstrations all over the West Coast to support the ILWU's right to free collective bargaining without government interference.

In the Pacific Northwest -- home to the free-speech fights of the Industrial Workers of the World ("Wobblies") in Spokane, Centralia and Everett, to the Seattle General Strike of

### State and Local Tax Burden on Washington Families According to Family Income, 2000



Source: Washington State department of Revenue. Burden is calculated post-1-695.

1919 and to the massive WTO protest of 1999 -- people are especially aware that upholding labor rights is at the heart of maintaining and expanding democracy.

What happens on the waterfront, at Boeing or at any number of other labor hotspots is important to all of us. Whether one belongs to a union or agrees or disagrees with a particular strike, it is in the interest of the great majority of us to protect hard-won labor rights.

Martin Luther King Jr. explained that there is no such thing as partial freedom: Either you have it or you don't. As he told us, the right to organize is "the right to protest for right."

If the government undercuts that right by chopping down one individual or group, the rest of us will ultimately pay the price in lost liberties. King died to protect labor rights, in a worker's strike for union recognition and better conditions in Memphis. As we approach Labor Day, we should remember that we can't afford to lose our labor rights, for without them we may also lose our freedom of thought, speech, political action and other democratic rights.

### ADMINISTRATION SHOULD KEEP CLEAR OF DOCK FIGHT

By David J. Olson

Turmoil and conflict between employers and workers mark this Labor Day. From teachers in public schools, machinists at Boeing, graduate students at the University of Washington, to Mariner baseball players, worker unrest has been seemingly pervasive.

The Bush administration remains preoccupied with fighting terrorism and threatening unilateral warfare against Iraq, with little heed given to domestic ferment among workers, except in the case of West Coast waterfront workers. Bush administration responses to the current impasse between longshore workers and their employers give little cause for reassurance, and instead are poorly timed,

**ADMINISTRATION SHOULD KEEP CLEAR OF DOCK FIGHT**

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ill-considered, inflammatory and counterproductive.

The specter of pitched battles on the waterfront haunts West Coast ports handling cargo shipments critical to the national economic recovery. A work stoppage would cost the nation an estimated \$1 billion per day, equaling 7 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Relative peace over the past 30 years might soon give way to the first waterfront strike since 1971. Current negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), representing waterfront workers, and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), representing ship owners and terminal operators, are stalled. There is no evidence of a slowdown in cargo handling, but both sides have stockpiled strike funds and made strike contingency plans.

Some issues still on the bargaining table are familiar: wages and benefits; retiree pay and health benefits; contract work rules; and outsourcing union jobs. The PMA also wants to abolish the local arbitration system.

The PMA demands introduction of new technologies to enhance productivity. Projections have trade between Asia and the U.S. doubling in the next 10 years, but West Coast ports are land-scarce. Already congestion is frequent, as truck and train compete for port access. New information technologies (IT) promise quicker gate check-ins and electronic cargo-tracking, thereby replacing union workers. The ILWU insists that the new, information-based jobs created by IT fall within its jurisdiction.

The ILWU has a reputation as adaptive to new technologies, dating to the widely heralded "Modernization and Mechanization" agreement in the early 1960s that launched the new container shipping technology. In return, the ILWU secured agreement that longshore pay would rise with productivity gains, and existing workers would receive guaranteed pay as their numbers declined. The numbers went from 100,000 workers in 1960 to 10,500 in 2002, and the current compensation ranges rose to between \$80,000 and \$158,000 annually, making them the highest paid blue-collar workers in the country. This is a proud and prosperous union: The former "wharf rats" are now "lords of the dock."

Why no agreement on new technology in return for concessions this time? A first answer is that the complex PMA change proposals require time and deliberation to reach agreement.

A second answer points to the ham-handed behavior of the Bush administration.

Prior administrations wisely stayed clear of bargaining between the powerful PMA and the militant ILWU. But not the Bush administration.

Here is the story. A third party, calling itself the West Coast Waterfront Coalition (WCWC), whose shipper members feared a slowdown, strike or lockout, turned to the Bush administration for intervention. The White House formed an initially secret task force. Members of the task force threatened to: invoke the 80-day cooling off period under the Taft Hartley Act; place the ILWU under the Railway Labor Act; use U.S. Navy personnel to work and the National Guard to patrol the docks; and break up the ILWU master contract. The master contract dates to the famous 1934 strike and covers the entire West Coast longshore workforce: It is near sacred to the ILWU. Any attacks on it are fighting words to the ILWU members. If the fight comes, chaos will rule the waterfront.

The ILWU responded to Bush administration interventions by organizing large demonstrations in West Coast port cities and it mobilized alliances previously formed with the Teamsters, the International Longshore Association on the East Coast, and dockworkers from abroad.

