



Australian Workers Wake Up: 200,000 rally in Melbourne Nov. 10: general strike day in Victoria state. Report from Melbourne IWW. page 3



5 (of 9) chemically disabled workers take a break from conference proceedings

## Chemically Disabled Attend Northwest Enviro-Labor Talks

On a mid November, 1992 weekend 300 activists gathered at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. The conference was entitled: Environment, Labor and Social Justice: Building Links in a Multi Racial Society.

Among the participants were 9 women wearing black armbands to identify themselves as chemically disabled workers. Nothing more dramatically illustrates the relationship between environment, labor and social justice than the common plight of these 9 workers poisoned by toxins in the workplace and thrown on the scrap heap by an unresponsive social service system.

These 9 women came from different

workplaces. One was a former meat wrapper, poisoned by toxic fumes emitted from heat processed PVC plastic meat wrapping film. Several were Boeing aerospace production workers poisoned by phenyl formaldehyde resins used in the aircraft plant. Others were office workers poisoned by chemical buildups in the air of modern "tight" office buildings with windows that don't open. Though their workplaces were varied and different chemicals attacked their bodies, these women were all left with the same lifetime disability: chemical sensitivity.

Chemical sensitivity is a condition which creeps up gradually. Rather than

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marine transport workers IU 510

## Tugboat Workers Join IWW



Sea Dive at Berth in the East Bay

Oakland, CA - The 55-foot tugboat "Sea Dive" has hoisted the flag of Industrial Union 510, Marine Transport Workers.

First launched in 1916, the Sea Dive is now engaged in towing and salvage work in the San Francisco Bay and inland waterways. The tug is owned by retired ILWU Local 10 and current IWW member Dan Wilson.

In past years the Sea Dive helped support labor action by turning back the Korean scab-crewed, 680-foot Pacific Success at Antioch. The Korean freighter returned to anchor off San Francisco, where for ten days the Sea Dive circled the ship and blocked attempts to take it upriver.

The crew consists of 2 Operators, one of whom is engineer, the other navigator; a steward, bosun and 2 deckhands. While

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# Letters

Dear Fellow Workers,

British based members will shortly be launching an internal bulletin and possibly an external news sheet. If any branches, groups, unions, etc in the IWW want to send us items etc they should do so to the address below.

I think the IW is improving and more membership involvement can only make things better. Our aim on this side of the Atlantic must be to build a fighting union. Yours for the works, Kevin Brandstatter. IWW, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HA

G'Day,

On Friday November 20th all public transport is stopping for 24 hours, trams, buses, trains, and we have been told we'll be all sacked! Fed elections promise to be a showcase for liberal-national union-busting programme...

Yes, things are getting interesting here. All the best, in solidarity,  
-Peter Riley(Australia)

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the women of our Industrial Union 630, Entertainment Workers. Your savvy, courage and persistence are an inspiration to all we fellow workers and an example for millions of exploited adult and child workers in offices, stores and businesses of EVERY TYPE! We understand that the bosses at Lehigh Valley Bingo Hall would just as soon believed in flying saucers than in real live IWW's Wobblyizing the heck out of their workplace. Miami Group sends its

financial and moral support.

When there is a victory over the boss please put it on the front page to encourage, incite and embolden the growth of our movement. Thank you!

For One Big Union Crackin' out of its shell-X337036 Delegate, Miami IWW

Dear friends,

I have started a newsletter of the Union of Incarcerated But Innocent Citizens. Prisoners with queries should write to me at the address below. I am to be moved sometime after Christmas, and I will provide you with the new address as soon as I have it. Prisoners who are in a gulag that doesn't allow communication from other prisoners, should provide me with an address so I can mail to them. I am allowed to receive mail from prisoners.

Jacob Feuerwerker, PO Box 56-A187402  
Lebanon OH 45036--0056

Dear Editor,

Will President Clinton turn out to be a socialist? He was a draft dodger - and socialists hate war. The Democrat Party is a haven for humanists, unionists, even Marxists - has the President been around those types? With the "end of the cold war" and a Democrat congress majority, there will be freedom to make change. Isn't change what socialism is all about?

Hold on. The president wants to preserve the capitalist system by passing laws that palliate economic and social ills. A socialist wants to eliminate the profit motive from the production of goods and services, to eliminate working for wages, and to eradicate the political state. A socialist is revolutionary. Clinton is a capitalist politician.

-Thomas G. Alpine

Dear Friends,

I wrote this poem after reading of the 1894 Pullman Palace Car Strike, and after a failed attempt to organize some workers only to have an AFL-CIO union let us down and make no effort to help us organize.

**Management's Woes Are Labor's Foes**

Throughout the course of industrial history, owners of capital have beguiled and thieved. In order to maintain their revenue excess, the benefits and wages of labor are cut with ease and success. During times of bad economic sessions, whether they are called recessions or depressions, it's the public's perception that prudent thrift spending should be the credo of good business policy. Therefore, labor's pay gets cut by twenty-five percent. The two greatest woes of management are plain to see, they are greed and stupidity. To fight these foes labor has to learn that they must unite. When this occurs, the minds of capital will stir, for the world would be uniting for its own benefit and prosperity. -Moe Yeduahlevitch

S.O.S.,

I'm an anarchist from SF Bay Area, being held POW in this pre-historic, fascist, racist Arizona police state. I'm doing 15 years for burglary because I refused to turn "state's evidence" and send my cohorts to prison. I was only 18, and didn't know they could convict you on the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice. There was never anything to think about though, I'd die before I'd send another person to prison. I consider myself a prisoner of conscience. Aside from an 18 month furlough I took as an escaped fugitive, I've been locked up since 1982. I'm a management problem to these people,

and they've got me permanently housed in their maximum security "control unit," in virtual solitary confinement. I haven't seen daylight in over 2 years, and my release date is November 1998.

I'm alone out here doing some "hard time." I have virtually no one that I can relate to in ideology, and most of my dealings with fellow prisoners are shallow and superficial. I have no family and am totally destitute. I'm having a hard time getting basic necessities for myself, let alone any literature to better myself or some food. I'm a strict vegetarian, and that's not easy when you don't have the food you need available to you.

Everyone wants me to write about prison, so I've decided to put together a collection of short stories, experiences, artwork and excerpts over the next 6 years, and it's going to be like nothing ever written before about prison - really mind blowing. But I need your help! Donations (MO's for a few dollars or stamps) will be used to buy supplies, writing materials, books to further my education. I'm in need of a manual typewriter, a 2-cassette player (I've got no music in here!), and any resources, contacts, and information. I also need a source for photocopies, that I can mail stuff to get copied and sent back to me.

Moral support is greatly appreciated as well, correspondence, flyers, photocopied articles, etc, are welcome. I'll write back, but need stamps. I can serve as "security" consultant, tactical advisor, and health/exercise/vegan diet counsellor as well. I hope some people out there care enough to show some support.

Gregory Waleski #47190  
Arizona State Prison  
PO Box 4000, Florence AZ 85232

**E-mail Directory** IW (Ottawa): <indwrk@web.apc.org> Send us your e-mail address for listing in this directory

## Industrial Worker



The Voice of Industrial Democracy

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## IWW Directory

For those unfamiliar with the IWW, we offer these definitions: Job Shop: 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: IWW members in the same locale, not large enough to be a GMB. IU: Industrial Union number assigned to a particular industry. Delegate: member authorized to collect dues and to sign up new members.

### AUSTRALIA

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Jura Books -110 Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney, NSW

Sydney Area Group -Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

#### VICTORIA

Melbourne Area Group - PO Box 1738Q GPO, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

### CANADA

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

SE BC Group-POB 54, Balfour, VOG 1C0. Contact: David Everest 604/229-4978

#### MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

#### ONTARIO

Blackbird Design IU450 Job Shop- 394 Euclid Ave #301, Toronto M6G 2S9 416/972-6293

Kingston Group -472 Albert St. K7L 3W3 613/544-2382. D1: Brad Waugh 613/549-6094  
Ottawa Group-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2. 613/231-2922

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meetings 1st Thurs. of month 7 pm; phone for location.

### UNITED KINGDOM

Leicester Del: F.Lee 22 Vicarage Lane Belgrave, LE4 5PD. 053/366-1835

Swindon Contact: Kevin Brandstatter 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HA  
York -Delegate: D.Czunys, 13 Wolsley, York YO15BQ.

### UNITED STATES

#### CALIFORNIA

##### Berkeley:

Berkeley Recycling Ctr IU670 Job Shop - M. Carlstroem 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607  
New Earth Press IU450 Job Shop- 1640 Addison, 94702. Delegate: Dave Karoly 510/549-0176.

UCB Recyclers Industrial Union 620 Branch-620 Eshleman, 94720. Delegate: Daniel Widener.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB- Delegates: Melissa Roberts, POB 2805 Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/964-8164); Judi Bari, POB 656 Willits 95490 (msg:707/468-1660);

Herb Jager 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/937-3457).

Greater Los Angeles GMB -Delegate: Andrew Willett, 1355 Hilda #5, Glendale CA 91205

Riverside Group-Del: Kathy Light 714/369-9799

Sacramento- Time Tested Books IU660- 1114 21st St, 95814. 916/447-5696

San Diego Group - RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon 92020. 619/460-2907

#### San Francisco:

SF Bay Area GMB - 1095 Market St. #204, 94103. 415/863-WOBS

Typesetting Etc. IU450 Job Shop - 1095 Market St. #210, 94103

West Coast Marine Transport Workers IU510 Delegate: Colin Dewey 60 Walter St., 94114. 415/864-6037.

#### COLORADO

#### Denver:

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax, 80206 (303/388-1065) Office hrs Sat.9-12. Meetings 1st Thur. @ month 7 pm Del: Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E 8th Ave #202, 80218 (303/832-7602). Brendan Ruiz, PO Box 370663, 80237-0663.

P&L Printing IU450 Job Shop- 2298 Clay, 80211. 303/433-1852

#### FLORIDA

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

#### GEORGIA

Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243

#### IDAHO

Boise Group - Delegate: W. Cohan, PO Box 822, Caldwell ID 83606.

#### ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB -New World Resource Ctr 1476 Irving Park, 60613. 312/549-5045. Meetings, 1st Friday 7:30 pm.

#### LOUISIANA

New Orleans Group- R. McCarthy, PO Box 15734, 70175-5734. 504/899-0014

#### MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB -R.Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060. 301/367-3024

#### MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Tenants Union IU670 Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

SE Mich. GMB- Delegates: Albert Parsons 313/769-0695; Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn 48126. 313/581-2065

#### MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/St. Paul Group - Box 2391, Loop Stn, 55402. 612/339-5002

Duluth Group - 1514 N. 8th Ave. E, 55805. Delegate: Jack Rosenquist

#### MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group-C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515

### MONTANA

Butte- Contact: Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz, 59701. 406/782-4465

### NEVADA

Tahoe Group - Larry Steinberg, PO Box 1114, Dayton 89403. 702/246-3120

### NEW JERSEY

Paterson Group-PO Box 8532, Haledon NJ 07508. Del: Matt Bolton 201/790-3076

### NEW YORK

Central NY Group-PO Box 762, Cortland 13045

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

Socialist Party USA Natl Office IU670 Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

### OHIO

SW Ohio Group - D.E. Slaton, Box 26416, Trotwood 45426. 513/854-0051

### PENNSYLVANIA

Boulevard Bingo IU630 Job Shop- Delegate: Tina Gaffney 215/821-5622.

Lehigh Valley GMB-POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018. Delegates: Jeff Kelly 215/866-5728; Mike D'Amore 215/434-0218.

Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603. Delegates: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487

Wooden Shoe Books & Records IU660 Job Shop - 112 S. 20th St, Philadelphia 19103. 215/569-2477

### SOUTH CAROLINA

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### TEXAS

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### UTAH

Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

### VERMONT

Burlington Group-Anne Petermann, Orin Langlelle PO Box 804, 05402. 802/658-2403

### WASHINGTON

Seattle Group-POB 20402, Seattle 98102. 206/367-0477. Delegate: Stan Anderson.

Street of Crocodiles Letter Press IU450 Job Shop- PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102. 206/726-5924

### WEST VIRGINIA

Delegate: Rick Wilson, 1019 2nd St.W. Huntington WV 25701

### WISCONSIN

Lakeside Press IU450 Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. 608/255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB-Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow



# Australian Labor Gets Restless

On November 10 throughout Victoria up to 800,000 public sector workers, and another 200,000 on Federal Awards and in private industry, stopped work.

