

NORTHWEST

LABOR  
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Portland*Unions help make spirits bright*

Children from inner-North and Northeast Portland had their pick of toys at the 11th annual Presents from Partners holiday gift-giving program sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and Labor's Community Service Agency, AFL-CIO. Several hundred children received three to four toys at the event held Dec. 22 at Genesis Community Center. "This is a wonderful event for our community, and we have the labor council and community service agency to thank," said Genesis youth minister Mark Kernell. Toys are donated by union locals, the BULL Session Golf Tournament and Saturn of Beaverton. Cash donations are used to purchase gifts — with a focus on U.S.-made and union-made items.

NLRB rules bosses  
can bar union e-mail

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) continued its anti-union campaign, ruling that employers can bar workers from sending union-related e-mails at work.

The 3-2 decision was made Dec. 16 — and was one of the last actions of NLRB Chairman Robert Battista, whose term expired that day. Battista, a management-side labor lawyer from Detroit, was appointed by President Bush five years ago and has been part of a three-Republican majority that has cast a string of anti-union rulings, many of them reversals from previous boards. Two of the three majority members were recess appointments (named to the board by President Bush when the Senate was in recess, thus avoiding a confirmation hearing).

Not surprisingly, labor reacted angrily to the e-mail decision, calling it "the modern day equivalent of blocking employees from talking around the office water cooler or using the break room bulletin board."

"Anyone with e-mail knows this is how employees communicate with each other in today's workplace," said AFL-CIO General Counsel Jon Hiatt. "Outrageously, in allowing employers to ban such communications for union purposes, the Bush labor board has

again struck at the heart of what the nation's labor laws were intended to protect — the right of employees to discuss working conditions and other matters of mutual concern."

The majority argued that because union members can still communicate face-to-face, the employer can decide to ban use of company e-mail for union communications.

Dissenting board members — both Democrats — called the board majority "Rip Van Winkle."

"Only a board asleep for the past 20 years could fail to recognize e-mail has revolutionized communication both within and outside the workplace. In 2007, one cannot reasonably contend, as the majority does, that an e-mail system is a piece of communications equipment to be treated just as the law treats bulletin boards, telephones, and pieces of scrap paper," they said.

The ruling stems from a case involving the Eugene Register-Guard newspaper and The Newspaper Guild Local 37194, an affiliate of Communications Workers of America. The two sides were in the midst of a prolonged bargaining fight when, in 2000, then-Guild President Suzi Prozanski received two written warn-

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## 2008: The Year of China

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

2008 will be a year of global prominence for China. The 2008 Summer Olympics will focus the world's attention on Beijing in August. But China's rapid economic expansion has already forced the world to pay attention in recent years. In a very short time, China has emerged as contract factory to the world, and an economic superpower.

"If I had grandkids, I'd want them to learn Mandarin," said Oregon State Rep. Jeff Barker, (D-Portland), who visited China in November as part of a two-week official delegation. Like most Western visitors, Barker came away wide-eyed at the newness and massiveness of China's coastal cities.

Nowhere is China's impact clearer than in its trade relationship with the United States. U.S. companies were already well on the way to outsourcing manufacturing to Third World countries when China became a member of the World Trade Organization in 2000.

Joining the WTO was a signal to the West that China was serious about being a place to do business, and a pledge that it would play by the rules. Since then, China has become firmly established as the manufacturer of choice.

U.S. imports from China increased from \$81 billion in 1999 to nearly \$288 billion in 2006. U.S. exports to China also rose, from \$13 billion to \$55 billion. Hiding between those two statistics is America's fastest-growing "export" — jobs. That's because while the increased exports are mostly raw materials and capital goods, the increased imports are finished products and consumer goods. In other words, U.S. companies are outsourcing the "value-added" stage of industrial production to a country where labor is cheap, leaving most U.S. workers to do what remains: extract American raw materials, truck around imported finished goods and stand at the cash registers where they're sold.

Trade statistics tell the story. In the five-year span of 2002 to 2006, according to the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census

*More and more American companies are selling raw materials to Chinese contractors, who turn them into finished products using cheap labor*

Bureau:

- Annual U.S. wood pulp and pulpwood exports to China more than tripled from \$424 million to \$1.48 billion, and exports of pulp and paper machinery rose from \$89 million to \$146 million. In the same period, imports of paper and paper products more than quadrupled from \$131 million to \$576 million, and imports of books, magazines, and printed material more than doubled from \$556 million to \$1.25 billion.

