

## 15 FOOT RAT DRAWS ATTENTION

# Sheet Metal Workers Picket Raleigh Hospital

**S**heet Metal Workers Local 33 of Charleston has been protesting the use of out-of-state workers on the renovations at Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley.

Rock City Mechanical of Nashville, Tennessee has been hired to do the plumbing and heating work.

In addition to bringing in workers from out-of-state, Local 33 organizer Randy Gombos believes the company is also paying substandard wages.

"Rock City Mechanical has brought in these workers who are working for low wages and little or no benefits," said Gombos.

"The result is area living standards are driven down and local workers suffer."

In addition to the picket, members of Local 33 also erected a 15-foot inflatable rat in front of the hospital.

Gombos said the rat symbolized the out-of-state contractors, like Rock City Mechanical, which come into West Virginia and infest the local work

force by exploiting workers.

The hospital served Gombos with a summons that charged him with trespassing, causing numerous phone calls from area

rats like," said Gombos.

Raleigh General Hospital also has filed a restraining order against the members of Local 33 preventing them from using the



PICTURED IN FRONT OF THE INFLATABLE RAT outside Raleigh General Hospital are Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 members (from left) James Black, business representative, Eric Olive, Eddie Chapman and Dale Van Bibber

residents concerned that the hospital was infested with rats, disturbing patients and staff, and slowing down vehicle traffic in front of the hospital.

"We do believe the hospital is lowering standards, promoting the decline of living standards. These are the conditions that

inflatable rat during their picketing.

The terms of the restraining order, however, were agreed upon by the Union and the hospital attorney.

Local 33 members plan to continue their picket under the terms of the restraining order.

# THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, with offices in Charleston and Clarksburg. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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## Endorsed Candidates Take Statewide Races Mixed Results Locally

**T**he West Virginia AFL-CIO endorsed candidates fared well in the statewide races.

Bob Wise will take the Democratic nomination for Governor and Jim Humphreys for the 2nd

ing incumbent Larry Linch.

"The loss of Larry Linch in the Legislature is a major blow to Building Trades members and working families in general," said ACT's Steve White.

"Now there is no one in the

**"THE LOSS OF LARRY LINCH IN THE LEGISLATURE IS A MAJOR BLOW TO BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS AND WORKING FAMILIES."**

**STEVE WHITE, DIRECTOR  
ACT FOUNDATION**

Congressional District.

Joe Albright won one of the two Supreme Court nominations.

On the local level the races had mixed results.

While many of the endorsed candidates won, all of the Building Trades members lost includ-

Legislature who understands first hand the struggles of working families."

Overall there were more than 60 labor endorsed candidates who won their primary races.

**See Election  
Results on Pg. 2**

# AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates - Winners

## State Senate

2nd - Jeffrey Kessler  
3rd - Louis Flade  
6th - John Pat Fanning  
8th - Mark Hunt  
9th - Billy Wayne Bailey  
10th - Anita Skeens Caldwell  
11th - Mark Barnette (unexp)  
14th - Jon Blair Hunter  
16th - Herb Snyder  
17th - Larry Rowe

## House of Delegates

1st - Joe DeLong, Randy Swartzmiller  
2nd - Roy Givens  
3rd - Rick Altman, Jack Fahey  
4th - Scott Varner, Ken Tucker  
5th - Dave Pethtel  
10th - Larry Godfrey, Guy Lowther, Rick Modesitt (R)  
11th - Oscar Hines  
12th - Mike Dunlap  
13th - Dale Martin, Brady Paxton  
15th - Margarett Leach, Arley Johnson  
16th - Susan Hubbard  
17th - Richard Thompson  
18th - Don Perdue  
19th - Seven Kominar, Harry Keith White  
20th District - Tracy Dempsey, Greg Butcher, Lidella Wison Hrutkay  
21st - Earnie Kuhn  
22nd - Emily Yeager, Lacy Wright  
23rd - Rick Staton  
24th - Dick Mitchum (R)  
25th - Richard Flanigan, Mark Willis  
26th - Mary Pearl Compton  
27th - Virginia Mahan, Warren McGraw, Sally Sussman  
29th - Tom Louisos

