

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



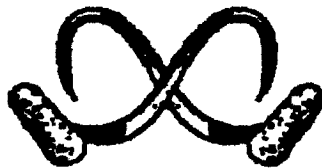
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In Memory
**FRED BERG
DEL CASTLE**

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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SEATTLE, WA 98134
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MEETINGS: 10:00 am

July	6
August	3
September	7
October	5

Viva Chavez!

By Dave Chaddock

Although we live in an advanced technological society, apparently we also live in a fairly retarded part of the world. For we have yet to make the collective decision to support the right of every member of society to obtain the best medical care. We in the ILWU, to be sure, as the result of a sustained struggle over the years, have obtained such a right. But a growing number of Americans are finding this goal to be simply out of reach.

Sometimes it is helpful, when you are mired down, to give some thought to the way in which other societies have addressed the same problem. And in this regard, I would like to recommend to all of you a most remarkable book which tells the true and inspiring story of what is happening in Venezuela. Unlike critics of Chavez who have regular columns in the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post and who stay in five-star hotels and pal around with the upper classes, the author of this book moved into a barrio and lived there for 18 months, coming to see Venezuela from the point of view of the poor and downtrodden. The book is simply called HUGO! and was written by Bart Jones, for many years a correspondent for the Associated Press.

Though the mass media in Venezuela, dominated by enemies of Chavez, has consistently lied about him and distorted his record, this campaign reached its apex just before he was temporarily removed

from power in 2002. A TV network owned by the richest man in Venezuela, covering a protest march against Chavez during which 19 persons were shot to death, repeatedly showed video of Chavez supporters in red berets poking their heads around the corner of a building and firing their pistols. This scene was placed side by side with footage of dead and wounded protesters. As Jones tells us: "Even avid Chavez backers were disgusted and decided they could no longer support a president who ordered his armed supporters to massacre peaceful marchers." CBS and the New York Times repeated the allegation, as did the U.S. State Department, which declared that "Chavez supporters, on orders, fired on unarmed peaceful protesters."

However, subsequent investigation showed (1) the red beret shooters were too far away from the people who were killed, (2) the killed and wounded victims had been shot an hour earlier, (3) many or most of the dead were Chavez supporters, (4) the trajectory of the fatal bullets was downward, suggesting snipers up on the rooftops and (5) the men in red berets were actually defending themselves against attacks by police and snipers.

With these lying accounts still dominating the scene, Chavez was spirited off, and mercenaries were about to "Lumumba" him away when he asked them "what did they think they were going to do the

Continued on page 2

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next day” and “what would they tell the people who asked what had happened to him?” Soon he would make a miraculous reappearance!

Jones tells us of the early days when Chavez was recruiting supporters in the army. One night it was after 9pm in the barracks. All the soldiers were supposed to be quietly sleeping. But Chavez had snuck out to play baseball. It was a big game, and was being broadcast on the radio. When Chavez hit a home run the barracks exploded in cheers. The captain, awakened by the ruckus, wanted to arrest Chavez for insubordination, but he was already becoming much too popular.

When an initial attempt to stage a rebellion ended in failure, Chavez was allowed to appear on TV to “surrender” but instead of appearing in chains he managed to keep his red beret on his head as he allowed that the objectives the rebels had set for themselves had not been achieved, and at this point he threw in the phrase “por ahora” – (for now) – managing to seem less like a discredited failure than “a hero who had risen up against an unjust government” and moreover, as one who would soon be returning for another try! As one of his supporters told Jones: “Hugo Chavez entered our hearts that day and never left.”

We are supposed to be upset with Chavez because he made contemptuous remarks about Bush at the UN, and compared him to the devil. But many of us in the ILWU have said much worse things about Bush! And besides, Chavez was re-acting to the fact that Bush had gone all out to try to remove him from power, sending money to opposition forces, and tolerating calls for his assassination on Miami TV.

