



Still the

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ Education

★ Organization

★ Emancipation

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50 Cents

Watsonville Update . . .

We are laid-off workers from Watsonville, California. Most of us are middle-aged women, immigrants from Mexico, who averaged 14 years employment at the Pillsbury-Green Giant frozen food plant in Watsonville. Last year, the company gave notice that 300 of us were no longer needed, and most of our union jobs were shifted to Irapuato, Mexico. Our families depended on the income from our work. With an unemployment rate of 18% here in Watsonville, new jobs at comparable wages will be difficult to find for most of us. The layoffs mean hard times for our families and our community as well.

Two weeks ago, our organization, *Trabajadores Desplazados* (Displaced Workers) announced the beginning of a nationwide boycott of all Pillsbury-Green Giant, Burger King, and Haagen Dazs products. Our boycott is not merely a protest over the loss of our jobs in Watsonville, it is also a movement to publicize and protest the international behavior of Grand Metropolitan, the multinational holding company that owns Pillsbury-Green Giant, Burger King, Haagen Dazs and dozens of other well known retail products.

In Watsonville, we feel betrayed by the company we loyally served for so many years. But we are also angry about the Grand Met-Pillsbury-Green Giant treatment of our non-union coworkers in Irapuato, Mexico, paying starvation wages of \$4 a day. We are also angered at the company's abuse of the environment and natural resources of Mexico.

In Irapuato, Grand Met-Pillsbury-Green Giant uses vast amounts of precious water for processing their export food products, even though many people living near the company's facilities have no potable running water. The company then dumps



its waste water into the rivers of Irapuato without adequate treatment.

Furthermore, the main thrust of the Grand Met-Pillsbury-Green Giant operations in Mexico is to produce food for export to the United States and other international markets, while many people—especially children—in Irapuato and throughout Mexico are undernourished, suffering and even dying from hunger.

We call our boycott a campaign for

Jobs, Justice, and Environment. We of course would like to have our jobs back, or adequate compensation from the company to help us through the hardships we face. But equally as important, we want to see justice, fair wages and union rights for Grand Met-Pillsbury-Green Giant workers in Mexico. We want this huge company to stop robbing and degrading the people, natural resources and environment of Mexico.

Please Help Us forge an alliance between workers, environmentalists, churches, social justice organizations, and consumers to put moral and economic pressure on Grand Met-Pillsbury-Green Giant.

—Trabajadores Desplazados
434 Main St. #222
Watsonville, CA 95076

Boycott Levi's!

Two months after achieving a 143% profit increase (the largest in the multi-billion-dollar corporation's 138-year history), Levi Strauss International closed one of its San Antonio, Texas plants. The reason: to take advantage of the Costa Rican labor market where workers will make \$3 to \$4 a day. Giving workers 90 days notice, the plant closing left 1,115 workers—primarily Mexican-American women—unemployed. Not surprisingly, it was the only non-union plant among the three Levi's facilities in San Antonio.

Responding to the crisis, former Levi's workers formed FUERZA UNIDA to demand justice. The organization has filed a \$13 billion class-action lawsuit charging Levi's with violations of State Workers' Compensation and retirement fund laws. Many workers were left with permanent injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome. FUERZA UNIDA has also kicked off a Boycott of all Levi's products.

When asked why the jean giant's plant needed a 70% decrease in labor costs at this time in its financial history, Levi's blamed "increasing global competitive pressures." With 1990 annual sales figures at \$4.2 billion, Levi's notes that "even if

the business is doing well overall, . . . in order to remain competitive, we have to be sure we're efficient in all parts of the business."

Levi's points to several possibilities for its success—all revolving around its international marketing strategy that sells "American independence." Talking turkey about product image, Levi's claims its jeans "... have become the symbol not just of youth but personal freedom, social freedom." The company believes the "decline of communism" and Levi's all-American, apple-pie, freedom-loving image to be largely responsible for its high sales: "Anybody can make a pair of jeans. Anybody can imitate Dockers. We endowed it with some values." (Levi's Dockers line was introduced in 1986, targeting "aging baby boomers who have outgrown jeans.")

Levi's is known for its aggressive "hip" advertising. Its advertising strategy abroad is summarized by the *San Francisco Examiner* as:

White, Levi-clad boy hunk drives up on a motorcycle or in a classic American gas-guzzler to the strains of a '60s rhythm-and-blues hit. Situation demands that boy remove

pants and, where possible, his shirt. Boy's self-assured, yet unfrightening independence makes a monkey of some older male Establishment stooge. Boy gets cute white girl. She gets to leave her clothes on. They roar off.

Levi's revenue from foreign sales is rising—in 1990 it exceeded the corporation's domestic profits. Some believe U.S. buyers associate the products with "proletarian origins," while abroad they are "high fashion."

Levi Strauss is striving to build a corporate reputation for innovative and inclusive decision-making—although workers are not on the guest list. Another angle of its international strategy is Levi's new "structured autonomy" management system that has replaced the traditional top-down "command and control" structure. Struggling against the old corporate "turf war" mentality, the company "is vigorously nurturing cross-fertilization of ideas between executives around the world."

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Letters to the Editors . . .

Dear Industrial Worker Collective,

It is with great interest that I have followed the debate in the IW about the Swedish SAC (Central Worker's Organization) and its historic split from the IWA (International Worker's Association). It is not a simple question, though from a revolutionary point of view it might seem like one. Obviously the SAC made a pragmatic retreat from some of its principles. Mike Kolhoff is also right about the fact that the SAC entered "a long peaceful co-existence with the Social Democratic state of Sweden".

This is absolutely correct and should be analyzed (Kolhoff is not at all right when he writes that the SAC's "recent strike activity is the first in decades" -but never mind). If this can be done in "a spirit of comradeship" it is even better.

In this context it might also be interesting to analyze the international syndicalist movement's frustration after the second World War. All that was left of any magnitude was the SAC. Militants throughout the world wanted it clean, spotless, and untouched by the dirty hand of Pragmatism. The entire IWA longed for a big, principally pure, forceful, revolutionary workers' movement. This was not possible in Sweden.

The young militants of today's SAC have no bonds or loyalties to the SAC of the 1950's, but we try to look at that organization with clear eyes. Being a historic materialist one must be quick to point out the role of the economy in the raising of social awareness. There was very little space for a truly revolutionary union in Sweden during this time, the period of a growing social democratic "welfare" state. Today, when the economy is forcing the Swedish politicians to cut expenses everywhere they can, the welfare-state shows what it really consisted of: paperwork. This might just bring about a spring for Swedish syndicalism.

One can also ask what might have happened if the SAC had more clearly

stuck with the old ideas, would it have been better for the project of revolutionary unionism today? There is no simple answer to this either.

To this we can also add that however reformist and toothless the SAC has been from time to time, we have never participated in any government, unlike one of the prominent IWA sections (however, they were in a completely different situation).

Even if it is interesting to discuss what happened during the 1950's, 1930's, or 1900's we must realize what the SAC is all about today: building a strong revolutionary worker's movement in each country and coordinating internationally. The outlook of such an organization is perhaps better today than thirty years ago. The One Big Union may actually be a reality before this planet "goes boom in the night." It is up to us whether or not we want to stick to the old contradictions and mistakes. The rank-and-file organized and independent revolutionary worker's movement is weak today. If we want a movement that is for real and actual confrontation with the powers that be, let's discuss -but cut the crap and get organized! It's time for action!

Martin Nilsson,
Editor of the SAC's weekly paper
ARBETAREN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for this opportunity to inform you about some of the work the Endeavor Project is doing in Texas to abolish the Death Penalty. Our group consists of Huntsville [penitentiary] Death Row prisoners, their families and friends. We publish a national newspaper, *Endeavor, Live Voices from Death Row*. It is edited and written by prisoners from Death Rows throughout the country and their families and friends.

We are calling for a unified national effort, directed to each death penalty governor in the United States. The proce-

cedure is simple, write a form letter petition to your governor. Then, send everyone you know a copy. Contact your state anti-death penalty groups and ask them to circulate petitions. Please send one to us and we will mail you our petition.

