



The GUILD REPORTER

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Silver Spring, Md.

January 10, 1992

Final count shows 54% backed \$1 hike

Silver Spring, Md.—It's official. The Guild's membership has ratified the \$1-a-month dues increase enacted by TNG's 1991 Convention to fund the union's organizing program.

The ratification came in a Guild-wide referendum conducted by locals Dec. 12-17.

Official results, tallied and certified here Jan. 6 by TNG's Int'l Election & Referendum Committee, showed that 54% of members who cast ballots voted "against" repealing the dollar, while 46% voted "for" repeal.

Vote count was 5,229 against repeal; 4,453 for repeal; a margin of 776 votes.

(Official, local-by-local vote-count table, Page 4.)

TNG President Charles Dale expressed satisfaction with the referendum's outcome.

"It preserves funding for one of this union's programs that is always absolutely vital, even more so now," he said. He lauded the majority for demonstrating with their votes that they would "not shrink from doing what's needed to preserve the union that they and

their predecessors struggled to build and maintain."

Bernie Lunzer, Twin Cities Guild executive secretary and spokesperson for an ad hoc Committee for Referendum, said he hoped that all now will turn their full energies to bargaining, contract enforcement and organizing.

Under the current TNG budget, also adopted by the convention in Montreal, the dues increase is the international union's sole source of funding for organizing through March. Initial remittances from locals show it to be providing ap-

proximately \$26,000 a month.

The referendum was ordered by TNG's Int'l Executive Board at its fall meeting after it found that seconds by 14 locals to a motion by the Twin Cities Guild to repeal the \$1 met TNG's constitutional requirements for locals to initiate a full membership vote on a question.

The IERC tabulations showed that Guild-wide voter turnout for the referendum was comparatively strong: nearly 33% of the 29,525 who were eligible to cast ballots in 70 locals in the United States,

Canada and Puerto Rico.

By contrast, turnout in September's election of at-large TNG vice presidents was approximately 22%; in last February's vote to switch from annual to biennial conventions, it was 29%; and in 1990's off-year vote for a pair of vice presidents, it was 24%.

Majorities of voters in 40 locals voted to maintain the increase; majorities in 27 locals voted for its repeal; in one local, Eugene (Ore.), voters were split. No returns were received from two small
(Continued on Page 4)

Key TV top in Ottawa to \$1,062

Ottawa — Top-minimum pay for key employees in the news department of CJOH-TV will rise by \$90, to \$1,062 a week, under a new three-year contract reached in early December by the Ottawa Guild with the station.

The agreement, effective through the end of 1994, provides a 2-percent increase in all minimums effective Dec. 30, 1991, a 3-percent increase Dec. 28, 1992, and a 4-percent increase on Jan. 3, 1994.

Reached in just two days of talks, the agreement also contains improved provisions on maternity, paternity and sick leave, and important changes on scheduling, Ottawa Guild Administrative Officer Sharlan Clark said.

The contract, covering 28 employees, was "overwhelmingly approved" by Guild members at the station on Dec. 11, three weeks before the previous pact's expiration, Clark said.

CJOH is owned by Toronto-based Baton Broadcasting, which operates a chain of 17 television stations across Canada, including Toronto's CFTO-TV and a Sudbury outlet. All Baton stations are affiliates of the Commercial Television network.

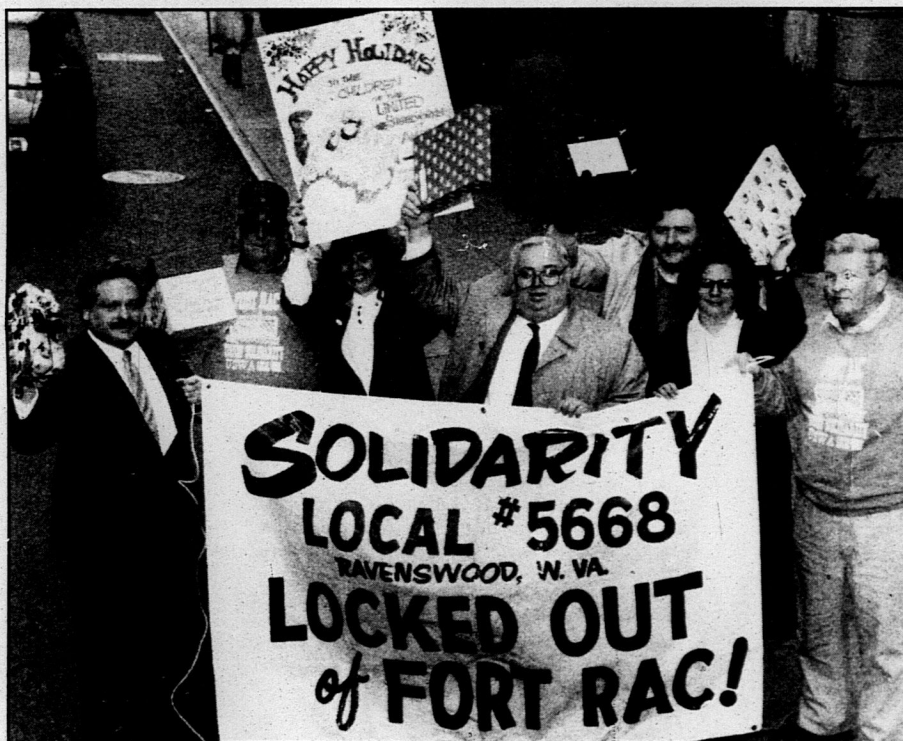
John Bassett, who published the Toronto Telegram until he closed it in 1971, chairs the executive committee of Baton's board of directors. His son, Douglas, is Baton's president and chief executive officer.

Over the years, the Bassett family has been prominent in professional sports, with past holdings in the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team, the CFL's Toronto Argonauts football team and in the now-defunct World Football League.

Under the CJOH agreement, top rate in the key classification (reporter/editor/producer) was raised by \$19 on Dec. 30, to \$991. It
(Continued on Page 2)

'Steel Spirit' in New York sends toys to kids in Ravenswood

New York newspaper unionists pose with some of more than 800 Christmas gifts members and others contributed for the children of 1,700 Steelworkers locked out and "permanently replaced" by the Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. in West Virginia since Nov. 1, 1990. Most of the presents came from Daily News workers — Guild, Pressmen, Drivers, Paperhandlers, Mailers, even managers — with help as well from Guild and other union members at Time-Warner, the N.Y. Times, the N.Y. Post, and others. Pictured above, from left: N.Y. Guild President Barry Lip-ton; Ravenswood Steelworker Frank Ashford; Lauren Draper of the Daily News Guild unit, who co-ordinated the gift drive; Pressmen's Sec'y-Treasurer Joey Semecca; Mike McCormick and Carmen Feliciano of the Daily News unit; and Leonard Robinson, also of Ravenswood.



JACK MILLER/Miller Photography/New York Guild

Guild maintains pressure in 2 Ontario strikes

While Southern Ontario Guild units maintained picket lines at Thomson-chain dailies in Cambridge and Guelph, union leaders urged the Ontario labor board to "keep things on track" on the Guild's petition for contract arbitration in the Cambridge dispute.

Shortly after a hearing on the dispute began, it quickly bogged down in bargaining-history detail, threatening to delay the process well past a legal deadline.

Company representatives "spent three days cross-examining" the union's first witness, local representative Fran Soboda, according to SONG Executive Officer Paul Pelletier.

About 30 Guild members at the Cambridge Reporter and 23 others at the Guelph Mercury struck the papers in early November, but

only after 30-40 bargaining sessions over 18 months failed to achieve initial contracts.

In both disputes, Thomson's demands for unilaterally controlled "pay-for-performance" wage schemes led to breakdowns in bargaining.

No talks have been held in the ensuing nine weeks. The union "welcomes more talks," said

SONG representative Peter Murdoch, but there is "no indication the company is willing to moderate its position."