- U.S. exports of semi-conductors, used in computers, cell phones and CD players, more than tripled from \$1.59 billion to \$5.88 billion. Meanwhile, imports of computers rose more than tenfold from \$1.6 billion to \$17.38 billion; computer accessories doubled from \$13.2 billion to \$28.9 billion; telecommunications equipment tripled from \$2.8 to \$8.6 billion.

Portland's maritime shipping stats tell the same story. Container ships brought in \$1.2 billion worth of Chinese goods in 2006,

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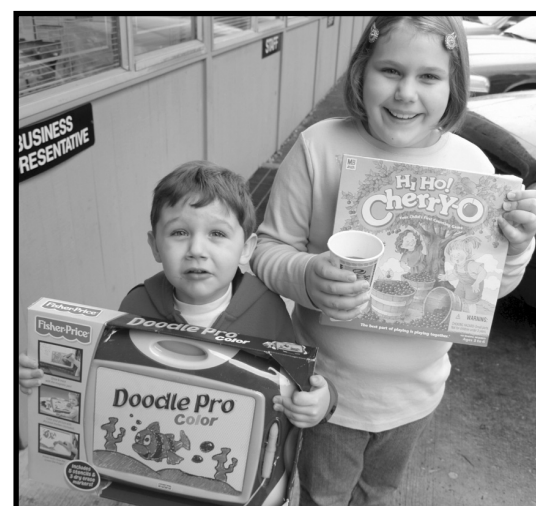
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## Holiday cheer at ATU 757

Ashly Anthony (above) has a tough time choosing among so many gifts during a holiday party for members thrown Dec. 22 by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757. Ashly is the granddaughter of Frank Anthony, a 41-year member, retired from the TriMet maintenance department. In the photo right, Duncan and Michelle Zwetzig show off the gifts they received at the party. They are the grandchildren of TriMet retiree Rodger Zwetzig. The annual event for children and grandchildren of the union also included cookies, hot cocoa and a 50-50 drawing, with half the proceeds going to Labor's Community Service Agency, AFL-CIO.



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# ...Year of China

(From Page 1)

mostly finished products, consumer goods like apparel, footwear and tires. Ships leaving Portland for China carried \$294 million worth of goods, consisted overwhelmingly of raw materials like wheat, fertilizer, scrap metal and soda ash (used to make glass.)

Again, for the most part, American companies are selling raw materials and the machines to turn them into finished products to Chinese contractors, and Chinese contractors are selling finished products to American companies. Everything is being made in China, from the crucifixes in New York City cathedrals to the cowboy boots in Texas boot stores to scenery-filled 2008 Oregon calendars.

That's a real problem for many American workers, like Michael Rivenes, who until Sept. 4 was a skilled machinist at Williams Controls in Tigard, Oregon, and chairperson of his United Auto Workers bargaining unit.

Rivenes spent 28 years at Williams, and in recent years operated a computerized milling and lathing machine. Rivenes and his co-workers made throttle controls for trucks. He earned a base salary of \$38,500, not counting overtime and bonuses. The company also paid for health insurance for his family, and a pension benefit.

But in 2006, Williams announced it would shift production to China, and terminate most of its Tigard factory workers over a period of 18 months.

"When you're a worker and your CEO starts to talk about 'strategic realignment of operations' you'd better cut up your credit cards and start stocking up on canned goods," Rivenes told the NW Labor Press. Rivenes was in the last group to go. In effect, his pink slip had a "Made in China" sticker on it.

"I'm worried about America," says Barker, the state representative. "Everything is going offshore, and that's not good for American workers."

At the Williams Controls plant in Tigard, which two years ago employed

120 production workers, just 48 hourly jobs will remain — shipping, receiving, packaging and assembling of parts made elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the laidoff workers qualify for a package of retraining and extended unemployment benefits, courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer.

Rivenes is optimistic about his future. He starts classes Jan. 7 at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, and hopes to work in human resources. Still, he liked his job at Williams.

"It was a good place to work for a long time," Rivenes said. "It was sad to give it up."

**Union members rallied Dec. 5 outside a Southeast Portland WalMart to call attention to the company's preference for Chinese-made goods. Protesters handed out a flier to shoppers citing a 2004 article in China Business Weekly reporting 70 percent of WalMart's products come from China. At the very least, that gives Faded Glory, the flag-themed WalMart house brand, a whole new meaning. Pictured, from left to right, are: Lucy Hamill of UFCW Local 555, Tim Carrier and John Kirkpatrick of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5, and Al Panek, labor liaison to Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.**



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# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

## Boilermakers 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

## Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## Columbia-Pacific Building Trades

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 8 and Jan. 15, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## Electrical Workers 48

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28. Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, Dispatch Lobby.

General membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. pre-meeting buffet. Winter Hawks Member Appreciation Night first-come, first-served, tickets are limited. Tickets will be distributed AFTER the Jan. 23 Union Meeting for Saturday, March 8 v. Seattle starts 7 p.m. at the Memorial Coliseum Pre-game dinner available at 5 p.m.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Northern Wasco PUD, 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

EWMC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9. Sound & Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Electrical Women of Local 48 meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at NIETC. Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in the Executive Boardroom.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Executive Boardroom.

Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following death assessments have been declared for Jan. and are payable at 50 cents: No. 2162, Lee Hudson; No. 2163, Larry F. Newton; No. 2164, Ernest H. Rude; and No. 2165, Frank A. Corallino.

## Electrical Workers 280

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Red-

mond.

Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Salem Heights Community Center, 3505 Liberty Rd. S., Salem.

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

## Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

## Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

## Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

## Glass Workers 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9. Members meet 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

## Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

## Laborers 483

## Municipal Employees

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

## Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

## Lane County Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas Building Trades

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

## Linoleum Layers 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Union Office 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland Area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Marion-Polk-Yamhill Labor Council

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at SEIU #503, 1730 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Metal Trades Council

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## Mid-Columbia Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

## Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd. 2nd Floor, Portland. PLEASE NOTE: Receive a free T-shirt for attending the membership meetings. FOR SALE, spray coversalls for \$8 at Local 10's office.

## Pile Drivers, Divers & Shipwrights 2416

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 2205 N Lombard, Portland.

## Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

## Salem Building Trades

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

## Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Labor Temple, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

## Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

## Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## United Association 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at the Eugene #290 Hall.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday,

Jan. 22, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at 650A Industrial Cir., White City.

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

## USW 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

## 12th annual Labor Law Conference scheduled for Feb. 1

The 12th annual Oregon Labor Law Conference will be held Friday, Feb. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IBEW Local 48 union hall, 15937 NE Airport Way.

The event is sponsored by Local 48, the Oregon AFL-CIO, and the Oregon State and Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Councils.

The conference organizer is Norm Malbin, in-house attorney for Local 48. The conference is for business managers, business agents and officers. The goal is to provide information that will help them do their job better and to help avoid legal liability.

Keynote speakers will be Rick Liebman, an attorney representing employers, and Henry Drummonds, professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School.

The number of participants is limited to 230. Registration is \$75 and includes lunch.

For more information, call Malbin at 503-889-3669 or Donna Marshall at 503-889-3660.

# RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

## CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet Tuesday, Jan. 8, and travel on a FREE 48-seat luxury bus to Lucky Eagle Casino in Rochester, WA. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. from Russellville Park Plaza, 20 NE 103rd Ave., Portland, and return at 4:30 p.m. Receive

casino coupons and enjoy a lunch, plus raffle gifts and snacks. Bring friends and let's fill the bus! For reservations, call Vera at 503-252-2296.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, Jan. 14, at The Old Country Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, which is next to Michael's Craft Store. If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees meet 12 noon Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Kirkland Union Manor, Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to

11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

## OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

## SHEET METAL 16

Retirees meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Lung Fung Restaurant, 2025 N. Lombard (at Denver). Everyone is welcome.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Salem area retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St. SE, Salem.

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Portland.



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## Foster kids' holiday party gets boost from UA Local 290



A \$1,000 donation by Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 to child welfare employees at the Oregon Department of Human Services in East Multnomah County helped foster kids enjoy a holiday party Dec. 18.

"Local 290 is awesome. They treat us so well," said Deborah Bruun, a social service specialist who helps organize the annual event.

The State of Oregon used to fund the party, which includes candy cane fishing poles that catch stuffed animals (pictured above), craftmaking and cookie decorating (pictured below left), pizza, gifts, and a visit from Santa Claus (left) at the festively-decorated Multnomah County office in Southeast Portland. Some 200-plus kids and foster parents attend each year.

But budget cuts in the late '90s dried up the money-source for the party. State employees thought the event was so vital for the children that they began raising money on their own time.

Bruun cold-called Local 290 about seven years ago, and the union has been contributing ever since. "They take such great care of us," Bruun said. "You just can't imagine how thankful we are."

## INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING

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## U.S. Senate OKs Peru pact

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — By a 77-18 margin, the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate on Dec. 4 gave final congressional approval to labor-opposed legislation implementing the so-called "free trade" pact between the United States and Peru.

All of the senators from the Pacific Northwest — Democrats Ron Wyden of Oregon and Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell of Washington, and Republican Gordon Smith of Oregon — supported the trade deal.

Twenty-nine Senate Democrats voted for the trade deal and 17 voted against it.

Last month, the U.S. House passed the Peru Free Trade Agreement 1285-132, with 109 Democrats in favor and

116 opposed. Oregon Democrats Peter DeFazio and David Wu voted against the pact.

Peru's trade agreement, unlike others signed by the Bush Administration, commits the South American nation to enforcing the relatively weak International Labour Organization labor rights standards that Democrats insisted be written into its text.

Bush now wants Congress to approve trade pacts with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. But labor is dead-set against it, due to Colombia's murderous labor record and the Korean pact's harm to U.S. auto workers in particular and Korean workers in general.



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# Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare



## The-30-mark

**THE TIME** has come to put the -30- mark to this column, which I started in 1967 when I was the editor and manager of what was then the Oregon Labor Press. This newspaper's name was changed to Northwest Labor Press two decades ago. It is still published by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Company, a non-profit entity whose shares are owned by labor organizations.

I began writing free-lance articles for the Labor Press in 1960 when Jim Goodsell was the editor and manager. At that time I was one of nearly 900 union members on strike against the Newhouse-owned Oregonian and the then-locally-owned Oregon Journal, which Newhouse bought in 1961. I started working as an employee of the Labor Press in November 1962, and succeeded Goodsell in October 1965 when he was appointed director of the U.S. Department of Commerce office in Portland. He later worked for the Commerce Department and the State Department on assignments that took him all over the world.

**IN MY YEARS** as a reporter and editor on daily newspapers, I did extensive free-lance work; my articles appeared in newspapers from California to New York and beyond to London. One of the newspapers for which I did considerable free-lancing was Labor's Daily, a nationally-circulated tabloid published Monday through Friday in Bettendorf, Iowa, by the International Typographical Union in the 1950s.

After I retired as editor of the Labor Press in late 1986 and was succeeded by Michael Gutwig, I went back to being a free-lance writer. Now at age 81 it is time to retire again. I enjoyed my many years in the labor movement and with the Labor Press. I was the first West Coast labor editor to wield the gavel as president of the International Labor Press Association, AFL-CIO/CLC. I was also singled out by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association as a Labor History Person of the Year.

**ANOTHER ORGANIZATION** I enjoyed being in is the U.S. Marine Corps. I served 11 years on active and reserve duty and during most of that time wore the three stripes of a sergeant. I derived pride and satisfaction from sharing in the camaraderie of the USMC.

Space is too short to re-examine the newspaper strike and the investigative reporting in which I was involved. The two subjects, in which there was some overlap, were explored at length in articles published in the Labor Press in years past.

Before the newspaper strike, which ran from Nov. 1959 to April 1965, I was a reporter for the Oregonian. During the strike I worked for the Portland Reporter, a tabloid published by we strikers and our unions from Feb. 1960 until Sept. 30, 1964. The strike did not stop the Oregonian and Journal from publishing, but it did take a big toll on their circulation, a subject that's been covered here many times. Other newspapers I worked on included being managing editor of Idaho dailies in Pocatello and Boise. I also worked in newsrooms in Texas, Ohio, California and elsewhere. My career started at age eight selling magazines door-to-door in Michigan in the Great Depression. Later, I was a delivery boy for a morning newspaper.

**IN ADDITION** to having been a reporter and an editor, I have also been a publisher, an advertising salesman, printer, stereotyper, pressman on a hand-fed Miehle and a mailer. All of the above jobs were mine decades ago when my wife and I were running a struggling weekly in a town of 500 through which both a river and railroad ran. Each had the name Wabash.

**MY WIFE** learned how to coax type from a 1915 Linotype, which the previous owner had patched up with thread spools, paper clips, rubberbands and black tape. We were fortunate to be put in touch with a retired daily newspaper machinist who lived a dozen or so miles away. Over time, he replaced the junk with parts from his toolbox and also worked his magic on our eccentric flatbed press. On each trip, he declined any payment for his services, asking only for five dollars for gasoline for his automobile.