Texas has had the death penalty since the Supreme Court abolished the national law against it in the 1960's. The Court allowed each state to choose to vote to maintain moral, ethical criminal justice standards or allow legal murder. Texas legislators voted for death. In 1977 Texans changed the form of death. The electric chair was unplugged and lethal injection accepted. The illusion is that by receiving a medical death the criminal is healed. This implies this death is cleaner, purer, and acceptable. Shunting an overdose of pancurium bromide, sodium thiopental, potassium chloride, and diazepam injection is considered a balanced, painless manner of death. This is not true. Witnesses who have watched have seen painful and violent death. Lethal injection masks the truth that the death penalty is born from revenge and bloodlust.

In the past, we have petitioned two companies who sell pharmaceuticals to the Texas Department of Corrections for lethal injections. The results have given us an education about the greed of capitalists: "anything for a buck" is often too true.

Now, we feel that direct action toward all governors is the most effective path. As the abolition of slavery was accomplished by those who felt its evils, the abolition of the death penalty becomes a matter for those who know it's cruelty. Legal death makes a mockery of precious life.

Endeavor is published bi-monthly and is \$10.00 a year for a subscription. The paper is free for all prisoners. An article written by any Death Row prisoner is considered for publication. For petitions and subscription information, or to submit an article, please write:

Robert West, c/o Endeavor
P.O. Box 23511
Houston, Texas 77228-3511

Peace and Strength,
Robert West

I have read the "Principles of Revolutionary Unionism" of the International Workers Association as printed in the April edition of the *Industrial Worker*. I think it would be great to be part of an international workers association, with a principled stand on social ownership, class struggle, abolition of the wage system, and all the progressive ideas embodied in the struggle for freedom.

However, I think it would be a mistake for Wobs to bind themselves to the principles of the IWA. The IWA's principles read more like a set of tactical prescriptions to me. Admonitions like, "all workers must unite in economic combative organizations" or "While revolutionary unionism is opposed to all organized violence of the state, it realizes that there will be extremely violent clashes during the decisive struggles between the capitalism of today and the free communism of tomorrow" seem shot through with fatalism, reified thinking patterns, and order-giving vanguardism. I believe the only result which the IWW would see by taking on these principles would be to narrow its potential membership to one small, ideologically-petrified sect.

Don't get me wrong. I feel a lot of sympathy for the ideas expressed in the IWA statements; but here are SOME of the questions I think they raise.

Why do all workers HAVE TO unite in economic combative organizations? As long as they're at it, why not liberation from some other yokes besides Capital and the State? How about patriarchy, the commodification of human relations, and the wage system for starters?

How does one reconcile the concept of "free councils without subordination to

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Madison GMB—Box 2605, 53701, (608) 251-1937 or 249-4287. Delegate: Tim Wong
Lakeside Press Job Branch (I.U. 450)—1301 Williamson, Madison 53701. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Around The Union

Lehigh Valley

The Lehigh Valley IWW celebrated May Day with a protest outside the office of rightwing congressman Don Ritter. Ritter was singled out as a prime example of labor faker politicians who deceive the public with 'concerns' for working people. Local Wobs sang labor solidarity songs, held signs and passed out information on May Day and a leaflet detailing Ritter's anti-labor record. It was also a great opportunity to inform the public that the Wobblies are back in town.

The demo drew local union activists and others involved in social justice work. Many people offered signs of support and encouragement, and a new member was signed up. Near the end of the rally FW Lenny Flank and FW Mike D'Amore met with a Ritter representative who seemed relieved to learn that we were not going to take over his office. Not this time anyway!

Press coverage was heavy. The local TV station featured the event on their nightly news show. Our IWW banner was clearly displayed and FW Flank gave the press some good sound bytes to chew on. The local print media gave credible accounts and more importantly pressured Ritter into making a statement, something he rarely does.

Ritter, a seven-term congressman, has consistently voted against bills important to the welfare of working people. He has voted against the Right to Know law, the

middle-income families to the wealthy.

When asked for a comment, Ritter resorted to the usual name calling he reserves for anyone who disagrees with him. He was quoted as saying, "These folks are misdirected, and they are a radical socialist fringe group." He also remarked, "Workers have a right and should be notified they're at risk to a substance in the workplace. But when it is appropriate. We have a moral obligation to alert employees, but at the same time we have an obligation not to scare the daylight out of people. Unfortunately, the Wobs were unable to ask faked Ritter just when the appropriate time is. Perhaps he would inform workers on their death beds.

FW Flank had this to say. "The IWW wants workers to have direct ownership and control of the workplace. Management doesn't do anything except set the standards that the workers must meet and earn money from the efforts of the workers. Ownership of capital should not be the basis for making those decisions. That small group of people are making decisions that effect everyone." Flank also reiterated the IWW view that those who participate in the workplace should have a larger say because of their experience in seeing how things operate.

In another newspaper, Wobbly songsters were front page news. The accompanying article quoted a passerby who



forced to admit that he would not vote for House Bill 5, the Permanent Replacement bill.

All in all it was a miserable day for Rep. Ritter and another empowering one for the growing Lehigh Valley IWW Group.

—X341104

Denver/Boulder, CO

This year about 1,500 people attended the April peace camp at the Nevada Test Site, including several members of the IWW. This year's demonstration was sponsored by American Peace Test, the Western Shoshone National Council, the National Association of Radiation Survivors, and the Alliance of Atomic Veterans. Simultaneous actions were planned in Japan, Tahiti, Great Britain, and Belgium.

My companions and I arrived at the camp on April 2 around 10 p.m., and were awakened at about 5:30 the next morning when the sunrise ceremony began. We were welcomed by Shoshone chief Raymond Yowell who explained how important Mother Earth is to the

Shoshone, and why they want to end nuclear testing. The circle broke up as campers lined up to be fed by Seeds of Peace and Food Not Bombs, where we were reminded to wash our hands to avoid contaminating our food (the area surrounding the test site, including the peace camp, is covered with radioactive fallout).

A bomb test scheduled for Wednesday had to be postponed due to unfavorable weather conditions. The weather determines where the fallout lands, and Las Vegas is not considered an acceptable target for fallout. The test was further delayed the next morning when early-rising peace campers blockaded the Mercury highway with their bodies. On Friday, a couple of hours before the sun went down, we marched toward the test site entrance and blocked the Mercury highway. A bus full of test site workers was stopped when several people lay down in front of it. Saturday morning we rallied near the test site entrance and proceeded to exercise our rights as guests of the Shoshone by walking into the test site. This resulted in hundreds of people being arrested.

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Ritter issued a statement saying the IWW was a radical fringe group looking for the abolition of the wage system. "I thought that the Wobblies went the way of the Edsel."

Comprehensive Childcare bill, the Minimum Wage Increase act, the Civil Rights act, and the Family and Medical Leave act. To top off his 'stellar' voting record, Ritter voted against a tax bill that shifts the burden of taxes away from lower- and

denounced Ritter for supporting scab labor. The passerby was one of 83 striking workers at International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation who lost his job when the company hired scab replacement workers. Again Ritter was

Letters Continued . . .

any power" with the concepts of social ownership and democratic control? This question also pertains to Principle 3, where self-management is defined, "in such a way that every region, factory, or branch of industry is an AUTONOMOUS member of the economic organism. . ." (emphasis mine). In other words, why can't the workers themselves determine democratically what kind of societal mechanisms they wish to enforce, once they consciously take hold of the engines of power? Why does it have to be predetermined that every unit is to be autonomous?

While it makes perfect sense for the IWW to declare itself free from the domination of any political party, it makes no sense to "reject all parliamentary activity." What if the Republicans sponsored a bill decriminalizing non-addictive drugs? Couldn't individual Wobs speak for it without betraying their "principles"? What if the Democrats came out in favor of a National Health Care system a la Canada? Couldn't Wobs say OK, so far as it goes?

I don't think we need to advocate workers' militias at the moment. It might come to that; but again, it's not inevitable and it's not even desirable to write these kinds of tactical considerations in stone before the situation demanding them arises. The same is true of the general strike. As a tactic it may be effective in circumstances to be encountered. But then, so could a general OCCUPATION of the means of production.