Thomson management has spent an estimated \$300,000 at each paper fighting the union, Murdoch said, adding, "It's clear they're out to bust the union."

Pointing to Guild contracts at the Globe and Mail and at the

Oshawa Times, Murdoch said Cambridge and Guelph were "the only places [in Canada] they've put out these merit-pay proposals."

The Reporter and the Mercury continue to publish, using managers and strikebreakers from other Thomson publications.

Under Ontario law, when the parties are unable to conclude a
(Continued on Page 2)

83 journalists killed on job in '91, IFJ says

Brussels—The year 1991 was the worst on record for murder and violence against news gatherers, according to a year-end report by the Int'l Federation of Journalists.

It recorded a total of 83 journalists killed in 23 countries while on assignment or in circumstances

directly related to their work, reported the IFJ, the international secretariat of unions representing 200,000 journalists in 53 countries, including TNG in the U.S. and Canada.

Heaviest 1991 tolls were in Latin America, Croatia and Slovenia, Japan, and in Iraq and Kuwait, the IFJ's listing showed. Two also died violently in the U.S. and one in Canada.

IFJ President Mia Doornaert labeled it "a murderous year for journalism," and called for fresh international initiatives to curb "the growing wave of violence" against working journalists.

At the same time, she announced that the IFJ is launching a worldwide "IFJ Safety Fund" to provide humanitarian aid to journalists and their families who are
(Continued on Page 6)

Arbiter sought in Ontario dispute

Key TV top in Ottawa to \$1,062

(Continued from Page 1)
first agreement, either side may petition the labor board to direct a settlement by arbitration. The board may do so where it appears that "collective bargaining has been frustrated."

The Guild applied Dec. 10 for arbitration in the Cambridge dispute, and a week later for the same in Guelph. When an arbitrator is directed to settle a contract, strikers must be returned to their jobs immediately.

Under the law, the board has 30 days from application to decide if arbitration is appropriate. In the Cambridge case, widely spaced hearing dates now extend into March, well past the 30-day deadline.

The pace of the testimony "is causing us quite a bit of concern," Pelletier said. "We're pushing the board to set more dates in January to keep things on track."

In the effort to expedite the Cambridge hearing, the Guild also withdrew its application for arbitration in Guelph while reserving its right to resubmit it, Pelletier said.

Meantime, "spirits remained high" on both picket lines as strikers simultaneously battled management and the winter elements, Murdoch said. Members of other SONG units and other locals, as well as members of area unions, continue to assist strikers at both sites.

Murdoch said strikers appreciated the "cards, letters and telegrams" of encouragement they received from other Guild locals and members over the past eight weeks. He urged others to send similar notes of support.

The Guild also was getting solid support from labor and community groups for subscription and advertising boycotts of the Mercury and

Reporter, which had pre-strike circulation of 19,000 and 14,000 daily, Murdoch reported.

Strikers and supporters were planning to hold informational picketing at Thomson headquarters in Toronto, and to attend the Cambridge arbitration hearing in a demonstration of solidarity.

There were no new reports of strikers being struck by vehicles attempting to cross picket lines, Murdoch said. There were numerous such incidents in the early weeks of both strikes.

At least one striker, however, is pursuing charges against one driver, the coach of the Guelph Storm, which plays in the high-level Junior A amateur hockey league.

The coach allegedly ran his Eagle Talon into Mercury reporter Dan Melanson in late December, and Melanson himself was charged

with mischief to property in the incident.

Melanson, by all accounts the softest-spoken of strikers, has been struck three times by vehicles crossing the Guelph line, suffering head, neck and leg injuries.

"We believe the coach tried to hurt people," Murdoch said in explaining why Melanson is seeking charges — of dangerous driving, careless driving and criminal negligence.

The coach has a reputation for teaching "gangster tactics" to his hockey players, Murdoch said. "He's already in trouble with his league for telling players on an opposing team he would send them back in body bags they next time they had a fight."

Under picketing rules negotiated by the Guild, strikers are allowed to stop vehicles for five minutes at the paper's entrances.

(Continued from Page 1)
goes up by \$30 next Dec. 28, to \$1,021, and finally by \$41 on Jan. 3, 1994. Starting rate in the key classification will increase a total of \$53 a week, to \$627 in the final year.

Top rate for senior reporter/editor/producer will rise by \$105 over the same period, to \$1,241 during the final year. The rate increases by \$23 in the first increment, to \$1,158; then by \$35, to \$1,193; and finally by \$48.

In the key classification, the top rate applies after six years' experience; senior staffers reach the top after three years.

Top minimum for editorial assistant will increase by a total of \$60, in increments of \$13, \$20 and \$27, to \$714 in the final year.

The contract also continues talent-free payments of \$30 and \$35 a day for anchors, gallery talk hosts and assignment editors, and provides a new \$5 fee for anchors on the morning newscast.

Under the new sick-leave clause, employees incapacitated by illness or accident receive their regular pay for up to six months. Under the previous contract, the sick benefit ranged from 1 to 17 weeks' pay, based on length of employment.

The improved maternity leave includes an initial two weeks' paid leave, plus six weeks of paid "post-natal leave," payable over a three-month period upon the employee's return to work.

The contract also improves scheduling requirements in several areas.

Instead of meeting on the station's premises, as they had done in the past, Guild and company representatives concluded talks in just 13 hours at a downtown hotel, Clark said.

"We were able to concentrate totally on bargaining," she said. "It got people focused more quickly."

Membership passes 100 in Translators' local

Washington—The Translators' Guild, the union's newest and perhaps most unique local, has topped the 100-member mark and is "still going," local leaders report.

By mid-December, some eight months after being chartered, the local's membership had reached 110, newly elected President Tom Malonek said.

The 100th member, Ricky Weiss of Washington, received a complimentary Newspaper Guild "Solidarity Day" T-shirt from the local.

Based in Washington, the Translators' Guild is similar to the U.S. and Canadian Wire Service locals in not being limited to a geographic area. Included in its growing membership are translators from the Midwest, the West Coast and its first member in Canada.

Nearly a dozen California translators recently signed up, pushing membership past 20 in that state, after the Guild hosted an open house Dec. 7 in San Francisco.

George Kirby, a Translators' Guild vice president, and member Alan Gleason organized the event, with help from the Northern California Guild and TNG. Lending their expertise and assistance at the reception were TNG Vice President Larry Hatfield; Carl Hall, chair of the Northern California Guild's Chronicle unit; and TNG Int'l Representative Eugene Bryant.

About 40 people attended the gathering, which followed a meeting of the Northern California Translators Assn. Several translators signed Guild cards on the spot, and others mailed theirs later.

"Our ability to help each other, our ability to serve as unequivocal advocates for the economic interests of working translators, and our ability to promote positive change in the work relationship between language-service providers and their clients is directly related to our strength in numbers and our unity of purpose," Malonek said of the local's growth.

Members recently elected the local's first slate of regular officers, for one-year terms. Besides Malonek, they are: Tina Delia and Kirby, vice presidents; Sally Robertson, secretary; and Hal Goldklang, treasurer.

Goldklang is "not only a translator, but also a CPA! Who could ask for anything more," chortled the local's newsletter, "The Translators' Voice."

Assisted by TNG, the local is continuing to work on setting up a referral service through which members may obtain work. Robertson chairs the Referral Service Committee, which is "working hard" to get the operation going — perhaps by February, Malonek said.

The local has received and is processing applications for work, and is developing a comprehensive

marketing plan to attract clients, he said.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland is preparing to urge all affiliates to "buy union" when they need language services, Malonek said.

In addition, the local plans a monitoring program to help new translators become established. Future plans include the adoption of detailed standards, as well as educational and lobbying efforts.

The Translators' Guild also is working to put together a group health insurance plan tailored for the needs of its members. An agent has been selected, and members are being surveyed.

