

## Linking The Print And Virtual Worlds

**T**echnological advancements have forever changed the manner in which we seek and exchange information. Declining prices and increased portability of computers and mobile communication devices have altered the way many in our society go about their daily lives.

As we continue to mark the years off the 21st Century calendar, we are becoming less and less constrained by the hours in which the "Open" sign shines brightly in store windows or someone is available to answer the telephone. North America and many other parts of the developed world are rapidly shifting to a paradigm best summarized by the slogan, "find whatever you want, whenever you want to find it".

In hindsight, the earliest stages of this transition first became evident in the manner in which businesses tried to satisfy consumer demand. Shopping malls began opening earlier and staying open later in an attempt to give the consumer an increased opportunity to spend their shopping dollars. The success of expanded shopping hours led other businesses to explore the option of more flexible hours in order to gain an advantage over their competition. The more popular this became, the more we demanded.

The mainstream use of the Internet was the final component required to allow for a 24/7 world. Businesses, governments and unions continue to maintain brick and mortar operations, but having an address on the World Wide Web is rapidly becoming a necessity.

For many of our members the option of a new way to access information and shop for goods and services has been life altering. Many of you travel or work long hours or work shifted schedules. Some of you have jobs that include aspects of all of these. The Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 world was never a great fit for many IA members.

In recognition of our changing world you will find a new section in this issue of the *Official Bulletin* entitled *From The Desktop*. The focus of this new section will be to highlight Web sites that our members will find interesting and/or informative. It is our attempt to provide a link between the print and virtual worlds. In this issue we are profiling the Web sites of the International, the I.A.T.S.E. National Benefit Funds, the Canadian Retirement Plan and Union Plus.

Future issues will see us profile local union sites, industry-related sites as well as general interest sites. If you know of a site that you believe would be of interest to your brothers and sisters please email the link to [bulletin@iatse-intl.org](mailto:bulletin@iatse-intl.org) and we will do our best to feature it in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.



### ONLINE HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservations for I.A.T.S.E. General Executive Board meetings can be made online through a link on the International's Web site ([www.iatse-intl.org](http://www.iatse-intl.org)). Simply go to the "Mark Your Calendar" section on the home page.

### QUARTERLY REPORTS

As a reminder to all local union Secretaries, Article Nineteen, Section 7 of the International Constitution and Bylaws mandates that Quarterly Reports are due no later than thirty (30) days following the end of each quarter. Therefore the 1st Quarter Report for 2007 was due no later than April 30th and the 2nd Quarter Report for 2007 will be due no later than July 30th.