I never heard of the IWA until I read the April IW. The principles outlined in the IWW Preamble make sense to me. That's why I'm in the union. I would have a problem, though, if I were to have to subscribe to IWA principles.

Sincerely,
Mike Ballard

Dear IW,
Mike Kolhoff's comments about the Swedish Workers' Organization (SAC), in his article on the International Work-

ers' Association (IWA), and in his response to Jeff Ditz' letter, merely explains the position of the IWA in regard to the SAC.

I'm sure we could point to numerous unions that "control" collective bargaining in significant chunks of industries, and which have a revolutionary heritage that they still maintain in occasional rhetoric, but whose actual functioning is not too different in practice from AFL-CIO unions. Unions like the CGT in France or the Workers Commissions in Spain. Both claim to be "revolutionary" and are capable of occasional actions such as general strikes, which go beyond AFL-CIO practices, and at least hint at the revolutionary history of the working class in those countries.

But this rhetorical radicalism and occasional controlled militancy functions, in these unions, as part of the bureaucracy's repertoire for maintaining its control over the rank and file, and keeping action from breaking out of the bounds of what the bosses' system can live with. These radical unions see officials signing unpopular contracts, selling out the rank and file, stifling dissent. This happens because the function of the professional bureaucracy, as much in these "radical" unions as in the AFL-CIO, is to maintain the ongoing contractual relationship with the bosses, and advance workers' interests only in ways that accept the existing wage-slave system.

SAC's control in certain industries, and its revolutionary heritage (however genuine) isn't enough to show that the SAC is revolutionary in fact rather than merely in May Day rhetoric. Unions are to be judged revolutionary or not by what they do in practice, that is, by whether they advance the self-confidence, mobilization, and solidarity of the working class in actual challenge of the bosses' power, towards taking over the running of society.

None of the limitations of the unions I've referred to here, however, should undermine our solidarity with the actual workers who happen to belong to any of these unions, even if they currently use these unions as their vehicles of struggle

against the bosses. It's always good to keep in mind that the working class has the capacity to form new organizations to meet its changing needs. We can expect that lessons learned in struggle will motivate people to develop forms of organization more directly controlled by the rank and file.

There is one point that can easily be lost sight of in the debate about the SAC's participation in official collective bargaining and the Swedish government's labor regulatory process. Irrespective of how one assesses the merits or demerits of the SAC at the present time, the IWA has decided, and reaffirmed at various congresses, a policy of asking its affiliates to refrain from any alliances with the SAC. Even if Ditz and Bekken are correct in holding that this policy is misguided, it is nonetheless the policy of the IWA, democratically decided upon, and thus all IWA affiliates must abide by it until such time that it is changed. Hence, this does pose something of a dilemma for the IWW since it means that the IWW cannot both affiliate to the IWA and also continue any alliance with the SAC (*Editors' note: the IWW has no formal alliance with SAC, only informal, fraternal relations.*)

I'm sure we all would like to see the SAC be more of a center of opposition and militancy in Sweden in a renewal of its revolutionary heritage. I'm sure that Workers Solidarity Alliance (WSA), the U.S. affiliate of the IWA) members are not prejudiced against the SAC and are willing to look at the prospect of renewed international relationships with the SAC with an open mind. We do want to pursue a course of action that enhances international solidarity. However, solidarity with other sections of the IWA means that at present we cannot support alliances with the SAC.

The real basis of the problems between the SAC and the IWA is not just the criticisms of the SAC's domestic policies that Kolhoff referred to in his article and letter, but also complaints that various affiliates of the IWA have in regard to how the SAC has conducted its relations with organizations in other countries. Complaints about "playing favorites",

encouraging work with some IWA affiliates while shunning others, supporting internal factionalism in the movement in certain countries, and so on.

The fear exists among IWA affiliates that the SAC is trying to wean away certain sectors of the IWA, who the SAC deems more in line with their own "pragmatic" viewpoint, in order to form a rival (reformist) syndicalist international in the SAC's own image. For example, the latest issue of *Combat Syndicaliste* has a public statement by the French CNT (IWA's affiliate in France) rejecting overtures from the SAC. The CNTF article points out that when they have questioned the SAC as to whether they are trying to form a new syndicalist international, the response is that "conditions are not ripe for this at present," which leaves open the possibility that this may be the SAC's ultimate aim. Obviously no IWA affiliate can be party to any alliances that may be aiming at the breakup of the IWA.

Irrespective of any arguments that could be made as to what the SAC's intentions are, my point is that the IWA's policy in regard to the SAC is not likely to change until the SAC mends its fences with the various IWA affiliates. In the meantime, if WSA were to ignore the wishes of our sister affiliates of the IWA and sing the praises of the SAC or enter into alliances with the SAC (as some in the IWW would have us do), then we would be showing a lack of solidarity towards our sister affiliates of the IWA.

Tom Wetzel
Bay Area WSA

Editors' note: And thus concludes the debate about IWA affiliation, as well as the relative merits of SAC, in the pages of the IW. The editorial collective fears that further discussion of these topics in the letters section will be of diminishing interest to our general readership. IWW members who would like to continue these discussions are encouraged to submit their letters to the IWW's internal discussion bulletin, the GOB, c/o the GST in San Francisco.

Reclaiming our First Amendment Rights

Between January and February 1991 thousands of anti-war protestors were arrested for civil disobedience or "swept-up" on orders of newly elected San Francisco District Attorney, Arlo Smith. Darla Rucker of the Pledge of Resistance represents one of the two organizations responsible for retrieving our First Amendment rights. This "swept-up" fellow worker remains eternally grateful.

I.W.: Give me a nutshell history of the Pledge of Resistance.

D: People came together in August 1984 back east because they felt it was almost inevitable that Nicaragua was going to be invaded by the U.S. We, as a peace movement, needed to have a way to respond quickly—to be in the streets doing civil disobedience, and to use that to forewarn the Reagan administration that there was a large populace here in the United States that would respond to any attempt to invade Nicaragua. Soon there were 80,000 people who signed the pledge across the country. The largest Pledge is here in the Bay Area with 8,000 members.

About 4 years ago, the Pledge broadened its focus to talk about all of Central America, not just Nicaragua. People again signed the pledge. There are 300 locals across the country, so the Pledge is a large national organization.

Three years ago, we changed from being a network of Central American and peace and justice organizations to an organization that stands on its own—a grass roots organization with a grass roots board of organizers and people from across the country. In late June 1990 we broadened the Pledge to include U.S. military intervention anywhere in the world. In August the U.S. sent troops to the middle-East. That allowed us then to respond to this war as quickly as we did. We began demonstrations almost within days of the troops being sent in August.

I.W.: Was your organizing job against the Gulf War easier because you started gearing up in August 1990?

