

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

Lafayette Park Workers Organize

The largely immigrant workers at the four star luxury Lafayette Park Hotel have catered to the rich elite of San Francisco's Contra Costa suburbs for years. While the hotel brags about its glamorous patrons, the daily reality of the workers is far from glamorous. Management has hired a union-buster to bust organizing efforts, and has fired four union activists. The union has been picketing the hotel each Friday evening since Spring, and I have joined the rather tame picket lines several times.

Friday, Sept. 1— The battle to organize Lafayette Park's largely immigrant work force is escalating. Western Lodging, which owns the hotel, and the city of Lafayette have begun to crack down not only on the hotel workers, but on HERE local 2850 organizers and picketers as well.

The start of Labor Day weekend was anything but a celebration for labor in Lafayette. I arrived at the hotel prepared for another lackluster picket, but this time we were in for some excitement. Since my last time on the picket, the picket captains now not only make us move out of the way of automobiles entering and exiting the hotel, they make us move completely off the driveways. The police deliberately harass us. Instead of just standing there, making sure we do not block cars, they actively remind us not to stand in the driveway. But that's not all. Three porkers were present; one of them with a decibel meter! At one point he tried to confiscate a picketer's snare drum.

Unfortunately, the picket captains were overly compliant with these restrictions. The union is reluctant to risk arrests and costly lawsuits—a very real threat, the hotel has a video camera trained on us at all times. Western Lodgings is powerful enough to make the Lafayette police violate rights supposedly protected by the U.S. Constitution, and to intimidate the AFL-CIO into an even more compromising position.

Management was trying to incite a confrontation. Only minutes after the cops warned us about our noise levels, a hotel manager came charging out of the main driveway in his car without warning anyone. He stopped just short of hitting another picketer and myself. The picket captains and the cops started yelling at each other. I

continued on page 10

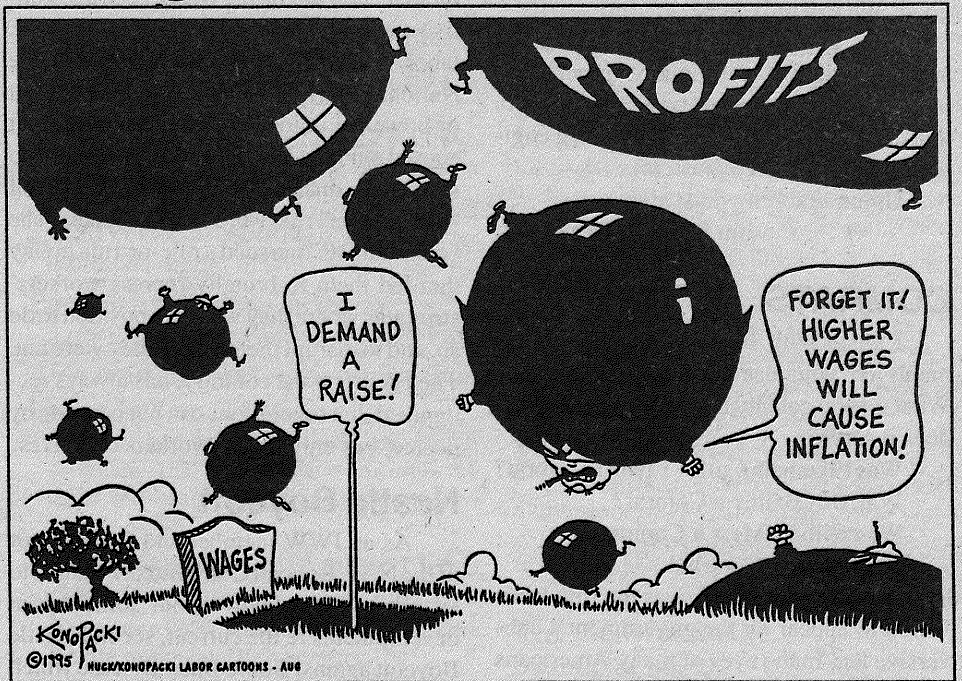
Dock Workers Fight "Rationalization"

Over 400 dock workers reported for work at the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company and associated companies October 16th, defying company efforts to fire them for striking in solidarity with their fellow workers. They were turned back by police. These workers are amongst the last port workers in Britain to maintain union recognition at their place of work.

Virtually every other port in the country has been de-recognised and activists have been bought off, intimidated or victimised. It is now apparent that the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company intends to do the same in Liverpool. The struggle started over the dismissal of men from a related company and has escalated into a battle against dreaded casual labour systems.

In ports like Liverpool the style of casual labour where employees were hired and fired on the whim of foremen, where union organisers were always overlooked, where wages were paid by the foremen to the hired men in local pubs and where kick-backs to the foremen were universally expected, was widespread. The system spread to many other port-related industries like transport, and continued in Liverpool until relatively recently. There is widespread resentment and fear about its return.

The dock workers struck immediately after the sacking of colleagues who refused to work without overtime payments. The



Company responded by sacking the whole workforce. In Britain, such immediate strike action, particularly when no secret ballot has taken place to endorse the action, is illegal. If the dock workers' union, the TGWU, is seen to support the men then the union is held liable to pay substantial damages until it desists from such support.

The men are now caught in a trap. They cannot return to work since they are dismissed and the company is setting about the hiring of new workers. If they are not in work they cannot complete the complicated

legal procedure that has to be undergone to make a strike legal in Britain today. It is therefore likely that they cannot receive any material aid from their union since the union would then itself be broken by the financial penalties that the courts would impose.

They are therefore mounting a struggle themselves and they need lots of support. In particular they need workers to refuse to handle cargo to and from the port of Liverpool until they are reinstated, and other forms of support, including cash. Speakers *continued on page 10*

DC Protest Targets World Bank & IMF

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were stunned October 10 when activists from the Native Forest Network (NFN) and Earth First! hung two banners from a crane at the construction site of the lavish new World Bank headquarters. The banners, strung from the crane's cross-arm 200 feet above the entrances to the World Bank and IMF, read "World Bank Equals Genocide" and "U.S. Out of Mexico."

A crowd of demonstrators gathered on the sidewalk with signs, placards and a megaphone, talking with passers-by and heckling World Bank and IMF employees on their way to work. Police pushed the demonstrators back at one point but they soon returned to march, chant and bellow through the megaphone in front of the World Bank/IMF building entrances and right below the banners on the crane. Howls echoed through the streets of Washington, reaching the Mexican Embassy a block away.

The action coincided with the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings and followed three days of demonstrations by the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico, the international student A SEED network, and the U.S. 50 Years is Enough coalition. "We strive to dismantle institutions like the World Bank and IMF, whose lending policies impoverish people everywhere and exploit the global ecology via destructive projects," said Orin Langelles of the NFN. "This action is in solidarity with the EZLN and the people of Chiapas, whose struggle against multinational corporate domination of the Earth is an inspiration to freedom fighters everywhere."

Since 1947 20 million poor people have been evicted from their homes in India alone due to World Bank development loans that fund massive dams and other megaprojects. World Bank and IMF lending policies have had similar effects in many countries, keeping poor countries in debt by building infra-

structure they cannot afford. The World Bank reaps over \$1.1 billion in annual profits even though its policies harm the planet's poorest people and result in massive ecological damage.

Three Arrested By Racist DC Police

Three activists who occupied the tower of the crane at the World Bank construction site were arrested after several hours locked onto the crane. All three eventually agreed to descend after they were promised by the contractor, Hyman Construction, that charges would not be pressed. In fact, the construction workers were highly supportive—even the crane operator expressed support for our right to protest. However, when the three descended they were detained by DC police. Hyman still did not want to press charges, nor did the World Bank, but police insisted on arresting them on charges of illegal entry. After a night in cockroach-infested cells all charges were dropped.

The ugliest part of these arrests was that two white activists were allowed to walk away (though one appears to have escaped) while three people of color were arrested. As soon as they were arrested, supporters loudly berated the police for racism, con-

fronting them with a megaphone and loud curses while briefly blocking their cars.

