



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

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STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

August 2007

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

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Stage Call Newsletter

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Editors Rachel Magee & Jeff Ellinger

Message From The President

Brother Martinez (Tinez) recently pointed me to a poll in the trade publication Event Solutions titled, "What Do You Think of Unions Today?"

The choices presented to event professionals were:

- A. Unions today are as important as they were 50 years ago.
- B. Unions have served their purpose, but are no longer needed.
- C. Unions are a necessary evil.
- D. Unions drive up event costs unnecessarily and should be abolished.

It should come as no surprise that B and D were the most popular choices with A receiving the fewest votes.

So, why should we care? Well, it's a "perception thing".

As long as employers (and for that matter workers) think that unions are obsolete and are a hindrance to doing business they will greet us with a negative attitude.

This puts us at a disadvantage when it comes to dealing with these employers. Therefore, we must overcome this negative perception by providing superior service. We must also help the general public understand why unions are relevant today.

Our primary purpose is to maintain and advance the wages and conditions of our members. On average, union workers make 16% more than non-union workers.

Improving wages and conditions is not all we do though. We are the first line of defense when it comes to attacks on the American worker from those who would strip us of our rights.

These attacks come from several sides:

- From governments and the courts who are continually negating agreements, whittling away workers' rights
- From employers who are increasingly international companies, with foreign management practices and 'deep' pockets
- From the fact that labor disputes are becoming more drawn out and harder to win

We are guided by these principles of collective bargaining:

- A union is a group of workers, who have organized to solve problems that cannot be solved by the individual
- Unions exist because the collective has more power and strength than the individual
- The power of the collective enables unions to require employers to do things they might otherwise be reluctant to do

If we only act on problems that affect us personally we are unable to improve everyone's conditions - for example, some people may not support paid maternity leave, or younger workers may not support better retirement plans. To succeed, unions need solidarity and an understanding that not everyone will have the same concerns at the same time. Solidarity means "I will support you when you have a problem knowing that you will support me when I have a problem".

This is not to say that employers do not have a right to run their own companies as they see fit. Of course they do. But when they break the law, when they abuse workers out of arrogance or for personal gain, then someone must speak up.

This is why we need unions, to provide all workers a voice.

Unions are the power of the employees in the workplace and employers cannot stop you from joining the union:
IT IS YOUR RIGHT!

-President Keith Harris

Get Info From Local 205 On The Web

www.iatse205.org

Health and Welfare Fund Questions?

800-456-3863

212-897-3232

Steward's Corner

Brothers and Sisters,

Though this article appears as part of the semi-regular newsletter feature known as the Steward's Corner, I decided to go a little far a field in my topic choice. And by way of further digression, I feel I should mention that I borrowed the name "Steward's Corner" from *Labor Notes*, a monthly non-profit national labor newspaper to which I've subscribed for a couple of years now. It's very low budget and very grass roots, and it's a very good source of information about U.S. labor movement happenings. And on top of all that, it's dirt cheap to get. At the very least you should check out their website, www.labornotes.org.

But I've rambled on enough about that. What I want to stress today is the grass roots nature of this newsletter, your newsletter. *Stage Call* needs you, the members of Local 205, to contribute to it. It's not just the chairs of committees and the newsletter staff that should have a voice in this publication, all of us should. And further more, the volunteers that create this newsletter have jobs just like the rest of us, and most of them are raising families too; so they don't really have the time to create all the copy and photographs to fill it. That's where we, the members of the local, come in to help make this a continuing good source of information about the local, as well as a forum for debate about issues facing the local. I can think of several topics that would benefit from a frank and open discussion among a broad cross-section of the membership.

I'll throw out two that immediately come to mind, and I invite you to respond in the next issue:

1. Should the local change it's Death Fund? And if so, how?
2. How should the local act in regards to the Long Center?

So jump in on one of these and let's hear your views, or write a letter about something else that's on your mind, or just take a picture at your next work call and send it in for publication.

In solidarity,
Brad Wilson



July 2007, the Paramount Theatre's marquee during Lady Bird Johnson's cortege. Photo - David "Seb" Boone.