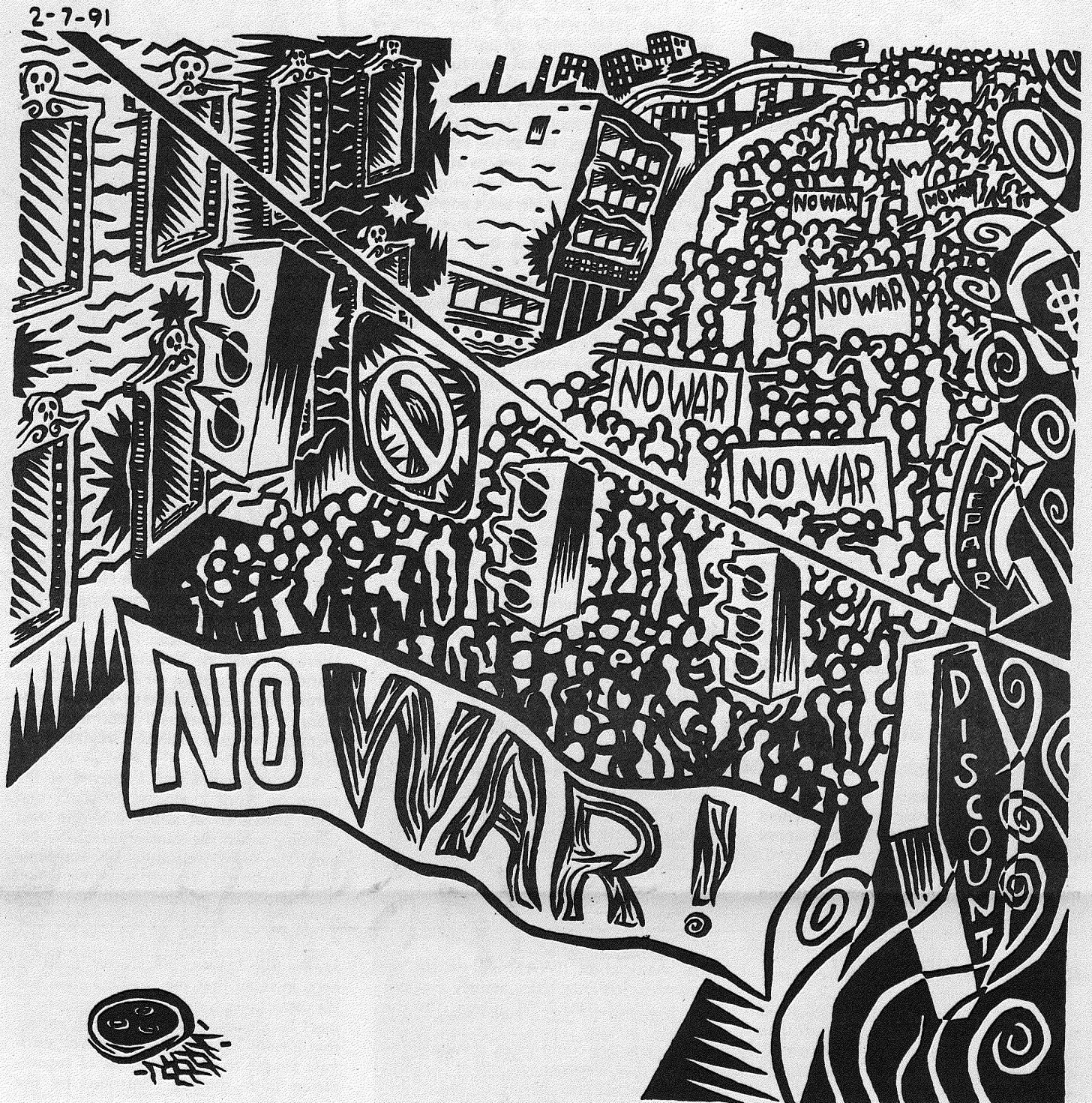
D: We hoped that negotiations and sanctions would work, but with 500,000 troops being sent we began in August planning for the inevitability of what was happening. We wrote up a pledge about the middle East which was quickly disseminated throughout the country, and began planning our emergency responses when war was actually declared or bombing began. When that happened on January 17, we already had an emergency response plan that people knew about. So they were ready to act.

The other thing that helped, was that for the past 7 years people had been educating themselves, talking about civil disobedience and its use in social change. Thus, we had a whole body of American citizens who felt that civil disobedience and direct action was the tool for social change. It was very easy to translate intervention in Central America to intervention in the middle East in most peoples' minds.

I.W.: Would you speak to the issue of all the non-violence training that the Pledge and other organizations have given over the years?

D: The Pledge has trained thousands of people across the country. That was one of the key educational tools that we used in the beginning and it's continued through the years. We had a real influx of people requesting non-violence training in August (1990), and we started again with large non-violence collective trainings. Every weekend, from then on, we had non-violence trainings getting people ready.

I.W.: Didn't many of the 2,300 arrestees "swept up" by the San Francisco police have their charges dropped in the 11th hour? Would you comment on the "loaner Lawyers"?



D: The amazing thing to me is not so much that the D.A. dropped the charges at the end. He didn't drop the charges until he was soundly defeated in the courts. Most of the people at the end were actually acquitted. They actually went to trial, presented evidence and were found not guilty. That's more amazing than the D.A. dropping charges—which is very typical of how they (the D.A.'s office) operate because they are very politically motivated.

I think that the "loaner" D.A.'s or the "vigilante D.A.'s" as we've been calling them is a pretty appalling situation in the sense that the City allowed that to happen. Basically the way that the D.A. system works is that (private) law firms volunteer their young inexperienced lawyers to the D.A.'s Office to gain trial experience. They go into a pool and are randomly assigned to prosecute cases. They don't pick and choose which cases they prosecute, but this time they did. They signed up specifically to prosecute the demonstrator cases. If that doesn't talk about their politics, I don't know what else does.

Basically, the D.A. is not supposed to take sides but to make sure that justice is served. They are not on the opposite side of the defense attorneys. They shouldn't have a political position, but obviously, these folks did. The wonderful thing about it was that they were not trained well enough to be doing what they were doing. It wasn't just that we had the law on our side, but that they were b-a-d. They didn't understand the principles of law. They didn't know how to question, they didn't know what they were doing in the courtroom.

On our side, we had the most amazing litigators that I've ever seen. I haven't seen these people operate in court before,

although I've known them in law school or as friends at demonstrations. I think that sometimes we think that if you're a professional and a progressive on the left, it means that you're not as good as, or not as hot-shot or capable (as private attorneys). That certainly was not true here. They made mincemeat out of the D.A.'s. They were that good, I was very impressed and felt very lucky.

I.W.: What about violence at these demonstrations?

D: One police car was torched, when someone picked up a flare from the ground and threw it through a window. It wasn't like someone ran over and set a police car on fire. Some windows were also broken, so I think you have to take it into context. It was very minimal considering that hundreds of thousands were in the streets.

I.W.: How can activists and non-activists alike overcome fears of arrest and learn to act in solidarity?

D: It's real important that people act. They are stronger against the state than they think that they're going to be because the state doesn't often push things to a maximum. If you even look at Susan Rodriguez, who acted on her own and did hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to the computer systems, she walked away with community service. I think that's an important way that we stand together and keeps us strong against state prosecution.

The only way that social change happens in this country is when the citizens rise up and stand together. We do that in this country with civil disobedience and direct action. If you go all the way back

to the founding of the country and look (eg. the dumping of the tea into the harbor, the women's movement, the workers' movements, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War)—what made the changes?

People being willing to risk, doing it together so the state could no longer function or continue operating as it did. That's what it's going to take. We need to learn from this: the state is very strong and it will operate very quickly. One of the mistakes we made was in thinking that the war was going to be long and protracted. We knew what was going to happen, but we thought that there would be a long ground war. They were able to send Iraq back to the Stone Age without a long and protracted war. Our challenge now is to learn how to respond stronger and more quickly against whatever it is that they will come up with next.

I.W.: What long-range lessons has the Pledge learned?

D: The most important thing is that I'm actually looking forward to the challenges in the next period rather than feeling defeated and overwhelmed. The one thing that I've recognized is that we have a whole new generation, not just chronological age, but experienced people who are all of a sudden waking up and realizing that things are terribly wrong. Our challenge is to learn how to help organize them and help them understand the connections and give them the ability to act.

We've also learned that we've been relying too much on the same core of people, albeit a large core, who respond quickly. Of all those arrested, about 60% had never before risked arrest. This was brand new to them. That's a whole new

The Liberation of Kuwait

by Michael Dunn

"Amman 1977, Damascus 1982, Kuwait City 1991." This graffiti was seen on walls in Kuwait back in early March. It refers to past slaughters of Palestinians and served as a gruesome omen of what lay ahead for those Palestinians who remained in Kuwait. Three months later and long after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, this 'prophecy' is being borne out with a vengeance. Approximately 50 Palestinians have been disappearing in Kuwait each day, to be killed or tortured by the Kuwaiti military. According to Amnesty International, abducted Palestinians are subjected to beatings with sticks, hoses, and metal pipes. They are also being bitten, kicked, burnt with cigarettes, electro-shocked, and splashed with acid.

These atrocities are occurring with the knowledge of U.S. military personnel. Journalist Robert Fisk, of the *London Independent*, has interviewed several U.S. officials there who say they knew that torture was occurring but that they just didn't have any hard proof. One torture survivor was even aware that a U.S. serviceman was in the building at the time he was being tortured. So, while he was being beaten he screamed as loud as he could in hopes of being heard by that G.I. Eventually the G.I. did come and took the man to the hospital.

