

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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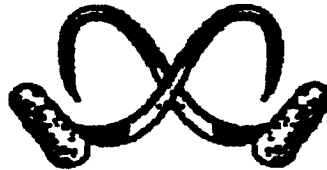
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VOLUME 11 - No. 3

MEETINGS:

January	7
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April	1

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THE GREAT 34th SEATTLE PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Three outstanding events at the convention include first the statement on anti-terrorism submitted by past ILWU President Brian McWilliams and endorsed by the convention. The statement is included elsewhere in this issue. It deserves careful study by our membership.

The second great event was the barbecue held at Pier 5. This was prepared and financed by Tacoma Local 23 pensioners. It was very well prepared and served and everyone had their fill of good food and music. Our Seattle Club is forever grateful for the Tacoma Club's generosity and support.

The third outstanding event was the Harry Bridges Labor Center scholarship awards ceremony at the University Faculty Club chaired by Mike Honey, Labor Center chairholder. The University Labor Center provided a wonderful lunch and free drinks. The attendance ran into hundreds including over two hundred PCPA delegates.

What was really wonderful was the mingling of labor, university students and faculty. That kind of interaction between labor, faculty, students, associates and general public participation is something little seen but needed more in times of crisis.

It should also be recalled that the Harry Bridges

Labor Center was sponsored by Martin Jugum and the Seattle Longshore Pensioners Club.

Such cross-cultural mixing at grass roots level is what can keep us from forever being manipulated by politicians, media and mindless corporate power. All in attendance were impressed by the wonderful, democratic spirit of the occasion.

We thank the Labor Center for that wonderful celebration and Bob Rogers and his indefatigable committee for organising it and the convention itself. It all came off without a hitch and in full splendour!



The Taliban at Home

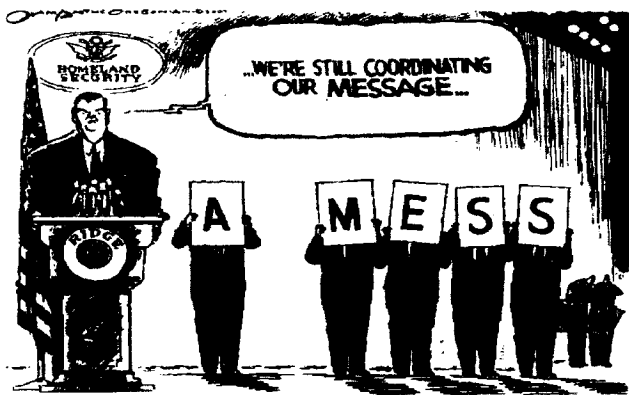
You may have read or heard all about the Taliban, Al Queda and Osama bin Laden you want by this time. But one part of the question has not been discussed sufficiently.

We are referring to home grown Talibanners in high places. We mean those individuals holding government posts who also hate the American way of life. They are the fundamentalists both religious and political who are seeking to undermine the constitutional rights of the American people in the name of the War Against Terrorism.

Strangely enough the Islamic fundamentalists and American fundamentalists both hate the American way of life. Fundamentalists of all stripes hate American peoples' culture embodied in our Bill of Rights and freedom to pursue personally chosen life styles: "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The most glaring example of home-grown fundamentalism is the War Powers Act giving President Bush unlimited right to prosecute the war. His early decision to suspend trial by jury and substitute Military Tribunals to round up and hold indefinitely suspected terrorists is unconstitutional. Our regular constitutional courts have the power to handle such cases. But the scary question under the War Powers Act is what will happen next? Will Attorney General Ashcroft and Bush decide who is suspect next and order unlimited detention and Military Tribunal trial? If the next group of suspected terrorists, say pacifists asserting their constitutional right to be pacifists are rounded up and put before a Military Tribunal they would have no recourse to regular courts for defense.