Newsletter
Submissions
can be mailed to:

Stage Call,
IATSE 205,
PO Box 142,
Austin, TX 78767

or e-mailed to:

stagecall@iatse205.org

Local News

- The 6th District of the IA will meet in Austin on Sunday October 28. Local 205 and 484 are the host locals and are planning a Saturday event. If you have any suggestions or want to help, please contact the Business Agent, Jon Maloy.
- Ballet Austin Employees received their first raise under the new contract Aug. 1. 2% will be applied to salary or benefits.
- Austin Lyric Opera employees received their first raise July 1. Most rates went up \$.10 while wig, make-up and wardrobe went up \$.70 in order to achieve parity by 2008.
- The Long Center will officially open on March 28th, 2008. Tours of the facility operate twice daily during the week.
- David Poole has been hired by The Long Center as Operations Manager. He intends to hire a production manager in September and together they will develop staffing requirements and hire a staff of 5 or 6 technicians. The positions may include electrician, audio-visual, house rigger, and fly floor. An online job description and application instructions for the production manager position can be found at, http://www.thelongcenter.org/WebSite/Contact/LONG_2007_jobs.pdf. The job is currently listed as "technical director".
- Good luck to Brother Larry Lehew who is leaving the PAC to go back to school (Yale). Anyone wishing to fill his post can view the details online using the following link: http://utdirect.utexas.edu/pnjobs/pnjobswv.WBX?job_nbr=070710014313
- Welcome new members, Jennifer Roth and Graham Sattinger.
- Welcome back to Austin, Brother Gerry Reed.
- Congratulations to Brother Eric Miller on his new baby boy!



Brother Eric Miller working on the National Instruments load-in at the Convention Center, Aug. 2007

Photo-Jim Willis

Death Fund

Rita Kelso to serve until 2/24/08
Trinka Withers to serve until 2/24/09
Ric Vela to serve until 2/24/10

Payroll Fund

Larry Lehew to serve until 12/31/07
Glenn Dunn to serve until 12/31/08
Mary Nelson to serve until 12/31/09

General Fund

Keith Harris to serve until 12/31/07
John Vickers to serve until 12/31/08
Sanford Gilzow to serve until 12/31/09

AFL/CIO CLC

Glenn Dunn (appointed)
Brad Wilson (elected)
Martin Blacker (elected)

COPE Delegate

Keith Harris

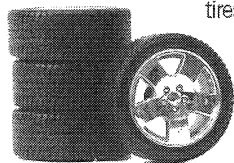
Solidarity

Respecting our proud tradition.
Rewarding union workers.

Union Plus salutes America's union workers. We honor our rich legacy by providing a wide range of benefits and services to help union members get more out of life. To support union solidarity, we point you to unionized companies and to quality products made by union workers. We also help stretch your paycheck with special discounts available only to union members. So you can **SUPPORT** your fellow union workers while you **SAVE!**

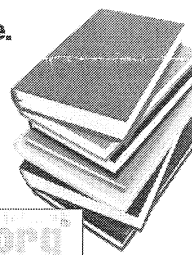
SAVE on Goodyear Tire and Service.

Claim a 5% union discount on all Goodyear tires as you support union members who make them. Get oil, lube, and filter service for just \$18.95 and a 10% discount on services other than oil changes.



SAVE at Powell's Bookstore.

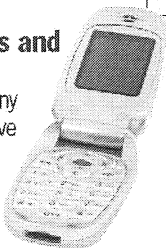
Check out the **bargain prices** and **great selections** of new and used books at the largest unionized Internet bookseller. Great source of textbooks for students!



ConsumerReports.org

SAVE on AT&T Wireless Phones and Service.

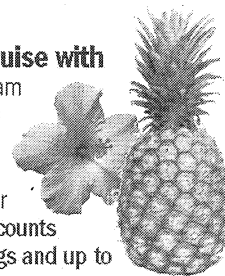
Take an additional 10% off the regular monthly rate of any individual or family calling plan. Receive a \$50 in-store credit when signing up for service. From the online wireless company that proclaims they are proud to be union!



SAVE with ConsumerReports.org Get an annual subscription at 27% off. Find non-biased Product Reviews, Product Ratings and Buying Guides compiled by union workers.

SAVE on a Hawaiian cruise with NCL America.

Take a dream cruise through Hawaii's main islands on US-flagged, all-union ships. Norwegian Cruise Line America cuts your cost with union-member discounts of up to 5% every day savings and up to 30% off selected sailings.



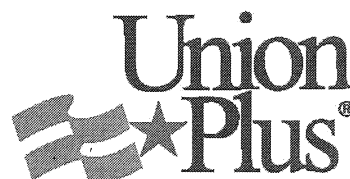
SAVE on Union-Made Clothing.

