UTU fires back in response to unprovoked BLE&T raid

In nationwide mailing, Hahs, Hoffa urge BLE&T members to raid UTU

The UTU “will do everything necessary” to protect itself and its members from “aggression by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen,” UTU International President Paul Thompson told BLE&T President Don Hahs in a letter dated July 14.

The letter followed a plea by Hahs and Teamsters President James Hoffa to BLE&T officers and members to engage in a nationwide raid on the UTU intended to destroy the UTU as an organization. Railroad employees “need to be part of an organization that represents them in a unique position in the cab to recruit UTU members into the Teamsters-dominated BLE&T.”

Thompson responded to Hahs that “since being elevated to International president of the UTU, I have reached out to you repeatedly and done all I could to make peace with the BLE&T. I even suggested we review the original merger documents and try to address what concerns you had with those documents. You have responded that peace is impossible unless the UTU joins you in an affiliation with the Teamsters Union.

“Now you have dropped a bomb on the UTU with a new raid on our members,” Thompson said, adding:

• The BLE&T has turned to being dominated by a non-railroad union, having admitted its failure at effectively representing its membership;

• The BLE&T claims its affiliation with the Teamsters provides a new-found strength through the power of one million Teamsters who supposedly will stand behind the efforts of rail workers to obtain higher pay and more secure jobs;

• What the BLE&T fail to say is that the Teamsters’ National Master Freight Agreement with trucking companies contains a no-strike provision that keeps the Teamsters from taking action in a railroad dispute.

Continued on page 10

Goodbye, BLE&T; Hello, UTU!

BUFFALO, N.Y. – There’s a new UTU local in town, and at least 500 BLE&T members have already flocked to join it.

“We tested the waters over there (BLE&T),” said Norfolk Southern (NS) engineer Mike Seifert, “but there was nothing for us.”

Seifert is among the former officers and members of BLE&T Division 639 who made the new UTU Local 11566 for NS conductors a reality,” Hahs and Thompson said, adding:

• The UTU “will do everything necessary” to make peace with the BLE&T.

Continued on page 10

Modernization aim of UTU panel

A blue-ribbon committee to examine and make recommendations for ways to modernize the United Transportation Union has been created by UTU International President Paul Thompson.

The recommendations of the nine-person committee will be considered at the UTU’s next quadrennial convention in 2007.

Members of the newly created blue-ribbon committee include UTU past presidents Al Chezzer and Tom DuBose; retired assistant general secretary and treasurer Dan Collins; retired member Robert McHenry; retired former general chairperson Dale Hogan; retired Canadian vice president Larry Olson; Bus Department General Chairperson James Williams; retired International Vice President Don Carver; and Local 811 officer Steve Daw.

Continued on page 10

Little, Boyd sentenced

HOUSTON, Texas – Past UTU presidents Charles L. Little and Byron A. Boyd Jr. were each sentenced July 9 in federal court to 24 months imprisonment and a $10,000 fine by Judge Sim Lake.

Both will face three years of supervised release following completion of their sentences. Both also were ordered to forfeit $100,000.

Little and Boyd previously pled guilty to violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act by soliciting and accepting payments from certain former UTU designated counsel.

Little and Boyd are both retired and neither has any affiliation with the UTU or the UTU Insurance Association (UTUIA).

Also, former UTU/UTUIA employee Ralph Dennis was sentenced to three years probation and a $2,000 fine. John Roskard, also a former UTU/UTUIA employee, was sentenced to three years probation, including six months of home confinement. Both Dennis and Roskard had pled guilty to the same or similar charges as Little and Boyd.

BLE “breached” duty

OTTAWA – The Canadian Federal Court of Appeal has upheld a ruling of the Canada Industrial Relations Board that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers “breached its statutory duty of fair representation in negotiating three items of a collective agreement” with VIA Rail.

What this means is that the BLE, now a division of the Teamsters Union, has been told by the Canadian government for a second time that it must pay as much as C$230,000 each to as many as 230 former UTU-represented former VIA Rail conductors – a potential liability in the tens of millions of dollars. Also, many of the BLE’s failure to represent them in a fair manner.

VIA Rail conductors – a potential liability in the Canadian government for a second time that it must pay as much as C$230,000 each to as many as 230 former UTU-represented former VIA Rail conductors. VIA Rail and the Canadian government of three items of a collective agreement” with VIA Rail.

Hahs and Hoffa said, telling BLE&T-represented locomotive engineers that they are in “a unique position” in the cab to recruit UTU members into the Teamsters-dominated BLE&T.

Thompson responded to Hahs that “since being elevated to International president of the UTU, I have reached out to you repeatedly and done all I could to make peace with the BLE&T. I even suggested we review the original merger documents and try to address what concerns you had with those documents. You have responded that peace is impossible unless the UTU joins you in an affiliation with the Teamsters Union.

