



VOICE OF THE ILWU

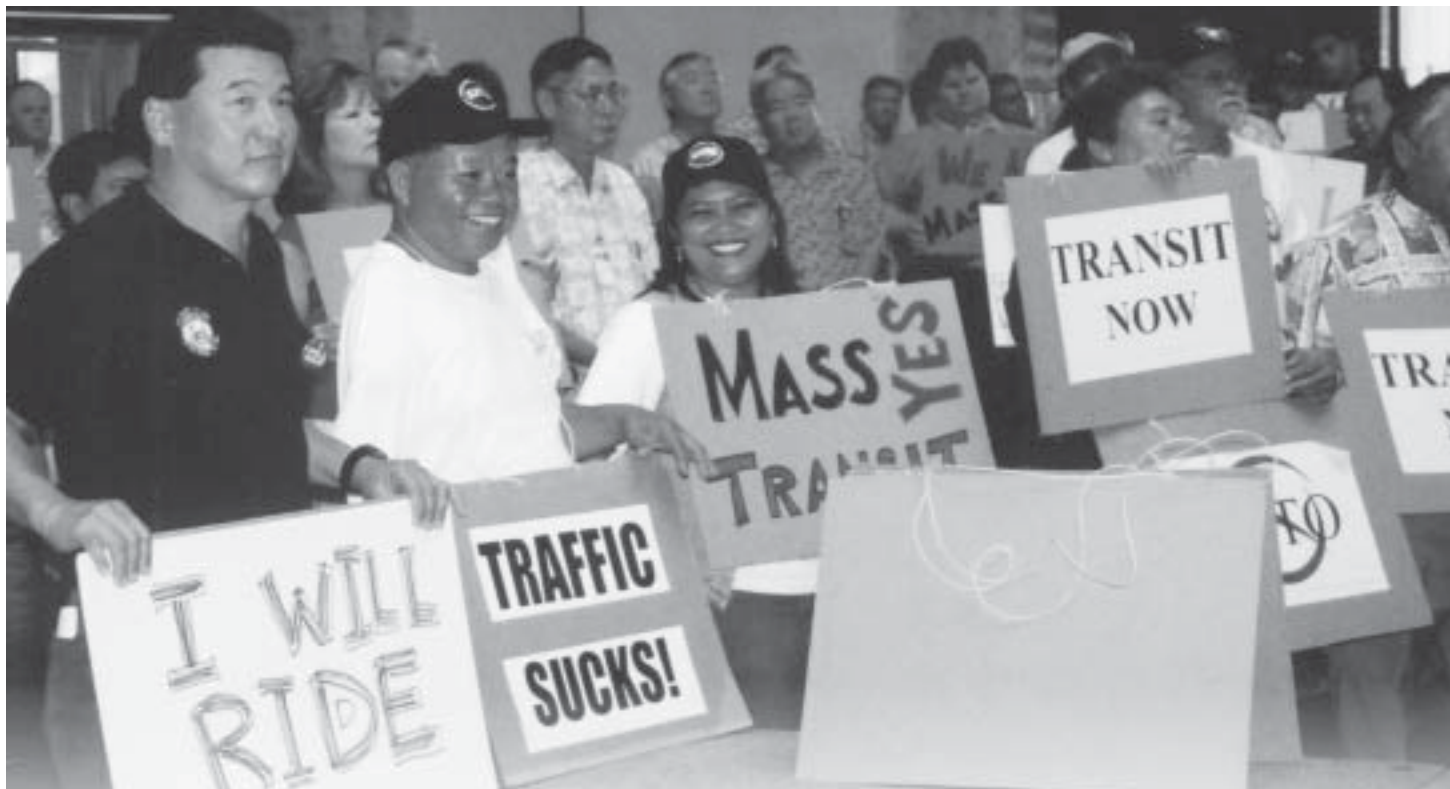
HONOLULU HAWAII
LOCAL 501

Volume 45 • No. 5

The VOICE of the ILWU — Published by the Hawaii Local 142, International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union

June/July 2005

Oahu members win fight for mass transit



ILWU Oahu members and retirees joined other unions and supporters of a mass transit system for Honolulu at a rally at City Hall on July 7, 2005. Much of the rally was directed at Governor Lingle who had threatened to veto a bill passed by the legislature that would fund the mass transit system. Lingle later allowed the bill to become law without her signature, after a last minute agreement was reached among House and Senate leaders Calvin Say and Robert Bunda, City and County of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and the Governor.

ADDRESS LABEL

CDL Hazardous Materials certification

Some of our neighbor island members who work as commercial drivers were asking about the \$94 application fee and the fingerprinting that is required for the HazMat Endorsement (HME). They were being told they had to go to Honolulu as the State Department of Transportation had no way of doing fingerprinting on the Neighbor Islands.

The union looked into the situation and suggests the following:

- 1) Fingerprinting can be done on the neighbor island. Drivers must call 877-429-7746 to schedule an appointment.
- 2) You should request your

employer to pay the \$94 HME application fee. If there is a problem, see your ILWU business agent.

3) If you have questions about the background security check, see your business agent.

As of January 31, 2005, the US Patriot Act requires commercial truck drivers who transport hazardous materials to pass a background security check. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will look for criminal convictions in the last seven years, any immigration violation, and other factors that suggest you may pose a security threat (bad credit, large debts,

sexual/mental/emotional behavior, etc.) If you fail any of these checks, you will not get a hazmat endorsement.

If a hazmat endorsement is denied, a driver can appeal on grounds of mistaken identity or inaccurate court records. Drivers who do not transport hazardous materials do not need an endorsement, and drivers who surrender an endorsement will not be subject to a background check. A denial of a hazmat endorsement will not affect a driver's CDL license.

Hazardous items include gasoline, explosive cartridges, radioactive and infectious sub-

stances, propane, chlorine, acids, ammonia and other poisonous gases. Drivers must renew a hazmat endorsement every five years, although a state may require more frequent renewals. Under TSA rules, drivers are responsible for reporting disqualifying events.

The Bush Administration rushed the US Patriot Act through Congress in a matter of weeks following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Many feel that the Patriot Act does little to enhance security, and instead threatens our individual freedom and concentrates power in the hands of the president. ♦

Cancer cure from pineapple?

