

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



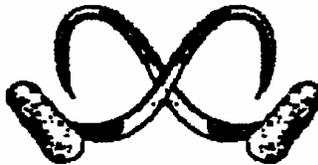
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**VOLUME 18 – No. 1**  
*Winter 2010*



## **MEETINGS: 10:00 am**

January	4
February	1
March	1
April	5

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## **Keeping Informed**

By Dave Chaddock

As I was glancing through a recent issue of the New York Times, trying to decide what to write about, I had a bit of a dilemma. I had a desire to write something about Afghanistan and have read five books about it, but finally concluded that I needed to read a bit more before going that route. (I have a pile of ten unread books about Afghanistan near my desk.)

I've also been gathering a lot of data about lobbyists for banks and insurance companies and how they are making a mockery of our alleged "democracy". More than one essay is lurking in this research, but again, it didn't seem to have reached the proper stage of ripeness.

At last I came to the conclusion that I owed it to my readers to put in a plug for the good old New York Times itself, one of my main sources of information about the world.

Now this hesitancy to go into print, this desire to reserve judgment and hold back until you can gain further insight, can certainly be overcome. For example, during the Vietnam War I gathered enormous quantities of data, and I had the war absolutely nailed as wrong from its very inception. I was also keeping close track of the outrage of its day-by-day progression. I intended to write a book that would convince Americans to stop the war. But then the war ended while I was still gathering data, and once it was over, the urgency of my book seemed to evaporate, and it

never did get written.

Even in those early days of the late sixties I was a regular reader of the N.Y. Times. For awhile they had something called the Western Edition, which you could buy in Seattle a couple of days late. But now it is printed right here in Seattle about the same time as it comes out in the Big Apple.

We live in the age of the disappearing newspaper. Perhaps the day will come when the typical straddling operator, waiting for work, will pull out his pocket PC or his "Kindle" rather than a paper. But in the market where I stop in the morning there are two stacks of papers, one of the Seattle Times, and right beside it, the N.Y.T. They are about equal in size. And there are plans to have regional editions of the NYT, which would have local news appropriate to the area. The first of these will be in San Francisco. Also the NYT is available in every Starbucks. For now the NYT is alive and well!

True, it costs two dollars a day now, and six dollars on Sunday. But it is well worth the price. Its articles are much longer and more detailed than in the average paper. When the P.I. used to reprint NYT articles, they would only include half or less of the originals. Not only are the articles longer but there are many more of them. Moreover, I think the quality of the writing is getting better and better, with articles that are uninhibited and deeply probing, many of them jointly authored. And it includes magnificent

*Continued on page 2*

## Keeping Informed *From page 1*

pictures in color as well as a much-improved black and white. On Tuesday there is a special section on science. Sunday there is a book review section and a magazine.

Nor will classical music be allowed to wither away so long as the NYT exists. It has a staff of five or six different writers who report on concerts and new CD's. This is important to me as I have a long commute and a growing interest in music that is more challenging than simple pop tunes. For example, this week I am enjoying the two piano concertos of Shostakovich on my way to and from work. It is a new recording that I read about in the NYT.

There is a tendency in certain leftist quarters to poo-poo the NYT, to see it as part of the Establishment that needs to be attacked. But then I took note of the fact that the radical journals that were attacking the status quo were themselves constantly quoting from the NYT! Certainly it is not the only thing one would need to read to be fully informed, but I think it is a good place to start. Since my own specialty is China, and since the NYT seems to have a persistent anti-China bias, almost always having something negative to say about China, I compensate for this weakness by subscribing to Beijing Review!

Incidentally, Newsweek recently reported that perhaps we could have won in Vietnam, that Johnson didn't try hard enough, and that a book by Lewis Sorley who says that we could have won "is getting a lot of attention at the upper levels of the Pentagon and at McChrystal's headquarters in Kabul." McChrystal is said to have "read and re-read" the book. Newsweek also quotes historian George Herring as being "rather appalled that Sorley's book is being taken so seriously." I agree. Sorley argues that in 1972, General Creighton Abrams had launched a truly successful counter-insurgency operation that could have won the war if only Congress had not voted to cut off all aid to South Vietnam in 1974. Now in the first place, as to Johnson not trying hard enough, let it be noted that China was on record as promising to intervene whenever Vietnam gave the word that it needed help. And the U.S. certainly did not want a repetition of what happened when China entered the Korean War. This did not imply that "Rolling Thunder" and 800,000 troops were not a force to be reckoned with. But the Vietnamese never needed Chinese assistance. The tunnels of Cu Chi, the brave men who dared to take aim at planes that were diving at them, were not sufficiently appreciated. The justness of Ho Chi Minh's protest to Johnson that the Vietnamese had never done

