



# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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## WOBBLIES ON THE FRONT LINE 60+ Arrested - Nonstop Direct Action Community Battles Insane Corporation

**Loggers Fell Protected Redwood; Guards Menace Tree-sitter; L-P's Logging of Enchanted Meadow Forests Continues**

Louisiana-Pacific loggers this morning cut down a large redwood tree that had been protected until last night by the presence of Earth First! tree-sitter Gray Cloud, who kept a treetop vigil for the past week on a small platform 75 ft. above the ground. Two other tree-sitters remain in place, now in their eighth day in lofty perches in active logging zones. They are part of an ongoing 18-day old effort to stop Louisiana-Pacific (L-P) from logging the forests bordering the Enchanted Meadow wetlands of the Albion River estuary.

Pinkerton security guards hired by L-P succeeded last night in grabbing a supply rope attached to the platform of the 18-year old woman tree-sitter known as Little Tree. Witnesses said the guards taunted her and tugged on the rope, jostling the small platform and making her fear falling to her death. Officials said this morning they will keep a 24-hour guard and deny her resupply of food and water to try to force her to give up her position. Through radio contact with support bases, she has taken part in radio talk shows and granted interviews to reporters. She can be clearly seen without trespassing from the Albion River, just south of the town of Mendocino.

The last 18 days of protest have seen over 50 arrests, daily interferences with logging operations, a children's blockade, an automobile blockade of a logging road, and rallies with up to 200 people attending. All agree this is a community uprising against Louisiana Pacific, which locals often call "Sleaziana Pacific," a company known for milling its redwoods in Mexico and for "logging to infinity," a description of their logging practices offered by L-P's own President, Harry Merlo. Pinkerton guards have been called in to supplement local law enforcement,

who are finding their budget drained by the ongoing rebellion.

L-P was also in the news not long ago when a whistleblower leaked scandalous internal memos which revealed that their top foresters and consultants agreed with environmentalists' assessments of their logging practices. Said consultant and former head of the Dept. of Forestry, Jerry Partain, "The environmental activists...are correct when they say your present harvest rate cannot be continued for long . . . ." Their chief forester, Robert Morris, said "The hopes, dreams, and inspirational motivation of hundreds of dedicated employees have been shattered as a once financially sound, resource-rich division failed to capitalize on its potential. The decimation of the Western Division occurred due to a loss of vision . . . ."



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## L-P Smashes Albion River Redwoods Cops, Thugs, & Lawyers

**Goliath Sues David! Louisiana-Pacific Breaks Off Logging Negotiations--Sues Forest Activists**

Ukiah - - Louisiana-Pacific (L-P) Corporation will be in court in Ukiah today seeking restraining orders against 100 John and Jane Does, 15 forest activists and three environmental groups, in a desperate attempt to stymie protests that are now in their fourth week. Some of the activists view the legal action as a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit, a form of legal terrorism used by powerful monied interests to try to squelch citizens' exercise of their constitutional freedoms.

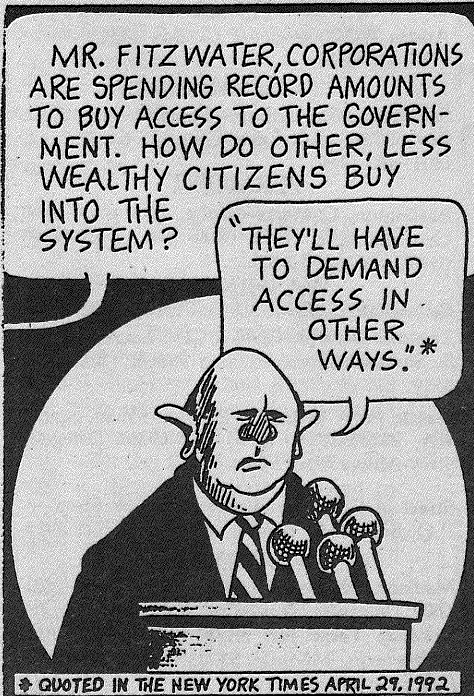
L-P announced in a press release

yesterday that it had terminated negotiations with Friends of Enchanted Meadow over logging of the forest bordering the Enchanted Meadow, a wetland area on the banks of the Albion River tidal estuary. The controversial logging has been the subject of three years of lawsuits, a stop order issued by the California Department of Forestry, and 21 days of continuous non-violent protests that began when logging started April 24.

The L-P suit alleges "substantial financial damage . . . because of: a) the significant delay in harvest operations associated with Defendants' trespass activities; b) the need to obtain extra security . . . ." according to the text of the suit, which was filed yesterday. The suit continues to say that "Defendants . . . engaged in activities including trespassing, tree sitting, hiding in the woods, verbal harassment and confrontation, and placing themselves in the path of trees to be fallen with the intent of preventing Plaintiffs from undertaking timber operations . . . ."

Responded Darryl Cherney, a spokesperson for Earth First!, "It's hard to believe that L-P, the multi-billion-dollar Darth Vader of logging companies, could suffer 'substantial financial damage' from the actions of a hundred or so neighbors of the logging area and a dozen Earth First! eco-paramedics. These suits will not stop our campaign to save the forests surrounding the Enchanted Meadow."

Earlier this week at least 11 people were arrested for blockading roads and for interfering with logging operations. There have been over 60 arrests to date. Presently, two Earth First! activists are perched high up in redwood trees slated for slaughter. One tree-sitter, Emerald, is now in his twelfth day camped on a small platform 75 ft. high in an old redwood. The other sitter, a young Native American called Coyote, is the sixth in this continuous resistance action. He occupies a position where he can be clearly seen without trespassing from the Albion River. The tree-sitters have given interviews and taken part in radio talk shows by way of CB radio-telephone link-ups.



### L.A. explodes in anger

News snippets including: "Nine killed; fires, looting sweep city", "Windows smashed in 34 squads here in wake of verdict", "Protests of verdict span the nation", "Flames of Anguish and Rage".

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# Letters

## Joe Hill Seen Organizing Oregon!

Dear Fellow Workers,

Barbara Bush visited Portland recently to raise money for her husband's campaign fund. The Republican Party held a \$1000-a-plate dinner to honor her visit. In response, between 200 and 300 protestors took to the streets resulting in 14 arrests.

One young man chose to use the name "Joe Hill" while being arrested. This confused local and Federal law enforcement agents. Even after giving his real name, he was heavily interrogated as to his identity. At one point a conversation was overheard between 2 officers concerning "Joe Hill."

It was stated that "Joe Hill" was an infamous organizer in this area who gets people together for demos and never comes himself. Definitely strong believers in Life after Death. --Buster.

Happy May Day!

Well, I guess it's not too happy if you caught the latest news on Los Angeles. Frightening. I have a hard time believing those cops were found "not guilty." Maybe if they had pleaded insanity! I wasn't even thinking of the race element. I assumed, from the moment I saw the footage of the beating, that justice would be done because I didn't believe there was any way the cops could justify their drastic action. I was wrong. As soon as I heard the verdict, I thought, that won't be the end of that, but I didn't expect what came out of it. Only then it dawned on me just how deep the racial problems go. I don't know that I can say this one incident occurred because of racism for sure but it doesn't matter because it is obvious that L.A., amongst other places, has an immense racial problem.

It's really sad that people on the other sides are under the impression that all us underdogs are just doing a bunch of unprovoked whimpering and whining, or in the case of L.A., violent action. I guess like women, blacks have a struggle on their hands, and dealing with it seems to take them one step forward, two steps back. -Deb R, Halifax

## North America's Only Radical Labor Newsmagazine INDUSTRIAL WORKER



IW Coordinators June 92: Mynor Variante, Devon Griffiths, Bart Williams, Nadia Bliss

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Dear Fellow Workers,

It is a privilege to have joined your revolutionary union. This morning marked the murder of Robert Alton Harris by the State. The genocidal institutions of government (ANY government) make the death penalty hypocritical at best. The unconscionable barbarity and mindless powerlust of statists is revealed by the heinous crime against humanity which the Hitlerian gas chamber or any other form of murderous execution, represents.

The IWW offers the hope that ALL ruling classes (bourgeois or otherwise) can be brought down nonviolently through the economic power of the working class. This is why I have joined. I look forward to reading Industrial Worker monthly as we continue to unravel statism everywhere forever!

In Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalist Solidarity,

Howard Olson, Pittsburg CA.

Dear Fellow Workers,

I am proposing a more widespread project for the use of computers to communicate the revolutionary working class program.

I'm an electrical engineer who has been designing, installing, programming, operating and repairing computers for 15 years. I am not a member of any political or economic organization. I agree fundamentally with the Marxian interpretations of economics, historical materialism, and the class struggle, and I agree with the industrial union program for bringing the means of production under collective ownership.

It will be interesting to see how political and social causes use networking in the near future. A computer link called Peacenet is being used to coordinate peace activities. Some environmentalists have formed a computer link called EcoNet. When glasnost came to the then-Soviet Union, a network called Glasnet was established to achieve, among other things, the ability of Russian environmentalists to connect to Econet in California.

I am gradually accumulating a mailing list of people who would like to receive an electronic newsletter about the revolutionary working class cause. If you have an E-mail address you may notify me to have your name added to the list. Any E-mail you send me will be interpreted as a personal note, and kept absolutely confidential, unless you specifically state that you intend it to be reproduced in the newsletter.

Within a few weeks, we hope to be starting a new Bulletin Board topic on the GENIE system, on the Industrial Union program. This will be in GENIE's "Public Forum" area, where social and political issues are debated.

In some countries, an individual can subscribe to and use GENIE simply by entering a telephone number. These countries are:

Austria, USA, Japan, Canada, Germany & Switzerland.

In many other countries, individuals who want to use GENIE must first be subscribers of something called a Public Data Network: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore,

South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey.

I can explain to anyone interested how to start using GENIE. I have written a detailed description of the procedure, and I'll send this document to anyone who has indicated an interest. Then once you get online, we'll be in instantaneous contact, and I can answer your additional questions with ease. I'll try to help you resolve any technical problems.

Do you have any progressive-minded friends who have computers? Please make copies of this letter for them.

If you have a home computer with modem, let's make arrangements for you to start networking. If you don't have a computer, you can still help out by spreading the word about this project, or brainstorming with us, to come up with creative new ideas. I will appreciate all suggestions and comments.

To pass up the use of this communications medium would be as unthinkable as foregoing the use of the printing press. Help construct a new kind of platform for educating and organizing the workers of the world.

Mike Lepore

RR #1

Stanfordville, NY 12581

Telephone: (914) 266-5167

I n t e r n e t :

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GENIE: M. LEPORE

## RIOT GEAR

Dear Comrades,

In addition to being FW x341697, I am co-editor of a radical queer publication called *Riot Gear*. We see the term "queer" as meaning more than "lesbian"

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# IWW DIRECTORY

For those unfamiliar with IWW terminology, we offer these definitions: Job Shop—an IWW-organized group of workers at a particular workplace—either worker-owned, or owned by the bosses. GMB—General Membership Branch, a chartered branch of members linked by locale, rather than workplace. IWW Group—a group of IWW members in the same locale, not large enough to be a GMB. I.U.—Industrial Union, the IWW number assigned to a particular industry. DElegate—an IWW member authorized to collect dues and to sign up new members.

## AUSTRALIA

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area IWW Group—Delegate: Ray Elbourne, Cnr Dittons Lane and Old Illawarra Hwy, Sutton Forest 2577, (048) 682883  
Jura Books—110 Chrystal St. Petersham, Sydney

## CANADA

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Group—110-511 Gatsensbury St., Coquitlam, V3J 5E7, (604) 936-1927. John Barker, contact.  
Eastside Datagraphics Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1460 Commercial Drive, Vancouver V5L 3X9, (604) 255-9559.  
SE British Columbia IWW Group—P.O. Box 54, Balfour, V0G 1C0. Contact: David Everest (604) 229-4978.

### MANITOBA

Winnipeg IWW Group—B. Mackay, P.O. Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7.

### ONTARIO

Kingston IWW Group—472 Albert Street, K7L 3W3, (613) 544-2382. Delegate: Brad Waugh (613) 549-6094.  
Ottawa IWW Group—388 1/2 Kent Street, K2P 2A9, (613) 231-2922.  
Toronto Group—11 Andrews Avenue, M6J 1S2, (416) 941-9945. Meetings first Thursday, 7 pm, each month, phone for location.  
Blackbird Design Collective Job Shop (I.U. 450)—394 Euclid Ave., Suite 301, Toronto M6G 2S9, (416) 972-6293.

## UNITED KINGDOM

IWW Delegate—D. Czunys, 13 Wolsley, York, YO1 5BQ.  
IWW Delegate—F. Lee, 22 Vicarage Lane, Belgrave, Leicester, LE4 5 PD, Phone: 0533-661835

## UNITED STATES

### ARKANSAS

IWW Delegate—P.O. Box 1403, Conway 72032.

### CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles contact—Dorice McDaniels, (310) 679-2570.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino/Humboldt GMB—Delegates: Judi Bari, PO Box 656, Willits, 95490 (message phone: 707/468-1660). Melissa Roberts, PO Box 381, Willits CA 95490—0381. Herb Jager, 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707)937-3457.

Riverside Group—Delegate: Kathy Light (714) 369-9799.

San Diego IWW—RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Parkway #211, El Cajon 92020, (619) 460-2907.

San Francisco Bay Area GMB—1095 Market St., #204, 94103 (415) 863-WOBS.

Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop (I.U. 670)—M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607.

New Earth Press Job Shop (IU 450) 1640 Addison, Berkeley 94702. Delegate: Dave Karoly (510) 549-0176.

Typesetting Etc. Job Shop (I.U. 450) — 1095 Market St. #210, SF CA 94103 (415) 626-2160.

UC Berkeley Recyclers, Industrial Union Branch 620 --- 620 Eshleman, Berkeley 94720. Delegate Daniel Widener.

## COLORADO

Denver/Boulder GMB—2412 E. Colfax, Denver 80206, (303) 388-1065. Office open Saturdays 9-12. Meetings, second Friday each month, 7 p.m. Delegates: Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E. 8th Ave. #202, Denver 80218. (313) 832-7602. Dave Frazer, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474. (303) 258-3732. P&L Printing Job Shop (I.U. 450), 2298 Clay, Denver 80211, (303) 433-1852.

## FLORIDA

J. Lewis, Delegate, 345 Ocean Dr. #1103, Miami Beach FL 33139

## GEORGIA

Atlanta IWW Group—340 Elmira Place, 30307. (404) 524-1243.

## HAWAII

Honolulu Area IWW Group (808) 732-7027  
Delegate: D. Goldsmith

## IDAHO

Boise IWW Group—Delegate: W. Cohan, 2701 N. 29th St., 83703, (208) 343-1699.

## ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB—(New World Resource Center) 1476 W. Irving Park, 60613 (312) 549-5045. Meetings, first Friday 7:30 pm.

## LOUISIANA

New Orleans Area IWW Group—R. McCarthy, P.O. Box 15734, 70175-5734, (504) 899-0014.

## MAINE

Lewiston IWW Group—Contact: M. Lunt (207) 786-6273.

## MARYLAND

Baltimore Area GMB—R. Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060, (301) 367-3024.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Boston GMB—23 Gorham #3, Somerville, MA 02144, (617) 629-2922. Meetings, second Sun. 2 pm. Delegates: Nora Smith, Dani Mavronicles.

## MICHIGAN

SE Michigan GMB—Albert Parsons (313) 769-0695 and Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn, MI 48126, (313) 581-2065.

Ann Arbor Tenants' Union Job Shop (I.U. 670)—4001 Michagan Union, Ann Arbor 48109, (313) 763-6876. Delegate: Jeff Gearhart (313) 994-5477.

People's Warehouse Branch (I.U. 660)—727 W. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor 48108, (313) 769-8629. Delegates: Carol Landry, Mark Kaufmann (313) 483-3478.

N. Michigan—John Patterson P.O. Box 245, Conway 49722-0245.

## MINNESOTA

Minneapolis / St. Paul IWW Group—Box 2391, Loop Stn., 55402, (612) 339-5002. Delegate: Chris Shillock.  
Duluth Area IWW Group—1514 N. 8th Ave. E., Duluth 55805. Delegate: Jack Rosenquist.

## MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport IWW Group—Contact: C.G. Streuly (601) 896-3515.

## MONTANA

IWW Contact: Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz, Butte, 59701.

## NEVADA

Tahoe Area IWW—Larry Steinberg, P.O. Box 1114, Dayton 89403, (702) 246-3120.

## NEW YORK

New York GMB: Delegates: Brian Mahoney, 1717 N. Thompson Drive, Bay Shore, NY 11706 (516) 586-2103. Rochelle Semel, RD 1, Box 158-B, Hartwick, 13348 (607) 293-6489.

Socialist Party USA National Office Job Shop (I.U. 670)—516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. (212) 691-0776.

## OHIO

SW Ohio IWW Group—D.E. Slaton, Box 26416, Trotwood, 45426, (513) 854-0051.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB—P.O. Box 4133, Bethlehem 18018, Delegates: Lenny Flank Jr. (215) 759-7982, Mike D'Amore (215) 434-0218, Dennis Good (215) 921-2459.

Philadelphia Delegate—Tom Hill, P.O. Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

Wooden Shoe Books and Records Job Shop—112 S. 20th Street, Philadelphia 19103, (215) 569-2477.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Harbinger Publications Job Shop (I.U. 450)—Merill Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd., Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

## TEXAS

Austin IWW Group—P.O. Box 49523, 78765 (512) 416-9619.

## UTAH

Salt Lake IWW Group—Tony Roehrig, P.O. Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514. (801) 485-1969.

## VERMONT

Burlington Contacts—Anne Petermann and Orin Langelle, P.O. Box 804, Burlington 05402. (802) 658-2403.

## WASHINGTON

Bellingham GMB—P.O. Box 1580, 98227  
Tacoma/Olympia GMB & GDC Local 4—2115 S. Sheridan Ave., Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119.

Seattle IWW Group -- PO Box 95686, Seattle WA 98145-2686. (206) 525-1336. Delegate: Stacy-Alfwin MacFadden.

Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop — P.O. Box 20610, Seattle 98102, (206) 726-5924

## WISCONSIN

Madison GMB—Box 2605, 53701, (608) 255-1800. Delegates: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow.  
Lakeside Press Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. (608) 255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow.



# LV Wobs Target Van Heusen

by X341341

The Lehigh Valley IWW is continuing its campaign in support of the US/Guatemala Labor Education Project, which is attempting to pressure the Phillips Van Heusen Company (PVH), largest marketer of men's shirts in the US, to recognize a labor union at 2 of its plants in Guatemala. Lehigh Valley Wobs picketed PVH outlets in Reading PA, April 11 and again May 3.

The Guatemalan union is demanding recognition, safety equipment, medical care, and a \$40/month raise for all employees.

In March 1991, after a pay cut was imposed, a group of women working in one of 2 PVH mills in Guatemala City drew up a list of grievances and attempted to present them to PVH supervisors. Rebuffed, they took their demands to the Guatemala Labor Inspectors office. The company promptly fired 6 workers, and one of these women was physically removed from the mill after she protested the firings. In response, workers at the 2 mills filed an application for government recognition of their labor union. The workers affiliated with the Guatemalan United Confederation of Labor Unity (CUSG).

no Executive Committee members. January 15, a Guatemalan court ruled that the union's application was null and void, and PVH sent a letter to its Guatemalan workers announcing that the Union drive had ended.

On the same day that the application was declared void, however, 8 PVH workers introduced a new request for Union recognition, and formed a new Executive Committee of 3 persons. Since then 27 more workers have signed on. The new Union organizers sent a letter to PVH workers, declaring "All can be assured that the Union in formation will continue to function and will remain attentive to the interests of the workers."