Australian scientists have discovered two molecules from the pineapple plant that may lead to an entirely new kind of cancer treating drug. Dr. Tracey Mynott and her research team at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) in Australia discovered two protease enzymes, CCS and CCZ, that could block the growth of cancer

cells while activating the body's immune system.

The researchers were exploring how and why bromelain had such a powerful effect on animal and human cells.

Bromelain is the general name for the family of sulfhydryl proteolytic (or protease) enzymes found in the

pineapple plant. Protease enzymes work by breaking the chemical bonds that hold protein molecules together. This is the same chemical process that occurs when our body digests foods. Because of its ability to break down proteins and meat products, bromelain is widely used commer-

—continued on page 2

Next Local Executive Board Meeting scheduled for Sept. 22-23, 2005 10:00 am 896 Lower Main St. Wailuku, Maui

International President's Report

IEB scrutinizes budget, sets policy direction

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU's International Executive Board, the union's highest governing body between International Conventions, met in San Francisco March 30-April 1, 2005.

With an eye toward developing the most accurate and responsible three-year budget proposal for the 2006 International Convention (to cover 2007-2009), the entire board met as the Board of Trustees to go over the current budget and spending with a fine-tooth comb. They reviewed expenses and their reasons to determine which programs may be cut back and which need funding and expansion. The board plans to begin fashioning budget proposals at its August meeting for next year's Convention.

Restructuring proposals at AFL-CIO

International President Jim Spinosa reported on the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Las Vegas March 1-3 he and other ILWU officers attended. The meeting was meant to discuss the various "restructuring" proposals floating around since SEIU President Andrew Stern declared several months ago that the federation's nearly 60 unions needed to merge into no more than 15 or 20 to consolidate power and bargain more effectively on an industry-wide basis. His plan would force unions in the same sector to merge if they did not do it voluntarily. If that doesn't happen, Stern said, he would withdraw his union from the AFL-CIO. Since then, several other unions have developed proposals trying to deal with consolidation, organizing and

With an eye toward developing the most accurate and responsible three-year budget proposal for the 2006 International Convention (to cover 2007-2009), the entire board met as the Board of Trustees to go over the current budget and spending with a fine-tooth comb.



The ILWU Executive Board took time out of its meeting March 31 to join some 1,500 other unionists and seniors to demonstrate outside the offices of Charles Schwab Corp. in downtown San Francisco to press the major financial firm to stop supporting George W. Bush's plans to privatize Social Security. The protest was part of a national day of action called by the AFL-CIO against Schwab and Wachovia Corp. with actions happening in more than 70 cities across the country.

bargaining.

No solution was agreed upon at the Executive Council meeting, but Spinosa told the IEB his position is that the ILWU will not merge with any other union and that he would propose the ILWU leave the AFL-CIO if the federation tried to force a merger. He said that before he took any action he would bring it

back to the board for discussion and approval.

The board unanimously passed two policy statements, one opposing the ballot initiatives California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is backing, and the other opposing the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) that is pending in

Congress. The board also passed two other resolutions sent to it by warehouse Local 6's Convention in February. One calls for U.S. troops to be brought home now, rejects the policy of pre-emptive war, and demands a reordering of national priorities towards jobs, education and healthcare. The other condemns the recent brutal repression of Filipino union sugar workers and calls for an investigation into and prosecution of the perpetrators of the brutal attacks on the workers. ♦

Medicinal value of pineapple—continued from page 1

cially as a meat tenderizer, to clarify beer, and tan leather hides. Instead of breaking down proteins, the Australians found that CCS could act to slow the growth of cancer by blocking another protein called Ras. The other molecule called CCZ could stimulate the body's own immune system to target and kill cancer cells.

"The way CCS and CCZ work is different to any other drug in clinical use today," said Dr. Mynott. The difference in the way these enzymes act could lead to the discovery of a whole new class of anti-cancer drugs or breakthroughs in the treatment or prevention of disease.

"An interesting characteristic of

CCS and CCZ is that they are proteases. Proteases are traditionally thought of as degradative enzymes which breakdown proteins, such as in the process of digestion. Other reports on the role of proteases in disease have centred on their potential to cause damage. CCS and CCZ are the first examples of proteases that have been shown to modulate cell signal transduction pathways and have specific immunomodulatory activities," said Dr. Mynott.

South and Central American Indians had long known about the medicinal value of pineapple. In the 1490s, Spanish explorers reported seeing natives using pineapple poultices to reduce swelling in

wounds and drinking the juice to aid digestion or cure stomach aches. Bromelain has been known chemically to Western science since 1876, but was not used for therapeutic purposes until 1957.

Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council is funding further research into CCS and CCZ by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Pineapple is a major crop in Queensland, Australia, and the province produces about 128,000 tons of canned and fresh pineapple annually, most of which is consumed in Australia. In comparison, Hawaii produces around 215,000 tons of fresh and processed pineapple. ♦



The VOICE of the ILWU (ISSN 0505-8791) is published monthly except April and combined June/July and October/November issues for \$2 per year by Hawaii International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union, 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Periodicals postage paid at the post office of Honolulu, Hawaii.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to VOICE of the ILWU, c/o ILWU Local 142, 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814. Editorial Board: Fred Galdones, Donna Domingo and Guy K. Fujimura.

Editor: Mel Chang

World Labor News

Oil for freedom

Story and photos by David Bacon

BASRA, IRAQ (6/29/05)—Originally organized under the British in the early 1920s, the Iraqi oil union has always been the heart of the country's labor movement.

"Iraq's two biggest strikes, in 1946 and 1952, were organized by oil workers," Faleh Abood Umara, general secretary of the newly reorganized General Union of Oil Employees, told officers and members of the ILWU during a visit to the West Coast by himself and Hassan Juma'a Awad, the union's president.

Today it is again Iraq's largest, most powerful labor organization, with 23,000 members in southern Iraq. Together with two other labor federations and a handful of independent professional associations, the labor movement is now the biggest institution in Iraqi civil society.