## Final Dispatch

### PENSIONERS

Delbert O. Bates 19  
Karsten Bjorkelo 52  
Jared J. Brittain 19  
Howard G. Lambert 52  
Robert Sebers 19

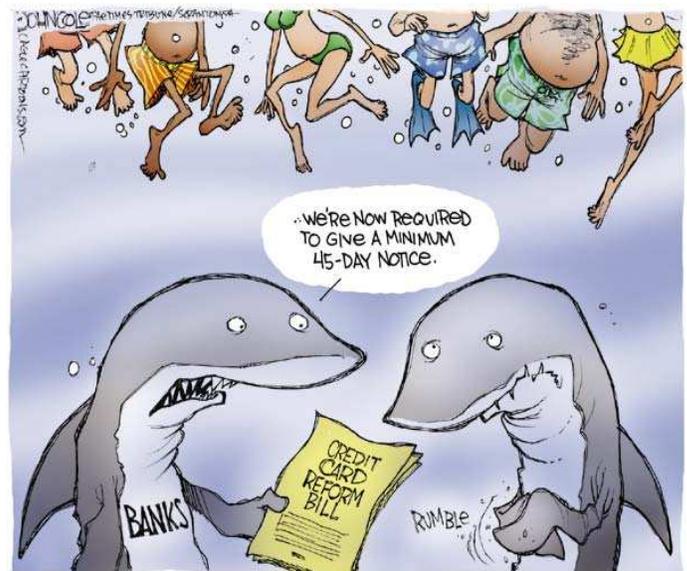
### SURVIVORS

Audrey A. Ruud 19  
Louise M. Sigurdson 52

anything to the U.S. to merit this attack from afar, inspired the whole Vietnamese population, as well as anti-war activists all over the world.

As for Sorley's line that "Abrams built up the local forces until they could stand and fight largely on their own- as they did in 1972", I take exception to that. Relying largely on NYT reports, and reading between the lines, I started putting out a two-page publication in 1972 that I called "2-Cents Worth" for which I charged two cents. In this little journal I exposed the claim of "repulsing North Vietnam's Easter Offensive" as a blatant fraud. Defeat was in the cards long before Congress finally saw the light in 1974.

If I live long enough, perhaps I will still put out my book about Vietnam. I can see that it would have a new and valuable role, helping to prevent the wrong lessons from being drawn by uninformed analysts like Sorley.



"But with respect to future debt; would it not be wise and just for that nation to declare in the constitution they are forming that neither the legislature, nor the nation itself can validly contract more debt, than they may pay within their own age, or within the term of 19 years."

--Thomas Jefferson

## We Belong

By the late Jerry Tyler

"Another time, in Czechoslovakia, I'm being taken on a tour of the Danube River port of Bratislava. We go aboard a barge, which is loading steel re-bar.

Some "suit and tie characters are holding a confab on deck. The crane operator has a load hanging over the hatch.

Again without thinking, because it seems the natural thing to do, I put the heel of my hand on the end of the load and lean into it. The crane operator works with me, when Calto, the engineer who is guiding me around, he and everyone else are grinning at me. "Until you put your hand on that load everyone thought you were some kind of an official, not actually a longshoreman!" Before we leave I shake hands with every guy in the gang. My kind of people. We belong.

And in Luxor, Egypt, one morning, I'm down on the shoreline of the Nile checking the erosion of the bank. It's getting too close to the foundation of the Chez Farouk. A big motorized steel barge moves in behind me. A sailor in a ragged galabiah stands on deck holding a coil of line. No one is around to take in his bowline. I motion to him. He's surprised, a bit doubtful, he hesitates, and then he throws me the line.

I pick it up and sign language "where do I tie up?" I follow his pointing finger to a piece of steel railing sticking up out of the bank, carry the line over and make a round turn. As the barge moves in I take up the slack. When she touches and bounces away keep her snubbed, paying out just a bit until she stops and comes back. When she settles I make her fast.

