

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



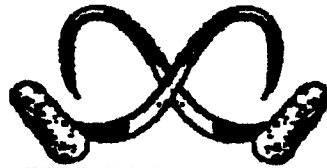
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3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY S.  
SEATTLE, WA 98134  
206.343.0504

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

ART MINK  
JON HALGREN  
DAVE CHADDOCK  
IAN KENNEDY  
PARKER JOHNSTON  
CURT CUNNINGHAM



*In Memory*  
**FRED BERG**  
**DEL CASTLE**

**MEETINGS: 10:00 am**

July	7
August	4
Sept	1
Oct	6

[www.ilwu19.com/rustyhook](http://www.ilwu19.com/rustyhook)

## These Colors Do Not Run (the world)

By Dave Chaddock

Yes, the British had to learn the same lesson. It was not so very long ago that the sun never set on the British Empire. Large swaths of the globe were colored red. India. Egypt. Kenya.

But other countries do not like to be occupied. They do not like to be dominated. They fight back. And they are getting stronger.

How much nicer it is to meet other nations on equal terms, get along with them, work together with them to solve the growing problems of energy, pollution, food, education, and medical care. How much better to foster communication, trade, cultural exchange, scientific expertise, tourism.

In 2003 we tried to convince Bush not to invade Iraq. There were huge demonstrations here and all over the world, including the biggest one London had ever seen. But he wouldn't listen. He was the Decider. He told us: "Saddam is a dangerous dangerous man, with dangerous dangerous weapons." This was not true. About the deadliest thing we were able to find was a pilotless drone which senior Bush officials assured us, could "deliver terrifying payloads of chemical and biological warfare agents across Iraq's borders." But looked at up close after its capture, it seemed to look "more like something out of the Rube Goldberg school of aeronautical design." The plane's two miniscule engines, "each the size of a whisky

bottle...looked about powerful enough to drive a weed wacker." (NYT, 3-13-03).

And even if this pitiful flying machine were able to go more than a few miles with a "terrifying payload," where was such a stash to be found? We are told that the best informed people all over the world agreed with Bush that Saddam had threatening stockpiles of "WMD's"--"If we were wrong, we were in good and honest company," says one spokesman.

Once again, not true.

Scott Ritter was the chief weapons inspector in Iraq until 1998. He testified that Iraq's weaponry had been reduced to "scraps of material" and that even if any biological weapons had escaped destruction they would have degenerated and been useless. The monitoring system was the most comprehensive ever designed--with visual, chemical, and temperature sensors on the ground, and in the air U-2 flights.

After the brief interval during which inspectors were withdrawn, did Saddam reconstitute a threat? El Baradai's report in Jan. 2003 was that nothing suspicious was found. This was after an inspection of all buildings that satellite imagery indicated to have been constructed or modified in the previous 4 years, and after all rivers and canals had been monitored for escaped radio isotopes. And after Bush himself admitted that absolutely no evidence linked Saddam

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to the attack on the Twin Towers--even though he seemed to imply as much in speech after speech--one father, whose son had perished in the 9-11 attack, asked in anger: "Why the hell else did we go in there?" (NYT : 3-15-08).

Hint. What was the sole building the U.S. Marines were ordered to protect as looters were carrying off all the treasures of the art museum? Why did the U.S. overthrow Mossadeq in 1953? From a vantage point in Basra, Muqtada el-Sadr remarked: "I smell gasoline."

Indeed Basra sits atop some of the largest oil reserves in the world, oil that is very easy to extract. Iraq has proven oil reserves of 112 billion barrels in 15 developed fields, but it has 58 additional fields as well. A European oil executive, in Feb. of 2003, declared: "For any oil company, being in Iraq is like being a kid in F.A.O. Schwarz." (NYT , 2-22-03).

But unfortunately, the explosions, bombings and battles taking place above ground in Iraq are not making it any easier to get at the fuel down below.

There had once been hope in the Bush camp that, in the words of Dick Cheney, the streets of Iraq would "erupt in joy" at the arrival of U.S. troops.