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON TERRORISM WAS ENDORSED BY THE 34th ANNUAL ILWU PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, SEATTLE, 9/16 -19, 2001 AND RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE ILWU DISPATCHER

Remarks of Brian McWilliams 2001 P.C.P.A. Convention - Seattle, Washington

September 18, 2001 - Morning Session

Thank you for the opportunity to share this time with you. It warms my heart to see so many of my old friends. Of course, you know that I'm no longer involved in developing policy for our union, but I would like talk with you about the recent events that are so troubling for all of us and how we respond as workers. First, we must condemn the senseless acts of violence perpetrated against innocent people, just like we have throughout our history. And the perpetrators need to be sought out and brought to justice. But let us not be too quick to judge the terroristic acts of others without taking a thorough look at our government's acts of aggression, passive and otherwise, against our fellow citizens of the world. Issues of sufficient importance for this union to make strong policy statements about for the simple fact that, by any standards, they constitute violent acts against workers and could only be seen as terrorist acts by most of those on the receiving end. We have challenged regularly the wisdom of the U.S. government policies resulting in the Cuban blockade, Korea, Iraq, Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Columbia, Chile - where CIA involvement of the assassination of their democratically elected leader fell on the same day, September 11, of last week's bombing. Apartheid in South Africa, racial profiling, racism and poverty in our own country all induce terror in those on the receiving end. Not to compare these acts with what just happened in NY, but to realize that there is a tremendous amount of suffering brought upon people, and as long as people have to suffer the consequences of these acts of aggression, the more hurt and anger will be left steeping their hearts. And if we can't, as a nation, see the wisdom in following the road to peace, one of the first victims of a heightened

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PCPA Executive Board meeting 34th Annual PCPA Convention

September 16, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM Sunday, Sept. 16, 2001 at the Executive Inn, Seattle, Wa.

All were in attendance at roll call. There was a minute of silence in memory of deceased brothers and sisters. Bill Hollater, a representative of from the Alliance of Retired Americans, spoke to us giving the history of the Alliance, which is sponsored by the AFL-CIO. Its purpose is to keep retired union members politically informed regarding candidates and legislation that affect our future. Resolution 4 submitted by the Columbia River pensioners addressed our affiliation with the Alliance. It will be funded by the AFL-CIO by assessments from the active locals - non-union retirees will pay an annual fee for membership.)

The only ILWU International officer able to attend was Joe Wenzel. The others were unable to make plane connections because of our recent disaster. Coast Committeeman Wenzl greeted us and stated he would give a full report to the convention body.

Secretary-Treasurer Arne Auvinen introduced Bonnie Eckert, Local 52 (a third generation ILWU member) who acted as recording Secretary. He then presented his designs for a new Association logo and membership card as well as a Charter for future clubs affiliating with the PCPA. Present clubs are grandfathered in.

The ILWU retired member, Smitty, from Alaska was accepted to the Executive Board as a fraternal Delegate. He hopes to be able to organize Alaska pensioners into a club or clubs to affiliate with us.

Resolutions were submitted expressing our sympathy for the families of the victims and airline personnel affected by the recent terrorism. There were three resolutions regarding an improved pension agreement. Phil Leili presented a resolution to honor an elected official from any organization who has made a positive contribution to our union, industry and/or workers in general at succeeding conventions. All resolutions were seconded and accepted.

Respectively submitted

John Johnson, 2nd VP, PCPA.

Paul S. McCabe, Delegate

Local 19 pensioners

The Lost Lifetime Guarantee

Whether longshore members and pensioners are guaranteed lifetime benefit coverage has been debated, discussed and argued and arbitrated for the past few years. The answer is no guarantee. This is the decision of Coast Arbitrator, Sam Kagel.

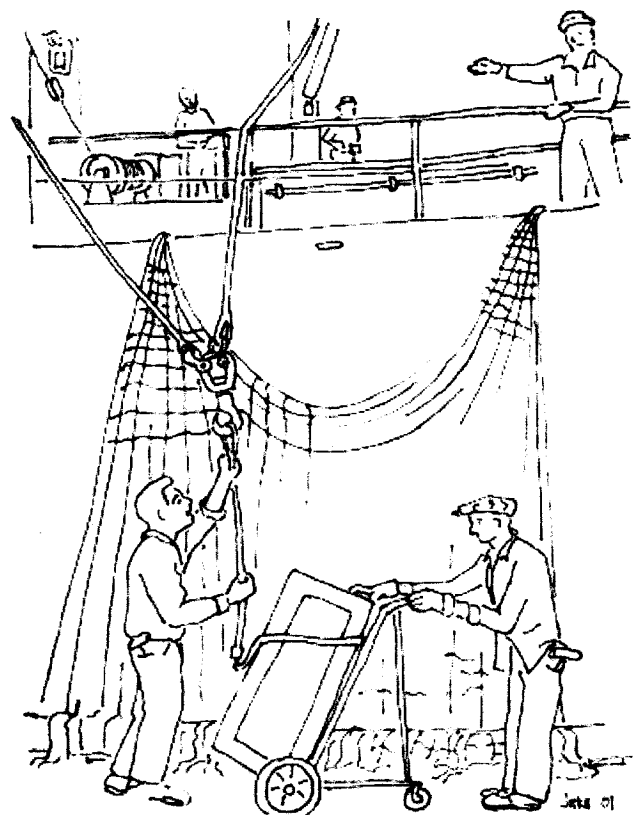
This in spite of the fact that several statements by Harry Bridges and other union officials since the 1950s to the contrary. The decision of "no lifetime guarantee" was in answer to the question:

"Was the procedure for revising the language relating to Pensioner eligibility in the 1994 welfare plan Summary Plan Description ("SPD") inconsistent with the Welfare Plan documents, ERISA, or Plan practices? If so, what shall the remedy be?

ILWU and PMA under the Welfare Agreement provisions." The remedy as Kagel's decision states:

"As aforesaid, the language in the SPD,

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The Taliban at Home

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Bush has already said he will use any and every measure to break a threatened strike by airline workers.

Be on the alert. In what is actually a war against a small, weak, almost comic-opera enemy, do not let those at home get away with their schemes to scuttle our democracy!

The Army would decide their fate. In other words militarism would become the law.

This fundamentalist threat to the American way of life would, or will become a threat to union rights. Any strike threat or job action to protect union rights could be declared "terrorist" or a threat to the war on terrorism and declared illegal and subject to a Military Tribunal form of injustice.

**PCPA Executive Board meeting
34th Annual PCPA Convention**

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"eligibility of lifetime as pensioners," is misleading and incomplete. In accordance with requirement that the Coast Arbitrator must apply the Benefits Agreement as written and Stipulation 14, it is clear that the pre 1994 pensioner eligibility language did not, in "plain understandable language," alert the pensioners to the fact that their benefits could be changed or eliminated by action of the ILWU under the Welfare Agreement provisions."

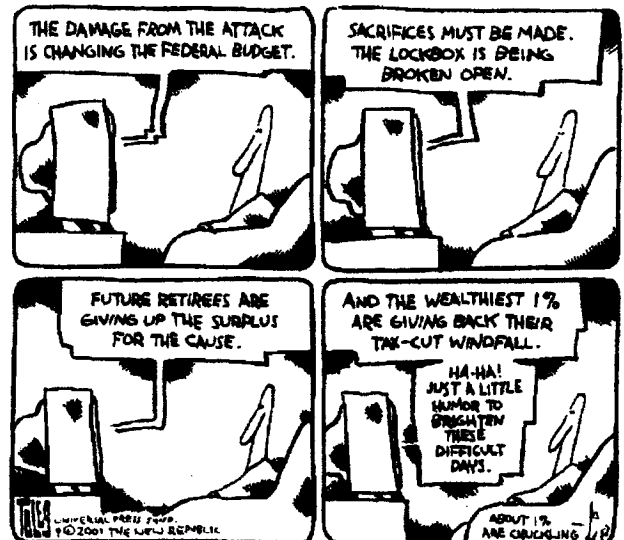
So there you have it, or not. Since way back in the early SPD documents, members and pensioners have understood in "plain and understandable language" that they were eligible to lifetime coverage under the welfare Summary Plan Description, as so stated in pre 1994 SPDs, and arbitrarily removed by person or persons unknown. Hence, one can be justified in saying that the arbitration is biased. "Plain and understandable" language" such as that which did establish a "lifetime guarantee of benefits" for Pensioners in the SPD has become unplain and not understandable. So the "plain and understandable language" is garbled and twisted into not understandable legalistic language.

Well, so much for employers and lawyers - so little for workers and pensioners. President Spinosa has said we need a new economic vision.