There is still a significant U.S. military presence in Kuwait. They are patrolling the streets of Kuwait and assisting the Kuwaiti military in their attempts to bring order to that country. Why aren't they intervening and halting the torture? How is it that U.S. officials there can be "aware" that torture is occurring, yet do nothing to acquire the "hard proof" they supposedly need in order to stop it. And how could a U.S. serviceman have had access to a Kuwaiti torture room and not known that torture was occurring?

Answers to some of these questions may be found in a secret Pentagon document, apparently declassified by mistake, that was obtained by Dennis Bernstein of the Pacific News Service back in February. This document, compiled before the air war started, describes how the U.S. military would assume full control over Kuwaiti affairs for three months following its liberation and help impose martial law for up to a year. Furthermore, U.S. forces were to assist the government of Kuwait in the country's rehabilitation for up to five years or more. The document contains no information regarding expansion of freedom or democracy. Rather, planners assumed that after martial law was lifted, Kuwait would return to its pre-war political repression.

The report also equates Palestinians



remaining in Kuwait with Iraqis and states that terrorism is expected from both groups. Camps were to be constructed to sequester prisoners and "potential terrorists." And war crimes were to be prosecuted by Kuwaiti tribunals, made up of "civilian and government security personnel," with assistance from the allies. These tribunals have now begun. Those convicted of collaborating with the enemy face death and there are no appeals.

One of the most far-reaching structural changes described in the document has to

do with Kuwait's banking and business sectors. "Senior Kuwaiti officials intend to restructure the financial system," the report states. Implicit is the goal of placing the economy under tighter control of the ruling minority, to the detriment of the Palestinian population who, the report claims, "virtually controlled the banking system [prior to the war]."

Palestinians did make up a substantial portion of the pre-war expatriate Kuwaiti population. They also made up a large segment of the work force and were essential to the petroleum industry. The

present attack on Palestinians likely stems from a combination of xenophobia, racism, and an attempt to create a scapegoat for Kuwait's socioeconomic problems. Yet one of the results of the genocidal attack on Palestinians will be not only their repression, but also their displacement by "more acquiescent" workers such as Egyptians, Bangladeshis, and Filipinos. Thus, the repression clearly has a class component, as well. It is an attack on workers, in general, as it serves to strengthen management's control over workers.

level of people who are beginning to have an understanding of not only civil disobedience, but staying solid during our court process and becoming part of a progressive community that challenges the state. That gives us a whole new opportunity to organize that new second layer of people.

The Pledge has learned there is a need for leadership development. We sometimes don't slow down long enough to bring people through the ranks, teach them how to organize so that we can have replacements. We as community organizers can provide that leadership development.

I.W.: How many were arrested here (in the Bay Area) versus nationally?

D: The Nuclear Resister reports approximately 6,000 arrests across the country from August 1990 through late February 1991. Of those, 2,300 were here in the Bay Area. Fifteen hundred of those were prosecuted by the state; of the 600 federal arrests here, 400 were dropped. We have about 100 federal cases coming to trial beginning May 30th.

I.W.: I thought all the trials were over. Who are those defendants?

D: They were arrested February 18 at the Presidio Army Base when The Pledge

and the Bay Area Religious Peace Action organized a demonstration. They are being charged with (federal) trespass. In fact right out of William McGivern's (federal prosecutor) mouth into my ear were words to the effect that he was not going to prosecute. Just a couple of days ago, people began getting notices in the mail, for a trial date of May 30. Now we're gearing up to deal with those federal misdemeanor charges. They're looking at the possibility of 6 months or a \$500 fine.

Contribute to the I.W.

The *Industrial Worker* is a collective effort. That means not only the collective members in San Francisco, but *you* too. We need your contributions—articles, opinion pieces, and, especially, photos, cartoons, illustrations and other graphics.

Send your contributions to: Industrial Worker Collective, 1095 Market Street #204, San Francisco, CA 94103. Or give us a call at (415) 863-WOBS.

Malika in the City

(Translated here from the French by Clifton Ross, this poem first appeared in *Le Combat Syndicaliste*, March, 1991.)

Where are you going, little girl?
No one can go out.
Come back. The smart bombs
will soon stun us deaf.

Napalm was yesterday:
Remember the burning school.
You still look defiant.
Come back. This isn't a game.

You run through ruins
and make me run, too.
Keep away from the factory!
The siren has blown.

Who are you, little girl?
Was your father a soldier?
What's your family name?
Is someone waiting for you over there?

I shout in vain:
After the alarm
the aerial roar
of the Angel of Democracy.

With its quick wing
it rips our world,
inexorable as a robot
or bird of prey.

Come back, my little stranger
I don't know,
the Angel opens its hatches
and vomits its trespasses.

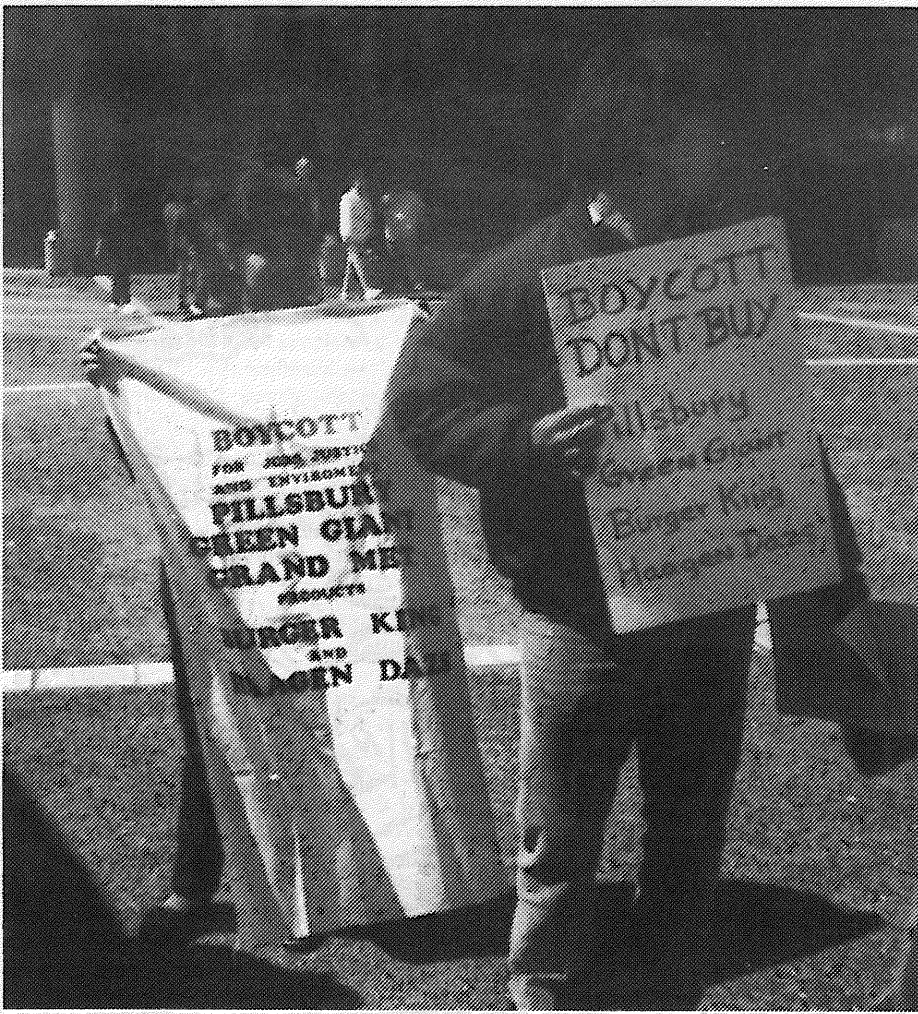
In the smoke and clamor
and flying rubble
I seem to make you out
moving along the school wall.

Little Leila
who used to play with you,
died yesterday—instantly—
burned alive by the Law.

Go along. Run little girl.
I return to the world
of bombing and strafing
and leave you to your patrol.
If you find
a shiny magic toy
don't touch it: Run.
It's a chemical bomb.

Run along. Follow the course of the
River.
Follow the course of your childhood.
Make us the new Earth
where people laugh and dance.