In Melbourne, rebel workers and friends and families: the working class community took to the streets. Police estimates of 100,000 marching in Melbourne can be doubled. The planned route was so overcrowded that it was extended by police to cover 10 City Business District blocks. Many people stopped and had a picnic when they saw the crowd and many just stopped and stared in awe. The march was longer than the Vietnam Moratorium marches of the early 70's.

In regional Victoria there were also stop work meetings and rallies, with cities like Geelong seeing 20,000 on the streets -- another record crowd. The General Strike was called by the Victorian Trades Hall Council to protest the recently elected Liberal-National coalition government led by Jeffrey Kennett, ex-Scots College Private School Prefect. The new regime has almost overnight tried to set back workers wages and conditions, their very right to organize and strike, to the 1890's.

## United We Bargain, Divided We Beg

The Labour movement has been shackled for a decade by the Labour Party in Federal and State governments through the Accord which has seen "increased productivity" in Enterprise Bargaining traded-off for 3% annual pay increases.

"Everyone for themselves," was the slogan on the front gates of Buchenwald, the German Nazi concentration camp. This decade of Labour government has seen the capitalists get deregulated freedom to exploit, and set up the present "everybody for themselves" economy, and stripped the assets of public enterprises by privatisation. The government at Victoria funded corrupt business schemes, of which the bosses are now "bankrupt" beyond legal prosecution.

This situation is familiar to IW readers who got ripped off in George Bush's son's Savings & Loan collapse. Here, like in the US, the tax payers now have to pay for Entrepreneurs' business. And like the British Poll tax, there is a \$100 "Property Tax" whether you rent a slum or own a mansion. There have also been hikes in gas and fuel charges, auto registration etc.

## Union Busting, ALP Style

The de-registration of the Builders Labourers Federation in 1986 (police raided the BLF offices, arrested officers, seized members' funds and resources) by the Victorian State aided

by the federal government, was only surpassed by the case of the Airline Pilots Federation.

The Pilots were locked out for a year. The federal "Labour" regime even supplied military pilots and planes to break the dispute and scabs jumped the normally-rigid Australian immigration maze, to fly Australian skies (whether medically fit or not).

The dispute was the most costly in Australian history, and effectively isolated the ACTU and local Trades Hall Councils in line with Labour government policy.

The new Victorian regime has a large majority in both Houses so it can force any Laws it likes. Hefty increases in allowances, perks and gross salary, along with creating 4 new Cabinet Minister positions (the only "jobs" the new regime has created!) have been high priority.

## Choose Your Boss Ritual

The big game is the soon-to-be announced federal election, when we have the choice of another round of conservative Labour or rabid right-wing Liberal-national. While Labour jails and then deports Boat People, the Liberals would have those already here deported.

Victoria is the laboratory for "Workplace Reform." The ACTU and Trades Hall are hoping for a federal ALP victory to keep all those on Federal Award wages and conditions secure, and to a large extent this is the dominating strategy behind the General Strike coordinated by the Union leaderships.

Australia already has anti-union laws, such as Section 45D of the Trade Practices Act which forbids effective picketing and solidarity actions. This has never been repealed by Labour in 10 years, and has been used by the "New Right" bosses at Robe River, Western Australia, and Burnie, Tasmania by the North Broken Hill-Peko Wallsend Gang. Also in Victoria, at Mudginberry abatoir against the Metal Workers Union and the infamous Dollar Sweets debacle which saw the union fined \$1 million by the courts.

Various right wing lawyers, like ex-Liberal party pres. Michael Kroger (he was asked to resign after being caught hiring thugs to disrupt a Meat Workers picket at a union-busting attempt in Camperdown, on the coast) and bullshit Professors have set up nasty little profit-worship networks like the Tasmanian Institute, the Institute for Public Affairs, H.R.Nichols Society -- these laissez-faire ideologues now advise the government.

## Labor Awakens

Anyway, after a decade of fighting the class war with one hand tied behind their backs by the Accord Arbitration racket and weighed down from carrying ALP career union officials/politicians as misleaders, the labour movement has now awoken.

Union bureaucrats, would-be "Officials for Life," are facing a ruthless union-busting gang. The rank & file members, regardless of the officials, want to fight back. Thus the "professionals" are riding the tiger of workers' wrath. So an interesting situation is developing, watched by the rest of Australia!

The right-wing Herald-Sun (Murdoch owned) newspaper echoed Kennett's call for workers to go to work and the Sunday Age revealed that Kennett was asking all bosses to make up lists of those who took strike action so they could later be sacked and replaced by more eager slaves from the 300,000 unemployed of Victoria.

Public Sector workers and some private wage slaves, not intimidated by bosses' threats, took the day off. Despite sun showers, hail and Melbourne's cold winds, the city stopped for 3 hours. Public Transport workers and Electricity Workers stayed at work to transport people to the rally.

Many protesting workers showed much humour, calling for Kennett to show his face and chanting, "Jeffrey wash your hands Jeffrey! (Imitating a soap ad jingle). The hundred cops looked nervous but alas, the crowd did not storm the steps.

Hitler was elected too! Revolution is a Festival of the Oppressed! Eat the Rich and Wear their Bones! Eat Your Turkey, Glut Your Wine, Your Days Are Numbered, Bourgeois Swine! were some of the more imaginative banners, topped by Kennett, You Gormless Pillock!

## Ships Stopped

Next day, the Port of Melbourne stopped all shipping in Bass Strait between Tasmania and Victoria in support of Tasmanian workers, whose state government is also forcing repression on them. Their Premier Groom was foolish enough to explain to the "confused workers" how not belonging to unions would be good for the Bosses and good for everybody in the end. He was howled down.

Public Transport will stop on November 20, for the first time linking the tram, train and bus, public and private in several unions. Rolling strikes are planned in health, education, gas & electricity, metal, electrical trades, etc. A nationwide action day on November 30 coordinated by ACTU is the first national action since the 1969 strike

wave against the Penal Powers bill, which locked up Tramway Union secretary Clarrie O'Shea.

So the class war is well and truly being battled in Australia today. International support outside Australian Government Consulates, tourist offices and Airlines would be appreciated!

## Twilight Zone

The author works as a tram conductor in Melbourne. In January 1990, a 5-week lockout took place when the ALP government tried to introduce privatised "scratch tickets" system, and remove railway station assistants and tram conductors.

An attempted work-in was thwarted when the state turned off the electricity after workers blockaded the City with trams. Eviction of bosses and the occupation of Depots was aided by the growth of local passenger support groups. Trammies and their supporters collected donations from workers in other industries and nearby shops, concerts and a local radio station.

Things were pretty quiet since then until the recent upsurge. As the IWW has been organising, we marched with a great banner painted by the Sydney delegate. We also got some stickers printed saying AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL! with our IWW contact address on. These went down well at the march of course.

At work, I was putting these on trams along with others on the Saturday before Tuesday's General Strike. Alas, I was caught in the act and, rather than try to deny the fact offered to remove the stickers, and sort the matter out on the Depot level. I was told I was suspended and had to go to a disciplinary panel. When I told my workmates, they were sure I was joking, but no -- strange but true. I had just entered the Twilight Zone of the Bureaucracy ... weird and bizarre, I can assure you it would do Kafka's Trial proud.

Some tortured souls assured me I would lose my job, others less paranoid that I would lose a few weeks' pay, etc. So with a Union advocate I went to the Public Transport Corporation Office. Lift to the 13th floor. Air conditioned, fluorescent tube lighted, plantless Officedom, but -- what's this, no people? Yes, the Libs axe had already got stuck into the Management side, and the floor's offices were empty.

The time went elastic. Was I only there an hour? It seemed eternal boredom -- anxiety as it does waiting to be judged, interviewed then sentenced to 2 days' suspension without pay. This allowed me to attend the General Strike march. Truly it was a Twilight Zone experience.

**SWEDEN SAAB SUES SAC:** The Swedish Workers Central-organization (SAC) is being sued for 1 million kronor by the auto-maker SAAB in retaliation for the union's successful campaign against the dismissal of 45 workers including SAC militants, women, immigrants and workers suffering from on-the-job injuries. SAAB issued the dismissals without regard to seniority rules after consultation with the reformist metal-workers union LO. But the SAC rejected the dismissals, noting that many of those being fired

had worked for SAAB for 11-12 years. SAAB ultimately agreed to negotiate the dismissals, but sought damages against a SAC member who spoke to local journalists about the dismissals.

SAC's weekly newspaper, Arbetaren (The Worker) has increased its circulation by 60 percent during the ongoing recession. The social-democratic LO union has agreed to a wage freeze, to drastic cuts in health and unemployment benefits, and a reduction in paid vacations. During a recent Stockholm demonstration against the concessions, a

large SAC contingent marched under black and red banners demanding General Strike Now!

The SAC is also continuing its long-standing campaign against nuclear power. In late October, the authorities admitted that a nuclear reactor in Barseback had come close to melting down. Several other Swedish reactors are temporarily closed for repairs. SAC was the first Swedish union to oppose nuclear power, and played an active role in an almost successful campaign in 1980 to ban them. (workers news service)

# 19th Century Fashions... 19th Century Working Conditions

Jessica McClintock, Inc, the 5th largest apparel company in San Francisco last year took in \$145 million making dresses, sportswear, fragrances, and other "fashion statements" with a high price tag. And the workers who manufacture these goods also pay a high price slaving in the sweatshops.

Through her philanthropy and business success, J. McClintock has become a role model for many women. Unfortunately this view is not shared by 12 women who slaved in horrendous working conditions, and have yet to be paid. These Asian immigrant women were hired below the minimum wage, but have not even received that.

A dress on the rack has a price tag of \$175, 1/2 of that goes back to "good ol'

Jessie." The rest goes to cut-throats (contractors), who run operations in blacked out store fronts in the Bay area. The cut-throat gets the material for maybe \$15, and pays about \$5 to the woman who sews it.

There are thousands of these sweatshops everywhere, notably in the Bay Area. Walking down any street in SF, Oakland, Richmond, etc, and you may pass several in one block without even knowing it. These are among the worst dens of wage slavery in the US today: 7 day weeks, 10-12 hour days, mostly Asian or Latina women workers sew fashions that a lot of folks could never afford.

Conditions in these sweatshops are reminiscent of the gaslight era. Poor

ventilation, bad lighting, and forced labor cause physical and emotional suffering. Intimidation is the rule. In one shop a sign was posted: "You cannot go to the bathroom." Another sign limits conversation: "No Loud Talking," it warns, probably hoping to discourage any interaction (y'know... Organizing), among the people working there.

Fortunately these women are finding a voice. October 20, Asian Immigrant Women Advocates announced a national boycott of Jessica McClintock products. On the 26th they made another appeal through an ad in the California edition of *New York Times*. AIWA coordinated picket lines around the country Oct. 31.

Through these actions, the 12 women at Lucky Sewing Co., and their thousands of sisters (and a few brothers too) in the garment industry are getting some support. Public education and pickets are key tactics, but the ol' consumer boycott will hit Jessica where it really hurts -- the wallet.

Bay area Wobs are supporting the boycott and picket lines.

Quality, prestige and design of a garment means nothing, unless the workers who make that garment have quality wages and benefits, prestigious treatment as human beings, and a better design on life.

BOYCOTT JESSICA MCCLINTOCK -- END GARMENT SWEATSHOP SLAVERY (Dave Collins)



# International Notes

## SOUTH AFRICA

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS** has postponed its biennial conference, scheduled for November, because of problems in achieving planned mergers between its affiliates. Mergers were to have created single industrial unions by last March in the steel, transport, catering, food and public sectors. However, this has only been done in the public sector.

## RUSSIA

**COST OF LIVING:** According to the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions (MFP), the minimum cost of living in Moscow in September was 6245 rubles. But the gov't estimate is much less, leaving workers and pensioners to live in utter destitution. For example, the gov't standards allow for the consumption of 700 grams of sausage a year, and oblige people to wear a pair of shoes for 5 years.

**WORKERS DEMAND LIVING STANDARDS:** On October 13 a conference of industrial, agricultural and white-collar workers from the central Urals region was held at Yekaterinburg. Most of those who took part were leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR), along with managers of local enterprises and collective farms. The principal -almost the only- theme of the reports was "How badly we live!"

