

Bulletin



Volume 15, No. 9

We Light Up Your Life!

Behind the Scenes on one of





television's most anticipated new shows

THRESHOLD

ALSO INSIDE

<u>President's Message:</u> Why is your vote, and those of your non-union friends and family, critically needed this November to defeat Prop. 75? Page 2

Wal-Mart Europe: In a twist of irony, the CEO of the retail giant -- fearing competition from Britain's #1 chain, Tesco -- recently said authorities should be concerned about a chain having too much market clout. Is he kidding? Page 3 Hodge Podge 05: Among other things, R. Bruce Prochal forewarns members about pesky telemarketers — who will soon be calling your cell phone. The good news is, you can avoid the costly interruption. Page 6

<u>Class Distinction:</u> Your Master Instructor sets the record straight on Skills courses vs. Safety Pass classes. Page 7

Local 728 Officers and Executive Board

Patric J. Abaravich

President

Michael Gips

Vice President

Norman L. Glasser

Business Rep. - Secretary

R. Bruce Prochal

Call Steward/Treasurer

Executive Board Members

Branch Brunson
Paul Caven
Michael Everett
Dennis K. Grow
Roger L. Lattin
Steve R. Mathis
Richard McConihay
Jerry Posner
Alan M. Rowe
Karen Weilacher

Sergeant-at-Arms
Greg Argarin

Shop Stewards

CLC Delegates
Branch Brunson
Paul Caven
Mike Everett
Iain O'Higgins
Mark Crosthwaite

The Bulletin
Editor
Patric J. Abaravich

Defeating Prop 75 is going to take all of us - union and non-union alike

No on 75 - A Message That Bears Repeating

By Patric J. Abaravich, President/Editor

I know in the last edition of The Bulletin we talked about Proposition 75 on November's special election ballot. However, this measure could be so devastating to all working Californians that it needs repeating.

Prop 75 is the governor's way of silencing the very powerful and influential voice of California state employee unions. If passed, Prop 75 would require the unions to get written permission from their members each year before any dues money could be used for political purposes. It would also limit the amount of money labor could donate to important ballot initiatives.

California state employee unions are one of the strongest and leading labor organizations in the country. They have helped pass significant laws on the state and federal levels that protect you on and off the job. They have backed and help elect pro-labor candidates who care about working Californians – whether you belong to a union or not. They carefully monitor politicians and legislation concerning today's critical issues: pension reform, Social Security, health care, job safety, and education.

We – working Californians – cannot allow the governor and his cronies (the measure received a huge donation from the Small Business Action Committee, a Schwarzenegger-aligned group funded by large corporations and wealthy businessmen) to curtail the important political work done by the state employee unions.

I am highly encouraging you to vote No on Prop 75. Please share this information with your non-union friends and family and help persuade them that should this measure pass, every working Californian will suffer.

Let your voice be heard. Please make time to vote on Nov. 8th or take a moment to file absentee. In addition to Prop 75, there are seven other measures that could affect you and your family. It's important that you become educated on the issues and exercise your constitutional right. For more information about all the propositions on the ballot, visit www.ss.ca.gov.

ON THE COVER

We recently caught up with Local 728 members on the set of "Threshold" at Paramount Studios. Pictured on the cover are, top photo, left to right: Lance Dickinson, John Linares, Bobby Ferraro, Darrin Hill, David Youel, Alex Jaworski and Robert Ogden. Bottom photo, left to right: Lawrence Monier, "Mud Flap" Jones, Gihan "Sandy" Seneviratne, Doug Byers, Greg Cantrell, Chris Lama and John Amoretti.

Wal-Mart Cries Foul in an Ironic Twist

"Wal-Mart is asking for an antitrust investigation of a competitor?" asked Albert Foer, president of the American Antitrust Institute in Washington, a think tank. "How delicious."

In early September, the Los Angeles Times reported that Wal-Mart's CEO, ⚠H. Lee Scott, Jr., told a London newspaper that British powers-that-be should be "concerned about a retail chain having too much market clout."

How ironic. For years, the nation's #1 retailer with the world's largest workforce of 1.6 million people, has flattened mom-and-pop businesses as well as major retailers. It has demanded the lowest prices from suppliers, destroyed communities and skirted taxes. In this country, Wal-Mart commands 10% of total retail business. Worldwide, reported sales were \$285 billion in 2004.

