

THE STRETCH

LOCAL



746L

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TYLER, TEXAS

July, 2003

From the Office
of the
President



During the first week of July meetings were held with our membership and retirees to update them on where we're at in negotiating a new Master Contract and how it affects our Local Contract negotiation. We discussed the Company's last Master Contract offer on June 27, which resulted in our USWA Policy Committee leaving Cincinnati Ohio, and suspending negotiations, after three and a half months of bargaining with the Company. On April 19 the Master Contract expired, as did the Local Contract at each of the Goodyear and Dunlop plants. By mutual agreement, the Parties began working day-to-day under the expired contract, with seventy-two hour notice by either Union or Company required to end the day-to-day agreement. Our Local Contract expired on Sunday, July

6 and by mutual agreement all three Kelly plants also began working on a day-to-day basis, with the same seventy-two hour notice required to end it. **We also are working under the provisions of the expired contract.** At meetings held on July 2 and July 3, active members and retirees were given an update and got to review the Company's settlement offer of June 27. Some 800 actives attended these meetings. Another meeting was held on July 7 for our retirees, so they could hear what actions the Company proposed to take to reduce their benefits. About 300 retirees and spouses attended this meeting.

We had a great turnout, even though the summer vacation maintenance shutdown resulted in many of our actives having already left for vacation when the meetings were held. After reviewing the Company proposals, and where the Parties stood on June 27, both actives and retirees gave their **overwhelming approval** for the USWA Policy Committee in breaking off talks and returning home and for refusing to accept a Company plan to impose large concessions on active and retired employees.

While we were holding these meetings in Tyler, similar meetings were being held in the other thirteen Goodyear, Kelly and Dunlop locations. At every one, the membership and retirees gave their overwhelming support to the Policy Committee. At each location, the Local Unions vowed to support the Union plan to save Goodyear for its American workers and for our retirees. In every community, awareness was raised concerning the impact if Goodyear is allowed to run offshore for its production needs.

At the time this is written, no time and place has been decided for the USWA Policy Committee to set back down with the Company and resume Master Contract negotiation. The Union has made it plain we won't engage in talks that aren't productive, we won't let the Company take benefits and quality of life from our retirees and won't give back wages and benefits from our actives so an outdated, bloated management group can squander them and then run offshore with our jobs. We will look at doing the right things needed to save this company for our workers and our retirees, which is what the union plan is about. As soon as a time and place has been set for further talks, if it hasn't happened by the time you read this, we will use our Solidarity Alert system to let you know.

I do want to thank you for your expression of unqualified support for our USWA Policy Committee, which includes Sherrell Brown and myself. Our being in Cincinnati since March 9 has been a trial for all of us. Harold Sweat, James Honeycutt and the other officers deserve a lot of credit for the job they've done in our absence. A lot has gone on back at home, as our plant management group and our Local Union has had to cope with a steadily deteriorating situation at Goodyear. In Tyler we have kept our people at work to a larger degree than at any other Goodyear, Kelly or Dunlop plant. We are still the only plant that has only laid off through a voluntary, optional layoff. We are currently recalling some of them, as this is written. That's no small accomplishment, in a plant that's on the front line of the fight over moving the tire line we are equipped to build offshore. I want to thank everyone for their support and for their hard work.

Retiree's Corner

The trip to Palo Dura Canyon was a great success. Everyone had a wonderful time. Helen Young should be up on her reading and sleep. She read a book and slept during the bus ride. A trip to the restroom on the bus was near an impossible mission. Retirees had a table set up in the aisle on the bus playing a good old hand of 42. Other games were also played as the retirees made the trek to Palo Dura Canyon. The editor did not receive any information from the writer of the retiree article to let him know who won at the 42 game or possibly cheated on some of the other games (Ha).

The retirees are very concerned about the contract negotiations. **Retiree benefits that have been justly earned by the retirees are in jeopardy. These benefits are a must to continue the lively hood of each retiree as they live out some of their dreams and most important survive on fixed incomes. Retirees would like to Thank Local USWA 746 President Jim Wansley and Union Benefits Representative Sherrell Brown for all their time and sacrifices spent away from their families during the negotiations in Cincinnati. Show your support for your Local USWA 746 as they try to keep retirement benefits earned and jobs in tact for union members.**

Retiree's next meeting is scheduled for August 11th at the John Nash Activity Building. Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be on August 5th at Carolyn Clements house. Plans are to meet at the parking lot at the mall on the north end of the J.C. Penney store at 10:00 a.m. Bring salads for lunch. See you there. ---*Tennie Hulsey and Lajoy Bailey.*



Pictures: (L) Retiree Gang (R) Left to Right-Lynn Kersh, Angie Stephens, Hazel & Roy Stanley and the Bull.