From the very first day of the occupation, Iraqi labor has had to operate in illegal conditions, which has produced a militant and fighting movement, especially in oil. That spirit was evident on the morning of April 9, 2003, the day the US/British invasion started. Workers at Basra's huge, dilapidated oil refinery knew it might come at any moment. Nevertheless, no one expected American tanks when they suddenly pulled up at the gate.

After 30 years of Saddam Hussein, the vast majority had had their fill of war and repression. They were prepared to welcome almost any change that removed the old regime, even foreign troops.

"We were coming out early, at the end of our shift, and there was the American army," recalled Faraj Arbat, one of the plant's firemen. "We were ready to say, 'Hello.'"

Instead of greeting the workers and acting like their liberators, however, the soldiers trained guns on them. The head of the fire department made the mistake of questioning the troops, and was ordered to lie facedown on the ground.

"Abdulritha was absolutely shocked," Arbat recalled. "He was going home. Why should he lie down? But he did as he was ordered. Then an American put his foot on his back. So we started fighting with the soldiers with our fists, because we didn't understand. The tank turret started to turn toward us, and at that point we all sat down."

Someone easily could have died that day. As it was, the memory of the foot on Abdulritha's back left a bitter taste.

The refinery's workers had already labored through the shelling and fires of two decades of conflict, including the "shock and awe" bombing prior to the invasion. Some fled the arriving troops, but most stayed and tried to bring the plant back into operation.

"Slowly we got production restored, by our own efforts," Arbat said. "Electricity workers, at their own expense, brought power back to the refinery. We found where the water pipes had been blown up and went out with armed guards to repair them. Meanwhile, the Americans and British began coming with tanker trucks, loading up on the gas and oil we were producing."

For two months, no one got paid. Finally, Arbat and a small group began to organize a union.

"At first the word frightened people, because under Saddam unions had become instruments of oppression," he explained.



Hassan Juma'a Awad, the head of the General Union of Oil Employees, the largest and most powerful union in Iraq, was organized after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Nevertheless, a few dozen of the refinery's 3,000 employees came together and chose Arbat (whom they affectionately call Abu, or Uncle, Rebab) and Ibrahim Radiy to lead them.

To force authorities to pay the workers, the small group took a crane out to the gate and lowered it across the road. Behind it, two dozen tanker trucks pulled up with a heavily armed military escort.

"At first there were only 100 of us, but workers began coming out," Arbat said. "Some took their shirts off and told the troops, 'Shoot us.' Others lay down on the ground."

Ten of them even went under the tankers, brandishing cigarette lighters. They announced that if the

soldiers fired, they would set the tankers alight.

The soldiers, mostly sons of workers themselves, did not fire. Instead, negotiations began between the general director and the occupation authorities in Basra. By the end of the day the workers had their pay. Within a week, everyone at the refinery joined, and the oil union in Basra was reborn.

Organizing for jobs and against privatization

Like other unions in Iraq's state-owned enterprises, the oil union has had to function as an illegal organization. That hasn't kept unions from organizing to successfully challenge the occupation, however. In fact, the first big fight over the U.S. and British economic program came within a few months of the confrontation at the Basra refinery gate. KBR, a subsidiary of the oil services giant Halliburton, was one of the corporate camp followers arriving in the wake of the troops. KBR was given a no-bid contract to put out war-caused oil fires in the huge Rumeila fields, but once its foot was

—continued on page 4

To force authorities to pay the workers, the small group [of workers] took a crane out to the gate and lowered it across the road . . .

"Some took their shirts off and told the troops, 'Shoot us.' . . .

The soldiers, mostly sons of workers themselves, did not fire.

World Labor News

—continued from page 3
in the door, its presence spread rapidly. Within weeks, it had taken over the financial functions of Basra's civil administration. Workers, in order to get paid, had to take their time sheets to local KBR offices for approval. Those who had fled the advancing troops had to get company permission to return to their jobs.

Then KBR claimed the work of reconstructing wells, pipelines and other oil facilities, and hired a Kuwaiti contractor, Al Khoorafi, to bring in a foreign workforce. Meanwhile, the company used its presence in the oil fields to try to hire drilling rig workers away from the Iraqi Drilling Company, a national enterprise. Despite promises of higher wages, few took the bait. Nevertheless, Iraqi oil workers were outraged. With unemployment hovering at 70 percent, they saw a clear threat to their jobs. But according to Juma'a Awad, workers had other concerns as well.

"We organized the union for two reasons," he said. "First, we had to deal with the administration put in place by the occupying forces. Second, we're afraid that the purpose of the occupation is to take control of the oil industry. It is our duty as Iraqi workers to protect the oil installations, since they are the property of the Iraqi people. We're sure that U.S. and international companies are here to put their hands on the oil."

Organizing oil and power plants

By August 2003, oil workers had organized unions in ten state-owned companies in southern Iraq and formed the General Union of Oil Employees (GUOE). They gave KBR an Aug. 20 deadline to leave the oil sector. When the company refused to talk with them, they shut down oil production for export.

"For two days we didn't move," said Farouk Sadiq, a union leader and teacher at Basra's Oil Institute.

"We refused to pump a single drop until they left. We said we wanted them to leave by peaceful means—otherwise we had another language to speak with them. Other workers in Basra refused to work too, and the American authority saw we could affect what really matters to them. It was independence day for oil labor."

KBR did leave the oil districts, and closed their offices in Basra.

In December the union challenged Bremer's wage orders, threatening to strike again if wages were lowered. This time, the oil minister caved in without a work stoppage. Eventually, the bottom two wage grades were abolished in the oil industry, bringing the base wage up to about \$85 per month.

The GUOE then helped workers organize in the power generation plants. Hashimia Mohsen al Hussein was elected president, the first woman to head a national union in Iraq. In January 2004, unrest spread to the Najibeeya, Haarthha and Al Zubeir electrical generating stations, where workers mounted a wildcat strike, stormed the administration buildings, declared the September wage schedule void and vowed to shut off power if salaries were not raised. Again the ministry agreed to return to the old scale.

Building an Iraq "free of privatization"

Last June the union organized large demonstrations to protest government decisions to hire private contractors to do reconstruction work, replacing the industry's own employees. The problem persists.

"We will confront them if they don't stop," Mohsen warned. "Many Basra workers have already agreed to join us in a general strike."