Chicago Protest

Some 50 protesters surprised the lunch-time crowd outside the Chicago Board of Trade October 10th with a mock trial of their institutions and some rare (for them) broadsides against neo-liberalism, structural adjustment, the Contract on America, and all that sort of thing. The traders, easily recognized by their brightly-colored jackets, watched with mouths agape as one of their own—or at least someone dressed very like one of their own, with a trading badge bearing the logo "IMF"—stood behind bars, accused of participation in a financial system that impoverishes people around the world so that they may speculate to their hearts' desire. Expert witnesses included Beans from Mexico (on the decline of basic nutrition), Aspirin from Tanzania (on the gutting of health-care systems) and a floating allegorical character called "Hot Money" who decoded some of the mysteries of the market. Despite a few audience members urging a "not guilty" verdict, Chicago's financial community was convicted. Sentencing was postponed until the 50 Years is Enough campaign's next action.



In This Issue...

In November We Remember...

Pennies From Heaven

Detroit Newspaper Strike

Resistance, Music & Sabotage Over the Ages



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Wobblies in Wales

The IWW was invited to send delegates to what was called a "Peoples Parliament" at the former Welsh Parliament at Owain Glyndwr House, Machynlleth, Dyfed. Bob Mander went as our delegate on 16 September, armed with a poster and some IWW leaflets.

About 40 people turned up representing various left wing organisations throughout Wales. The speakers on the platform included a Scottish Nationalist, a campaigner against open cast mining, and a campaigner against water privatisation. The meeting was chaired by a member of Faner Goch (Welsh Socialists) and bilingual translation facilities were provided. There were many Welsh nationalists in attendance, some seeking a Welsh Assembly with the United Kingdom and others seeking total independence.

After the official speakers the meeting was thrown open for discussion. A green anarchist gave a very good speech more or less saying "Why delegate to politicians what you have the ability to do for yourselves" and advocated direct action.

Bob spoke on behalf of the IWW:

"Bob Mander, delegated on behalf of the Aberystwyth IWW,

"Comrades, the evils the speakers have described are the evils of capitalism. That is the enemy we must eradicate. You believe that you can do this through the medium of a Welsh Parliament, but I would warn you that if you are granted a Welsh Parliament, it will only be because the ruling class see it as an expedient that in no way threatens the underlying social system.

"In considering a Welsh Parliament you must take into account the nature of so-called representative government and the corrupting nature of power, for you will be bringing into being a mechanism whereby every political opportunist and con man will be enabled to jump on your back.

"If a society is to be run in the interest of its people it necessitates their active participation in the decision making, for you can only trust what you can control. Therefore to achieve a truly socialist form of society it must be built from below up, it cannot be conferred by politicians, that is why we in the IWW say we must build the framework of the new society in the shell of what we have got, and this must be built industrially.

"Political rights and social justice do not originate in parliaments, rather they are forced upon parliaments from the outside, and even with their enactment into law there is no guarantee of security, for as the Mexican revolutionist once said:

"Remember whatever a government gives you it can just as easily take away, but

Around Our Union

what you take by your strength you can hold by your strength"

"Hasn't your experience of the English parliamentary system taught you anything? All politicians are con men and racketeers."

Here the meeting broke up for a tea break, the second session was to discuss practical measures to bring about a Welsh Parliament so Bob left.

Footnote: Bob is a 75 year old veteran of class warfare. He was one of a handful of revolutionaries in Britain who launched the revamped British section of the IWW in 1947, and was active in the dockers strike. Bob was also involved in the Syndicalist Workers Federation and the Direct Action Movement. On Thursday 12 October, national Poetry Day in Britain, Bob was found outside a local bookshop in Aberystwyth reciting IWW poetry to the assembled masses.

Lehigh Bingo Owners Settled

Ten minutes before a NLRB hearing on unfair labor practices was to begin, the operators of Boulevard Bingo offered a settlement, under which they are to pay \$6,800 in back wages to the three fired workers and drop their harassment law suit against IWW organizer Lenny Flank. The workers agreed not to demand reinstatement. This marks the end of a two-year struggle by workers at the bingo parlor to win decent conditions, a struggle in which one of the co-operators was barred from continued involvement in running the bingo parlor, and in which the surviving partner repeatedly demonstrated his complete contempt for workers' rights.

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

August/September 1995

Mark Dickson, Surrey, BC, Canada \$5
Patrick & Larry Hanlon, Ft. Bragg CA 15
Gary Doebler, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 10
Rod Neves, Oakland, California 30

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

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

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

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. **By organizing industrially** we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Joe Hill, Political Song Celebration

A celebration of Political Song celebrating the power of music and song in struggles for liberation, equality and justice and commemorating IWW songwriter Joe Hill on the 80th anniversary of his death will be held November 17-19th in Sheffield, England. The program includes a series of labor films and a play, *The Dream of Joe Hill*, beginning Nov. 8, and two days of music and workshops on Saturday Nov. 18 and Sunday Nov. 19. Day time programs – including *Cor Cochion*, *Eurydice*, *Leeds People's Choir*, *Nottingham Clarion Choir*, *Raised Voices*, *Rotherham Red Choir*, *Velvet Fist*, *Wendy Corum*, *Annie Dearman & Vic Gammon*, *Dave Douglas*, *Claire Mooney*, *Mick Parkin*, *Liz Ounstead* and *Janet Wood* – are free, while there is a charge for featured performances by *Leon Rosselson*, *Frankie Armstrong*, *Dick Gaughan*, *Quimantu*, *Roy Bailey*, *Labi Siffre*, *Abdul T-Jay* and the *Rokoto Band*. Workshops will be led by the IWW's own *Fred Lee* and others. For registration, tickets or information, write: *Raise Your Banners!*, 106 Osgathorpe Road, Sheffield S4 7AS or telephone 0114 253 4453.

Staley Worker on Hunger Strike

Locked-out A.E. Staley worker Dan Lane will fast until Pepsi dumps Staley as a supplier. Lane began an indefinite fast Sept. 1 to call nationwide attention to Pepsi's role in financing A.E. Staley's aggression against 750 locked-out workers and their families. For months Pepsi has ignored the call to bring justice to Decatur

Over two years ago, A.E. Staley (which produces corn sweeteners for Pepsi) locked-out its workers when they refused to accept 12-hour shifts and dangerous working conditions which had already resulted in the deaths of co-workers. The fight at Staley is for basic human rights.

Dan Lane has lived in Decatur all of his life. He worked at Staley for 19 years before being locked-out. Dan and his wife Donna have five children. He is a girl's softball coach and Sunday school teacher.

The decision to fast, Dan says, came after much prayer and reflection. "There is no doubt, that if PepsiCo would withdraw its business, Staley would come to realize the serious consequences of terrorizing our community."

Call or Fax Pepsi today and tell them you know about the fast and you want them to dump Staley! Call: 1-800-433-2652 or Fax: 1-914-253-2070

Stop the GOP Convention

The Raza Rights Coalition will hold a national demonstration against the Republican Convention at the San Diego Convention Center August 10,

1996. The Raza Rights Coalition demands that the system: Rescind Prop 187 and Prop 184; Rescind all "English Only" Laws; Annul the Clinton Crime Bill; No more social or education cut backs; Abolish the INS/Border Patrol; Demolish the border; Annul NAFTA-U.S. out of Mexico!; Impeach Pete Wilson

"We are targeting our anger towards the Republican Party, because at this particular time they are in the leadership of a most racist-vicious political, social, and economic campaign designed to keep Mexicanos (and other non-white people) in a state of modern slavery."

For information on the protests contact the National Chicano Moratorium Committee, P.O. Box 620095 San Diego CA 92162

AFL Censorship

At a time when both contenders for the AFL-CIO Presidency claim to want a new, more open labor movement, the AFL-CIO-sponsored George Meany Center has initiated a disgraceful act of censorship. On August 6, the Center opened an exhibit: "By Hammer and Hand All Arts Do Stand: The Banners and Murals of Mike Alewitz." On September 6, Alewitz was informed by Stuart Kaufman, Director of the Meany Archives, that a portion of the show had been removed.

The section removed was a group of photos and text about the P-9 Mural, which Alewitz helped create. Painted by striking meat packers, the mural was originally destroyed by "union" staffers in 1985. The newly censored materials include a brief explanation of the circumstances under which the mural was painted, a photo of the mural, photos of striking workers painting the mural, a photo of the mural after it was sandblasted by UFCW officials, and an editorial by Alexander Cockburn from *The Nation*.