Gulf Remains Between Goodyear and USWA -By Jeremy Grant

Relations between Goodyear Tire & Rubber and the United Steelworkers of America have entered their second week in a curious state of limbo, following the collapse of talks over a new labor contract.

Investors are anxiously waiting to see if the union will call a strike at Goodyear's 14 US plants, or whether Goodyear management will try to push through plant closures as part of its planned restructuring regardless.

Either side must give the other 72 hours notice that it wishes to terminate the current negotiating framework for official contact to be declared over and a strike to be called.

There is a third outcome: that the two sides return to the negotiating table once again, even after more than three months of talks. The fact that a strike has not been called a week after the talks initially broke off, indicates that this is still a possibility.

Chuck Sinclair, Goodyear spokesman for labor affairs, on Monday rejected any notion that the two sides remained far apart and indicated progress had been made since March. He said: "How far we are apart is a relative term, relative to where we started."

It is clear from recent correspondence that a gulf remains between the tyre maker's management and the USWA negotiators.

Goodyear, mired in over-capacity in North America, wants to close some plants - understood to be up to four - and wants employees to pay more towards ballooning healthcare costs. Goodyear has not specified what its pension and healthcare costs are, saying only that such costs are rising "at a double digit rate".

But the USWA rejects any notion of overcapacity and is resisting any job losses. It fears that any such moves would be the start of a general shift by Goodyear of its manufacturing capacity to lower-cost countries such as China.

The urgency of Goodyear's need to close plants can be seen from a memo sent by the company's executive in charge of North America, Jon Rich, to Goodyear employees a week before talks collapsed, and which was obtained by the Financial Times.

In it, Mr Rich addresses the USWA's rejection of the company's latest contract proposal, and talks about the importance of "saving Goodyear".

Mr Rich acknowledged that the union's rejection of the proposal was not surprising "given the difficulty of the task". But he insisted that the proposal was fair, providing an increase in wages and pensions while requiring employees and retirees to "contribute a small portion of their healthcare costs".

On the USWA's key demand, job security, he said: "We have significantly more tire manufacturing capacity than we do customer demand. Our offer would have provided unprecedented job security. But at the same time, no labor agreement can guarantee full employment I have always tried to tell all of you the truth about the realities of the things that must be done to turn Goodyear around. I have said that shared sacrifices will continue to be required."

"Our business continues to be challenged under the weight of our cost structure. Continuing the current course is not an option. At the same time, the company is not in a position to take a long strike," Mr Rich said.

In a response dated July 1, the USWA claimed that Mr Rich had misled employees by failing to mention that healthcare benefits would be cut almost in half.

It also said: "You say that the company's proposal would offer unprecedented job security. However, you neglected to mention that your proposal is a sham because it fails to cover two plants and more than one-third of the workforce while containing

loopholes that would allow you to idle or close any plant at any time."

It is not clear why the two sides appear to be so far apart - or at least sufficiently far apart for talks to have collapsed.

After all, Goodyear is understood to want to close up to only four plants, out of its total of 14. Of the total, two are non-unionised, which in theory would allow Goodyear to achieve half of its objective without prompting union strike action. Those two plants are a tyre-making facility in Lawton, Oklahoma and in Asheboro, North Carolina, where Goodyear makes the wiring used in tyres.

Goodyear has 10 plants that manufacture tyres in the US, with the rest manufacturing what Goodyear calls "engineered products", such as conveyor belts, vehicle hose piping, rubber wheel tracks for farm applications and engine mountings.

As with most union negotiations, there has been plenty of grandstanding, which can make it hard to establish just how far apart employers and employees actually are.

Much may also depend on the current strength of the USWA. Its automotive counterpart, the United Autoworkers union heads into negotiations with the "big three" carmakers later this month

Unions Build A Better America

-by Charlie Mercer, Pres. Union Label AFL-CIO

If you want to understand the contributions that unions make to America just imagine what our nation would be like without unions. In fact, you don't have to imagine, just read a little history about how workers were treated in the early years of the last century when unions were struggling to establish fundamental rights for working men and women.

Would there be a minimum wage? Would there be an eight-hour day? A five-day, 40-hour week? Weekends? Holidays? Vacations? It's doubtful.