Remarks of Brian McWilliams

Continued from page 2

Militarism will be our civil liberties. It is our job to guard against national security programs being used as an excuse to exploit working people. It's not hard to imagine that new laws will threaten to curtail union organising, picket lines, and public gatherings, while surveillance of citizens, racial profiling, and union busting will go unchecked. Peace must be our goal if people on the bottom are not to pay the highest price. We can start towards achieving peace by being peaceful. And an even greater threat than losing our civil liberties is the potential for us to fall victim to the intolerance's of internalized bias. Of course, we will continue to fight against the misled patriotism of ignorance that pits us as workers against each other. And remember that racism is not patriotic in any situation. What a tragedy indiscriminate targeting of Americans has become, yet another form of terrorism, perpetrated by Americans on Americans. Blind belief in the tenets of a government and all of its actions without any critical thinking is mistaken by many as patriotism. In truth that diminishes us all as a people and leads to the kinds of ignorant and blatantly racist and violent acts and military aggression we are beginning to read about in the papers. This must be stopped. That innocent American working families are the target of hate crimes and discrimination in any form has always been condemned by this ILWU. But that is not enough. Each of us must help carry the torch of justice and tolerance and peace and clearly and aggressively respond to such injustices wherever they may be in a way that truly represents our philosophy that an injury to one is an injury to all.



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

34th Annual Convention ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association Seattle, WA.

Monday, Sept. 17, 2001. Convened at 9:00 AM at the Executive Inn. We were welcomed by Host President Rudy Martinez. We stood for the National Anthems of Canada and the United States led and sung by Kris Tanner, Local 19, Pensioners Club. The invocation was given by Cleophas Williams, Local 10 Bay areas pensioners Club. Our guest speaker King County Executive Director Ron Sims spoke welcoming the convention to Seattle pledging his support of labor issues and thanking us for our support of him in the past. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Members and guests enjoyed either a trip to the top of the Space Needle or a tour of the Maritime Museum, Odyssey, at pier 66. That evening most attended an absolutely marvelous buffet and awards presentation by the Harry Bridges Chair at the University of Washington Faculty Club. All of us were impressed with the work being accomplished there.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2001. Called to order at 9:00 Am. Joe Wenzel, Coast Committeeman, spoke. He stated that one of the most important items to be covered at the Pre-Contract Caucus would be an improved pension package. The pension fund is in good shape. It is 98% funded - unfortunately down from the free market crash high of 113%; but not to worry the employer has to start paying in again if it should get down to 80% funded. Joe did a good job standing up alone to answer the questions thrown at him. He said that most things will be settled at the caucus in January, 02.

Resolutions were handed out, discussed, voted and accepted. Recessed at 12:00 for buffet lunch.

Reconvened at 1:30 PM. Brian McWilliams spoke thanking us for our support in the past when he was International ILWU President. He touched on our national tragedy and urged us to condemn senseless acts of violence against innocent people everywhere. He reminded us to continue to challenge the acts of our own government when they are aggressive toward workers elsewhere in the world (McWilliams statement printed elsewhere in this issue of the RUSTY HOOK.)

Nominations for officers were made and seconded:

All incumbents were reelected with the exception that

Ken Swicker, Columbia River Pensioners replaces Esther Auvinen who did not run again, as delegate and Bill Duncan, Vancouver Island, BC, will serve as delegate. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

That evening we all attended an excellent banquet. Entertainment was provided by Kris Tanner, Local 19, pensioners Club who treated us to wonderful voice and piano selections. Once again Ian Ruskin performed his excellent impressions of Harry Bridges, which was enjoyed by all. Music for dancing was provided by Buck Reopelle, Local 23, Tacoma Pensioners.

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2001: Reconvened at 9:00 AM.

Area welfare directors spoke regarding the problems with 100% Dental Coverage particularly the shortage of dentists available to the plan. We can still remain with our old dentists and receive 80% coverage.

The convention was adjourned to reconvene Sept. 15 through 18, 2002 at the West Coast Hotel in Longbeach, CA.

It was a good meeting with lots of communication among those attending. The Canadians hit the mike quite often, We want to thank them for their support during our current tragedy. They have added 200 people to the Association rolls in two years. That's a great job.

As always, Portland, Columbia River, San Francisco and Southern California turned out strong and well represented their areas and clubs. We all greatly enjoy getting together.

An outstanding job was done by our convention committee Chairman, Bob Rogers and his committee. Also terrific were Bob Smith, John and Emma Ehly and their help with registration and Bob Meckner and his Hospitality Room crew.