The reason for the censorship, as given to Alewitz, was that the Center could only deal with "historical" topics, not "contemporary" disputes. However, the P-9 materials were the oldest in the show. The actions of the Meany Center make a mockery of artistic and intellectual freedom and indicate that the piecarks who run the institution are determined to suppress even 10-year-old criticisms of their class collaboration and treachery.

The Labor Art & Mural Project asks that unionists send protests to: Robert Pleasure, Executive Director, George Meany Center for Labor Studies, 10,000 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20903 (301) 431-6400 fax: (301) 434-0371

Company Union Bill Passes House

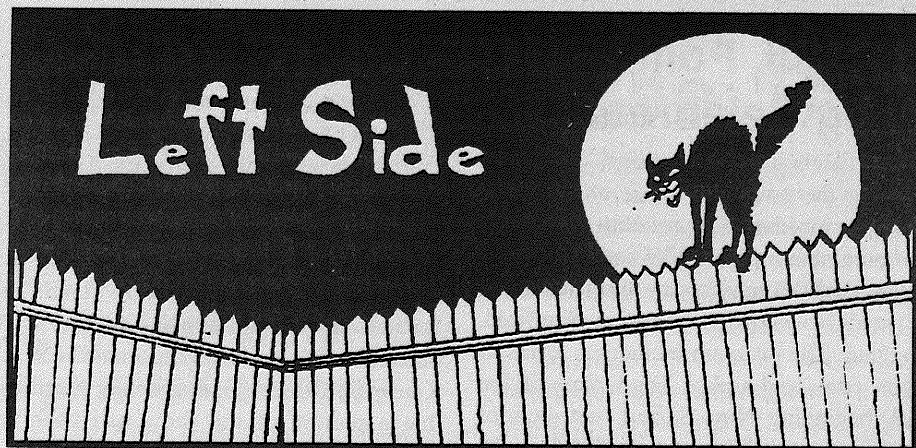
The U.S. House has passed H.R. 743, the "Teamwork for Employees and Managers Act of 1995." Sponsors claim the bill will "allow labor management cooperative efforts that improve economic competitiveness" by amending the National Labor Relations Act "to allow employers to establish, assist, maintain, or participate in an organization or entity in which employees participate to address matters of mutual interest (including issues of quality, productivity, and efficiency) if such organizations or entities cannot negotiate, enter into, or amend collective bargaining agreements."

The TEAM Act is an assault on workers' rights which will undermine independent unions by allowing the creation of employer-dominated organizations in both union and non-union workplaces. It would allow employers unilaterally to dictate who should represent employees in labor-management committees. An amendment to require democratic elections to "teams" envisioned was rejected.

The bill would also allow employers to undermine democratically chosen union representatives and bypass unions by setting up committees led by their own hand-picked people to consider collective bargaining issues. The Senate version of this bill is S. 295, currently in the Labor and Human Services Committee.

Carol Simpson Labor Cartoons Now on Web

Every week new cartoons "aimed at America's corporate establishment and its wholly owned subsidiary the U.S. Government" are placed on-line and viewable with a graphical Web browser at: <http://www.igc.apc.org/simpson/CaroonWeb.html> If you have access, pay a visit. For further information, email carolsim@mcs.com



It looks as if we will finally be getting a respite from all the OJ noise that we have been fed from the boob toob. OJ's defense played heavily on the racism of the Los Angeles police department, which to anyone familiar with that fair city is no news break.

A lot of the taxpayers' money was blown on OJ's trial, not to mention inordinate newsprint and television time, yet it is ironic that outside the pages of this stalwart little rag and other left-wing periodicals, little or no mention at all has been given to the travesty being perpetrated against Mumia Abu Jamal in the city of Brotherly Love.

Here in the fair city of Chicago, whose boys in blue do not take too much of a back seat to the LAPD when it comes to the fine old American tradition of racism, one of the local upholders of the peace has wasted away a homeless paper peddler. Wherever you go, the boys in blue are not distinguished by their compassion for people of color.

Some years back, a festive custom was initiated here in the Windy City. On Puerto-Rican Day, Puerto-Rican youths took to driving around in their cars while holding aloft large Puerto-Rican flags – the larger the better. The following year, on the Sixteenth of September, which is the Mexican equivalent of Freedomland's Fourth of July, young Mexicans were cruising the streets with gigantic Mexican flags. Chicago happens to have the second-largest Mexican population in Freedomland, so there was hardly a main thoroughfare that was not a parade of souped-up jalopies with Mexican flags whipping in the breeze.

Your scribe, who considers himself an internationalist, naturally has little truck with flag-waving himself, though in wistful moments he fantasized of Bandera Rosas flapping down the broad avenues of Old Windy City on May Day. However, having seen technicolor films from Russia and China, it is obvious that there can be too much of a good thing.

This year a city ordinance has been passed making flag waving illegal. However, it was not a case where the city fathers were won over by the sentiments of C.C. Redcloud, as one gets the clear impression that this ordinance applies only to non-Freedomland flags. One of the largest Mexican Barrios in Chicago, La Villita or the Little Village, this year was literally blocked off by paddy wagons not letting anyone into the community who was driving a car with a Mexican flag, and some were arrested.

In a neighboring Barrio, Pilsen, which for decades has been a port of entry for Mexicans, a young Mexican driver was halted by two white cops and made to get out of his car. They then spread-eagled him and frisked him. They then searched his car, hoping to find something they could incriminate him with, but all they found was a Mexican flag. They did their best to humiliate him by stepping on his flag and then draping it around him. They put the police bull horn to his lips and told him to sing the star-spangled banner. In limited English he told them he didn't know the words, but they said, "You're gonna try!"

One woman, observing all of this from her window, began shouting "Viva Mexico!" and the cry was taken up by others witnessing the scene. The cops began to get nervous and thinking of the old adage of discretion being the better part of valor, gave him back his flag, got back in their prowler car, and made their departure from the neighborhood. On the Fourth of July, rockets, fireworks and even mini-explosives go off and the police do nothing about it, despite the fact that this particular holiday results in many burns and other injuries.

Police forces, by and large, are filled by those individuals who would otherwise be unemployable and, like many of their ilk, have low self-esteem that has to be compensated by victimizing others – and the primary targets are racial minorities. This is not only true of Freedomland, but of other parts of the world as well. It was one English philosopher who wisely observed that "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel."

People of low esteem invariably have to have someone to feel superior to, and racial minorities are a handy outlet in which to bury their own inadequacies. In one suburban high school a scuffle ensued between two of the students, which can easily happen among hyper-energy-charged adolescents. This time one of the youths was Mexican and the other was White. One of the older Mexican students intervened, trying to break up the fight. One of the teachers came and grabbed the younger Mexican student by the throat and held him against the wall. The older Mexican student, seeing the teacher was overdoing it, told the teacher to stop. The teacher then released the student and grabbed the other, who was only trying to break up the fight in the first place, and held him in a choke hold until his circulation began to be cut off. He and his brother were taken to the principal's office where they were arrested by the police and taken to the police station. The Mexican student who was involved in the altercation was later arrested from his class, but the white student was left alone. The senior student who tried to break up the fight is still being held on a \$50,000 bond. This is a bond higher than what is charged for many murder cases. Yet when called by a local Spanish-language newspaper, both high school principal and local judge denied any evidence of racism. The student, meanwhile, has been beaten numerous times since he was arrested. Kane County has the reputation of being the most racist county in the state of Illinois.

Now that OJ has been found not guilty, much of the speculation in his favor, aside from the fact that he could afford some top lawyers and expert witnesses, was the perjured testimony on the part of one of the cops and the racism of the LAPD. It is ironical that when the testimony that convicted Leonard Peltier was proven to be perjured by his defense, the court refused to reopen the case. Leonard is still in Leavenworth serving his two consecutive life sentences. The invaders' judicial system has a lot of holes in it.

— C.C. Redcloud

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**Don't Mourn, Organize!
BUILD REVOLUTIONARY
UNIONISM**

Pennies From Heaven...

The politricksters have made an important scientific discovery – one with the potential to revolutionize economics. No longer need we surrender our destinies to obscure economic "laws" or meekly suffer the ravages of inflation. No, President Clinton and the Republicrats are on the verge of a deal to slash inflation the easy way – by redefining it. Senate "experts" claim the official inflation rate overestimates inflation by a full percentage point (pretty substantial, given that government statisticians have reported inflation at 3 to 4 percent over the last few years) each year. The result, they claim, is a windfall to retirees and workers whose contracts still include cost-of-living allowances.