On the ground in southern Iraq, a new labor movement is being born. Some unions, like the oil workers, are independent. Others, like those for power and longshore workers, are affiliated to the Iraqi Federation of

Oil and f Iraqi worke for rights an



Drilling a new well in the South Rumeila fi



Hashimia Mohsen al Hussein, the president of the Basra engineering union that represents workers at electrical power stations, is the first woman to head a national union in Iraq. Mohsen condemns the management of the power industry for refusing to talk with the union, citing Saddam Hussein's law banning unions for workers in the public sector. She also condemns the contracting of jobs to foreign companies, especially given Iraq's unemployment rate of 50-70 percent.

Trade Unions (IFTU). They all cooperate in confronting the occupation's economic policies for keeping wages low, subcontracting jobs and privatizing major industrial enterprises.

In May the GUOE organized a conference at the cultural center of the oil industry in downtown Basra under a banner calling on Iraqis "To revive the public sector and build an Iraq free of privatization." Bringing together union leaders from rigs and refineries, economists from Basra University, representatives of the IFTU and political parties from the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq to Iraq's Communists, the conference sought to forge a consensus to resist oil privatization.

"The public sector economy of Iraq is one of the symbols of the achievement of Iraqis since the revolution of July 4th, 1958," the conference

statement declared.

According to oil industry analyst Greg Muttitt, who attended the conference representing the British organization Platform, a non-governmental organization concerned with issues of globalization, it is unlikely that oil reserves themselves would be sold, or that a foreign company or government would be given a concession like the one the British held for over three decades. Outside of the U.S., no other country permits those forms of ownership.

"More likely, Iraq's debt will be used to force the government to sign production-sharing agreements with the multi-nationals," Muttitt said.

Such agreements would allow a foreign company to extract the oil, sell it to pay itself for the costs of extraction—by its own calculation—and split the remainder of the income with the government.

World Labor News

Freedom: Workers struggle and resources



Field (Iraq's largest).

Iraq's government would be locked into long-term, disadvantageous agreements, in which it would lose control over most decisions regarding oil exploitation, pricing, income and jobs. Oil workers would likely suffer massive layoffs and lose their leverage over production. Juma'a Awad stressed that without the oil income, Iraq will be unable to rebuild from the war.

"Oil is the first step in jump-starting the economy," he said. "We don't want to pay the cost of globalization."

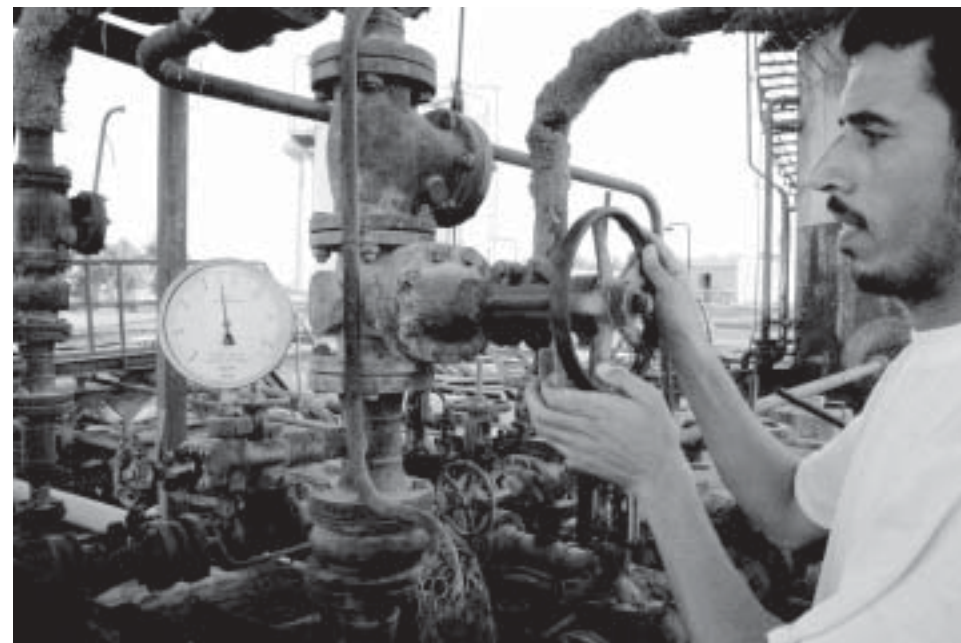
While rank-and-file workers are unfamiliar with the details of production-sharing agreements, they are suspicious of privatization, despite the carrot of modernization used by its defenders to make it attractive. In the Basra refinery, senior fireman Abdul Faisal Jaleel criticizes Saddam Hussein's long failure to invest in modern technol-

ogy, or even spare parts, and said workers paid the price.

"We've been like the camel that carries gold, but is given thorns to eat." Nevertheless, he said, foreign ownership is not the answer. "We reject foreign investment. We want to keep our own oil revenues and use them to develop our country with our own hands."

Unions are suspicious of Iraq's elite political class, returning from exile and enamored with the ideology of the market economy. But they recognize that the government only nominally holds the power to make these economic decisions, and that the real push to privatize comes from Washington and London. This is just one reason why all Iraqi unions call for an end to the occupation and the cancellation of the country's foreign debt.

They don't agree on timing or method. The GUOE calls for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops. The IFTU says an elected Iraqi government should use UN resolution 1545 to ask them to leave. The Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions of Iraq (FWCUI), Iraq's other main labor federation (outside of Kurdistan), calls for UN troops to intervene to supply security. But Abood Umara voiced their common perception that the economic plan of the occupation would bring Iraq back to the early 1950s, before oil was nationalized and Iraq was ruled by the British behind the facade of a native monarchy.



Felah Abood Umara, general secretary of the General Union of Oil Employees (GUOE), with other leaders of the union.

Unions as targets of terror and troops

The occupation, however, is not their only enemy. On Feb. 18, Ali Hassan Abd (Abu, or Uncle, Fahad), a leader of the IFTU-affiliated union at Baghdad's Al Daura oil refinery, was walking home from with his young children, when gunmen ran up and shot him. Less than a week later, armed men gunned down Ahmed Adris Abbas in Baghdad's Martyrs' Square. Adris Abbas was an activist in the Transport and Communications Union, another IFTU affiliate. The murder of the two followed the torture and assassination of Hadi Saleh, the IFTU's international secretary, in Baghdad Jan. 4.