Looking back on my years as editor of the Labor Press, I think that my main contribution was to keep the newspaper going despite increases in

## AFSCME donates cash to Oregon Food Bank

Ken Allen (right) executive director of Oregon AFSCME Council 75 presents a check for \$7,875 to the Oregon Food Bank. Accepting the donation are Christine Hames (left) and Barbara Peschiera. The non-profit organization collects and distributes food to 20 regional food banks serving Oregon and Clark County, Wash. Through special buying programs with food distributors, every \$1 the Food Bank receives is turned into five pounds of food. "So AFSCME's donation translates into over 39,000 pounds of food," said Hames, corporate relations manager for the Food Bank. "And the donation is so very timely. We have exceptional need this year, and most of our holiday season donations come in earlier on the month, so to get a



check like this later in the month really, really helps. This will help brighten the holidays for many families." A typical food box provides a three-to-five day supply of groceries. AFSCME union locals and some individual members from

throughout the state donated to the total. "This is good for us because the food bank reaches into all corners of Oregon," Allen said. Last year, Oregon Food Bank collected and distributed 32.7 million pounds of food.

postage, printing and paper in the 1970s and '80s that caused many labor papers to fall by the wayside.

**CIVIC SERVICE** has included membership on the Oregon State Civil Rights Advisory Commission and the Portland-Multnomah County Metro Human Relations Commission and chairmanship of the Multnomah County Civil Service Commission.

**MANY THANKS** to the members of the NW Oregon Labor Retirees Council for voting me into their Labor Hall of Fame nearly a decade ago. Three decades ago, I received mentions in two books, "Who's Who in Labor" and "Who's Who in the West."

A personal note: My parents gave me my first name at the request of my maternal grandfather, who had a high regard for Eugene Debs.

-30-

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# Local Motion

November 2007

Union activity in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

## Election results

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
<b>SuperValu (decertification)</b>						
11/14	UFCW Local 555		Corvallis	44	19	
<b>First Student/Laidlaw</b>						
11/16	Teamsters Local 206		Sandy, The Dalles	31	7	
<b>Fred Meyer</b>						
11/16	UFCW Local 555		The Dalles	36	18	
<b>US Metal Works</b>						
11/16	Iron Workers Local 516		Sandy	16	11	

## Representation petitions

Company	Location
Union	# of employees
<b>UNITUS Community Credit Union (decertification)</b>	Portland
Communications Workers of America	75
<b>Bread Song Bakery</b>	Lake Oswego
Bakers Local 114	25
<b>BEKO Membrane Technology (decertification)</b>	Bend
International Association of Machinists	19

## Minimum wage increases in Pacific NW

Oregon's minimum wage will increase 15 cents to \$7.95 per hour on Jan 1, 2008, while Washington's minimum wage will jump to \$8.07 an hour — an increase of 14 cents. The increases reflect the rise of the cost-of-living as defined by the Consumer Price Index and is mandated by law in both states.

# ...NLRB bars union e-mail at work

(From Page 1)

ings for sending three e-mails to unit employees at their Register-Guard e-mail addresses.

The newspaper imposed a written policy four years earlier forbidding the use of company e-mail for “non-job-related solicitations,” but management had never enforced it.

The union filed an unfair labor practice complaint, arguing that unions have a right to send e-mail to members and non-members in the same way they have a right to distribute fliers and bulletins. Censoring such communications violates federal labor law.

Not so, responded management, asserting its property rights in deciding how it's resources may be used.

An administrative law judge initially sided with the union, ruling that the newspaper couldn't ban union messages at the same time it allowed “jokes, baby announcements, party invitations, and the occasional offer of sports tickets or request for services such as dog walking.”

The Register-Guard appealed to the full board, and on Dec. 16 the three-member majority reversed the earlier decision. Under the new ruling, companies can bar union-related e-mails as long as they also prohibit solicitations from any outside organization.

It is likely the order will be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

It's also possible that the e-mail ruling will be one of the board's last

for a while. Battista's term expired Dec. 16 and President Bush did not renominate him, or name a replacement. That left the board split with two Republicans and two Democrats.

And two of its members — one from each party — saw their terms end last month, leaving the NLRB without a quorum to conduct business.

Given the NLRB's anti-worker track record under Battista, though, “We're better off with a board that can't act than one that can,” said CWA President Larry Cohen.

(Editor's Note: Press Associates Inc. and American Rights at Work contributed to this report.)

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