It seems as though Wal-Mart does not have the lion's share of the retail market in Britain. That crown goes to Tesco, which - like its counterpart offering discounted wares - rings up a resounding 30% of the food market. Wal-Mart owns Asda Group Ltd., and with 16% of the market, it is the second largest retail chain.

According to the LA Times article, Scott told the Times of London, "As you get over 30% and higher, I am sure there is a point where government is compelled to intervene, particularly in the U.K. where you have the planning laws that make it difficult to compete."

Wal-Mart bought Asda Group, Ltd. in 1999. Company officials in Britain began back-pedaling after Scott's comments were published, saying he wasn't

Continued on Page 6

Meeting attendance record for October 2004 through August 2005

Patric Abaravich Pres.	1	1	1	1
Karen Weilacher VP	1	1	1	1
Norman Glasser BA	1	1	1	1
Randy G. Singer Treas.	S	5	S	S
Executive Board:	- 13		1	
Branch Brunson	1	1	1	1
Paul Caven	1	1	1	1
Michael Everett	1	1	1	1
Larry Freeman Alternate	1	EX	EX	1
Dennis K. Grow	1	1	1	1
Roger Lattin	1	1	1	1
Steve Mathis	1	1	EX	1
Dick McConihay Atternate	1	1	1	4
Jetry Posner	1	1	1	0
R. Bruce Prochal	1	1	1	1
Alan M. Rowe	1	1	1	7
Frank Sontag	1	4	1	1
Jesse Tango	1	1	1	1
Shop Stewards:		- 4		
Patric Abaravich	ĺ	F S	1	
Bernie Bayless			1	7.11
Pascal Guillemard			1	
John Jacobs			1	
John L. Murray			1	
Thomas Pugh			1	
John Trujillo			EX	
CLC Delegates:				
Branch M. Brunson			1	
Paul Caven			1	
Mark Crosthwaite			1	
Mike Everett			1	
Iain O'Higgins			EX	

2004 Meeting Schedule	10/2	11/6	11/11	12:4	2005 Meeting Schedule	1-8	1/15	2/5	3/5	3/12	4/2	5/7	5/14	6/4	7.9	7/30	5-6
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Larry Freeman Alternate	1	EX	EX	1	Dennis K. Grow	1	EX	1	1	1	1	EX	EX	1	1	EX	1
Dennis K. Grow	1	1	1	1	Roger Lattin	1	EX	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	EX	1
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Mike Everett			1														
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Call Steward INFORMATION

Any Local 728 member representing the producer in filling calls or needing assistance, please contact this local during business hours. The local office operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you need to hire prior to 8 a.m., after 6 p.m., or over the weekend, please phone the Call Steward at 818-207-3094.

Members seeking weekend work should call the Steward at the Local on Friday to put your name on the weekend availability list.

Anyone who hires off roster or hires any member who is not current with their dues without first calling the Call Steward, shall have charges filed against them and shall be subject to the assessments levied by the Trial Board if found guilty.

Our present contract work week consists of any five (5) consecutive days out of seven (7) consecutive days.



Exciting things are happening at your union! Don't miss the next regular General **Membership** Meeting Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005 9:00 a.m. at IATSE Local 44 12021 Riverside Drive North Hollywood

> Be sure to bring your union card!

UNIONBusiness

First Notice

New applicants for membership are: Gary Ary, William Carlson, Malik Haughton, Thomas G. Hurn, Kelly Jones, Fritz De Jong, Julio Gomez, Paul Lohr, Francisco Martinez, Sam T. Wayman and Ryan White.

Second Notice

New applicants for membership are: David P. Carreira, Jesse Crusing, Robert V. Haggard, Jeff A. Heck, Joseph M. Lyons, Bryan Marks, Cass H. Rasmussen, Simon Thirlaway and Jason Truitt.

New Members

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on Aug. 1, 2005: Wilson Brock.

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on Sept. 9, 2005: James McCusker.

The following members were sworn into Local 728 on Sept. 17, 2005: John Amorelli, William C. Barnett, Jeff Cole, Lynn K. Costa, Noah Dille, Lee E. Essner, Joseph Fithian, Michael Francisco, Mark J. Goodwin, Gustavo Graciano, Derek Miller, Chris J. Niesinger, Michael J. Piekutowski, Richard A. Schulte, Richard Thomas and James Troost.

The following members were sworn into Local 728 on Sept. 19, 2005: Jeffrey Chin, Ben Dermand, Michael Garcia, Rudy Martinez, David C. Russell and Mary V. Wynn.