Abood Umara refers to them all as "our leaders" despite the fact that the GUOE is not part of the IFTU, and condemns terrorism and assassination. He adds that a bomb was found in the car of a GUOE member earlier this year, fortunately before it was detonated, and that Hassan Juma'a Awad has received death threats.

Last fall, armed insurgents attacked freight trains, killing four workers in November, and beating and kidnapping others a month later. Service was suspended be-

tween Basra and Baghdad after workers threatened to strike over lack of security.

They say they're being blamed for helping the occupation by doing their jobs, although the trains don't carry military goods.

"It's [a risk for all] civil society organizations, including trade unions," Saleh explained at a meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Japan in December, just before his murder. "Extremists who target trade unionists, both teachers and engineers, kill them under the notion that they are collaborating with a state created by the Americans, so by definition those are collaborators and legitimate targets."

Attacks come from the government and U.S. occupation troops as well. Baghdad's Transport and Communication workers were thrown out of their office in the city's central bus station in December 2003 by U.S. soldiers, who then arrested members of the IFTU executive board. Qasim Hadi, general secretary of the Union of the Unemployed (part of the FWCUI), was arrested several times by occupation troops, for leading demonstrations of unemployed workers demanding unemployment benefits and jobs. Last fall, when textile workers in Kut struck over pay, the city governor called out the Iraqi National Guard, which fired on them, wounding four.

In the broader context of anti-union violence, IFTU leaders are probably singled out as a response to the union's position on the January elections, another issue on which Iraqi unions disagree.

"The IFTU supports democratic principles," explained Ghasib Hassan, head of the IFTU's Railway and Aviation Union. "And one of those principles is elections. So we supported them."

The IFTU, like other Iraqi labor federations, has close relations with a set of political parties, in its case the Iraqi Communist Party (with two ministers in the current government),

—continued on page 6

Iraqi unions agree occupation should end—continued from page 5

the Iraqi National Accord of outgoing Prime Minister Issad al Allawi, and a party of Arab nationalists.

The FWCUI condemned the balloting. "Its purpose was to impose the American project on Iraq, and give legitimacy to the government imposed by the occupying coalition," President Falah Alwan said.

The FWCUI is allied with the small Workers Communist Party of Iraq. The oil union, which took no position on the election, is independent both of other union federations and of political parties.

Looking for a new Iraq

While Iraq's new unions see different methods and timing for getting rid of the occupation, all agree it should go as soon as possible. But they are not only some of the occupation's main critics on the

ground—they also uphold a vision of an alternative future that has inspired progressive Iraqis for decades. Labor's veterans remember the heady days of the 1958 revolution, when organizing unions, breaking up the big estates and building public housing for the urban poor were not just dreams, but government policy. Oil was eventually nationalized, and before Saddam Hussein's wars, the revenue was used to build universities, hospitals and big government-owned factories.

In the U.S., where people know little of Iraqi history, that vision is unknown. Yet millions of Iraqis have a long record of supporting radical progressive ideas and paid for their ideals with death and prison. Unionists, women's rights advocates, teachers, journalists and members of

progressive political parties see Iraq as a peaceful country, with a government committed to social justice, using its oil wealth to give common people a decent chance at life.

Whether they have a real opportunity to develop a progressive, democratic future depends on more than their efforts alone. Creating the political space needed by Iraqi civil society also depends on the actions of an anti-war constituency in the U.S. Six Iraqi trade unionists, from the GUOE, IFTU and FWCUI, toured 25 U.S. cities for two weeks in June, to help their union counterparts understand the cost of the war in a new way (see story page TK). They all called on U.S. labor to press the US government to end the occupation.

U.S. Labor Against the War, which brings together anti-war forces in

U.S. unions and organized the Iraqis' visit, is waging a fight within the AFL-CIO to win a call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The ILWU was the first union in the AFL-CIO to adopt such a position, and was followed by other major AFL-CIO affiliates, including SEIU, CWA, AFSCME, Graphic Communications, Mailhandlers (part of the Laborers), and numerous state, district and local bodies. USLAW has campaigned for Congressional action to end the ban on Iraqi unions, and raised money to help them survive.

"International cooperation," USLAW coordinator Gene Bruskin said, "can provide significant political muscle to change U.S. policy, both on war and privatization, and help those forces in Iraq which want a progressive and democratic future." ♦

Membership Services

Food for the journey, hope for the soul

By Joanne Kealoha
Social Services Coordinator

Most of us take our independence for granted. We think we can take care of ourselves without anyone's help. But what happens if we become too old or too ill to shop or even cook for ourselves? If we're lucky, we have family or friends to prepare our meals and look in on us. But what if we're *not* so lucky?

Hawaii Meals on Wheels provides a valuable service to meet that need. Each weekday, volunteers deliver hot, nutritious meals to hundreds of elderly and disabled individuals on Oahu who cannot cook for themselves and need a helping hand. Most of them live alone and welcome the daily interaction with other people.

Meals are prepared in eight vendor kitchens like Sodexo at Straub, where ILWU members work. Hawaii Meals on Wheels pays the kitchens for the food and

clients are asked to contribute what they can to the cost. A private nonprofit organization in its 26th year, Hawaii Meals on Wheels raises funds to subsidize costs through grant-writing, direct mail solicitation, some government assistance, and an annual fundraiser dinner.

The food is just one part of the service provided by Hawaii Meals on Wheels. Just as important as the meal is the friendly visit by the volunteer, who spends a few minutes each day chatting with the client and making sure he or

she is all right.

Over the years, volunteers have been recognized as "heroes" by clients and other organizations. The American Red Cross recently recognized one volunteer for helping a client to safety in a fire. When another volunteer did not get a response to her knocking, she alerted the resident manager who discovered the client had fallen and could not get up.

Contact Hawaii Meals on Wheels at 988-6747 if:

- you know someone who could welcome a meal and a visit each day, or
- you can spare a couple of hours a week or every other week to volunteer, or
- you would like to make a tax-deductible donation

Hawaii Meals on Wheels really does provide "Food for the Jour-



ney, Hope for the Soul."