30th - Bonnie Brown, Bobbie Hatfield, Joe Smith  
31st - Carrie Webster  
34th - Brent Boggs  
35th - Bill Salomon  
36th - C. Randy White  
39th - Bill Hamilton (R)  
40th - Mary Poling  
41st - Ron Fragale, Frank

Angotti  
43rd - Mike Caputo, Paul E. Prunty, A. James Manchin  
44th - Barbara Fleischauer, Charlene Marshall, Nancy Houston  
52nd - Vicky Douglas  
54th - Laura Rose  
56th - Dale Manual

## Statewide

US Senate -  
Robert C. Byrd  
Governor -  
Bob Wise  
Attorney General -  
Darrell McGraw

U. S. House of Reps. -  
1st - Alan Mollahan  
2nd - Jim Humphreys  
3rd - Nick Joe Rayhall  
Supreme Court -  
Joe Albright

## Comp Rates Rigged In Political Move

**In a move reminiscent of the days of Governor Arch Moore, the Underwood Administration's proposal to lower Workers' Compensation rates is nothing more than political maneuvering.**

That is the claim of state labor leaders since the state's Workers Compensation Performance

The three labor representatives and one of the representatives of the general public voted against the cuts.

Labor opposes this decision saying the proposed savings were based on a program which hasn't even been started yet and may result in benefit cuts rather than real savings.

It was one year ago that some of the drastic cuts made to

**"VIEWEG AND ALL OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED ON THAT END OF THE DEAL HAVE BROKEN A PROMISE TO THE WORKERS OF THIS STATE."**

**JIM BOWEN, PRESIDENT  
WEST VIRGINIA AFL-CIO**

Council passed a measure to lower rates based on proposed medical savings of 32 percent.

The vote was five to four with Commissioner William Vieweg casting the deciding vote.

Workers' Compensation in 1995 were reversed, and workers' benefits were restored.

At this time, along with other performance council members, business representatives and

## Members Protest At GM Facilities

**Members of Laborers District Council of West Virginia have been hand-billing at General Motors (GM) facilities across the state.**

Union members are upset that GM has selected a non-union general contractor to build its parts distribution plant in Martinsburg.

Howard Shockey & Sons of Winchester, Virginia, the general contractor, appears to have made the decision not to use Union Trades from West Virginia or the surrounding areas to construct the facility.

Union members are also upset because this project has been partially funded, in the form of huge tax concessions, by the West Virginia Economic Development Authority, the Berkeley County Development Authority and the Berkeley County Commission.

"Howard Shockey did give

union contractors the chance to bid on the job," said ACT's Larry Young.

"But the requirements and the amount of time they gave to submit the bids was ridiculous.

"There was no way for the union contractors to get their bids in on time, and that said to us Howard Shockey did not want union workers."

In the handbill, the Laborers were asking the public to not support GM products or services until it does what is right for union construction workers.

"Supporting these antiunion companies causes the loss of jobs for our members and, in turn, hurts our economy," said Gary Long, Business Manager for Laborers Local 679.

"General Motors is a 100 percent union facility and should be built using 100 percent union craftsmen.

"We have received great support from GM workers and we appreciate it."

West Virginia AFL-CIO President Jim Bowen agreed that no further changes would be made to Workers' Comp for two full years, or until 2001.

"Vieweg and all other parties who were involved on that end of the deal have broken a contract with the workers of this state," said Bowen.

"How can we trust that this reduction in rates is justified and there is, in fact, extra money in the fund when we can't even trust him to hold up his end of a deal made just one year ago?"

Bowen and many others opposing this rate reduction believe the decision was politically motivated.

"We are interested in where these so-called savings will be coming from," said ACT's Steve White.

"Our feeling is, if there is extra money then distribute it equally. Increase benefits for injured workers who are suffering as a result of the '95 cuts, lower the rates for employers, and pay down the debt."

"But it is simply reckless to spend these 'savings' before they are realized.

"The fund is in trouble in large part because irresponsible cuts were made by the Moore administration. Those cuts were made for political reasons and so are these."

# Trades Support Regional Airport Project

**The West Virginia State Building Trades has contributed \$10,000 to fund public education about the importance of a regional airport to serve southern West Virginia and parts of Ohio and Kentucky.**

As part of the 'Just In Time' Committee, the State Building Trades hopes to show why this new airport is essential to boosting the economy of our state.