Then comes a warming moment I will never forget. We look at each other, this Egyptian boatman and this retired Seattle longshoreman. We grin at each other. No words are necessary we understand each other. We belong.

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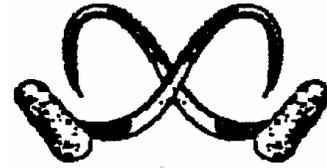
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## WATERFRONT POEMS



### SHIPWATCH

Dedicated to the memory of George Benet

The poet's words  
his breath abeam  
named  
forgotten ships.  
Their spread of booms  
hoisted  
Save alls and sling loads,  
until sacked  
by the urban wars.  
The port city mecca  
where  
ships from sea shored up  
lives and busted dreams.  
In waterfront saloons  
we drank doublebacks and  
talked of  
ex wives and porthole leeway,  
as longshore hooks became relics  
of past practice.  
The seamen who rigged  
lifeboats  
along the docks and  
stevedores who stowed cargo  
in sweat rhythms  
await their ship  
and jobs we'll never work.

Al Valenzuela

## Dancing in the Rain

By Dick Meister

It was in the heart of downtown Oakland, at 7 a.m. on a rainy December day a half-century ago.

Dozens of strikers, picket signs held high, were gathered outside the Kahn's and Hastings department stores on Broadway on that wet, chilly morning in 1946. Suddenly, some 200 Oakland and Berkeley police, many in riot gear, swept down the street. They roughly pushed aside pickets and pedestrians alike as they cleared the street and the surrounding eight square blocks. They set up machine guns across from Kahn's while tow trucks moved in to snatch away any cars parked in the area.

Behind them came an armed guard of 16 motorcycle police and five squad cars. The lead car carried Oakland Chief Robert Tracy and the strikers' nemeses, Paul St. Sure, a representative of the employers who fiercely opposed their demand for union contracts, and Joseph R. Knowland, the virulently anti-labor newspaper publisher who controlled the local political establishment. That included the Oakland City Council, which had demanded that the police move against strikers.

It looked like a parade to Joe Chadet, then editor of the East Bay Labor Journal. He recalled that Tracy, St. Sure and Knowland were "bowing to the populace. They were going to put the labor movement in its place. The only thing missing was top hats and a brass band."

The trucks came last - trucks carrying merchandise denied the stores during the month strikers had been picketing. The Teamster Union truckers who normally made deliveries would not cross the picket lines. But now that the police had driven off the pickets, in came non-union strikebreakers with the merchandise - 12 bulging truckloads of it, just in time for the Christmas shopping rush.

Such attacks on the attempts of working people to exercise basic constitutional rights were common enough earlier in the century, during organized labor's formative years. But this was 1946. Rarely did political and law enforcement officials so blatantly side with management in its disputes with labor.

The reaction was swift and as dramatic as any in the history of American unions. Labor officials feared that if they didn't forcefully challenge the attack on the department store employees, other attacks, on other workers, would follow. All unions were threatened, all unions had to fight back.

Within two days, a general strike all but shut down the whole of Alameda County. It is much less remembered than the celebrated general strike waged in San Francisco a dozen years earlier, but it was no less effective.

More than 130,000 union members walked off their jobs to protest the anti-union actions of the police and Oakland's city council, and thousands more honored their picket lines. Official support was voiced by community organizations throughout the county.

In Oakland, Piedmont, Emeryville, Berkeley, Alameda, San Leandro and Hayward it was the same. For nearly three days, beginning December 3, no buses ran, no streetcars, no taxis. The Bay Bridge was jammed as never before.

Construction projects shut down. The shipyards were idle. Most gas stations were closed, most grocery stores, hotels, restaurants and bars, most movie theatres. Newspapers ceased publication, even Knowland's Oakland Tribune. Teamster pickets kept trucks carrying anything but food from entering the county.

"It was more like this country should be," declared Chadet. "We were in control, we called the shots."

Only essential services continued uninterrupted. Police remained at work, of course, as did firemen. Hospitals, pharmacies and schools operated more or less normally. Gas, electric and telephone service was generally unchanged.

But that was it. For most of the county's one million residents, life was far from normal. Thousands rushed into downtown Oakland to join in massive protests. At any time during the strike you could find as many as 20,000 protestors crowded together in front of the two struck stores or in Oakland's Civic Center, defying police, politicians and strikebreakers, sometimes dancing in the rain to music piped over loudspeakers.