Not exactly!

You don't find many people declaring: "Great, our country has been destroyed, over a million killed, 4 1/2 million refugees, electricity, water and medicine are scarce, millions are unemployed, child mortality is sky high, and one can hardly go out into the street--but it was worth it--Saddam is gone!" (Jurgen Todenhofer, in NYT , 3-14).

Let's go back to Basra. Recently it has been in the news. Essentially it is the only port Iraq has got. Back in 1961 when England carved out and gave birth to Kuwait, and when an Iraqi leader observed that "England has just given independence to an oil well," it was an oil well with fringes, complete with its own extensive coastline, at Iraq's expense, all along the Persian Gulf. But in the itty bitty portion of coast left to Iraq, we find Basra. And on March 13 of this year an article appeared claiming that Basra was saddled with "labor problems." It seems that the longshore union would only load and unload ships for 8 hours a day! And not only that, but they would work so slowly that many ships would just leave empty containers behind rather than wait around interminably for the laggard longshoremen to hoist them aboard. Iraqi officials were quoted as saying: "The entrenched

## Final Dispatch

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powers on the docks must be subdued." And, referring to those who were said to be "stubbornly holding their territory on the waterfront," Iraq's "national security adviser" declared: "Whoever gets in the way will be dealt with swiftly, decisively, and with no mercy." (NYT 3-13).

Less than two weeks later, 30,000 Iraqi troops and helicopters mounted a huge attack on Basra. For three straight days the American military conducted air strikes on the city. A local sheik complained: "We never witnessed such an attack, even under the regime of Saddam Hussein." (NYT , 3-26).

The attack, however, met with much resistance. A month later air and artillery strikes were still continuing. Then, suddenly, the resistance faded away, before the U.S. had an opportunity to strike a decisive blow. What was going on? What were these followers of Muqtada el-Sadr up to? Why would they battle their opponent to a standstill, and then retreat? "Why these fight-then-fade tactics?" (NYT , 4-20).

Well, why not? Why not fight intelligently? Why not fade away in the face of overwhelming strength and live to fight another day?

I do not know what has resulted on the docks of Basra. But if the U.S.-supported Iraqi officials want Basra longshoremen to work at night, they should install some lights. And if they want production, they better replace the old "whirly" cranes of the 1950's with ones specifically designed to handle containers!

Meanwhile it seems that Bush and Company have gotten mired down. Remember the old story of the tar baby? Every time you try to punch it out your fists get more deeply stuck and attached. Bush's Iraq

*Continued on page 3*

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adventure is like that. Lured by the prospect of rich oil deposits, his acts of war have only gotten him deeper into difficulty. Each bombing creates more enemies. In 2004, only 17% of Iraqis supported armed resistance to the U.S. But in 2007 that figure increased to 57% (Cockburn, p.164).

Instead of scaling back to minimize his losses, Bush has upped the ante. He is building a huge new embassy complex that will be six times the size of UN headquarters in New York City. And he has established massive U.S. bases in Iraq, the biggest pair of which are 20 square miles in area, and have double runways 10,000 to 12,000 feet long.

What with all the oil below the sand together with the asphalt being laid on top of it, Bush has made Iraq both literally and figuratively into a giant Mideast tar baby! It is claimed that, whatever we do not, we can never leave, since this would cause chaos and civil war. A former CIA officer tells us that even though the Islamic world is "replete with examples of Sunnis and Shias living amiably side by side, both sides are well aware that at some point the two sects will have a violent final reckoning." (Scheur, Marching Toward Hell, p.130).

But how did he get that idea? Is such an apocalypse any more inevitable than one between Catholics and Protestants?

In his book Muqtada, Cockburn tells us how both Shia and Sunni friends complain that foreign journalists have exaggerated the extent of sectarian strife in Iraq. When Falluja was attacked, both Sunni and Shia gave blood. And Muqtada el-Sadr declares that death squads that say they kill Sunnis on his behalf are "trying to destroy us and divide us and prevent us from raising arms against the forces of occupation. Criminals are using my name as cover."