Members already are eligible for benefits under the TNG/AFL-CIO Union Privilege program. These include: term life insurance at low group rates; savings on prescription drugs; a union credit card with no annual fee and low interest rate; discounted legal services; rental car discounts and other travel discounts; and home buyers and scholarship programs. (See fuller account of Union Privilege, Page 4-5.)

Howard Swindell, led Cleveland unit

Lakewood, Ohio—Howard A. Swindell, a former president of the Cleveland Guild and a leader of its unit at the Cleveland Press when it was shut 9½ years ago, died here Dec. 13. He suffered a heart attack in a hospital emergency room where he had gone to have a tightness in his chest checked. He was 55.

Swindell and his spouse, Mary, also a former Guild activist and

Cleveland Press reporter, had been free-lancing from their home in this Cleveland suburb since the Press was closed abruptly June 17, 1982. He also had been active in and for the Lutheran Church in the Cleveland area and beyond.

An Iowa native (Des Moines and Sioux City), Swindell came to Cleveland and the Press in 1964 after working as a reporter in Davenport, Iowa, and Chicago. He was a reporter, copy editor, slot person, layout and makeup editor during his 18 years with the Press.

President of the Cleveland Guild in 1981 after holding several other offices in the local, he was vice chairperson of the local's unit at the Press when it was closed.

In addition to his spouse, Mary, survivors include a son, Christopher, 12, and his mother, Lillian Swindell.



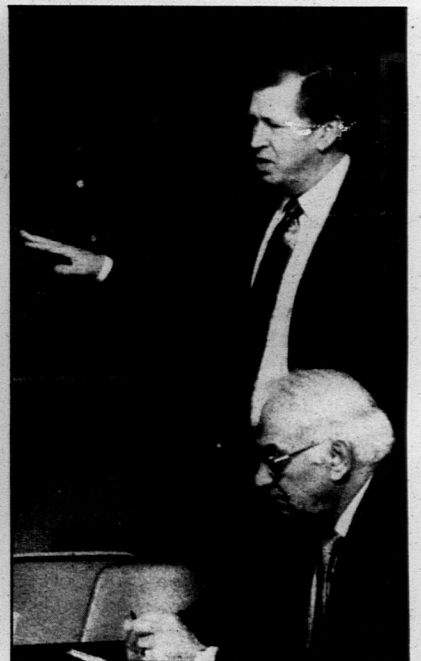
TRANSLATORS ON THE WEST COAST 'MEET' THEIR GROWING GUILD LOCAL
At right, foreground, is George Kirby of San Francisco, a vice president of TNG Local T-100.

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Top industry union group meets with leaders of locals on Pittsburgh talks

The Newspaper Industry Co-ordinating Committee (NICC) moved its meeting to Pittsburgh Jan. 7 to discuss with leaders of that city's newspaper unions a unified effort to deal with what are being called "union busting demands" by Scripps-Howard's Pittsburgh Press in talks with the printing crafts and Teamsters there. At far right, Thomas J. McGrath, head of the Teamsters newspaper drivers division, speaks as TNG President Charles Dale waits his turn. Among the listeners, immediate right, are a member of the Pittsburgh Pressmen's union, TNG Field Operations Director Bill McLeman and Pittsburgh Guild President Harry Tkach. Other participants included representatives of the AFL-CIO and the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Dept. All unions except the Guild have open contracts.



TONY TYE/Pittsburgh Guild

Hikes range to \$32 in Hawaii special pact

Honolulu — Some 20 employees will receive pay increases of \$17 to \$32 a week under a special agreement between the Hawaii Guild and the Hawaii Newspaper Agency (HNA) on installation of new electronic equipment in advertising departments.

The agency handles non-editorial operations for Gannett's Honolulu Star-Bulletin and the Persis chain's Honolulu Advertiser, which publish under a joint agreement.

Under the Guild's agreement, effective Dec. 2, the company will install new electronic ad-makeup and ad-layout systems in the retail, general and ad-production departments and implement a credit-card charge system for classified ads.

Although the systems were not in place, ad-production and scheduling clerks were upgraded in De-

cember by \$32.09, to \$620.20 a week. Ad-input operators and credit clerks received a \$17.22 upgrading raise, to \$500.92 a week.

Also, layout artists and copy writers will receive a \$7.50 shift differential, \$37.50 a week, when performing electronic makeup work.

The agreement guarantees that no employees will be dismissed or dislocated as a result of the new equipment.

At the same time, the agreement provides a "five-year window," effective through 1997, during which any employee covered by Guild contracts may retire from age 60-65 with no reduction in pension benefit and with 50 percent of medical and dental premiums paid by the company until the retiree turns 65.

The announced objective of the

Star-Bulletin and the Advertiser is to introduce full pagination systems in the advertising and news departments, and the special agreement is a step in upgrading wages and protecting union-covered jobs, Hawaii Guild Administrative Officer Roy Kruse said.

Kruse said no large-scale job loss was expected in the Guild unit from introduction of electronic systems in the ad departments, and that "perhaps a dozen" employees could be expected to choose the retirement option.

Also under the agreement, but not directly related to the introduction of new equipment, some 20 pay classifications in the Guild contract were consolidated into 13 classifications to expedite payroll calculations and reduce paperwork, Kruse said.

In the reclassifications, also ef-

fective Dec. 2, dozens of employees were moved to higher levels, and none was moved to a lower one.

Some 60-70 employees, or 30 percent of the 220 in the Guild's unit at the production agency, received raises ranging from \$2 to \$40-plus a week, either through upgrades or reclassifications provided in the agreement.

The company agreed to "make every effort to eliminate any possible health hazard" that may arise from introduction or use of new equipment. Kruse said the agreement guarantees "a sound workplace with desks, chairs, lighting and environment suitable" to Guild requirements.

In addition, the Guild must approve before the company can establish any speed or accuracy requirements, Kruse said.

NLRB sets new charges against Hour

Norwalk, Conn. — The National Labor Relations Board has issued more unfair-practices complaints against the Norwalk Hour in response to allegations by the New York Guild that management continues to bargain in bad faith with the union.

For nearly three years, the Guild has been seeking to fashion an equitable first contract for the Hour's 30 news-room employees.

In its latest complaints, the NLRB regional office charged that management discriminated against employees for union activity by such actions as altering the job duties of employees, transferring union-covered work out of the bargaining unit, and unilaterally changing other conditions of employment for Guild-covered workers.

The NLRB consolidated the complaint with another it had filed against the Hour last summer, and scheduled a hearing March 9 in Hartford on all charges.

Earlier complaints allege the Hour canceled employees' scheduled annual raises and instituted layoffs without first bargaining with the union.

Progress at the table has been stymied by the company's "stonewalling" through many months of talks, said Bill O'Meara, a New York Guild representative assisting the union.

In October, the Guild launched advertising and circulation boycotts against the 21,000-circulation Hour in a bid to get things moving.

The boycotts "continue to gather steam" with the assistance of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, the regional office of the national AFL-CIO, the Fairfield County Labor Council, the Food & Commercial Workers and the Teachers unions, O'Meara said.

The unions are asking readers to cancel their subscriptions and have sent letters to more than 115 advertisers urging them to support workers' rights by pulling their ads.

Some raised by \$120-plus in Brabant settlement

Stoney Creek, Ont. — Pay increases range up to 36 percent, including raises of more than \$120 a week for some workers, under contracts negotiated by the Southern Ontario Guild for employees of the Brabant-group weeklies in the Hamilton area.

Three separate contracts, all effective through Nov. 2, 1993, cover 110 employees in the newspaper, Southam-owned group. About 80 of them work at the Stoney Creek main office and production facility, where the free-distribution papers are printed.

The settlement was concluded Nov. 2, capping two weeks of intense bargaining following a strike vote by Guild members, an informational picket by 60 members in late October, and strike sanction by TNG. Members approved the contracts Nov. 3.