Get up to 10% off quality, comfortable apparel union-made in the USA—everything from jeans, tees, sweats and socks to dresses, shirts and pants. Look and feel great as you wear your union pride!



To learn more about **Union Plus** programs and **discounts** available to your union, visit

www.UnionPlus.org

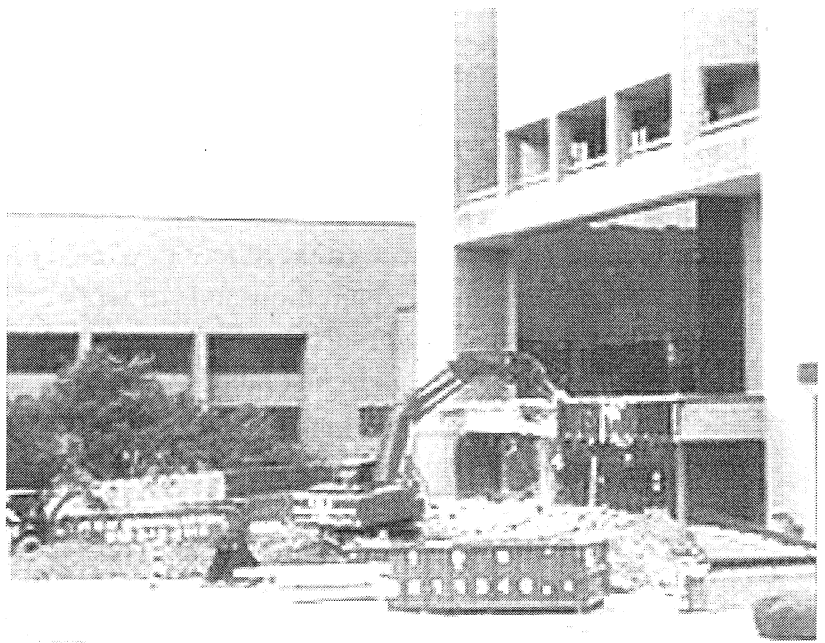


Brother Blacker's ACTF Trip to Ciudad Acuna by Martin Blacker

On March 16 – 18, 2007, I visited the border town of Ciudad Acuña with Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (ATCF - Austin So Close to the Border), a local group affiliated with the Mexican border labor group, Comité Fronterizo de Obreras (Border Committee of Women Workers). CFO are working to improve conditions of local workers, specifically those employed in maquiladoras by US, European and Asian manufacturers. It is a difficult job the CFO organizers do. Regional political favoritism prevents them organizing, despite federal laws permitting the establishment of unions. Factory owners work hard to portray agitators and troublemakers as undesirable and have in the past used public slander to render them unemployable. The industrial economy in Mexico definitely favors employers over employees. For these reasons, among others, workers feel “grateful” to have any job at all and are fearful of speaking out against unfair conditions and mistreatment.

ATCF regularly sends delegations to the border towns in solidarity with the CFO, whose focus is to educate US citizens and enjoin them in solidarity. To illustrate how US worker and public involvement can make a difference to the Mexican workers lives, I draw upon the situation with Alcoa. They have a number of plants in Ciudad Acuña and recently US steelworkers from Alcoa have become involved, putting pressure on the US head office to improve conditions of their border workers. There has been some limited success, with top executives from Alcoa visiting the plants for themselves and meeting with Acuña workers. In April there will be meetings between Alcoa workers worldwide and US executives, and in May a delegation of workers will be present at the stockholders meeting in Pittsburg.

As a delegate to Acuña last month, with ten others, I was privileged to meet with the CFO organizers and visit with local workers in their homes. For some of them home was government housing that they could barely afford, for others it was squatting on federal land in homes made of shipping pallets and cardboard. As their stories unfolded it was clear that most workers can barely make enough to get



Renovations Begin at Bass Concert Hall

Work began on renovating Bass Concert Hall at the University's Performing Arts Center. The hall is scheduled to reopen in fall 2008. Improvements include a bigger lobby, better acoustics, and better lighting positions.

Photo-David “Seb” Boone

by, but have hope that with support from the CFO and others like them their working lives can improve. Basic pay (in the Acuña area) for maquiladora workers is 350 to 500 pesos for a 48 hour week. That's roughly \$35 to \$50, in most cases less than a dollar an hour. There are no benefits or overtime as we are familiar with them. To put it in perspective in regard to overall economy, it is about a third of what workers need to earn in order to meet their own constitutions basic standards of a living wage.