To try and defuse worker dissatisfaction, PVH has set up its own "company union" and granted a series of meaningless "reforms." In late winter, CEO Larry Phillips reportedly flew to Guatemala and ordered that minor improvements be made in the plants to defuse the Union's appeal. According to Guatemalan organizers, the company has also offered bribes as high as \$1400 (over a year's salary) to Union Committee members to quit their jobs and leave the factories. A number of workers were reportedly forced to sign blank sheets of paper, which were later filled in to indicate that they had



by the Guatemalan Supreme Court that they be re-instated, the Union workers have not been re-hired.

The most active campaign has been set up in eastern Pennsylvania by the Lehigh Valley General Membership Branch. LV Wobblies have built a coalition of local groups, including the Democratic Socialists of America, the local Green Party and several peace and justice groups, to put pressure on Van Heusen and to take the Union message directly to the consumers. The IWW has kept up regular information pickets. At one of these actions, Wobblies were joined by J. Quinn Brisben, the Socialist Party candidate for President. Brisben joined the picket line as a show of international solidarity (After the picket, Brisben and the Wobs re-fought the old "Eugene Debs vs. Big Bill Haywood" battle over tactics and strategy).

FWs in San Francisco are also planning direct actions against PVH outlets in the area.

The Van Heusen company has responded to the IWW campaign by releasing a prepared statement to the media. "The specific allegations made about our company, its management and the working conditions there are

ridiculous and outrageous," the company says. A Van Heusen spokesperson said the company is "proud of the conditions that exist in our plants in Guatemala," adding that they are "far in excess of the minimum requirements in Guatemala."

PVH openly admits that it intends to remain union-free, "within all legal means." The company says its plants provide jobs and economic opportunity for hundreds of Guatemalans.

But of course, we all know that PVH isn't in Guatemala to provide jobs and opportunity for Guatemalans. They're in Guatemala because that's where they can find laborers that work for \$2 a day, who aren't allowed to organize.

We are encouraging all Fellow Workers to send letters of outrage to Larry Phillips, demanding that he recognize and negotiate with the Guatemalan Unionists. We are also asking Wobblies who have PVH outlets near them to organize an information picket to get the word out. Don't buy shirts made with slave labor!

For more information about the Van Heusen campaign, contact the Lehigh Valley GMB, or the US/Guatemala Labor Education Project c/o ACTWU 333 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago IL 60607.



The CEO of Phillips-Van Heusen, Larry Phillips, has served on the board of Oxfam-America and is a founder of the American Jewish World Service, and has been active in Central America issues. Phillips considers himself to be a human rights activist, but he apparently doesn't believe that human rights should extend to union organizers. PVH responded to the campaign with threats and intimidation. A year after the organizing drive began, only 85 out of the 500 workers were willing to openly support the union.

In September 1991, Aura Marina Rodriguez, member of the Union Executive Committee, was shot in an assassination attempt (PVH has denied any connection to the shooting). In late December, Rodriguez gave in to the intimidation, and resigned from the Executive Committee, in exchange for a substantial "severance" payment. On January 6, the sole remaining Executive Committee member also resigned.

Under Guatemalan Labor Law, union applications become invalid if there are

resigned from the Union.

According to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Guatemala is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to try to organize a labor union. International human rights groups refer to Guatemala as the worst violator in the western hemisphere. Government-sponsored death squads have killed or "disappeared" hundreds of labor activists in the past decade (In 1980, the entire 25-person organizing committee of a planned Guatemalan labor federation "disappeared"). The Guatemalan government under President Serrano Elias, is anxious to maintain low-wage conditions which attract US and European investments to the maquiladora sector.

As a result, less than 5% of the Guatemalan workforce is organized. No labor unions exist anywhere in the maquiladora sector. In 1986, 180 workers at the Inexport mill organized and, after a 2-year battle, won a collective bargaining agreement. Shortly after the contract was signed, the company fired or suspended all the Union members. Despite a ruling



## From Around The Union

### Gravestone of "The Saint" to be Dedicated in Oakland

In the February Industrial Worker, Joyce Kornbluh, Archie Green and I announced we had located the long-forgotten grave of Vincent St. John, General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW during the epoch-making years of Spokane, Fresno, San Diego, McKees Rocks, Akron, Lawrence, and Paterson. We sent out a call to raise contributions for a proper headstone for "The Saint." There has been a good response to that call. A headstone of red granite, with an appropriate inscription is now in place.

A dedication ceremony will be held at 1:00 PM, June 21: the 63rd anniversary of The Saint's death. The ceremony will take place beside Grave 363, Plot 56, at Mountain View Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, California. For a map showing how to get to the cemetery from major Bay Area freeways, write to the Vincent St. John Memorial Fund, PO Box 20876, Oakland CA 94620. Directions to the exact location of the gravesite, which is rather hard to find, are available from the cemetery office, open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Those who donated to the memorial fund have received personal invitations to the dedication, but all Fellow Workers and friends are invited whether they donated or not. The ceremony will be in the great Wobbly tradition which goes back to the time of "The Saint" himself: a minimum of speech-making and a maximum of open participation. Everyone will be urged to add a poem, a song, a memory or an opinion about Vincent St. John, his contributions to revolutionary industrial unionism, and the relevance of those contributions today.

Following the ceremony, there will be an opportunity for socializing at the home of a nearby FW.

Fellow Workers and friends who can't attend because of distance or prior commitments are invited to send

comments to the Memorial Fund at the above address. All comments pertaining to the legacy of "The Saint" -- or to the concept of commemorations such as this -- will be read aloud at the ceremony. -- Henry Anderson, X341808.

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# ASUC Recyclers Unionize with the Wobblies

The Associated Students of University of California (ASUC) Recycling Project, established in 1982, is a student initiated and run, non-profit service organization that recycles materials generated by the campus community, in an effort to provide an ecologically sound alternative to waste disposal. We at the Recycling Project are committed to **Source-Separation** Recycling and providing this valuable service to the campus community.

However, our treatment as ASUC employees is intolerable; we make only \$5.42 an hour, receive no benefits, and must fight to keep our collective structure. Furthermore, consistent underfunding, the University's negligence of our site (which it owns but will not properly maintain) and a tiny budget severely limit our recycling capabilities and keep us from repairing or upgrading our equipment; budget constraints multiply the hazards of our job and limit our effectiveness.

The ASUC has rejected our requests for better working conditions and fair pay. Therefore we have concluded that the only way to receive decent compensation for our work and to ensure a future for source-separation recycling at UC Berkeley, is to unionize with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or "Wobblies").

## Source Separation

The Project functions as a "source separation" collection system, where recyclable material is separated at the source of generation by the consumer. Source-separation recycling educates and includes the consumer as an active partner in the recycling process and ensures the highest quality of reclaimed recyclable material.

The University is now considering the recent Recycling Task Force proposal, a report which emphasizes "negative sort" recycling while reserving a minor role for source-separation. In this "negative-sort" process, consumers (i.e. faculty, staff, students) separate their waste into either trash or mixed paper recyclables which they then deposit in containers located at their desks. In addition to emptying trash, custodians also empty the mixed paper receptacles into larger containers which are then taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). At the MRF, the mixed paper load is dumped either on a conveyor belt or on the ground where workers pick out trash from the recyclables.

Depending on the market price gap between high and low grade paper and the contamination of the particular load, the MRF may choose to separate the higher grade paper (e.g. computer and white paper) from the lower grade paper, or just try to sell the entire load as low grade "mixed paper." This process not only produces lower quality recyclable material, but also transfers work from our collective to MRF's, which are known for low pay and terrible working conditions.

While the MRF company can claim they have sorted a named percentage of the waste into a recycling stream, it is questionable how much of this is actually recycled. As the available volume of sorted recyclables has increased, brokers are demanding cleaner, more carefully sorted goods. Materials from MRF's may not meet these strict requirements, and thereby end up in a landfill.

"Negative-sort" programs lessen consumer responsibility and participation in the recycling process and decrease efficiency because they retrieve an inferior quality of recyclables as compared to source-separation recycling.

What are the reasons why the University is considering a report which emphasizes this type of "negative-sort" system? The answer lies in the fact that the University is required by state law to recycle 25% of its waste stream by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000. It is initially easier and cheaper to accomplish these quotas with a "negative-sort" program which consists of an increase in the custodians' workloads and contracting out to a MRF rather

than developing a more comprehensive source-separation system on campus. This is precisely why the University rejected a former Recycling Project proposal to

expand source-separation by the consumers. Though "negative-sort" programs seem cheaper, they fall short of the environmental awareness and personal responsibility that source-separation programs encourage.

## Working Conditions, Wages and Benefits

Our work involves heavy lifting, repetitive motions, and exposure to sharp objects such as broken glass, high levels of noise, wet weather, and health risks from food and bio-hazardous waste. The dangerous and dirty nature of the work is exacerbated by old and faulty equipment. An administrator in the grounds department remarked that ASUC Recyclers have the "most unsafe job for the worst pay" on campus.

We currently make \$5.42 an hour (approximately half the local industry average and significantly below the University pay scale) and receive no benefits. We have had no raises or cost of living allowance (COLA) since May 1989. Furthermore, our elected coordinators, who perform many stressful duties in addition to going on runs, receive a stipend which translates into less than \$5 an hour.

After threats of a strike from ASUC part-time employees, the ASUC Senate formed an ad-hoc committee which granted some ASUC part-time employees an insulting 10 cents per hour pay raise. However we, also part-time workers, were denied this meagre raise because we perform worker evaluations as a collective rather than in the conventional supervisor-employee fashion. Furthermore, our repeated requests for a collective pay raise have been denied.

collective; rather, it is due to a drop in paper market prices, consistent underfunding, and Project funds that are paid to the Administration. The drop in paper prices is reflected in the fact that the revenues from Recycling, generated primarily by paper goods, brought in \$42,120 in the 1990-91 academic year. This is down approximately 17% from the year before even though our tonnages were up 3.5%. This clearly indicates a drastic drop in paper market prices, over which we have no control.

In addition to the drop in paper prices, our financial difficulties result from being consistently underfunded. For several years, the ASUC funded us over \$10,000 per year when recycling markets were low. This amount dropped as paper prices rose. When prices fell again, we were not compensated as before. Also the University contributes nothing to the Recycling Project and only reimburses us what we save them in landfill costs. Moreover, we must rent our truck from the University and pay for all repairs. This translates into \$6,000 per year in rental and another \$6,000 in repairs so far this year. However, the University--not the Recycling Project--will own the truck when it is paid off, although we are paying for the upkeep of the truck. The result is giving money to the Administration for a piece of expensive capital that we will never own. Furthermore, our off-campus, University-owned collection site is in severe disrepair due to the negligence of the University; it is in dire need of repaving and lacks adequate lighting and security from theft. The University has not properly maintained the site because it plans to lease the land and supposedly use this revenue for student housing. Another

underfunded, leaving a \$9500 debt to be made up by the ASUC and ultimately by the student population.

## We Are Seeking Recognition and a Contract with ASUC

Although the University should ultimately be responsible for recycling on campus, our immediate employer is the ASUC (legally, a separate entity from UC) and thus, we must deal directly with them. We are committed to helping the UC Berkeley community realize sound Recycling practices, as well as creating a work environment where workers can participate as equals, control their workplaces, and be decently compensated. Unfortunately these objectives cannot be met under our current situation. ASUC part-time employees have aired their grievances as individuals to the ASUC Senate and the response has been a 10 cent raise for some of us. That is not a proper redress of our grievances.

Under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, we have the right to unionize. This right is reinforced by ASUC Personnel Policy, which states that all employees have the right to "join and participate in the activities of employee organizations" (Section 771 of the ASUC Manual). As the Recycling Project, we are in the process of gaining recognition from the Senate as a distinct bargaining unit so that we can collectively bargain for a fair contract. The ASUC administration has said that we cannot be recognized because we are seeking a separate bargaining unit status from other ASUC employees and that we should contact the ASUC Employees Association, "an unofficial representative for all ASUC employees" for help. However, we have the legal right to the *official representation of our choice*. Also, we are distinct in many ways from other ASUC employees and are entitled to separate bargaining unit status. These distinctions include:

a) **Collective Structure:** We are the only ASUC employees who work in a democratic environment, where the workers directly control the workplace.

b) **Wages and Conditions of Employment:** Since we are not structured like other ASUC employees and are therefore not part of ASUC's "Part-time Title and Pay Plan," we did not receive the 10 cent raise granted to other ASUC part-time employees. For the same reasons we do not receive merit pay increases. People who have been working for the Project for nearly 3 years have never had a raise.

c) **Working Conditions:** The physical and dangerous working conditions we endure are distinct from those faced by other ASUC employees.

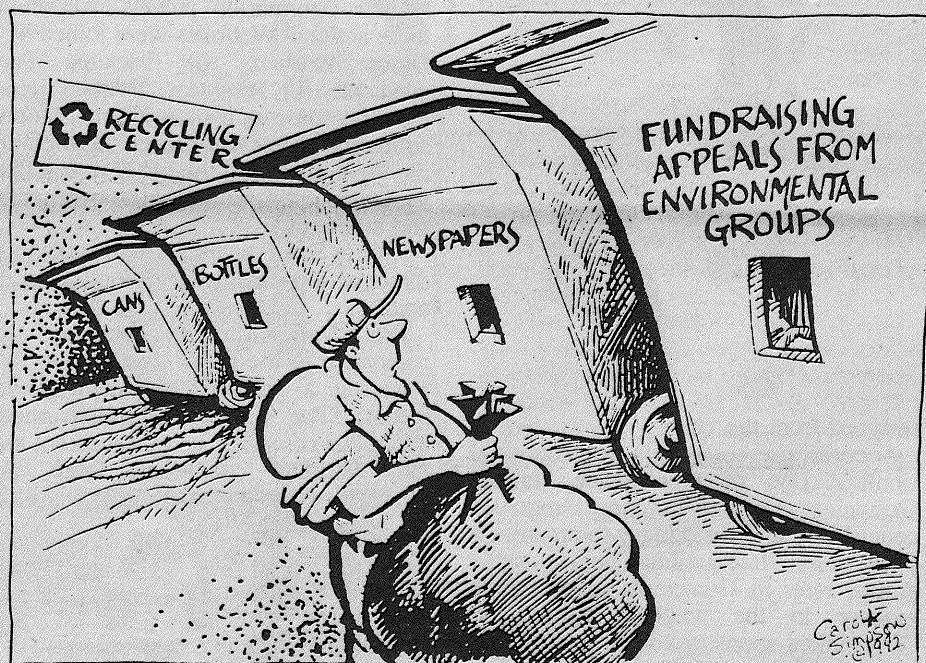
d) **Geographic Proximity:** As Recyclers, our "jobsite" is mobile and includes sites on and off campus. We do not have a central worksite like other ASUC employees.

e) **Our Relationship to the Campus Community:** We provide a very valuable service to the UCB campus community, not just ASUC. This service has been sorely neglected both financially and as a priority by the University and the ASUC.

## Conclusion

We believe that other ASUC workers, like ourselves, are being treated unjustly and deserve better. However, we--as the Recycling Project--have chosen to organize and affiliate ourselves with the IWW. We are determined to see source-separation Recycling grow on this campus, to retain our democratic structure, and to make the decent wages and benefits that we have been denied. We perform a valuable service for the UC Berkeley community and the environment, and deserve decent treatment for the work that we do.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to get involved, please call us at 642-4895, or visit our office at 620 Eshelman Hall.



## Collective Structure

We have been working as a collective since 1988 and function under workers' self-management, in which workers directly make all workplace decisions. To many members of the Project, this is the most gratifying part of the job. In the Recycling Project, students work (often for the first time) in an egalitarian environment where tasks, responsibilities, and power are shared by all. Unfortunately this type of work setting is becoming less common. The Recycling Project offers students the rare opportunity to learn how to effectively operate a business or other organization in a non-alienating and non-hierarchical manner. This valuable skill is not taught in any class on campus.

Our democratic collective structure sets us apart from other ASUC employees who work in a more conventional supervisor-employee relationship. Each worker in the Project holds more responsibility than a similarly classed (Assistant II) part-time worker in any other department. However the ASUC has used the distinct democratic nature of the Recycling Project's organization to deny us raises.

## Budget Woes (Falling Paper Markets & University Negligence)

Despite staying within our budget, the Recycling Project is accumulating a growing debt. Our debt is no way attributable to mismanagement by the

site for the Recycling Project has thus far not been offered by the University.

The University's neglect of the site hampers our ability to perform our jobs. This neglect compounds our budget problems because our inadequate budget prevents us from repairing or upgrading our equipment. We desperately need sturdy docks, better handtrucks, more and better storage bins, and lids for outdoor containers. Due to the lack of secure containers on campus and at the site, the Project has lost several hundred dollars of aluminum this semester. Also we cannot afford a rental truck when ours is being serviced or repaired, so our clients lose confidence and slow down or often stop recycling altogether during the truck's long down periods. The result is lower tonnages and lost revenue. As most of our clients can attest, we have a severe shortage of barrels (at \$60 each), making expansion extremely difficult. The barrels we have now are not up to fire code, meaning that we can no longer recycle with our present equipment in public areas inside many buildings. Under our current budget, we cannot afford to purchase fireproof barrels which cost about \$250 each.

Therefore, as the University boasts of the Recycling Project's source-separation program as part of its supposed environmental responsibility, it is simultaneously making it extremely difficult for the Project to function. The University saves money and its image through a program that it has consistently



## L.A. Wobs

Fellow Workers,

I am writing to report on the May 2 meeting of Los Angeles area Wobblies. As I'm sure you're aware, much had transpired in the "City of Angels" in previous days and as FW Dorice McDaniels and I drove across town to the meeting we surveyed many scenes of destruction and groups of National Guardsmen protecting property. Along with the recent happenings in the city, we discussed the possibility of setting up an IWW Print Shop/School in cooperation with one of various community centers in hard-hit south-central Los Angeles. FW Hanson has great knowledge and experience in the printing field and will be looking further into the matter.

Also discussed was the annual ceremony begun some years ago by FW Hanson in Bisbee Arizona, in remembrance of the mass IWW deportation and murder of FW James Brew which took place there on July 12, 1917. Along with myself, FW Hanson and other local Wobs plan to make the trip this year. Of course all IWWs are invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact myself or FW Hanson for details. There will be a graveside ceremony, a musical presentation by the "Hollywood Wobs," and perhaps other activities.

We also discussed the need for a local delegate-at-large. It was suggested that I might be willing to take on the responsibility and duty if I am eligible.

Finally after an excellent meal (thank you Rob!) we had some songs from the Hollywood Wobs, topping off a very productive and enjoyable May Day (well, May 2!) meeting. In Solidarity,  
-Andrew Willett

## Strategy & Tactics New (old) Methods Must Be Implemented

With the UAW defeat at Caterpillar after a 5-month strike, it seems appropriate to once again question the effectiveness of the long economic strike as the primary weapon in our economic war with Capitalism. Over a decade ago the Republican regime under Reagan set the modern precedent of using permanent scabs to break PATCO. Repeatedly since, the practice has been followed. The introduction of temporary scabs has been quite common in every industry during strike situations, and the threat of permanently losing one's job to "permanent replacement workers" has now become almost as common.

To most of the Caterpillar UAW members, the introduction of scabs came as a surprise. After all in over two decades only one contract had been reached without the necessity of a strike, and in that time they had never had to deal with scabs. They are embittered by the use of scabs, and it is clear that they will never feel quite the same about the "company". Their solidarity thru 5 months of economic losses is to be praised. Morale, physical and financial support are essential contributions all of us can make to their struggle.