How many more workers would die on the job? How many more would be exposed to dangerous chemicals and diseases on the job? Would there be a system to compensate workers disabled or injured on the job? Would there be unemployment insurance? Would America's communities have public education systems? Would there be a middle class? How many working families would own their homes?

What would happen to workers too old to continue working? Would employers set up retirement plans on their own? Would there be a social security system? Medicare? Medicaid?

Would there be family and medical leave protections for working families? Would there be a disability rights law? Would there be equal opportunity guarantees for minorities and women?

Union Label Week is our opportunity to remind our communities that these social assets were devised, developed and constructed by the American labor movement, often against withering opposition by powerful corporate interests. Anyone or all of the amenities that all working families today enjoy-whether they are union or not-could be lost. Indeed, many are under serious threat of repeal right now.

Already in 2003, America's unions beat back efforts to dilute overtime guarantees in federal law. In recent years, the excesses of corporate greed threatened the pensions of millions of workers. There has been a persistent effort to undermine Social Security. Enemies of public education, workplace safety and equal employment often attack those programs through the back door, with efforts to starve them through underfunding. Union membership as a percentage of the workforce has slipped badly in recent years, not because workers don't want representation, but because our labor laws make it almost impossible to organize a union in most workplaces. By empowering working families and enabling them to be better citizens unions are building a better America. It's a job we're proud to do.

Recipes Are Fun

If you have any recipes you would like to share in the stretch please, mail them to the USWA Local 746L 13624 State Hwy. 31 West Tyler, Texas 75709 or send them e-mail to: fishw@cox-Internet.com. Stretch Editor has not personally tried recipes being published.

Cream of Cauliflower Soup

Two 10-ounce packages cauliflower
1/3 cup celery, chopped
1/2 teaspoon curry powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups chicken broth
3 tablespoon butter or margarine
3 tablespoons flour
2-1/2 cups milk
Chopped chives, for garnish



In medium saucepan, cook frozen vegetables and seasonings in chicken broth as indicated in directions. Puree in blender or food processor. Strain, if desired and set aside.

In same saucepan, melt butter or margarine. With wire whisk, stir in flour and cook, stirring constantly, until smooth and bubbly, about 1 minute. Slowly blend in milk. Bring just to a boil, stirring frequently with whisk. Stir in pureed vegetable mixture. Heat through, garnish if desired.

Union Goods and Services:

They're Everywhere!



If you can eat it, drink it, wear it or ride it. If you can sit on it, play on it, work in it, or stay in it. If you can tell time with it, build with it, or cook with it. If you watch it, If you use it for work, or just to have fun. You can find one made by union workers.

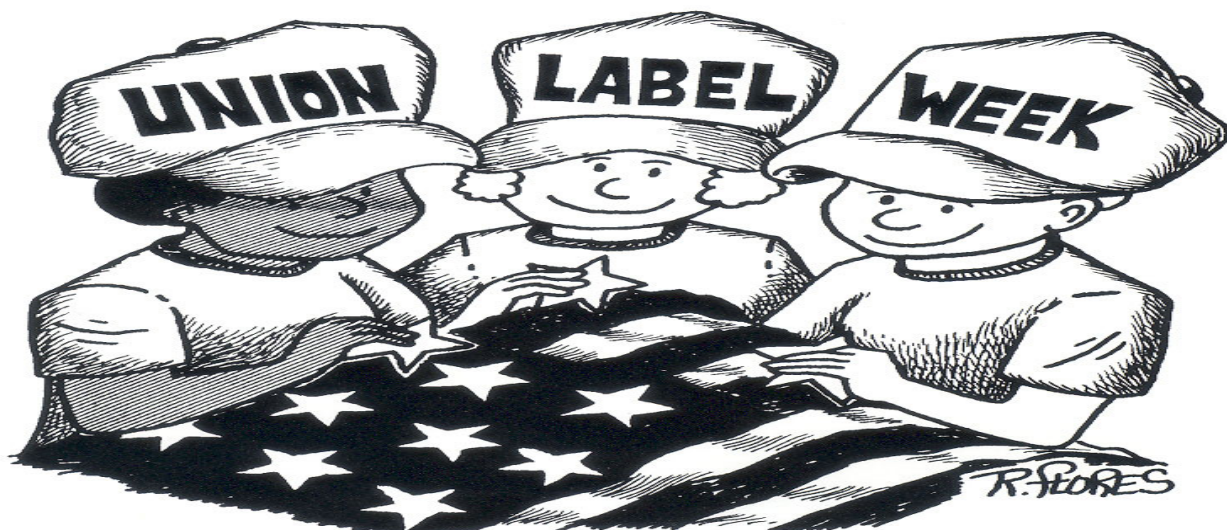
But, did you also know that union members-treat you when you're sick and help you stay well.