Moustapha Al-Mansour, damned of
the earth.
February 25, 1991, Paris



Boycott Levi's (continued from page 1)

Noticeably absent from Levi's "freedom imagery" are the thousands of Latinas formerly or currently employed by the company. These are the people marching in protest against unfair treatment. While Levi's is busy strategizing about the international economy, former Levi's workers are thinking about local issues. Among the demands for retribution are a Levi-financed feasibility study on the future of the garment industry in Texas and the social impact of plant closings on local communities.

The Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union is the trade union that represents the two other San Antonio Levi's plants. An ACTWU spokesperson reacted harshly to Levi's decision to close the plant. "There's no way San Antonio is going to have jobs for those people," said Louisa Hernandez, an ACTWU official. No statements were issued by ACTWU regarding FUERZA UNIDA's demands, nor was any reference made concerning organizing efforts that might have been launched on the plant prior to closure.

Working people need to include their views in Levi's "idea-exchange." Respond to Levi's offenses: Don't buy Levi's prod-

ucts! Let the jean giant know how you feel about products made by exploited workers and marketed as the "universal symbol of freedom." If anyone can be said to "endow" a product, it's those that make it. Clearly the values of Levi's workers are vastly different than those of the corporation.

The situation for Levi's workers (both past and present) is yet another example of the unjust "global economy" where bosses control the fate of society by pitting one nation of workers against another—all ending in higher corporate profits. The working class must respond with its own international strategy—fight the business union "turf war" mentality—and join together. Let's add "Global Labor Movement" to Levi's list of "increasing global competitive pressures."

Fuerza Unida has called for a boycott of all Levi's products, and asks that those who already own Levi's products mail labels to the corporate headquarters with a statement: Levi Strauss & Co., Attn: Bob Haas, 1155 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

Around the Union (continued from page 3)

I returned home to discover that the KKK was planning to rally at the state Capitol. The governor, mayor, and community "leaders" had asked people to ignore the rally. The local gangs, the Crips and the Bloods, promised to attend. Saturday morning, the white supremacists held a press conference on the Capitol steps. Across the street a coalition of anti-fascists held their press conference. I crossed the street to hear what a Nazi was saying to the media. I found his statements to be stupid and annoying, so I rejoined the demonstrators. The Denver police used cars, motorcycles, horses, and dogs to protect the KKK rally. About 500 people had joined the anti-Klan rally when about sixty racists began to march from the Capitol. I resisted the impulse to join the mob of about 200 that managed to surround the marchers and their protective police escort. The mob followed the marchers as they returned to the Capitol steps to continue their rally. I could see a Nazi flag flying in front of the Capitol, but the demonstrators made too much noise for me to hear the racists' speeches.

After the rally I watched as four Nazis tried to leave. Their police escort didn't prevent the crowd from showering the Nazis with insults and spit, but they did order the spectators to get off the Nazis' car so they could leave. Several people were maced for attacking the Nazi car as it drove away. I later heard that a woman had been struck by the car as it sped from the Capitol. The entire crowd of about 500 followed the remaining racists to the bus depot and trapped them inside. They shut down the street, and apparently some members of the crowd began to

throw things. An ambulance went to the aid of a cop who was knocked out when he got hit in the head. Meanwhile the racists were put on a bus and driven away.

A few days later, someone recognized one of the rally organizers working in a supermarket deli. She complained to the managers about the Nazi, and he was fired. The UFCW has a contract at the supermarket, so the Nazi sought union assistance to regain his job. His business agent (who is Black) and the Secretary-Treasurer (who is Jewish) will try to help him, but he was a new employee (still on probation) so his chances don't look good.

On May 2, I attended a town meeting on plutonium operations at Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. The meeting was sponsored by local peace and environmental groups. I arrived about 15 minutes late and ended up standing in the back with plant employees. Many people in favor of restarting plutonium operations were loudly heckling the opposition speakers. Those in favor of restarting plutonium operations (largely plant workers and their families) argued that the plant is safe, necessary, and benefits the local economy. Furthermore, some of them claimed the plant helped to win the war against Iraq, and that those who opposed further operations were "communists and terrorists." Those opposed to the restart argued that the plant is unsafe for community members and workers alike, and supported this with statements made by Dept. of Energy officials after the FBI raided the plant in 1989.

—Brendan Ruiz



B.F.I. Strike

In an amazing show of strength and solidarity, the Ottawa workers of Brown-ing Ferris Industries (B.F.I.), a Houston, Texas-based waste management firm, were able to defeat an attempt at destroying their union. These workers are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (C.U.P.E.) local 1932.

B.F.I. has a long history of labor, health code, and environmental violations and is quite experienced at union busting. This is the same B.F.I. which recently opened a garbage museum in Houston, where people are expected to pay a dollar to view refuse.

A week before the strike began, (strike from March 2, 1991 to April 10), B.F.I. brought in scabs to ride on the waste collection trucks to learn the routes. Professional strike breakers were flown in from as far away as Halifax, Nova Scotia (Halifax suffers from chronic economic depression). The scabs had their flights to and from Ottawa paid for, and after every three weeks they were flown home and returned to Ottawa at B.F.I.'s expense. The scabs received danger pay, had their hotel rooms and meals paid for, and were paid one thousand dollars a week on top of this. Each truck carried a driver and assistant whether necessary or not, and a Bradson Security vehicle

followed each truck every day of the strike. Each pair of vehicles on a route carried a video camera and portable radios. At least three scabs deliberately drove at strikers, and management may have felt these expenses were worth it to smash the union, but B.F.I. obviously didn't predict the support the strikers would get.

Flying pickets took place throughout the strike, including one at Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's residence, and one at the Governor General's residence.

On at least one occasion, a chain came loose on a dumpster bin and the back of the truck fell open. In a different instance, a bin was chained to an expensive fence which was then destroyed when the scabs inserted the lift forks and raised the bin over the truck cab. Anti-scab messages were repeatedly painted on B.F.I. dumpsters and the scabs themselves damaged several trucks through inexperience (hitting walls in tight alleys, etc.). B.F.I. tried to blame the strikers.

During the day, striking workers visited customers to explain the strike and to ask for support. Another unionized waste management firm, laidlaw Inc., picked up at least three contracts and at least one of these was for thirty bins.

Laidlaw's workers themselves showed



their support when fifty of them showed up at a pro-union rally at the B.F.I. yard to join the B.F.I. strikers at the 4:30 a.m. protest.

In the end, the workers were victorious on several fronts. B.F.I. failed to smash the union, and put itself out a great deal of money (estimates of the cost to B.F.I. from this strike range over one hundred thousand dollars). Instead of giving con-

cessions, the workers demanded and received increases in most aspects of their collective agreement, despite Ontario being in the midst of a recession.

Hopefully, this costly lesson to B.F.I. will serve as an incentive to other workers to fight without compromise for a decent living in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

—Dan Roy

Greyhound Losing Control

Americruiser Terror!

Seats 43, Carries 60, 70 and more!

April 7, USA - Travelling through the hurland of exotic Amurka recently, I witnessed firsthand proof that scab labor just can't get a job done like union organized workers. I didn't want to ride the anti-labor bus, but like so many travellers in Amurka, I had no choice unless I wanted to hitch-hike or steal a car.

The only thing that anyone at Greyhound seems to know for sure is that there are some buses out there going somewhere.

My bus was late. The driver said, "You stay on this coach to Detroit." But at Cincinnati they changed their minds. Then, there weren't enough seats on the transfer bus. "Another bus in two hours," I was told. Five hours. Not enough seats on that bus either. The aisle was packed with standees. More got on at Dayton. Women with babies in arms, swaying in the aisle, sitting on the floor all the way to Detroit, stopping at every middlestead village and farm just in case somebody else wanted to squash in amid the foul air of unchanged diapers and unwashed refugees from hell. Nobody could reach the toilet.

On the way, the hostages shared trauma tales. Express buses being suddenly diverted, leaving passengers stranded in-

definitely. A night run from Galveston to Tulsa: on the way, the headlights and generator went out. The eyeless monster stopped three times by police at speeds in excess of 75 mph, 'Just followin' the white line,' explained the driver and no tickets were issued. Dallas, a complement of would-be-travellers waiting two hours—the bus was there, but no driver. They finally located one who had just come off eight hours behind the wheel with a one-hour break. Tulsa, another three hour search for a somebody with a driver's license. You had luggage? forget luggage, it's out there somewhere.