7,000 striking retail clerks and meat cutters in Michigan have also been replaced by scabs. Early in the strike confidence was high, and UFCW picket lines long. They expect their strike to be short and successful. One can only hope, while at the same time have serious doubts.

Both Caterpillar and Kroger have been very successful and profitable corporations over the last decade. In 1978-79 Caterpillar successfully disciplined the workers with the aid of the UAW. In both Peoria and Decatur, Illinois, rebel locals engaged in numerous wildcat strike actions over grievances and health/safety issues. A lockout/strike situation developed in Peoria in which the workers were out for several months without any strike benefits from the UAW nor any medical benefits. Finally the contract expired and the UAW called out workers throughout Caterpillar, and a long economic strike resulted. It has taken over a decade and several concessionary agreements for these workers to recover their militancy.

Kroger engaged in a successful lockout of the UFCW in 1984. A few days before the expiration of the contract, Krogers suspended operations and closed all of its stores. The UFCW returned to the

bargaining table and gave Kroger everything it asked. This was during the same period when the UFCW was selling out organized retail workers and meat cutters (Hormel and P9, along with the Kroger agreement are prime examples), with concessionary contracts and multi-tiered payscales.

Obviously the current depression is spurring profitable companies to eliminate even compliant unions. In both instances the profit mongers are looking to build upon earlier concessions. If the union isn't going to be compliant and aid in implementing the give-ups, then as far as the capitalists are concerned, what good is the union. These capitalists obviously believe that now is the time to eliminate any kind of organization among their workers, which does not cooperate with the company fully.

The magnitude of these current struggles must not be underestimated. The decision by the UAW to wage a "long economic strike", and its seeming failure could very well spell the end of organized labor in this sector of the economy. Other tactics are obviously necessary. Our union has never advocated the long strike, except in those instances when the strike call was industry-wide. The long strike against a single corporation allows others in that industry to aid and abet their co-exploiters, while reaping the benefits of reduced competition within their industry. The UAW decision to go back to work and wage the struggle on the shop floor is obviously the correct decision.

Everyone in Michigan is extremely apprehensive about the Caterpillar strike. We know the Big Three Auto companies are watching the situation intently, after all the UAW contracts with them expire this coming fall. For over a decade the UAW has pursued a concessionary program in its relationship with the auto industry. They have now been reduced to the point where individual locals "whipsaw" even company wide agreements, making it practically worthless (witness the latest scandal between the UAW locals in Arlington, Texas, giving concessions to steal work from the UAW local in Willow Run, Michigan.) This dynamic, combined with the failure of the UAW to organize any of the new Japanese assembly plants, and the wholesale destruction of the UAW within the auto parts industry, makes the future of the UAW extremely problematic. If the UAW loses the

Caterpillar strike, no auto worker is going to take a chance on a long economic strike.

The UAW and the UFCW are two of the largest unions remaining in the private sector of the US economy. The decade long practice of being "cooperative" unions has only weakened them. The loss of each of these current strikes could quite easily spell the end of them being anything but compliant company unions.

Other strategies and tactics than the long economic strike are being used with great success by workers. 3,000 electrical workers in St. Louis, when faced with the use of scab workers if they struck, adopted time honored IWW practices and won. The workers voted to strike if an agreement couldn't be reached. The company began recruiting scabs, hired additional security and brought in a nationally known strike breaking company. The day before the strike was to begin (a strike which in all likelihood would be long and bitter and in which every striker would suffer perhaps life-long economic damage) the workers adopted a different strategy.

The workers went to work without a contract, and struck on the job. Working diligently "to the rule", filing grievances over the slightest violation of the old contract. Numerous flues, colds, and other contagious diseases seemed to affect the work force. Production slowed to a near stand-still 4 days out of the week, and on the fifth day, called "union day", production would approach the level it was at before the expiration of the contract. For 5 months the workers waged this struggle on the shop floor, and won a non-concessionary contract. They won and did not lose a dime of income due to being on strike.

In the small shops we have had in the IWW over the last couple of decades, we have never had a concessionary contract nor more than a week of "economic strike". We have successfully put into practice the tactics of shop floor direct action and "sabotage" and won ever-increasing economic benefits.

A decade of Republican economic warfare has obviously cost the labor movement much. It is also just as clear that huge reserves of solidarity remain. The mis-organization of most unionized workers into collaborationist unions will squander this strength. The failure of the UAW to act (except as isolated locals) in support of the Mexican Ford workers, as well as the Hyundai workers, combined with its myopic "buy American" strategy will doom it to becoming one giant company union.

All true supporters of working class solidarity should do all they can to promote solidarity at the plant level, the company level, the industrial level and at the international level.

Know your class and know your enemy: no more give-backs!

## Chicago Branch Report

In addition to being rank and file radicals on the shop floor -- agitating among couriers, non-profit workers, government employees and in various offices around the city -- Chicago IWW members continue to be active in various other political work. Wobblies are active with efforts to end the Marion prison lockdown and stop the spread of these super intensive gulags across the US.

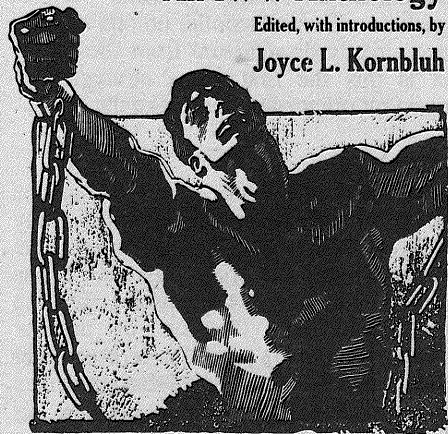
Every Saturday morning finds Wobblies among the clinic defense contingents which use direct action to keep the doors of abortion clinics open in the face of right wing direct action. At 6 am members of the Emergency Coalition spread out among the cities clinics, when Operation Rescue forces show up at one clinic the pro-choice volunteers contact contingents at other clinics to rally at the blockaded clinic.

Music and politics continues to be an important focus of Chicago branch outreach. In April the GMB sponsored ecological folk singer, legendary folk rumor, and Wobbly Dakota Sid Clifford in a show at a new club called Too Far West. A good time was had and the event was covered by the daily *Sun-Times*. The following night Wobblies showed up at a Utah Phillips show to peddle propaganda and remind the audience that the union is still around and still organizing. Chicago members have also worked to extend the midwest network of music and politics into South Bend where Dakota Sid appeared at a successful Green event, and to other smaller towns in the region.

## Rebel Voices

An IWW Anthology

Edited, with introductions, by  
Joyce L. Kornbluh



### MAY DAY POEM

### HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY!

Arise ye prisoners  
And smell the stink  
Of runaway capitalism's  
Disregard & disdain  
of our hands & lives.

Celebrate your work  
Celebrate your life  
And our tired breath  
may yet breathe life  
into worn out souls.

Happy International Workers Day  
We've a lot to be thankful for  
And much more to strive towards.  
Remember the Children.

Hal Muskat

## Farm Workers I.U. 110

### WORKERS AT RISK FROM PESTICIDE POISONS

The *San Francisco Bay Guardian* reports that a Government Accounting Office (GAO) study has found that each year farm workers suffer up to 300,000 illnesses and injuries, from skin and eye irritations to cancer and birth defects-- as a result of exposure to pesticides in the residues they touch, air they breathe, water they drink, or food they eat.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that pesticides be labeled with their brand name, active ingredients, and warnings about toxicity, a survey of 460 Washington state farm workers found that 89% did not know the name of a single pesticide to which they had been exposed, and 76% had never received any information on appropriate protective measures.

In 1990 the EPA found non-compliance with pesticide regulations in 633 agency-initiated inspections and assessed fines in 42 of them. Violations of field sanitation standards were found in 62% of field inspections in 1989 and in 69% in 1990.

These alarming statistics deal only with adults. Children who work with their parents in the fields are more susceptible to harmful effects from pesticides, the GAO says. A 1990 study of migrant farm children in western New York found that more than 40% had worked in fields still wet with pesticides, and 40% had been sprayed while in the fields.

Effects range from eye and skin irritations to systemic poisoning, which can lead to death. Jocelyn Shemman, of the United Farm Workers of America, says the GAO report is extremely accurate. She describes the town of Earlimart in the San Joaquin Valley, where pesticides are used in grape fields. "Only 10% of the pesticides actually hit their targets--the rest drift. The cancer rate there is 1,200% above normal. 3 children have died."

UFW President Cesar Chavez: "Years ago, miners would send canaries in to look for gas pockets. If there was any gas, the canary wouldn't come back. These children are today's canaries--isn't it time we start listening?"



## Labor & Politics

# Maquiladora Police

### FAX NEEDED

On January 31, Mr. Agapito Gonzalez, age 75, leader of a labor union that represents maquiladora workers in Matamoros, Mexico, was arrested by the Mexican federal police and flown to Mexico City and placed in a hospital under police custody. His arrest came at the time when he was negotiating labor contracts with maquiladora plants in Matamoros, including subsidiaries of General Motors, Trico, Eaton, Zenith and United Technologies. Eight strikes had been conducted in the week before the arrest, and 33 plants faced strike deadlines within the next few days. After being held for 2 weeks, Mr. Gonzalez was released by a judge, and immediately re-arrested and charged with tax evasion.

Two days prior to the arrest, Fred Quintana, executive director of the Maquiladora Association in Matamoros said, "We have inklings that (President) Salinas has called (the governor) and is applying pressure on him to get something done in Matamoros."

US employers bragged to the *Brownsville Herald* that they would "get more favorable terms" from the maquila workers after the arrest. One US employer stated that the Mexican government "has flexed its muscles and shown that the union has been getting in the way of growth."

It is clear that the Maquiladora Association in Matamoros had a strong hand in pressuring the Mexican government to take this action. Matamoros is the only area along the border which has a 40-hour work week and slightly higher wages because some unions exist there.

We ask that letters be FAXED (mail in Mexico is slow) to Mexican Attorney General Morales Lechuga, and to other officials as well as Mexican newspapers. (Sample letter and fax numbers below).

We are counting on your support by writing and sending these letters. Whatever you can do will be appreciated. Through our collective effort we can make a difference!

(Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras)

Lic. Ignacio Morales Lechuga  
Procurador General de la Republica  
Paseo de la Reforma, Esq. Violeta  
06300 Mexico, D.F.  
Fax: 011 (525) 626-44-78

Note: Some FAX machines in Mexico are also used for telephones. When sending a FAX, you may not hear the FAX tone, but a person's voice saying, "Bueno?" If this happens, pick up the FAX telephone and simply say, "FAX," (in Spanish: "Por favor, deme tono de FAX.") Wait for FAX tone or beep, and do not hang up until you complete sending the FAX.

Here are some more FAX numbers if you are able to send more letters. Every worker should copy down all these numbers and keep them handy, just in case the maquila workers have any more problems!

Dr. Jorge Carpizo, National Human Rights Commission: FAX 011-525-681-71-99

President Carlos Salinas: 011-525-271-17-64

Sr. Fidel Velazquez (head of Mexico's largest union federation): 011-525-705-09-66

Mexican Newspapers:  
Jefe de Radaccion, La Jornada: 011-525-521-27-63

Jefe de Radaccion, El Financiero: 011-525-255-19-34

Jefe de Radaccion, Excelsior: 011-525-566-02-23

Jefe de Radaccion, El Nacional: 011-525-535-60-90

Jorge Carreno, El Universal: 202-662-7189

### CHINA

**Workers Continue Struggle:** In January, the Beijing-based Preparatory Committee of Free Trade Unions, claiming to model itself on the Solidarity union in Poland, issued a manifesto proclaiming that "The establishment...of a free trade union does not depend on the recognition...of the government but on the courage...of our workers..." The manifesto urges workers to organize clandestine union cells in their workplaces. Meanwhile, authorities have refused Workers Autonomous Federation leader Han Dongfang (recently released from prison after 22 months) permission to hold a one-person demonstration for the right to form independent unions. Han called off the demonstration when he was told he would be arrested if he went ahead.

### RUSSIA

**Moscow Unionists Oppose Economic "Reforms"**

The Moscow Federation of Trade Unions has adopted an appeal to workers arguing that "the government wants to dismantle the existing economic system and create a new one based on export of raw materials and energy. Many enterprises in basic branches of industry will be closed after a new liberalization of prices and a huge number of highly skilled workers and engineers will be dismissed. Government plans to freeze wages at state enterprises while prices are constantly rising will lead to a catastrophic drop in the living standards of working people."

## Peru Insurrection Gains Momentum

The struggle in Peru is not between Parliament and the President, but between the insurgency and the elites. Prior to President Fujimori's April 5 suspension of the Constitution and Parliament, the Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path) was growing rapidly in poverty stricken *barriadas* of Lima. Congress was debating the formation of "urban *rondas*," paramilitary organizations controlled by municipalities, both to counteract the Shining Path presence, and to challenge the Army's direct entry into the *barriadas*. Army occupation was being resisted energetically by the people.

The courts were blocking decrees giving unlimited powers to the Army. The Army was defying court orders that troops leave University campuses; courts also attempted to block the Army's direct entry into the prisons.

At the Drug Summit in San Antonio, Texas February 26, President Fujimori complained of US accusations that the Peruvian military was involved in drug trafficking, asserting that US Drug Enforcement Agency officials were also corrupt.

Critics in Peru and the US agree that lack of alternative economic opportunities makes eradication of the coca trade

impossible. Hernando de Soto resigned from the government's War on Drugs, declaring that he had been hampered in efforts to develop a legal export economy through entitling land to peasant families.

In recent months, 200,000 peasants were forcibly recruited into "rondas campesinas," paramilitary organizations to resist the Shining Path. Reports of defections from Shining Path turned out to be fabricated. Intelligence sources say Shining Path guerillas have entered the stage of mobile warfare in the countryside.

On February 14, Lima was shut down by Shining Path's *para armado*, a day of work stoppage where the people are urged to take to the streets and attack government installations. Shining Path had engaged in 50 armed actions around Lima in the week leading up to the *paro*.

Assistant US Secretary of State Bernard Aronson was in Peru at the time of the April 5 coup suspending parliamentary government. A week later Fujimori granted the Air Force "sweeping authority to battle drug trafficking". After the coup, the New York Times editorialized about the possible introduction of "international peacekeeping forces". (Adapted from *Peru Scholars/News & Notes*)

### SOUTH AFRICA:

## Say Hello to the New Boss

The African National Congress has announced "A Strategy for Growth in a Post-Apartheid Economy" which makes it clear that they intend to continue the capitalist order if they are successful in taking power from the Nationalists. Excerpts follow: "The problems the first democratic government of South Africa will face are of such a magnitude that vast resources, both human and material, will have to be allocated to transform our country into one in which everyone can enjoy at least a reasonable standard of living..."

"Since the mid-1970s the South African economy has stagnated. The average growth rate is now below 1%, while unemployment is estimated at over 40% of the economically active population. This is now coupled with a devastating drought... The National Party is escalating the unilateral restructuring of the economy, including extensive privatisation, so that the first democratic government inherits a bankrupt state where all the assets have been sold off."

"The central goals of the ANC's economic strategy are: the elimination of poverty and the inequalities generated by the apartheid system... the creation of the conditions for a steady advance in the living standards of the majority of the people.... Such an economy will foster a new and constructive relationship between the people, the state, the private sector and the market."

The democratic state will take the ultimate responsibility in co-operation with the trade union movement, business and other bodies of civil society to

co-ordinate, plan and guide the economy towards a sustainable growth path in conditions of macro-economic balance, including price stability and equilibrium in the balance of payments. Where national priorities demand... the public sector will be adjusted... through anti-trust legislation, nationalisation with just compensation, purchasing through the market process, establishment of new corporations, joint ventures and privatisation.

"Trade policy will be aimed at raising the level of productivity of both local and foreign firms to make South African industries competitive on global and domestic markets. Exports, particularly of manufactured goods, will be encouraged. South Africa will in general endorse the multi-lateral system of trade liberalising arrangements centred around the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)...."

"Foreign investment is vital and the ANC will strive to create a climate conducive and inviting to both domestic and foreign investors. Critical to this is political and social stability. Additional guarantees to foreign investors will be considered, together with policies to facilitate repatriation of after-tax profits and dividends."

Thus the future (?) government seeks to reassure international capital, while putting the working class on notice that its rights will be subordinated to "political and social stability" so as "to create a climate conducive and inviting to... investors." Such are the fruits of class collaboration and allowing the interests of "the nation" (i.e., the rulers) to take precedence over those of the working class.

### AUSTRALIA

## Cops Raid Unemployed Workers Union

Federal Police and Tax Department officials raided the Unemployed Workers Union in Launceston on March 19. Police seized hundreds of documents and about \$17,000 worth of computer equipment from the U.W.U.'s offices and whole foods shop, and from an organiser's home.

"Despite the scale of the police operation, no one has been charged with any offence and no one has even been questioned," says Bill Bartlett, whose home was raided.

Police have refused to give a reason for the raid. There has been media speculation that it is related to allegations that a bank account was operated under a false name. The U.W.U. acknowledges that one of three signatories to two of its accounts is an alias, but says no law has been broken and all of its accounts require at least two signatures.

Bill Bartlett says Federal Police in Melbourne have "let slip that the operation was a fishing expedition, admitting that any charges would depend on evidence seized as a result of the raid." Police have said they intend to sift the documents thoroughly. They include diaries, phone lists, bank statements and correspondence.

Police have rejected U.W.U. requests to copy the relevant contents of the computers onto floppy disks and return the machines, which are vital to the group's operations and its desktop publishing business. Bartlett says they seem to be hanging onto the equipment because their own computers are incompatible with the union's Macintoshes. "On the same principle they might decide next time to seize private motor vehicles in order to transport the files back to their office."

The union says the police should hire equipment for their investigation, and has

initiated legal action for the return of its machines. Police initially refused to supply the U.W.U. with a copy of the warrant for the raid, but later relented. They have rejected union offers to cooperate with the investigation by supplying passwords to the computers.

Bartlett says the raids were politically motivated, and "were preceded by a rather vicious campaign of rumour and innuendo." A director of the Tasmanian Council of Social Services was told "in confidence" about the Federal Police investigation some months ago.

Since the U.W.U. was set up in the late '70s, it has made some powerful enemies in the course of its work for unemployed people, says Bartlett. "Hatred of the U.W.U. is particularly venomous in some sections of the Labor Party."

The U.W.U. is urging people to protest to federal justice minister Michael Tate, Parliament House, Canberra. Messages of support for the union and donations to assist with legal expenses may be sent to: U.W.U., 103 Wellington St, Launceston Tasmania 7250, Australia. Phone (003) 31 7682 or 34 2903. Fax (003) 31 6515.

-- based on reports from Left Green Weekly (Australia)

### AUSTRALIA

**Unions Abandon Labor Party:** The Construction Mining and Energy Union here has disaffiliated from the ALP. For several years the union has been at odds with the right-wing Labor government over many issues, particularly the East Timor massacre, and the Lawrence government's recent juvenile crime legislation. Several smaller unions in WA have already disaffiliated from the ALP, but is this the first large, strategically important organisation to make the break.

### LEBANON GENERAL STRIKE

CGTL union federation began a 5-day national strike May 5 to protest the ongoing economic crisis. The CGTL has called for the resignation of the government and creation of a new economic ministry capable of managing the economy. This follows earlier strikes and rallies throughout the country on April 15 and 22.

### MOROCCO STRIKE

Tangiers was paralysed May 4 by a strike organised by the Moroccan UMT federation to protest police brutality during a raid on workers in the Lassif factory April 28 which resulted in 4 arrests and over 20 casualties.