The conference elected a coordinating council with the following tasks: to transfer the powers usurped by presidential structures to councils of workers and peasants; to coordinate activity of political parties, social movements and trade unions in order to defend the social, economic and political rights of the population; to impose workers' supervision on the privatization process; to fight against speculation and crime.

The conference expressed lack of confidence in President Yeltsin and the Gaidar gov't, demanding that collective property be retained, and that sales to foreign firms and "shadow" economy operators be banned.

**STRIKERS FIRED:** On October 14 the Moscow court upheld the firing of members of the locomotive workers union for taking part in a 3-day strike last March.

**NATIONWIDE PROTESTS:** Workplace collectives rallied in 54 cities across Russia October 24, demanding that the gov't "turn the course of the economic reforms to the working people." More than 50,000 people signed the demands.

**AFL-CIO OPPOSES MARKET ECONOMY:** The KAS-KOR Digest reports that an AFL-CIO international representative speaking at a Sept. 17 Moscow rally called on demonstrators "not to be tempted with alleged prospects of a market economy."

## UKRAINE

**NATIONALISTS THUGS SMASH UNIONS:** Leaders of the Odessa branch of the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA), the Ukrainian Nationalist Union and the Ukrainian Self-Defence movement have formed a so-called "Workers Committee" aimed at preventing strikes. Together with the police, the UNA prevented a strike by transport workers and broke up a press conference of the Independent Union of Mineworkers (NPG). The organization has also begun setting up students' committees to prevent protests and hunger strikes by students.

## ODESSA STRIKERS

**ARRESTED:** On October 11 the Labor Union of Odessa protested against the prosecution of air crew, air traffic controllers and rail workers who took part in the strikes of Sept. 2-3. The union demanded that all the prosecutions be stopped and that the country's laws be brought into line with the Convention of the International

Labor Organization.

The Sept. strike was called by the country's 5 independent unions to demand a national agreement on minimum wage rates and working conditions. Airports and railroads throughout the country were shut down in most of the country, though some rail workers were forced to work at gunpoint. The strike ended after the gov't promised to sign the wage agreement and to release all arrested strikers. But the promises were not honored. And on Sept. 28, the chairman of the mineworkers union wrote the president: "If you ignore implementation of your own promises we will have to appeal to the world public to say that the Ukrainian President Kravchuk is an ordinary liar, whose words are nothing."

## TURKEY

**FERRY WORKERS BANNED FROM STRIKING:** The Turkish Seafarers' Union (TDS) is appealing for international solidarity in campaigning for a repeal of draconian anti-strike clauses in Turkish law. Turkish legislation prohibits strike action in a very broadly defined "public sector" that includes all state employees and urban transport workers. In Istanbul, nearly 5,000 members work on the city ferries. The law not only bans them from striking, but extends to any worker employed by a company that is partially covered by the "essential services" definition. Because the state shipping company which operates the ferries also owns many deep sea ships, the strike ban covers nearly half the TDS seafarer membership.

## EUROPE

**DUTCH DOCKERS AND GERMAN SEAFARERS STRIKE AGAINST REFLAGGING:** Dutch dockers in the port of Flushing, members of the Vervoersbond FNV, took action in solidarity with striking German seafarers on Nov. 13th. The FNV acted when it heard that the ferry company Olau-Line had announced that it was leaving the German register to put its ships under the Luxembourg flag and evade union conditions. The company, owned by Hamburg shipowner A. Bolten, and currently managed by Olau-Line UK in Sheerness, told the German seafarers Nov. 3rd that their current collective agreement would be renegotiated, and inferior contracts would be signed. The crew and their union refused to accept these conditions.

The 2 ferries, Olau Hollandia and Olau Britannia, run between Sheerness and Flushing. When the Olau Hollandia arrived in Flushing on the 13th, the crew held a stop-work meeting on the car deck. A 3-person picket was mounted on the car ramp and FNV distributed a circular to its members in the port explaining the company's plan to flag out. Dutch portworkers, employed by a Dutch stevedoring company which provides port services to Olau, refused to work in support of the crew despite intense pressure by the company to break the strike.

## INDIA

**PLANT CLOSINGS:** Hundreds of factories are shutting down each month throughout India, leaving millions of workers unemployed and destitute. Many unions have responded by taking over production through worker cooperatives, while others are campaigning for legal reforms to stem the tide of "industrial sickness."

The Bombay textile industry has been particularly hard hit. Out of 200,000 workers who worked in the industry ten years ago, only 70,000 can now be found. "Many have just perished," according to one organizer, dying "a miserable death because they could not afford medical services, food or were too exhausted and depressed to continue living in their situation."

This is not because of a decline in

the textile industry- total production and textile exports are both up substantially. But employment has been slashed by automation and by subcontracting to smaller units in rural areas where wages and working conditions are at subhuman levels. Similar processes are underway in electronics, pharmaceuticals and machinery industries.

Workers argue that while employers may have the right to say they do not want to continue running a business, they do not have the right to close it down. The All Workers' Union reports that workers "are gearing themselves up to take on the challenge of running industries themselves... enabling employees to take over management when existing employers refuse to do so."

Kamani Tubes workers have run their own plant for more than 4 years, while several other workplace collectives are awaiting gov't authorization to do the same. They are demanding access to provident fund accounts deducted from their wages for start-up and operating capital.

## INDONESIA

**UNIONISTS ARRESTED:** Police released 9 leaders of the independent Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia (SBSI: Indonesian Workers Welfare Union), including union chair Muchtar Pakpahan, on Oct. 29. The arrests took place after police broke up a meeting between the union's central board and the Tangerang Chapter. The SBSI leaders were suspected of attending a clandestine meeting since the gov't still does not recognize the union's existence. The police neither permits nor prohibits the SBSI to operate.

## CHINA

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES?** While the green plastic toys are the best-selling toy in the United States, few know where they come from. But Asian Labor Update has tracked them down to their lairs. While the turtles are sold throughout the world, they are made in Asia- primarily in communist China and Macau- and marketed through Hong Kong.

The toys begin life on work benches of factories in China's Guangdong province, on the Hong Kong border, and in the Portuguese colony of Macau. They are produced by the Hong Kong-based Harbour Ring International, which sells the toys to Playmates International (also based in Hong Kong) for distribution. Playmates, which was near bankruptcy in the mid 1980s, earned a profit of US\$114 million in 1991.

Harbour Ring received the Asian Institute of Management's Award for "Outstanding People Development" last year. Its workers earn between \$73 (China, where the lion's share of the workforce is based) and \$250 (Macau) a month. The company employees 19,000 workers (18,000 of them in China) between March and October, slashing its pay rolls to 11,000 for the rest of the year. But when workers work, they work 10 or more hours a day, and often 7 days a week. (The factories produce 300 other plastic toys in addition to the turtles.)

## PHILIPPINES

**STRIKERS SHOT:** On Sept. 30, four strikers were seriously injured when company-hired security guards belonging to the Philippine Combat Force Security Agency opened fire on 200 strikers in front of the Original Hortaleza Vacador and Beauty Shop in Araneta Center, Cubao. The 4 injured unionists are: Florencia Villaflores - the bullet entered her head and she may have suffered brain damage; Elmie Ireno; Lolito Dacasin, a bus conductor who was supporting the strike and Wilfredo Mendiola, a steel worker who was also supporting the strike.

On the morning of the incident, 200 strikers and supporters were picketing in front of the Hortaleza store. Strikers moved towards the store to take shelter

from the rain, and one of the 22 security guards on duty hit one of them thereby causing a scuffle. The officer in charge, Rudy Dang La Cruz, then ordered his men to open fire on the strikers.

## SOUTH KOREA: INDEPENDENT UNIONS

**MOVE TOWARDS UNITY:** The Korean Trade Union Congress (Chonnohyup), the Congress of Independent Industrial Trade Union Federations (Upjong Hoeuy) and independent company-based unions have launched a united campaign against a gov't-imposed ceiling on wage increases to 5% (which now includes a ceiling on benefits as well). Although the formerly gov't-sponsored Korean Federation of Trade Unions is now nominally independent, it remains outside this process.

Discussions towards establishing a transitional confederation uniting the 2 independent union centers are now underway. Chonnohyup primarily represents manual workers in company-based unions, while Upjong Hoeuy is composed of industry-based unions of professional, technical and white-collar workers. Both unions have suffered from government repression, and several of their affiliates have been outlawed.

## JAPAN

### NORMAL CITIZENS RIOT:

Kamagasaki is a working class neighborhood of 30,000 in Osaka, mostly day-laborers, including many homeless workers. On Oct. 1, the local gov't decided to stop paying out social security payments to needy workers.

The 80 workers who were turned out of the social security office responded by smashing in the office's windows. In the early afternoon, 1500 police arrived to prevent the discontent from spreading. But by early evening, at least 1000 workers gathered, alongside many youths and "normal citizens." Burning barricades were erected in the streets. Throughout the evening, the rioting spread as trains and busses were set on fire and a large supermarket was looted.

The next day, the local government stood by its decision and once again refused to make payments to the day-laborers. The social security building closed its doors at 9:30am. Out came the stones and molotov cocktails once again, as workers and police squared off in the streets for a second day. By late afternoon, the local gov't gave in and renewed its payments to the day-laborers. (*Autonome Forum*)

## ECUADOR:

### LONGER HOURS IN STORE?

A wave of strikes has been underway since the new gov't adopted a package of severe economic measures in September. At the same time the gov't plans to increase the official work week from 40 to 48 hours. "Increasing the work hours would be a step backward of 20 or 30 years in labor legislation and would create a regime of slavery," objected Juan Andrnago, president of the United Workers Front (FUT).

## ARGENTINA

**GENERAL STRIKE:** The first general strike in Argentina since 1988, and the first under President Carlos Menem, ended on Nov. 9 with no winners or losers. The strike was in protest against severe economic measures and "not against the government," according to a union spokesperson. Its greatest impact was in the industrial and factory sectors, provincial public administration, banks and railroads, which move nearly 2 million people per day. According to the gov't, nearly half of those working in the largest companies took part in the strike.

Unions demanded a minimum monthly salary of US\$500 and an emergency increase of \$350 in pension payments for retired people who presently receive only \$150 per month. The average salary is currently \$800 per month, while the cost of a family's basic needs is about \$1,000 per month.



## Report from Free Workers Union

# Strategy of Tension Germany in the '90s

## ROSTOCK - THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS GETS LOUDER

After 15 years it is Autumn again in this country. The first "German Autumn" that of 1977, deeply altered the political climate of Germany. Buback, Ponto, Schleyer and the deaths in Stammheim marked the end of the political illusion of the 1968 generation, putting a full stop to the belief in a fast revolutionary change to the capitalist society in this country. The state showed its ugly side, machine pistols, special laws, and the ban on left-wingers in the state sector were to show clearly that a thorough change was impossible. Most of the left got the message, accepted destiny, and left the streets for parliamentary seats or fled into their interior life.

Today, 15 years later the situation is even more drastic. A socially relevant left no longer exists — a few small groups spring up only to disappear again. The struggle for the heads and hearts of the people has been lost.

Other ideas have been spreading in society, that a few years ago were discussed only in right wing circles. Since the occupation of East Germany, these ideas occupy more and more the daily papers and mass media. What, until now, only the radical right dared to say is now the normal speech register of the established parties, right up to the Social Democrats and Greens.

The so-called "ethnic cleansing" in Serbia and Croatia finds also here its echo, put into practice in Rostock and Quickborn, and with many, many people in their heads.

## REFUGEE CENTERS ATTACKED

Most of the recent attacks on refugee centers have been done by people 20 years or younger. A sizable minority of these are members of various neo nazi or racist and nationalist organizations. The majority are not members of specific organizations, but are part of a

"right wing youth scene".

The reactionary values held by the young people in this subculture often come from the widespread playing of racist computer video games (such as KZ Manager, banned by German govt.). Also part of this culture are the skin head rock bands (about 50 in Germany) and their "fanzines." The aggressive music and lyrics against foreigners and leftists, combined with lots of alcohol, put the youths in a state where they are ready to go out and attack people.