The strike was led by the American Federation of Labor's Central Labor and Building Trades Councils, but it was threats from the AFL's rival Congress of Industrial Organizations that prompted a quick settlement on labor's terms.

CIO unions, which had supported the strike by honoring AFL picket lines, threatened to call their own walk-outs that would have cut off gas and electricity in large parts of Oakland.

That was not the only reason, but it was a major reason for City Manager John Hassler to finally agree that Oakland would "not in the future use the police department to escort or guard professional strike breakers."

It took another five months, but ultimately the

## Home is Where the Healthcare is

(NewsUSA) – Home is where the heart is. Increasingly, the home is also where the healthcare is.

For various reasons, older people prefer to receive medical care at home, whether it be in their own home or their children's home. Census data show a 67 percent jump between 2000 and 2007 in the number of parents who have moved in with their adult children.

More than 8 million seniors and people with disabilities enjoy the benefits of medical care at home. Services and equipment that enable people to receive care at home include oxygen therapy, power wheelchairs, hospital beds and diabetic supplies. Congress and the

White House will consider the value of homecare for patients and taxpayers as they explore avenues for healthcare reform.

Reforming healthcare, especially Medicare, is a top issue in Washington, D.C. Medicare provides health insurance to approximately 43 million Americans aged 65 and older, and to people with permanent disabilities. The spending of Medicare is projected to grow annually by 7.5 percent over the next decade. Medicare trustees project that Medicare's Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2019.

While total Medicare spending skyrockets, the portion devoted to home medical care and equipment remains less than 2 percent. At the same time, homecare holds down costs better than other healthcare segments. Two years of home oxygen therapy costs less than the average Medicare cost for a single day in the hospital, which is more than \$5,500.

Providing care to seniors in their homes requires services. Homecare providers serve clients after hours and over weekends to ensure that their patients stay safe – and out of emergency rooms. Also, homecare providers help vulnerable seniors during emergencies such as ice storms and hurricanes.

As the President and Congress work toward solutions regarding the uninsured and the rising costs of care, the role of home medical care and equipment is likely to be considered as one of the key solutions that will help sustain Medicare and Medicaid.

Tyler J. Wilson, president of the American Association for Homecare, notes, "Homecare will continue to be safe and cost-effective only as long as policymakers in Washington remember that homecare requires a human touch, including services and personal attention."

## New Years Resolutions that make Cents

From the Internet

Do you find that your typical New Year's resolutions quickly fizzle out? This year, make a resolution that is both realistic and good for your wallet. Set a goal of either saving \$2005 by the end of year or paying down your debt by that much. This is a goal most people can meet and impacts your financial situation for years to come. To help keep this resolution, keep these tips in mind this year.

### Become a Saver

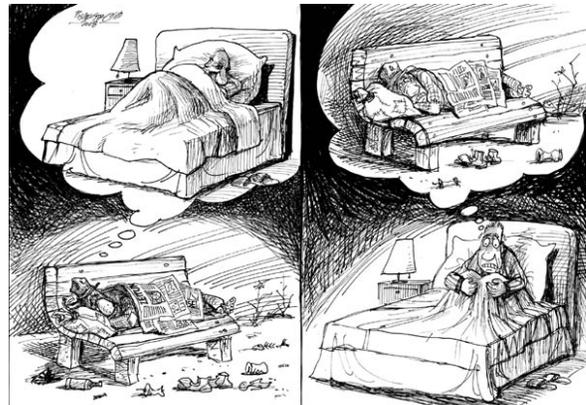
Pay yourself first by asking your employer to directly deposit part of your paycheck into your savings account. Even better, increase your 401(k) deductions to help meet your goal. It is always easier to save money if it doesn't hit your pocket first. To make saving a habit, save for something specific, like a vacation or for holiday shopping. You will be more inclined to sock that money away.

### Reduce Your Spending

Little things can add up. Keep track of your expenses for a few weeks in order to see where your money goes. Pack your lunch, skip your morning latte, or organize a carpool. You may have an unused gym membership, unread magazine subscriptions, or a boat you never use. Eliminate the things in your life that cost you money, but bring you no benefit. Once you add up the savings, you'll be surprised how much more quickly you can meet your goals.