Members were "very close" to striking as talks dragged toward November, said Richard Leitner, Guild unit chair and a bargaining team member. "There's no question we were ready to go."

SONG Representative Peter Murdoch, who led the team, was joined in the final sessions by SONG Executive Officer Paul Pellettier and TNG Canadian Director John Bryant.

Two agreements, each for two years, are first-ever Guild contracts — one for 60 employees in the production department, the other for 30 people in the sales and business departments.

The third contract, retroactive to March 30, is a renewal agreement for newsroom workers, who opted for Guild representation in late 1987 and achieved a first contract in early 1989.

The production group voted for the union in late 1989, and the Guild was certified to represent the sales/business staff in mid-1990. All union-eligible Brabant employees now are Guild-covered except those working less than 24 hours a week.

Under the new contracts, raises average 6.2 percent the first year and 5 percent the second year, Leitner said.

In addition, all employees received \$250 lump-sum payments upon the contracts' ratifications. Eight workers whose pay rates were above contract minimums for their classifications received additional lump sums ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

Under the editorial contract, the top minimum for reporters and photographers increases by a total of \$84, in increments of \$59.37

and \$24.91, to \$479.91 a week.

The top for section and photo editors is raised by \$82.36, to \$514.91; for editors and copy editors, by \$73.23, to \$574.36.

Under the first contracts, some 90 employees are slotted in newly established experienced-based, minimum-pay schedules. Nine are established in the production department and 13 in the sales and business offices.

Initial top minimums for production assemblers range from \$8.77 to \$9.62 an hour in the first year, then move to \$10.25 to \$12 in the final year. Most get to the top after two years, some after one year.

The initial top for press operators with four years' experience is \$17 an hour the first year, going to \$17.25 the second; for press assistants, \$11.75, going to \$12; for press-room helpers, \$8.75, going to \$9.25.

Some production workers got raises as high as 36 percent, raising at least one by \$127 a week, Leitner said.

The new sales and business-office pay groups, and their initial and second-year top minimums, include:

Accounting clerks, \$380.42 and \$400.43 a week; data entry

clerks and credit co-ordinators, \$432.45 and \$452.46; and payroll/accounts payable clerks, \$518.68 and \$538.69.

Circulation representatives, \$431.90 and \$451.91; customer service representatives, \$353.56 and \$373.57; classified ad-visors, \$333.40 and \$351.49; advertorial writers, creative designers, \$401.59 and \$421.60; and customer service drivers, \$329 and \$349.

The minimum for retail salespersons is \$250 a week, plus commission, plus \$20.

Benefits and protections in the initial contracts parallel those in the editorial agreement, including Guild shop, job-security and employer-paid training upon promotion, transfer or introduction of new technology.

Also, the allowance for regular use of personal vehicles increases by \$5 each year, to \$70 a week, and reimbursement for casual use increases by 5 cents, to 25 cents per kilometer.

Besides Murdoch and Leitner, the bargaining team included: Roy Gay, press room; Paulette Bartlett, composing; Lauri Van Stone, office staff; Barb Baxter, sales; and Melanie Cummings, editorial.

Official count shows 54% backed \$1

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locals. No members were eligible to vote in nine other locals.

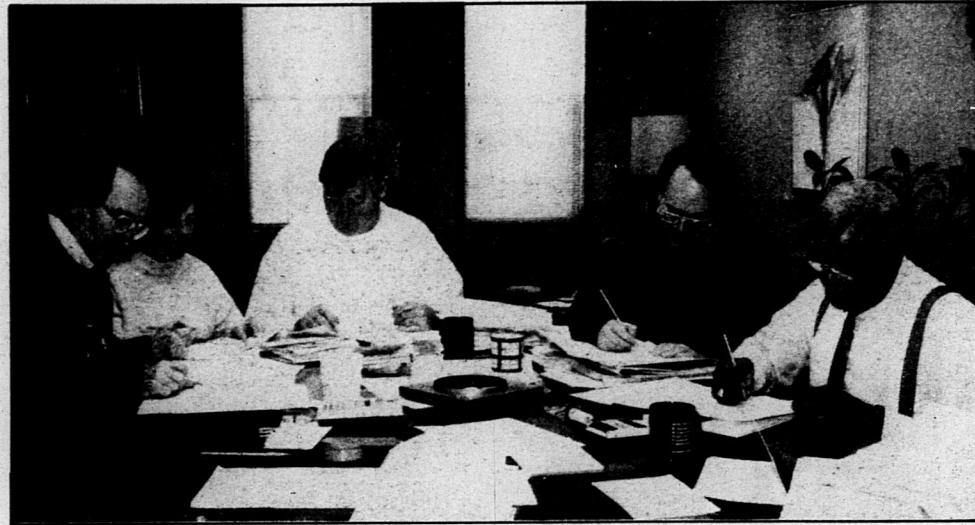
The margins were 3 to 1 or greater in many of the locals that voted against repealing the dollar. Included were: Albany (86%), Chicago, Cincinnati and Hawaii (76%), Erie and Hudson County (81%), Great Falls (100%).

Also, Kenosha (82%), Memphis (88%), Montreal (90%), Puerto Rico (79%), San Jose (77%), Sioux City (75%), Vancouver-New Westminster (82%), Victoria-Vancouver Island (92%), and Wilkes-Barre (84%).

Repeal of the dollar was backed by margins of 3 to 1 or more in several locals, as well. Included were: Buffalo (85%), Denver (84%), Lansing (76%), Los Angeles and Ottawa (75%), Twin Cities and Lynn (81%).

Also, Pawtucket (90%), Peoria (98%), Providence (78%), St. Louis (93%), Salem (94%), Woonsocket (92%), and Bristol, Hazleton and Northern Ontario (100%).

The locals recording the largest numerical margins against the dollar's repeal included New York, the Guild's largest local (a 363-vote margin), Montreal (254), San Jose (199), Vancouver-New Westminster (192), Albany (175), Puerto Rico (169), and the U.S.



INT'L ELECTION & REFERENDUM COMMITTEE TABULATES DUES-VOTE RESULTS
From left: Bill Buchanan, Erie; Connie Knox, Washington-Baltimore; Jerry E. MacDonald, Canadian Wire Service; David Langzett, Portland; and Joe Steele, New York.

Wire Service Guild (130).

Locals with the largest numerical margins for repeal included Southern Ontario, the second largest local in TNG (a 466-vote margin), Twin Cities (289), Denver (210), and St. Louis (161).

The Sioux City Guild led all locals in percentage of voter turnout, with all 8 of its eligibles casting

ballots (6-2 against repeal). Others with high turnouts included: Albany, 83%; Bristol and Scranton, 80%; Hazleton, 88%; Lynn, 74%; Manchester, 87%; Pawtucket, 81%; Wilkes-Barre, 91%; and Woonsocket, 79%.

A partial, informal survey of Guild locals that reported unofficial referendum results to the Guild Reporter showed that those with the highest voter turnouts generally conducted balloting in members' workplaces.

The New York and Southern Ontario Guilds, both of which conduct balloting by mail, had participation rates of 22 percent and 25 percent respectively.

Overall voter participation rates were nearly identical in the United States and Canada, just under 33 percent in each. Majorities in five Canadian locals voted against repealing the dollar, while four favored repeal. Canadian margins were 51.6% against repeal; 48.4% for repeal (1,033 votes-969 votes).

UPI pact changes approved by 83%

New York — Guild-covered employees at United Press Int'l have approved five changes in their contract to help the company remain afloat as it attempts to reorganize again under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Voting by mail, Wire Service Guild members approved the changes by an 83 percent majority.

The modifications preserve major severance provisions of the contract, including a 52-week maximum entitlement, and continue 20-percent wage cuts initiated more than a year ago, to a top minimum of \$568.64 for news-persons.

The changes also would restrict UPI's use of stringers, but allow the company greater latitude in scheduling part-timers and delete experience-rating requirements in setting pay for new hires.