We also thank all the members and the Women's' Auxiliary for their great help and support.

Also a big cheer for our photographer, Ed Hicks and his wife.

We particularly want to thank Dick Melton and his wife, Locals 19 and 23 from their President on down to all of the people from both Locals who put in their time and effort to provide the Sunday evening Barbecue at Pier 5. It was a great get together.

Respectively submitted,

Paul S. McCabe, Local 19 Puget Sound Delegate
John Johnson, Local 19 2nd Vice Pres. PCPA

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CORRESPONDENCE

An interesting and helpful letter from HAROLD BJORND AHL, Aberdeen, WA.

"Hello to all:

I want to thank you for sending me the RUSTY HOOK. And its time for me to give something in return so I am sending \$500.00. I am now 85 and 1/2 years old so you can put \$85.00 for membership and \$12.00 for PCPA and the rest where needed. In my time one of the best things I did was to visit my brother JOE in Seattle who was longshoring and he talked me into getting all the clearance I needed in Dec. 1942. So I came back. First work in Jan., 1943 and after a couple of weeks joined JIM COOK'S #47 gang and stayed one year. Then in 1944 I came home to Aberdeen and worked out of Local #24, and later Local #98. I worked 39 years and retired 8/1/1981. It has been a real good time in my life and I thank everyone. I stay close to Aberdeen as I don't drive past Olympia anymore.

Thanks again,

HAROLD BJORND AHL, 650T7."

Well, thank you, HAROLD. Your interesting story as well as your generosity (\$403.00 to RUSTY HOOK) goes a long way to keep the Union and the RUSTY HOOK alive and well!

And from JOHN PRONG, Woodland, WA., a \$100.00 donation to our Club. No message except the 100 green ones.

Thanks a lot, JOHN. It's what keeps us going in the right direction.

Hello to ED HICKS, PARKER JOHNSTON, PHIL LELLI, and a special hello to JOHN JOHNSON. Tell PHIL I like piggy backing off his wise comments. There were more brothers I enjoyed but I can't remember their names. You know, the memory goes first. I have some doubts about that. The best to all the brothers and sisters.

Your brother, OSBORNE W. HILLS.
(retired almost two years)

OSBORNE, your fine praise of our PCPA convention makes us all feel quite proud Thank you.

From OSBORNE W. HILLS, Richmond, CA.

"Dear Convention Committee:

What a wonderful time the wife and I had at the convention. We met Longshore Brothers from different areas that told the same old waterfront stories and I enjoyed them all. I think, as you grow older you lose some of the rough edges and you can really enjoy the Longshore family.

I attended two conventions the 33rd and 34th. As a pensioner retired almost two years, it was a wonderful experience and your committee was a beautiful host. I met BOB in San Francisco, he took our thunder and made thunder and lightening. The term "turning to" was really put to the test. BOB was everywhere and did a fine job, he and the committee.

From DAVID BRENNAN, Seattle, WA.

An \$82.00 contribution to the RUSTY HOOK No message except the one that counts -82 of them!

Thanks a lot DAVID!

From LONZO I. FLICK, Seattle, WA. "Donation for RUSTY HOOK \$100.00.

LONZO, 56834 Thanks, LONZO, for what counts. We appreciate it sincerely.

From GEORGE T. KUVAKAS, Seal Beach, CA.

"ILWU Pension Club:

Enclosed a check for \$50.00 for 2 T-shirts my wife received and the balance for the airport shuttle - We had a good time.

GEORGE KUVAKAS, So. Ca. pensioner."

Lifetime Memberships

A single payment according to the following schedule,

Age 55 - 60 \$115.00

Age 60 - 70 \$ 95.00

Age 70 - 90 \$ 85.00

Special message to all lifetime members.

Lifetime membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Convention to be held in Seattle in 2001.

The assessment is \$3.00 per year for 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

CORRESPONDENCE

From DONALD C. FRANZ, Buckley, WA.
"ILWU pensioners, I think it is really great to have a Pensioners Club to back up the active ILWU, the ones that are still working. Here is \$60.00 for the RUSTY HOOK.
DONALD C. FRANZ."
Thank you so much, DONALD. Our RUSTY HOOK depends on all our readers like you.