How to reach

YOUR LOCAL

(818) 891-0728

(800) 551-2158

Fax (818) 891-5288

Paramount's huge and costly sci-fi production premieres

On the set of

THRESHOLD

fter several months of long hours, elaborate sets, huge Jocation shoots, crew speculation and critics' anticipation, the new alien drama Threshold has barreled out of the gate to great reviews.

That's welcome news to the 728 lighting and rigging crews whose talents and professionalism have enhanced the edgy and dark sci-fi thriller.

"In the end, everything we've done is working. Some rigging may come down and be changed, but all the options we gave ourselves are working," CLT Bobby Ferrara noted.

With his feature film and television background, Ferrara said producers gave him the green light to go big in the beginning. "The best part is they started with 'Let's do a big show.' There weren't a lot of



CLT Bobby Ferrara

limits. They let us go. We got to rig three stages at Paramount. They put a lot of money into getting it going and gave us the resources," he added.

That included a highly talented crew headed by Rigging Gaffer Gihan "Sandy" Seneviratne. "Our biggest challenge has been trying to keep up with the rush they are in. This is a run and guns kind of show. There are a lot of script changes that happen during the week ... we just work around it and try to accommodate

Ahead of the game, and behind it, is Seneviratne's crew: ACLT Greg Cantrell; Paramount ACLT Patric Abaravich; and riggers Doug Byers, John Amorelli, Chris Lama and Lawrence Monier. The group has rigged Threshold's very large main set on Stage 5, while Stages 6 and 7 are swing sets.

them." Rigging Gaffer



Continued on the Next Page



ACLT David Youel

Continued from the Previous Page

But with a production that spends roughly three days out on elaborate locations, added manpower and having multiple locations ready to go is commonplace. "We've done some incredible and difficult location shoots; a high voltage power plant, on a naval ship and at USC. There's really nothing like it on TV. This production is being done like a movie," Seneviratne noted.

However, currently filming episode #7 out of a scheduled 13, things may be changing. "It seems as if the intention is to scale things down in terms of writing and not use as many big locations," ACLT David Youel commented. "The scripts don't seem as big, but it's very hard to tell. As far as

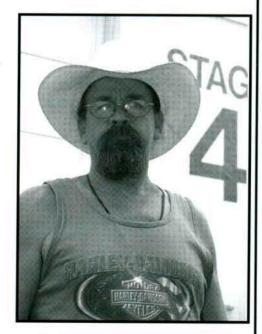
manpower, Sandy and I have been challenged, to put it politely, with our resources. We've had our manpower cut a lot and are having to come up with very creative ways to get things done."

Logging the nearly 70-hour work weeks with Ferrara and Youel is the core lighting crew of Darrin Hill, Alex Jaworski, Robert Ogden, John Linares and Dimmer Board Operator Lance Dickinson.

"This is a collaborative effort by all the members. My best boy, lighting crew and rigging crew are thinking ahead of me and backing me. They're

incredible," Ferrara proudly pointed out. "We light shot to shot and moment to moment in a very modern version of old school techniques. Being well prepared on the rigs beforehand allows us to be very flexible. Location after location and on the sets, Sandy and his crew have rigged us for every possibility they could think of."

"We did a scene where a subway train is rushing by the three main characters. We used a row of image 80s that we programmed the chase for to get the flashing effect. It worked amazingly well," Yoel explained. "In order to get it set up and moved around, everyone had to have a great deal of responsibility and know what they were doing. We put it together rather quickly and it



Rigging Best Boy Greg Cantrell

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Delinquent List Third Quarter 2005*

AHRENS, ROBERT AMINI, CYRUS ANDERSON, RONALD BAIN, DAMON BERARDI, PHILIP N. BISHOP, SOFIA CANTRELL, MATTHEW O. CASLIN, FRANK C. CICCONE, HENRY CLAYTON, JOSEPH DELPHINE CORTINA, HUGO P. DALY, JUSTIN DUBOIS, DAVID W. ERICHSEN, ERIK A. ESQUILIN, WILLIAM FISCHER, SAMUEL M. HALL, ANTHONY A. HARRISON, RICHARD R. HERNANDEZ, RICHARD H. HOLT, KENNETH J. HUBER, DUSTINA. JOHNSTONE, STEVE JORDAN, MICHAEL R. KALLEN, JASON A. KIMURA, JAMES KORBEL, BLAIR MANNING WRIGHT K. MC LACHLAN, WILLIAM MORRISON, JON D. NAKAHARA, MARK NEVILLE, ROBERT S. O'MELIA, MICHAEL K. PARKS, DINO PENTEK, JEFFREY D. PULFORD, DARRIN M. SANDERS, RALPHA. SIMS, SHARON STERN, THOMAS EVANS STROMP, MICHAEL G. TIMMER, BRAD D TODD, JOHN DOUGLAS TOWNSEND, FREDRICK A. WILLIAMS, KEITH WILLIS III, JOHN WOOLLEY, JASON R. WYCOFF, ERIC