THE AFL-CIO Union Privilege programs — and TNG's participation which makes them available to Guild members in the U.S. — are continuing to expand as they move through the first months of their sixth year.

One of the programs — term life insurance — is available to Guild members in Canada as well as the U.S.

Union Privilege was created, and TNG signed on, in 1986 to provide union members and their families the kind of high-quality consumer services and benefits possible only through the volume purchasing strength possessed by the 14 million members of AFL-CIO unions. The programs are specially designed for union members and Union Privilege endeavors to monitor each of them to assure that members receive the quality and value they deserve.

The programs and TNG's making them available to members are another vivid example of "the value of belonging to the Guild," TNG Sec'y-Treasurer John C. Edgington wrote recently in distributing materials on the full scope of the programs to U.S. locals.

TNG-Union Privilege programs are "a real asset in helping our members meet their needs beyond the workplace," said TNG President Charles Dale. "They're available without charge to members — members only, no free-riders or agency fee payers — and they help members save money. They also make membership more attractive to the unorganized, helping to strengthen the Guild overall," he added.

UNION PRIVILEGE now provides eight basic programs, and TNG currently participates in seven: credit card, legal service, home mortgage, life insurance, savings, prescription drugs, and travel.

TNG expects soon to sign on for Union Privilege's eighth current program, one that provides personal loans. The loan program will make available to members personal loans in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000, as well as home equity and education loans. More detailed information will be distributed when TNG has completed adding it to the stable of current programs available.

Following is more information on each of the seven Union Privilege programs in which TNG currently participates and which are available, therefore, to U.S. Guild members:

LEGAL SERVICE

UNION PRIVILEGE reports this to be the largest legal-services program of its kind in the U.S., with more than 800 participating law offices. It features:

- No annual fee or enrollment charge.
- Free initial 30-minute consultations on almost any new matter. Consult

'Privileges' soon to Canada, too

Canadian Union Advantage Programs are in formation in Canada and TNG expects shortly to be able to offer members there the opportunity to take advantage of them, Sec'y-Treasurer John C. Edgington wrote to locals Dec. 17.

First up will be a TNG MasterCard, being offered by CUAP through the Bank of Montreal.

Other programs similar to those offered to U.S. members are expected to follow.

No returns were received from Guild locals in Lexington, Ky., and Madison, Wis. No members were eligible to vote in the following Guild locals: Battle Creek (Mich.), Chattanooga (Tenn.), Dayton (Ohio), Hampton Roads (Norfolk, Va.), Kingston (N.Y.), Lehigh Valley (Allentown, Pa.), Peninsula (Newport News, Va.), San Diego and Utica (N.Y.).

FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

Guild Union Privilege options now seven, soon to be eight



UNION PRIVILEGE MASTERCARDS FOR GUILD MEMBERS NOW SPORT TNG LOGO
Redesigned cards are going to current users at renewal time and to members opening new accounts.

as often as you want, provided each is about a separate situation.

- Free review of documents — leases, insurance policies, other contracts — with oral evaluations.
- 30% discount on fees for additional services. You pay 70% of the lawyer's normal fee.

All U.S. Guild locals have been provided copies of a directory of participating lawyers in their region. Names of participating lawyers also can be obtained by calling Union Privilege Legal Service at 1-202-842-35.00



UNION PRIVILEGE MasterCard is the oldest of the programs, and has been available to Guild members since shortly after its inception. As of Jan. 6, nearly 4,400 Guild members had the credit card. It features:

- No annual fee.
- A low interest rate, adjusted quarterly. It cannot exceed prime-plus-5%.
- From October-December the rate was 13%, and Union Privilege expects to announce in mid-January that it is dropping by 1.5%, to 11.5%, for the January-March period.

Interest, however, accrues from the date of a transaction, a disadvantage for members who pay off their balance each month.

- No fees for ATM (automatic teller machine) use, no cash advance fees, no check fees. Free personalized checks.
- Free \$250,000 travel-accident insurance when you use the card to charge air, rail or other common carrier tickets.
- No liability for charges made on a stolen card.

At least one month each year, members may skip the monthly payment. Interest charges, however, continue to accrue.

Application forms are available from Guild locals.

A UNION MASTERCARD scholarship program is open to members, their spouses, children and grandchildren provided the member has at least one year of continuous good-standing membership in the Guild.

It awards \$1,000-\$4,000 to high school graduates who are attending or have been accepted as students at an accredited college, community college, technical or trade school. A total of \$75,000 will be disbursed this year.

Application forms have been supplied to all U.S. locals. Application deadline for awards for the 1992-93 school year is March 15.



THE HOME MORTGAGE program, started just last May, is the newest Union Privilege program in which TNG currently participates. It is available to Guild members, their children and parents.

Through the end of 1991, nearly \$172.5 million had been committed for 2,164 union members' mortgages U.S.-wide. Included were nine Guild members, for mortgages totaling just over \$1 million.

The program features:

- Competitive rates at or below the national average.
- Pre-approval, giving members more bargaining power with brokers and sellers.
- Availability for refinancing as well as purchasing.
- Down payments as low as 5%.
- Reduced closing costs.
- Favorably priced homeowner and mortgage life insurance.

The lender is PHH US Mortgage Corp., with participation from the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust and the union-owned Amalgamated Bank of New York.

An associated financial assistance

plan is available at no cost to help meet monthly principal and interest payments during a long strike or lockout, and interest-free loans are available to meet mortgage payments for members who are laid off or disabled.

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS who have belonged to the Guild for at least three years and who meet federal income-eligibility criteria may be eligible for a special program that includes a 3% down payment and no points.

A call to 1-800-848-6466 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. (EST) will produce a mortgage consultant.



TERM LIFE INSURANCE is the one AFL-CIO Union Privilege program available to Guild members in Canada as well as in the U.S. It is available in three plans. Every member from 18-79 years of age (78 in Washington State) is guaranteed coverage under one of the three. All three plans are designed to supplement existing protection for the lowest cost possible.

• Basic Life — Those who qualify medically can buy amounts from \$10,000-\$100,000. (No medical exams, just a few questions.)

• Guaranteed Benefit Life — For members under age 65 who do not qualify medically for Basic Life, this offers smaller amounts of insurance. After 10 years—participation, the coverage ceiling increases to \$10,000.

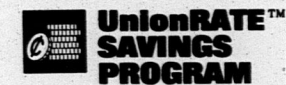
• Senior Benefit Life — Members 65-79 years of age can buy coverage at fixed rates. The amount is based on the applicant's age. Age 79 is the maximum to begin coverage, which may continue through age 84, except in Washington where coverage ends at 78.

Coverage for a member's spouse is available under the plan that covers the member. Children's coverage is available

only under the Basic Life plan, with a \$10,000 minimum.

Premiums are waived during layoffs, lockouts and sanctioned strikes of more than 30 days' duration.

More information and applications are available from 1-800-327-4349. Any Canadian member who cannot make that connection can call 1-612-588-2731, collect.



UNIONRATE SAVINGS, created as an alternative to passbook savings accounts, guarantees to meet or beat the average interest rate paid on money-market deposit accounts by the 100 largest U.S. banks.

In 1990, UnionRATE paid an average of 6.26%, more than one full point above the 5.17% average rate on passbook savings. Its rate through the first seven days of 1992 was 4.15% (4.23% annualized).

Deposits, insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), can be made by mail. Withdrawals can be made by mail or phone. Your UnionRATE account also can be linked to your bank savings account for next-day access to funds.

More information and enrollment forms are available by calling Serviceline at 1-800-423-5246.



HEALTH NEEDS SERVICE offers prescription drugs by mail at savings of as much as 30% on prescription drugs, more on most generics, to Guild members' whole families — spouse, children, parents, aunts, uncles, etc.

Operated by one of the largest mail pharmacies in the U.S., National Pharmacies/MEDCO in Harrisburg, Pa., the service pledges orders' fulfillment in 10-14 days. It also sends refill reminders and year-end summaries for tax purposes, both without charge.