We teach kids, and help them stay safe...We make candy and cookies, medicine and machines, rubber tires, bikes and toys...We fight fires, fly airplanes, drive buses and trucks...We build houses and buildings, churches and schools... We make trains, airplanes and boats-and the engines that move them.

We build autos and trucks and the roads that they follow... We run railroads and subways, and ships big and small.. We make glasses to wear-and the kind that you drink from.. We keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer... We connect you to family by phone or by mail...We make music and movies and we film tv news...We write newspapers and print them, take pictures and tint them...We harvest your food and staff stores where it's sold.

We do thousands of things to make life more secure.. So look for the union label just to be sure.

UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA



SEPTEMBER 1-6, 2003

Foreign-Made Tires Gain Share In U.S. Market

Foreign-made tires in general gained market share in the United States last year, in all major categories, according to news reports. Tire makers in South Korea and China improved their market shares with double digit growth in each of the three major categories: market share in passenger, light truck and the United States medium truck/bus tires. The presence of offshore major categories, imports was most noticeable in the medium truck tire segment where they accounted for nearly half of all imports, or about one-fourth of all new tires sold in the after-market.

Serving On Active Duty

**MarkWoodard-
woody121661@hotmail.com**

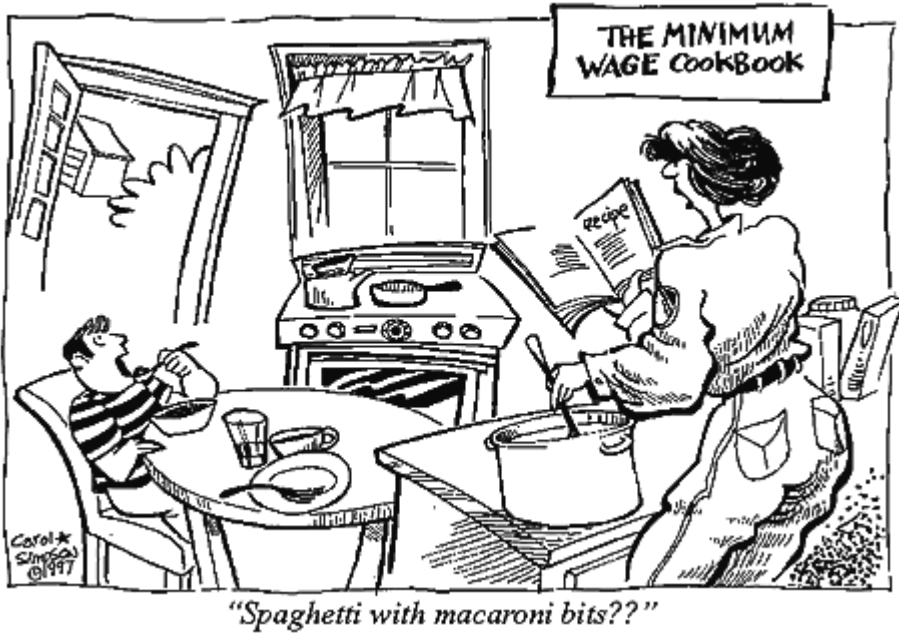
STANDING UP FOR 40-HOUR WEEK

Working families rallied at the U.S. Department of Labor June 30, the last day of public comment on President George W. Bush's proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act that could cut overtime pay for 8 million workers. The activists assembled on the sidewalk because the department revoked permission for use of a previously reserved and paid for auditorium to hold a forum on the rule changes.

The proposed changes could take effect as early as this fall -but the department held no public hearings in advance of the June 30 comment deadline. "Just because it's the new century, just because we have high-tech jobs, just because more people are working in an office doesn't mean we should become a nation of workers who never see their families and spend 50 or 60 hours a week at the office," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka told the crowd.

Under the proposed changes, many workers would face unpredictable work schedules and reduced pay because of an increased demand for extra hours for which employers would not have to compensate workers, according to an Economic Policy Institute report released June 26. Anyone making more than \$22,100 a year could be denied overtime pay under the proposed changes if they are classified as professional administrative or executive employees exempt from federal overtime rules.

To send an e-mail to President Bush telling him to stop attacking overtime pay, visit www.unionvoice.org/campaign/otpayj1. To spread the word on this campaign to friends, family members and co-workers, visit www.unionvoice.org/campaign/otpayjl/forward.