However, tolerance for the attacks goes beyond this youth scene. Xenophobia, racism and authoritarian attitudes are now widespread in Germany, both in the west and east. The major political parties are changing their policies on political asylum and who is considered to be a refugee. Thus the effect of the attacks is for the mainstream politicians who run the state to give in to the demands of racists, by starting to discuss changes to the German constitution. This would limit the number of refugees entering Germany and result in the expulsion of many already here.

A further effect could be growth in the authoritarian nature of the state. Laws limiting the right to demonstrate were proposed by a govt. minister.

Until now the German govt and police have denied any coordinated organization of the attacks and have minimized the threat of neo nazi groups. During many of the attacks the police have stood watching and done nothing. This has also happened at right wing demonstrations where the law was being broken. In fact, on many occasions the police have intervened to protect racists from attacks by militant anti-fascists. The threat to the state has always been seen as coming from the Libertarians and Marxists.

Research has shown that many leading activists in racist and national-

ist organizations throughout Germany have contact with or are members of the NSDAP/AO, the USA-based underground organization for the rebuilding of the nazi party.

The open attacks on refugee centers, destruction of Jewish monuments, and attacks on anti-fascists, all indicate that a coordinated campaign is being carried out by the neo nazis. A new development is the formation of Anti-Anti-Fascist groups, gathering and exchanging information about the anti-fascist movement, identifying activists and meeting places as future targets.

## A STRATEGY OF TENSION?

At present it is not clear how much of the racist and neo nazi organizations are sponsored by elements in the German State. It is known that after 1945 large numbers of Nazis were accepted back into the system. The BND (Federal Intelligence Service) was based on the USA-sponsored "Gehlen organization" led by military intelligence officer Reinhard Gehlen. Similarly, many industrialists and capitalists who had funded the Nazis were left in control of their businesses. These people or their heirs are high up in the German establishment. There is also a large number of "new right" intellectuals, and revisionist historians. How many of these people are involved in a German version of the Strategy of Tension is unknown.

The Strategy of Tension was carried out in the 1970s in Italy by top politicians, P2 Freemasons, secret service and military leaders who created a "parallel state." They organized a series of neo-fascist terrorist bombings and shootings. Their aim was to have an excuse for stronger laws and therefore a state which was more fascist in character without an open takeover by a neo fascist party. Many of the Italian neo-fascist youth were unknowing puppets in this plan. Just as in the past, the

young men were being used by the older men as "Squadristi" the Italian version of the German SA. Now the young skinheads are again being used as expendable storm troopers by the older neo nazis.

## SKIN HEADS & NEO NAZIS AS PUPPETS

In the present, the neo nazis and other racists and nationalist parties and the skin head sub culture are not a serious threat to the establishment in Germany. No single party has enough support to enter the Federal Parliament, though the Republicans and the German Peoples Union (DVU) come close and have entered some state parliaments. Similarly the young street fighting, refugee center burning militants are not going to beat the police any more than the Autonomists have done in the past.

However, they give politicians an excuse to increase control over all minorities which they see as disturbing public order or opposing the ruling ideology.

## SOLUTION

The racist, nationalist and patriarchal forces are a real threat to refugees, immigrants, and anyone outside the social norm, for example feminists, punks, hippies, drug addicts, gays. Many people from these groups are in danger. The only solution is organized self defence and coordinated opposition to the people threatening them. And the reactionary ideas must also be opposed if we wish to live in a future without fascism.

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The FAU is the IWWs sister union in Germany.

## Report From British IWW

# UK Mine Closures

In June 1992 the right wing conservative party were elected to a fourth term. They have now been in continuous power for 13 years. The bubble has finally burst.

Elected on a promise of "recovery is just around the corner," they have now lost all credibility. A sterling crisis in the money markets has caused the British government to remove the Pound from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, but only after home interest rates had moved from 10% to 15% and back in the same day, and the Pound had declined 20% against the Deutschmark.

The latest gaffe was the announcement at the beginning of October that 30 pits were to be closed by 31 March 1993, causing the loss of 31,000 miners' jobs, and a further 100,000 layoffs in related industries.

## MASS RESPONSE

The response from working people was dramatic and astonishing. Support Groups sprang into action all over the country and protest marches were held in working class towns near the coal fields and in middle class towns like

Cheltenham, where 3,000 locals marched in support of the miners.

In Swindon, a town of 150,000 souls, a few unionists including myself as the only Wob, gathered in town centre on Saturday after the announcement and collected 2,000 signatures on a petition calling for a general strike.

The following Wednesday we joined the miners, their families and supporters on a march through some of the plush parts of central London. There were 50,000 plus on the march which caused traffic chaos, but proceeded with quiet dignity to a vast rally in London's Hyde Park. The march on Parliament almost resulted in defeat for the Government over the pit closure plan. As it was, 21 pits were withdrawn from the closure plan until "a thorough review." The other 10 are still due to close by Christmas but are undergoing a statutory 90 day consultation process which may result in some being saved.

The next Sunday 150,000 gathered at the same venue in a broader campaign, not only to save the pits but also to call for "jobs and recovery." The weather was appalling but the march and rally united the working

class across the whole country. This march was quite timid and passive, which was probably due to the weather and the TUC's appeal to the middle classes to get involved.

The miners are in this position because the formerly nationalized Electricity Supply Industry was put into private hands under Thatcher and now has profits as its main aim. The Industry is the biggest customer for coal, but has increasingly sought cheaper fuel. Despite having coal reserves for 300 years, the Industry with government blessing decided to turn away from deep mined coal and import stripmined coal from the USA, and coal from Colombia and South Africa. The industry has also decided to build gas fired power stations which will use up accessible gas reserves in 20 years. There are also plans to import gas from Algeria.

The National Union of Mineworkers are in a weak position at present. Since losing the year-long strike in 1985, membership has fallen about 30%, while productivity in the mines has risen so fast that a year's supply lies on the surface. This is why they could not walk out on the day of

the closure announcement.

They have allies in the working class like the Rail Workers who stand to lose jobs in droves — it is they who haul the coal from the pithead to the power stations — and the Power Workers whose plants will be closed. This triple alliance could bring the state to its knees, but the lack of confidence among many workers, and the union bureaucrats' fear of the law, may hold the struggle back. The 10 pits under immediate threat are starting to fall apart with very little maintenance being under taken.

## TIME FOR NEW TACTICS

The miners are having to consider new tactics for the struggle.

Gone are the days of year long strikes. It remains to be seen whether they are in a position to "go beyond the law" and take up the mantle of pit and coal-store sit-ins and occupations. Certainly whatever happens this little section of the IWW in Britain will be up there with them supporting their fight.

— Kevin Brandstatter  
IWW - UK



# Free Workers – Not Free Trade

The Canada & United States Free Trade Agreement which went into effect four years ago has been devastating for Canadian working people. Unemployment and prices are up. Mega-projects to export water and energy are ripping up the wilderness areas. And with the North American Free Trade Agreement tying Mexico, Canada and the US together in one big playground for corporations people in the US are next. Chile is the next to be brought into the trading block with a hemispheric accord planned for the future.

The Free Trade Agreements are treaties in the corporate interest. The FTAs remove from national, provincial and local governments the power to regulate corporate activity. Corporations won't have to bribe nearly as many politicians. Mechanisms through which working people can affect even the most local of governments are already largely ineffective. So-called Free Trade attempts to strip away even the pretense of government being subservient to capital.

The effect of the FTAs is to pushing down all standards that "cost" the capitalists. So labor laws, wages, environmental standards and social services all of which are much better in Canada will dilute to the US level. And the tendency in both those countries will be for more capital to move to Mexico thus imposing the lower wage, environmental, and service levels there on people in the US and Canada.

For US workers it's like expanding the "right to work" states competition

with those states where unions remain nominally legal. For Canadian workers it is a rolling back of social services, protections which the labor movement has fought for through the decades. For Mexican workers it is more imperialism from the north, and further economic polarization of society.

Along the US-Mexican border are over 2200 maquiladoras which employ over a half million workers. Maquiladoras are factories owned by foreign capital set up for exporting goods into the US. They are growing at over 10% a year. The claim that these factories would stem the numbers of people leaving Mexico in search of wage labor in the US has proven false. In fact the \$4 a day jobs in the border factories have over 10% turnover a month and serve to attract thousands more people a year from the countryside to the developed areas.

As the number of these wage slave factories expands so does the turf which the capitalists demand. Land that has been held communally by communities – known as ejidos – can now be privatized and in some cases has been taken over by TNCs. The privatizing of communal land – private property *über alles* – and resulting destruction of the social basis of community is an age-old pattern of the capitalists.

Although US and Canadian politicians claim greater efficiency in those countries will prevent jobs from moving to "backwards" Mexico the maquiladoras are the most up-to-date,

high tech, efficient factories in North America.

And the three top exporters from Mexico to the United States are General Motors, Ford and Chrysler. Fully three-quarters of the goods coming from Mexico to the US are transfers within corporations.

"We are already living with the effects of the free trade philosophy," said Alfredo Dominguez, of the Authentic Labor Front (FAT), "It means total freedom for the transnational corporations. What they want is no democratic unions, no environmental regulations, no requirements to pay a living wage, and no political democracy."

In the 1980s the international Monetary Fund, the World Bank and private banks forced Mexico to open its economy to US based corporations. Foreign capital can now own 100% of Mexican corporations which previously had been limited to 49%.

Transnationals pay Mexican workers about \$13 an hour less than workers in the US and Canada. In one year that amounts to a \$20,000,000,000 subsidy from Mexican workers to transnational corporate profits according to the Unified Union Front (FSU). The wage differential means Mexican production is oriented towards goods and services for export or for the few rich who can afford luxury items. The needs of the people are neglected.

In Europe popular resistance to the creation of European union and a free trade block is threatening the timetable for economic integration.

In one of the better known (here) examples of working class resistance, French family farmers blockaded Euro-Disney World with tractors and other farm equipment. The European subsidies to farmers which began in the '40s were intended to make Europe self-sufficient with food. Two kinds of farming have benefited from the subsidies. In some places, France Wales and elsewhere, family farming communities have been preserved. On the other hand subsidies have best rewarded the most efficient. This has given rise to a frighteningly efficient factory farm approach which is most developed in Holland. Now farm community structures are threatened by "free trade".

## RESOURCES:

Cross Border Links – directory includes addresses, contact persons and descriptions of 260 environmental, labor, citizens, government, and research organizations working on issues of NAFTA and economic integration: \$14.45 postpaid. Resource Center, PO Box 4506, Albuquerque, NM 87196

Jan 29-31 – Tri-nat'l conference on effects of NAFTA on public education. Contact Dan Leahy, TESC Labor Center Olympia WA 98505. 206-866-6000 ext. 6525

Sometime Jan thru March -- Tri-nat'l Auto Parts Workers conference. Contact TIE, 7435 Michigan Ave. Detroit MI 48210. 313-842-6262.

## ABOLISH THE WORLD BANK

Last winter World Bank Chief Economist Lawrence Summers sent a memo on geography and toxic wastes to his colleagues. This winter he was appointed to a Clinton administration job. Excerpts from the memo follow.

Just between you and me, shouldn't the World Bank be encouraging more migration of the dirty industries to the LDCs...

I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable... The measurement of the costs of health-impairing pollution depends on the forgone earnings from increased morbidity and mortality...

I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted...

Therefore dangerous pollution should be concentrated in countries with the lowest wages...

## THE DEBT IS NOT OWED BY THE PEOPLE



Linoleum prints by Carlos Cortez (IWW 450). Carlos' new book of poems *de Kansas a Califas & back to Chicago* is available for \$6.50 from MARCH/Abrazo Press, PO Box 2890, Chicago, IL 60690.

The *Industrial Worker* Collective would like to thank (and recommend) two excellent sources of alternative news & analysis: the computer service Peace Net, 18 De Boom St. San Francisco CA 94107 and the weekly newspaper *Anderson Valley Advertiser*, PO Box 459 Boonville CA 95415 \$30/yr.



I have  
no  
country.

I am  
an  
industrial  
worker  
of the  
world.



## Internationalism in the New World Order

Some American once accurately described the New World Order in these terms: It is just like McDonalds. No matter which country you are in, the resuarant looks the same and the food tastes the same. Only the language has changed and that local delicacy added to the burger with a Mc in front of it.

This description accurately describes the New World Order. The world remains dominated by American values - eg. McDonalds.