Open credit is provided during strikes and lockouts.

U.S. locals have been provided coupons which interested members can fill out and send to National Pharmacies/MEDCO for more information and/or to sign up for this Union Privilege program.



TRAVEL PLUS CLUB is the only Union Privilege program that carries an annual participation fee: \$29 a year. Since members get 5% cash back on all travel booked through the club, including hotels and motels, participants who spend at least \$600 a year more than cover the fee.

The travel service features:

- Guaranteed lowest airfares at the time of booking, a toll-free reservations number, and free ticket delivery.
- Hotel, motel and Hertz rental car discounts.
- \$250,000 travel insurance, \$5,000 hotel burglary insurance, \$500 luggage insurance.
- Toll free message service while traveling.
- Free computerized motoring itinerary.
- A money-back guarantee.

Members can join and/or get more information by calling 1-800-522-8727.

Local-by-local tally on dues referendum

Local	Eligible Voters	For Repeal	Against Repeal	Local	Eligible Voters	For Repeal	Against Repeal
Akron	140	56	27	Pawtucket	38	28	3
Albany	290	33	208	Peoria	93	54	1
Bakersfield	87	10	23	Philadelphia	1,499	193	261
Boston	438	106	82	Pittsburgh	178	24	30
Bristol	10	8	0	Portland	312	73	67
Brockton	106	19	52	Providence	429	123	35
Buffalo	375	113	20	Pueblo	60	11	4
Canadian Wire Service	970	193	246	Puerto Rico	668	61	230
Chicago	562	40	129	Rochester	71	6	15
Cincinnati	83	10	32	St. Louis	606	173	12
Cleveland	495	106	100	Salem	75	45	3
Denver	757	258	48	San Antonio	38	2	4
Detroit	717	65	75	San Jose	944	81	280
Erie	154	19	82	Scranton	51	15	26
Eugene	81	2	2	Sheboygan	72	15	10
Gary	64	10	12	Sioux City	8	2	6
Great Falls	15	0	11	Southern Ontario	2,510	552	86
Harrisburg	56	5	14	Terre Haute	94	16	30
Hawaii	526	32	101	Toledo	339	55	97
Hazleton	26	23	0	Twin Cities	785	372	83
Hudson County	50	5	22	Vancouver-New Westminster	1,230	55	247
Indianapolis	55	8	6	Vancouver-Vancouver Island	240	10	113
Kenosha	52	4	19	Washington-Baltimore	1,885	256	259
Knoxville	69	8	18	Wilkes-Barre	112	16	86
Lake Superior	50	9	4	Windsor	140	9	14
Lansing	32	13	4	Wire Service (U.S.)	928	74	204
Los Angeles	385	79	26	Woonsocket	34	25	2
Lynn	30	18	4	Yakima	27	3	7
Manchester	140	49	73	York	56	9	13
Memphis	272	14	107	Youngstown	167	30	69
Milwaukee	121	16	11	At-Large Members	2	0	1
Montreal	464	31	285	Totals	29,525	4,453	5,229
New York	4,947	359	722				
North Bay	77	29	19				
Northern California	1,675	120	180				
Northern Ontario	36	22	0				
Ottawa	427	68	23				
Pacific Northwest	980	105	144				

83 journalists killed in '91, IFJ reports; aid fund is started

(Continued from Page 1)
the victims of violence.

"Violence against journalists is not only a political scandal, but also a deep personal tragedy," Doornaert said.

"We are not powerless," however, she said. "There are simple practical steps we can take to help our colleagues, whether it is to pay hospital bills, to pay for safe refuges, or to fight legal cases against those who disregard their legal obligations. This fund will help us to do more."

The IFJ, she said, also is stepping up campaigns for the United Nations and other international agencies to strengthen international protocols and conventions on peoples' rights in wartime to afford greater protection to journalists. It also is urging the UN to declare censorship a violation of human rights.

"1991 was a year of sweeping change in the world, but unless governments show more respect for independent journalism and take steps to insure media freedom, the future of democracy is very uncertain, indeed," Doornaert said.

The IFJ listed 21 journalists killed, and others missing, in the Yugoslav civil wars, 17 in Croatia and four in Slovenia.

"We have been very concerned by suggestions that journalists have been particularly targeted" in those conflicts, the IFJ report said. It has member unions in Slovenia and in the capital of Serbia, Belgrade. The IFJ called for all involved to "declare their support for the democratic principle of free expression" and to "lift all pressures on journalists."

The IFJ report also expressed particular concern at the high death toll in Latin America last year. It listed a total of 22, with eight murdered in Colombia and seven in Peru.

"In Latin America, journalists are under attack from drug gangs, paramilitary forces and terrorists. The war there against press freedom in that region has gone on too long and is an intolerable burden for journalists," the report said.

The report listed seven who died covering the Persian Gulf war and its aftermath, five in Iraq and two in Kuwait.

The two listed as victims in the U.S. were broadcasters from Haiti who were shot in Florida where they worked for stations serving Haitian communities.

The victim in Canada, the report said, was a broadcaster from East India who was gunned down in Toronto outside a radio studio where he had broadcast a tribute to former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Nature's violence also was responsible for news gatherers' deaths listed. Fifteen died in Japan in June while covering the eruption of Mt. Unzen, the IFJ reported.

"It is not clear what type of preparation the journalists had, if any at all, before being sent on this assignment," the report pointed out.

The IFJ's new fund to provide humanitarian aid to journalist-victims and their families around the world is the latest addition to the IFJ's growing Int'l Program of Action of Safety of Journalists.

In October it launched a global electronic network — "ifj.SAFENET" — to enable journalists' organizations and human rights and press freedom groups to share information about attacks on and threats to journalists' rights and safety.

In August, the IFJ established a Central and East European "early warning network" following the abortive coup in Moscow. It helped keep journalists in all parts of the world in touch with developments in what were the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Just imagine
the past 200 years
without
freedom of the press



The words in the First Amendment read, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of... the press."

The principle was clear 200 years ago when the words were first written, along with other freedoms that make up the Bill of Rights.

Since then, very few documents have been more analyzed, scrutinized, challenged and second-guessed.

But the words still carry their own weight, and the principles behind them still make this country great. Join us in celebrating the 200th birthday of the Bill of Rights.

For information on the role of a free press, and how it protects your rights, or to discuss any free press issue, call the Society of Professional Journalists at 317-653-3333.

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

A public service message of this publication and the Society of Professional Journalists

ONE OF SPJ 'PROJECT WATCHDOG' ADS PROMOTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT
Co-chairperson of 'Project Watchdog' is Lucy Dalglish, former Twin Cities Guild member.
Effort marks bicentennial of U.S. Bill of Rights, observed in December.

Rates up 13-27% in contract for distributors

Toronto — Hourly wage rates increase by 13.5 percent to 27 percent for drivers, inserters and clerical workers at Starways Distributors in a new 30-month contract negotiated by the Southern Ontario Guild.

The agreement, covering 11 employees who distribute advertising supplements for the Toronto Star, is retroactive to April 1, 1991, and extends through Sept. 30, 1993.

Over the term, hourly wages increase by an average of \$1.79 an hour for the group, going to an average rate of \$9.64 during the final year.

Also over the term, top-minimum wage rates increase an average of \$1.20 for the three classifications to: \$11.39 an hour for drivers; \$10.27 for clericals; and \$8.79 for inserters.

Under the contract, the em-

ployer will increase by 10 percent, to 80 percent effective April 1, the amount it pays on employees' premiums for extended health care.

In addition, the employee vision care benefit is improved to \$150 every two years, up from \$65 annually.

The contract, ratified in late October, also improves vacation benefits and the supper allowance (to \$8.50) after 10 hours' work.