Note: Similar "meals on wheels" programs are available through Lanakila Rehabilitation Center on Oahu (531-0555), County Nutrition Program on the Big Island (961-8726), Office on Aging for Maui County (270-7774), and Agency on Elderly Affairs on Kauai (241-4470). ♦

Send us your stories to publish in the Voice

We are always looking for stories to publish in the Voice of the ILWU. This is your union newspaper and we want to make it better.

Examples of stories are: a story about your unit officers or union steward solving a workplace problem; a story about a typical day at work; a story about a funny incident or good experience at work; a story about members helping each other; a story about community service or volunteer work by any ILWU member or retiree; a story about enjoying a benefit provided by the union contract; a story about union activities at your workplace or about union related activities of any ILWU member or retiree. Include a picture if possible.

Stories can be about almost anything, but should promote the work and

principles of the union/ILWU. After all, this is a union newspaper.

Don't worry about your writing. If you send us enough facts and your email address or phone number so we can ask questions, then we can write the final story.

If we use your story or if we intend to use your story in the future, your name will be entered in a drawing, with a chance to win a digital camera and other prizes. We'll hold the drawing for the camera in August 2006 and drawings for other prizes every 3 months. Each entry will have one chance to win the other prizes and one chance to win the digital camera. You may enter as many times as you want. Full-time officers and staff may send us stories, but are not eligible for any prizes.

You may email your entries to ilwu142@flex.com or mail them attention Mel Chang, ILWU Local 142, 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Around the Union

Oahu member wins AFL-CIO scholarship

by Tom Price

Shop steward Zonette Tam had been working for 10 years toward a nursing degree while balancing her job and family life. Then on May 31 the ILWU Local 142 member received the news—she had won an AFL-CIO Union Plus scholarship. As a worker who helped organize her shop into the ILWU, the win was especially sweet.

“I had been on a career path to get a LPN [Licensed Practical Nurse] degree, but I got accepted into the nursing program at Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa and now this scholarship puts me over the top,” Tam said. “I can go for my RN and a bachelor’s degree.”

Tam came from a solid union family and has worked for eight years as a medical technician at the Straub Clinic and Hospital in Honolulu. Workers organized the clinic into Hawaii Local 142 in the late 1990s and got a first contract in 2001.

“I was at some of the first organizing meetings,” Tam said. “I volunteered to be shop steward

because I was the most verbal. Whenever there was trouble with a supervisor, they would come to me.”

The union victory meant Tam was eligible for the scholarship. But things were going rough for the mother of three when she applied last year.

“The past year was hard for me, but my kids were a big help in taking care of the little one while I attended school,” she said. “My husband was in Iraq, a week-end warrior became an active warrior for eight months. At one point there seemed to be no light at the end of the tunnel.”

Of the 5,500 applicants, 120 won scholarships. These are offered annually through the Union Plus



Education Foundation and paid for by the issuers of Union Plus credit cards.

To win the award applicants had to submit an essay of no more than 500 words describing their career goals, detailing their relationship with the union movement and explaining why they are deserving of a union scholarship. Grades and SAT scores were also considered. The judges were people from the American Assn. of Community Colleges, the National Assn. of Independent Colleges and Universities and the United Negro College Fund.

In all, Union Plus awarded \$150,000 this year to students representing 40 AFL-CIO unions. Union Plus has awarded more than \$2 million since 1992 to 1,300 students.

“Our members and their families are faced with expanding financial challenges and rising costs of higher education,” Union Privilege President Leslie Tolf said in a May 31 press release. “We are proud to sponsor the Union Plus program and help men and women in the labor movement realize their dreams for a higher education.”

The AFL-CIO created Union Privilege in 1986 to provide consumer benefits under the Union Plus label for current and retired union members and their families. It combines the purchasing power of 13 million members to provide discounts on car rentals and insurance, credit cards, ocean cruises, union-made clothing and many other things. Visit at www.unionplus.org.

Application deadline for the 2006 scholarship is January 31, 2006. The applications will be available in September 2005 on the website www.unionplus.org/scholarships. An application can be had by mail after September by sending a postcard with your name, return address, telephone number and your international union’s name to: Union Plus Education Foundation, c/o Union Privilege, PO Box 34800, Washington, D.C. 20043-4800.

Tam will continue working on-call after she begins nursing school in August. She had this to say to the members of AFL-CIO unions:

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart, it wouldn’t have been possible to further my education without this award. As we say, *Mahalo*.” ♦

Remembering ILWU leader Yasuki Arakaki

HILO—The ILWU lost one of its pioneer organizers on June 2, 2005 with the passing of Yasuki Arakaki of Keaau, Hawaii.

“He was a strong person who fought for the things he believed in, and he really helped to build the ILWU,” said former ILWU Hawaii Division Director and state representative Yoshito Takamine. “He had the passion to lift up working people, and he was the leader who brought sugar workers in Olaa together.”

Olaa Plantation on the Big Island of Hawaii was one of the first sugar plantations to be organized under the ILWU in 1944.

“I give him credit for organizing Local 148 (Olaa),” said Mrs. Mitsue Thompson, Arakaki’s good friend. “He was a tremendous force in the early years of the union, when we really needed his kind of leadership.”

Arakaki led Olaa workers during the 1946 sugar strike, the first successful strike against Hawaii’s sugar plantation owners. It was a strike which vastly improved the lives of plantation workers and changed the face of labor-management relations in Hawaii.

He continued to work for the union up until 1964, helping to organize strikes and serving on negotiating committees. During the McCarthy era “red scare,” Arakaki was labeled as “subversive” by anti-union red-baiters, but continued his work in organizing undaunted.

“He had the guts and the courage to lead when people were scared,” said Takamine.

During his years with the ILWU, Arakaki held several important positions—including president of ILWU sugar Local 148, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Local 142, and member of the ILWU’s International Executive Board in San Francisco.

In the mid-1960s he became a supervisor at Puna Sugar Company, eventually becoming its safety director. Arakaki went on to serve on the third Hawaii County Charter Commission, which drafted the Big Island’s County Charter in 1968, and was appointed to Chair the State Campaign Spending Commission in 1974.