The best thing that US workers can do is to get educated about border conditions and put pressure on the US companies to act ethically: The global economy requires global worker standards, global unionism if you like. By lifting the Mexican working conditions we lift all workers, and I believe that is something we in the IATSE Local 205 aspire to.

The CFO organizers are hospitable and dedicated. In a hostile environment they have made remarkable headway and it was a privilege to meet with them and share, even if for only two days, their experiences, fears and dreams. We talked, broke bread, danced and sang with them and I would urge all 205 members to join in future ATCF delegations.

Workers of the world unite.

REMEMBERING LUCY PARSONS

by Jon Maloy

Remember Lucy this Labor Day. Lucy Parsons was born a slave in 1853 around Waco. She fled the turmoil of post-war Texas with her husband Albert Parsons in 1873 and moved to the safety of Chicago. There she and her husband led thousands of workers in strikes and protests and marches. She was a committed leader of the anarchist labor movement. She believed that issues such as racism were primarily the product of class inequalities. She was a member of the Knights of Labor and in 1905 helped found the International Workers of the World.

On May 4, 1886 a peaceful march and rally was breaking up and rain was starting to fall in Haymarket Square when police advanced to disperse it. A bomb was thrown into the police line and one officer was killed instantly. There was wild firing by the police probably hitting some of their own. Civilians were killed. Six other police died later. The police never found out who threw the bomb but eight activists including Albert Parsons who had left the square after speaking were put on trial for murder. All eight daily newspapers condemned the anarchists and called for a trial and speedy execution. Four were hanged and four were sent to prison. Six years later the newly elected governor John Altgeld pardoned the three remaining convicts. Lucy died of smoke inhalation in a house fire in Chicago in 1942. All of her books and papers were confiscated by the police and have never been found.

Current Committees Be Part of the Process!

Volunteer Organizing: Chair, Jon Maloy.
Purpose: To facilitate the organization of Local 205's jurisdiction.

Communications: Chair, Bon Davis.
Purpose: To improve communication within Local 205.

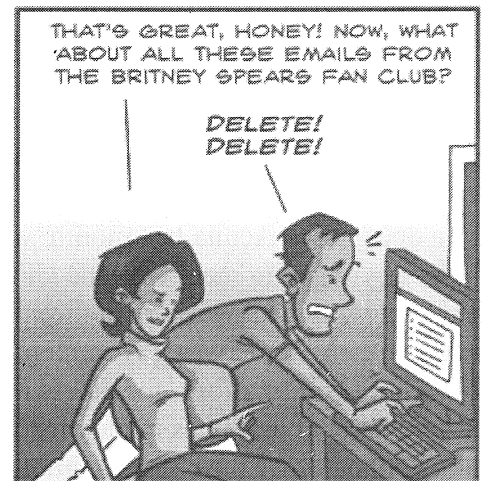
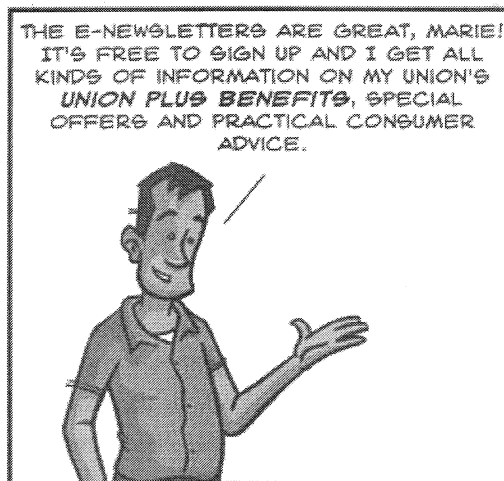
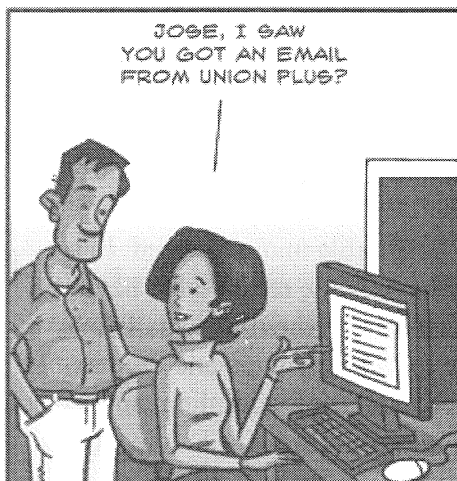
Newsletter: Chair, Rachel Magee.
Purpose: To produce a quarterly newsletter for the membership and the general public.