During my tour, I noticed that ten-foot barbed wire fences surround many Greyhound bus stations, where hasty white-washes couldn't hide the graffiti. And police everywhere—in Cleveland you had to stop and check with a security guard just to get into the station. There was a court order posted there that read like a direct action manual. It listed all the things that A.T.U. members mustn't do, like throwing milk and eggs, bending rear view mirrors, and "spitting on or attempting to spit on" managers.

It was clear that since Greyhound chose to leave the driving to scabs, service had deteriorated into chaos.

—MV

Shorts (continued from page 8)

Police Attack May Day March in Berlin

The first May Day celebration held in a united Germany in six decades was marred by police attacks. Police fired tear gas at militants who threw rocks firecrackers and firebombs during a march that drew about 8,000 people in eastern Berlin. The violence moved to western Berlin's Krueberg section. Some 130 people were arrested; 14 police were reported injured. The last May Day celebration in a united Germany was in 1932, before the Nazis smashed the leftist labor movement.

In Latin America, tens of thousands of workers joined anti-government protests in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Montana State Employees Strike

On April 25, 5000 Montana state employees, including road crew workers, prison guards, clerical employees, Highway Patrol officers, and attendants at the state home for the mentally retarded and the state mental hospital started a six day strike for better wages. Starting pay for state workers ranged from \$13,785 for a secretary to \$29,000 for a lawyer. The failure of the Montana legislature to override the governor's veto of a \$.60 an hour pay hike precipitated the walkout. The workers ended their strike when a compromise pay bill was signed by the governor. In their time dishonored role as strike breakers, the Montana national guard scabbed at the prisons and mental hospital.

A Report from our Wandering Correspondent

Eggciting Times for Workers and Bosses in the "New" Germany

Despite the accolades about "privatization" and "market economy" bringing the heavenly kingdom to the new Eastern Europe, apparently its workers aren't quite so easily persuaded.

In fact, when Premier Helmut Koll, capitalism's top political spear carrier in Germany, addressed an audience of East German workers at a plant meeting in Halle recently, his path wasn't exactly strewn with roses. Instead, he was splattered by a barrage of rotten eggs, courtesy of his unappreciative audience.

Really, what Helmut had to say to them was to work hard and to expect mass unemployment soon. But not to fear—prosperity is around the corner (some day) if you ungrateful bozos would just practice the work ethic.

Helmut revealed his short fuse over the egg on his face and tried to physically charge at his tormentors, only to be held back by his own cops. We must admit that Helmut is a militant battler for his own class. Or maybe he was simply pissed because his nice hand-made suit had been ruined just as he'd gotten it back from the cleaners.

—Harry Siitonen

IWW Preamble

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Join the IWW

No Bureaucrats—Aside from the modestly paid General Secretary-Treasurer and the office worker who staff our General Administration, the IWW has no paid officers. The General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership, and its job is to oversee the running of union affairs, not to set policy. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum.

Real Democracy—All policy decisions are made by the members themselves by referendum. All branches maintain full autonomy on matters within their jurisdiction. Job branches (IWW groups composed of workers at a single job-site) set their own demands and strategies in negotiations, free of meddling internationals or sell-out business agents.

Low Dues—Our dues are structured on a sliding scale basis. Unemployed and low-income workers pay \$3 a month; those making between \$800 and \$1,700 per month pay \$9; and members making more than \$1,700 per month pay \$12 monthly dues. Initiation fees equal one month's dues, so a low-income worker can join for as little as \$6.

To Join—Fill out the questions below and mail this form with your check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

- I affirm that I am a common worker without direct power to hire and fire.
 I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
 I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Initiation \$ _____ Dues \$ _____

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IWW Literature

Available from Chicago

1476 W. Irving Park, Chicago, IL 60613

IWW Songs of the Workers: To Fan the Flames of Discontent (Little Red Song Book). \$5.00.

The IWW: Its First Seventy Years: 1905-1975, by Fred Thompson & Patrick Murfin. \$9.00 paper, \$15 hardbound.

The General Strike, by Ralph Chaplin. \$3.00.

The One Big Union. \$2.00.

Unions and Racism, by Shelby Shapiro. \$2.00.

The Yale Strike of 1984-1985, by Gilpin, et al. \$6.00.

Memoirs of a Wobbly: On the Road for the Revolution, by Henry McGuckin. \$6.00.

Roll the Union On: Pictorial History of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, by H.L. Mitchell. \$8.00.

By American! (Labor Cartoons), by Gary Huck and Mike Konopaki. 150 cartoons. \$8.00.

Labor Law for the Rank and Filer, by Staughton Lynd. \$3.00.

Labor Law Handbook, by Michael Yates. \$8.00.

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Shorts

Canadian Truckers Blockade Border

On April 22, Canadian truck drivers shut down several U.S. border crossings to commercial traffic to protest tax, fuel and insurance costs that favor their US competitors. The parked trucks stretched bumper-to-bumper for nearly a mile at a bridge between Windsor and Detroit. More than 50 truckers parked their rigs at the Canadian end of a bridge linking Ft. Erie, Ontario, to Buffalo, NY. Police broke up the action, or rather, the lack of it. Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp officials said thousands of autoworkers on both side of the border were idled because of parts shortages stemming from the protest.

The embattled truckers are among the majority of Canadians who oppose the so called North American free-trade deal involving Canada, the US and Mexico. Canadians are also having unprecedented doubts about the original US-Canada Free Trade Agreement, now in its third year of a 10-year phased implementation period. "We don't want to be dragged down to the lowest common denominator sort of market," said Shirley Carr, president of the 2.2 million worker Canadian Labor Congress.

Illinois Shows Most Wealth-Shift to Wealthiest

Across the US in the '80s, the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. Recent figures show the upward shift in wealth was worse in Illinois than in other parts of the US.

In 1980, of 195, 826 Illinois tax returns, or 4.2% of the total, reported more than \$50,000 in adjusted gross income. These filers claimed 19% of the state's total income. By 1989, the number of files reporting more than \$100,000 in annual adjusted gross income—the equivalent of \$65,750 in 1980—was 169,670, or 3.4% of all taxpayers in the state. Yet this small crowd took home 29.9% of the state's total income. Illinois in general lost unionized manufacturing jobs and Chicago in particular gained a number of high paying real estate, law and investment banking jobs. Robert McIntyre of the Citizens for Tax Justice suggests that most of the increased concentration of wealth was due to tax changes and investment income.

On the other end of the scale, in 1980, 35% of Illinois tax returns reported less than \$10,000 a year in adjusted gross income. These filers earned 8.6% of all reported income in the state. By 1989, the size of the crowd earning less than \$15,000 a year (which in inflation-adjusted dollars would be equal to \$9,863 in 1980) had grown to 37.2% of all filers. While this group's size had grown, its share of all reported income had shrunk to 7.5%.

Looking at the increasing income inequality, one might predict that Illinois is a hotbed of radical protest. The protest will surely come.