SUSPENDED

DAMBRA, CHRIS J. GALLART, MICHAEL HINKLE, BRADLEY JOHNSON, VAN

Delinquent List Third Quarter 2005*

Continued from Page 5

KANESHIRO, ALAN SAUCIER, PHELT MICHAEL STEWART, JOHN JEFFERY SVOBODA, MARTIN P. TAKAMURA, SATOSHI WEISS, ROBERT RYAN WHITESIDE, MATTHEW T. ZAMOSCIANYK, CHRIS

DROPPED

AASLAND, JOSEPH D.
BARNETT, BILLY H.
CRONN, ROBERT
CROSS, WILLIAM
DAHLQUIST, MICHAEL D.
DE PERNA, ROBERT J.
DELGADO, DAID
DOUGHERTY, JOSEPH E.
FERRAT, RICARDO F.
FORTUNE, JAY
GUZMAN, ANTHONY D.
LAYNE, JOHN L.
LOGAN, GUY

RETIREE

DUNN, REGIS J.

*List Current as of Sept. 16, 2005

FOR SALE

6K HMi Par with magnetic ballast. (DN Labs.com) uses inexpensive double-ended 6K globe, big reflector, impressive output (dwarfs LTM's) includes diffuser lens, power feeder, one head feeder. For more information, call Michael at (310) 396-9387. Email: Katzfilm@adelphia.net

When was the last time you visited Your Web Site? Check it out at www.iatse728.org

Hodge Podge 2005

By R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer/Call Steward

Greetings everybody! This has been a very busy month. Rather than concentrate on one theme this month, I will briefly delve into a few topics.

Last month, I stated the details of how to change your status with the Local when you retire. In brief, to change your status within the Local, whether it be Retirement or Honorable Withdrawal or Withdrawal from Local 728 and the International Alliance, you must fill out the proper paperwork and be current with the present quarter dues at the time of your request. Your change of status will become effective in the following quarter.

Several months ago, I wrote about identity theft. While not on the same topic, but still a nuisance are telemarketers. I received an e-mail from a member informing me that in mid-October telemarketers will have access to our cell phone numbers. I checked this out, and while some Internet sites are reporting this to be 'urban legend', you can protect yourself.

To prevent telemarketers from calling, you have two options: Call the National DO NOT CALL Registry (this site is run by the Federal Trade Commission) at 888.382.1222 from the wired phone or cell phone you want blocked. The second alternative is to go to the Internet and log on to hppt://donotcall.gov/. I have used the phone number and the website and they appear to be safe. This is the same website that was activated several years ago to block telemarketers on land-line phones. I highly recommend going to the website because you can print out verification, via an e-mail, that you have registered in the event that you are overwhelmed with unwanted phone calls and want to file a claim with the Federal Trade Commission.

Best Boys, listen up! When you call the Local to fill a call, please have a call time and directions to the location to where our member is to report. I understand that many shows are poorly organized, but I can not release a call without a call time and directions.

That's it for this month. Until next time, RBP

Wal-Mart Continued from Page 3

referring to any one retail chain in particular, but was speaking by and large about 'market concentration.'

It appears as though there might be an axe to grind. The *LA Times* article notes that in 2004, Wal-Mart's attempt to purchase the Safeway chain was denied by British authorities. The government said the combination of Asda and Safeway would give the company too much power.

Although Wal-Mart execs say that they are "small potatoes" around the world, in Canada they own 256 stores, where sales have risen to 52%. And while the global giant has basically run amok in the U.S., in 2002 the Federal Trade Commission mandated that Wal-Mart sell four stores – to

Continued on Next Page

Classes Solely for Your Benefit

By Alan M. Rowe, Master Instructor

Our Training Program is up and running. Our DMX/Dimming Technology course (aka Beginning Dimmer) in particular was well attended and everyone was surprised with just how far this technology has come in the past few years. The Safety Qualified Course, having been condensed, is filled with information that is useful to everyone and no one has walked away not finding something of value.