Currently the state Port Au-

thority is completing extensive studies about cost, economic feasibility and environmental impact of the project proposed for a site in Lincoln County.

"Businesses are increasingly depending upon air travel as a means to serve their customers, the explosion of Internet companies is a great example," said

Steve Burton, President of the State Building Trades.

"The idea of warehousing and storing inventory is fading, and instead companies are more interested in fulfilling orders as they are taken.

"With this new airport, our region will be able to facilitate this commerce which will help our economy and create jobs.

"There is massive opportunity for West Virginians with the construction of this new regional airport."

Most members of the 'Just In

Time' Committee are more excited, at the present time, in what the new airport will do for business and industry rather than passenger travel.

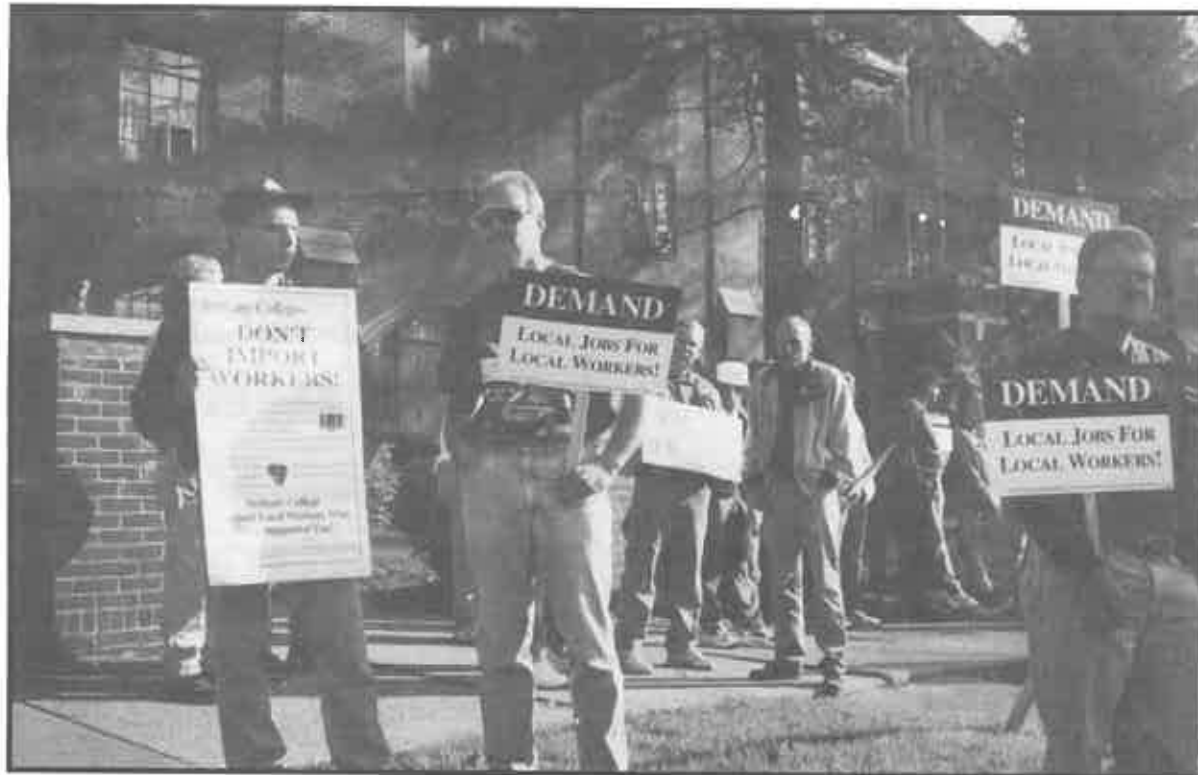
"If we can begin by drawing business customers then eventually the commercial airlines will follow," said Burton.

The Committee members consist of area Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Councils, County Commissions, and various other organizations from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

**"WITH THIS NEW AIRPORT, OUR REGION WILL BE ABLE TO FACILITATE COMMERCE WHICH WILL HELP OUR ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS."**

**STEVE BURTON, PRESIDENT  
WEST VIRGINIA STATE BUILDING TRADES**

# Protesters Want Bethany Alumni Involved



LOCAL RESIDENTS, LABOR SUPPORTERS AND BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS ARE seen protesting at Bethany College.