The restuarant looks the same - American business dominates the world economy. The food tastes the same no matter where you go - eg. global trade selling beef and the technology to cook it into perfect greyness. Countries are allowed their modicum of multiculturalism - they can have a different language and a local food specialty.

This definition of the New World Order is very much as Eldridge Cleaver described it in 1969 when he discussed Disneyland. Disneyland represents a world packaged so that it is now mostly in English, easy to get to by car, very friendly to Americans and cultural differences are reduced to different foods and national icons (which dance and sing in the national language).

Two factors emerge about the New World Order. First, it hasn't changed much since 1969: the United States still seeks to dominate the world with its trade and the values that sell that trade. Second, cultural differences become reduced to racial stereotypes and eating habits.

It is interesting to consider the New World Order for three reasons. First, leaders only talk about issues when they are not working. The recent US presidential election kept telling Americans that they would once again dominate the World through trade and the military. This occurred as their troops were leaving Europe and the Pacific and their inability to dominant the world economy was becoming obvious. The United Nations and GATT (American-created institutions) challenge American foreign policy with Cuba and trade with Europe. It was like the New World Order was the "good ol' days" for American leaders. The dominos have finally fallen for US imperialism.

Second, the New World Order explains the nature of multiculturalism in the United States. Multiculturalism is a complex issue that has been successfully

pursued in some countries. Successful multiculturalism is the elimination of racism and xenophobia. It incorporates the recognition of the history of oppression and colonialism inherent in all societies. Multiculturalism is a teaching process of the cultural differences among people and the relations that have existed or been forced upon people of different cultures.

Multiculturalism is none of the listed things in relation to the United States. It is more like Disneyland. Non-white cultures are designated a small space or time each year. They demonstrate their culture by the food they eat, the dances they perform or the racial icons of their culture. (It's a Small World After All) Then they go away to be replaced by the next group.

Culture has nothing to do with land in this manufactured world so the next group can be gay and lesbian culture or womens' culture. History is similarly absent except for in the created photographs which allow us to impose our values upon history - see Elenor Roosevelt the lesbian who was successful in a homophobic world.

The actual cultures have nothing to do with the created cultures.

African Americans create a history of Africa that removes the current Africans from the picture. Asian Americans reject ten thousand years of collective history in Asia for the chance to be a better business owner in the US. Each group is only relevant to the extent that the word American can be placed upon it.

Each culture is trotted out as though each were equal in our pluralistic society. Gay and Lesbian culture is equal to Native American traditions. Multiculturalism is distorted to mean that each group is equal and each competes for the right to integrate into the American culture.

Finally, each culture is juxtaposed with the never discussed American culture. White rich men who own the land and business. Each group is striving to be part of this group but this group never gets a month for its culture because we all secretly know that it is **THE Culture**.

By removing history from each of these cultures, the reality of imperialism and colonialism are removed. American culture seems to have been asorbed by so many countries because it is right for us all. Never mind the guns

that kill national leaders, emerging workers, challenging women or children not willing to work. Never mind the televisions carrying a million American programs into every home in a different language but with the same capitalistic message. Never mind the rape of the millions of women by American soldiers that leave behind a heritage of American children in every country. Never mind a history of indigenous resistance and national revolutions that have claimed back territory inch by inch.

By removing culture from these people, a better existence is removed from the collective memory. The Somalian peasants who used to have food until the land was laid bare by American owned companies looking to grow more crops for sale elsewhere. Pacific Islanders who had fish before the nuclear testing killed them all. Aboriginal Australians who lived in a non-hierarchical political system and who had no word for rape because it didn't exist. Religion is replaced by worship of the mind-numbing consumption god, television.

Multiculturalism becomes a replacement for the real collective groups that we all historically belonged to for protection and learning. These nurturing groups are replaced by synthetic substitutes that allow us to continue to buy and work at the request of our bosses. Instead of real similarities, we can be divided based on cultural differences they have created to divide and rule the different groups. African Americans are removed from solidarity with the 400 million Africans and instead African Americans become the backbone of the Army advisors that kills Africans in a dozen African states.

The final interesting aspect of the New World Order is the pure fascism of it all. It is based on the assumption that each country is really just a big business. Bill Clinton kept referring to his competitors when he referred to other countries. Countries are considered to exist only as businesses until they run out money. Then they go the way of Somalia. Ethnic differences are exploited to keep competitors from doing better in the world market. Internal food needs are suppressed for the needs of a global market. Land is pilaged like there is no tomorrow because for business their is no tomorrow.

It is also based on the assumption that one country or set of people should be in charge of this order. It is interesting that both Clinton and Hitler both had no trouble claiming the right to lead the world. The lack of input into choosing this world leader for nine tenths of the world's population is no restriction to these egomaniacs. The world is to be created in their image - smoking factories, deforested land and dead peasants for as far as the eye can see.

The New World order is based on the assumption that capital is global while workers remained trapped within their country. Using racism and manufactured xenophobia against immigration, capitalists restrict the ability of workers to cross borders. Yet, at the same time it crosses borders to get cheaper workers, better banks, nicer homes, good schools and free resources.

Finally, the New World order is backed by a global police force that slaughters the poor without distinction and protects the rich. It kills a million people in Iraq for reclaiming land stolen from Iraq by Britain and the oil companies. It watches another half million Muslims get raped and murdered in front of its eyes as a message against Islamic leaders who seek a more just world. Finally, it allows a million Africans to die as penalty for not providing better land to the multinational companies in Africa.

The New World Order represents a form of Internationalism. But it is not the form of internationalism that workers should support. It is simply racism and oppression in a neat McDonalds or Disneyland package. The racial and cultural stereotyping are simply manufactured products that lead to restrictions against immigration. The created differences and restrictions on immigration just act to restrict the formation of any real international movement. Capitalists know that as long as they have the whole world to play in while we squabble from within our own countries, there is no way we can stop them. The only way to truly challenge them is for us to be as truly global as they are. This requires a real examination of history and culture and differences. It is only when we examine the real differences that the similarities will emerge. To begin this process, we must first understand the Old World Order.

Tom Barker



# International Workers Association

The IWW has been working to build closer relations with the International Workers Association (IWA—often referred to as the AIT after its Spanish initials) for the past six years or so, and discussing the possibility of affiliating the IWW to it. Our organizations have always had a great deal in common; indeed, the IWW's Chilean section was a founding member of the IWA and our Marine Transport Workers Industrial Union was affiliated for several years.

The IWA is a federation of revolutionary unions and syndicalist propaganda groups founded in December 1922 at a conference of organizations committed to building revolutionary unions independent of all political parties and all governments. (It followed on several years of syndicalist conferences which had been disrupted by the first world war, and then by the "Communist" maneuverings to establish their own labor front.) The IWA's founding members included revolutionary unions from Argentina, Chile, France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay, along with smaller syndicalist groups from several countries. The IWA has always been strongest in Europe, but it had a strong organization in Latin America for several years.

The IWA was strongest in the 1920s and 1930s. Its affiliates were decimated by fascist and Stalinist repression (especially in Bulgaria, Germany and Spain), and by post World War II efforts to incorporate the labor movement into reformist government structures. The Swedish Workers Central organization (SAC) withdrew from the IWA in the 1950s, depriving the International of its last functioning union affiliate. For a time the IWA threatened to disappear altogether, but like the IWW it entered a period of

renewed growth in the 1970s and began re-establishing its industrial presence.

Today the IWA continues to work to unite revolutionary unions and syndicalist propaganda groups from around the world. Its union affiliates include the Spanish National Confederation of Labor (CNT-AIT), the French CNT-F, and the Italian Syndicalist Union (USI). In England, the Direct Action Movement is building industrial networks which would form the basis for revolutionary industrial unions, as is the German Free Workers Union (FAU). The IWA's Brazilian affiliate, the COB, works with several independent unions—especially among mass transit workers, while the Bulgarian CNT is rebuilding after decades of Stalinist repression which saw tens of thousands of its members killed or imprisoned. And the IWA has smaller propaganda groups in Argentina, Australia, Finland, Japan, Norway and the United States.

Most IWA sections define themselves as anarcho-syndicalist, but the French and Italian sections define themselves as revolutionary unions open to workers of all political persuasions. The IWA Statutes simply note that labor's emancipation can be accomplished only by the workers themselves through revolutionary unions which would carry out immediate struggles for better conditions while working towards workers control of industry (much like the IWW Preamble).

Since the 1980s, IWA sections have actively assisted the rebirth of independent unionism in Eastern Europe. Its German and Norwegian affiliates were particularly active in assisting militants in Poland's Solidarity union; smuggling in radio transmitters, printing presses and money to keep the

underground union alive and break the government's monopoly on information. And the IWA is supporting (financially and otherwise) efforts to build independent unions in Bulgaria and the former Soviet Union, and has sponsored several conferences on syndicalism in Eastern and Central Europe (the most recent in Germany November 25-29) which have brought together many activists from the region. The IWA also works with independent syndicalist unions and organizations in Bolivia, Chile, Holland, Mongolia, Nigeria, and other countries.

In recent years, the AIT's European sections have been developing international linkages between workers in the same industries, including conferences of workers in the health care and postal and telecommunications industries. While most IWA affiliates are dwarfed by conservative and party-controlled unions, they continue to play a vital role both in supporting independent labor struggles and in holding forth an alternative model of what unionism could be. And the IWA regularly demonstrates the effectiveness of international labor solidarity—Brazil's president abandoned a campaign to crush the IWA-affiliated Confederation of Brazilian Workers (COB) a few years ago, complaining that the anarchists were the most dangerous group in the country because of their strong international support.

The International Workers Association was organized 70 years ago because workers recognized the need for international solidarity and unity to effectively combat an employing class that even then was beginning to operate globally. Today we live in a global economy whose effects are inescapable—employers travel the globe in search of cheap labor, weak unions, and a free hand to ravage the ecosystem. By linking together we can share information and organizing strategies; mobilize against state and boss repression against our fellow workers; link struggles against our common international employers and prevent them

from playing us against each other; establish common international standards for wages, working conditions, ecological impact, etc.

Even where revolutionary unionists remain a small minority, a strong international federation enables us to coordinate our actions and propaganda to maximum effect. Practical international solidarity can be organized even where shop-floor organization is weak or non-existent—and can provide a basis for building the needed organization. When, for example, the British DAM was working with striking Laura Ashley workers, other IWA sections supported them with pickets at Laura Ashley stores around the world. Such actions are both of practical assistance to immediate struggles abroad and offer an invaluable concrete example of the need for (and possibilities of) solidarity and internationalism to our fellow workers here.

From the start, the IWW has recognized the need for international organization and has sought to build revolutionary unions that transcend national borders. Today there are independent revolutionary unions in nearly every corner of the globe—even if these are often overshadowed by reformist "unions" that enjoy harmonious relations with employers and the state. Most of these unions, like the IWW, remain outside the IWA's orbit, which is why the IWW resolutions calling for exploring IWA affiliation have also called for reaching out to all revolutionary unions and encouraging them to join us in this process.

In these volatile political times, as the "socialist" states collapse into capitalism and the capitalist states increasingly offer workers nothing but poverty and misery, revolutionary unionism is more needed than ever. But we will have to offer an effective global strategy if we are to survive—let alone to turn back the tide of nationalism and misery that threatens to engulf us. The International Workers Association could offer an important vehicle towards this end.

Jon Bekken

now playing: "Georges Good Deed"

## Somalia Invasion Serves Strategic, Not Human, Needs

US military intervention in Somalia is being carried out to serve US strategic and political interests in Africa and the Middle East. The intervention is portrayed in both government and corporate (the news media) propaganda outlets as a humanitarian gesture by outgoing president George CIA Bush. The American Friends Service Committee which has carried on development and relief work in Somalia for more than ten years calls the military action "counterproductive" and states that humanitarian aid must be carried out without military objectives if it is to work.

Military experts reveal the real purpose of the mission. The magazine Navy Times (December 14, 1992) reports the following comments of David Winterford, a national security affairs professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California. "Somalia as a country is not worth much, but its geography is priceless. Whoever controls Somalia could control the southern entrance to the Red Sea and thus the Suez Canal. And whoever controls Somalia is 200 miles from Yemen and 400 miles from Saudi Arabia, a prime location from which to influence the political stability of the Middle East."