On May 25th he declared that he was ready to cooperate with Sunnis on all issues. "They are our brothers," he said. What he wants is a united front against "all foreign elements" in Iraq. This would include the U.S. as well as al-Qaeda. When el-Sadr's forces were being attacked recently in Sadr City, Sunni leaders from Anbar province came and stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Shia officials to show their solidarity. In a poll taken in March of 2007, 97% of Sunnis opposed the U.S. presence, but so did 83% of the Shia. And in another poll in Sept. of 2007, 55% of the Shia expressed their belief that a U.S. departure

would make Shia-Sunni civil war less likely. (Muqtada, p. 200). The fact is that most all the terrible suicide bombings of innocents in marketplaces are carried out by foreigners (Zarqawi was a Jordanian) and are abhorred by Sunni and Shia alike. The news media has paid much attention to these spectacular incidents but much more prevalent are the constant attacks on the American troops.

As for the other aspects of the Iraq situation that seem to prevent us from leaving, they can be viewed quite differently if we do not share Bush's mind set. We do not have to conquer the oil fields of Iraq. Iraqis would be happy to sell oil to us if we stop wiping them out!

And perhaps the big embassy complex could be used instead as a temporary headquarters for the United Nations while we build a more commodious UN center. Anyhow, since Bush seems to view a U.S. embassy as six times more important than the UN, the world might feel more comfortable meeting somewhere else until we earn sufficient good will to deserve the honor of a UN presence!

So what are we going to gain by any further prolonging of our stay in Iraq? As Stignitz and Bilmes point out in the 3 Trillion Dollar War, we have succeeded in proving that we cannot prevail after 5 years. If we stay two more years, we will only "have shown that America could not prevail even after 7 years." Indeed, it is terrible for U.S. soldiers to have died in vain. But if we stay, there may be 8 or 10 thousand such deaths instead of the 4 thousand we have had so far. In the meantime the war is costing, on average, \$138 per month for every family in the United States!

When even the Bainbridge Island Review (which is basically an advertising journal with no national or world news) prints a letter declaring "we need U.S. out of Iraq immediately!"--when even the Lynnwood Enterprise --hardly a left-wing publication--contains a protest declaring that if the United States had been invaded the way Iraq has been violated "we would not rest until the occupier had been vanquished"--is it really such an outlandish idea to suggest that we have no good reason to stay in Iraq for even one more day?

### The Robot Gang

By Jon Halgren

A Robot gang, on the State's Line, Louisiana, at the East Waterway, Berth 4, regular start. A robot gang was quite unheard of. A new contract changed what the manning would be. Two stevedores in the hold and a bull driver

### **Conversations with Harry**

By Ian Kennedy

After attending the PCPA Executive board, I stayed on in San Francisco a few extra days so that I could see Harry. I got to the bar early enough to have ordered a pitcher and almost finished my first glass. When Harry showed up alone, he looked like he'd been rushing. He grabbed his glass as soon as I finished poring his beer.

"How are negotiations going?" He asked as he looked around the bar, smiling when he saw the new waitress they had hired. I replied, "They're still on MOB, I don't expect they'll move on until they have it completed."

He looks at me, finally nods. "What else has been happening?" He asked.

"We had a very successful march and rally against the war, on May first. All up and down the coast the terminals were locked tight. It was great to see. There are plenty of our rank-and-file who didn't like the idea of taking a stand against the war. I'm not sure if they don't want to show disrespect toward our troops, or if they actually support Bush and his terrorist actions." Harry nods, turns to watch the waitress bring us a fresh pitcher.