## Korea Represses Unions 1850 Arrested Since 1988

At least 1,842 union and labor activists have been detained by Korean authorities since the present government came to power in March 1988, according to the independent Chonnohyup federation. The figures include only those unionists working with Chonnohyup.

Of those arrested, 77 percent were union officers; most arrestees are detained for 3-5 months. In 1991, 471 unionists were arrested, slightly fewer than in 1990 (482) and 1989 (602).

The following are among union leaders currently imprisoned by the Korean regime.

Democratic union official Kim Sang-myung of Hyundai Precision Metals, was found guilty of having benefitted the enemy March 31. Kim's case was very simple—he was charged with the possession of materials benefitting the enemy: a book on wages and an article he wrote, "For Whom is the USA?"

Kim Young-dae, vice-president of the KTUC since its inauguration in 1990, was imprisoned Dec. 21, 1990, when he was acting KTUC president during president Dan Byung-ho's imprisonment. He was charged with violating the Labour Dispute Adjustment Law (barring "third party" intervention) and the Law on Assembly

and Demonstration. He presided at the "Rally for successful wage struggle" held in Seoul in March 1990, led a struggle for wage raises, and supported the two-day general strike of Hyundai Shipyard Union May 3-4 1990. Because of these normal union activities, the government arrested him during a KTUC Central Committee meeting. He was sentenced to a prison term of one and a half year, and is scheduled for release on June 28th.

Lee Seung-pil was re-elected as president of Daelim Motor Trade Union in February 1991, while he was in jail. Management dismissed him on the grounds of his absence during his imprisonment. He was released last December and tried to attend to his duties at the union office. When the union asked for collective bargaining, management refused on the ground that Lee could not represent workers because he was not an employee. The union struck, rather than allow management to dictate its representatives, and management had Lee arrested again.

Kwak Tae-won, president of Hyundai Marine and Fire Insurance Trade Union, was arrested under the Labour Dispute Adjustment Law (prohibition of strike outside workplace). The union was to hold a congress to

decide whether to call a strike last December. Management refused to let them meet at the workplace, and prevented them from securing other halls. As a result, the strike vote was held away from the workplace, violating the law. Kwak (Prisoner No.177) is now in prison (San '18-1 Poil-Dong, Euiwang-City 437-120, Kyungki-Do, South Korea).

Lee Heon-ku, president, and Kim Jong-chan, vice-president of Hyundai Motor Trade Union were charged with violating the Labour Dispute Adjustment Law in relation with the strike in January 1992. They are now imprisoned in Ulsan Police Station. Last August 20, the union elected Lee as president on a program of union democracy and independence and affiliation with KTUC.

In December when management rejected workers' demand for 150% special year-end bonus, which had been an annual custom, despite \$7 billion net profit, the union called a work-to-rule and rejection of overtime or holiday work. Workers in passenger car production plants stopped work. Management brought charges against 32 union officers, dismissed more than 30 union activists, and began deducting from workers' wages the amount the company

claims to have lost due to the work-to-rule and overtime ban. The union voted to strike January 14, and management locked workers out before the strike could take effect. Accordingly 20,000 union workers came to work, launched a sit-in and held rallies. And police surrounded the factory.

12,000 riot police troopers launched a combined land, sea and air operation at 5 a.m. January 22nd to break the strike. The union disbanded the strike to avoid injuries and possible deaths. Management has filed a lawsuit against 12 union leaders to seek compensation for property damage and production loss and also accused 82 union officers of business intervention. 32 union officers have been imprisoned, and 67 unionists dismissed. 13 unionists including the General Secretary are wanted by police. 498 unionists were disciplined by management.

Enquiry to: Korea Trade Union Congress(KTUC); 5th Floor, Dongwon Building, 56-38; Sungin-Dong, Jongro-Ku, Seoul 110-550, KOREA FAX: 82-2-765-5855

### KOREA

**Undocumented Workers:** There are an estimated 100,000 foreign workers in Korea, illegal, neglected and unprotected. In a major industrial compound near Seoul, Ansan Compound, only one factory out of 130 does not hire illegal foreign workers. About 10,000 foreign workers are estimated to be working in factories in this area.

Most of the foreign workers come from the Philippines or are Koreans from China; others come from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They are usually hired by small factories, construction sites, restaurants and public bath-houses; others work as house-maids, etc in and around Seoul. Workers usually get a monthly pay of US\$ 400 to US\$ 530, without any allowances, bonuses or social welfare—but must pay \$140 to his or her Korean 'guide' for employment.

**Murder on the Job:** Chon-no-hyup, the Korean Trade Union Congress (KTUC), announced April 8 that its analysis of reports by the Labour Ministry (LM) revealed that the government has been reporting false statistics to ILO (International Labor Organization). Since 1987, the LM has left unreported at least 100,000 industrial accidents per year. South Korea has recorded the highest rate of industrial accidents, a clear indicator of the intensity of labour and working conditions. "The LM will be hard pressed to make any further denials, given the amount of proof of their falsifying statistics," stated a reporter for the Han Kyo Rei Daily.

Korean newspapers reported that the Labor Ministry announced that industrial accidents last year claimed 6 lives and disabled 81 people per day. According to the LM a total of 2,299 workers were killed and 29,854 were injured on the job last year. This is an increase of 2.8% and 7.3% respectively in the official statistics.

Occupational diseases hit 128,169 workers last year; down 3.6% from 1990. It was also reported that construction related accidents accounted for 33% of the total, and that small to medium sized factories were found to be more prone to accidents than large firms. Over 68% of the accidents took place in factories with 300 workers or less.

March 7, Kim Young-mi, age 18 was killed in a cookie factory in Seoul when she was pulled into and crushed by a large roller in the conveyer during her second week of work there. Kim, a recent High School graduate, did not receive any safety education and was told only that her work was "something comfortable and just button-pressing." The conveyer machine did not have any safety equipment such as an emergency stop mechanism. The Hae-Tae Co., for whom she worked, is one of the largest confectionery companies in Korea. In this factory alone there have been 400 industrial accidents since 1985.

**Korean Manufacturing Investments Abroad Quadruple:** Korean manufacturing firms' direct foreign investments have sharply increased in recent years—more than quadruple the US\$144 million in 1989 to \$587 million last year, according to statistics recently released by the Korean Ministry of Trade and Industry.

While government officials attributed the steep rise in overseas investments to high wages and manpower shortages, the main drive comes from companies' efforts to secure a corporate foothold overseas as a means of avoiding protectionism and to pursue their globalization strategy.

Two major foreign investments to the United States were those by Hyundai Electronics Co. and Pungsan Metal Co. Hyundai Electronics recently decided to move its PC Headquarters to Silicon Valley, in California. Edward Thomas, a former superintendent of IBM, was nominated as the new head of the California based headquarters.

Pungsan Metal Co. is constructing a massive factory in Iowa, expected to produce 400,000 tons of copper and copper-alloys yearly, 20% of the total demand in the U.S. Pungsan Metal Co. became well known in the late 1980's in Korea for its severe repression of trade union activities.

(edited from *Korean Labour News Dispatch*)

### SWEDEN

**Cold Winds of Right-Wing Politics:** The right wing, Thatcher-Reagan inspired, government which came to power in Sweden after the September 1991 elections has continued with its anti-labor policy. There has been some strain between the liberal wing and the conservative/neoliberal wing but the 4-party coalition is holding together.

Local governments with right wingers in power have been cutting back in the public sector. Thousands of people will lose their jobs as child care centers close, public libraries are shut down and public services of all kinds are reduced to an absolute minimum. In response there have been protests around the country.

In Huddinge, a southern suburb of Stockholm, 4000 people marched on a local city council demanding an end to the slaughter of public services. Uppsala, north of the capital, has been hard hit by right wing politicians plans to fire 1,000 public workers.

The local SAC federation in Uppsala warns that the hard times of the 1930s will return unless Swedes take action against the government policies. The statement reads in part, "The policy of dismantling the social welfare system, increased injustice and affiliation to the European Community are not what the majority of citizens want. Again and again we must show our discontent: demonstrations in the street and at the workplaces."

### POLITICAL PRISONERS

#### RUSSIA

##### Protest Letters

The following appeal was received from a comrade who asks that petitions and protest letters be sent to Boris Yeltsin, Kremlin, Moscow, Russia:

A world-wide campaign is underway to demand the release of Alexander Kuznetsov and Aleksei Rodionov, Yeltsin's first political prisoners. On February 10, the two anarchists were found guilty of assault and "malicious hooliganism" and sentenced to three years in a labor camp. The conviction stems from a March 12, 1991, incident. On their way to a demonstration against the "transformed" KGB, then in the process of being broken up by riot police, the two were set upon and brutally beaten by militia and KGB members. They were then held in prison for 8 months, until pressure from hunger strikers got them released pending trial. The two were convicted despite the testimony of many independent witnesses. Many people have been arrested in demonstrations protesting the convictions.

The Moscow Union of Anarchists is demanding the immediate release of their imprisoned comrades and the dismissal of those who beat and arrested them.

### SWEDEN

**Protest Against Racism:** Violent attacks by gunmen on 11 immigrants resulting in the death of one and serious wounding of several others have sent a shock wave through Swedish society. In answer to this violence and the increasing numbers of neo-nazis organizing in the country, immigrant organizations called a national day of protest.

SAC gave full support to the February protest, which, despite contradictory messages from the large reformist labor federation LO, was a successful expression of solidarity among workers. In large cities like Stockholm and Goteburg all public transportation stopped for 5 minutes and many shops and restaurants closed for one hour. At industrial plants like the Saab-Scandia auto plant in Södertälje and Pripps Brewery in Bromma, workers held one hour meetings to show solidarity and discuss ways to fight racism. Many schools used the day to discuss ways to stop violence, racism and xenophobia. Across Sweden thousands of people took part in mass rallies.

Solidarity actions were organized outside Swedish institutions in London and Germany.

(*Swedish news source: SAC, Central Organization of Swedish Workers, International Committee.*)

### SRI LANKA

**Workers Fight "Peoplisation":** Under this rubric, the Sri Lankan government is handing over state-owned agricultural, railway, banking and other enterprises to local and international capitalists. Hundreds of thousands of workers are slated to lose their jobs if the "peoplisation" scheme goes through.

### UNIONS ON THE RISE

*Asian Labour Update* (April 1992) reports that unionization rates in Asia's "newly industrialized countries" are now comparable to those in most industrialized countries, but are rising even as U.S. unionization rates plummet. Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan all report unionization rates substantially higher than in the U.S.

Only some 28% of workers in OECD countries now belong to unions, down from 37% fifteen years ago. Meanwhile, unions in many Asian countries report dramatic growth despite government repression. Many employers are already in search of new non-union, low-wage havens, forcing workers in Hong Kong, the Philippines, South Korea and other countries to organize against runaway shops.

### RUSSIA

#### Union of Workplace Collectives

The Constituent Congress of Russian Union of Workplace Collectives was held March 10-11. The movement of workplace collectives unites several million working people.

### WORLD

**Falling Wages:** A report by the US Labor Department lists average factory wages per hour as follows (1990 data, US dollars):

(1) Norway	\$21.86
(2) Germany	\$21.53
(3) Sweden	\$20.93
(4) Switzerland	\$20.83
(5) Finland	\$20.76
(6) Belgium	\$18.94
(7) Netherlands	\$18.22
(8) Denmark	\$17.85
(9) Austria	\$17.01
(10) Italy	\$16.41
(11) Canada	\$16.02
(12) France	\$15.23
(13) United States	\$14.77
(14) Australia	\$12.97
(15) Japan	\$12.64
(16) Britain	\$12.43
(17) Ireland	\$11.76
(18) Spain	\$11.61
(19) Israel	\$8.55
(20) New Zealand	\$8.33
(21) Greece	\$6.75
(22) Taiwan	\$3.95
(23) Korea	\$3.82
(24) Singapore	\$3.78
(25) Portugal	\$3.69
(26) Hong Kong	\$3.20
(27) Brazil	\$2.64
(28) Mexico	\$1.80



## COAL MINE WORKERS IU 220

# 25 Killed in Nova Scotia Coal Mine Rescue Efforts Halted with 10 Still Missing

At Plymouth, on the northern shore of Nova Scotia, 26 miners were trapped underground after a methane explosion. At a vertical depth of 350 meters (1000 feet), at the end of a mile-long sloping tunnel the miners were near to finishing the night shift on May 9 at 5:20 AM Eastern time.

Houses up to a mile away were shaken by the blast. Power, communication and ventilation systems were knocked out immediately. Ventilation is provided by 2 parallel tunnels, one carrying fresh air in, the other carrying gas-laden air to the outside. The seals of cross-cuts linking the tunnels were blown out by the explosion, causing the air to mix. The trapped miners carried breathing equipment good for only 2 to 4 hours.

Westray mine opened in 1990, owned by Curragh Resources Inc., subsidized by the provincial government. Recently Curragh announced the mine was for sale, angering taxpayers. The mine employed 101 underground workers. Its coal goes to fire the Nova Scotia utility for electric power generation.

The seam of coal there is known as the Foord Seam. A veteran miner said that

the Foord Seam is "a very gassy seam of coal and a very dangerous seam of coal. It's considered the most dangerous in Nova Scotia...Anyone who wants to dig underground here is building a graveyard, not a mine."

The Foord seam is the biggest known seam of bituminous coal in the world, extending for about 10 kilometres in either direction from the Westray mine. The seam is about 14 meters thick top to bottom, the height of a 4-storey building.

The thick Foord seam gives off more methane gas than a thinner seam would. And the tunnels are high, requiring extra ventilation.

The death toll from mining the Foord seam over the years since 1838, now stands at 178.

Westray is a non-union mine -- a UMWA certification vote in January 1992 lost by only 20 votes. Several workers had recently expressed safety concerns about methane buildup and unsafe practices, to UMWA District 26 in nearby Cape Breton. Pay was about \$15 an hour for underground miners; unemployment in the region is 20%.

In the Fall of 1991, members of the

Legislative Assembly raised the issue on behalf of the workers. The provincial government's response was to get the company, Curragh Resources Inc., to hire consultants to study safety. Now the government has announced an inquiry into the explosion, but no one expects justice from this inquiry.

11 bodies were pulled from the mine on Sunday May 10, killed by carbon monoxide created by the fire. On Wednesday May 13 rescue operations were suspended to allow tunnels to be reinforced, in order not to endanger rescue workers. Next day, only 5 days after the blast, it was announced the mine would be closed and no further attempt would be made to recover the bodies of 10 who remain underground. In the Springhill mine disaster of 1958, 6 miners were found alive after 9 days.

Grief and resignation of the townspeople turned to anger as the company and RCMP refused to let anyone including reporters, near the mine.

Canadian Steelworkers Union has donated \$10,000 to the miners' surviving relatives, and many other unions have also contributed.

## METAL MINE WORKERS IU 210

## RUSSIA

## Leninsk-Kusnetsky

The city strike committee's (medics, teachers, chemical workers, etc.) attempt to hold a 3-hour warning strike March 11 failed when members of the Independent Miners' Trade Union said if it was organized they would agitate against it and volunteer as strike breakers.

## Government Unions Seize Workers Funds

Chairman Makhlatkina of the Russian Federation Social Security Fund, and Vice-chairman Alyalina of the Russian Central Bank, sent a cable to all the Russian banks on March 19 directing them to close unions' Social Security accounts and direct the funds to an account controlled by the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions as a monopoly. The Kuzbas Workers' Committees' Council and several miners' unions are among those protesting the decision.

Miners of the Pechyora coal basin demanded that the Independent Miners' Trade Unions, should not sign the General Agreement with the Government until it cancel its decision on the fund.

## UKRAINE

## Miners Propose Extended Leave for Government

When the Ukrainian government announced plans to shorten leaves for the miners, the Donetsk city strike committee spread leaflets on March 18, saying that the shortening of leaves at the time when a number of mines are closing cannot solve the problems of the coal mining industry. Instead of shortening our leaves, the miners stated, the government should go on limitless leave. (KAS-KOR Bulletin)

## AUSTRALIA

Miners: Mineworkers are fighting Pasminco over victimisation and unfair sackings. United Mineworkers Broken Hill secretary Eddie Butcher says the company is attempting to victimise active unionists.

## Food &amp; Beverage Workers I.U. 460

## SWEDEN

**Stockholm Brewery Workers Strike:** March 24, SAC members struck at the Pripps Brewery in Bromma, Stockholm. The strike was a protest against a low wage increase. "Now we have had enough," said one worker on the picketline, "It's impossible to live on these wages when the cost of living is sky-rocketing." The reformist union which most Pripps workers belong to did not take part in the strike, but individual members gave support to the SAC section's strike.

**Stockholm Restaurant Workers Strike:** Syndicalist restaurant workers at the huge L M Ericsson industrial complex in the southwestern area of Stockholm went out on strike April 2. It was a bizarre situation where one of the workers was threatened and assaulted in a racist way by the boss in the kitchen. Another worker was fired with five minutes notice. The restaurant chain, Amica, runs foodplaces at factories and employs many immigrants. When SAC decided to take action the union negotiator received telephone death threats. In mid-April there was no solution and negotiations continued in a tense atmosphere.

## Municipal Transport Workers I.U. 540 AUSTRALIA

**Bus Drivers:** A mass meeting of 1300 bus drivers on March 24 overwhelmingly rejected a deal between the state government and their union (ATMOEA). The deal came out of negotiations on government threats of savage cutbacks to Adelaide's bus services. Drivers are demanding that no services be cut and that plans for privatisation of some routes be dropped. Under the rejected deal, 100 jobs would be cut, earlier starting times would be introduced for 12-hour shifts, other shifts would be extended by up to 40 minutes, drivers' duties would be extended to include refuelling and washing buses, and some penalty rates would be dropped. In return, the State Transport Authority would agree not to oppose a 4.5% pay rise.

## METAL &amp; MACHINERY WORKERS IU 440

## AUSTRALIA

**Metal & Auto Workers Down Tools:** Mitsubishi workers at two plants walked off the job here last week. About 1000 stopped work at the Lonsdale iron foundry in response to management attempts to cut penalty rates and change work patterns. About 200 trim line workers held a stop-work meeting at the Tonsley Park car plant over work conditions. They demanded that more people be employed on lines, or their speed slowed.

## Steel Workers and Machinists Aid South African Workers

United Steel Workers and International Association of Machinists are claiming success in a campaign to pressure Philadelphia-based Crown Cork & Seal, to re-instate 196 black S.A. workers who had been fired for protesting state-sponsored violence.

The workers, members of South African union NUMSA, had taken part in a 2-day strike to protest apartheid violence. Crown had fired all the workers and replaced them with non-union workers. When the union attempted to negotiate a settlement, the company filed intimidation charges against 6 workers and 3 NUMSA officials, and the 9 were arrested.

The settlement brokered by USW and IAM, calls for 100 of the workers to be re-instated immediately, with the other 96 given preferential recall. Also, Crown dropped the charges against the 9 arrested.

## JAPAN

**Auto Workers Unions Statement:** "We are deeply concerned about US auto workers who are suffering from severe unemployment. We firmly believe that the problems facing the US economy now are not caused by the quality of American workers, but by under-performing management..." The 728,000 member federation is seeking a 20 percent cut in working hours. *Asian Labour Update* reports that grassroots union groups in the US and Japan are proposing a campaign organized around the slogan "Buy Union Made" to replace the protectionist "Buy American" campaign.

**Metal Workers:** Trouble is brewing at aluminium transnational Comalco's Australian operations as it attempts to install New Zealand-style individual contracts, particularly at its Bell Bay (Tas) and Boyne Island (Qld) smelters. Using the anti-union Employment Contract Act, the company recently signed up most of the workforce in its New Zealand operations on individual contracts, excluding unions from all discussions.