"We wanted to put in a large enough force that we could dominate the entire country," Colin Powell the head of US armed forces told a December 5 press conference. "We are not just going to ride shotgun waiting for people to shoot at us and then shoot back," said Powell in explaining that the "rules of engagement" would have US troops take "pre-emptive action" against any perceived threat.

These are the same rules of engagement that led to the heavily armed

forces which invaded in Panama in 1989 gunning down hundreds of civilians in mostly poor areas.

Somalia won independence in 1960 after a century of colonial domination by Italy and Britain. In 1977 the Ethiopian government expelled the US from its Kagnaw air base in Eritrea and announced the goal of socialism. The US and USSR swapped Somalia and Ethiopia as client states and the US began sending arms and money to the Somali government to encourage it to launch a war against Ethiopia. Arms from NATO and the US built up the Somalia army and flooded the country. With the decline of the Mengistu government in Ethiopia lessened US interest in propping up Mohammed Siad Barre as ruler in Somalia. Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

Rakiya Omaar, a Somali, was Director of the London based Africa Watch until she was fired in December for opposing military intervention in Somalia. "Contrary to reports of disaster by tourists flitting in and out of the country, Somalia has not collapsed. It is true that there is no government. Nevertheless, important social, economic, and political structures continue to function," Omaar reports in the December issue of Africa Report.

Omaar also says: "there was a solution that worked ... It consisted of negotiating with all the elements of Somali society that could play a constructive role. In October, massive progress was being made, as clan elders etc made sure that relief could be safely delivered and distributed. The power of the warlords was visibly eroding." The US, has reversed this, negotiating with warlords only.

Martin St John

## YOUNGSTOWN - ED MANN LABOR SCHOOL

# Workers Education

The Ed Mann Labor School was founded in the Spring of 1992 to perpetuate the spirit and activism of Ed Mann. Launched by the Youngstown Workers Solidarity Club, the school is designed to bring workers from different unions, occupations, races and genders together to learn about and discuss the various issues that today confront working people. By coming together under an educational program, participants have found it natural to join together additional activities of working-class solidarity long after a particular session of the school has concluded.

Ed Mann was a socialist steelworker, a rank and file radical, the leader of a take-over of US Steel headquarters and a member of the IWW. Ed lived his belief that the members, not the institution, are the union.

This winter the Ed Mann Labor School in conjunction with New Directions Lordstown presents the following programs.

### Solidarity Unionism

Part 1: Labor Law for the Rank & Filer  
-January 9, 1993 "Organizing the Unorganized," Bob Moore, labor attorney  
-January 16, 1993 "The Limitations of the Grievance Procedure," Staughton Lynd, Northeast Ohio Legal Services  
-January 23, 1993 "The Crisis in Retiree Benefits," Alice Lynd and Staughton Lynd, Northeast Ohio Legal Services  
Part 2: Labor History for the Rank & Filer  
-January 30, 1993 "A Brief History of

Solidarity Unionism," John Borsos, Ed Mann Labor School

-February 6, 1993 "Parallel Unionism: A Necessity for the Rank and File," Stan Weir, West Coast activist

-February 13, 1993 "Whatever Happened to Lordstown?" Danny Brooks, Tom O'Malley, Whitey Ford, UAW Local 1112; David Moberg, In These Times

Part 3: Issues in Solidarity Unionism  
-Feb. 20, 1993 "Combating Sexual Harassment," Sharon Kinsella and Charlene Conners, Working Women Nine to Five  
-February 27, 1993 "Fighting Quality Work Life (Jointness) Before and After," Jane Slaughter, Labor Notes

-March 6, 1993 "The Rank and File, the Free Trade Agreement and International Labor Solidarity," Tom Laney, UAW Local 879, St. Paul, Minnesota

The school will be held at the Utility Workers Local 118 union hall in Youngstown, 4140 Southern Blvd. Each session will last approximately two hours, beginning at 7 o'clock in the evening. Refreshments will be served immediately after. Cost: \$30 for the full schedule, or \$10 per session. Unemployed or on strike: Free.

Please note session(s) you plan to attend and make checks payable to:  
The Ed Mann Labor School  
2267 Coronado Ave.  
Youngstown OH 44504  
For more information call John Borsos, (216) 743-6969

Michael Kozura



## From Around the Union



### Wobbly Tugboat

*continued from page 1*

the operators are legally responsible for safe navigation and sea practices, all the crew members are guaranteed a voice and vote in the operation.

The crew of the good ship Sea Dive hope to set an example for other maritime workers, and encourage the organization of workers in boatyards, vessels and other maritime operations. They welcome contact with other workers who are interested in organizing in the maritime industries (see listing IWW Directory page 2).

### Bay Area IWW

#### Recyclers Honor Grad Student Picket Lines

Thousands of students at UC Berkeley stayed away from campus November 19 in support of the Association of Graduate Student Employees (AGSE). AGSE demands recognition of their union. Students, teachers and staff walked the picket line along with graduate student instructors, readers and teaching assistants.

ASUC Recyclers (IU 620 IWW) walked off the job in sympathy and intended to stay out until the dispute

was settled. Other unions on campus have "no sympathy strike" clause contracts, but about 75% of classes were stopped for the day.

In addition to union recognition, AGSE members demand more control over class size and enrollment, overtime pay, and more autonomy on the job.

Graduate students have subsequently walked out at UC Santa Cruz campus, and there were rumours of organizing efforts at UC San Diego and UC Los Angeles.

#### Demo at the End Up

40 persons took part in a November protest over the firings of IWW workers and a worker with AIDS, at the End Up bar in San Francisco.

The bosses went to great lengths to defend themselves, and imitated the Wobblies' tactics of leafletting, and hung a large banner from a third floor window. They also had one protestor arrested for bumping into a management flunky. General Manager Doug Whitmore refused to bet \$10 on the outcome of NLRB hearings.

Further steps in the struggle are being planned.

Regardless of the outcome of the immediate struggle at End Up, the long term interests of the class war have been well served by the education that End Up workers have brought to the Queer Worker community in the Bay Area.

## New York IWW

### Wobs Speak at Labor Film

As FW Ric Garren and I handed out IWWs and Wobbly organizing pamphlets at the door to the Rochester, NY Labor Council Film Series, an attendee sidled up and proclaimed, "Of course, the IWW died out some time ago," with a confident sort of polite grin.

"I beg your pardon," I reminded him, "you're looking at one."

Overcoming the mistaken belief that the IWW is just a historical footnote is a constant struggle, as many of you know too well. On this occasion, about 70 theater-goers got to see the 1979 documentary, "The Wobblies" -- a very informative, entertaining look at the history and the people that have made the ONE BIG UNION what it was, and what it was facing in the future.

"The Wobblies" is loaded with historical footage and first-hand accounts of many typical early struggles like Paterson, Lowell, and the western mines and lumber camps. Through the voices of Fred Thompson, Sophie Cohen, and former logger Tom Scribner, this film doesn't politicize the events, it reports them from the testimony of the people who fought the struggles.

Hosted by Jack Garlock, Chairman of the Labor Council's Education Committee and a labor historian, the film was introduced by Joe McCartin, Professor of History at SUNY Geneseo, and a labor history expert in his own

right. McCartin very eloquently put the film in perspective and urged the audience to think seriously about the precedents the IWW established for all workers, explaining the difference between the Wobs and most other unions -- their use of direct action.

FW Garren and I answered questions from a spirited audience, who gave the film a round of loud applause at its completion. "They've never done that before at one of these films," Garren said.

The audience, about half again as large as the groups who had attended 3 previous films in the series, kept us busy for 30 minutes with questions and comments.

"How many Wobblies are there today? -- Who does the Union support in the presidential election? --"

Many theater goers were a little surprised at our response that we don't choose to organize at the ballot box, rather we take it to the shop floor.

The AFL-CIO affiliated Rochester Labor Council hosted 7 labor movies in the series, including "American Dream," a look at Hormel's ugly strike in Minnesota; "The Molly Maguires"; "Joe Hill," a rare print from the 60s that is done as a somewhat fictionalized biography, and "Trouble on Fashion Ave.," a look at past and present garment worker struggles with interviews of old trade unionists featured.

We summed up by reminding the audience that our focus, and we urged them to do the same, was and is always to organize! --Greg Giorgio

## Letters to: Molly Maguire & Ned Ludd

### Probation/Parole Officer Jim

Prison is prison. We all know and have at least a summary idea of its concept and function. Incarceration has long been a power of the ruling class, but beyond that we find a more insidious method of "invisible incarceration" -- probation.

Most of my "cases" were probation, as opposed to parole. First offenders, non-violent, and low income; traffic offenses such as unregistered, uninsured, attaching plates, defective equipment (multiple offenses), check kiting, larceny, and non-support accounted for 3/4 of my paperwork.

The chief complaint I received from my cases was, "Now that I've got a record, the cops won't leave me alone. I wish I was down with my brother (sister, cousin, friend, etc.) in (anyplace else) and I could get a good start."

Most of the time they were interested in making a fresh start -- there's always the 10% running a scam -- so I'd simply say, "Go."

Then I'd explain how we could transfer their probation to a local office, and how the program would be similar, and how there'd be somebody like me watching them. If they were willing, I'd tell them that I'd see about it.

I fancy myself a pretty good judge of criminal character, having been one myself, and gotten into my position because of it. While preparing the transfer, I would locate my counterpart in their new area. Not contact -- just identify.

"Alright," my speech would begin, "This is your one last chance. I've arranged with (whomever) to accept your case, but they don't know when you're coming. This letter of transfer has no date and if you think you can keep out of trouble until your probation expires, you might just forget to go see (him or her).

"If you screw up, they'll send you back up here, and you'll be not only on my caseload, but also my shitlist."

In 2 years, I handled 388 cases. 130 went out on "open transfer" for probation ranging from 6 weeks to 18 months.

One OD'd. Another died in a traffic accident. Most simply disappeared into their new, unrestricted lives.

Some still send cards at Christmas.

### Broadcaster Bob

Direct Action begins, sometimes, as a plan of calculated revenge. It is however, what one can do to do the right thing.

My workplace is a very challenging example of government and business getting together to form an unholy alliance against the working class. As a member of the so-called "public sector," our union is not allowed to strike under the archaic provisions of the Taylor Law in New York State. I should point out that I was instrumental in organizing our department, and was later excluded from the contract through a challenge by my employer that used the classic "divide and conquer" scare tactics against some other workers with the same job title (they claim we have no job description).

There are about 20 employees in the non-commercial (they do accept ads for which we are never given any incentive, either when we produce them or air them ad nauseum for corporate big-wig trade-off perks) cable television and AM radio network operations of the Capital District Off Track Betting Corp. We conduct legal horserace wagering, one of six regional authorities in NY State, as well as sell lottery tickets, all in the name of raising monies for local government, the racing industry and the state. As it exists today, these OTB corporations exist to run themselves. The political structure and the operating costs have far outstripped their ability to responsibly return revenue to the mandated recipients. Our bosses have waged a publicity campaign to try to convince the public that their fiscal responsibility and credibility are beyond reproach. We know better.

Management has been under fire for over a year, as a result of a series of investigative reports in a local newspaper, spelling out well documented instances of excessive spending and egregious benefits, bonuses, and various travel and perks abuses that top management has enjoyed for many years, while this corporation, compared to other OTB regions, returned a lower percentage of its earnings to participating counties than any other in the state! It should be pointed out that, in some ways, Capital OTB has been the most progressive of



the six regionals in its service and accommodations to patrons, but that they have also spent millions of dollars on facilities like a sports bar, and various marketing and promotional activities that have no direct tie to their sole bread and butter product, horseracing. And, Capital OTB always pays the lowest wages of any of the six regions to its rank and file workers.

So, when management started to react to the series of critical exposes and demands from local gov't officials to tighten up their loose cannon, you can guess where they started. Yup, with their employees. Fifty layoffs, cuts in overtime, and denial of special projects (many of which are designed to promote horseracing) became the edict of the day. The TV/Radio folks were subjected to an old dress code (we've filed a past practice grievance against that action) that had not been enforced for several years, apparently because a few of us had "bad attitudes." Our department's boss became a paranoid monster, making threats even to the point of physical violence.

As a Wobbly, and an "outside" agitator to the cause of my co-workers, I went into D-A mode. Several fellow wage slaves, some of whom are full-time and receiving food stamps, followed along the path of the sabo'cat.