Arakaki retired as a Deputy Clerk for the County of Hawaii.

After retirement, he continued to work for social justice. According to a statement by Jim Albertini, President of Malu Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action, “Even in his 70s and 80s, Yasu joined protests against nuclear arms, U.S. policies in Central America, in support of striking workers, against the building of more prisons and the current U.S. war in Iraq.”

Yasuki Arakaki is survived by his sons Garfield and Carey, brothers Charles and Tommy, sisters Sueko Arakaki and Katsuko Matsuo, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. ♦



Support for Trendwest ILWU members

Fely Corpuz and her grandson hold signs supporting a fair contract and no favoritism for Trendwest Resort workers on July 7, 2005. ILWU members, pensioners and family members joined Trendwest workers in an informational picket held in front of the hotel, which is located in Kihei, Maui. Trendwest workers were first organized into the ILWU in December 2003 and have been working to get a fair contract for 18 months.

More on the 7th ILWU Labor Institute

ILWU focus on member education

HONOLULU—Education is an essential part of ILWU rank-and-file democracy. The ILWU believes that working people are fully capable of acquiring all the skills needed to run their own union.

This is why ILWU Local 142 runs its own education program that focuses on developing the skills and knowledge of union officers and members. Unit officers and shop stewards are rank-and-file workers, but as unit leaders they are expected to know how to enforce the union contract, to mediate disputes with management, to lead meetings, to handle the unit's finances, to negotiate, to work with people, and do all the other things that goes into running a union organization.

The ILWU education program is set by action of the Convention, a special meeting of rank-and-file delegates held every three years. The program adopted by the 2003 Convention called for many one-day grievance handling and leadership classes to be held in 2004 and the one-week labor institute to be held in 2005 or 2006. (The institute was held in June 2005 and is usually run once every three years.)

Twenty one-day classes were held in 2004 which were attended by 415 rank-and-file members. Another six classes have been scheduled for later in 2005.

These classes are only a small part of the total learning that goes on in the union. Unit and full-time officers acquire most of their union skills and knowledge the same way most workers learn their jobs--from more experienced workers and from on-

the-job experience. Another very important way they gain knowledge is through individual study and reading. Business agents also train unit leaders by mentoring--where the business agent works individually with the unit leader, shares their experiences, gives advice, and shows by example how the work is done.

Skills and knowledge needed

Ask and ILWU rank-and-file leader and they will tell you they are expected to do a lot of different things. (See insert What Is Your Job as a Unit Officer?) To help them do their jobs better, the ILWU Labor Institute offered 32 workshops that covered most, not all, of the skills and knowledge union leaders need.

Participants the choice of attending only six out of 32 workshops. The workshops ran for six hours every day for five days and was a lot like going back to school. Following are some of the skills and content taught in these workshops.

1. Leadership Skills
2. Communication Skills
3. Research Skills
4. Bargaining with Management
5. Grievance Handling
6. Safety and Health
7. Labor Law
8. Organizing
9. Union Political Action
10. Globalization and the Economy ♦



Julie Graham of Unit 2509 - Lanai Resorts reports on a action plan developed by her group in P.J. Dowsing-Buie's class on mobilizing union members.

What Is Your Job as a Unit Officer?

This is an exercise used in our leadership training classes. Most people mark every one of these "jobs" as what they are expected to do as a union leader. The point of the exercise is that union leaders need a variety of skills and knowledge to do their job well.

- ___ 1. Recruiter or Missionary - recruit members and preach unionism.
- ___ 2. 911 Operator - take trouble calls and report emergencies to business agent.
- ___ 3. Complaint Department - listen to gripes from members.
- ___ 4. Politician - explain union programs and policies.
- ___ 5. Fire & Rescue - on call for 24 hours and 7 days a week to rescue people.
- ___ 6. Police - prevent management from violating the contract.
- ___ 7. Mediator - settle conflicts and disagreements among members.
- ___ 8. Social Worker - help members in need.
- ___ 9. Teacher - educate members about the union and union contract.
- ___ 10. Team Leader - person in charge of the union organization at the unit level.
- ___ 11. Defender or Protector - keep members safe from danger or harm.
- ___ 12. Lawyer - give advice on the contract and represent members.

Institute Instructors

1. Dawn Addy, Center for Labor Education and Research - Florida International University
2. Bill Boyd, Center for Labor Education and Research - University of Hawaii West Oahu
3. Tracy Chang, Labor Education and Research - University of Alabama at Birmingham
4. P.J. Dowsing-Buie, Education Director - Southern Region Service Employees International Union
5. Judi King, Labor Education and Research - University of Alabama at Birmingham
6. Rachel Kirtner, Service Employees International Union - Oregon
7. Gordon Lafer, Labor Education and Research - University of Oregon
8. William Puette, Center for Labor Education and Research - University of Hawaii West Oahu
9. Sharon Simon, Labor Safety and Health Training Project National Labor College
10. Diane Thomas-Holladay, Labor Education Program - University of Arkansas at Little Rock
11. Adrienne Valdez, Center for Labor Education and Research - University of Hawaii West Oahu
12. Randy Wright, Labor Education Program - University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Institute Speakers

1. Robert Cherny, Professor - Department of History San Francisco State University
2. Joy Chong-Stannard, Center for Labor Education and Research - University of Hawaii West Oahu
3. Chris Conybeare, Rice and Roses Producer - Center for Labor Education and Research - University of Hawaii West Oahu
4. Guy Fujimura, Secretary-Treasurer - ILWU 142

5. Fred Galdones, President - ILWU 142
6. Ah Quon McElrath, Retired ILWU Social Worker ILWU 142
7. Ian Ruskin, Director - Harry Bridges Project
8. Dwight Takamine, Hawaii House of Representatives
9. Roy Takumi, Hawaii House of Representatives
10. Tommy Waters, Hawaii House of Representatives
11. Gene Vrana, Director - Educational Services & Librarian - ILWU International