## RAILROAD WORKERS IU 520

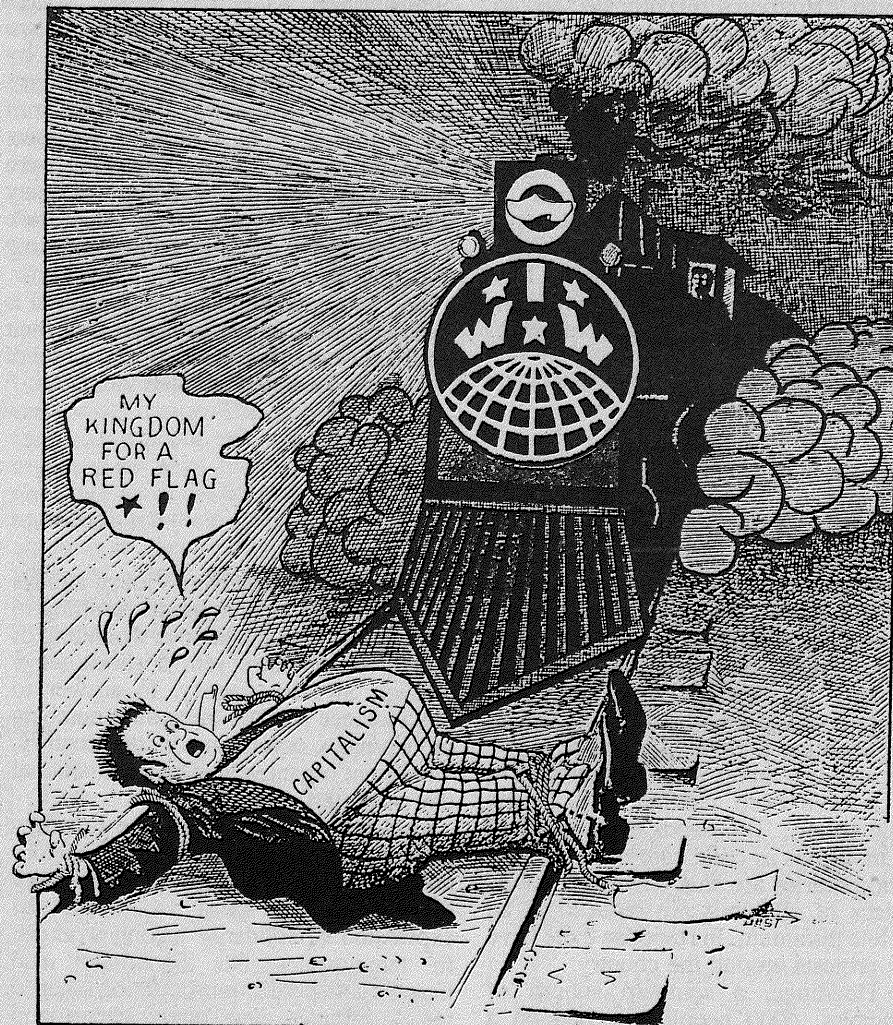
## JAPAN

**Solidarity Call for Rail Workers:** The anarcho-syndicalist network ASN is appealing for support for the struggle of rail workers in Japan. The government and Japanese Railway Companies are attempting to destroy anti-capitalist and anti-war unions like Kokuroo, Zendooro, and Chiba Dooroo.

Thousands of workers have been laid off and are now struggling to get their jobs back. ASN is asking for international solidarity. Send letters to Miyazawa Kiichi, Japanese prime minister through the local embassy or consulate.

## AUSTRALIA

**Rail Workers:** A threat of strike action by rail workers on the Eastern Suburbs line has forced CityRail to postpone plans to eliminate ticket collectors at the central-city Martin Place station. Transport minister Bruce Baird denied claims based on leaked CityRail documents that CityRail had discussed plans to replace rail staff with private security guards. The Labor opposition claims to have letters discussing the possibility of having police, transit police and security guards inspecting tickets.



## HEALTH SERVICE WORKERS IU 610

RUSSIA  
BERESOVSKY STRIKE

Medical workers of the town are going to begin a strike called by the town's union federation. Conferences of the town's medical workers decided which of the medical structures would go on strike and which would carry out urgent medical services. Teachers supported the medics, striking in 6 schools. Teachers demand pay rises and lower prices.

## NEW ZEALAND

**Health Service Industry:** Trouble is brewing over a government ban on national collective employment contracts in the New Zealand health service. The government is pursuing cuts to overtime and premium rates. The health services conflict is one of several battles expected when existing wage contracts expire in mid-June. The country's industrial system has traditionally revolved around an annual "wage round," and union officials are expecting sharp clashes in the coming round.



## I.U. 620

# Education Workers Need Industrial Organization

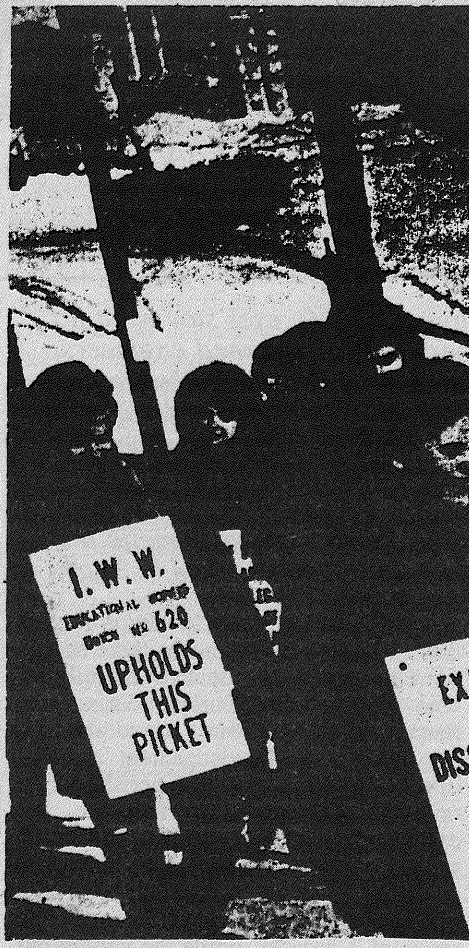
Today I received a letter from a fellow worker noting that teachers at his institution received only \$400 pay hikes last year, less than the increases in health care premiums. The school I'm leaving is raising teachers' pay by about 4 percent, but is upping the presidents' (much higher) pay by 7.5 percent. (It could be worse, they pay maintenance and clerical workers about nine thousand a year.) The school I'm moving to is "represented" by an AFT local which has negotiated pay hikes of 2 and 3 percent a year for the past several years.

Clearly, education workers are losing ground across the entire country. Our pay is falling, relative to inflation. Support for research, travel, copying, library and other support budgets is being slashed. Class sizes are going up, even as students come in less prepared. Only the administrators are thriving, as their salaries increasingly approach those of corporate executives and their productive activity dwindles to naught.

Many of my students are ill-prepared, working-class students without the funds to go to school or buy textbooks. They work 30 to 40 hours a week in order to support themselves and pay the every-

rising tuition charges, and attend classes and study in their "free time." Few have time to think, to take classes because they're interested in the subject matter, to delve deeply into their studies. Two decades ago, many of these students could have gotten financial aid so that they could devote themselves to their studies. Today they have a choice between going deep in debt to cover their educations or working to keep their heads above water. With economic prospects what they are, few want to run up \$20,000 to \$30,000 in loans for college.

Clearly, those in power see little value in educating those destined to work in their factories or starve in their breadlines. The situation will continue to deteriorate unless we come together to take matters into our own hands. To win, we need industrial unions--it's not enough to organize just the faculty, or just the clerical workers, or just the maintenance workers, or just the teaching assistants, or just the students. If we don't organize together, into one education workers industrial union, we will continue to lose ground. If we unite, there is no power that can defeat us. -JB



## Teachers Pensions at Risk

A recent issue of *Academe* (published by the American Association of University Professors) sharply criticizes the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equity Fund (TIAA-CREF) as undemocratic, secretive, and heavily committed to speculative investments that might leave teachers without the benefits they are relying upon to support them in their retirement.

Now the world's largest pension fund with \$88 billion in assets, TIAA was set up in 1918 as an Andrew Carnegie charitable trust. The "Association" is controlled by a self-appointing Board of Overseers appointed by previous Overseers, appointed by Mr. Carnegie. TIAA's chairman, Clifton Wharton, was paid \$1.3 million dollars in 1990 (including bonuses and retirement plan payments), up 24 percent from 1989. (A careful review of TIAA-CREF's 1991 annual report finds a full-color photo of Mr. Wharton, the assertion that "TIAA's operating expenses are remarkably low," and not one word--even in the 6-page financial report--on executive compensation.)

Financial analysts report that a great deal of TIAA's assets are junk bonds and overvalued real estate holdings (one out of four dollars are invested in commercial real estate--TIAA picked up \$505 million in defaulted real estate in 1990 alone).

Payouts to retirees fell by as much as 5 percent in 1990; indeed, TIAA interest rates have fallen for each of the past three years. Since TIAA pays out benefits substantially larger than its "guaranteed" return, retiree benefits are in effect a cash reserve which can be reduced to make up any losses on its investments. TIAA advertising boasts that the plan guarantees a "specified interest rate" without mentioning that that rate is just 3 percent, far less than the rate of inflation. TIAA's high solvency ratings from investors services are in large part based upon these "very low" (Standard and Poor's) guarantees.

Most college teachers and other academic staff are "participants" in the TIAA-CREF system. Few have any real choice in the matter. When I was hired I was given a choice between TIAA and a state pension scheme set up for elementary school teachers and other state workers (which would keep my "contributions" in the event that I took a job outside the state). So it was a choice between TIAA and a plan where I had no chance of ever collecting benefits in the likely event that I moved on. (Which is precisely the situation our fellow workers covered by corporate pension plans find themselves in.)

Yet although TIAA is now fully financed by our "contributions," we have no say in its management. "Participants"

(to call us members would be too much) are permitted to vote on a slate of trustees nominated by TIAA, but there are no provisions for "participant" input into the nominating process and ultimate power lies with the Overseers. Although TIAA-CREF produces reams of glossy, optimistically-phrased reports, "participants" are given little information to enable us to evaluate the plans' financial soundness. (Not that there's anything we could do about mismanagement in any event, since it is possible neither to take our business elsewhere or to force a change in management.)

TIAA-CREF makes it possible for education workers to take our pensions with us--particularly important in our highly volatile industry where many of our fellow workers will find themselves moving every few years from short-term job to short-term job, and where few of us can hope to spend most our working lives in the same state. But, like other pension plans, it offers us no control over the enormous sums withheld from our wages. TIAA trustees can invest these as they choose, whether in junk bonds and real estate speculation or in strike-breaking, polluting corporations. Should their investments fail to pay off, they need simply slash our benefits. It sounds a great deal like capitalism, no? -X331117

In connection with the steep price rises due to liberalization, the teachers demand pay rises, and bonuses for checking pupils' homework, for grade direction and for other additional work. If the demands are not satisfied the teachers will hold a warning strike on April 16, and begin a full strike on May 4.

### St. Petersburg Teachers Strike

A March 13 session of the city teachers' strike committee discussed the results of the strike of school teachers on March 9. About 100 school teachers collectives took part in the strike (27 collectives on an official count) in 13 city districts. 14 schools went on strike at the Vyborgsky district. Workers at a number of kindergartens also took part in it. Many collectives were not quite ready for the strike, and so the beginning of the limitless strike was delayed. Trying to head off the strike committee initiative, the official Trade Union stated that it has been negotiating teachers pay raises with the administration.

### AUSTRALIA Education Staff

General staff at the major Brisbane universities struck for 24 hours on March 25 and again on April 8 over employer demands for a minimum rates award, which could cut pay for many staff by attacking over-award payments. The strike went ahead despite an Industrial Commission recommendation that all strike action be suspended until the commission resumes hearing the case on April 24. The strikers voted overwhelmingly to continue their campaign for a paid rates award, and refused to rule out further strike action.

### KOREA Teachers Need Solidarity

In 1989, Korean teachers formed a democratic union, the Teachers' and Education Workers' Union, Chonkyojo. It has never gained legal recognition because Korean labor law prohibits public sector unions. Since 1989, some 1500 teachers have been dismissed from their jobs for union activities.

Chonkyojo is currently involved in a concerted campaign to pressure the government for recognition. On March 2nd, 500 dismissed teachers were arrested and detained for two days for holding a rally in central Seoul during which they demanded union legalization and the reinstatement of fired teachers.

Chonkyojo has asked that protest letters be sent to the following government officials: Choi Byung Yui, Minister of Labour, Ministry of Labour, 1 Chungang-dong, Kwachon City, Kyunggi-do; Lee Jong Nam, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice (government address as above). (from *Asian Labour Update*)

### RUSSIA Teachers Threaten Strike

The teachers' strike committee of Moscow's North-West district prepared a package of demands to the city's authorities and the Education Department.

## Another Great Friend of Labor

"Whether or not you should vote in the primaries or general election depends, as always," Robin Hahnel writes in the *March Z Magazine* "on whether you feel there is some shit you will not eat, or you feel you have eaten shit long enough to develop subtle, differential aversions."

I must admit that I have a general aversion to eating shit. In 1980, I condemned Jimmie Carter for reinstating the draft, boosting the military budget, slashing social welfare spending, and getting a Taft-Hartley injunction ordering coal miners back to work (fortunately they had the good sense to ignore him). In 1984, I denounced Walter Mondale's policies as warmed-over Reaganism. In 1988, I wrote that Michael Dukakis' "Massachusetts Miracle" was an outright fraud, and that he had handed the state's economy over to the banks and the corporations.

I was right. But now that I have the opportunity to write about Bill Clinton, the governor of my state, I begin to

understand how some people can differentiate between better and worse politicians. This is some terrible shit.

The AFL-CIO has endorsed Clinton, saying he was a friend of labor who deserved their support. The head of the Arkansas AFL-CIO, Bill Becker, now says Clinton looks pretty good, compared to George Bush. Two years ago Becker said "This guy will pat you on the back and piss down your leg." More recently, Becker told labor officials that Clinton supported labor only 25 to 30 percent of the time. Overall, "he's stuck it to us."

Clinton supports Arkansas' right-to-work-for-less law, saying "We want to try to keep as many jobs and attract as many jobs as we can." Clinton's Arkansas Industrial Development Commission specializes in cash handouts to low-wage employers. Its publicity materials tout Arkansas' low wages and low rate of unionization. The National Safe Workplace Institute ranks Arkansas dead last in terms of accident prevention,

health and safety enforcement, and workers' compensation.

Perhaps the most egregious example of Clinton's sock-it-to-the-workers, welfare-for-the-rich policies is the Morrilton Plastics strike. United Auto Workers members have been on strike against Morrilton Plastics for 26 months. The company paid \$4.90 to \$5 an hour when they struck, even for those with 20 years seniority. Workers were grossing about \$186 a week, hardly a living wage even in Arkansas' depressed economy. Strikers demanded higher wages at an auxiliary plant paying only \$4.25 an hour, a 30 cent raise they had been promised, and health benefits management said it could no longer afford.

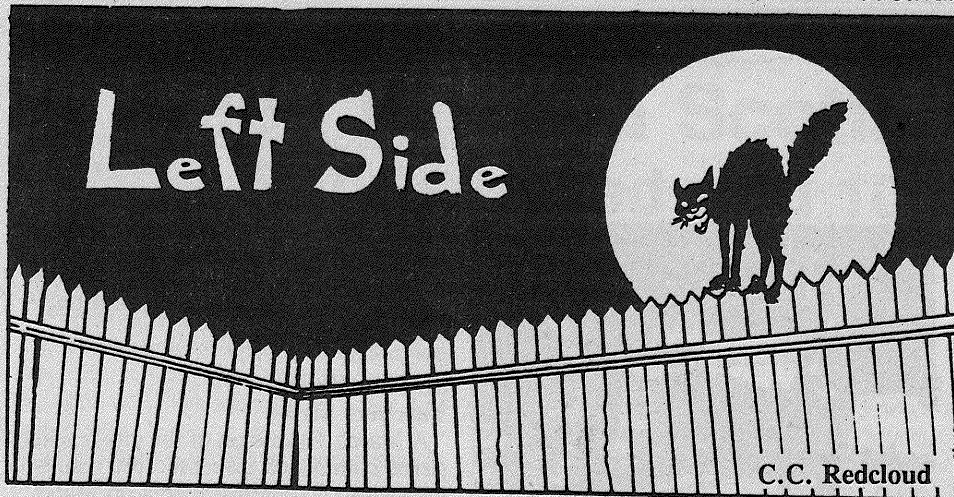
Just before the strike, Clinton gave his blessing to a \$300,000 state loan guarantee that helped Morrilton Plastics build up strike inventory, even though the union warned him the loan was intended to break the union. Without the aid, Morrilton would have had to negotiate, a

UAW report says. "This tragic episode was caused when Governor Clinton and his administration interfered with collective bargaining and in essence helped the company try to bust the union... Clinton had advance warning from the UAW but pursued his pro-management course anyway."

Ultimately, Morrilton Plastics received \$575,000 in state industrial development loans. Recently the company filed for bankruptcy, and the state stands to lose nearly \$500,000 on the deal. AIDC director Dave Harrington says "I was convinced that we had to give them a chance to succeed... It was a pretty decent use of the money."

After ten years of Clinton's administration, Arkansas workers are among the country's worst-paid, least-protected, and ill-educated. Clinton hopes people's justifiable anger at the Republicans will divert attention from his





"I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no person should witness. Gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot and killed by high school and college graduates. So I'm suspicious of education. My request is: help your students to be human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, or educated Eichmanns. Reading and writing and spelling and history and arithmetic are only important if they serve to make our students human."

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, is asking for contributions to help finance a permanent exhibition site to remind people in this age as well as future generations of what transpired in Europe during the Second World War when millions of people were systematically slaughtered by the Nazi Regime in Germany. Your scribe has no argument with that. Knowing full well the television attention-span that many of us have become afflicted with in regard to contemporary history, one can sadly reflect on Santayana's observation that those who ignore history are condemned to repeat it.

We here in Freedomland who have been fortunate not to have experienced warfare on our own turf (provided we do not happen to be Indian, Black, Chicano or Union Activists), need to be reminded of the extremes of military conflict. I am all for such exhibits, if only to ward off the apathy that we are continually encouraged to embrace.

My exception is: Look at the ones who seek to establish such an institution. It was from Freedomland's shores that boatloads of Jewish refugees were being turned away, during the time that this very Holocaust was taking place. This seems a bit inconsistent in light of Freedomland's present catering to the present nation-state of Israel. Maybe Uncle Sammy wanted to make sure that Hitler did away with all the Socialists, Anarcho-Syndicalists and other Unionists first, before shedding any crocodile tears. It was not only 6 million Jewish people that were slaughtered but several million more Gypsies, Slavs, etc., not to mention who knows how many Germans who had the guts to openly disagree with the Nazi regime. Don't forget, Fellow Worker Reader, there were still IWW members in Germany at that time.

Yes, Fellow Workers, at the same time when our respectable businessmen were still sending materials to Germany, directly and indirectly.

True, this Holocaust should never be forgotten. It would indeed be obscene to ignore it or listen to those who say the Holocaust never happened. But look at

those who happen to be loudly promoting this memorial. By all means there should be a memorial for the tens of millions who perished in Europe during the Second World War, but I would also like to see an acknowledgement of the upwards of 10 million who perished right on this Continent to facilitate the establishment of Freedomland. True, the wiping out of 6 million Jews and several million other Europeans was accomplished by one government in the space of 2 decades, while the wiping out of millions of Indians took a little over 2 centuries. The difference is not a moral one -- it is only a difference of technological efficiency!