IT SEEMS



TO US

One back issue of GR still eludes ex-leader

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Editor:

This is a follow-up of an appeal I made two years ago for back issues of Guild Reporter for 1973. Thanks to Tim Schick of Providence, I now have all the back issues except for Volume 40, No. 1, printed in January, 1973. If anyone has such a copy or a Xerox of same, I would be most appreciative.

HARRY S. CULVER
At-large
Wire Service Guild

Editor's note: Culver, a former TNG international chairperson and vice president, can be reached at 4625 NW. 32nd St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73122.

By TNG convention action, letters shall be limited to 200 words and shall avoid libel and subjects detrimental to the Guild. Members subjected to personal attack shall be given opportunity to reply in the same issue, but publication of either attack or reply shall not be delayed longer than one issue.

Deadline: Friday before publication. (Next deadline: Jan. 24.)

Halloween in Monterey — Too 'bad' to die in overset!

The annual Halloween party marking the anniversary of the founding of the San Jose Guild unit in Monterey in 1973 and its first contract at the Herald a year later drew a lineup of entertainer look-a-likes to its 1991 edition. Among them, from left: Guild member Kelli Uldall, as Madonna; guest Marcella Wheeler, as Pocahontas; members Holly Olsen, as Tina Turner, and Ann Gibbons, as Morticia; Unit Chair Karen Miller, as a baker; and two unidentifiable ghouls.



TNG action credited in aiding reporter faced with subpoena

A friend of the court brief by TNG and 16 other press and community organizations has been credited with a significant role in a federal judge's Dec. 10 dismissal of a grand jury subpoena for a Puerto Rico television reporter's videotapes of her four-hour interview with two suspects in a \$7.1-million robbery in 1983.

The reporter, Daisy Sanchez of San Juan station WLII-TV, had pledged publicly that she would go to jail rather than turn over the tapes.

"I will not surrender the tools of my trade," she had promised, describing the tapes as her personal working materials, the equivalent of any reporter's working notes.

The daughter of a Puerto Rican Teamsters leader, her stand had drawn support from a wide spectrum of Puerto Rico's social and political sectors, including the governor, churches and unions, including the Puerto Rico Federation of Labor and the Guild.

In dismissing the subpoena in federal district court in Hartford, Conn., Judge T. Emmet Clarie said Sanchez's "First Amendment interest in avoiding compelled disclosure of the original of her work product outweighs the government's need to produce the original videotape to the grand jury."

"A compelling need for disclosure ... is absent at this time," he added, noting, however, that the government is not prevented from seeking the tapes if the investigation ever proceeds to a trial. He ordered Sanchez to keep the tapes.

The tapes contain interviews last summer with Filiberto Ojeda Rios and Luis Colon Osorio, leaders of Los Macheteros, a group advocating armed struggle for Puerto Rican independence.

The government has not been able to locate the pair since September 1990, when they dropped from sight while free on a \$1-million bond after being held in a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford.

Los Macheteros claimed responsibility for the crime, which was committed eight years ago. Prosecutors contended that members of the organization planned the robbery to bankroll anti-American terrorism.

Sanchez's attorney speculated that the government was harassing her because its agents were embarrassed that she had been able to locate the fugitives.

Parts of her interviews were broadcast in August and the full interviews were broadcast on Sept. 9 and 10. The judge noted that the government has videotapes of the latter broadcasts.

Others who joined TNG in the friend of the court brief opposing the subpoena included: the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Inter-American Press Assn., the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, the National Ecumenical Movement of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican Organization of Working Women.

LIFE'S A HOLIDAY

Bellevue members keeping 'afloat'

Reporter Liz Brown, newly elected chair of the Bellevue Journal American unit of the Pacific Northwest Guild, didn't waste much time making her leadership felt. Within days, she posted a flier that had management schedulers reaching for their Excedrin.

And she was just following the contract. It had to do with "floating" holidays.

Under the union's contract with the Journal American, Guild members with more than six months' service are entitled to a mutually agreed-upon paid personal holiday of their choice in addition to the seven regular paid holidays of the calendar year.

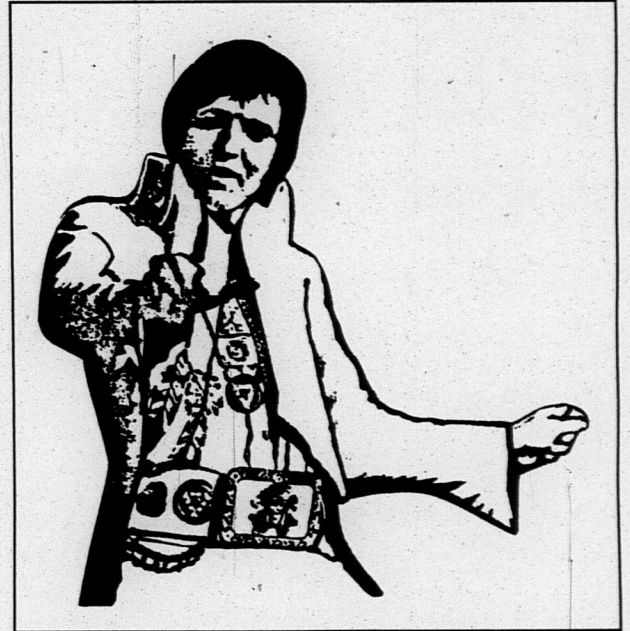
Trouble is, Brown found, many employees either forgot about the extra day or weren't aware of it in the first place. And management was doing little to remind them.

So Brown tacked up bright Halloween-orange notices on Guild bulletin boards. To further grab members' attention, she affixed a cutout of "The King" with the heading — "Elvis says: Take a day off, baby."

The text of the notices read, in part:

"With the holidays coming up, you could probably use a day for shopping, or baking, or just eating Pop-Tarts and watching Geraldo and Oprah. Better take

Reprinted from the Pacific Northwest Guild's newsletter, "The Bulletin."



'THE KING' URGING 'TAKE A DAY OFF' IN BELLEVUE
Bulletin board notices were reproduced in Halloween orange.

a holiday before the end of the year — just tell your boss you're taking your floater! Combine it with the weekend and visit Graceland! If your boss gives you any guff about it, read him your union contract!"

By Brown's estimate, some 50 newly aware employees — including dozens in the newsroom alone — came forth and put in for a floater. A lesser but sizable number requested copies of the Guild contract from Brown.

With only weeks left in 1991, the new awareness gave schedulers a staffing dilemma seldom faced this side of an 8-point quake on the Richter scale. But supervisors were attempting to accommodate the "floating" requests, Brown said.

"What can I say?" she said of the situation. "I asked (management) beforehand, and they assured me practically everyone had taken their floater days, that there was nothing to worry about."

Deaf worker hopes implant opens door to journalism

Denver Guild member Linn Tearney isn't bothered by stuff that bugs most people. When some bozo leans on his horn at a stop sign, she's unfazed. Or when the telephone's ringing off the hook, she doesn't get flustered.

But Tearney, who works in circulation data entry at the Denver Post, is bothered when she can tell that other people think she's different because she can't hear.

"I imagine I'm the only deaf person at the Post," she said during a recent interview. "I want people to see that I'm a normal human being and really not different than anyone else."

Tearney, 41, lives with her husband and teenage child in suburban Aurora. While at the newspaper, she runs a machine that tabulates street sales.

In a quiet, one-on-one atmosphere, Linn can lip read well enough to hold a normal conversation. But when she's greeted by someone new, she often can't understand what's being said.

"It's weird when I meet new people," she said. "It's frustrating because everybody has different speech patterns, and so it's hard to pick up right away."

"I don't look different, so most people find out about me the hard way. They can't tell I'm deaf. A lot of people just think I'm stupid."

Tearney has been hearing impaired since she contracted spinal

This feature first appeared in the Denver Guild's newsletter, the "Guild News." Written by Bill McBean, it has been slightly altered for Guild Reporter use.

meningitis 22 years ago, and totally deaf for the past six years.