You had noticed, I presume, this windfall coming your way – the steadily rising balance in your bank account as you pocketed the difference between this government-employer largesse and the low prices you pay for food, rent and other necessities. No? I haven't encountered these low prices in the stores or at my landlord either. Perhaps it's like Christian Science, and you have to believe to make it true...

Anyway, the new budget proposes "correcting" the inflation rate downward by 0.2 percent in future years, a modest change that will free up some \$20 billion for the Pentagon and tax relief for dependent millionaires. This political sleight of hand will cost each of us only a few pennies each week; but for those on the receiving end, the result is a veritable flood of pennies from heaven...

But fear not, the Congressional taxwriters haven't forgotten us working stiffs. The House Ways and Means Committee recently approved legislation encouraging corporations to loot our pension plans of up to \$40 billion in "excess funds" and pocket them as profits. These funds may look "excess" now that the stock market's riding high, but if and when the bubble bursts guess who'll be left holding the bag when there isn't enough money on hand to pay promised pension benefits...

Disappearing the Wobblies

And the politricksters are trying to disappear the Wobblies from history as adroitly as they disappear inflation. Fresh from renaming the House Committee on Education and Labor the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities (opportunities for whom? that's the question), Republicrats have pulled Ralph Fasanella's painting "Lawrence 1912: Bread and Roses Strike" off the wall of their hearing room.

Apparently, they felt uncomfortable continuing their deliberations under the watchful eyes of Wobbly strikers, or even mere depictions of same. Imagine how much more uncomfortable they'd feel if confronted with real, live Wobblies (perhaps on the assembly line, once we've organized to dump the bosses off our backs and set these useless parasites to working for their bread)...

Solidarity Legal After All

The National Labor Relations Board has overturned a ruling that the International Longshoremen's Association engaged in an illegal secondary boycott when it persuaded a Japanese union to divert cargo from non-union to union ports. The Japanese union convinced several companies to bypass the non-union stevedore company, which turned to the NLRB for relief.

An Administrative Law Judge had ruled that an appeal for international solidarity was illegal, but the NLRB has now overturned that decision, noting that neither union "exercised any control over the other. If they were bound together at all, it was by a spirit of labor solidarity, but such a spiritual link is too frail to render one union the agent of the other." Now to develop that "frail" link into the powerful force it can and should be...

Charity for Bosses

The Massachusetts legislature has frozen unemployment insurance rates for the third consecutive year, saving businesses some \$180 million while leaving the jobless fund more than a billion dollars short of what would be needed to cover another economic downturn (there's presently \$330 million on hand of the \$1.5 billion needed). To help close the gap, the "moderate" governor proposes cutting benefits, and slash-

ing the rates business pay even further...

Republicans are floating a proposal to increase un-

employment even further, by eliminating the requirement to pay overtime to many workers forced to work 10- and 12-hour shifts. A Senate bill would allow bosses to work workers for 160 hours in any four-week period without paying overtime, eliminating overtime pay for weekend shifts, super-long work days and endless work weeks followed by longer time off. The bill would allow bosses to trade comp time for overtime hours beyond the 160 hours. All this would make it much cheaper to work existing workers for longer hours than to hire new workers to pick up the slack.

Meanwhile, the average work week continues its gradual increase, while millions of workers find themselves out of a job and with no prospects of finding work (or at least work that pays a living wage) any time soon. With "welfare reform" scheduled to push hundreds of thousands of workers into the labor force, chasing the dwindling number of jobs, it's time to either start organizing a serious push for shorter hours or set to work digging our own graves while we still have the strength...

Back to Prison

A *Boston Globe* columnist suggests that in a few years, newspaper ads will promise Great Last-Minute Buys for Back to Prison. Some 5 million Americans are now in prison or on probation or parole (more than twice as many as 15 years ago), and the numbers are climbing rapidly. In a few years there will be more prisoners than college students.

"We are rounding up the people our economy does not need," Derrick Jackson writes, "and consigning them to concentration camps... barbed wire is a leading growth industry." The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives says that if the imprisonment binge continues, by the year 2010 a majority of all African-American men between ages 18 and 40 will be in prisons and prison camps. Such is the barbarism of our capitalist system, which would rather lock people up for the rest of their lives than provide them with the opportunity of pursuing a productive, fulfilling life...

Nationalism is a Disease

It's official. Pope John Paul II condemned "the insane ideology of nationalism" in an October 11th sermon. While he said "nations" should have a right to exist, to speak their own language and to follow their traditions, the pope warned against nationalism, "which leads to contempt for others... [Nationalism] is profoundly unjust because it runs counter to the duty of solidarity and provokes reactions and hostilities which mature into the seeds of violence and war." So next time someone accuses you of not being properly zealous in your flag-waving, perhaps you might refer to them to the robbed fellow. The scissorbills can hardly accuse him of being a commie pinko. And if nationalism is an "insane ideology" and solidarity a duty, then scabbery, anti-immigrant laws and international union-busting must be sins. Next delegate visiting Rome might want to whip out their rigging and sign the robbed fellow up...



Trimming Employee Fat

In 1994, when profits surged to record levels, Corporate America eliminated 516,000 jobs, far more than the 316,000 jobs it cut in the recession year of 1990. It's become an axiom in business circles that if you want to increase efficiency and profitability, your best bet is to "trim employee fat," the bigger the slice, the better.

This raises some serious questions about the 516,000 who lost their jobs: What were they doing in those eight or so hours they spent at work every day? Did they contribute nothing to the company's production? Were they sitting around playing gin rummy or gossiping around the water cooler? When did the companies discover that these legions of workers they had fed for ten, twenty years or more were less than useless?

One obvious way to get more production with fewer workers is to plant fear in their hearts and minds; to let them know that unless they pick up the slack by working their butts off in longer hours, they'll be next in line to be fired. Never mind all that talk about cuddly labor-management partnership, quality circles and empowerment. Nothing like a dose of fear to make a worker produce at a higher level, they've concluded.

The blood-letting is continuing. In the first five months of 1995, U.S. companies wiped out 146,000 jobs. Lockheed Martin, the giant military contractor, recently announced that it will reduce its work force by 15,000 to become "more competitive."

Chase Manhattan said it will downsize its work force by up to 6,000 in 1996. These cuts are on top of the more than 4,000 jobs it eliminated since 1990. Virtually all major

banks have joined in the race to reduce labor costs by thousands of employees.

Remember, these wholesale firings are taking place not during a grim recession but in "good times," judging by the steep upward climb of the stock market and the record profits that most corporations are posting. Neither the government, the media, the unions nor the victims themselves have questioned the right of U.S. companies to discharge as many workers as they wish for whatever reason or no reason at all.

Downsizing has brought windfall profits while real wages continue to decline. Employers realize that making their workers labor longer and harder for less money is the gateway to bigger profits.

And now for the 12-hour workday.

It took a century of struggle for workers and their unions to establish the eight-hour workday. Today, major multinational corporations are trying to bring back the 12-hour workday. That is a major issue in the lockout and strikes in Decatur, Illinois. The Bridgestone/Firestone strikers who returned to work have had to accept 12-hour shifts. Companies that have been relying on mandatory overtime to avoid rehiring laid-off employees hope that the 12-hour workday can be institutionalized. They're counting on Congress to give them a free hand to work their employees as long and as hard as they want.

They don't see unions offering much resistance to their plans. We need to mobilize the rank-and-file in an effective challenge to corporate greed.

— Harry Kelber

dent Gus Bevona, to supplement the meager \$281,921 Bevona draws from the local.

Revolution

As I noted last August, there's no reason to expect any major changes from a change in the piecards over at the UFO-CIA. The American Separation of Labor is decrepit not because of its sorry leadership, but because it is organized on false premises and structurally unsound. Electing new officers, expanding the executive council or putting more money into organizing cannot solve the fundamental problems. A structure built on union scabbery, top-down rule, labor-management cooperation, and One Big Jigsaw Puzzle unionism cannot be salvaged by throwing a few supports to prop up the foundation, a new coat of paint and some carpeting in the hallways. It needs to be built anew, from the ground up.