"I remember reading that in your report to the 1947 Convention, you said, 'There are many who hold to the belief that in matters of foreign concern and of foreign policy we should let well enough alone. There are plenty who think a union should not speak out, fight for or criticize the foreign policy of our government; that it should be a matter of our government, right or wrong, in matters of foreign policy.' And then you went on to say, 'We have never adhered to that belief. and we shouldn't. If we had, we would never have taken in years gone by, apposition on the shipments of war materials to Japan. We would never have engaged in the boycott of Mussolini during the rape of Ethiopia. We would never been among the first in 1933 to snap a boycott of German goods when Hitler ascended as top man in Germany. We never would have taken the position that we did in support of and sympathy with the Loyalists of Spain. And the reasons are simple: the question of our own welfare, our own interests, our own existence.' " I sat back, thought about what I had just said. Pored fresh glasses of beer and then continued, "And at the 1959 Convention you said, 'We can play a part in the struggle for world peace and we can maintain our record of adhering

### **PCPA Executive Board Report**

The PCPA Executive Board convened at 9:00 AM, Sunday, the 25th of May at Local 10's hall, in San Francisco. All areas were represented, including Canada.

The delegation to the "Maritime Union of Australia" convention gave a report on the convention and their experiences. Over 700 delegates from around the globe were present. The ILWU was continually praised for all our efforts protecting the jurisdiction of sister unions world wide. President McEllrath spoke of how the ITF failed to support the Liverpool Dockers and how we could not let that happen again. The May 1st rallies and marches against the war were a great success up and down the coast. The press in Seattle reported a turn out of 500, I put the turn out at 800 to 1000. My disappointment was that we didn't have more rank-and-file members present. The word on negotiations; They are still on MOB, they will not move on until MOB is completed.

Two changes to the PCPA constitution and by-laws were presented.

1st) Amend Article VIII, Section 1

a) pay Per Capita once a year rather than four times a year.

b) increase Per Capita from \$5 per year to \$10 per year.

The increase to be used to fund delegations to conferences that the PCPA Executive Board approve of.

2nd) Amend Article VII, Section 2

To increase the per diem paid to Executive Board members and titled officers to include a second nights lodging. (No cost increase to members.)

The vote by the Executive Board was for both amendments being sent to the convention with a favorable recommendation.

The 41st PCPA Convention will be held in Portland, September 14th (BBQ,) 15th, 16th, 17th, 2008. You can get registration forms, hotel and event information at the Seattle Pensioners Club. Portland asks that you register early, to help them make sure everyone is accommodated.

In Solidarity,  
Ian Kennedy

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

### WE NEED YOU

The Seattle Pension Club has seen a decline in membership over the last couple of years. Younger retirees seem to look upon us as a bunch of old folks who sit around bragging about how good we were. Not so. We are the backs of the ILWU. We walk the picket lines with the actives. We are represented at the caucus with voice, no vote. We sit on all committees created by the caucus. The Seattle club has been active in picketing of Rite-Aid and Sees Candies, the May 1st march and rally, Christmas For Kids. We are Politically active on issues that effect the working class in general and the Longshore Union in particular. We are involved in the Harry Bridges Chair, at the University of Washington and in any endeavors that are helpful to our Locals. We have a member of the PCPA with the negotiating team. We send delegates to conferences and conventions. Most recently, the International Dockers Conference in Long Beach and the MUA convention in Australia.

We need members to remain viable, to continue looking after our needs as well as covering the backs of our active brothers and sisters. A decline in membership means a decline in revenue. Thus limiting our activities. The Rusty Hook is solvent thanks to Locals 19 and 52, but the club itself is dependent on the annual dues. Dues at this time are \$25 per year, plus a \$3 assessment for conventions. This may change as the PCPA will be bringing to the convention, an amendment to the constitution, to increase the pro-rata from \$5 annually to \$10. We will probably have to pass this increase on to the Club membership. It will not be as bad as it sounds, as the assessment should be coming off, giving us a two dollar increase.

WE NEED YOU, Old pensioners, new pensioners, active rank-and-file members from Locals 19, 52, 98, we want you all. JOIN THE CLUB. We meet on the first Monday of the month, at 10 AM, in the Executive Board room at Local 19's hall. There is social time before and after the meeting; but, the one to two hours of the meetings are all business.