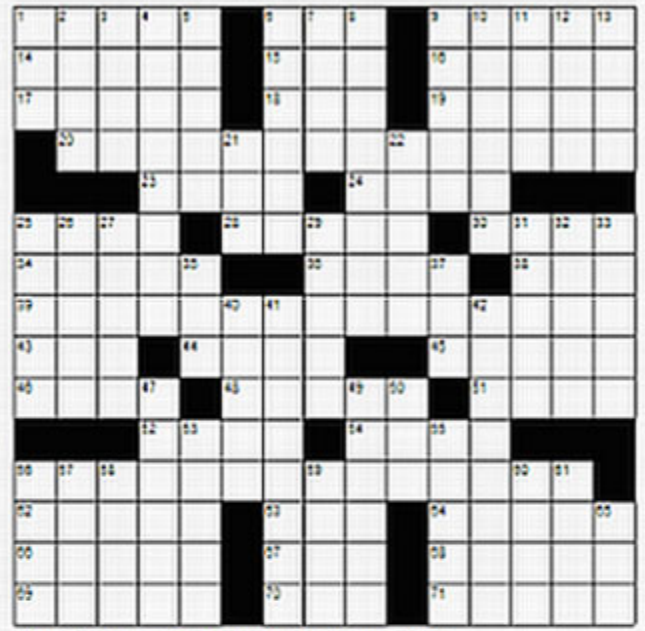


"Spaghetti with macaroni bits??"

By Randolph Ross

ACROSS

- 1. Sir Toby of "Twelfth Night"
- 6. Foolish mo.?
- 9. One thousandth indicator
- 14. Sun Valley's state
- 15. Word in a wedding announcement
- 16. One of the first computers
- 17. Vegas venue
- 18. Pod prefix
- 19. Some Motown music, for short
- 20. Missing dairy product?
- 23. U.S. Open stadium
- 24. Belafonte cry
- 25. Team from Big D
- 28. Sign of a dying fire
- 30. TV radio station
- 34. Good-bye, to Jean
- 36. Sultry Home
- 38. Big foot?
- 39. Missing performing group?
- 43. Mad. or Park
- 44. Invent a neologism
- 45. "Paradiso" penner
- 46. Former "Entertainment Tonight" host John
- 48. Contribute to a college
- 51. Shortstop Aparicio
- 52. They're lifesavers
- 54. It may come in cutlets
- 56. Missing date book pages?
- 62. Green men?
- 63. Canal zone?
- 64. London ____
- 66. Cockamamie
- 67. Gary's st.
- 68. Singer Mann



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- 21. Mether or daughter
- 22. Adorned, as an entree
- 25. Upset with
- 26. Take ____ (lose on purpose)
- 27. Squeezers
- 29. Unseasoned
- 31. He played 70-Across
- 32. Linear prefix
- 33. Rose and Rozelle
- 35. Checkout bars, for short
- 37. Clause connector
- 40. Sandburg and Silverstein
- 41. Genius
- 42. Many a mail name
- 47. Curtis of cosmetics
- 49. Go too far
- 50. Minuscule
- 53. Artistic Grandma
- 55. "Star Wars" admiral
- 56. Speaker of baseball
- 57. Go for game
- 58. On-line marketplace
- 59. Ebb
- 60. Brief aliases
- 61. Losing proposition
- 65. Cow-feteria?

Funzzie's

A little boy wanted \$100.00 for a mini bike, so he decided to pray for it. He prayed for two weeks, still no \$100.00, so he decided to write the Lord. Postal authorities, noting the address, forwarded it to the President of the United States.

The President, being amused, sent the boy a check for \$5.00 believing that would seem like a lot of money to the boy.

The delighted youngster wrote the Lord a letter of thanks, but closed by saying: "I noticed you routed your letter thru Washington, and as usual, those stinkers deducted 95%!"

A Goodyear executive came home and slumped in his favorite chair with a discouraged look. His wife asked what was wrong.

"You know these aptitude tests we're giving at the office? Well, I took one today. It's a good thing I'm the CEO of the company."

Have you tried the new planning to become his seafood diet? You see the food, but you don't eat it.

Sign in a paint and wall-paper store: "Any husband choosing colors must have a note from his wife."

A young fellow spends the years between 12 and 21 working, waiting and planning to become his own boss. Then he gets married.

June Retirements



Ronald Palmer Dept. 320



Donald Waits Dept. 705



R.C. Williams Dept. 705

Tony Lloyd Dept. 515
A.K.A. "Gyro"
(No Picture Available)

BUY AMERICAN

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