Some people like to go on street corners (or, increasingly, into cyberspace) and scream about revolution. Others "bore from within," prattling about working within a thoroughly corrupt system to transform it from inside. But termites cannot rebuild a crumbling building, they can only accelerate its decay. Wild rhetoric is just as useless.

Education and organization are hard work. But there is no other way to build a society in which those of us who do the work make the decisions about how that work is to be done, in which the economy is organized and conducted to meet the needs of the great majority, rather than a small class of parasites, as at present.

Lining Up the Slaves

I got a phone call yesterday asking for an emergency shipment of 20 more Workers. The paper is lining workers up, particularly in the construction trades (where workers are fed up with union scabbing and piecards more interested in cooperating with the bosses than defending workers. It isn't true, of course. I've still got a few hundred copies of the last issue on hand, and they aren't lining up anyone up. The paper has to be put into the hands of our fellow workers to do any good.

Here in Boston, the bookstore around

Leading Us to Defeat

I'm feeling frustrated. I'm trying to figure out the proper roll for a militant rank and filer in a major labor struggle when the union "leadership" is less than militant. As a Wobbly I of course believe and advocate that only direct action can produce results. There I part ways with the "leaders" of the unions involved in the Detroit newspapers strike. They seem willing to play by the laws established to protect the interests of the ruling class against those of the working class.

As a Wobbly I also believe and advocate that only the workers directly involved in a struggle can and should determine the appropriate tactics. As a supporter of the striking newspaper workers, I can only do what they want me to do to help them. There I part ways with the "leaders" of a leftist sect who are trying to set themselves up as the vanguard of the struggle.

from the desk of...

A court injunction has been imposed against mass picketing at the Sterling Heights plant where most of the scab Detroit newspapers have been printed. Prior to the injunction thousands of strikers and their supporters blocked trucks from leaving the plant to a point where the Detroit Newspaper Agency was not meeting its contract

with its advertisers for timely delivery of the paper. Some weekends home delivery of the Sunday morning paper didn't occur until Sunday evening when most readers found the Saturday sports scores more than a little stale. Even prior to the injunction Teamster "leaders" were out on the line telling the militant picketers to let the trucks roll rather than risk a confrontation. Then the picketers basically told the "leaders" to go to hell; and the trucks didn't roll for a long time. Since then the injunction has been imposed and the "leaders" have agreed to honor it, without any vote from the rank and file. And a rank and file used to following "leaders" has acquiesced.

A sizeable support coalition has developed consisting of rank and filers from other unions including the Wobblies, students, political activists, and church people. It has overwhelmingly called on the leadership of the six striking unions to defy the injunction. I have to believe that the membership of the striking unions would hold the same position if they were asked. Hopefully pressure from the coalition will force the union "leaders" to rethink their position or better yet to ask what their members think.

The other set of would-be "leaders" is called the Strike to Win Committee, a front group for a vanguard political sect, not to be named here because they have already been the victim of red-baiting by Teamster "leaders" and I don't want to play into that game. They would determine the course of the strike by putting themselves out front, again with little input from the strikers. They call for defying the injunction. So do I. They've engaged in some militant but foolish actions such as throwing things at the Vance security guards and taunting the cops when they didn't have the support of the rank and filers.

Some of their actions have given the DNA fuel for a propaganda campaign about the "violence" of the strikers. Of course the DNA propaganda doesn't speak of the use of clubs, tear gas, and pepper gas by the cops, of arbitrary arrests, of the police lieutenant in Sterling Heights who was forced to resign when he was filmed kicking a picketer who lay helplessly on the ground. But the actions of the Committee have not helped in a struggle where consumer support is still a crucial factor and where many a consumer may decide to buy or not buy the paper, to shop or not shop with scab advertisers based on which side looks like the victims and which the culprits. Until the militance and solidarity of the strikers is such that it can stop production, the good will of the consumers is vital.

These same vanguard "leaders" leafletted inside schools in Sterling Heights calling the students to the picket line to trash the goons and the cops. This alienated parents, both consumers and strikers.

In an effort to distance themselves from these characters, and finding a convenient patsy to take the heat for some confrontations in which the participants were in fact militant unionists, "leaders" of the Teamsters have taken to red-baiting, even suggesting that the Committee is infiltrated by Vance Security agents provocateur. "Leaders" going after "leaders," neither group thinking about what's best for the members.

So I plod along on the picket line. I'm "polite" to customers shopping at the stores of scab advertisers as I try to persuade them, with fair success, to shop elsewhere. And I'm muttering under my breath as I think of words attributed to Emiliano Zapata which should ring in the ears of the strikers. "You've looked for leaders. There are none. There is only yourselves."

[The *Detroit News* is owned by Gannett Publishers, the same company which produces *USA Today*. If our readers chose to visit their local *USA Today* box and leave them a message about the strike, it's doubtful that the striking newspaper workers would have any objections. The Union "leaders" have made no comments about expressions of consumer outrage.]

—Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

the corner has sold out of the paper two months running and is increasing its order. But in too many parts of the globe, even where we have active Wobblies, the paper isn't available. We need to expand our distribution. Every copy we get out is another voice for industrial unionism, direct action and solidarity. By spreading class consciousness, the paper helps build the organization.

No newspaper can substitute for organization, but many IWW delegates are finding that the *Industrial Worker* is a vital part

of their organizing efforts. Why not try distributing the paper in your area? Bundles are available for the cost of postage to IWW branches and groups (10 cents per copy per month in the US, inquire elsewhere). Let me know how we can make the paper a more effective tool in the urgent task of organizing our fellow workers into One Big Union capable of taking on the bosses and winning. It's a big job, and we'll all have to chip in to carry it off.

— Jon Bekken

She Should Know

Detroit newspaper workers are still on strike as we go to press, and the Injunction Judges and the police are doing all in their power to keep the scab papers flowing. The unions have offered to surrender, returning to work under the terms of their old contracts and submitting all issues to binding arbitration. Rather than exulting over this victory being handed them on the plate, the Gannett and Knight-Ridder bosses are holding out for more. Newspaper workers wondering how much faith to place in those bosses might ask Nora Vega, mother of Detroit Newspapers CEO Frank Vega: "I have to love my boy Frankie, because he's my son, but you have to keep an eye on him. I don't trust him."

Worker to Join AFL Exec?

Several AFL-CIO affiliates are boosting a plan to restructure the AFL Executive Council to include the president of every affiliated union. While the plan would mean more expensive junkets for piecards, it would also bring an actual wage slave onto the council for the first time in decades — the president of the tiny Sideographers Union, whose ranks have been so decimated by technological change (they engrave the plates money and some stock and bond certificates are printed from) that they are no longer able to support full-time piecards. Instead, their officers have to work side by side with their dozen or so members...

Labor "reformer" John Sweeney, who either will or won't have been elected to head the AFL by the time you read these lines, claims "president Clinton has done a great job as president." But then Sweeney is one of the high-flying money-men who live off our labor. In addition to his \$210,000+ a year salary for heading the SEIU (many of whose members make little more than minimum wage), not to mention his expenses, Sweeney also draws tens of thousands of dollars a year (\$449,652 in the last 13 years) from SEIU Local 32B/32J for "advising" its officers. Being a charitable fellow, Sweeney has arranged for the SEIU international to kick back \$73,241 a year to 32B/32J presi-

Constructing A Martyr:

The case of Joe Hill & Mumia Abu-Jamal

Tens of thousands of people in the United States and throughout the world, including some prominent intellectuals and artists, protest an imminent execution of a well-known radical. A last minute stay allows reconsideration of the murder charge.

While this scenario fits the recent efforts to gain a new trial for the African-American activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, it also corresponds to the efforts 80 years ago surrounding Wobbly balladeer and organizer Joe Hill. Both Abu-Jamal and Hill generated support groups that not only claimed their innocence, but also challenged the nature of criminal justice system and the role of the state in railroading dissidents and oppressed sectors of the US populace. In highlighting the parallels and noting the differences, I want to explore the self-fulfilling aspect of constructing a martyr and the way that construction reflects the strengths and weaknesses of oppositional social and political movements.