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Continued on page 10

News & Notes

Soo Line members ratify

WOODBURY, Minn. – UTU-represented trainmen have ratified a five-year contract on the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Road subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Soo Line Railroad subsidiary that includes “wage and health and welfare provisions mirroring those in

With the help of NS General Chairperson Delbert Strunk Jr., New York State Legislative Director Sam Nasca, Regional Organizer Bob Hagen, GO-687 Secretary Richard Ross and Local President Anna Kaufman of Local 421 in Conneaut, Ohio, NS employees elected officers and took control of their own destiny on July 1. Besides Seifert, a former BLE&T vice local
Local 23, Santa Cruz, Calif.
Members of Local 23 are employees of either the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) or Community Bridges, which manages ParaCruz, Metro’s paratransit service. In July, Vice Local Chairperson David Kush met with U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) during the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the train in June, said Local Vice President Mark P. Flanigan. The Empire Builder offers many of the amenities it did when it rolled for the first time on the Great Northern Railway in June 1929.

Local 48, Norfolk, Va.
In a recent special election, Local Chairperson and Delegate T.R. Adams was elected vice general chairperson for Norfolk Southern GO-679 (former N&W-P), according to General Chairperson Bonnie Morr. The pact brings improved medical, dental and vision plans and a better pension plan.

Local 117, Vancouver, Wash.
Amtrak conductor Paula Dennis, who has worked on The Empire Builder since 1987, met with U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) during the celebration at the 75th anniversary of the train in June, said Local Vice President Mark P. Flanigan. The Empire Builder offers many of the amenities it did when it rolled for the first time on the Great Northern Railway in June 1929.

Local 168, Chicago, Ill.
Amtrak employees presented a brass lantern to Roger Ross, who marked his 60th year of service on June 19. City of Chicago and Local Chairperson Doug Silkowski, Brother Ross, who currently works between Chicago, Ill., and Pontiac, Mich., hired out in 1944 on the Michigan Central and later worked on the New York Central, Penn Central and Conrail. He went to work for Amtrak in 1986.

Local 469, Madison, Ill.
The annual picnic in June drew more than 100 who enjoyed live music, steaks, brats, burgers, ice cream and soda, said Secretary-Treasurer John J. Payer. Besides the mayor of St. Louis and other local dignitaries, in attendance were members of Localss 1388, 1405 and 1823 (St. Louis, Mo.), Local 1517 (Cincinnati, Ohio), Localss 1534 and 1290 (Chicago, Ill.), Local 1402 (Dupo, Ill.) and Local 1929 (E. St. Louis, Ill.). Thanks go to the sponsors, including the Midwest Railroaders.

Local 835, Bakersfield, Calif.
Members of this union Pacific local have established a fund to benefit the family of Jeffrey L. Henson, who lost his life May 22 in a motorcycle accident in which his wife Kristin was injured. Henson also left behind a son and a daughter. To donate, call Vice Local Chairperson Bryan Bechtel at (559) 360-1692, or send e-mail to bchtech@comcast.net.

Local 867, Des Moines, Iowa
This Union Pacific local enjoyed its annual picnic July 10 at McCoy Park, where around 100 from all crafts enjoyed the food and fun, said secretary-treasurer Bob Laborde.

Local 977, Pasco, Wash.
This BNSF local’s seventh annual inter- craft picnic will be held on Sunday, Aug. 8, from noon to 6 p.m. at Howard Amon Park in Richland, Wash., for retirement, contact Secretary-Treasurer Mitchell Newell at (509) 547-7408.

Local 1031, Savannah, Ga.
Members of this CSXT and Norfolk Southern (NS) local are mourning the loss of Jerel Dale Oliver, 53, who passed away June 25 after battling leukemia since 1988, said Local Chairperson Archie Mungin Jnr. Brother Oliver, who leaves behind a wife and two children, had been a railroader for 31 years and served as local chairperson for NS engineers for more than 20 years.

Local 1175, Duluth, Minn.
Members of this BNSF and Minnesota, Dakota & Western local are especially proud of conductors and yardmasters for Hearlgh S. McLellan, a specialist at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, said Legislative Representative Richard A. Olson. McLellan’s friends at his local will be participating in the American Legion’s Bike-A-Thon.

Local 1594, Upper Darby, Pa.
Congratulations go to SEPTA employees George O’Donnell and Stan Savchuck, who placed seventh in operators’ event and second in the maintainers’ event of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo held in Miami, Fla., in June, said General Chairperson Ron Koran. Those who had also competed in the events at SEPTA include Jim Sams, Fred Washington, Bob Tracey and Mel Sadie. Later in the month, members enjoyed perfect weather at the annual picnic at Dorney Park. As this issue went to press, members also were participating in the American Cancer Society’s Bike-A-Thon.

Local 1741, San Francisco, Calif.
Members of this bus operators’ local volunteered to shuttle demonstrators on June 19 to participate in SEIU’s March for Healthcare, said Local Secretary James Charises and Vice Chairpersons Brock C. Estes and David M. Kush. Meanwhile, Ange Belay has taken the reins as local president and will be involved in contract talks with Laidlaw. At the same time, Local Chairperson Victor Lao has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against First Student because workers are not being paid premium wages, according to Legislator McLellan.