When local, county officials formed an investigation committee to examine

OTB's inequities, I became their main informant, and recruited other workers to tell what they knew. The spirit was infectious. Damning evidence of corrupt activities, in the form of letters, inter-office correspondence, and illegal payments were intercepted, photocopied, and sent to the newspaper and county legislators. When a manager or supervisor chose to harass someone their mail suddenly disappeared for days causing confusion and delay in various communications. Work to Rule plans were instituted to ward off the extra work heaped on technicians under the austerity measures.

When anti-union, right wing megabrewer Coors' beer ads ran on the radio station, I wiped them out, sometimes leaving 40 or 50 seconds of "dead air" to listen to.

I penned an article for AFSCME local's newsletter that called the corporation's president a liar and predicted that he would be asked to step down by local government officials, all true. We have slowly started to see some light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

Although we have no real optimism about major changes, because local government cannot force them, per se, they could not have come as far as they have without our input. We continue to plan more agitation and direct action that will allow us to exercise some form of control. If they put more heat on us, we will respond in kind.

Direct Action begins, sometimes, when you can't take it any longer. Don't wait to do the right thing. -X341883



IWW member Ric Garren places flowers at Workers Memorial Rochester NY



## Drywall Workers Win Partial Settlement

Drywall hangers in Southern California—mostly Mexican immigrants—won a partial victory Nov. 9 when 40 drywall companies signed a 2-year contract with the Carpenters union. 5 months after more than 2,000 drywall workers walked out on strike, virtually shutting down the industry, they have achieved most of their key demands: a union, a big pay raise and a health insurance plan.

Miguel Caballero of the Immigrant Workers Association said the strike "was an historic event. It was the first time you had this large a group of Mexican immigrants looking over their economic situation, deciding on their own without a union to walk off the job, and pull the union and the other institutions with them. It gives a big boost to the people in the labor movement who are arguing for more organizing."

But 25 drywall companies in San Diego County are refusing to sign the agreement, and may well try to undercut the newly unionized drywall contractors in Orange and Los Angeles counties. Strike leaders have vowed to continue the effort to win a contract from all firms in the region.



## CANCEL THE DEBT:

The International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF) has called for one third of the Third World debt to be canceled immediately, the repayment of another third to be postponed until the end of the century, and the rest to be payable in installments. This proposal to alleviate the Third World's crippling debt burden, which was unanimously approved by delegates, was sent to the International Monetary Fund Nov. 23. This plan would not, says the ICEF, disrupt the international economy, but rather would provide a much-needed stimulus to demand in all parts of the world.

The desperate and worsening poverty suffered by so many countries is, the ICEF says, "due in no small measure to the structural adjustment imposed upon them as a debt collection technique in recent years."

## Chemically Disabled...

*continued from page 1*

a single massive exposure (as in Bhopal, India), most workers suffer lesser daily doses which slowly build up in their bodies. As the toxins take their toll, the body may show many different symptoms: nausea, dizziness, fainting, memory lapse, respiratory problems, skin rashes, nose bleeds, chronic fatigue, anxiety, depression. Early symptoms are often ignored or mistaken for the flu. When they persist they may be attributed to mental or emotional problems. Meanwhile the body endures more and more damage.

Eventually a threshold is reached and the individual can no longer work or live a normal life. The body is sensitized to the many chemicals throughout our environment, and even a trip to the gas station or grocery store can cause severe reactions.

The primary problem for the chemical sensitivity victim is that the problem is not widely recognized. This means that proper medical treatment, insurance coverage, social security disability entitlements, and even the understanding and support of friends may not be obtainable. Tragically, suicide beckons as the only relief for some victims. In response to this unbearable isolation, chemical

# Reclaim Ground Zero! Backcountry Action

The Nevada Test Site (NTS), located between Las Vegas and Death Valley, on 3,500 square kilometers (1,350 sq. miles) of Shoshone land (Newe Sogobia), is where the U.S. and United Kingdom test their nuclear weapons. More than 900 nuclear devices have been detonated at the NTS, making Newe Sogobia the most heavily bombed nation on earth.

In addition to nuclear tests, the US is making preparations to build a high level radioactive waste repository on Western Shoshone land. These activities are a blatant violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley.

Direct action has become a major factor in the struggle to halt the destruction of Newe Sogobia. The NTS is not entirely fenced, and only a few areas are continually guarded, so "Trespassing with intent to vex and annoy" is easy. Thousands of people from all over the world have been arrested for interfering with the Department of Energy's (DOE) operations at NTS. One result of this campaign of nonviolent resistance was a 9 month NTS testing moratorium, in effect until July 1993.

Last April an organization called Reclaim Ground Zero (RGZ) was formed with the goals of "... getting at least 100 people prepared and mobilized for incursion to the Nevada Test Site ground zero areas to collect samples for environmental analysis (coordinated with university researchers), restore the land to aboriginal ownership/stewardship, stop all current and future desecration including bomb tests nuclear propulsion and dump sites."

RGZ held a meeting October 13 following the Healing Global Wounds event Oct. 2-12, to support a mass backcountry action.

Over the past 6 years, backcountry actions have produced so much information that successful RGZ actions are becoming routine. RGZ has assisted activists in reaching the ground zeros of 4 out of the last 5 nuclear tests. RGZ has actively sought and received assistance from other organizations. Thanks to Greenpeace sponsorship, a June 14 RGZ action was able to broadcast live video from ground zero of a test, code named "Greenwater."

According to sources involved with the nuclear tests, "Greenwater" was for development of the Space Defense Initiative's (SDI) x-ray laser. Officially, the DOE shouldn't have been making preparations for Greenwater, since funding for the x-ray laser had already been terminated. Greenwater was canceled in July, once again demonstrating that "direct action gets

the goods".

The RGZ meeting included an update on the arrests and legal consequences faced by trespassers. NTS security is provided by Wackenhut Corp., a transnational headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida and lead by former CIA and FBI officials. These security forces arrest trespassers, but the DOE prefers to minimize publicity by not prosecuting them. In the absence of prosecution, some of the Wackenhuts have taken it upon themselves to deter trespassing by imposing their own fines and punishment. This punishment is not restricted to pain compliance holds and property destruction, but also includes outright robbery and torture. The kind of treatment familiar to union organizers.

## Radioactive Waste

Most of those in attendance at the RGZ meeting had come to Nevada to delay a nuclear test. With a 9 month testing moratorium in effect, the focus of the meeting switched to the radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The purpose of the action would be to inform workers of the danger to health and agriculture. The action would also express solidarity with the Western Shoshone, and generate publicity in the local media (most Nevadans oppose the repository).

Yucca Mountain is the only site selected by the US congress, to be studied for permanent disposal of high level radioactive waste. Site characterization studies began in 1992 and construction is scheduled to begin in Oct. 2004. Plans call for Yucca Mountain to begin accepting waste in January 2010, and continue for 26 years. By 2015, the Yucca Mountain repository is expected to receive waste at a rate of over 3,700 tons per year.

## Judge Warns of Anarchy

After the RGZ meeting, I attended the trial of 12 demonstrators arrested last April while attempting to meet with DOE officials. The 12 were arrested for failing to disperse when they sat down in front of DOE's Las Vegas office.

During the trial, the prosecutor asked Wackenhut officers to identify the defendants who had been present at the DOE office. One of the Wackenhuts commented, "Quite frankly, this is the cleanest that I have ever seen you people." He then proceeded to incorrectly identify several people.

Defendants used a Nuremberg "Choice of Evils" Defense, as they explained why they had gone to the DOE office. Before announcing his verdict, the judge explained (voice cracking with emotion) that the law

prevented him from judging the case the way he wanted to. The judge went on to explain that if individuals only obey the laws they like and break the laws they don't agree with, we would have anarchy. The judge's insight brought smiles to most of the faces in the courtroom.

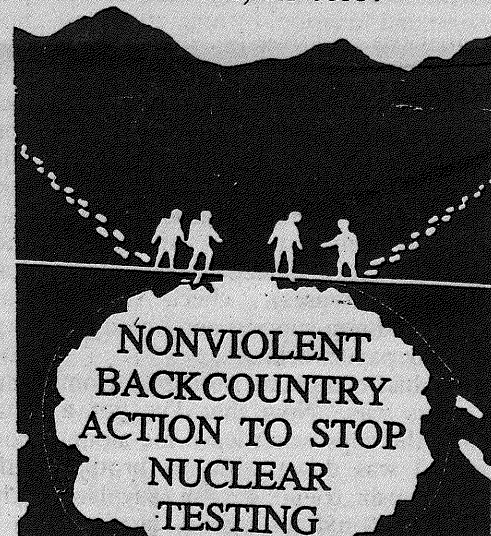
Given the opportunity to make a statement, before hearing the verdict, several defendants told the judge that they didn't expect justice from him. One risked being found in contempt of court, for using profanity and arguing with the judge. The verdict was guilty, and the sentence was a \$100 fine plus court costs for each defendant. Apparently they would rather prosecute people for sitting in front of a building, than prosecute them for sitting on a nuclear weapon.

## 14 Arrested on Yucca Mt

Next day, the arrests of RGZ activists began on Yucca Mountain; 7 men were arrested. The following day, 7 women were arrested. All were given trespassing citations (without court dates), driven to the nearest highway and released. That's the way it is these days: no mug shots, no fingerprints, no trial, just a little paper work to protect the authorities from being charged with kidnapping.

RGZ has been very successful, considering its extremely decentralized nature and its lack of funding. I am aware of no other organization that has been able to put together so many successful backcountry actions at the NTS, in such a short period of time. Whether or not RGZ develops the fundraising capabilities necessary for its survival, you can be sure that the struggle at NTS will continue. While RGZ does exist, it can be contacted by writing to:

RGZ!  
PO Box 492  
Lancaster, CA 93584



sensitivity victims have formed support groups to share information regarding cooperative physicians and attorneys, and to teach other survival skills needed in a world turned toxic.

For the chemically disabled workers, attending a conference at Evergreen College was a bit like a patrol into enemy territory. Who knows what chemicals may be lurking within the modern library building? What perfumes and colognes may waft from hundreds of human bodies? The conference ran from Friday evening to Sunday morning, but most of the chemically disabled workers limited themselves to the Saturday sessions, knowing that even a brief exposure might leave them suffering for days. Fortunately the main conference room had large doors kept open for ample ventilation so we manoeuvred through the morning's session without casualties.

But shortly into the afternoon, the conference broke up into separate strategy groups meeting in smaller classrooms. When colored marking pens were brought out for outlining ideas on the wall boards, one by one the chemically disabled workers were driven from the room by the pens' chemical fumes. We reconnoitered in the main conference room and decided to ask the leaders of the strategy group for a less toxic meeting place.

The second afternoon session was

moved to a better ventilated area and marking pens were not used. At this session people shared their own life experiences connecting environmental, labor and social justice issues. This allowed the chemically disabled workers to tell their stories to a very sympathetic and supportive group. An Evergreen College employee at the session responded by relating how a pattern of illness among employees working in that very library building had led to a job walk-out, forcing the administration to relocate their department in a different building.

Saturday evening, reports were heard from the strategy groups. Conference participants were mainly from union locals and environmental and social justice organizations. The largest and most vocal contingent of unionists seemed to be the Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) local 46. The electricians were successful in promoting opposition to the N. American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as a common strategy in forging a new coalition.

Sunday morning the specifics of an ongoing coalition were discussed in detail. Individuals shared their concerns and suggestions. Diane Rayner, the lone chemically disabled worker who stayed over to Sunday, made an eloquent statement. The outcome of this final session was a decision to focus on

NAFTA as one common issue but also compiling a directory of environmental, labor and social justice groups. The next meeting was set for December at Aberdeen, WA where the recent closing of the ITT Rayonier & Grays Paper Mill is causing great suffering.

The conference gave new life to a potentially significant coalition. Evergreen College Labor Education Center, and Masters of Environmental Studies Program, deserve credit for sponsoring and organizing a conference which may mark a turning point for progressive activism in Washington state.

The conference was a significant step for chemically disabled workers in the Northwest. The courage and commitment shown by the 9 women participating went a long way to bring the issue of chemical sensitivity to the attention of the movements. They shared the IWW literature table, distributing a variety of materials about chemical sensitivity. They were able to speak with a wide range of people and useful contacts were made. Most importantly the weekend demonstrated that chemically disabled workers are getting organized, and their voices will be heard loud and clear throughout the Pacific Northwest.