### Tackle Your Debt

If you haven't done so already, transfer your credit card debt to a lower-interest card. Resolve to not add any more debt this year. Instead, look for ways to pay it down as quickly as possible. Eventually, you should be able to pay off your cards each month. Build up a small emergency fund to use instead of relying on your credit cards for those unexpected expenses. By not adding to your debt and paying it off during the year, you will end 2005 in much better shape than when it began.



## Trucker Board

By Parker Johnston

I was recently helping Dick Melton and Jim Jefferies take care of the Grain Handlers Contract vote. which put us in the Hall Wed-Thur-Fri.

On Thursday morn, Turn over day, I was watching the trucker board being dispatched. I noticed that the trucker board wasn't very active. After the dispatch I went over and asked the dispatcher if they still dispatched floor gangs. He looked at me blankly.

I went on to explain that when I started working at 16. The child labor laws stated that you could be 16 and work on the docks. You had to be 18 to work on the ship. So I got 2 years working on the docks. Which was O.K. There was a lot of work at times. Almost every dock hired gangs and bull drivers to load and off load their cargo boards. That put a lot of people to work and the banana dock was also a big payroll.

Every Thursday was turnover day, everyone went back to the hall, which they still do. The jobs were redispached. This equalized the work. You could usually get a job if you wanted one!! It was hard work but Friday you picked up a check. On turn-over day we had 2 dispatchers working the trucker board just to keep up. Now, no floor gangs, no CFS, No bananas. Not many truckers. I guess that's called progress.

I guess when they handed out the automation checks in the early 1960s this is what they were for, and I didn't get a check. The 1957 pool was voted out of the automation checks by the "A" men. (The Good Old Days). But what the hell, we made it. Life is not always fair. We just have to make it work.



## The Good Old Days

By Art Mink

The winter of 1951, when I was still a member of ILWU Warehouse Local 9, I worked 91 straight nights (6 pm to 4 am) at the Coal Dock This was a Longshore job for longshore pay but the Local 9 Warehouse members got the job because we were steady men and the longshore division did not allow steady men, except in the gear lockers, at that time. The work was emptying coal into the hopper to be loaded into the ship along side the dock. The railroad would push five 50 ton coal cars up onto the dock above the hopper into which the coal was to be dumped and leave them there with the brakes locked. The gang was 8 men, 2 "Bang Out" men, 2 door closers, 2 men on the hopper, 1 relief man and a foreman. Bang Out men, of which I was one, took turns going up to the front car, releasing the brake so that it rolled down onto the hopper where we applied the brake and waited while workers whose turn it was opened the hopper doors. The hopper was vibrated to shake all the coal out of the car. When it was empty we released the brake. Since the hopper was level, the empty car did not roll off. Instead The brakeman stayed on the car and the next car would roll down and knock the car off the hopper. The brakeman rode the car down the the empty track, which could accommodate 6 cars and set the brake on tight. Then in front of the first car on the empty track he set the "derail" which would throw the car off the track so it could not get loose and run across Alaskan Way, the main waterfront street. The brakes were always set on the empties. One time one of the full cars had a defective brake mechanism and couldn't be stopped. It hit the empty on the hopper and knocked it off the hopper then followed it on down and knocked the 4 empties over the derail and across Alaskan Way. Fortunately it was after 6pm and there was no traffic on Alaskan way. The bang out man on the brakeless car "Old man" Brown unloaded into a pile of soft coal (there is such a thing) and was not hurt, but no one ever got on a coal car without checking the bRake again.

"A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

--James Madison

## Wildlife on the Waterfront

By Dave Chaddock

In a recent book, Craig Childs declares that “the starlings of Seattle have made a phenomenon of themselves” (ANIMAL DIALOGUES, appendix, 5) How did he know? And how many of you know that the climax of this phenomenon used to be right at the south end of Pier 46? Once a year, at this location, the aerial gymnastics of these amazing birds would put on a show that, in my opinion, was more amazing than that of the Blue Angels. Several different flocks, turning and wheeling as one, sometimes seemingly moving through each other in opposite directions, moving fantastically fast and never once colliding, then diving headlong past the end of the pier. It is the fashion to look down upon the starling as a pest, but I was pleased to see them defended by the grand old man of bird-watching, Roger Tory Peterson, who defends them against the charge of being foreign invaders. “My parents came from Europe”, he says, “Most of us are of foreign origin too.” (ALL THINGS RECONSIDERED, 230)

But then one day I noticed a little truck parked on the dock declaring on its side that it was on a “bird control” mission. I was puzzled at first, but then I figured it out. The starlings no longer perform at Pier 46.