A brief review of the historical contexts and specific charges behind each case should provide a concrete framework to analyze the martyr construction and movement deconstruction. Joe Hill's arrest in January of 1914 in Salt Lake City for the murder of a store-owner and his son followed IWW activities in Utah mining camps. While it seems that Hill played no major organizing role in those camps, he certainly was known by Wobblies and other workers because of his contributions ("Mr. Block," "Casey Jones" and "Pie in the Sky") to the IWW little red song. The fact that the police neglected several other suspects who were wounded the same night that Hill was suggests that Hill's connection to the IWW figured in the authorities' decision to prosecute Hill. Mumia Abu-Jamal was, if anything, better known to the Philadelphia police because of his involvement as a teenager with the Black Panthers and later support of MOVE, the black nationalist commune that was bombed by the Philadelphia police. Although the charge against Hill was circumstantial, the Philadelphia prosecution had a murder weapon and a wounded Abu-Jamal at the scene of the crime. In both cases, however, there was a clear political animus against the defendants.

That political representation became the basis on which several support groups began constructing their martyr image for Hill and Abu-Jamal. For Hill, the IWW already had fought numerous legal defense campaigns, from free-speech fights such as the one in San Diego to murder charges growing out of labor conflicts in Colorado and Massachusetts against Wobbly leaders like Big Bill Haywood and Joseph Ettor. Moreover, the IWW was at the beginning of its largest growth in the West and Southwest when Hill was arrested. Thus, there was a collective experience and movement prepared to do battle immediately for the un-

justly accused Hill. Abu-Jamal's defense came much later after the 1981 murder and conviction. It acquired national significance only after Abu-Jamal had achieved notoriety as a radio commentator and the election of a Republican Governor in Pennsylvania committed to executing those on death row.

Instead of reviewing further the particulars of the prosecution's case against Joe Hill and Mumia Abu-Jamal and then refuting those particulars, I want to focus on the process by which Hill and Abu-Jamal gained martyr status (albeit Abu-Jamal may avoid full martyr status by escaping the death penalty). Suffice to say that in the case of Abu-Jamal, E. L. Doctorow's recent op-ed article in the *New York Times* provides an eloquent and impassioned critique of the prosecution's charges. In the case of Joe Hill, biographer Gibbs M. Smith offers a less prosaic, but equally compelling, criticism of the prosecution's charges.

Certainly, justice denied is the first and foremost component in the construction of martyr status. However, in presenting both Hill and Abu-Jamal as one-dimensional victims of a vindictive state, supporters rob these historical figures of their lived experience as active political dissidents. Thus, in the quest to enshrine Hill and Abu-Jamal as innocent martyrs in the cause of justice, supporters obfuscate the complicated and messy process of social struggle.

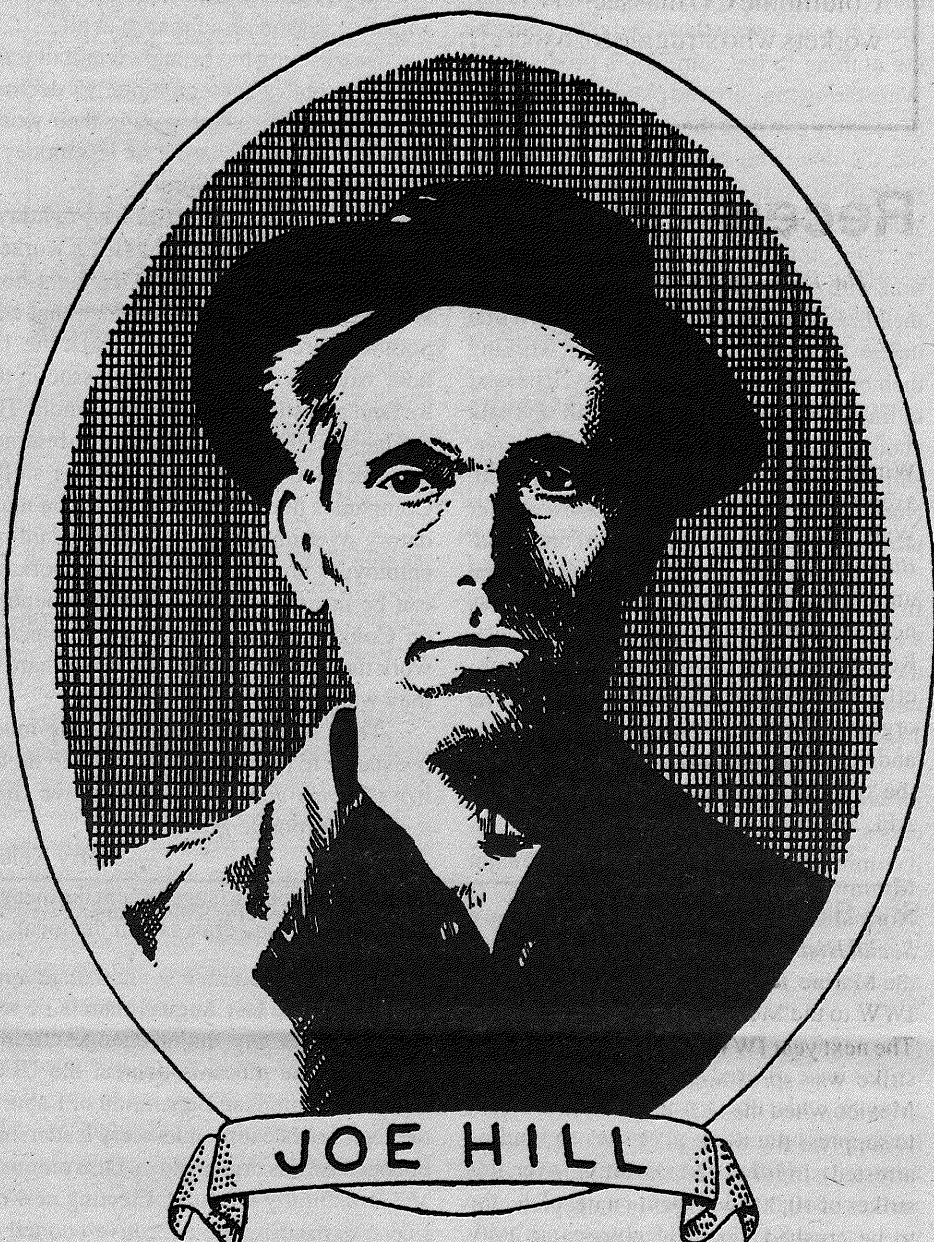
Two glaring examples of this on-going martyr construction in the case of Joe Hill are Philip Foner's historical brief, *The Case of Joe Hill* (1965) and Bo Widerberg's 1971 film, *Joe Hill*. Both Foner and Widerberg tend to portray Hill as an innocent victim, eliminating in the process any ambiguity and complexity in history and the character. While Foner's book laboriously piles fact upon fact, successfully contradicting many of the judicial findings, the film casts Hill as a rather romantic and heroic figure. The one-dimensionality implicit in these portraits not only does an injustice to the complexities of Joe Hill, but also to the history of those radical immigrant laborers like Hill who challenged the structures of authority in early twentieth century America.

Widerberg's film in particular constructs certain scenarios which, although maintaining Hill's martyr status, misrepresent the actual radical nature of that challenge. One of those scenarios is the aftermath of a vigilante beating in the San Diego free speech fight. This sequence is vividly framed by an American flag which Hill and his comrades are forced to kiss while singing the Star-Spangled Banner. In the very next scene we see Hill being instructed in how to shoot a pistol. Widerberg's historical license in framing these scenes can perhaps be attributed to the political criticism of American aggression in Vietnam during the time the film was made and to the dramatic needs of narrative cause and ef-

fect. Although biographies of Hill provide some substantiation for the vigilante affair (actually on his way to San Diego) and use of an American flag in running the vigilante gauntlet, there is nothing to suggest that Hill

this in no way vindicates prosecutorial misconduct or the morally repugnant use of the death penalty; rather, it once again underscores that victims of injustice like Mumia are not cardboard and passionless spectators of history.

The concern with social agency and history is ultimately at the core of both constructing martyrs and deconstructing movements. While erecting martyrs may help to mobilize sentiments against illegitimate authorities and towards a community of solidarity, such a mobilization runs the



took up arms only after his beating.