More recently President Obama has been attacked for shaking Chavez’s hand at an international get together. There it was in color on the front page of the New York Times, a broad smile on Obama’s face. And the next day Chavez presented Obama with a book, and there was a second handshake, and this time Hillary Clinton could be seen smiling in the background seemingly enchanted by the scene.

Chavez told Bart Jones that he is a “reading addict”, adding “I can’t live without it, like someone who is addicted to drugs.” He has had his government print classic books and hand them out free. This included five hundred thousand copies of Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables*. I was recently turned onto this book by a crane operator, who was reading it in his RTG on a slow day. Truly, this has got to be one of the greatest books ever written!

As for the book he gave to Obama, it was called

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

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The Open Veins of Latin America by Edwardo Galeano, written in 1973. And a reporter noted that the book was in Spanish, “a language the president does not speak.” But a very good English translation exists, and I hope Obama reads it. Galeano tells the tragic history of Latin America since the arrival of the Spanish, the massacre of the natives and the importation of African slaves to extract gold and silver. It tells of the mercury that was mined to separate out the silver, and how this poison “penetrated to the very marrow” and caused “a constant shaking, and the workers usually died within four years.” Later on, King Sugar, at first a secondary exploitation to the mining, but later a dominant industry; replaced food crops, devastated and exhausted the soil, leaving eroded badlands and starvation. With one monoculture or another handcuffing their economies – whether cotton, cacao, coffee, rubber, or bananas – the various countries of Latin America suffered railroads that ran only from the interior to the ports, making off with their resources for the benefit of foreign capitalists. Most recently the United States has replaced England as the ruling power, sending in the Marines and overthrowing governments whenever they tried to gain control over their own riches, and giving loans that were always conditional upon buying U.S. goods and following U.S. orders.

Even as I write this article the New York Times reports that the “open veins” of Latin America are making news in Peru, where thousands of natives are blocking highways in protest against opening the Amazon to “oil exploration and other extractive investments.” But in Venezuela, and in several other Latin American countries as well, a new day is dawning. The untapped oil reserves in Venezuela may rival those of Saudi Arabia, and Chavez is determined that the profits from this resource will not simply be skimmed off for an exploitive minority but will be

The British are Here

By Jon Halgren

The feelings in the hall that morning seemed to be that the best job was the London Star, at Pier 25. Three ship gangs were being called for, supplemented by 12 swing stevedores. Hiring on the dock included three lift drivers, three extra bull drivers and three truckers.

The canned salmon that often filled the warehouse had been moved out of the Pier 25 warehouse, only a few weeks earlier. This was the first season that warehouses in Bellingham and Anacortes were being used for the canned salmon out of Alaska. The operators believed that using low rent places in the outports could save money.

I was assigned to work Number 4 Hatch that had a whirly crane so there was no gear to rig. Uncovering the hatch cover boards was a back breaker. The coming was about four feet high and the hatch boards were about 12 feet long. Some one said "This is a job for two men and a boy." We were well off. We had four men on each side. The weight and length of the hatch boards made it necessary for two men to handle each board. We would have two men on deck and two on top of the hatch. Men would bring the boards to the coming. I was on the deck working with Carl. This is easy I thought. Then Red said, "Ok kids! you get up here and do your half, walk the remaining boards like we did." Neither job was a picnic.

We went down to the upper-tween deck and both sides of the hatch had woolen textiles from the UK. "Send us the light weight aluminum gravities. We'll send the boxes to the cargo board so we can make our load in the square," Red continued "We also need tie ropes, water cups and a full water jug."

"What is going on? Red shouted. "These gravities are the very heavy steel, we called for the light weight ones." He wanted to rattle the teeth of those in hearing distance.

Frosty the deckman hollered back, "The gear man, Bob was on the dock and he said that the lightweight ones were all in Tacoma and the company wants to buy more of the light weight aluminum gravities." But that takes time.