Local 1778, N. Vancouver, B.C.
Secretary-Treasurer David M. Kush, who has taken the reins as local president and soon will be involved in nonunion temporary workers. This local is comprised of members of this bus operators’ local volunteered to shuttle demonstrators on June 19 to participate in SEIU’s March for Healthcare, said Local Secretary James Charises and Vice Chairpersons Brock C. Estes and David M. Kush. Meanwhile, Ange Belay has taken the reins as local president and will be involved in contract talks with Laidlaw. At the same time, Local Chairperson Victor Lao has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against First Student because workers are not being paid premium wages, according to Legislator McLellan.

Local 1949, Baltimore, Md.
With the assistance of the National Foundation for Transplants (NFT), a committee is raising funds for CSXT yardmaster Larry D. Webb, who is in line for a heart transplant at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Webb needs to cover $125,000 for the procedure, as well as $3,000 to $5,000 monthly for post-transplant medications. Donations to the NFT campaign are tax deductible and can be mailed to: NFT, P.O. Box 946, Cumberland, MD 21501. Checks should be marked with a memo indicating they are for Webb. Donations can also be made through the NFT’s website at www.transplants.org.

Local 1971, Atlanta, Ga.
Best wishes from the members of the local go out to yardmaster James L. Roy, who has taken the reins as local president and soon will be involved in contract talks with Laidlaw. At the same time, Local Chairperson Victor Lao has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against First Student because workers are not being paid premium wages, according to Legislator McLellan. The pact brings improved medical, dental and vision plans and a better pension plan.

Rail rodeos prove members winners
Regardless of results announced in June by the APTA International Rail Rodeo Committee, Los Angeles Metro Red Line operator Tu Phan, Jesus Valdez and Manjitt Singh remain winners.

Members of Local 1565 in West Hollywood, Calif., the three placed first, second and third, respectively, at the Ninth Annual Metro Raildeo earlier this year, said the local’s Legislative Representative Kevin Devlin. Nineteen operators from all four Metro Rail lines participated in the event.

Their accomplishments qualified Brothers Phan and Valdez to compete in the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) international event on June 5 at Miami-Dade Transit’s William Lehman Center in Miami, Fla., with Brother Singh serving as the team’s alternate.

For Phan, it was the fifth time he competed and the fourth time he came out on top. In 2002, he placed second, but won the international competition with fellow operator Robert Rodriguez of Local 1565. Rodriguez was unable to compete this year because of a broken leg. Valdez, this year’s second-place finisher, has entered the Metro’s Raildeos four times, with his finish this year representing his personal best.

Though the Metro Red Line operators took no honors at the international this year, George O’Donnell and Stan Savchuck, employees of SEPTA and members of Local 1594 in Upper Darby, Pa., placed seventh in APTA’s operators’ event and second in the maintainers’ event, said General Chairperson Ron Koran.

Raildeo in May. (Photo by Local 1565’s Ramon Peniche.)
UTU begins to formulate Section 6 notices

The UTU is beginning the process of formulating Section 6 notices to be served on rail carriers negotiating under the umbrella of the National Carriers’ Conference Committee (NCCC), which will include proposals to increase wages, benefits, improve working conditions and update operating rules.

As mandated by the Railway Labor Act and the current national agreement, these Section 6 notices will be served on most of the nation’s rail carriers on or about Nov. 1, 2004, to become effective no earlier than Jan. 1, 2005.

The serving of the Section 6 notices is the first step in reaching a new national agreement with railroads represented by the NCCC. The carriers represented by the NCCC also have been working on their own wage and rule notices which they will serve at or about the same time the UTU notices are served.

All officers and members are invited to submit proposals for the Section 6 notices to the UTU International.

The UTU International will be cataloging the numerous proposals submitted by members during the months of August and September.

Beginning the week of Oct. 4, a committee of general chairpersons from the Association of General Chairpersons, District 1, will review the proposals submitted and begin to fine-tune those suggestions into proposals for the carriers.

During October, the union will convene the full Association of General Chairpersons, District 1, which will review and finalize the union’s Section 6 notices.

Soon thereafter, the Section 6 notices will be reproduced and mailed to all U.S. general chairpersons for serving on the affected railroads on Nov. 1.

Under the Railway Labor Act, the current national agreement between the UTU and NCCC will remain in effect until a new agreement is reached. As specified in the current national agreement, cost-of-living adjustments will be paid as specified therein during the process of reaching a new agreement.

“Youthful voices are key to the future of the UTU,” UTU International President Paul Thompson said.
Is Hoffa another Custer?

Just who are these Teamsters the BLE&T is in bed with?

News reports say the Teamsters, under indefinite federal court control because of failure to clean up internal corruption and break ties with organized crime, mortgaged their Washington, D.C., headquarters to stay solvent. Their Central States Pension Plan is on life-support; truck driver retirement benefits have been slashed.

Speculation is the Teamsters’ interest in rail employees is aimed at grabbing funds from the solvent Railroad Retirement system, which could jeopardize the financial security of every railroad family.

The BLE&T claims the Teamsters have muscle. In fact, the Teamsters have lost half a million truck driver members and haven’t organized a major trucking company since 1980.

The Teamsters’ promise to organize Overnite Trucking was a colossal flop. Only 667 of 13,000 Overnite employees walked picket lines. “Three years ago, Jimmy Hoffa came in as George Patton; now he’s being carried out as George Custer,” said an Overnite official.