It is Bush administration fantasy that Teamsters will haul hot cargo worked by non-union workers, and ignorance to believe a West Coast work stoppage won't trigger ILA action on the East Coast. Recruiting replacement workers will be difficult, and, once on the job, their productivity will lag as they lack the skills and training of the ILWU. Nor will the ILWU wilt. Priding itself in its international orientation, democratic practice and racial integration, this is a globally oriented union with historical and reciprocal alliances ensuring boycotts of scab-loaded ships.

The timing of the Bush intervention interrupts the bargaining process, and its threats inflame workers' passions. Just why should workers bargain in good faith when the government has already forecast its position in case of a slowdown or a strike, and has sided with employers regardless of the outcome of negotiations?

*Continued on Pg. 6*

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**Special message to all lifetime members.**

Lifetime membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Conventions.

The assessment is \$3.00 per year .

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### ADMINISTRATION SHOULD KEEP CLEAR OF DOCK FIGHT

From Pg. 5

The sane course for the Bush administration is to back off, leave well enough alone, allow the bargaining process to resume and retire to the sidelines, rather than interject itself into labor disputes with bluster and threats.

### IS THIS WHAT WE WANT FROM A GLOBAL ECONOMY?

► Up to 2.5 billion people lack adequate food, clean water, sanitation, housing, medical care, education, transportation and energy sources.

► More than 40 poor countries are unable to invest in basic human services because of their debt service payments to banks.

► 37 million people are out of work in the industrial countries alone.

► The 225 richest people in the world own assets worth over \$1 trillion, equaling the annual income of the poorest 47% of the world's population.

King County has 11 of the world's billionaires.

Sources; United Nations; *Human Development Report, 1998 / United for a fair Economy, 1999*

### FEWER PEOPLE OWN MORE WEALTH

► 1976: richest 10% of the population owns 50% of all wealth.

► 1997: richest 10% of the population owns 73% of all wealth.

Source: *Share the Wealth, 1995; Z Magazine, November 1998*

### CORRESPONDENCE

From KAREN DAVIS Olympia, WA

I'll get right to the point...the future of all Unions is with ILWU!!! If the West Coast goes out, the rest of the locals throughout the country need to strike. Your union is and has been the only real labor union this country has had for 30 years. Please keep the dream alive for the rest of the scared union fools who believe their lying union bosses. We can't allow Bush to screw EVERYTHING up and if we do, then we have no right to ever again complain about working conditions etc. If we're going to get screwed at least fight off the attack and get a few good kicks in. The time for politically correctness is gone. We ALL need to back you in this fight or lose everything good about this country.

The time for waiting is over. Fight on!

### CORRESPONDENCE

OOP's, we made a serious mistake. IRENE WARD takes us to task:

From IRENE WARD, Sun Lakes, AZ.

"My husband, DELOR WARD, as usual eagerly reads the RUSTY HOOK'S latest paper.

He was a bit surprised that page 7 indicated he had donated \$10.00 to the ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND. As you will see from the enclosed copy of the check -it was for \$25.00 PLEASE CORRECT.

Thank you.

IRENE WARD for DELOR WARD."

We stand corrected, IRENE. Sorry, but to err is human.

From CHARLES C. KOLE, St. George, Utah.  
Really enjoy the RUSTY HOOK.

CHUCK KOLE, retired, 6752,

Well, thank you, CHUCK for \$100.00. Your generosity really helps.

From KEN McBRIDE Port Kembla, Australia

Dear Comrades,

Port Kembla Branch Retirees M.U.A. held our monthly meeting on 6/8/02, Pres. Tony Adcock gave an enlightening report of the Boss/Govt. attacks on the workers of the USA also the members were able to read for themselves of the issues confronting the maritime industry from your excellent "RUSTY HOOK" publication. It was unanimously moved and seconded to send a donation to your good selves to be used in the coming struggle.

Yours in solidarity,

KEN McBRIDE, on behalf of PK Retirees

Thanks ever so much, KEN and the PORT KEMBLA RETIREES. Your donation is very much appreciated.

From SUSAN L. MONTEZ, Port Orchard, WA.  
No message, but \$20.00 for the RUSTY HOOK.

Thank you, SUSAN. Much appreciated.

From DAVID BRENNAN  
No message, but \$300.00 for the Strike Fund.

Wow! Thank you, DAVID. Much appreciated.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

From CAE PITHAROULIS, Athens, Greece.  
CAE sends us an interesting anecdote:

"The ILWU was girding for its fight with the PMA over basic contract demands and Jeremiah Taylor wanted to do his bit. His Local was putting on a Review that coming Saturday for money for a potential strike fund. As an acknowledged charmer, JT offered to seduce 17 women on stage.