Red spoke his mind, "We are not spring chickens and we are getting worn out. I hope the light weight gravities get here before I retire." Red told Frosty, "Tell Bob we appreciate his efforts. As usual we will do the best we can."

On that job, only the young punks broke a sweat. We rotated building loads in the square and sending

boxes down the gravities. I asked Sam Basepool a question about the gravities. Sam explained that it was possible to invert the gravity, land the empty cargo board on top of the gravities, and then push the whole thing to the pile, build a load, and roll it out to the square when the load was ready.

Before lunch we finished the tween deck. Then we uncovered the lower tween deck and it was time for lunch.

Val, Leo, Carl and I went over to the Brass Rail for lunch. I had a bowl of chili, cheese on the top and crackers on the side. I must have been hungry because it tasted great. The talk at lunch was about frozen salmon for export. How many salmon can an Englishman buy for 100 Pounds (British money)? Are we buying British steel? If the order is in we will be loading some on this ship. I hope times are good in England. We could get another day on the London Star.

As we were going up the gangway the ship foreman Holte announced, "Refer tomorrow, bring your warm clothes. Yes, all gangs will be back."

At Hatch 4 we went down to the lower tween deck. My Oh, my! I did not know that people of Washington could drink so much liquor. I could see Johnny Walker, Cutty Sark, Teachers, Irish Mist, and Beef-eater Gin. The checker for the hatch said, "There is some Irish beer, and liquids from Ireland and some from England."

Two ship crewmembers came down the ladder. They each stood on a side and watched us making loads. Someone lit up and the crew said "It is prohibited." We all knew what the signs said butt.....

After things got rolling and the crew became more relaxed with us, we talked. We covered the whole field of topics. They were sent down by the Chief Mate to record if any cases were broken, or pilfered. There was some. I think the damage report indicated that things happened at the loading port.

We finished the booze and since there was no Seattle discharge in the lower hold we covered the lower tween deck. and started to set up for working frozen salmon tomorrow, in the tween deck refer lockers.

"Hey boys, Come up, Hang the night tent and call it a day." Red said" Clyde must be sick. He is giving us a two-minute break."

"What is a night tent?" I asked Val. "Put the big eye on the hook, when the deck man lowers the hook. He will then lift up the tent and we will take the rope lines, and pull open the tent and secure the lines to

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The British are Here cont.

the combing or the wire rope circling the hatch. When that is done the winch driver will take the slack out to tighten the tent so if it rains the hatch is protected."

Coordination and teamwork is essential for the movement of frozen cargo. The refer storage warehouse had to know the loading amount for each port, and the proper rotation of ports for discharge. The trucking needed the right number of trucks to keep us going, but avoid having cargo on the dock during coffee and lunch.

Walking past the delivery truck, on the way to the gangway I could see boxes of salmon, the weight was marked 100 kilos. That is not much. Wait, that is 220 pounds. I sure hope we two-man them.

We released the tent, and put it off shore. We went down the ladder and in came a four-wheeler, then another. We needed one for each side. The first load came in and we steadied it over the four-wheeler and when ready we signaled to the deck man to land the load.

Suddenly Red said, "Time for a mark off. Stow those last two loads and stretch the yellow netting across the cargo so when it is discharged the long-shore gang knows when to stop."

It was nice to get out for coffee, lunch and then afternoon coffee. 5:00 could come none too soon. We had a very nice day as to the weather, so when we wanted to hang the night tent we were told to keep working. The night gang would start in Hatch 4, and finish the reefer.

It was a good day. No injuries and we would go to the hall tomorrow. I would not be going dancing tonight. It would be a hot shower, dinner and to bed.

Viva Chavez *From page 2*

diverted to satisfy the crying needs of the Venezuelan people. As New York union leader Brenda Stokeley has pointed out: "President Chavez is trying to provide poor people with health care, education, and decently paid jobs"(Jones, 399). Early on, he pulled 70,000 soldiers out of the barracks and gave them something productive to do, selling food "out of the backs of trucks at rock-bottom prices" and venturing "into isolated Indian communities in the Amazon jungle accessible only by boat along rivers, bringing doctors and medicine" (Jones, 231-2). Hey! What's not to like about this? Why can't we do something similar?