Hoffa promised to block entry into the U.S. of Mexican trucks and drivers. The Bush administration and Supreme Court splashed more egg on Hoffa’s face.

Unable to organize truckers, the Teamsters turned to airlines for a short-lived honeymoon. More than 11,000 Northwest Air- lines flight attendants and some 3,000 Southwest Airlines mechanics recently disaffiliated, complaining their crafts had no voice.

Do the Teamsters offer greener pastures? Only if you prefer Astroturf to real grass.

Tell Congress: “Stop the bickering!”

Our government exists to help the people of this great nation. Unfortunately, partisan politics is keeping that from happening.

Debate in Congress no longer is a battle of ideas, but too frequently a battle of personal attacks and more attention paid to the business of America.

I think it is time for some of those people to wake up and smell the coffee and do their jobs. If Congress doesn’t do its job, many will not be re-elected.

This means little else in the way of legislation will be accomplished this year. Everyone’s focus will be on getting re-elected.

I believe, as I’m sure you do, that people are elected to do their jobs and not elected just to get re-elected. Much of the people’s business that needs to be done is being put off until after the election, as if the election is more important than what the people of this nation desire.

Contact the UTU:
via telephone at (216) 228-9400
via fax at (216) 228-5755
via e-mail at utunews@utu.org

Telling the truth

By Paul C. Thompson
International President

I have been in the labor movement all my adult life. Among the most important lessons I have learned is that for a labor union to be effective, it must have strong leadership at the local committee level.

Issues must be addressed with our members in a constructive manner. Although debate is the life blood of any organization, debate must be constructive to be effective. When we allow negativity to invade our discussions, we lose sight of constructive solutions.

I encourage each UTU member to learn the facts and stand up for your union by working in a constructive manner. Controversial issues must be addressed. The place to address them is at union meetings where constructive debate can be held based upon facts and not speculation and rumor.

Assistant President Rick Marcceau, General Secretary Dan Johnson, I and other International officers are always available to provide factual responses to questions that cannot be answered by general chairpersons or legislative directors. Our e-mail addresses are on this page.

The other organization has been making many false claims. So let’s begin this year on the record straight with facts.

This is the UTU and only the UTU that protects the interests of other crafts.

The BLE declined to join with us and now is involved in a failed effort to stop new technology. No labor union ever has blocked the introduction of new technology.

The UTU accomplishes its objectives through fair dealing and positive, can-do attitudes. “Progress through unity” says it all.

That’s why the overwhelming majority of operating employees say, “The UTU is my union and I’m stickin’ with the UTU.”

WASHINGTON WATCH

By James M. Brunkenhoefer

The important business
is not being conducted

This means that important legislation to ensure every mode of transportation is made more safe in the face of terrorist threats won’t get done.

Nor will a sorely needed new railroad safety bill be enacted, nor legislation passed to ensure improvements are made in our electric distribution system to prevent another wide-scale blackout as occurred in the North east and parts of the Midwest last summer.

We need secure funding for Amtrak and something as simple as Congress confirming new members of the Amtrak Board of Directors. None of this is being accomplished.

Another important piece of legislation not being acted upon is reauthorization of highway spending legislation, which includes money for transit projects (which also helps Amtrak) and provides for 12 million construction jobs.

I think it is time for some of those people to wake up and smell the coffee and do their jobs. If Congress doesn’t do its job, many will not be re-elected because the voters do not want procrastination on important issues.

What UTU members and retirees can do is to telephone and e-mail their representatives and senators and tell them politely that you want fewer personal attacks and more attention paid to the business of America.
Candidates endorsed by the UTU

MISSOURI
State Legislative Director Larry Foster is urging members in the state to vote for the following candidates:
- Senate: Nancy Farmer (D)
- Governor: Bob Holden (D)*
- Congress:
  - 1st Dist.: William Clay (D)*
  - 3d Dist.: Steve Stoll/Jan Carnahan (D)
  - 4th Dist.: Ike Skelton (D)*
  - 6th Dist.: Charlie Bloomfield (D)
  - 7th Dist.: Roy Blunt (R)*
  - 8th Dist.: Jo Ann Emerson (R)*
  - 9th Dist.: Linda Jacobson (D)

TENNESSEE
State Legislative Director Jerry Anderson is urging support for the following candidates for Congress:
- 2d Dist.: John J. Duncan Jr. (R)*
- 4th Dist.: Lincoln Davis (D)*
- 5th Dist.: Jim Cooper (D)*
- 6th Dist.: Bart Gordon (D)*
- 8th Dist.: John Tanner (D)*
- 9th Dist.: Harold Ford Jr. (D)*

KANSAS
State Legislative Director Donald Lindsey is urging members to vote for the following candidates:
- Senate: Sam Brownback (R)*
- Congress:
  - 1st Dist.: Jerry Moran (R)*
  - 2d Dist.: Nancy Boyda (D)
  - 3d Dist.: Dennis Moore (D)*
  - 4th Dist.: Pat Roberts (R)*
  - 5th Dist.: Jerry Moran (R)*
  - 6th Dist.: Ray Walz (R)*

* = Incumbent candidate

News from UTU State Legislative Boards

Idaho
The Idaho Legislative Board, along with officers of Locals 265 and 75 at Pocatello, jointly met with five separate new-hire classes on the Union Pacific Railroad, according to the State Director George Millward.