In this, the 500th anniversary of Columbus' "discovery", it would be most appropriate that there be two companion Holocaust Memorials, side by side. There should also be another Holocaust Memorial to the millions of kidnapped Africans whose unpaid labor gave the founding fathers the leisure time to write Declarations of "Independence."

Do not, however, hold your breath waiting for my gentle suggestion to be taken to heart by those who manipulate us. Despite the overwhelming cinematic evidence of the culpability of a bunch of club-wielding racist Los Angeles flatfoots, a lily-White jury of respectable suburbanites found them innocent of all charges. So do not expect any galloping progress towards racial harmony here in Freedomland. When the word "american" is bandied around, there are those of us who can be sure they don't mean us.

I had mentioned before in this column that the baboons had a more realistic approach to their economic and cultural lifestyle than those of us of the homo erectus persuasion. The baboons too, have their equivalents of presidents, prime ministers or what have you whom they elect, but when the baboon to whom they have tendered their mandate is no longer working in their interests, they make a meal of him. By no means am I suggesting that we make a porthouse out of our politicians. That is one culinary adventure I would draw the line at.

## Emperor of the Yups

Colorado T. Sky  
X340378

Dateline: California. While Governor Wilson gloomily predicts that by the turn of the century California will be paying more in services than it can collect in taxes; while workers risk life and limb in unsafe mills and factories, in their attempt to stave off recession as single-digit wage slaves; while EarthFirst! gears up for what promises to be a long and uphill fight; while the last vestiges of the Exxon Valdez disaster ride the waves gently lapping the prow of the Good Ship California, a dozen 'entrepreneurs' climb out of their jacuzzis, park their attache cases, and don their Sunday-go-to-meetin' duds and hop a Santa Fe.

Usually Sundays, sometimes Saturdays, some or all of this pack of 'yuppos' will clamber into their Mercedes and cruise in search of an idling freight. Piling out at a siding, glancing quickly around to make sure there are no 'bulls' about, they clamber aboard and wait for the train to pull out. Eventually it does, and these pillars of commerce are on their way to nowhere.

Just a few miles in, out, and 'round about the country 'til the ol' rattler comes to a halt. Then they unload and wait for the Benz to pick them up. Bob Hopkins says he does it for the thrill. Bob Spediaci just likes trains. "Archie", a prosperous

courier-service owner, enjoys the company of Brad Weiss and others in the group.

Mike Burton, a security officer (bull, right?) for the Santa Fe, doesn't care who they are or why they do it, he simply holds the company's hard-line "No 'Bo's" policy. "Ride a train--go to jail," Burton states, pure, simple and unchanged from the days of the Great Depression.

Hardly enlightened, but consistent. One of the reasons often cited is safety; it's no safer now than it was 60 years ago. Greg Carpenter, 26, also of California though not positively identified as a member of the "Yuppie Hobos", was killed when

crushed by a shifting load of lumber. Since 1988 there have been over 800 non-employee deaths and injuries on the Santa Fe. Must be playing hell with their insurance premiums.

Maybe I'm gettin' just a little cratchy in my old age, but this bugs the livin' shit right outa me.

There's been a time or two when I've had to jump a rattler (not lately) for one reason or another, and as a child I listened with rapt attention to tales from my uncles and great-uncles of riding during the Great Depression; following what work there was from the forests of the Pacific Northwest to the coal mines of Kentucky's Harlan and Molenberg counties, to the rice, peanut, and cotton harvests in Mississippi and Louisiana; tales of fatal falls, of amputations, decapitations, and the legendary brutality of the bulls.

While hindsight may all but remove the frostbitten sting of ten sub-freezin' hours in a cattle car as I rode from Shreveport to Joplin -- and if nothing else, it beat walking -- still, the tradition of riding the rods was born of the desperation of men and women who had no other way of meeting their needs and the needs of their families during the harshest economic times this country has ever seen.

Perhaps it will come again that workers will be driven to the rails for transport; the economic indicators which have become apparent certainly point in that direction. And it may be that I myself am out there in the jungles, eyepatch, legrace, saddlebags an' all, tryin' to grab a ride to my next job. I'll do it because I must, not because it sounds exciting, and I'll admit it with the same sort of tired reluctance that my uncles bespoke, and that I have now come to understand.

I certainly won't make a game of it, nor belittle the gravity of such action.

And I damn sure won't sit around my corporate office or my quarter-million-dollar home and say, "Let's go down to the tracks and pretend we're hobos," with the same tone these fat yuppie scuz would use when saying, "Let's go down to the cellar and pretend we're rats."

## American Dream

Review

It isn't every day in the good old U.S. of A. that a film about workers getting screwed by the bosses gets an academy award.

It isn't every day that I drive 60 miles into Los Angeles to see a movie, either. But I braved the L.A. Freeway in the rain to see *American Dream*, a film by Barbara Kopple.

*American Dream* is about the meat packers' strike of Local P-9, Austin Minnesota. The film takes you through the time before the strike, till the sad ending that felt a lot like a knife in the heart of humanity.

I didn't really learn anything about the labor movement that I didn't already know, but it was what I felt during the film. Coming from a working class family, with most of my relatives in unions, and having myself been in 4 unions including the IWW, I strongly identified with the pain of the workers in the film.

I was a little disappointed that the film made no mention of the man who was the first person in over 30 years to be arrested under the old anti-syndicalism law.

I was happy that the film did show the sell-out bosses at the international. The strike was a rank and file action, and it would send a message to other workers in other unions, if the rank and file succeeded in their fight against corporate America.

The important thing the film did for me was put me in touch with myself a little more. Since it was really me and you that lost in Austin, Minnesota, I was reminded why I am a revolutionary anarchist. Not because I'm so smart that I know a better way, or because I'm a fearless warrior out to save hard working people who cared about me all my life. They are not ruthless businessmen or powerful leaders, but just common folks who are trying to get by. They get screwed over and over again by a few rich and greedy people.

It's the love I have for these people that keeps me going, and I hope I never get so hardened inside that I can't feel their pain.

Their struggle was not harder or more important than the coal workers in Virginia or the 500,000 who lost jobs this past year in New England or the GM workers in Flint, Michigan, and Gary, Indiana, or the lumber industry fights in northern California or anywhere else. I feel their despair, their frustration and rage because an injury to one is an injury to all.

I realized once again I'm not the cool, calm, loving spiritual non-violent activist I would like to be. I still have a lot of reactionary feelings that jump out and get in the way of real change.

I'm 44 years old and have been an activist for 27 years now. I've been on many picket lines, had many arrests, and been beat up so many times I feel it every morning when I get out of bed.

You would think I would be used to this shit by now, but it still gets to me. I sat in that movie theatre with a tear running down my cheek, watching a man scab on his brother whom he loved.

What dark power can yank a man's dignity right out of his being, tear families apart, and destroy lives like our selfish system of capitalism.

Once again honest working folks get screwed. Once again labor pays some more to the rich and greedy.

Once again I renewed my commitment to myself never to give up the struggle. The heart and spirit of the working class will outlast their money: I know it will. Their motivation in the corporate office is greed and lust for power; our motivation is love, and it can't be bought.

I recommend that if you haven't seen "American Dream," check it out. I give it 3 stars -- the 3 stars on the cover of *Industrial Worker*.

Solidarity Forever! --X341557





# East Germany - What Went Wrong?

By Will Firth

## BERLIN

"Wir sind das Volk," (We are the people) chanted hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in cities throughout the GDR (East Germany) in late 1989, letting the ruling socialist Unity Party (SED) bureaucrats know that "the people" was more than an abstraction in their party program. Shaken by the popular upheaval, the SED regime was voted out of office in March 1990 elections.

But the euphoria of the anti-Stalinist revolution was short-lived: from the opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, to official unification on October 3, 1990, there was a bewildering change of circumstances. In the space of less than a year, the mass support for grassroots socialist change fell apart under a barrage of propaganda from the west. The revolution's potential for self-management was lost.

Why was the GDR's revolution from below derailed?

One aspect is that the very real chance for workplace takeovers and workers' self-management went unrealized. To a large extent this is because the workers' movement was paralysed after decades of bureaucratic domination: workers' organisation independent of the SED didn't exist, and morale was low.

The GDR was a satellite of the Soviet Union, set up in the wake of World War II. The workforce was highly mobilised and militarised. Unions lost all independence and were made "transmission belts" for implementing state policy. Rigid party/state control in the economy and workplace blocked this vital avenue of social change. Not only was punishment for independent activism severe, but people were easily manipulated because of dependence on their workplace for access to many services.

The pores where people could be active autonomously were mainly outside the workplace and the economy: in subcultures, within the church (which was in many ways an umbrella for opposition). Opposition to the regime developed in a mould detached from day-to-day working-class experience, and therefore became a largely intellectual, "middle-class" phenomenon. Alliance 90, Democracy Now, New Forum and other movements which challenged the regime were concerned mainly with green,

feminist and civil-rights issues. So these were given priority in the struggle, not rotten safety standards, alienation from work, "powerlessness" and management caprice.

In official propaganda, the GDR was often referred to as "the state of workers and farmers." But 40 years of Stalinist rule led to a vacuum of workers' control at work, this fundamental aspect of people's lives. The fall of the SED was so abrupt that there was little opportunity for experimentation or rediscovering traditions of non-authoritarian socialism, e.g. anarchism or syndicalism. Such a development would have taken years or decades.

"Paralysis" shouldn't be taken to mean that there was no grassroots industrial action in the GDR at all: even after the bloodily suppressed 1953 uprising, there were sporadic strikes, but most were isolated and short-lived. The lessons are clear: the more control state and/or union bureaucracy has, the less room there is for workers' control and initiative.

This has big implications. It puts the task of organising federally, from the membership up, firmly on the agenda.

Another lesson is a "cultural" one: the more attention is directed away from the processes which produce our clothes, our bread and our everyday tools, the more it furthers the cult of the "political" and the control of administrators over the affairs of society.

The rise of neo-fascism and racism in Germany is closely tied to the hegemonic aspirations of re-emerging German nationalism. However, the spark which set the SED's house on fire was not "national aspirations." Rather, the regime provoked its collapse by sticking steadfastly to its old ideology in the age of perestroika and enraging even the political "middle ground." These reactionary developments shocked wide sections of the population and drew them onto the streets in October 1989 as the "Monday demonstrations" in Leipzig gathered strength. German nationalism or unification was, for most people, not even on the agenda.

But at later big demonstrations, "We are the people" started running up against competition from, and was to be replaced by, "Wir sind ein Volk!" (We are one people). The nationalist slogan was first spread by groups that were to become the German Social Union, the East German sister-party of a Christian Democrat alliance overlapping with neo-Nazis. After the fall of the wall, West German parties

descended hungrily on the GDR.

Trade with other East European countries was declining and state funding for enterprises was threatening to drop off. Economic crisis was on the doorstep. Right-wing parties held up rapid annexation by West Germany as the way out of the jam and into a golden future. The "unity of the German nation" provided the ideological justification.

Attacks on foreign workers in east Germany are to an extent rooted in frustrations and scapegoating, but these feelings were rapidly manipulated into an ideology by neo-fascist groups from the west, which have now firmly established themselves in east Germany. The mainstream media brand "Ossies" (east Germans) as potential racists, brought up under a dictatorship with no understanding of pluralism. Evidence suggests that the media campaign is orchestrated by corporate interest groups. The attempt at racist conditioning of the indigenous working class needs to be seen in the context of east Germany now being a cheap-wage zone. The media campaign was aimed at intimidating Ossies, at creating a distraction and keeping a lid on impending class struggles.

This shows how readily the virus of nationalism can catch hold. The line between ethnic pride and aggressive national chauvinism is a very fine one, especially when a majority people starts on such a tangent. And nationalism is only one form of aggressive exclusivism: distinctions based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference or other particularisms are dangerous seeds of division. Even identifying overtly as blue-collar or white-collar can sow division and lead to paleo-Stalinist "workerism" or elitism. The challenge of building a heterogeneous workers' movement is on the agenda, in Germany and throughout the world. Capitalism has been operating internationally for decades; workers need to also.

The theory that the GDR was doomed to collapse through "the weight of its internal contradictions" is a neat explanation; the trouble is that it's all too easy to make neat theories about historical inertia and dynamics of political systems after the event, but the anti-Stalinist revolutions caught even most specialists by surprise.

By the late 1980s the GDR had an ever more critical younger generation, a worsening environmental crisis in particular regions, run-down enterprises

and increasingly decrepit housing stock. But the regime could have overcome these problems using instruments at its disposal: mass internment camps for dissidents were in the planning stage; there could have been forced relocations of the population and a shifting of production from environmental disaster areas to less damaged ones; the state might eventually have made some improvements to enterprises and housing.

The unexpected collapse shows how difficult it is to foresee the collapse of any political/economic system, or to predict the causes of a future collapse. Material, economic factors certainly play a crucial role, but a major factor also is the conscious will of social forces (especially the "revolutionary subject"). History is not simply a railway line guiding us towards inevitable revolution, as some crude Marxist viewpoints would have it.

The propaganda offensive from West Germany during the decades of Stalinism laid some of the foundations for the revolution of 1990. Many East Germans could pick up West German radio and TV (especially in East Berlin), and the country was not hermetically sealed against all imported literature.

It was not so much the overtly political messages from the West that had an effect, but rather the consumerism. This undermined the will and ability of many East Germans to imagine a society beyond both Stalinism and capitalism. Bananas all year round, video recorders and overseas trips lured many East Germans towards grudgingly accepting the West and everything that came with it.

When people don't know the injustice and inequality inherent in the capitalist system, or when they block it out because they've known anti-capitalism only as demagoguery from a hypocritical caste of bureaucrats, it's easy for them to feel that capitalism is basically a functional and fair system.

This opinion is still held by much of the not-yet impoverished population in "First World" countries. In order to destroy global capitalism and replace it with humane self-managed societies, it's essential to see capitalism as a global organism. Then we need to start thinking and acting globally ourselves - economically, socially, ecologically. (*This article first appeared in Left Green Weekly.*)

## AUSTRALIA

**Bill to Outlaw Forest Protests:** The Tasmanian House of Assembly on April 16 passed a bill granting police increased power of arrest and prescribing mandatory fines for peaceful protest. The bill is aimed at curbing the rights of forest protesters. If passed by the upper house, police will have the power to arrest people who verbally assault a public officer or an officer's "dignity." Public officers include forestry and fisheries officers and even clerks processing land tax receipts.

Changes already made to the Forestry Act allow police to arrest anyone peacefully blockading the operation of vehicles or equipment in state forests. Currently police can remove people or restrict their entry to a state forest if they "reasonably suspect" the person intends to

damage vehicles or machinery. If the new bill is passed, judges will be obliged to impose a mandatory minimum fine of \$1000 on anyone who refuses to obey instructions to leave crown land, with a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or 12 months in jail. Such fines discriminate against protesters on low incomes.

The bill can, in theory, also be used against activists who are independently researching forests on crown land planned for logging, or assessing company operations in forests. It could also easily be turned against union struggles.

## AUSTRALIA

**International Solidarity Actions:** In Adelaide about 200 people celebrated 500 years of indigenous and popular resistance in the Americas on March 29.

Abortion rights solidarity actions in

early April included about 30 people demonstrating in Brisbane's King George Square, in Sydney around 50 people attended a picket outside the US Consulate, and in Wollongong 50 people demonstrated to show solidarity with women in the United States.

In Australia women earn 84.1% of the average male wage.

**Green Ban:** The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union has placed green bans on the development of a sand dune site in Tennyson to prevent its sale by the government. The site is zoned residential, but residents say it should be declared a reserve because it is the last area of its type in the region. Environmental issues are as important as wages and conditions, said organiser David Thomason.

## FRANCE--DOCKERS

Dockers have continued to strike intermittently over the last 5 months. The struggle is basically over their status. The bosses anticipate the ending of the CGT's control of hiring and the ability of the union to administer the fluctuations of harbour activity. Employers are attacking the special unemployment benefit system for dockers.

The ports remain relatively isolated from each other, seen by the different actions. In the port of Saint-Nazaire, the majority of dockers are supporting an agreement by local harbour authorities to create a commercial association for handling of cargo, administered in part by the dockers. Besides playing the bosses' game, this association will be in competition with other private companies, if CGT loses its control of hiring.

## WOMEN

Under current French legislation it is forbidden for women to work the night shift in certain industries. However a judgement at the European Court of Justice in favor of a boss has challenged this law under the pretext of equality between men and women.

## NUCLEAR

Greenpeace pacifists attempting to land from the *Rainbow Warrior II* on Muroroa were repelled by 500 French soldiers. The southern Pacific island is where France tests nuclear weapons underground 5 or 6 times a year.

-A-infos

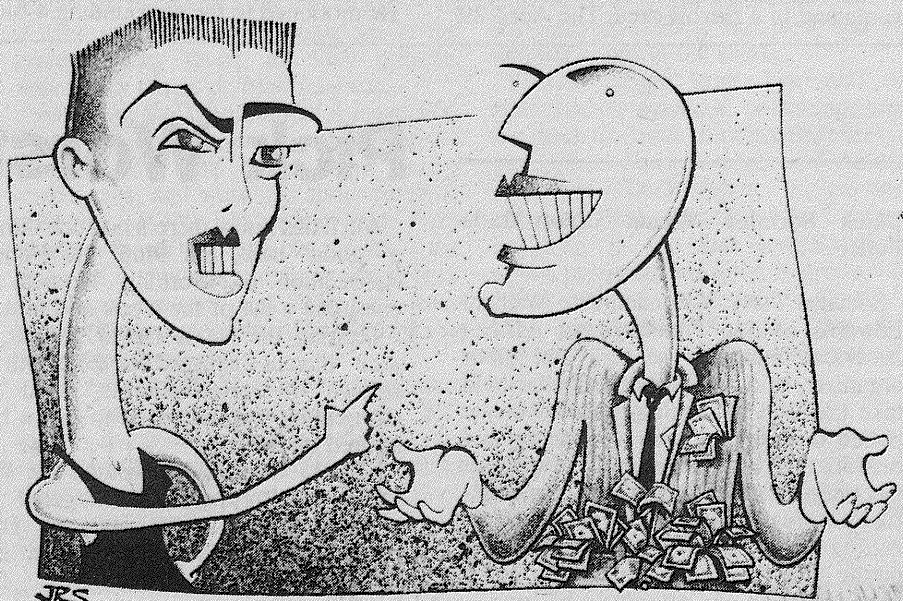
## Announcements

17th Annual Organizer Training Program, August 7-16 to be held at Deerfield, MA. War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St. NYC, NY 10012. (212) 228-0450

**Design a New IW Sticker:** Something two or three inches wide. We'll print all the designs after July and let our readers choose their favorites. Below is an example of a design sent in by D. Sacz.