From MANUEL VENTOZA, Burien, WA,. Along with a fine note of condolence at the death of Brother JACK MINIKEN, which was circulated at the meeting, MANUEL writes, "Please accept this donation (\$25.00) in behalf of HARRY JACK MINIKEN - as a contribution to the Old Timers Unique Club. Thanks, MANNY. MANUEL VENTOZA, 55744, 9/26/2001" We greatly appreciate your donation and kind remembrance, MANUEL.

We received an e-mail from the MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA Port Kembla
"Fraternal greetings from
M.U.A. Port Kembla Retiree's
We held our monthly meeting Tue. 6/11/01, where your excellent publication was introduced by Member Tony Adcock. We send our best wishes to our comrades in your organisation and look forward to reading further issues of "The Rusty Hook" . Unfortunately our membership at present is so small we couldn't man a gang for a "hook on-hook-off" job!!!, but we can fully appreciate the role your publication play's in representing your member's and the working classes of the U.S."
KEN MCBRIDE,
For and behalf of P.K. Retiree's.

From RICHARD & IDELLA ANTLE, Seattle, WA.
RICHARD sent in lifetime membership. We like new members a lot. We appeal to our longshore retirees to follow RICHARD'S example. Your membership helps keep pensions, welfare and unionism alive and well.
Thank you, RICHARD.

From DON OLSON who dropped a twenty on the RUSTY HOOK without any message. His silence was broken by the sound of \$20.00 going into the treasury.
Thank you, DON.



From S. R. GARDENHIRE #55565
Dear Old Timers, Please sign me for life membership. \$12.00 PCPA assessment years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 My check for \$97.00 enclosed.
Thank you Brother GARDENHIRE we hope many other old timers will follow your example.
Organisation is the greatest power on earth.

From JOHN WOLD, Seattle. WA.
JOHN sends in another silent contribution of \$100.00. No message but the folding ones. Brother WOLD is one of our early contributors. We truly appreciate his continuing support!

From GERI PITCHER, San Francisco, CA.
"September 2001 Sorry I couldn't attend the convention, in your city, this year. Unfortunately, I broke a bone in my foot. I do hope all went well and constructive and enjoyable. Looking forward for next year's convention. Many thanks for the refund of \$33.00 . I received it on/about September 23, 2001. God Bless! GERI PITCHER"
You missed a real good one, GERI. All said it was an outstanding success!

<i>Final Dispatch</i>	
PENSIONERS	SURVIVORS
Walter Bass 98	Nina I. Jacobsen 98
Richard P. DeLeo 19	Edna A. Miller 98
Harry J. Min iken 19	Patricia Sullivan 19
Gene Nichols 19	
Albert H. Pitzen 19	

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

OOE, WALTER--I'M SURPRISED TO SEE A LIBERAL LIKE YOU WAVING THE FLAG! I MEAN, YOU VOTED FOR AL GORE, DIDN'T YOU?

EA--YES--BUT I DON'T SEE--



WELL, I GUESS YOU'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS! AFTER ALL, WE CERTAINLY CAN'T AFFORD PARTISAN BICKERING AT A TIME LIKE THIS! WE'VE ALL GOT TO STAND BEHIND OUR PRESIDENT NO MATTER WHAT!

WELL--UNITY IS IMPORTANT--

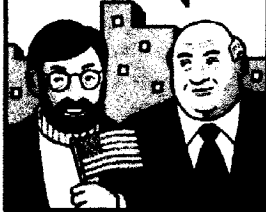


IT SURE IS, PAL! AND WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT ANYTHING HE NEEDS TO WIN THIS WAR! MISSILE DEFENSE, OIL DRILLING IN THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS, LARGE CORPORATE TAX CUTS, FAST TRACK NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY--WHATEVER IT TAKES!



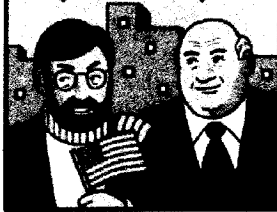
YESSIR, YOU'RE EITHER WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY--OR YOU'RE WITH THE TERRORISTS! THERE'S NO MIDDLE GROUND!

DON'T YOU AGREE?



MUST KEEP MOUTH SHUT... FOR GOOD OF COUNTRY...

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, BOY! WE'LL MAKE A PATRIOT OUT OF YOU YET!



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Director; Kristina Anderson

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