A total of 53 new employees, and now new UTU members, received instructions on their new jobs, the labor agreements and other aspects of the work, Millward said.

“The success in getting these new members is the result of being straightforward and honest in the things we explained to them,” he said. “The BLE/Teamsters have been clouding most of the true issues with what appeared to be almost fairy tales, but the new members saw right through them.”

Millward thanked Local 265 Chairpersons Mel Teshima, Steve Roberts, Jack Correll, Greg Wilson and member Brad Barbre, as well as Local President Mike Mattey of Local 78, for their hard work.

Millward also said the UTU is continuing to assist these new employees with their training from switchman/brakeman to conductor to engineer to remote control operators, all of which are covered by UTU agreements.

The BLE/Teamsters wish they had something to offer these new employees instead of just lip service,” Mattey said. “We wish to welcome aboard all of our new members.”

Ohio
Ohio State Legislative Director Joe Boda is urging members in the state to vote for Jane Mitakides, the Democratic candidate for the state’s Third Congressional District.

Mitakides comes from a two-generation Baltimore & Ohio Railroad family instilled with a strong railroad union background, Boda said.

The district is a key swing region for this year’s presidential election as well as for labor, Boda said. “Jane Mitakides is fresh face to the Democratic Party in Ohio. She has garnered support from labor, but also from management due to her opponent’s inability to act in their best interest. A vote for Jane and for John Kerry is the right step in taking back Congress and the White House.”

News from UTU National Legislative Dept.

UTU National Legislative Department employee Jenny Miller is shown with television game show host Alex Trebek on the set of Jeopardy in Hollywood. Miller appeared on the show in July but did not win. (She, like many others, lost to megawinner Ken Jennings.) Simply progressing through the numerous tests of trivia knowledge necessary to reach the pinnacle of being chosen to appear on this televised show is a grading effort that took Miller almost a year to achieve.

Have you taught your kids unionism?
Sure, you’ve spoken with your children about drugs and the importance of an education, but have you spoken to them about unions?

Most children have no idea that employers once used a private army of gun-toting Pinkertons to break up union rallies and assault picketers. They haven’t a clue about how federal troops once shot and killed workers whose only “crime” was to protest low wages, lack of benefits and unsafe working conditions.

Too many young men and women today think that all they have to do to get a raise in pay is to go ask the boss, who will give it without delay. Is that what we want our children to believe as they enter the work force?

Your children should know that railroad robber baron Jay Gould, when confronted with strikers, said, “I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half.”

The sad fact is that many conservative, union-hating lawmakers would like to return to those days of unbridled capitalism. They could get their wish if new generations of voters are kept in the dark about labor history.

I was raised in a union home and learned first hand how my father (a retired conductor of Local 1477) was able to put bread on the table, pay for doctors and medicine and buy warm clothing for the winter because of the security and the stability the UTU brought into our home.

So I try to explain to my daughter, Amanda, how unions give the working men and women dignity in the workplace — how unions ensure seniority, a decent day’s pay, overtime pay, healthcare insurance, paid vacations and an impartial hearing on grievances. I hope you, too, are sharing these facts with your children.
Former International President Tom Doller shares a laugh with Assistant Oregon State Legislative Director Greg Bunce, a member of Local 471 at Eugene, Ore.

Local 629 (Phoenix, Ariz.) Local Chairman Bill Christian and wife Laura look over the new UTU cookbook with International Assistant President Rick Marceau and wife Marit.

Members of the union’s Bus Department were well represented at the Boston regional meeting. Above, (left to right) Toya Bennett, Theresa Zeller and Kathleen Sitongia, all members of Local 172 at Darby, Pa., attend the opening session. All work for Delco Transportation.

UTU Auxiliary members pose with the UTU’s new cookbook. From left are National Legislative Director Bob Barnes; Robert Thompson, Kay Vahldick, Sue Dickey and President Edythe Walter.

Members of the executive Fire Department were well represented at the Reno regional meeting. Above, (left to right) Tim Dennis, Thomas Zeller and Kathleen Youngquist, all members of Local 712 at Durby, Pa., attend the opening session. All work for UTU Transportation.

UTU General Secretary and Treasurer Dan Johnson and Ohio State Legislative Director Joe Boda Jr.

Past International President Al H. Chesser greets Assistant Michigan State Legislative Director Jerry Gilbow (L-313), Grand Rapids, Mich., his wife Caminda and children Kelney, Haley and Kegan.

Members of the Reno regional meeting planning committee worked hard to make the event a success. They are (left to right) Tom Dennis (L-262), Brian Laudie (L-1472), Joe Motte (L-1462), George Casey (L-1475), Dick Chermont (L-254) and Blane Red (L-104) with wife Tracey.