Caucus Report

The caucus convened in Seattle, the Monday following the convention. Conrad Spell was elected chair of the caucus, and the caucus was dedicated to Al Venezuela. After dealing with the opening housekeeping, the Belgium dock workers' president was introduced. (Belgium has five Ports and 10,000 Dockers.) He is also the chairman of the dockers' side of the ITF.

The Coast Committee Report was read into the records and resolutions that didn't affect the committee reports were presented.

Tuesday morning, the Health and Welfare Committee Report was introduced along with resolutions to amend it. HR676 was discussed. It was pointed out that the 4.5% fee reads such that unions could negotiate to have this paid by the employers in place of their negotiated health care plans. It was also noted that the present bill under consideration could cause you to pay tax on the cost of up to (or around) \$3500. Write your Congressman to have this defeated.

Our pension Plan is at it's lowest level since the 1980s. It is very close to 50% and is now in the "red zone." The PMA had sent a letter to President McEllrath stating that they will extend the payments to the pension plan for the 2009/2010 plan year over 201/2 months rather than the 12 months, as permitted by the IRS. They also request a suspension of 401k payments, prescription drug co-pay, equalize CWOOG to PGP, and suspend wage increases. No one in the Union has any thoughts of opening up the contract for any reason.

Candidates for Coast Committee were nominated. Leal Sundet is Unopposed, while Ray Ortiz will be opposed by John Kavanaugh from local 29. The standing committees had a few changes, some will have little or no effect on them, while others could. The Budget Committee will be losing Steve Hanson, Oregon area, to retirement, but will gain Duane Johnson, Puget Sound Small Ports. The Education Committee will add Holly Hulscher, local 23. The big lose will be to the Clerks' Technology Committee, with John Tousseau, replaced by Mike Podue, local 63. Oregon area's Randy Clark replacing Dane Jones, and Washington area loses Josh Kennedy, being replaced by Sean O'Donnell. This could prove to be a problem for the Chairman, Glen Anderson, as the three who are off the Committee have the experience and Know the issues.

A few resolutions that affect the Washington area are; Misc. 10, Labor Archives Funds, calls for matching funds up to \$50,000 per year for three years to

Waterfront Shaman

Ceremonial mask upon my face,
donned in animal skins.

I return to game trails as a
bear cub alongside my life giver,
Ursa Homo.

The odors of wet fur and rotting
wharves mingle with pungent crevices,
twitching my nostrils.

We go on the touch for hotels
of instant eureka and witness
horsemen performing freak shows,
busting skulls and strikes.

Into liver swell saloons
and maritime hiring halls,
pompadour ladies and Mackinawed
stevedores waited for a call.

My pubescent ears took me
on the prowl.

We sprung from stealth my kind,
learning the process of survival
developing reflexes with sibling
left hooks.

The smell of fear and blood
sharpened in competitive modes,
mastering time and space with
fast cars and nubile opportunities.
grow into a different form with
wolf endowed instincts.

Fascinated by bare knuckle power
and street gang cults, garbed
in jaguar skins my education
came late.

The societal mix of body types,
racial distinctions and cultural
persuasions came first.

Compelled by nature I followed
the work boot spoor of my pride
and realized the possible
caged alternatives.

In constant training for backbreak
labor, territorial fights and
drinking bout triangles.

I put around my jugular and loins
the battle dress of eagle feathers
and preened my rooster plumage
for dangerous pleasures with
breeding females.

Still pacing from the rut years,
backhand slices and west
of the sun habits.

I learn to hover above
the rat holes of downtown bites.
After years of wandering
and licking the drainage
of essence.