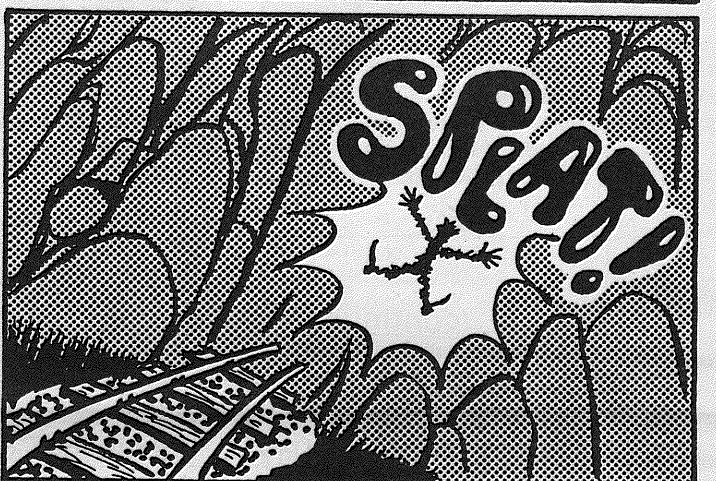
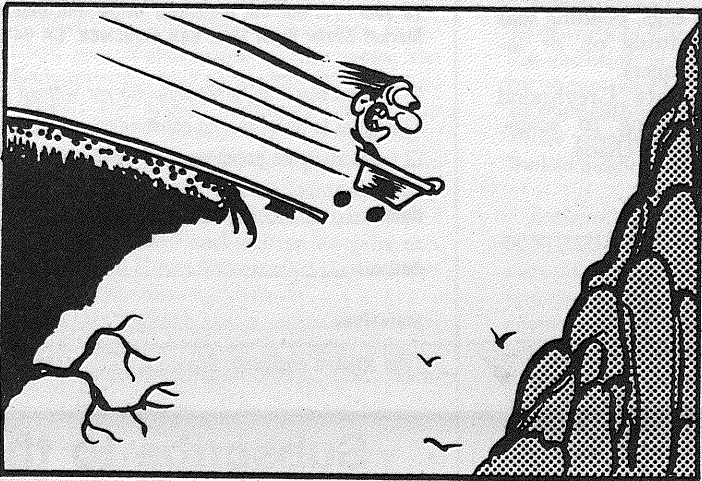
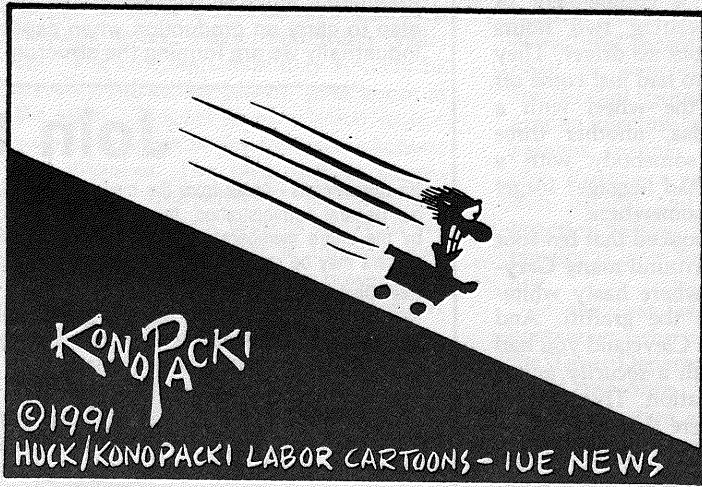
Race Still Job Issue

Despite nearly three decades of civil rights laws prohibiting racial discrimination in the workplace, the race of job applicants remains an "important" factor in hiring decisions of Chicago area employers. University of Chicago researchers interviewed 185 Chicago area companies and found that all the traditional prejudices were alive in employers' minds. Nor had they any hesitation in voicing them for recorders.

The mid-April study reported one Chicago restaurateur as saying, "I have all-white waitresses for a very basic reason. My clientele is 95% white. I simply wouldn't last if I had some black waitress out there." Another employer remarked, "If I had one [black worker] back there, it might be OK, but if I had two or more I would have trouble." A third opined, "They can't read. They can't write. They can hardly talk..."

In Illinois, the 1989 white unemployment rate was 3.8% and the black rate was 17.5%. In Chicago, where 76% of the metropolitan region's blacks live, the African-American unemployment rate was 18.%. Besides employer prejudice, Chicago area blacks face another problems in job hunting. Sixty percent of the new jobs in the Chicago area were in the northwest and far west suburbs. Public transportation is limited and car ownership is

BUSH'S FREE-TRADE FAST TRACK



expensive. Affordable housing often is not available for low income workers of any race in the wealthier suburbs. In other suburbs, racial discrimination, often blatant, precludes selling to blacks.

High Court Aids Hospital Unions

Washington, 4/24—In a rare victory for labor, the US Supreme Court rejected arguments by the American Hospital Association that the National Labor Relations Board had exceeded its authority in allowing hospital workers to form up to eight separate bargaining units.

The legal dispute centers on a rule the NLRB adopted in 1989 for acute-care hospitals. Rather than being grouped as professionals, non-professional and guards, the NLRB said hospital workers could form separate units for registered nurses, physicians, other professional employees, medical technicians, skilled maintenance employees, clerical workers, guards and other nonprofessional workers. Arguing over collective bargaining units is an old trick of employers who want to delay union recognition as long as possible in hopes of eroding the union majority.

Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees called the ruling a "great victory" for 3 million health-care workers at private hospitals because efforts to unionize them have been "thwarted by a hospital industry determined to block unionization at all costs."

AFSCME estimated that 780,000 of 1.7 million registered nurses and more than 139,000 of 443,000 licensed practical nurses, work for private hospitals covered by the labor board rule. The rule does not apply to public or non-profit hospitals, or nursing homes. In only 20 states is collective bargaining legally recognized among state health-care workers.

Paraguay Farmers Fight Oppression

Los Cedrales, Paraguay 3/1/91 —Two years ago a coup ended the 35-year rule of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner. The overnight collapse of Latin America's longest

-running government unleashed pent-up social demands in a country where the majority of the 4 million inhabitants still live in the countryside. With 78% of farm and ranch land in the hands of 41 foreign companies and several hundred Paraguayans, about 12,000 peasant families started to organize, occupying land.

After a period of indecision and negotiations, the new government of President Andres Rodriguez, another former general, is repressing the farmers with tactics that differ little from Stroessner's. To enforce eviction orders, rural police have burned squatter's home, beaten peasants, and stolen their property, from machetes to motorcycles, Americas Watch said. The human rights group pointed out that in the last two years of the Stroessner government, police held 167 peasants without charge or trial. Since Rodriguez was elected in May 1989, police have detained 800.

But the occupations will continue, for all that the government demands is that property rights be respected to encourage foreign and domestic investment in agriculture, Paraguay's economic mainstay. "I don't think that private property that is unjustly distributed is sacred," says Cesar Galeano, a leader of 362 families who in February occupied a German company's land in eastern Paraguay.

Anti-Government Protests in Korea

On April 26, South Korean riot police beat a student, Kang Kyung Dae, to death. Tens of thousands of students demonstrated in protest in scores of rallies across the country, demanding the ouster of President Roh Tae Woo and his Cabinet. April 30, riot police fired repeated volleys of tear gas at a Seoul university to block about 30,000 students from marching. On May 5, Roh dismissed the minister of the interior in an unsuccessful bid to setm the demonstrations and five riot police were charged with homicide. Three students set fire to themselves to protest Kang's death; two died.

On May 7, South Korean riot police battled 1500 anti-government protesters for 9 hours to gain control of a morgue

where the dissidents had been guarding the body of a labor leader, Park Chang Soo, who died while in police detention. The protesters who were also demanding Roh's resignation and the release of 1300 political prisoners, were finally routed with tear gas. The police then smashed the rear wall of the morgue with sledgehammers and removed Park's body for what they said was an official autopsy. Park's mother was inside the morgue; she was dragged from the building by police after their third assault succeeded.

Fellow unionists said Park, who had been arrested in February for promoting solidarity strikes and was being held for trial, may have been murdered. They feared the police wanted to seize his body to destroy evidence. The police claimed Park jumped to his death from a prison hospital window May 6th to protest Kang's death. Park's family is demanding an independent investigation.

Park's death touched off some of the most violent protests in years in South Korea. At least eight protesters were injured at the morgue, and more than 200 arrested. About 1000 workers at the factory where Park had been a union steward stopped work and had a rally to demand a full investigation into his death.

On May 8, Kim Ki-Sul, a member of the national dissident alliance, Chonminnyon, set himself on fire and jumped to his death from a university building to protest Kang's death.

By May 10, a million people were said to have boycotted classes or walked off their jobs. Seoul's city center was brought to a standstill by fighting between students armed with fire-bombs and stones, and riot police with tear gas. Since the start of the protests, five students, two from the southern opposition stronghold of Kwangju, had set fire to themselves to protest the government; three died. On May 11, the media was reporting increasing anti-government demonstrations.