--Stan Anderson X332445



# MUSIC

## LOOK TO THE LEFT

**Anne Feeney**  
New album from Pittsburgh's rocking Wobbly. "Scabs", "National Health Cre Now", "Ain't I a Woman", "We Just Come to Work Here", and "We Do the Work". ALSO AVAILABLE "UNITED WE BARGAIN, DIVIDED WE BEG"

## GOOD NEWS

**Sweet Honey in the Rock**  
"Biko", "Chile Your Waters Run Red Through Soweto" and nine others on this gospel based, a cappella, irresistible album by six activist women. ALSO AVAILABLE "WE ALL ... EVERYONE OF US"

## 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 Glaz, 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" more.

## TIMBER

**Darryl Cherney w/ George Shook & Judi Bari**  
A rockin' Wobbly reports from the front lines of radical labor & environmental organizing. Corporate terrorists, displaced workers, FBI infiltration, and direct action. Includes "Who Bombed Judi Bari?", "Arizona Power Lines" and more.

## 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. Neighbor Utah guests on the insurrectionary "We Want the Whole Thing Back."

## ALL USED UP

**Utah Phillips**  
Classic Utah Phillips album. Wobbly songs, bum songs and love songs. "Dump the Bosses Off Your Back", "Pretty Boy Floyd" and 17 more!

## OUT OF DARKNESS

**Tom Juravich**  
Rocking album of coal mining songs from this excellent Philadelphia IWW musician includes "Tell the Boys at Pittston", "Blair Mountain", "Company Store", "Ludlow Massacre". ALSO AVAILABLE: "A WORLD TO WIN".

## HAYWIRE MAC

**Harry McClintock**  
Songs and early Wobbly stories from Haywire Mac, friend of Joe Hill and first to sing "Preacher and the Slave" in public Recorded in '50s.

## SMASH THE STATE & HAVE A NICE DAY

**Citizen's Band**  
These Wobblies from Olympia Washington were a big hit at the '91 IWW Assembly concert. Standouts include "Industrial Strength Tranquilizers", "Red Emma", and FW Dakota Sid's underground classic "Bullshit".

## 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, "Generations" and "What Will I Leave Behind".

## DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE

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.

## WOMEN'S WORK

**Linda Allen**  
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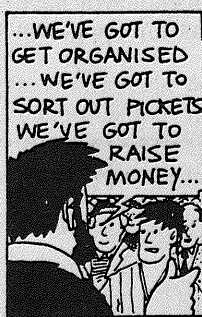
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## Left Side

A new word has been creeping into our collective vocabulary of late and that word is "multiculturalism." It is being enthusiastically embraced by some and disturbing to others. While the subject of multiculturalism sounds like a new fad, this process has been going on ever since our species slithered out of the primordial slime and sprouted arms and legs and yours truly can't see what all the fuss is about.

Two centuries ago, when Georgie da Wash' led the Continental Army against His Majesty's forces in the valiant struggle for independence, (you better believe the struggle was valiant for if Georgie would have lost, His Serene Majesty would have strung him up for high treason), to form a new nation state but not a new language. Among the European population of the 13 colonies at that time more people spoke German than English; more people spoke Dutch than English; more people spoke French than English and almost as many people spoke Swedish as spoke English.

All these furriners happened to be dirt farmers, trappers and sundry other ignoble pursuits, not to mention the greater majority of English speakers as well. The politicians and the money men they were fronting for happened to be English speaking and therefore the linguistic destiny of Freedomland was ordained.

Freedomland built its reputation as the "great melting-pot" not out of any regard for egalitarianism on the part of our manipulators but for more economically viable reasons. Where better than to import workers from places where the standard of living was much lower. As each new wave of immigrant workers became hip and wanted more of the pie, the employers had to look for even poorer lands to import their scabs from. That is how the *Industrial Worker* at one time happened to have sister publications in almost all the major languages in the World, and why today in your large metropolitan concentrations you can experience universal culinary delights when you become weary of McDunghills and Caca Colo.

Whether the species Homo Sapiens had their genesis in Asia or Africa or who knows where, this species has spread over the planet to occupy every habitable nook and cranny. Various factors such as seasonal vegetation and hunting and fishing times kept our antecedents on the move. In moving around various parts of this Earth, they would constantly encounter fellow creatures who had developed cultural and even physical differences. Sometimes there would be conflicts but more often there would be an exchange of goods and survival techniques before they continued on their separate ways. Conflicts did not really come into vogue until after this strange new creature took upon itself the luxury of a leisure class.



Multiculturalism has been going on ever since cultures came into being. Were it not for multiculturalism important food products would have remained in isolated localities where the normal occurrence of natural disasters would have caused the extinction of these products and quite likely the extinction of Homo Sapiens. Tea which has been known and used in Europe since pre-Christian times is a Chinese word.

Tabacco is an Arawak word. Potato is from the Inca. Chocolate is from the Nahuatl. Alcohol is from the Arabic. Whiskey from the Gaelic and the next 12 installments of this column could be filled with more such examples.

Yours truly who goes to the Art Institute on its free days because of his consuming interest in his fellow creatures becomes a bit miffed when he sees extensive collections of ancient Western Hemisphere art, great pieces of art from ancient India, China, Japan, Korea and the Far East; beautiful tribal work from Africa and the marble statuary from the classic years of the Mediterranean cultures -- but nothing contemporary from any of these areas.

Not confining my appreciation of creativity to the hallowed halls of the Art Institute, I am well aware that these other areas of the Earth are still producing art. Perhaps multiculturalism may have become a new fad word but it still has a long way to go.

Among those to whom multiculturalism is a source of annoyance are the same ones who will insist on mono-lingualism. The use of one language only. They will cite the rift between French- and English-speaking Canadians as an example of the dangers of 2 languages in one country. They conveniently neglect to mention that tiny Switzerland has survived in comparative harmony for several centuries with 4 national languages. One language does not necessarily ensure harmony.

The blood bath that is going on in Jugoslavia is between people speaking the same language. Further more don't ever try to call an Austrian a German, or a Slovak a Czech!

Multiculturalism has been going on as long as our pesky species has been in existence and it is one of the factors that insures our continued survival. In the need for that survival people of different outward appearances have managed to overcome initial suspicions in the interest of mutual benefit. When conflict does occur, it is because some rulers, politicians or other useless manifestations of human endeavor have instigated those conflicts for their own purposes.

Without such miserable aberrations of the human species there could indeed be universal harmony. We have yet to evolve to where we can rid ourselves of such excess baggage.

-- CC Redcloud

## Drivers Fight For Athens Streets As Greek Military Grabs Buses

August 17, 1992 at 2 am., hundreds of riot police and soldiers literally stole 230 buses from 2 Athens depots. Picketers were few at the time and could not fight back. The soldiers took the buses to the big Itaidari army base, half an hour outside the city.

Each day the striking drivers gathered at Kanigos Square and marched towards Parliament. On August 19, when they came to the Transport Ministry they met a group of taxi drivers, truck owners, and others who were waiting to buy the stolen buses at auction. The strikers became angry when some of the buses drove up to start their city routes. They staged a sit in, and were beaten by police.

After a while the workers re-grouped and were joined by politicians and trade unionists. The march was met by police wearing gas masks. Two strikers went to hospital, and 3 were arrested.

On the 20th, a large solidarity march hurled eggs and rocks at cops. The 3 arrested were released until court date on the 24th. Public servants announced plans for a 24 hour strike.

Around 9 pm on the 21st, at the Botanical Gardens cops started abusing protestors. The protestors become angry and start hurling rocks, molotovs, and paint bombs. The secretary of the council of trade unions pleaded with protestors to leave, but about 500 stayed.

Cops start firing tear gas and the protestors erect barricades and light fires. By 3 am. the protestors dispersed after police carrying guns in hands begin to surround the area.

It becomes known that 8 striking bus drivers were arrested, and that cops had used plastic bullets as well as much tear gas. Various journalists, communists, and unionists blame anarchists for the night's events. Next morning all the main streets are covered with anarchist slogans against the state, police and union officials. 4 of those arrested were held in prison awaiting trial, 2 are in hospital.

August 24th saw another demo and march with striking bus drivers and builders at Omonia Square. A scab who was working at a bus stop along the way got bashed, and someone in an office building threw a bottle down on the marchers, after which they became very heated up.

Again on the 25th strikers met at Omonia Square. A bus was there with a soldier driving it. Suddenly a rock smashed the windshield. Strikers chased and bashed the person who threw the rock, and found he was an undercover cop named D. Arvanitakis. This event was not reported in the media, but the Minister of Public Order gave an interview and stated that the police did not need to employ provocateurs or informers, as they do their job independently!

August 28, cops steal another 100 buses from the depot located across from the international airport, and transferred them to the nearby air force barracks. When people found out, they began to gather in the area. At 6:30 pm., one bus which was about to do its run driven by a member of the air force, was stopped by strikers. The driver ran away while strikers let down the tyres and broke the windows. 3 riot vans arrived and the protestors dispersed in small groups through the surrounding streets.

Soon after, it was heard that 5 persons were arrested. So, they decided to make the extraordinary move of marching to police headquarters to demand their release! About 600 set off from the airport to the city, a distance of 14 Km, on foot! Around 10 pm., they reached Syntagma Square; wherever they walked people would join in, and they were now 1,500. When the protestors reached police headquarters, they were met there by another 1,000 protestors. The police decided to free the 5 arrested people.

Athens has not experienced such moments since 1975-76 when the great strikes occurred! --(Sparks)

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## Lack of Organizing Lost US Air Strike

Shortly before the Machinists' (IAM) strike loss at US Air, the union set the stage for defeat by allowing an organizing effort among fleet service workers to collapse, according to a Wobbly working at a US Air hub.

400 unorganized fleet service workers at the hub had waged a sit-down strike against a 10% pay cut (mgmt settled for 5% after 32 hours). This prompted IAM and Steel Workers unions to launch organizing efforts. "The machinists say organizing is their #1 priority, but it's bullshit," the Wobbly observed. "They're in a controlled retreat. No one wants to spend the money to actually organize the people." Fleet service workers, who load and unload aircraft, are paid about \$6 an hour, not enough to pay the high union dues charged by IAM.

IAM was outpooled 2-to-1 by the Steelworkers in the organizing election, but neither union won enough votes to win recognition. In addition to a half-hearted campaign effort by local officials drafted for the campaign at the last minute, the Machinists' campaign was sabotaged by a lack of class

consciousness.

"Mechanics said, 'We don't want you shop-rats in our union - you only drag us down.' It shot down the campaign... The chickens came home to roost right away. All the offers stopped because the company saw how weak the union was."

At one time, IAM's US Air contract was the industry leader. But with the latest concessions, US Air workers now earn less than fellow workers at other union airlines. Even though the strike grounded most US Air flights, though, the airline might well have won a protracted strike. "US Air was really hit hard, but it wouldn't have taken them long to recover. There are plenty of (non-union) mechanics at Continental who know they have no future over there."

"The IAM is really sitting on a hot seat because of their failures in organizing... They don't want to spend money on organizers or lost time (to compensate union members for time spent organizing), but they spend lots of money on themselves. They don't want to organize the small shops or the low

paid workers. I think the union tops are just waiting for their retirement."

The union's problems will only get worse with the scheduled opening of a new airplane overhaul center near Tijuana, Mexico. US airline regulations have been revised to allow repair work to be done outside of the country, exposing Machinists to foreign competition. Unless it is organized, the Tijuana center will offer a low-wage alternative to airlines seeking to pay substandard wages.

Airline unions are also handicapped by their reliance on anti-labor law. When the union tried to picket La Guardia airport, for example, they were prevented from picketing at the gates. Instead, pickets were sent across the street--far away from both scabs and passengers.

Similarly, unions were prohibited from honoring picket lines. "US Air ran to Judge Lewis, who said that since the flight attendants have a contract they have to go back to work. But the flight attendants don't negotiate any no-strike contracts. They have honored picket lines at any number of places."

If workers hope to avoid more "controlled retreats" such as the air transit workers' long march backwards over the past 10 years, we will have to return to the basics: organizing and direct action. We cannot afford to kowtow to the bosses' laws, or to ignore the plight of those paid less than we are. Wobblies have been preaching this gospel for 87 years, and it remains as true today as ever. JB