In fact, there is evidence to suggest that Joe Hill not only could use a gun before the events in San Diego, but also participated in armed revolutionary activity in Mexico around this time. In a letter to the IWW newspaper *Solidarity*, Joe Hill commented on the need for force in the Baja insurrection: "Workers may find out that the only 'machine' worth while is the one which the capitalists use on us when we ask for more bread for ourselves and our families. The one that works with a trigger. All aboard for Mexico." (Quoted in Smith, *Joe Hill*, 55.)

In citing Hill's possible participation in armed revolutionary activity, I'm not trying to offer a counter myth to that of the passive innocent victim. Rather, I'm underscoring the point that historian William Preston made some time ago in his *Labor History* review of Melvyn Dubofsky's study of the IWW: "History that ... makes myths of the men and movements the country once feared and destroyed is a traitor to the past."

This treachery to the past is also evident in the complete dismissal of any possibility that Mumia Abu-Jamal could have killed a cop to defend his brother against a brutal beating. Anyone familiar with the trajectory of righteous (and macho) anger and indignation that fueled the self-defense rhetoric and tactics of the Black Panthers and MOVE would have to acknowledge that individual members might, on rare occasions, use force to protect themselves or their loved ones. In the aftermath of Rodney King type incidents against African-American males, someone with a background like Mumia Abu-Jamal might shoot a cop, especially one physically harassing a brother. To say

risk of fetishizing victimization. Thus, supporters of the martyr's cause can become obsessed with what seems to be an inexorable logic of history and the state to claim innocent lives and the need to aspire to heroic heights to withstand the nightmares of history. While there is justification for fearing the state, to be traumatized by history or try to transcend its boundaries by mythic projections is to surrender one's present and future.

The Wobblies built a movement whose community of solidarity relied on vibrant cultural and social networks. Nonetheless, their ability to sustain themselves against the repression of the state failed because their movement too often required heroes who had to eschew the complicated and pedestrian building of everyday resistance and mutual support. Yet the Wobblies did manage to construct a dynamic counter-culture that threatened an oppositional politics feared by authorities. (See my forthcoming article on the IWW in the Winter 1996 issue of *Radical History Review*.)

The movement around Mumia is, at best, a movement of moral outrage against continuing injustices in the so-called criminal justice system. It relies less on networks of solidarity than on media events and transitory rallies. Perhaps, one cannot expect that in an age of the society of the spectacle, much of political life, even those projecting a putative oppositional politics, can rise above the media and momentary blip. Nevertheless, if we truly wish to "save" or "free" Mumia we will have to find a way to situate ourselves as historical actors whose drama is in making the mundane itself a just cause.

by Fran Shor, Wayne State University

In November I Remember:

The Thousands of Sister and Fellow
Workers Murdered in El Salvador and
Guatemala by Right-wing Death Squads

—Harry Siitonen
San Francisco Bay Area GMB

In November We Remember...

The Wobbly Lumberworkers killed by company goons at Grabow LA July 7, 1912 • The Wobbly Maritime Worker killed in the United Fruit strike in New Orleans June 11, 1913 • Joe Hill, murdered by the state of Utah, Nov. 19, 1915 • The Six Wobblies killed in the Everett WA massacre Nov. 5, 1916 • James Brew, killed in the Bisbee Deportation July 11, 1917 • Frank Little, lynched by the copper barons at Butte MT Aug. 1, 1917 • Wesley Everest, lynched by the lumber trust at Centralia WA Nov. 11, 1919 • The Five Wobbly Miners killed in the Columbine CO massacre Nov. 21, 1927 • All the unnamed and unsung workers who struggle for a world free from exploitation and oppression.

We Will Win.

Recent articles on IWW history

The IWW continues to draw attention from historians. Here are pointers to some recent articles on the IWW:

"The IWW and Organization of Asian Workers in Early 20th Century America," by Daniel Rosenberg. *Labor History* 36(1), Winter 1995, pp. 77-87. The bulk of this is a reprint of an article by IWW organizer J.H. Walsh from the April 1908 *Industrial Union Bulletin*, in which Walsh blasts the craft unions for their racism and notes that Japanese workers make exemplary unionists. Rosenberg's introduction notes the IWW's efforts to organize workers of color, our organizing efforts among California fruit and vegetable workers, and our rejection of the "yellow peril" hysteria promoted by the AFL and some "socialists."

"Wobblies and Mexican Workers in Mining and Petroleum, 1905-1924," by Normal Caulfield. *International Review of Social History* 40 (1995), pp. 51-76. In 1916 the Marine Transport Workers brought the IWW to the Mexican port city of Tampico. The next year IWW oil workers struck. The strike was spreading throughout northern Mexico when the U.S. dispatched warships to suppress the workers (17 Wobblies were arrested). In July 1920, the IWW led several strikes of 10,000 workers in the region, only to be crushed again by repression. IWW organizers were also active among Mexican immigrant workers in the Southwestern U.S., leading several mining strikes in 1917 and 1918. As late as 1924, Wobblies led a strike of 5,000 miners in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, though the strike was defeated by a combination of repression, company unionism and concessions.

"The Pageant of the Paterson Strike: A Share of Life," by John Dean. *Labor's Heritage* 6(2), Fall 1994, pp. 22-29, 54-63. A rather unsympathetic account which largely ignores the IWW and the strike for the cultural dimensions of the struggle. Includes lengthy extracts from a 1994 recreation of the pageant.

"Masculine Power and Virile Syndicalism: A Gendered Analysis of the IWW in Australia," by Francis Shor. *Labor History* 63, November 1992, pp. 83-99. Looks at IWW communications from 1914-17, using gender-centered rhetorical analysis to deconstruct IWW ideology.

Revolutionary Industrial Unionism: The Industrial Workers of the World in Australia, by Verity Burgmann. Cambridge University Press, 1995. Reportedly (we haven't yet seen it) offers the first serious treatment of the IWW's industrial organizing in Australia (previous works have focused on the Australian IWW's ideology and the brutal repression of the movement during the first World War), and documents the movement's continuing importance into the 1930s. While reportedly prone to draw somewhat arbitrary distinctions between anarcho-syndicalism and the IWW's revolutionary industrial unionism, the author refutes many common misconceptions such as the claim that many Wobblies ended up as Community

Party activists. A review in *Rebel Worker* recommends the book.

"Marine Transport Workers IU 520 (IWW): Direct Action Unionism," by Jon Bekken. *Libertarian Labor Review* 18, Summer 1995, pp. 12-25. The MTW was the IWW's longest-lived industrial affiliate, and more than once threatened to become the dominant maritime union. Maritime workers flocked to the IWW in rebellion against organized craft union scabbery, racist policies, and undemocratic, corrupt business unions. Maritime Wobblies fought against these policies, and successfully mobilized tens of thousands of maritime workers in a series of strikes and direct action campaigns in solidarity with class war prisoners, in support of strikes across the world, and for better wages and working conditions. It took the combined efforts of the craft unions and their goons, the Communist Party, the employers and the government to stop the MTW - and even then we remained a real force on the waterfront well into the 1940s. Yet historians have ignored the MTW, perhaps because of its successes.

St. Louis Bakers Union in Fight

"Organizing is the life blood of the labor movement," says Tony Condra, vice president of Bakers Local 4 in St. Louis, Missouri. An organizing drive has landed Condra's local in a life-and-death struggle with one of the city's largest commercial bakeries, the St. Louis Bread Company.

In 1993 Local 4 began organizing at the non-union Bread Company, which maintains several retail outlets around the St. Louis area aimed at an up-scale clientele. These outlets are modeled on fast food restaurants and pay their employees \$5 to \$6 an hour less than union bakeries while offering no health benefits.

The union bakers accuse the Bread Company of deliberately exploiting the city's marginal groups - single mothers and teenagers - to find low-wageworkers to serve yuppie customers. In many cases, these vulnerable workers had other advantages for the company. Teenagers, for example, are subjected to intense anti-union propaganda in St. Louis public schools, Condra charges.

This year the Bread Co. struck back at the union, opening new stores next door to union bakeries. The union bakeries, which paid their workers \$10 to \$11 an hour along with full health insurance and partial dental insurance, were pitted against a foe that paid barely more than minimum wage. On August 12, the bakers began informational picketing at St. Louis Bread Company stores.

Condra sees the current drive to destroy the Bakers Union in terms far larger than this struggle. He traces the crisis to Sunmark Corp., a subsidiary of the giant Swiss-based multinational Nestles. Midwestern Sunmark bakeries have been able to frustrate strikes by exchanging personnel and other assets with Nestles to keep production going.