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The Reno regional meeting local committee: (left to right) Martin Banks (L-1117, Las Vegas, Nev.); Hugh Johnson (L-1117); Nevada State Legislative Director Jack Pinto (L-1117); Local Chairman Marion White (L-1007, Las-Vegas, Nev.) and Local Chairman Charles “Red” Nunos (L-254), Sparks, Nev.

Structure coal miners (left to right) Brenda Love, June Salazar and Bill Estrada, employees of W.M. Mining Co., set up an information table at the Reno meeting.

The most popular shirt at the meeting.

Past International President J.D. Chase greets Assistant Michigan State Legislative Director Jerry Gilbow (L-313), Grand Rapids, Mich., his wife Caminda and children Kelney, Haley and Kegan.

Boston
RRB annual report says fund healthy

CHICAGO – Thanks to an investment return of approximately 22.6 percent, the Retirement Investment Trust and the Railroad Retirement System accounts at the U.S. Treasury, equaled $24.2 billion, the RRB reported.

Still, the 2004 report indicated that the long-term solvency of the retirement system remains questionable. “Under its current financing structure,” the report said, “actual cash-flow problems occur throughout the 25-year projection period under the optimistic and moderate assumptions. Cash-flow problems arise only under the pessimistic assumption, but not until 2026. The report recommended no financing changes.

The projected account balances were higher in 2004, compared with those in 2003, primarily because of the 22.6 percent return on investment, which significantly exceeded the 6 percent return expected, the report said.

The RRB’s unemployment system report found that “even as maximum benefit rates are expected to maintain the unemployment insurance system’s solvency.”

Retiree’s ponderings result in blueprint for peace, prosperity

Many have probably wondered about the same economic questions that puzzled retired conductor J.W. Smith.

Pondering such riddles as “Why does it take so much work to pay the mortgage?” and “Why can’t the nation provide the world’s resources?” most give up quickly and get back to taking care of the matters of day-to-day life.

But Brother Smith’s dogged pursuit of answers led him to a Ph.D. and authorship of textbooks increasingly found on college campuses and at research centers worldwide.

“There are several provocative titles as Cooperative Capitalism: a Blueprint for Global Peace and Prosperity; Economic Democracy: The Political Struggle of the Twenty-First Century, and Why? The Deep History Behind the September 11th Terrorist Attack on America, Smith said his books aren’t just for experts and college professors.

“Housewives or kids, they understand what I’m telling them. It’s simple as ABC,” Smith said.

The not-so-simple path that drew Smith into the world of academia and utopian solutions began when the self-educated, voracious reader went to work in 1953 in Forsythe, Mont., on the Northern Pacific as a brakeman and member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. He retired in 1991, he said, as a member of Local 891 in Whitefish, Mont.

“At my last train one day,” Smith said, “I came across three hoboes. One was coming to the Northwest with a bunch of students. I began explaining to him my ideas, telling him, ‘No body needs to be a hobo.’ When my first book came out in 1989, I remembered my name, contact his career in 1947 as a brakeman for the Atlantic Coast Line. He was elected general chairperson of the Seaboard Coast Line grievance committee in 1978, alternate vice president of the union in 1979 and moved up to the vice presidents in 1982. He was re-elected to that post at the 1983 and 1987 UITU conventions. He retired Jan. 1, 1992.

Harden served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was a member of the Central United Methodist Church and a Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife Mary S. Harden, two sons, five grandchildren, a great grandson, a brother and a sister. Memorial may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 9, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

Former Vice President J.E. Harden Jr., 78, dies


A member of Local 1780 in Fitzgerald, Ga., Harden began his career in 1947 as a brakeman for the Atlantic Coast Line. He was elected general chairperson of the Seaboard Coast Line grievance committee in 1978, alternate vice president of the union in 1979 and moved up to the vice presidents in 1982. He was re-elected to that post at the 1983 and 1987 UITU conventions. He retired Jan. 1, 1992.

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UTUIA announces scholarship winners

The following students have been selected to receive $500 scholarships from the United Transportation Union Insurance Association:

**District 1**
1. Coombs, named UTUIA Volunteer of the Year.

**District 2**
2. Andrew E. Miller, grandson of Howard W. Miller of Local 1334, Healdsburg, Misc.

**District 3**
1. Daniel F. Peterson Sr. of Local 903, Jacksonville, Fla.

**District 4**
1. Terry W. Coombs named UTUIA Volunteer of the Year.

**District 5**
1. Devon M. McGinnis, grandson of Timothy F. Donovan of Local 1327, Nashua, N.H.

**District 6**
1. Devon M. McGinnis, grandson of Timothy F. Donovan of Local 1327, Nashua, N.H.

**District 7**
2. Andrew E. Miller, grandson of Howard W. Miller of Local 1334, Healdsburg, Misc.

**District 8**
1. Devon M. McGinnis, grandson of Timothy F. Donovan of Local 1327, Nashua, N.H.

**District 9**
1. Devon M. McGinnis, grandson of Timothy F. Donovan of Local 1327, Nashua, N.H.

**Information, Please**

I would like more information on UTUIA’s ULTIMATE PAR policy. Please Print.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of Member</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Devon M. McGinnis</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1/1/1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie P. Ramey</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2/22/1996</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please provide full name, sex, date of birth, and relationship of the child for whom the information is requested on the line below.