We invite you all to join us.  
pensioners@ilwu19.com

In Solidarity,  
The Seattle Pension Club

**Benefits – You must be crazy by Jon Halgren**  
Get the bread and butter.

It was unheard of for workers to have employer paid, hospitalization, medical care, eye care, or dental care for dependents. Bridges encouraged seeking these things. Encouraging bargaining for the union to seek benefits that would benefit the dependents as well as the worker.

It seems like the late forties or early 1950's when my dad came home from work, he commented, "Things are going to be tough. We could be in for a long strike. The President of the union wants us to have paid vacation, medical care, and hospitalization as well medicine, eye care with glasses, and dental care, so you kids would be going to the dentist."

"I have to agree with him now is the time to start", said my Dad.

A long strike (over 90 days). We wonder where these benefits come from.

They come from the efforts of the people before us. Their foresight, dedication and hard work by union officials and members of the union have made possible what we have today.

**Brother Dutch Holland was President of the Columbia River Pensioners for nine years.**

**Below is his last public statement that has as much impact now as it did then.**

"Someone once said to me that Unions have become obsolete, that employers and politicians have lost their fear of us because we are not able to muster a cohesive organized force to stand up to them. I'll let you be the judge if they are right or wrong. Ask this question of yourself. Did you vote in the last election? More than 60% of you didn't! Are you registered to vote? Again, more than 60% of you are not. Do you come to area union retirement clubs to better educate yourself of the issues affecting your retirement? About 80 percent of you don't. Why?

When we worked together we wanted desperately to belong to the ILWU and were willing to stand together as circumstances required. Are the employers and politicians so benevolent that they will take care of us from here on? Of course not, and I won't insult your intelligence by saying you're acting like it. But, I do want you to realize the importance of keeping your hand in.

The guys and gals that come to our meetings are old friends of yours that were, and are, very important to your well being. There are the people that make the

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### **Robot Gang** *from page 3*

(lift operator) make the cargo move. We were told to work number 3 hatch. As the top deck was uncovered we could see neat loads of palletized pineapple from the Orient. The three foot line had been observed and we would have access to the deck below. The pallets were well stowed and the ships crew said the voyage east bound was smooth and without stormy weather.

We hoisted in two bulls and went back to the dock to hook the robot. The robot was made of steel it had a platform was large enough to have two pallets loaded on it and still be under the Safe Working Load. The winch driver would then take the loads to the dock.

We could see that pallets would be easy for the bull driver to take care of. Carl went for a smoke.

The cargo had been secured in several different ways. 2" banding was apparent, chains and turnbuckles were used when the ship structure did not allow the 2" banding, and two inch fabric belting was a third type of securing.

The second bull driver came down as we unhooked the lift. The A-frame robot was rehooked and we were ready for cargo. Carl came back and we started pulling chain. We opened the largest area for the bulls to work. As they were working pallets we finished pulling chain. The 2" metal banding we cut and later we would make a load of plunder or garbage to go into a dumpster.

The fabric belting was to be salvaged, the gear locker would inspect the belting and it would be ready for a future job.

It was surprising that we worked the U/T/Dk, until we came back after lunch. It was before afternoon coffee we took out the last load, and uncovered to work L/T/Dk. It was almost the same, cargo not adrift, but in good order. In come the bulls, we remove lashing and we are ready for cargo.

Night gangs were coming and we had to hang lights.

We had a call back. The final day we marveled at how well the night shift worked. We could get some gravy.

We got the gravy and headed to the hall for 5:30 dispatch of work in Pt. Angeles, for 8:00 start the next day.

### **Conversations with Harry** *from Page 4*

to principle, or practicing democracy, of speaking out and not being afraid of what anyone might think for the time being. Because the struggles of people all over the world to remove the threat of war, to remove the terrific burdens of armaments, are

more and more coming to the front. The expenditures from armaments in many countries of the world will be thrown off by the people with violence if ways to reduce those burdens are not found by peaceful means.' "Harry was sitting back, looking very thoughtful. Probably remembering those days.