**Protesters gathered at Bethany College in Brooke County on April 29 because of the use of out of state workers on the new dormitory project.**

Alumni were also meeting at the college that weekend which is why that date was chosen.

"We wanted to make the

alumni aware of what was going on,' said Rich Wilson of the Bricklayers.

"Their money is being used to fund part of this construction and we thought they should know it is going to workers who were brought in from other states."

Many labor council representatives, trades members and concerned citizens from Brooke

County attended the rally.

ACT placed an ad in the *Wheeling Intelligencer* (see right) before the rally to make residents aware of the problems.

In addition to the ads, local workers have passed out flyers to alert the public.

According to ACT's Jim Lewis the County Commission-

ers have been hearing many complaints from Brooke County residents.

"Area residents want to know

why the County Commission helped fund this project and then allowed the jobs to go to out-of-

state workers," said Lewis.

*Bethany College--*

**DON'T  
IMPORT  
WORKERS!**

**B**adly needed construction jobs at Bethany College's new student center are being given to workers from Texas, Arkansas and even to some workers with Green Cards.

Bethany College and general contractor ADF, Inc. from Amherst, NY said they have 'gone the extra mile' to include local contractors.

We believe they have gone an extra 2000 miles to import cheap labor to destroy the standard of living in our area.

**Bethany College  
Support Local Workers  
Who Have Supported You!**



The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, A Division of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

This ad ran in local newspapers and was also used as a handout at the rally.

# Students Join Rally At WVU Coliseum

**About 75 union members from various trades as well as West Virginia University (WVU) students attended a four hour rally outside the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown on April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

The rally was to protest the use of out-of-state workers to remove asbestos from the facility.

State workers have lost at least 85 high-paying jobs because of the hiring practices of Warrenton, Virginia based general contractor, USA Remediation, and their Pennsylvania subcontractor, Keystone Abatement Services.

Many of USA Remediation's workforce is from Guatemala and Keystone reportedly has Russian workers.

ACT has raised numerous complaints with U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) about the legal status of the

imported workers.

However, INS officials have been slow to respond to the complaints.

In an editorial to the Morgantown *Dominion Post*, Laborers Local 379 member R.A. 'Big Cat' Soccorsi writes, "... USA Remediation is supposed to be paying the prevailing wage rate for the job. If that is the case, they could hire locally, in state, union or nonunion workers to do the job."

Soccorsi goes on to say, "I believe in West Virginia jobs for West Virginia people, and there are enough asbestos trained people in the state to have



PICTURED OUTSIDE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY'S (WVU) COLISEUM are union members, concerned citizens and members of the WVU student body. They are protesting the use of out-of-state workers for the asbestos removal.

done the complete job."

Soccorsi is not only a union member and supporter of local jobs for local workers, but he also is a dedi-

cated Mountaineer.

The second phase of the abatement at the Coliseum is scheduled to begin later this month.

## Local 302 Retirees' Meetings Feature Music, Education And Fellowship

**On April 27, Carpenters Local 302 held its Retirees Club Members (CLRCM) meeting.**

Everyone who attended enjoyed refreshments and musical entertainment by Paul Frye and Friends Gospel Group.

Retired Financial Secretary for Local 302, Freddie Adkins, is a member of the band.

The CLRCM plans to provide some type of entertainment at each meeting.

Future entertainment includes T.K. Railroad featuring Local 302 member Sam Ferguson.

Retirees meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Local 302 Union Hall located at 418 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Huntington and are open to retired carpenters from any local.

Those who attend are encouraged to bring their spouses to enjoy an evening of entertainment, educational topics and group fellowship.

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### 'West Virginia Works' Show Times & Stations

FOX 46  
Clarksburg & Morgantown  
Saturdays @ 7:30am

Cable Ch. 10  
Wheeling, St. Clairsville & Moundsville  
Saturdays @ noon

FOX 59  
Beckley & Bluefield  
Saturdays @ 12:30pm

Cable Ch. 16  
Steubenville, Follansbee & Wellsburg  
Saturdays @ noon

FOX 11  
Charleston, Huntington & Parkersburg  
Sundays @ 11:30am

Give us a call  
if you have an idea for a show!  
1-800-930-WORK!