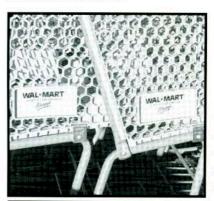
There has been some confusion around our Training Program. The classes we offer are Skills Training and even though they are provided by Contract Services, they should not be confused with the required Safety Pass Program. Our classes are solely for our benefit and we are currently the only Local to be offering Skills Training classes. Next year, I am proposing some new and fun courses but before you can take those classes, you must have taken the Safety Qualified Technician Course, so please sign up for that class today.

On another note, there are have been a few instances across the industry of people getting bacterial infections from working near rodents, wild birds, or other unsanitary conditions. This is a serious issue for us as cable runs through everything and consequently everything gets on our gloves and/or hands. Then a simple itch or wipe of the eyes gives the bacteria an opportunity to infect our bodies.

Regardless of how thoroughly an area has been cleaned prior to our rigging this can happen and when it does, it is a serious problem. The way to deal with this is to first insist that questionable areas be thoroughly cleaned and then wash your hands as often as possible and avoid touching your face or scratching any part of your body. Products like sanitary hand wipes or Purell are very effective as well. A bacterial infection can be disfiguring, deadly, and even in the best case will result in lost work.

ensure competition – before it could buy the largest Puerto Rican grocery store chain, Supermercados Amigo, Inc.

A global campaign has been started to slow Wal-Mart's worldwide expansion, and antitrust experts are debating whether the company's immense "buyer power" (known as monopsony) is just as detrimental as the number of retail markets it controls.



Could shining the spotlight on their largest British competitor backfire on Wal-Mart? Stay tuned.

"The unmistakable irony here is that Wal-Mart is accusing its British competition of accomplishing exactly what it has planned for its U.S. operations," said Andrew Grossman, executive director of Wal-Mart Watch, an anti-Wal-Mart coalition supported by some of America's leading unions.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Moving Lights

The new product

Is actually an old product

Moving The new product this month but with a new use. Moving Lights have been around for a number of years and we frequently use them. However, they have an excellent and rarely used application as a "remote focus" conventional light. If you have a hanging position over a set where it would be difficult for an electrician to reach in order to focus, change color, or diffuse a light, a Moving Light controlled from the Lighting Console is an excellent solution to the problem.

Hard edged fixtures like
Martin's Mac 2000 Performance
can be panned, tilted, shuttered,
patterned, and colored remotely.
Soft edged fixtures like Martin's
Mac 2000 Wash lights can be
panned, tilted, spotted, flooded,
and colored from the console as
well. The Mac 2000 Wash light
also has remotely controlled
barn doors to shape the light.

While using the Martin
Lights as an example, it is
important to remember there are
many companies that make
Moving Lights that are suited to
our needs. Syncrolight,
Vari*lite, High End Systems,
ETC, Clay-Paky and many
others make fine products to
help us out in difficult
situations.

Moving Lights are available in both tungsten and daylight and many have the benefit of mechanical shutters thereby eliminating "amber drift" while dimming.

THRESHOLD

Continued from Page 5

looked amazing. That's the kind of stuff everyone on the show has to be ready for. I'm glad we're not troubled or challenged by these kinds of things."

The lighting specialists are also using a lot of saturated colors – deep yellows, ambers and blues. "We virtually have everything on dimmer board which allows us to work very fast doing complex lighting," Ferrara noted.

While the riggers and lighting crews have professionally met every conceivable challenge thrown at them, one standard on the production they're ready to change is the exhausting days. "The hardest thing has been the hours ... they've been enormous. Seventy hours has been normal, but it's starting to get better," Ferrara said. "It's becoming a tighter ship. Everyone is trying to find their way and work within their budget. The good thing about it is we started as big as we wanted to be. We put in the best rig and established how to have the right amount of people in the first place."

HERE'S THE SCOOP

What the critics are saying:

Crisp, smart and spooky, this cerebral sci-fi drama is the best of the new "Something's out there" series ... – *Variety.com*



Production Companies:

Braga Productions and Phantom Four Films/Heyday Films in association with Paramount Network Television

Executive Producers:

David Heyman, David S. Goyer, Brannon Braga

Starring:

Carla Gugino, Brian Van Holt, Brent Spiner, Robert Patrick Benedict, Peter Dinklage, Charles S. Dutton

Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians



Local 728, I.A.T.S.E. 14629 Nordhoff Street Panorama City, CA 91402

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