"All that time, you were under attack from our government. And yet you continued to speak out." I said. Sat back and just shook my head. Harry watches me. "And you, the Union, have continued following this philosophy all these years since my passing. Even though the rank-and-file are becoming more conservative, they still stand behind the Union and what it stands for." he concludes. We sit silent, sipping our beer.

"I ran across a tribute by Jimmy Herman," Harry interrupts, "I saw Jimmy just a couple of days ago. Asked him if he knew you. He said he did." Harry smiles. "Yes," I respond, "I've had dinner with him a couple of times.

And he was a great help when I injured my head at the hotel. But, as I was saying, In this tribute he praises you and goes on, '..his commitment to militant, democratic trade unionism,' he goes on how you were, 'in the forefront of social movements for equality, civil liberties and peace, and had a keen sense of the obligation of organized working people to use their strength on behalf of those less fortunate or less well-situated...' Harry smiles, "He always was one with words." He pauses, "Enough of this, it's time for me to go." He's up and gone before I can say, "Pay the bill." I sit back to finish the beer, watching as the waitress brings me the bill, with a smile.

### **Dutch Holland** *from page 5*

decisions on your well being. These are fine people that make the decisions on your behalf, because you aren't there to say otherwise. These are the people who remember so that we won't repeat mistakes of the past. These are the same people who enjoyed your good company and are so pleased you are well and so concerned if you are not. We would love to see you at our meetings, to socialize with you again. Don't make the job of those looking out for your future, ensuring your pension, health and welfare issues any more difficult, Participate in the process. Your Union and your retiree clubs need you. If the employers and politicians pick our pockets, we've only ourselves to blame. Because if we stand by, unorganized and disassociated with one another, they win - but most importantly - we lose! Give it back at 'em. Come to your retiree meetings.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Rusty Hook readers: Money is always needed, but news about YOU is what makes the effort worthwhile. The members of the Pensioners club and the staff of the Rusty Hook are pleased, proud and grateful that the A members of local 19 and local 52 have contributed \$2.00 each, every quarter, to the support of the Rusty Hook and The Pensioners Club. Thank you, each and every one! Your support makes it possible to send the Rusty Hook to every A and B longshore worker and clerk and distribute copies to casuals who work out of our hall. We also send copies to many other friends and supporters of the labor movement here the United States and in Australia, New Zealand, Greece and Canada helping to insure the support of other longshore unions for our 2008 negotiations.

This letter was forwarded by NICK BUCKLES, ILWU Benefits Director.

Dear Mr. Buckles:

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$50.00.

I am sending this to you at the instructions of my mother NEVA SULLIVAN. She asked me to send it in the name of my father, ROBERT L. SULLIVAN who passed away April 5th of last year at the age of 93.

My dad valued his years as a member and always enjoyed reading the Rusty Hook.

My mother, who is entering CRISTA Assisted Living tomorrow also enjoys that periodical and hopes that this small donation will somehow benefits continued publication. On their behalf, I thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,  
BOB SULLIVAN

Our thanks to Brother NICK BUCKLES for sharing this letter with us, and forwarding the welcome check. Examples of the extra miles NICK goes to help the retirees and the Rusty Hook. We will do our best to see that Sister NEVA SULLIVAN continues to receive the Rusty Hook.

From TERRY CONKLIN, Marysville.

I am also enclosing a check for the Rusty Hook. if you would please pass it on for me. I'll try and get to the next pensioners meeting so I catch up on things. I also belong to the Everett pensioners and get to allot those meetings.

Thank you.

TERRY CONKLIN

Thanks for the \$60.00, TERRY. It is good to hear from you.

From JOHN L. FERN Quincy.

To: Rusty Hook:

Keep up the good work, guys. PARKER, good job on class of 57. Enclosed is check for \$100.00: \$25 for Bridges Fund, \$25 for JUGGUM fund, \$25 for Rusty Hook, \$25 for whatever you think best.

Thank you JOHN. \$36 came to the Rusty Hook.

From VLADIMER (ROBERT) DZUTSOFF, Raymond.