Words from the past entered
my camouflaged form,
teaching me reflective yet
tougher disciplines.

Convention Report

The convention kicked off with a reception by the host committee on Sunday evening, the 8th. On Monday, following the invocation and singing of "O, Canada" and the "Star Spangled Banner," and the opening housekeeping was dispensed with, President McEllrath introduced Governor Chris. Gregoire. She thanked the officers and talked about the great history of the ILWU. Then, she went on to speak of the state and it being a union state. She also spoke on the necessity of undoing the wrongs of the past eight years under Bush, as well as getting the "Employee Free Choice Act" passed this year.

The Governor was followed by Rick Bender, president of the Washington State Labor Council. He spoke on Washington's rich labor history and the fact that it is the fourth-highest in union density in the country and that it has been increasing these past eight years. Also that worker's compensation and unemployment benefits are among the highest in the nation.

President McEllrath, then spoke on the accomplishments of the Union over the past three years. He included the efforts to get Obama elected, our organizing drives at Blue Diamond and Rite Aid, and the need to get the Free Choice Act past. He stressed the need to take hold of our destiny and move forward, as the '34 strikers did. "Our battle is in front of Us."

There were greetings read from the SUP and guests introduced from the All-Japan Dockworkers' Union, ILA President Richard Hughes and his delegation of international officers, including Ken Riley, president of ILA local 1422 (an old friend), and an ILA International vice-president. Ken was followed by Glen Wood, deputy branch secretary for the Maritime Union of Australia.

Then followed the Committee Reports and the resolutions that effected them. (Monday through Wednesday, the convention would adjourn at lunch, so that each afternoon the various committees could meet.) During the reports, Vice-President Radisich spoke on the efforts to organize Rite-Aid that began before the Convention in 2006. He was followed by Debbie Fontaine, (a Rite-Aid worker), who told about the struggle and the fight for the first contract. President McEllrath followed with the introduction of Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia and his delegation. Paddy then gave a rousing speech on the relationship of our two Unions and his pleasure in being in Seattle. During the afternoon session, Russell Mayn, the Assistant General Secretary of the Maritime Union of New Zealand was introduced and he spoke on the struggles they were

Convention Report cont.

having with the same employers that we have. And the struggle they experienced two years ago at the Port of Naproxen, were the employers brought in scabs and the police in an attempt to break the Union. And the assistance they got from the MUA.

Thursday morning began with the introduction of Prof. Jim Gregory, the present holder of the Harry Bridges Chair at the University of Washington. Prof. Gregory talked about the founding of the Chair and its growth. He talked about the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies and what a powerful force it has become on campus. He also brought up the need to preserve the papers of the unions as well as the works of the members, and the Chairs' efforts to set up a Labor Archive.

Friday completed the resolutions and the committee reports, as well as the International Officers' Report which was accepted as amended.

The nominations for International Officers were put to the convention with few surprises. The four offices are unopposed. The only change will be the office of vice-president, the candidate will be Ray Famileti.

The next convention will be held in Los Angeles in 2012.

Respectfully submitted
Ian Kennedy

Caucus Report cont.

establish a labor archives under the Harry Bridges Chair at the University. Misc. 11, Preservation Of Industrial Lands In Port Of Seattle, this speaks for its self. Organizing 1, Strategic Leverage For Organizing, calls on the Organizing Dept. to utilize the locals in organizing drives.

The Coast Committee Report talks of the PMA's desires to change our pension plan and recommends against such changes, as they recommend against re-opening our contract for any reasons. In discussions on PGP, the Coast Committee feel the Plan can sustain full benefits for at least another twelve months. They do feel the Weekly Indemnity Plan is in trouble and are looking at ways to alleviate it. The problems with TWIC were discussed, and the efforts the Coast is making to overcome them.