Prior to losing all hearing, she was able to get college degrees in anthropological archeology and graphic arts. She wants to return to school to learn journalism, but that has been an impossible goal — until now.

On Jan. 8, Tearney received a cochlear implant, a tiny electronic instrument, in her inner ear that should restore partial hearing.

[Denver Guild Administrative Officer Bruce Meachum reported the operation was "very successful" and that Tearney expected to return to work in three weeks.]

The \$20,000 device works because minuscule electrodes take the place of the cilia that stimulate the auditory nerve. The electrodes are hooked to a decoding device worn on the waist.

Tearney hopes the implant will open new worlds for her. She hopes, for instance, to be able to use a telephone. That step would open career possibilities most people take for granted.

"But at the very least," she said, "it will help me communicate better with people."





Did Justice play dead when rivals bought, closed liberal dailies?

By Stephen R. Barnett

TWO MORE CITIES, Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, recently lost competing newspapers and joined the near-ubiquitous ranks of one-day towns.

While the Arkansas Gazette and the Dallas Times Herald may have died of natural economic causes, the circumstances were suspect. One wonders if the Justice Dept. did as much as it should have to keep these papers alive.

In each case, the paper didn't just die but was sold into oblivion for a sizable bounty from its crosstown rival — a payment financed by the monopoly franchise thus bestowed on the rival. In each case, any efforts by the Justice Dept. to produce a different result were shrouded in secrecy and apparently minimal.

And, in each case, the paper that died was politically liberal, while the one permitted to buy it out — Walter E. Hussman Jr.'s Arkansas Democrat, the A.H. Belo Corp.'s Dallas Morning News — shares the conservative views of the Bush Administration.

In Little Rock, where the Gannett Co. sold the 172-year-old Gazette after running it into the ground for five years, Gannett's payoff from Hussman was a handsome \$69 million — more than Gannett had paid for the Gazette in 1986, and plainly including a monopoly premium over what another possible buyer would have paid Gannett.

Antitrust laws barred Gannett from selling to its rival unless no

Stephen R. Barnett is a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

This article is reprinted, with permission, from the FORUM section of the New York Times of Sunday, Dec. 29.

one else would buy the Gazette. The antitrust division of the Justice Dept. is supposed to enforce this requirement. In the past it has.

In 1984, when Newhouse Newspapers said it planned to close the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the division intervened to announce that the paper was for sale and to check out prospective buyers (four were found to be qualified) and police the sale.

IN LITTLE ROCK, the antitrust division did no such thing. According to news reports, Gannett, apparently feeling no responsibility to try to keep the Gazette alive, made its deal with Hussman before making any effort to look for other buyers.

The antitrust division reportedly required Gannett only to list the Gazette with a newspaper broker. Neither Gannett nor the division announced that the Gazette was for sale. Both stonewalled inquiries from news organizations. And the division apparently did nothing to make sure that Gannett offered the paper at a fair price, without the monopoly premium.

The story in Dallas was similar. The \$55 million that the Times Herald's owners got from Belo

was a slimmer bounty than in Little Rock, but it surely exceeded what another possible buyer would have paid. The antitrust division again kept silent and apparently did little.

In Little Rock and Dallas it is possible that, whatever Justice might have done, only the monopoly-bent crosstown rival would have bought the paper. But maverick publishers have shown that it's possible to resurrect a "dying" daily — Rupert Murdoch did it with the Boston Herald, McClatchy Newspapers with the Anchorage News and Hussman himself with the Arkansas Democrat.

In Little Rock, moreover, the long-dominant Gazette was still about even with the Democrat in circulation when Gannett took the money and ran. In Dallas, the Morning News had a much bigger lead over the Times Herald, but the market also was much bigger.

Whether either paper could be sold to someone who would keep it alive could not be known without trying.

The owners had no incentive to try, and it doesn't appear that they were prodded much. Whether it would have changed the result, a more open and aggressive stance by the Justice Dept. at least would have offered reassurance, in this sensitive area, that the government is enforcing the law.

REASSURANCE is particularly needed because, coincidence or not, the defunct Gazette and Times Herald were liberal papers, while the Democrat and the Morning News now have monopoly megaphones for their conservative voices.

An outcome that closes liberal newspapers and entrenches conservative ones may not displease the present administration. Did political preference keep the Justice Dept. from making greater efforts to find real buyers for the Gazette and the Times Herald? With the department's role hidden from view, one can only wonder.

As they put it

Workplace Fairness (S. 55)

The following, edited to fit this space, is an open letter from AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland to U.S. union members on their stake in Senate passage of the Workplace Fairness Bill.

THE NEW YEAR brings a new urgency for working people to finish restoring a measure of fairness to U.S. labor law by convincing the U.S. Senate to pass S. 55, the Workplace Fairness Bill.

By "permanently replacing" workers who exercise their right to strike, thereby subverting the bargaining process, employers have the ability to impose low wages and substandard conditions.

Federal labor law says you cannot be fired for exercising your right to strike, but the Supreme Court has declared that you can be "permanently replaced." In the 1980s, that loophole was widely used to destroy the right to strike, and with it workers' ability to stand up to improve their and their families' lives.

S. 55 would correct that contradiction. It would restore some equity to labor law.

In a free society, the freedom of property must be balanced by the freedom of labor, but it cannot be without the right to strike.

House passage last summer of the companion bill to S. 55 was a good start. But the Senate presents a serious challenge.

We know from the number of Senators who either co-sponsored S. 55 or who have committed to vote for it that we can muster a majority of votes to win Senate passage.

However, it will take a lot more than just a majority, because the Senate permits endless debate, a filibuster, on any piece of legislation. A small band of Senators can talk a bill to death, and anti-labor Senators already are lining up to do just that. To win, we must have 60 votes to impose cloture to shut off debate.

From the commitments we have, we know from which states the votes will come to pass the bill. And that is where you come in.

The votes of Democratic Senators from 12 states are crucial: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North and South Carolina, Virginia and Texas. In addition, Republican votes from Senators in eight states are key: Alaska, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. Every one of these Senators must be the focus of intensified grass-roots efforts by union members like you.

No working American, and certainly no unionist, should be blind to the fact that the use of striker replacements is designed to lower wages and standards by busting unions.

Make no mistake, the fight over S. 55 is for high stakes. The hired guns of corporate America are out in force. It is up to us to counter their opposition. We owe it not only to ourselves and our families, but also to those unionists who came before and sacrificed much to secure the economic rights many of us take for granted. In their memory and for future generations, we must prevail.

The Guild Reporter



JAMES M. CESNIK, Editor
JOHN R. SMALL, Assistant Editor

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INTERNATIONAL CHAIRPERSON: PETER E. McLAUGHLI

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REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS: Region 1—Thomas J. Thibault, P.O. Box 643, Manchester, N.H. 03105; Region 2—Faye McCracken, 2059 Kingsley Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38127; Region 3—Luther P. Jackson, 3rd, 1115 Granger, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104; Region 4—Larry D. Hatfield, 16 Jewell St., San Rafael, Calif. 94901; Region 5—Richard J. Brandow, 2708 Harway Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214; Canadian Region: East—Vacant; West—Doug M. Louth, 4140 Dallyn Rd., Richmond, B.C. V6X 2S7.

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DAY



BOOK

Western District Council, winter meeting, Jan. 25-26, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu.

Midwest District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 1-2, St. Paul.

Great Lakes District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 8-9, Detroit.

11th annual TNG Residential Seminar for new local officers, Feb. 14-17, George Meany Labor Studies Center, Silver Spring.

New England District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 22-23, Manchester, N.H.

Middle-Atlantic District Council, winter meeting, March 7-8, Independence Holiday Inn, Philadelphia.

Int'l Executive Board, spring meeting, April 26-30, TNG headquarters, Silver Spring.

59th Annual Convention, June 29-July 3, 1992, Congress Hotel, Chicago.

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