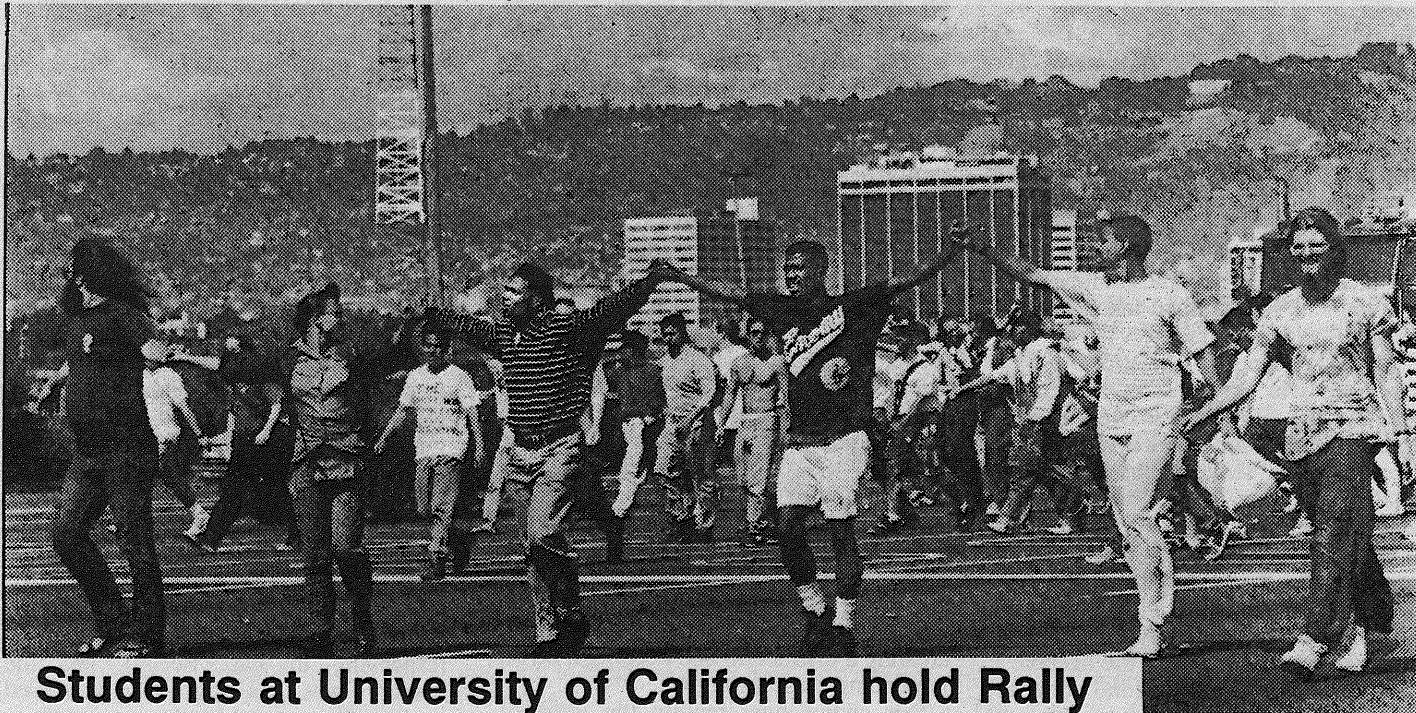
## IMPORTANT ORGANIZING INFO

The Wobbly organizing pamphlet is now available in Spanish. Copies can be obtained from IWW headquarters, 1095 Market St. #204, SF, CA 94103.





# May Day Riots Aftermath: Where Do We Go From Here?



Students at University of California hold Rally

## Views from Wobblies on the Scene

The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) office worker tapped the cartons with her toe -- 4 boxes filled with hate mail. The culprit? Probably the police and other members of the establishment. ACLU had become involved with the Rodney King beating case on March 3 last year, and this was their reward.

The L.A. Headquarters of ACLU had been burglarized several times. Expensive equipment had not been trashed or stolen as you'd expect. Rather, stationery with the ACLU letterhead had been snatched. The Union feared that false messages would be sent to its members. Again, the finger of suspicion points to the police.

The trial of 4 officers caught by amateur camera, beating King, was moved to Simi Valley, a conservative middle-class precinct. Jurors were meticulously selected for their acceptable attitudes toward law enforcement. The verdict -- not guilty of using excessive force -- was predictable.

92% of the blacks, 64% of caucasians polled in L.A. disagreed with this verdict.

The world is well aware of the reaction among certain sections of the black community. To quote specifics: 4400 injuries, 26 of which were critical; 1750 arson fires; 6300 arrests; 58 deaths.

The force of 7000 National Guard was augmented by several thousand federal troops. All Los Angeles county was under night curfew for several days. Phone service was interrupted in several cities on Friday. RTD buses quit travelling through the central city. The ghetto was hardest hit by power outages and lack of mail service. Garbage was left rotting at the curb.

Those of us who had experienced the Watts Uprising of 27 years ago, have a sense of *deja vu*. However, we note certain differences. Watts was a revolt against generalized oppression. Now anger was focused on a specific miscarriage of justice. Watts was contained in a narrow area. The April 29

riot spilled over into outlying communities and into other cities. Youthful gangs are larger, bolder. Until the national guard appeared, most killing was of non-blacks.

Who among us was better qualified to plead for peace than the man around whom this fury swirled? On May Day a very nervous and emotional Rodney King delivered a plea on radio to stop the violence.

"...Can't we get along? Violence doesn't do any good. It's just not right. We're all stuck here for awhile. Let's try to work it out. Let's stop making it so horrible for the old people and the little kids...I'll get my day in court. We lost a battle but we'll win the war."

Yet with 70% of the young vigorous blacks unemployed, unskilled, unassimilated in the work force, the truth is that black people have lost many battles.

I picked my way through the splinters of glass that littered the streets like remnants of shattered illusions. The riot had ceased. National Guards stood about in clusters, looking bored. But the acrid smell of burning lingered. I expected to encounter embarrassment, resentment, or even open hostility on the streets, but I was wrong. Most of the hostility was stored away in the jails. Men leaped from the curbside to help me carry my load -- my token peace offering from white to black -- across boulevards and into a central supply station.

Many black people I talked to berated the rioters. Some made excuses for them. They told conflicting stories. All applauded me, for I had come bearing special food for an innocent class of victims, the babies.

"Of course there's always been police brutality and discrimination down here," said one person. "But many of our own people were employed in these burned-out stores, and now they're out of work."

He motioned to the surrounding 4-block

area. Day and night for 3 days the fires had been exalted as a symbol of emancipation in the frenzied brains of the insurrectionists. Now, dismal and blackened interiors yawned onto the street. Skeletons of upper-story buildings teetered precariously over the sidewalk. There would be no shopping in this district for many weeks.

"The office building across the street was a Negro dentist's office," the man continued. "So you see, the rioters were simply turning their rage inward, against themselves."

Said another man: "If there's a reason for all this burning, it's because too many damn places were owned and operated by whites, by absentee landlords who never hired any of us except to mop their floors."

"I knew I should call my son off the street. No place for a teenager after curfew with his gun. But then I remembered how I was walking home one night when a cop stopped me and accused me of a robbery. I say, 'No, I wasn't there, I'm innocent.' That cop say, 'You lyin, nigger,' and cracked me across my jaw with his club."

"So I let my son go with his gun...And now he's dead, murdered."

Tension was an electric wire dangling along the street. Every face was lined with battle fatigue, but broke into smiles at the appearance of a caucasian. Was it a slave's smile, switched on when the button was punched? Deep inside, did they hate me? Young boys, their walk a compromise between a shamble and a swagger, flicked nervously at descending ashes riding the air, cracking their knuckles in rhythm to some rebellious inner goad. Slave and rebel appeared to war within them. They had not yet learned the nonchalant dignity of black pride.--Dorice McDaniels

## People vs. the System

The last week of April ended up exploding across the landscape with a fury that was not only violent, but short-lived. What happened was but a brief release of frustrations and anger which have been lying in a semi-dormant stage for many years. The result of the "trial" was simply the spark that ignited a quick flare-up.

This "trial" in which 4 Anglo police officers were found basically not guilty (one received a judgement of mistrial), was a complete miscarriage of justice from beginning to end. To begin with, it was held in the Simi Valley area of Los Angeles, a mostly white suburb where police officers make up a significant percentage of the residents.

The jury selection did not include a single person of color, and in this atmosphere 4 white officers were being tried for using brutal tactics on an African American male. Even the video of the beating, which was shown repeatedly, wasn't enough. The lawyers for the cops tried to convince everyone in the courtroom (with apparent success) that what was shown wasn't what happened. The L.A. 4 walked out scot free.

In the days following the verdict, first Los Angeles, then other cities across the US exploded in rage. Riots, demonstrations, burning, looting, all followed in the wake of the trial. Curfews, police repression, and troops followed in the wake of the rage. And while most people sat wringing their hands, Pres. Bush sat in the protection of the White House and made statements of pompous indignation and righteousness condemning the arson, looting and beating of innocent people.

While folks may look at the fire this time as a direct result of the trial, this is a misconception. The outrage was a result of long-standing animosity between the system and the people who live under it.

A closed down plant and long lines of unemployed workers are also results. A growing homeless population trying to eke out an existence by whatever means possible, a single mother panhandling enough to feed her kids while fast-food "restaurants" throw away tons of perfectly good food DAILY, then either lock the dumpsters or post guards near them, are also results. The striker on a picket line who gets whacked over the head by a goon, or gets hit by a car driven by a scab, is a result.

The family whose farm gets repossessed by the bank, the kids in inner cities who suffer long-term illness because of lead based paint and other toxins being dumped near their homes. The kids who grow up illiterate because of substandard education -- these too are results. So are disillusionment, despair, frustration, anger and subsequent violence which turns the guns of the system on the very people in that system.

This same system, by the very action at the trial, has given police all over the country *carte blanche* as far as suspects are concerned.

While understandable, much of the violence was grossly misdirected, and therefore served no purpose but to alienate. Motorists (not cops) who were yanked from their vehicles and assaulted, were victims as much as Rodney King was.

An announcer on a Bay Area radio station referred to the looting as "redistribution of wealth." While generally this is probably true, it still will have a bad effect economically. Those small grocers and others will be hurt, in that they'll either end up on the breadlines or will go back into business and raise their prices even higher, causing more resentment. True redistribution would put all the goods in the peoples hands.

If any good came of this, it is the awareness of what the people, and labor in particular, are up against. This is a struggle that cuts across all cultural and racial lines. It is a struggle of the people vs. the system. --Dave Collins

### Black Socialist Wants Union-Made Police

Socialist Party V.P. candidate William Edwards of San Francisco, an African American merchant seaman and labor organizer, said, "The labor unions should take the lead in making plans to create police departments who will serve and protect the community without discrimination." Edwards' platform calls for the creation of full employment by cutting the defense budget and funding public works projects including mass transit systems and affordable housing.

## Pick Worst Bosses

All Wobs know there's no such thing as a "good" boss, but 9to5, the National Association of Working Women, has compiled a list of the worst and best.

Topping the list is Delta Airlines, for their "blatant disregard for the health and safety of reservationists, and for terminating employees who have been injured on the job."

Barbara Otto, spokeswoman for 9to5, says the airline was targeted for mishandling complaints from reservationists who say they've been getting electric shocks from their headsets.

2 companies were awarded Downright Unbelievable ratings for their treatment of workers: the department head of an office in Eastport, NY, who required a 37-year old mother of 2 to bring a note from her parents certifying that she was sick!

The other was a truck dealership in Illinois where a woman suffered a \$4,182 cut in salary so that another employee could be given a raise in pay.

However, one bright spot was the Lutheran Home for the Aging in Milwaukee, which received the "Good Boss" (?) award, for opening a daycare center for its employees. --Dave Collins



cont. from page 2

and gay". We find the majority of "lesbians and gay men" only desire to assimilate into the mainstream American deathtrap, while some of our heterosexual friends have some of the queerest ideas around.

Thus we are more interested in the thoughts and actions of trans-gendered people, strong and independent women, homopunk, and in networking amongst various liberation-focused, divergent groups, than we are in building a "queer nation." I and my co-editrix have no interest in perpetuating nations, ghettos, heirarchical "movements" or anything that divides us.

I've known of and dug the Wobblies since I was a little kid. Not a joiner, I was finally moved to join the IWW by FW Bari's amazing work on several fronts at once, and as a Wobbly. My heart was long with the IWW, Judi Bari engaged my head in its current terms. (And honey, that WBI is soooo HOT!)

Riot Gear wants to reach out to radically-inclined homo kids who, left alone, so often despair and (at least try to) kill themselves. We also do a lot of networking information, efforts and contacts, attempting to turn everyone onto something new. To us, it seems that in the face of a common, monolithic enemy such as Amerikan capital, we do better with smart, divergent, interlocking resistances, than we do by mimicking our enemy's form of centralized heirarchic homogenization. We seek to cross-pollinate fields of diversity.

We've consistently incorporated IWW materials/info into our zine...but we're hoping and working for more! We like the idea of Wobblies reading Riot Gear, and making use of the contacts therein. But Wobs contributing to Riot Gear-- letters, articles, reports on various things, graphics--well that would be hot, gals! Cuz when we bother to re-weave our individuated threads of love and rage, we create more than just an alternative way to survive in this nightmare world. We create new worlds in the shell of the old!

We hope to hear from Wobbly comrades soon. Meanwhile we're keeping tuned to the One Big Union -- a beacon of inspiration and hope in this darkest of centuries.

For a world without bosses and the problems they cause,

--Deke Motif Nihilson for Riot Gear:  
3DB/RG, PO Box 190176, SF, CA 94119-0176

Dear Industrial Worker,

I am organizing an event remembering Alexander Berkman, on the centenary of his attentat on H.C. Frick during the Homestead Strike of 1892. **The Man Who Shot Frick: A Remembrance of Alexander Berkman** will be held at the Rosebud Coffee House in Pittsburgh on Thursday July 23, 1992.

I'm putting out a call to Wobbly musicians, poets, and historians who would like to participate in this celebration of Berkman's life. Please write or call me at:

Gary Doebler  
PO Box 22412  
Pittsburgh PA 15222  
(412) 734-8339

Dear IW Collective,

Peace be with you all. I trust that this letter is finding all of you well and enjoying the best life has to offer. Greeting from the gulag of Ohio! In case you are interested in the alphabet soup, this gulag is called "LECI."

I agree with both of the gulag correspondence of Little Rock Reed and John Perotti, that were published in your fine April newspaper. It should also be stated that the prisons are prime grounds for official graft and corruption with the resulting financial rape of prisoners, their families and ultimately all the taxpayers.

With the exception of a few power elites, the rape of the American Taxpayer, in order to support the nation's gulags, is universal. Not that this money is being used to maintain prisoners. Rather it is being pilfered by the prisoncrats with the politicians getting the kickbacks. This is why those of us concerned with these issues must begin to present it as a universal issue. It is not black vs. white and it isn't workers vs. bosses. As all the classes are affected by these issues. Yes there are multi-millionaires even in this gulag. Not all of them end up in the country-club-like "Club Feds."

Not including the construction of new gulags, the taxpayers of this state are being bilked to the tune of \$28,000 per year per prisoner. You can rest assured that all of this money isn't being spent on prisoners, as they're even short of toilet paper. They're supposed to be supplying us with the "basic hygienic articles," but they are not.

They are selling these items at local flea markets. My own friends have brought this to the attention of the politicians. That was like talking to a wall. They then brought this to the attention of the popular media, who also ignored the issue.

Not only are the toiletries that are intended for prisoners, being sold in the flea markets, so is the clothing intended for prisoners; along with cleaning and maintenance supplies. That's why my cell is in such a poor state that the concrete is showing through, so you can only imagine how bad my walls look. Even our beds are falling apart as is the rest of our furnishings.

They want to pack this gulag even more. Currently there are over 1900 of us in a gulag built for 1200. The extra prisoners will make the above graft even more profitable. It is all of this that must be exposed. Along with the fact that we have courts who don't care if they punish the innocent along with the guilty, because all they want to do is fill up the gulags, so they can rape the taxpayers. While all other state programs are being cut and politicians are proposing to raise taxes even more. Perhaps it isn't an issue of workers and bosses, but rather an issue of politicians, who are mostly lawyers and their lackeys, against the rest of us. Perhaps it is time for the taxpayers to revolt!

Until next time, I remain with a blessing for a more peaceful and just world. In Friendship & Solidarity, Jacob Feuerwerker.

## Burger King Child Labor

In March of this year during a Labor Dept. crackdown on child labor law violations, some Burger King managers were instructed to remove labor records from their restaurants, according to court papers.

Affidavits filed as part of a child labor lawsuit say that a message on Burger King's voice-mail telephone system told managers to "please make sure that all the labor manuals that you have in the restaurant are taken out." The message refers to "that book they keep the copies of time punches or whatever," and asks managers to "make sure that they are out of the restaurant until the labor sweep blows over." This was in reference to a 3-week child-labor enforcement sweep by the Labor Dept. that began during the week of March 25.

The suit filed against Burger King charges the company violated child labor laws by employing teenagers under 16 "for more hours than permitted, during hours not permitted and in occupations not permitted."

Teens under 16 are allowed to work up to 3 hours a day and 18 hours per week between 7 AM and 7 PM when school is in session. When school is out, they can work up to 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week. From June 1 to Sept. 1, they can work till 9 PM.

The lawsuit involves 872 of Burger King's 5,528 restaurants in the US. These are owned and operated by Burger King itself; the others are franchises.

cont. from page 9

own sorry record. But even garnished with the execution of the month and an AFL endorsement, this shit is unfit for human consumption.

Elections never did solve anything. We live in a bosses' state, under rules designed to keep us wage slaves in our place. But lately the bosses seem to have decided that they no longer have to pretend to care about our fates. Clinton is an insult--a slap in the face to those who believe that the system can be made to work for working people.

It's long past time to get ourselves organized, to stand up and tell the bosses "there is some shit we will not eat."-X331117

## Boycott!

by John Anthony



Anyone reading this who happens to be wearing a Timex watch -- stop right now, and look at the back. See where it was made, manufactured or assembled. My friend's watch was made in the Philippines. I stopped in mid-phone call and looked at mine then. Guess what -- "Assembled in Thailand." Another gaggle of jobs shipped overseas, to further rape the third world labor market and the American public.

The first thing I did after that was to write to Timex, to let them know that I was not only not going to buy any more of their watches, or any other product they make, but that I would also advise anyone I can reach to do the same -- boycott and write to them to let them know they were being boycotted.

What do you suppose would happen if one day the corporate heads at Timex came into their office and discovered that for the past week that hadn't sold one watch? I'm sure they would do something -- very probably something they'd never done before, especially if they'd been getting letters telling them they were being boycotted.

They couldn't very well pull out all those letters and issue warrants to the arrest of all those people. *Not* buying

something is not against the law -- not yet -- although they've certainly tried to make it so with insurance and some other things. If a second week passed and they didn't sell any watches they'd begin re-thinking their production methods and perhaps even making some changes.

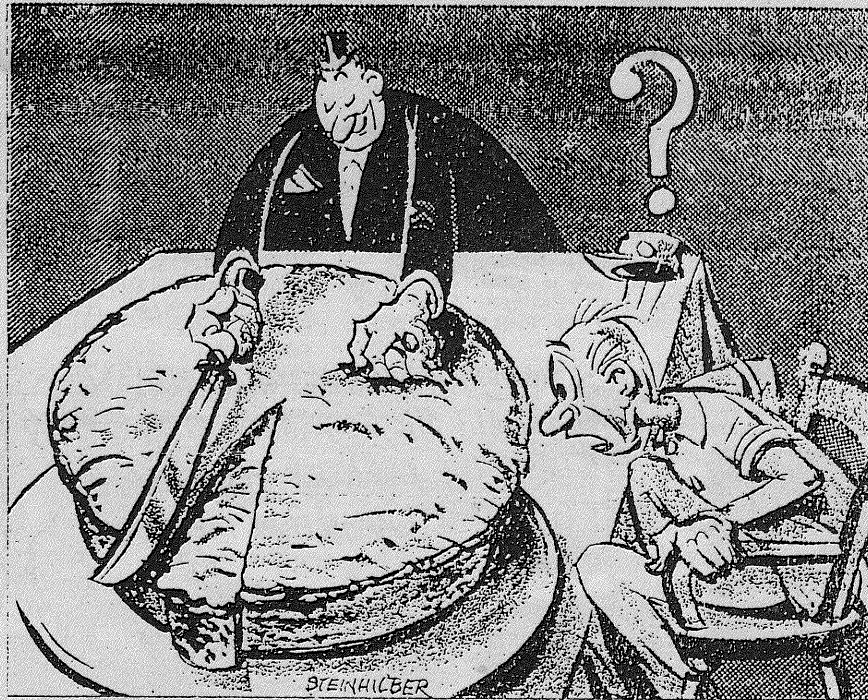
I can't repeat it too often. It's definitely a class war -- we know that only too well. And it's a war to the death. Just ask Joe Hill and others who've paid that price for standing up to them. And if we're going to kill, once and for all, the corporate dragon which has such a stranglehold on the working class, then we have to use weapons which are deadly and effective.