Respectfully submitted
Ian Kennedy

Conversations with Harry

By Ian Kennedy

As I entered the bar, I noticed that Harry was in deep conversation with Jerry. He sat leaning forward, his chest against the table, stabbing the table with the first finger of his left hand. He had his back to me and didn't see me approach. An empty glass sat next to the pitcher of beer. As I came up behind him, I asked, "Is that for me?" He looked up, "Wasn't sure you'd make it see'n you should be in Seattle, at the Convention." Then he smiled, "Yes, yes, have a beer, sit down."

"The Convention broke up into Committees for this afternoon session, so I grabbed a flight down, I have a return late tonight." I responded. "You're not looking very happy," I remarked. "What's going on?"

"It's just like 1934, or getting that way. The employers don't give a shit about the contract. They lose an arbitration, then they ignore the ruling of the Arbitrator. That is, unless the Arbitrator rules for them. Then it's a different story." He drains his glass, refills it.

"It's bad." I respond, "The membership has lost the meaning of solidarity. Especially amongst the Clerks and Foremen, but the Longshore side as well." They are both sitting up and listening to what I have to say. "I blame some of it on the loss of the gang structure that resulted from containerization. But it goes beyond that. When I was a casual, we knew the meaning of Union and why it was important, we looked out for each other. Times have been changing. It's not something that just started, but has been going on for some time, and been getting progressively worse for a long time now. Steady jobs were to be limited. There was to be a joint agreement on them, and the hiring was to be posted at the halls. Today, the employers say 'screw you,' to the Union. And our members say 'screw you, I want mine' to their officers."

Jerry interrupts me, "What's that got to do with the employers' attempt to tear up the contract? How will the employers cutting back on hours and sending steadies back to the hall help?" he asks.

I smile as Harry jumps in, "It levels the playing field. Everyone is even, they have lost their advantage over the others. There is no reason not to go back to the hall. They are finding out that they are not the employers fair haired boy (or girl,) and that everyone is expendable to the employer. And if that is true, why should they turn their backs on the Union and kiss ass with the employer?"

"Hopefully, Solidarity will begin to make cense to the bothers and sisters." I pause, "Even the foremen are beginning to get the message, are becoming more willing to work with the Clerks."

Memorable Moments

By Art Mink

It was the spring of 1957 and I was applying for the 1957 Local 19 "B" pool. The interview was conducted at a little card table with the employer representative seated on the left side and the union's Labor Relations Committeeman, Frank Jenkins, on the right. I was on the end

The employer rep asked me, "Why would a man with your education want to be a longshoreman?"

I wondered what the employers man found so impressive about my 2 years at Boise Jr. College (I didn't even graduate!)

As I was trying to think of an answer (other than that I needed the job) Frank Jenkins, with just a hint of contempt in his deep resonant voice, asked the employer representative.

"Since when does a longshoreman have to be ignorant?" There were no further questions and I was accepted. I don't think that question was ever asked again.

Conversations with Harry cont.

We sat quietly for a few minutes as we killed the pitcher. I signaled for a refill. "The PMA is asking for all sorts of changes, relief on the pension, co-pays, no 401k's, and no increase in wages at this time. But, the officers and the caucus stayed firm against reopening the contract." They waited for me to continue, " I sure was wrong when I was critical of the negotiators going for a six year contract."

"Are there any other problems you for see?" Jerry asked.

"Yes," I responded, " Glen Anderson, chairman of the Clerks' Tech. Committee is going to have a tough time." I saw a quizzical look on Jerry's face. "Two of the committee has been removed, One each from each from So. Cal. and Oregon areas. So. Cal. shouldn't be a problem because they have several members to cover. The Oregon area loses a computer pro, I don't know anything about his replacement. But the Employer isn't going to let up. It's easy for them to move the electronic data away and hard to find, to go after it."

The bartender came by just as I was checking my watch for the time. "I've got to catch a plane, could you call me a cab please?"

Harry reaches for his wallet, pauses, smiles, then said "You get it kid, we're in a rush." He and Jerry get up and head for the door. He turns, smiling as he waves as I reach into my pocket.