Dear fellow members and old timers,

Received the Spring issue of Rusty Hook and thought it was about time I sent you some money. I have had seventeen operations for different things, but am still kicking. Tell the younger generation to keep up good work as us old timers need the money. We sure did not get the wages you fellows are getting today. I attend old timers meetings in Aberdeen Local 24 as I cannot drive too far because of my eye sight and hearing. Tell all the old timers up there I wish I could see all of them again. Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 to do with as you see fit.

All my best to all of you fellows,

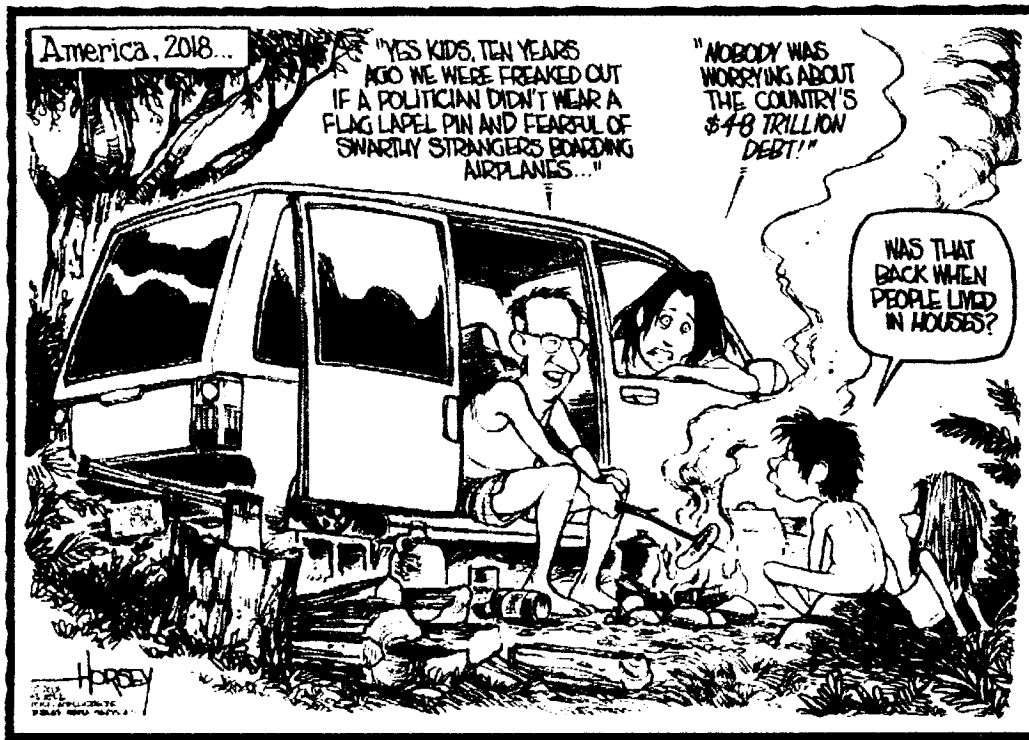
VLADIMER (ROBERT) DZUTSOFF & WIFE OF  
52 YEARS

Thank you BOB, and thank your LOVELY WIFE!

We received contributions at the Hall for the Rusty Hook from the following members. No messages, just the money. We are grateful for the \$\$, and would really like to see more of you more often.

CARL WOECK \$72.00, RODNEY BAKKEN \$12.00, JOE SULLIVAN \$42.00, AL ROBBINS \$40.00, BOB BEAUVAIS \$72.00, GERALD PIRTILA \$50.00, RICHARD NELSON \$100.00, BOB HALL \$25.00, PETE CHELEMEDOS \$100.00

We Thank Brother MURRELL LEE, Lake Tapps, for a check for \$44.00 and for alerting us to the fact that he was receiving 2 copies of the Rusty Hook at 2 different address! We have corrected that and thank MURRELL for an additional contribution every issue.



## Seattle ILWU Pension Club

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**ILWU Benefits Office – Nick Buckles, Director**  
Jefferson Square 4700 42nd Ave. S.W. #551  
Seattle, WA 98116

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