Of course, it will take more than this to do in the starling. Look how far they have come since a mere 80 of them were released in Central Park in 1890! And they are still in Seattle, as I recently witnessed some of them whiz by me on the way up the Duwamish. But I really miss the performance they used to give at Pier 46.

"Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike."

-- Plato (429-347 BC)



## Dancing in the Rain

From page 5

department store employees won the union rights they had sought.

In that same month, May of 1947, the labor forces got four members of a union-backed slate of five candidates elected to the city council in place of anti-labor incumbents backed by Joe Knowland.

The general strike of 1946, declared the East Ray Labor Journal, forged "a solid bloc of militant and fighting labor unionists ... aware for the first time in many years that only by solidarity and unity can we make ourselves felt."

## CORRESPONDENCE

From WILLARD (BILL) AND DOROTHY LEWIS, Shoreline, WA.

Just a little. Wish it could be more.  
Don't forget the kids at Christmas.  
Doing nothing, But hanging in there.  
BILL LEWIS 53074

Thank You BILL and DOROTHY for the generous \$250.00. It is so good to hear from you.

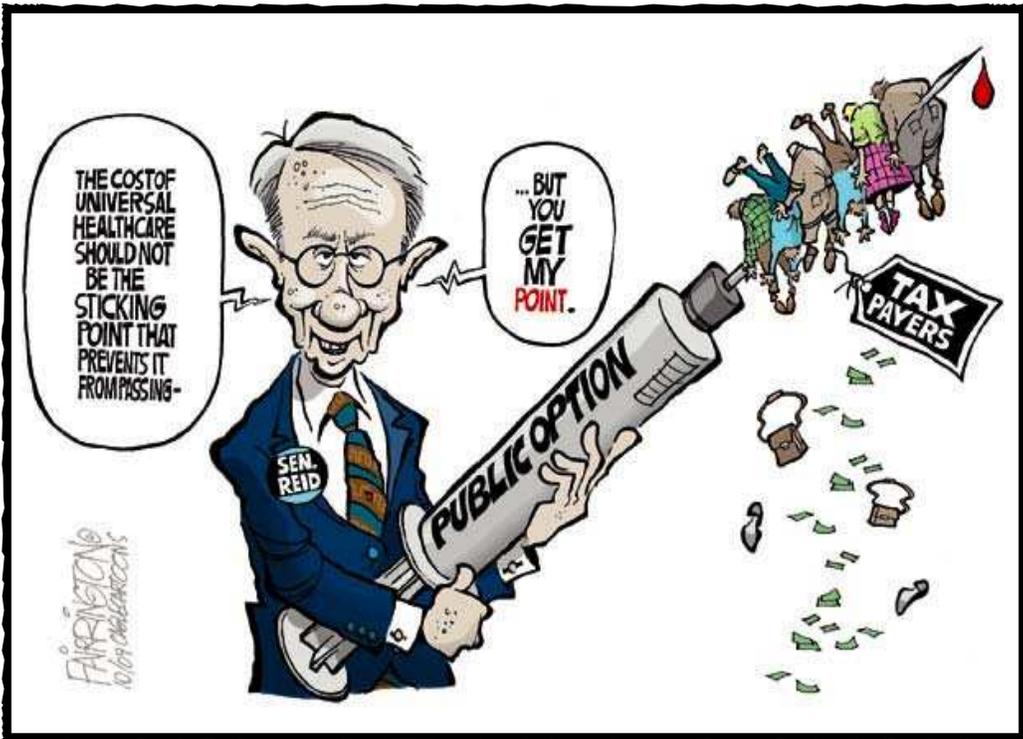
We received contributions for the Rusty Hook from the following members. No messages, just the money. The money is very welcome. We'd also like to hear how you are doing.

JOHN WOLD \$100.00  
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RAUL URANGA \$72.00  
JOAN MAGNUSSON \$100.00  
MARK SAMPLE \$100.00  
BILL PROCTOR \$50.000  
ART MINK \$100.00

Please write!

"There is an almost universal tendency, perhaps an inborn tendency, to suspect the good faith of a man who holds opinions that differ from our own opinions. It obviously endangers the freedom and the objectivity of our discussion if we attack a person instead of attacking an opinion or, more precisely, a theory."

Sir Karl Popper (1902-1993)



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