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<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Babylon, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Edwardsville, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Platte, Neb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Full Name**

- Devon M. McGinnis
- Jamie P. Ramey

**Sex**

- M
- M

**Date of Birth**

- 1/1/1995
- 2/22/1996

**District**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

**UHUIA Local Unit**

- 204 in Colorado
- 16 at Pueblo, Colo.

**Telephone Number with Area Code**

- 040
- 040

**City**

- Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- Baltimore, Md.
- Eagle Grove, Iowa.
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Heavener, Okla.
- Joplin, Mo.
- Pueblo, Colo.
- Pueblo, Colo.

**State**

- N.Y.
- Md.
- Iowa
- Colo.
- Ill.
- Okla.
- Mo.
- Colo.
- Calif.

**Zip**

- 10928
- 21301
- 72801
- 82116
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How many times have you thought “I really should check into some life insurance for my son or daughter (or grandchild, or...),” and the next thing you know, a year or more has gone by and you have not found the time to do so?

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ratified by the membership

number of highway trailers that may move by

Continued from page 1

New local

Continued from page 1

Modernization

Continued from page 1

chairperson who is now legislative representative for Local 1566, officers of the local include Local Chairperson Joseph R. Zagarino Jr., Vice Local Chairpersons Randy King and Jay Runkin, Local President Fred Symes, Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Grygorcewicz and Delegate Mike Leach.

A number of issues led to the creation of Local 1566 and the continuing exodus of members from BLE&T Division 659. "From day one of the Conrail split-up, there was no UTU local for NS employees," Zagarino said.

Zagarino said that "among issues we had trouble with were NS and Conrail equity, pool mileage, proper rest, manpower and local representation, especially for the conductors."

The seeds of discontent were planted as far back as 1992, when the NS local closed because of employee buy-outs. "Our membership there dropped to less than 20, so the local was merged into Local 41 in Conneaut, Ohio," Strunk said. "But since the NS acquisition of that portion of Conrail on June 1, 1999, employee numbers increased to the point where a new local could be established."

The pent-up demand for a UTU local took the back. In 1996 the BLE&T, conductors never had any say. Now, it's my craft," he said. "With the BLE&T, conductors never had any say. Now, all we got were war stories and the ruin of the railroad from the BLE&T."

Conductor Mark Wojna, a member of Local 421 before joining Division 659, said he joined the BLE&T "because we wanted to get control over our lives happening in Buffalo. But it didn't work out that way. It's good to be back."

"James Williams holds one of the best bus contracts in North America," Thompson said. "Don Carver was part of the group that brought the Railroad Yardmasters of America into the UTU. Steve Dawson ran for a position and was elected as an International trustee — an important position. Immediately after Steve was elected, he resigned and attracted-at this position. Steve's action will have saved the UTU several million dollars by the time Steve is of retirement age."

"Nobody can question the integrity of any of these nine individuals," Thompson said. "None of them have been involved in politics. Their only interest is in doing what is right and best for the UTU."
UTU 35th Anniversary watch now available

The UTU has commissioned a 35th Anniversary Limited-Edition union-made watch for the members of this great union. The watch, created by American Time, features a brilliant, die-struck 14-karat gold-filled watch face that captures the detail of the union logo in proof-coin brilliance.

Sequentially numbered from 1 to 1,000 (men’s) and 1 to 500 (ladies’), this limited-edition members’ watch will provide you with an heirloom that will be treasured forever.

The timepieces are created by union-represented watchmakers employed by the American Time Company in Rochester, N.Y., so you know these watches guarantee you quality and reliability in the tradition of the great railroad watches of yesteryear.

The watches are available with either an expansion bracelet or leather band. The cost is $125 for either the men’s or ladies’ style, plus $6.95 for shipping and handling.

Also, 20 percent of the purchase price will be donated to the UTU PAC fund, so your purchase gives twice! Honor this historic event and reserve your limited-edition 35th Anniversary UTU watch today! To order call (800) 272-5120. You also may download an order form from the UTU website, www.utu.org. If you prefer, you can fax your order to American Time at (585) 295-8004; please include your choice of men’s or ladies’ watch, band desired, credit card number and expiration date.

Each UTU 35th Anniversary limited-edition gold watch features a brilliant, die-struck, 14-karat gold-filled watch face and a number of certification on the back.

CSX General Chair Terry Reed retires

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – UTU General Chairperson John T. “Terry” Reed (GO-049) has retired. He has held UTU elected office since 1971, and for the past 12 years has been a general chairperson.

Succeeding Reed as general chairperson will be John Lesniewski.

“Terry Reed is one of the most effective and dedicated chairpersons in the history of UTU and its predecessor organizations,” said International President Paul Thompson. “His top four priorities always have been to represent members, uphold the integrity of the UTU, ensure a financially sound general committee and determine and weigh all the facts – pro and con – before making decisions.

“Among Terry’s major accomplishments was to negotiate a crew consent agreement giving the UTU the exclusive right to represent trainmen,” Thompson said. “Terry also represents engineers under the BLET agreement.