Saturday eve came and people were hanging from rafters and columns. JT walked on stage smartly, performed with the first lady but seemed really tired. With the second he looked exhausted. With the third he passed out.

As he was being stretchered off stage he was heard to murmur, "I can't understand what happened. Everything went so well at rehearsals this afternoon."

Wow! Thank you CAE for a good laugh. We know even our most militant members here would not risk JT's brave endeavor, even with the help of Viagra!

From RAY McDERMOTT, Yuma, AZ.

"Hi, here's \$3.00 for assessment and \$20.00 for the HOOK. Love my retirement and playing lots of golf. Too bad I don't have PARKER and BILL SAMPLES to get their money. We enjoy the RUSTY HOOK very much.

ROTTEN RAY."

Well thank you very much, RAY. Were sure beating PARKER and BILL would be a big job!

From ROBERT R. MILES, Long Beach, CA.

Dear Bros. BERG, CASTLE, CUNNINGHAM & MINK:

Got your Summer 2002 issue from TANK NELSON (who got it from RALPH SOUZA) - both retired Local 13 guys - and figured it was time to subscribe...That is, if you allow such from us down-coasters! Found it most informative and coming from the only working class direction. Keep it up!

BOB MILES, Local 13, #32182 (retired)"

BOB, We much appreciate the \$20.00 check and even more your compliments. You are on the mailing list as of #3 issue.

From RAY AND KAY CARDINAL, Monroe, WA.

"RUSTY HOOK

Thanks for the memories Fellas; a great ride for as long as it lasted. Use the enclosed (\$40.00) in any way you wish."

JIMMY CARDINAL."

Many thanks, JIM and KAY for the \$40.00. We will remember you, too.

From ROBERTA DeLEO, Edmonds, WA.

"RUSTY HOOK

Thank you for all your doing for us - and a donation for the cause.

Thank you again."

Mrs. RICHARD DeLEO (ROBERTA)

Thank you so much, ROBERTA. We hope to continue doing that which we all know is needed.

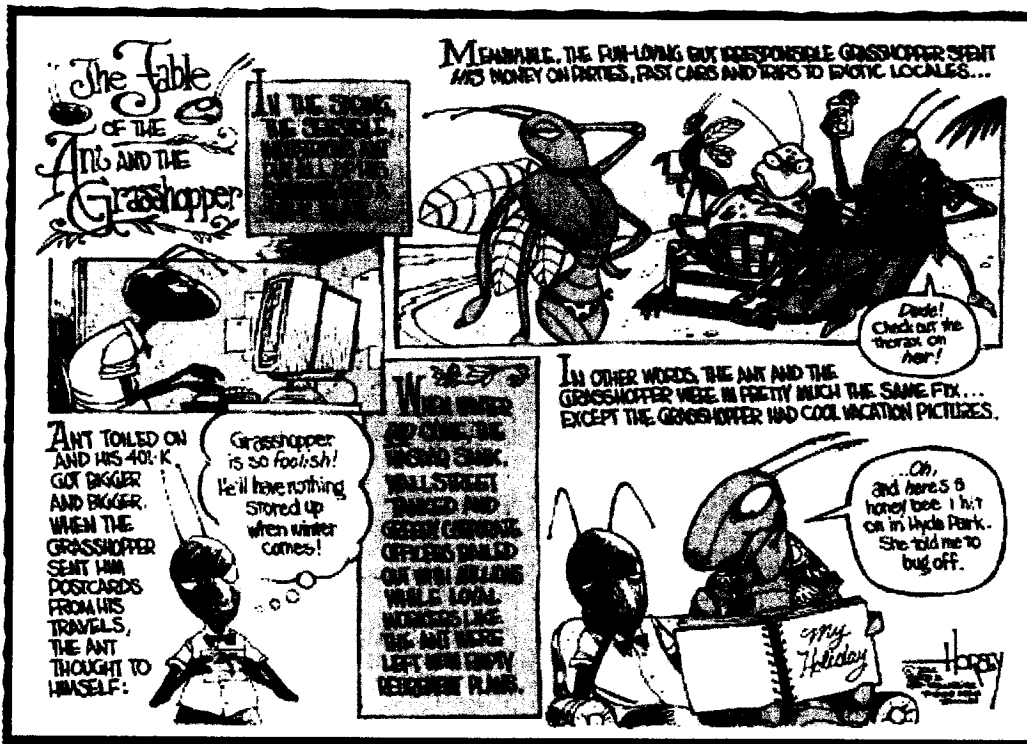
### Final Dispatch

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