Steward's: Chair, Martin Blacker.
Purpose: To assist the BA and improve solidarity in Local 205 through the use of qualified stewards.

Qualifications: Chair, Sandy Gilzow.
Purpose: To develop a non-discriminatory process for evaluating the skill-sets of hiring hall registrants for the purpose of filling labor requests with those most qualified for the position.

Long Center Exploratory: Chair, Joan Miller.
Purpose: To explore the possibility of obtaining a union contract with the Long Center.

Members wishing to serve on the above committees, or members who have opinions and suggestions about any of the issues concerning our current committees should contact the relevant committee chair.



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Information
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The Organizing Fund Needs You!

Membership contributions are needed. Please donate what you can. If you cannot donate money, please donate some time.



Local 205 Builds News Set for KXAN TV

New hippie weatherman Ron Mann auditions for Jim Spencer's job!

June 2007 Photo--- Jim Willis

POLITICAL ACTIVISM

I grew up in Austin and got my degree in political science from UT Austin. But like all of us I have been increasingly frustrated by how little the average citizen can affect the decision making processes that control our daily lives. Now I live in Jonestown, a small, population 2000, community on the north shore of Lake Travis. And here it is still possible for a group of citizens to band together and have a real effect on City government. I previously wrote about our successful efforts to save the local library and expand its space and services. In the process we defeated a bad mayoral candidate and helped elect a mayor friendly to the library.

My neighborhood consists of residences and a few weekend cottages generally smaller than 2000 sq. ft. There is one exception down the street, a huge three story waterfront house that a thirty year old couple from Houston recently bought for \$600,000 as a weekend getaway. The owners, the Waggoners, started the process with the City to allow them to place it on the market as a short term (2 day) rental. There is no parking near this house, streets are very narrow and none of the neighbors want a weekend party house next door.

So the neighbors banded together. One neighbor finagled a copy of the proposed lease agreement from Lago Realty and it had a loophole in it big enough to drive a frat house through. At \$500/night, \$1000, minimum we feared it would only be rented as a party house. Live music was allowed and any restrictions on the number of people allowed on the property were vague with numbers not specified.

A hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission was required before going to City Council and we decided to fight it there. I walked the streets one Saturday with a petition and every house but one signed in opposition. I had a plat map of the neighborhood and was able to highlight 14 of 15 lots in opposition within 500 ft. of the property in question. Neighbors all attended the P&Z meeting and I presented my map and petition.

I asked the Waggoners how they proposed to enforce the few rules in the lease since they lived in Houston and Lago Realty would not be there on weekends. Their response doomed their request. They said that if there was a problem the neighbors could call the police or if we complained they would take action. So in effect we the neighbors would be the enforcement for their lease agreement.

P&Z denied their request. We prevailed and our neighborhood is safe, at least for a year when they can reapply. So organize! You can make a difference.

Fraternally, Jim Willis

Happy Labor Day, September 3, 2007!



Austin, TX 78767

P.O. Box 142

STAGE CALL Newsletter

IATSE Local 205 Business Agent Jon Maloy!

This issue of Stage Call sponsored by

IATSE Local 205

For ninety-six years, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205, has been serving the Austin area as the labor union representing technicians, artisans and crafts persons in the entertainment industry, including live theatre, concert and convention events. We are the source for professional experienced personnel, including Stagehands, Scenic Carpenters, Properties Personnel, Projectionists, Riggers, Wardrobe Personnel, Lighting Technicians, Sound Technicians, Audio/Visual Technicians, Camera Operators, and Decorators. We can cover your stagecraft needs from corporate meeting to musical theatre. Contact the Business Representative of Local 205 for information on staffing your production.

JonMaloy@IATSE205.org
512-371-1217 voice
512-458-1507 fax



National Association of Musical Merchandisers Load-out Crew

Austin Convention Center July 2007

from left to right: Paul Wright, Rod Root, Ron Mann, Sec. Bon Davis, BA Jon Maloy, Jim Ford, Christina Hewetson, Ryan Gallagher, Seb Boone (kneeling), and Pete Burns.