CORRESPONDENCE

From BUD JOHNSON, Tucson, AZ.
Rusty Hook. Use it where it fits the best
BUD JOHNSON

Thanks for the \$100.00, BUD. We will do as you say.

From JUDY SWICKER, Longview, WA
The ILWU Longview Pension Group. Sends \$50 and a request to continue receiving their bundle of 10 printed copies of each issue of the Rusty Hook.

Thank You, JUDY, your copies will continue.

From FRANCES GREENE, Puyallup.
To the Rusty Hook
You have been very faithful in sending it to me. I really do enjoy reading . I am one of the first women of color taken in the 1908 B Pool. I went from working for Seattle School District #1 to being a longshore person. It was really a experience. I am sending you a long overdue \$100.00 to do as you wish.

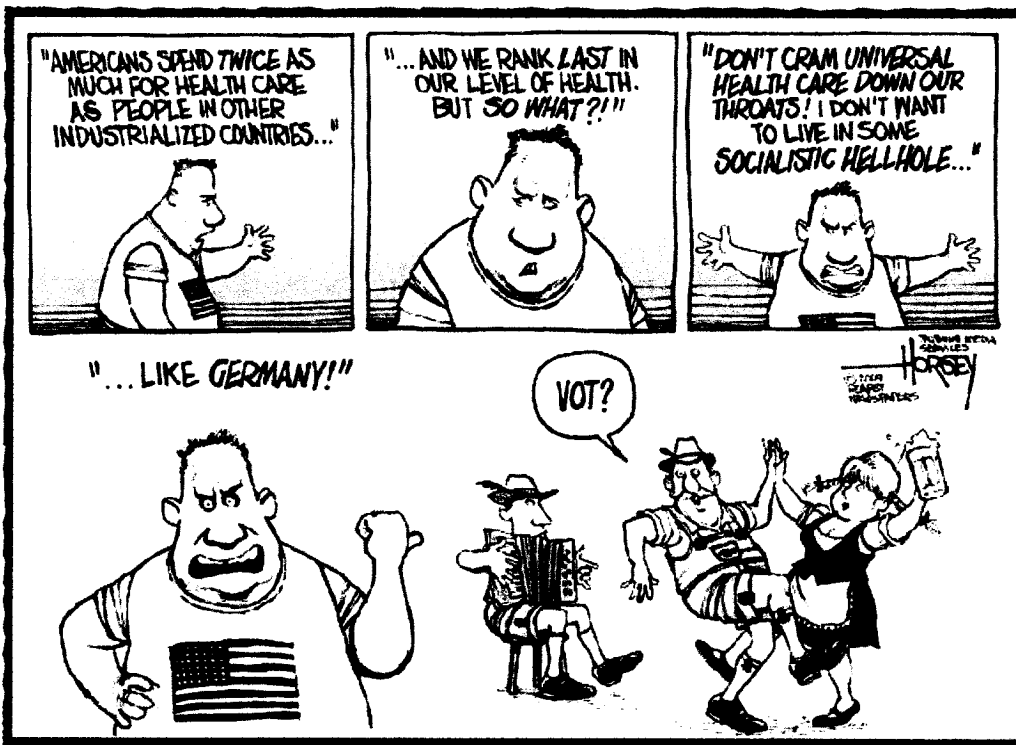
FRANCES GREENE, Retired Local 19

It is good to hear from you FRANCES. The money is very welcome and will be well spent.

We received contributions for the Rusty Hook from the following members. No messages, just the money. The money is very welcome. We'd also like to hear how you are doing. Please write!

- RICHARD MALETTA \$100.00
- DON BRADY \$100.00
- DONALD OLSEN \$100.00
- GEORGE DALY \$20.00
- BOB & WALEDA SHERARD \$500.00
- ERNEST & DOROTHY \$50.00
- MICHAEL HEDRICK \$72.00





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