Institute Participants

- Hawaii Division**
1. Elmer Gorospe
 2. Richard Kaniho
 - 1401 - Mauna Loa Kau Orchard
 3. Juanita Pedra
 4. Corinna Salmo
 - 1402 - Mauna Loa MacNut
 5. Leonor Corpuz
 6. Daisy Nakamoto
 7. Wilma Revilla
 - 1421 - Sack n Save Kona
 8. Parrish Lopes
 - 1503 - Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
 9. Valentine Gines Sr
 10. Kaleolani Tolzmann
 - 1505 - King Kamehameha's Kona Beach
 11. Elaine Pilanca
 12. Lisa Torres
 - 1513 - Waikoloa Development Co.
 13. Leonald Jyo
 - 1515 - The Fairmont Orchid
 14. Tom Bastien
 15. Brandon Crichton
 16. Jose Salinas
 - 1516 - Mauna Lani Resort
 17. Bernadette Kalua
 - 1516 - Mauna Lani Bay Resort
 18. Daida Akau
 19. Ricky Mahi
 20. Holly Sargeant-Green
 21. Moku Straus
 - 1517 - Hilton Waikoloa Village
 22. Steve Hoffmann

23. Lloyd Matsubara
 - 1518 - Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel
 24. Napua Akamu
 25. James Moeller
 - 1519 - Ohana Keauhou Beach Resort
 26. Danny Campogan
 27. Ronald Walzer
- Maui Division**
28. Robert Andrión Jr
 29. Teddy Espeleta
 30. Claro Romero Jr.
 - 2101 - HC&S Company
 31. Joe Crespin
 32. Bob Zahl
 - 2201 - Young Brothers Maui
 33. David Dutro
 - 2201 - McCabe Hamilton & Renny
 34. Sam Kaaihue
 - 2305 - Maui Pineapple Honolua
 35. Marcelino Bonilla
 - 2306 - Maui Pineapple Cannery
 36. Doug Cabading
 37. Martin Jenson
 - 2307 - Maui Pineapple Haliimaile
 38. Robert Favorito
 39. Amelia Ordonez
 - 2404 - Hawthorne Pacific Corp Maui
 40. Rikizo Tengan
 - 2404 - Wailea Resort Golf Course
 41. Bradley Curtis
 42. Rick Olson
 - 2406 - Ameron Hawaii
 43. Abel Kahoohanohano
 44. Francis Kamakaakalani
 - 2408 - Foodland Maui
 45. Emma Yagodich
 46. Keith Kayatani
 - 2408 - Sack N Save Maui
 47. Wanda Logan
 - 2420 - Kapalua Land Cart Barn
 48. Trent Minor
 - 2501 - Royal Lahaina Resort
 49. Cora Castillo
 - 2502 - Tasty Crust Restaurant
 50. Kawailehua Hoapili
 - 2505 - Westin Maui
 51. Mike Bunyard
 - 2507 - Kaanapali Golf LLC
 52. Donald Hurdle
 - 2508 - Napili Shores
 53. Jessie Gazmen

- 2509 - Lanai Resorts
 54. Joseph Felipe
 55. Priscilla Felipe
 56. Linda Fernandez
 57. Chantel Ono
 58. Julie Graham
 - 2511 - Maui Prince Hotel
 59. Steve West
 - 2512 - Renaissance Wailea Beach Hotel
 60. Frank Chargualaf
 61. Ven Garduque
 62. Mark L. Remit
 63. Lena Staton
 - 2514 - Kapalua Bay Hotel
 64. Lehua li
 65. Janelle Kanekoa
 66. James Tagupa
 - 2516 - Hyatt Regency Maui
 67. Rosie Corpin
 68. Cyrus Kodani
 69. Abner Nakihei
 - 2520 - Grand Wailea Resort
 70. Merlina Valdez
 - 2523 - Ritz-Carlton Kapalua
 71. Agnes Tahilan
- Kauai Division**
72. Pamela Green
 73. Michael Machado
 - 3105 - Gay & Robinson
 74. Vincent Jose
 75. Roger Soliva
 - 3201 - Young Brothers
 76. Pat Hashimoto-Ferreira
 - 3402 - Foodland Kauai
 77. Patrick Ishida
 - 3409 - Kauai Nursery
 78. Jimmy Toledo
 - 3410 - Wilcox Memorial Hospital
 79. Doreen Kua
 80. Nicole Orsatelli
 - 3510 - Poipu Bay Resort Golf Course
 81. Jesse Felipe
 - 3511 - Hyatt Regency Kauai
 82. Rhonda Nix
 83. Beth Rita
- Oahu Division**
84. Shane Ambrose
 85. Michael Yamaguchi
 - 4201 - Hawaii Stevedores Inc
 86. Craig Yuu

- 4201 - McCabe Hamilton & Renny
87. Baba Haole
- 4301 - Dole Fresh Fruit
88. Jimmy Barreras
89. Mathew Rodrigues
- 4304 - Del Monte Kunia Fresh Fruit
90. Earl Totten
91. Gordon Wilson
- 4305 - Dole Wahiawa Plantation
92. Nestor Evangelista
93. Avelino Martin
94. Sam Ramirez
- 4306 - Del Monte Kunia Fresh Fruit
95. Boyd Isneq
96. Miguel Lizarraga
97. Darlene Palmerton
- 4402 - Love's Bakery
98. Barrett Hayashi
- 4404 - Pepsi Bottling Oahu
99. Philip Carrizosa
- 4405 - Foodland Oahu
100. Dona Hamabata
101. Dillon Hullinger
102. Susan Lake
103. Ruby Shimabukuro
104. Ursula Tangaro
- 4405 - Sack N Save Oahu
105. Gordon Ogawa
- 4405 - Hawaii Logistics
106. Dexter Nakayama
- 4406 - Honolulu Advertiser
107. Rick DeCosta
108. Dana Kim
109. Gordon Young
- 4408 - Weyerhaeuser
110. Sililo Pale
- 4409 - Island Movers - Oahu
111. George Cox
- 4412 - Servco Pacific
112. Serena Okuhara
- 4415 - Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery
113. Tavita Tufaga
- 4419 - Hawthorne Pacific Corp.
114. Jenny Seguritan
- 4420 - Straub Clinic & Hospital
115. Ruth Bersabal
- 4428 - Hawaii Job Corps
116. Tanya Kiaaina