Reed, a member of Local 1517 at Cincinnati, was born Jan. 5, 1942, in Covington, Ky., and began his railroad career June 4, 1966, with CSX predecessor Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, working in yard switching service in Cincinnati. In May 1985, Reed became general committeee chairman and, within four months, was named vice general chairperson. On Jan. 1, 1992, Reed was elected general chairperson.

“Our union is only as strong as its weakest member,” Reed said. “Therefore, each of us must get involved to a degree that makes a difference. My parting advice is for every member to attend local meetings as the first step in pledging commitment to the future and to the brothers and sisters working with you. Don’t sit at the on-duty location and criticize your representatives. Instead, get involved and be positive and help in correcting any recognized problems.

“It is rewarding to know that I have been privileged to belong to a union through my entire working life,” Reed said. “Each and every month I was able to work and have my share in the form of union dues. Never in my life have I been forced to eat food bought with non-union dollars. My father belonged to the Metal Polishers Union and fed the family with earnings generated in a union shop. My first job was in a unionized supermarket, and then I went to work for a railroad with a union-shop agreement.”

Reed’s plans for the immediate future are “to make bass fishing my sole occupation and remain devoted to my wife Phyllis, my daughter Melody Warner and my grandchildren.”

Tri-State Rail Conference aims at solidarity

HARVEY, Ill. – The Tri-State Rail Conference held its second seminar at the Chicago Park Inn Hotel here June 5, focusing again on education, union solidarity and communication. Norfolk Southern General Chairperson Delbert Strunk discussed trip rates, Illinois State Legislative Director Joe Stabo led a discussion on the $1-billion Chicago Area Railroad Hub Infrastructure Renewal Plan, and Local 528 President Jerry Kalbfell and UTU Vice President Joe Szabo led a discussion on the members’ rights and responsibilities.

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Members of UTU Local 1433 organized the first conference last fall with the objective of keeping the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad employees up to date on remote control operations. President John Babler brought those in attendance a video on the economics of remote control switching.

Members of the Tri-State Rail Conference Executive Board include Schoo, Don Loesch and Stuart Wallenberg of Local 1433; Kalbfell and David Wells of Local 528; Dan Mielke of Local 171-E; Bobby Mitchell and Chris Taas of Local 171; and Scott Edwards, Larry Gutzius and Richard Ross of Local 1895. Schoo serves also as president, Loesch as treasurer and Wells as secretary.

Money for meeting expenses comes from donations by executive board members and locals. “Executive board members volunteer their time and receive no payments of any kind from the Tri-State Rail Conference,” Schoo said. “Nor do we solicit or accept any donations from or on behalf of any law firm.”

For more information, call (312) 795-0906, or send an e-mail to: schoofly@tbcnet.com.

UTU International President Paul C. Thompson, left, congratulates General Chairperson John T. Reed at a reception held in Reed’s honor on June 5, 2004.

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www.utuia.org www.utu.org
Three UTU members killed in separate railroad accidents

Three UTU members were killed recently in separate accidents.

In New York City, a UTU member employed by the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) was killed May 26 while doing track work in Brooklyn. Thirty-year-old Peter Osso of Yonkers was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Hospital shortly after the accident. Brother Osso was a member of UTU Local 29 in Babylon, N.Y. LIRR spokesman Sam Zambuto says a track car tipped over and fell on Osso. No one knows why the car tipped, he said.

In Chalmette, La., two railroaders, including a UTU member, were killed June 26 when they experienced the nightmare of every railroad operating employee: their train rammed a tank truck filled with gasoline.

Norfolk Southern (NS) conductor Anthony J. “Tony” Mills, 58, died hours after the crash as the result of burns sustained in the accident. Brother Mills was a member of UTU Local 1066 in New Orleans, La. Engineer Dennis Vinson, 57, also passed away as a result of his injuries. Both men suffered burns on more than 90 percent of their bodies. Louisiana State Police said that the driver of a gasoline tank truck that collided with a train caused the accident by disregarding safety signals. The tank truck driver, Henry Blount, 55, died at the scene of the crash and blaze. Shortly before the crash, Blount had picked up more than 8,000 gallons of gasoline at the Chalmette Refining plant.

Charles LaBella, 58, a brakeman who lives in Chalmette, jumped off the rear of the train and suffered minor injuries, police said. Brother LaBella is also a member of UTU Local 1066 in New Orleans.

Debra Mills said her husband began working for the railroad after serving in the Army in Vietnam. "He heard that the railroad was a good place to work and that it was hiring Vietnam vets right and left," she said. "He always said the railroad was the best job you could get."

She said her husband never had an accident, but "he always came home telling about people trying to beat the train.”

On June 28, Heath Pape, a 23-year-old conductor and member of UTU Local 756, was killed near San Antonio, Texas, following the collision of two freight trains that released a plume of toxic fumes.

Two others were killed and many left critically ill following the accident.

Inside this issue of the UTU News:

- LACMTA Metro operator Tu Phan is a winner. See page 2.
- Ohio voters should support Jane Mitakides for Congress. See page 5.
- Photo highlights from the Reno, Boston meetings. See pages 6 & 7.
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