Choke off their money supply in any way we can -- and do it in a way which falls under the same rules they play with. You never know "who" a corporation is, you know only that they are "it." Similarly, if you don't buy what they sell, they don't know who you are.

Join your local consumer groups, or at least support them by spreading the message. Try to organize an umbrella group which will coordinate the efforts of the smaller groups so they can be more effective. Whatever you do, don't just sit back and take it.

Fight.

## Why Are So Many Working People Poor?



If you work for a living, you may have noticed that the people who work the hardest make the least money -- or so it seems. And the jobs that have the least recognition and the most unpleasant jobs are on the bottom when it comes to wages. The really big money goes to people who don't do anything useful at all. These are the people who own big businesses and factories, who own stock in GM, Steelcase or MacDonalds; they own Amway or are big shots in the government.

It wouldn't be so bad if all we working people had to do was support them and their expensive habits. We can do that easily enough, and we've been doing that for a thousand years. The trouble is they won't let us working people support ourselves decently. The ones who don't work, are the ones who own or control everything. They won't allow us to build houses and apartments to live in, even though millions of working people need decent housing. The same goes for food, clothing and all the other things we and our families need desperately and would like to have. If they can't sell the things we make for a profit, they won't let us make them.

For a lot of us working people, things are really bad. If someone in the family gets sick, we don't have enough money to

take her or him to the doctor. If something goes wrong with the car, we can't afford to fix it and still pay the rent. These days it takes the earnings of both husband and wife to support a family. The loss of one job means we can't pay the rent, make the bill payments, and keep food on the table.

We know reading this piece of paper isn't telling you anything you didn't know already. And reading it isn't going to put money in your pocket. But at the same time, it doesn't hurt to know that other people know what is going on and don't like the way poor people are being treated. It's bad enough if you have a job, but if you're unemployed or on welfare, the parasites that own and control this country treat you like dirt.

But there is something we can do. We can join with others, and once the majority knows the cause of our poverty -- the tiny minority who own and control this country -- we can all cooperate to change it. We can build a new America where working people can produce the goods and services to satisfy everyone.

The working people who produced this leaflet are members of the Grand Rapids Discussion Group. To get in touch with us or to get a leaflet that tells more about us, drop a card or letter to PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids MI 49501. -- John, Julie, and Frank.



# The Wages of Whiteness: Race & the Making of the American Working Class

by David R. Roediger  
Verso (The Haymarket Series)  
London & New York, 1991  
191 pages, \$16.95

(Review Extracts)  
Franklin Rosemont  
Heartland Journal

Since the emancipation of black slavery, labor's greatest and most enduring victories have been explicitly anti-racist victories as well. Racism always has been a major setback for an independent workers movement. It has always been difficult and dangerous for workers to attack the capitalist system, but easy and safe to attack racial minorities. In some of the most inspired pages of this book, Roediger describes the basic ambivalence -- the unconscious mixture of attraction and fear -- at the core of working class racism.

Of course, those afflicted with racist beliefs have never been able to agree on who is really "white." For decades Irish immigrants were regarded as nonwhite, as were Italians and many Eastern Europeans in later years. Around the time

of the Civil War, when the Irish had largely been granted white credentials, Irish-American dockworkers campaigning for an "all-white waterfront" in New York sought to exclude *Germans*. It is hard not to laugh at the fuss so many people have made about this ridiculous "whiteness" that never was anything more than a reactionary hallucination. The silliness of it all, alas, does little to diminish its larger horror.

Scholarly and thoroughly documented, *The Wages of Whiteness* is nonetheless a highly readable, compact and compelling narrative. Full of insights and revelations, it is a book that will surely interest activists more than antiquarians. Roediger situates his whole discussion in the context of the struggle for revolutionary social change today.

In his opening pages he quotes James Baldwin: "As long as you think you're white, there's no hope for you." That Roediger sees hope for us all is indicated in his conclusion, in which he writes that whiteness, "taking shape as it does behind dams of repression...can be swept away when the dams begin to break."

Speed the day!

# San Francisco: Festival of the Oppressed 48 Hours of Fascism

by X337515

The response in San Francisco to the Rodney King jury verdict was a massive political demonstration that turned into a festival of the oppressed. In turn Mayor Frank Jordan declared a state of emergency, suspended by decree the US Bill of Rights, and gave San Franciscans a taste of overt fascism.

Roots Against War (a non-white, non-authoritarian political action group formed during the last war) called for a demonstration to assemble at 24th and Mission Streets, which began marching toward the Civic Center/downtown area at 4 PM Thursday. Meanwhile several high school and college campuses gave rise to militant demonstrations. Following the strategy of anti-war demos last year, both the Oakland Bridge (180) and Interstate 280 in San Francisco were successfully blockaded for several hours. Most of the demonstrators on the highway were arrested.

The Roots march stopped for a brief boring rally in front of the California Government building. The crowd appeared to be about half minorities and

half white. It moved towards Market St. escorted by a riot squad, against which chants were directed. The first tactic tried by the police was to break the crowd into smaller units. They succeeded in that (part of the crowd panicked and ran), but pissed people off doing that and plate glass windows began to break. The crowds became larger by the minute as people left workplaces and managed to get downtown. Everywhere windows were broken, especially those of luxury stores, banks and chain stores. Only a few stores were actually looted, mainly at the Union Square tourist/luxury shopping district, and a Radio Shack and Foot Locker on Market St.

The demonstrators were not, for the most part, overtly angry. No persons were attacked, except for self-defense when the police attacked the crowd. Only a tiny percentage of people engaged in looting; most were protesting the police state by hassling the police. Whites, blacks, hispanics, and orientals marched together. We weren't even bothered by the usual Stalinist dregs who normally try to take over all demonstrations in San Francisco. People were happy.

People were happy the police could not control things. The police would try to muster enough force to break up a crowd; people would simply regroup. Several times a police line, set up to trap and arrest demonstrators, would find itself surrounded from behind and forced to retreat. The police kept repeating on their loudspeakers: "This is an unlawful assembly." Right on. Several hundred

people were arrested, but that was a tiny percentage of the people involved. The police did not end the party; the demonstrators gradually dispersed as fatigue and hunger got the upper hand.

In the anti-war demos last year Mayor Art Agnos was accused of giving demonstrators too much leeway. A few windows got broken, some people had to sit in stalled traffic while Iraq was bombed. Mayor Frank Jordan was elected partly by assuring business interests that he would protect them from demonstrators. This was his first test, and he sent out his goons in full force. They enraged the demonstrators and hundreds of windows were broken and perhaps a dozen stores were looted. Looking bad, Jordan resorted to the iron fist; he declared a state of emergency. He claimed that in a state of emergency, he could suspend the Constitution of the United States. He declared a 9 PM to 6 AM curfew. Then he backedpeddled: tourists, yuppies, and white neighborhoods would not be affected by the curfew. Only blacks, hispanics, and demonstrators.

Roots Against War called for a rally on Friday to begin at 7 PM at Mission and 24th to protest the state of emergency and suspension of the people's rights. At 6:30 when people began setting up literature tables, Police Chief Hongisto arrived with his neo-nazi police force, declared the assembly unlawful, and started arresting people. He confidently told the Press that the state of emergency justified suspending people's right to assemble. The Press repeated his words without challenging them; they even gloated about how wonderful it was that the police were going to beat the shit out of "potential looters and troublemakers." Over 400 people were arrested, often brutally, and the demonstration never got off the ground.

On Saturday Jordan decided it was unnecessary to continue the state of emergency. He had proven that he could impose fascism on America's most liberal city and most people would go about business as usual. But really, the mistake made was continuing the demos to a second day; the numbers of people were just not there. Most people felt they had made their point on Thursday.

The most important lesson Police Chief Hongisto taught the demonstrators was the need to be better prepared to actually fight and liquidate the police state. But it was a fine day for electoral politics. Hongisto had run for Mayor, just a few months ago, as the most liberal candidate; many basically radical people, especially gays and minorities, voted for him. A few weeks ago this total slimeball was appointed Chief of Police, and he was soon cracking the heads of many people who voted for him.

From a labor/class perspective Thursday's events were a mixed lot. While racism and police brutality were the issue, the dividing line was class; the middle class stayed home while working class whites, blacks and others took the streets together. Many people wanted to do something besides street demonstrations. There was talk of a general strike, but the general strike committee organized for the Gulf War by the IWW and allies, had already disbanded.

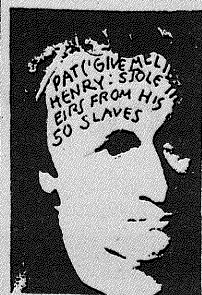
As crisis follows crisis we have to learn to organize for crises during the lulls. It's hard. A hundred personal and political things require our time (for instance while all the above was going on, a court gave the lumber companies the right to clearcut all the forest they want for a limited time, so some Bay Area IWW members had gone north to deal with this eco-crisis). Our most important weapon in the class war is the General Strike. We should always be educating people about this and have an organization capable of putting it into effect whenever popular outrage makes it necessary.

## Accused Looters Are Varied As Greatly as Things Stolen

By SETH MYDANS  
Special to The New York Times



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: STOLE GOLD [8 THEN THEIR LIVES] FROM THE WEST INDIANS



HENRY VIII: STOLE HIS EYES FROM HIS 50 SLAVES

STATES OF



GEORGE WASHINGTON: STOLE 1/2 OF KY: WHEN INAUGURATED WAS RICHEST MAN IN U.S.



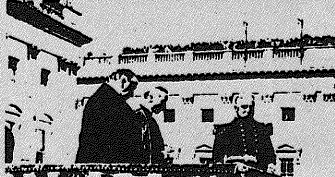
TOM JEFFERSON: BOUGHT STOLEN PROPTY. (LA. TERR) FROM NOTORIOUS FENCE & MASS MURDERER: "LITTLE BONEY"



ANDY JACKSON: STOLE HALF THE SOUTH FROM THE INDIAN NATION



JAMES P. O'CONNEL: STOLE 3/5 OF MEXICO



WILLIAM MCKINLEY: STOLE THE PHILIPPINES, PUERTO RICO & C.



TEDDY ROOSEVELT: STOLE PANAMA (& CANAL) FROM COLOMBIA



SANFORD BALLARD DOLE: (DM W/ FROM LIFE) STOLE HAWAII & PRESENTED IT AS A GIFT TO U.S.

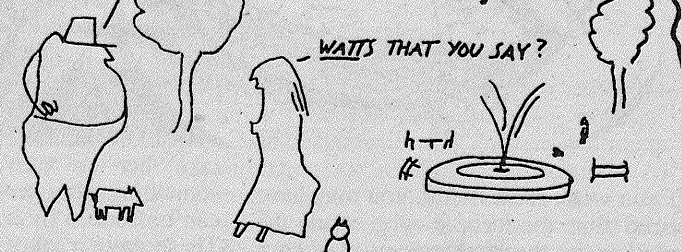


HENRY FORD: STOLE PROFITS FROM HIS WORKERS ALL HIS LONG LIFE: HENRY FORD



NORMAN THOMAS: STOLE TRILLIONS FROM EVERY AMERICAN FOR OFFENSE DEPT. & MANUFACTURERS

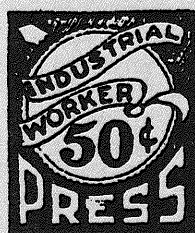
"THE LAW DOETH PUNISH MAN OR WOMAN THAT STEALS THE GOOSE FROM OFF THE COMMON BUT LETS THE GREATER FELON LOOSE THAT STEALS THE COMMON FROM THE GOOSE."



## ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY AUDIT CAN KILL CORPORATE FINANCING

Major banks now require an environmental audit before making loans on commercial real estate. The audit investigates the potential environmental liabilities of the land or the company borrowing money.

The banks are motivated by fear of direct liability for cleaning up polluted sites, and by the cost of bad loans on land that eventually requires a clean-up. ERIC Group Inc., which sells environmental insurance, surveyed 9,000 audits and found that 12% of the properties examined were contaminated.

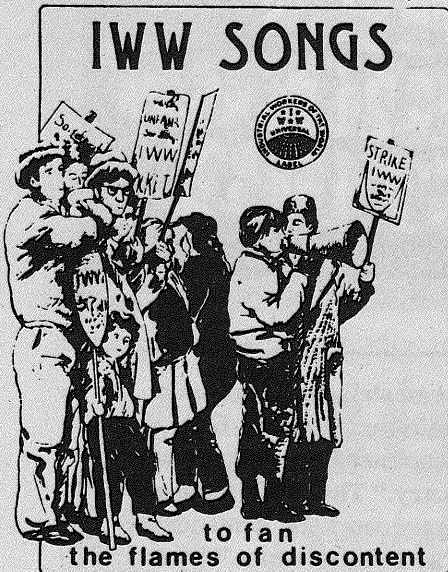


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# iww books & music

Available from Chicago



## LITTLE RED SONGBOOK Songs of the Workers: to fan the flames of discontent

The 35th edition of the Wobblies infamous little red songbook. Forty classic and new labor songs — for picket lines, union meetings and shop floor solidarity actions. Features songs by Joe Hill, Phil Ochs and Utah Phillips. Including "There Is Power in a Union", "Pie in the Sky", "The Internationale", and "Solidarity Forever" (including the verses union bureaucrats fear). Back pocket size to carry to picket lines or work. Sing loud. Available with special cover commemorating the murder of Joe Hill by the bosses and state. Please note which cover you prefer. \$5 each or 5 to 39 \$3 ea. Over 40 \$2.50 each.

## REBEL VOICES: the album

Exciting live recording captures the high energy of today's IWW musicians working for an IWW audience. Good music, good politics, and a good time. IWW IU 630 members featured include Utah Phillips, Faith Petric, Bob Bovee, Marion Wade, Eric Glatz, Kathy Taylor, Jeff Cahill and more. Twenty IWW tunes including "Power in a Union", "The Organizer", "Popular Wobbly", "Mr. Block", "Preacher and the Slave", "Hold the Fort" and more. \$9 cassette only.

## books

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Ross Gelbspan  
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**ONE BIG UNION**  
The purpose, structure and practical principles of revolutionary unionism. Official introduction to the IWW. \$2

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Chaplin's musical version of the IWW preamble has the line: "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn". He expands that idea in this 1933 essay on the revolutionary general strike. \$2

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Longshoreman and IWW member Gilbert Mers tells the story of his forty two years on the Texas waterfront as a rank and file radical. Workers history as it should be told. Hardcover only. \$17

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Sam Dolgoff  
Veteran house painter, anarchist, and IWW organizer Dolgoff traces the history of the libertarian desire and offers his wisdom on energizing a new and fully radical, rank and file, labor movement. \$5

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Work, love and people songs from "the old guy". About getting by, skid row, being a real anarchist and struggling for a better world.

**GREENFIRE**  
Dakota Sid Clifford  
Veteran musician/activist sings about the "Greenfire" in a wolves eyes, being a "Legendary Folk Rumor", small towns and growing older. Dakota's neighbor Utah guests on the insurrectionary "We Want the Whole Thing Back."

**FOOD PHONE GAS LODGING**  
Charlie King  
Long time Wobbly & folk singer on corporate lies in "Buy Buy This American Car" and the return of "Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been?" in this look at modern America.

**A WORLD TO WIN**  
Tom Juravich  
Fine album from a Philadelphia union radical includes "Rob A Train" Eddie Holewa's new classic of unemployed frustration, and other gems like "Threads of Justice", "VDT", "Borderlines", and "A World to Win".

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**I'LL BE THERE**  
SI Kahn  
Folksinging organizer from South Carolina, eleven songs, about the long struggle for freedom and the hope it takes to make it, features "Generations" and "What Will I Leave Behind".

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Compilation of Joe Hill songs and stories. Billy Bragg, Haywire Mac, Paul Robeson and a new song by Mark Levy about the return of Hill's ashes in 1988.

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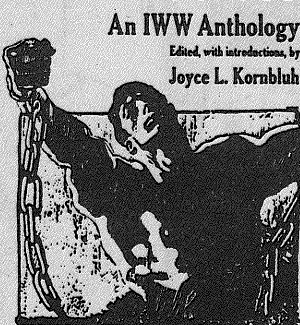
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The following resolutions were adopted by the 1991 IWW General Assembly:

1. "The 1991 IWW General Assembly reaffirms the IWW's opposition to all forms of human oppression, including but not necessarily limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, creed, age, physical ability or sexual orientation.
2. "While the IWW gives its full support to international cooperation between workers, the IWW declares its opposition to the Free Trade Agreements between the governments of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. These agreements have highlighted the inequalities that exist among workers internationally, and therefore we find that our best response is to organize workers internationally. We support direct action taken by workers in opposition to these agreements."
3. "On the occasion of the Columbus Day Quincentennial, we endorse the sovereignty of all indigenous peoples and are in soli-

arity with groups opposing 500 years of Euro-centric colonialism."

4. "In addition to the exploitation of labor, industrial society creates wealth by exploiting the earth and non-human species. Just as the capitalists value the working class only for their labor, so they value the earth and non-human species only for their economic usefulness to humans. This has created such an imbalance that the life support systems of the earth are on the verge of collapse. The working class bears the brunt of this degradation by being forced to produce, consume, and live in the toxic environment created by this abuse. Human society must recognize that all beings have a right to exist for their own sake, and that humans must learn to live in balance with the rest of nature. This will only be accomplished when the working class takes control of human production and redirects it to the long-term benefit of all rather than the short-term profit of a few."

## 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.

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★ Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker.

### PREAMBLE of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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 the 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 means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

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 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 interest 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 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.

# WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 63

1919

In 1919, 275,000 steelworkers went on strike to gain a union and better wages and working conditions. Elbert H. Gary, chairman of United States Steel, denounced the strike as an attempt "to sovietize the steel industry." There was a general strike in Seattle in support of shipyard workers' demands for higher wages. The mayor called it a "Bolshevik plot." When New York's garment workers struck, bosses accused their union of raising the "red flag of Bolshevism" over the city. Textile strikers in Massachusetts, fully 60 percent of them women, were said to be bent on creating a "Soviet Lawrence."

The same year, scrubwomen and actors went on strike. Women workers struck garment shops and textile mills, and telephone companies, shoe mills and stockyards. They were joined by longshoremen, carpenters and subway employees. Even the Boston police went on strike that summer. In all, more than 4,000,000 Americans went on strike in 1919.



Most strikes were provoked by the rapid wartime increase in the cost of living. Between 1914 and 1919, the cost of milk had jumped from nine to 15 cents a quart, eggs from 37 to 62 cents a dozen, butter from 32 to 61 cents a pound. The overtime pay that allowed many workers to make ends meet disappeared with the end of World War I.

Outraged and alarmed, big business struck back with a red scare that convinced millions of Americans that every strike was the beginning of revolution. The employers' anti-red campaign put labor on the defensive. Workers' grievances were ignored, and civil liberties brushed aside.

(To be continued!)

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