20 Years of Cover-up and Lies: Free Peltier

Twenty years may seem as a long time to a man falsely imprisoned to cover up the misdeeds of the government. Missing the growth of his children, only being able to see them once in a while within the cage his captors hold him in. The experiences of family, time missed walking upon the earth; all lost to the reality of cold concrete and hardened steel bars.

Though we live in troubled times where many have begun to question the government's use of their police forces for political ends, few among the powerful people have raised their voice to acknowledge the crimes against Leonard Peltier and the original people of this land. When white people are the victims of governmental abuse, the politicians and the media hound the case endlessly. When Native people are the victims, inquiries are met with the silences of denial. The hearts of white society bleed over their crimes of a hundred years ago against the Original people. Many books are written and read, movies are made and apologies given. What white society fails to acknowledge is that these crimes continued unhindered to this day. What of the continuing ethnic cleansing currently taking place? The violation of treaty rights? What of the Dine of Big Mountain, the Western Shoshone and what of Leonard Peltier?

This past June 26 marked the twentieth anniversary of the "Incident at Oglala." Twenty years of lies and cover-up by the United States of America.

Though some seek to isolate what happened as a single incident, what happened was part of a continuing policy of genocide. It began with the invasion of Lakota land, and continued through the murderous campaign of conquest and suppression of the traditional Lakota people, the theft of the Black Hills, the gold and uranium mining, the contamination of the rivers and ground water. The only resistance was found from the traditional people. When the government's genocidal policies of forced boarding schools, outlawing traditional religion and forced poverty did not work they resorted to the creation of a death squad.

Yes, the U.S. government created a death squad to carry out its policy. In the few years after the Wounded Knee standoff hundreds of traditional people and American Indian Movement members were murdered, wounded and imprisoned. Faced with this onslaught, the traditional Lakota people

The St. Louis Bread Co. is actively discriminating against union workers, Condra charges. The company hires former employees of non-Union Wal Mart before it hires experienced bakers from unionized Wonder Bread. Hiring according to union or nonunion background is now common in St. Louis hospitals, which are trying to resist an organizing drive by the Teamsters. Similar patterns of hiring have emerged in Amoco convenience stores in St. Louis, which the UFCW is trying to organize. Both the hospitals and the Amoco stores have hired union-busting consultants.

Condra admits that the picketing and boycott of the St. Louis Bread Company has gotten off to a slow start. But he believes it can eventually force the company to stop its union-busting. He has long been involved with solidarity activities with the locked-out Staley workers in Decatur, Illinois, and has come to admire the direct action tactics of the Staley workers in confronting not only Staley, but its parent, the British multinational Tate and Lyle, PLC.

If we don't come together, lockouts like the one at Staley could happen here in St. Louis, he says.

Robert Rice, X342825

asked AIM for their help. An AIM camp was set up and on that day twenty years ago the government staged an attack with the goal of crushing all resistance. In the battle that followed, two FBI agents and one Native warrior died. The government, outraged that the oppressed fought back and that two of its agents lost their lives, began a campaign of terror and murder to make the oppressed pay for their resistance.

Three AIM members were targeted. The first two were found not guilty for the reason of self-defense. Leonard then took the full force of the government's attack. He was extradited from Canada through false affidavits. His trial was taken away from the original judge and given to a judge who had a long history of racism against Native people. He was convicted in a show trial that included fabricated evidence and coerced witnesses. His defense was not allowed to present the true story of the government's crimes against the Lakota people; and that on that day Leonard and the other people there only defended themselves from a murderous attack.

He was sent to prison for two life terms. The government hoped that this would be the end of this affair. But through the years courageous lawyers took up Leonard's case and filed appeal after appeal to the higher courts only to be turned down. American justice was not meant to apply to those who stood up to the political crimes of the United States of America. Many other brave people came out in support of Leonard, some devoting their lives to the search for justice. Rather than Leonard's conviction being the end of the matter, it became a starting point for one of the longest and largest campaigns for justice seen in U.S. history.

The campaign for justice for Leonard is stronger now than ever before. People around the world have spoken out for justice for Leonard. We ask you to add your voice to this struggle. For Leonard's struggle is more than just a struggle about injustice for one man, more than just a struggle over the history of genocide of the original people. It is also a struggle to end the government's policy of oppression. Anyone who speaks out is at risk as long as Leonard is in prison. Thus, this injustice to Leonard is an injustice to all. For Leonard is in prison for us, and we should be out here for him. And to the government we ask: If there is truth in any of your words, why is it that you fear a fair and truthful hearing of the events that took place twenty years ago?

The campaign for justice for Leonard continues on many levels. First, there is the campaign for Executive Clemency. Please write President Clinton (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C., 20500) and voice your support for clemency. Next, there is a call for an investigation by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Please write in support of this to: Mary Frances Barry, Chair, and Cruz Reynoso, Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington D.C. 20425,

Internationally there continue to be demonstrations, walks, fasts and benefits for Leonard. For more information or to donate to the defense campaign, write: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 583, Lawrence KS 66044. You can also be placed in contact with the nearest support group, or learn how start a new one.

For the sake of justice, freedom, for the well-being of the people, the children and Mother Earth, we have no other choice than to do what we can. Though we face a great reactionary tide, we will not give into it. The struggle continues for as long as it takes to gain *freedom for Leonard Peltier - now!*

- Arthur J Miller

Russian Teachers Strike Rich Scum Don't Give A Damn

Over 250,000 Russian teachers staged a nation-wide strike Sept. 26. The main issue for the strikers was low pay and the deteriorating condition of Russian schools. Unfortunately the teachers do not carry much weight; the government is following deliberate class politics. The infrastructure for the poor will continue to deteriorate, unless people organize for mass, direct action.

The current situation in Russian schools should hardly be surprising given the strong connection between wealth and access to a good education. Currently, many schools do not receive enough money from the government to do anything except pay teachers their miserable wages, and often they don't even receive that. In practically all public schools in Moscow, for example, parents must contribute monthly to the school — money for books or extra money to get or to keep teachers. Free education virtually does not exist. This is no problem for the nomenclatura and nouveaux riches who often pay up to \$10,000 a year or more to send their children to one of Moscow's growing number of private schools. But if you have a monthly income of less than \$80 a month, like 90% of all people in Russia, and all prices are high (the latest blow the new prices on the metro — about \$28 a month), you shouldn't have to part with another \$10 or \$20 a month so that your school can hire teachers who can't afford to work for \$40 or \$50 a month.

Teachers are supposed to get a raise, but even then the salary will fall below what is called "survival minimum." The attitudes of the authorities has been totally inhuman; when one teacher told one official that they were going to strike, he replied: "Great. I

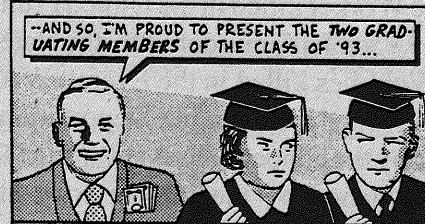
can close the school then." And they would do it too, because these bureaucrats are used to treating humans like garbage.

It puts teachers in an awkward position. Many are very loyal to their pupils but need to make a living. Some can survive; perhaps their spouses have a decent job or they supplement their income with a real-estate job or tutoring. Most have left the profession. The result are massive shortages, especially in (my profession) foreign languages. There are 800 places for English teachers alone in Moscow but if you tutor rich kids you can make the same money you'd make in one month in one day. Thus, only parents who can afford to shell out some real money for education can be ensured that their children will get the type of education which will make them competitive in the capitalist job market.

The government, for its part, has a keen interest in dumbing-down Russian society to meet the demands of the new economy. Traditionally they have educated more specialists than they need and in many fields there are too many openings because the work is unattractive. In Soviet times they used to have prison labour and Vietnamese to do this work. There will have to be a new class of educated economists and professionals, but these jobs are reserved for the children of the rich and powerful.

The government liars maintain that Russia is in a financial crisis and cannot afford schooling. What it can afford is a massive gentrification program in the city center. What it can afford is to let millions (and one year, 1993, billions) of money get stolen out of the Central Bank and other apparati without taking action to recover

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PRIVATIZED AND RUN WITH THE FREE-MARKET EFFICIENCY OF OUR MAJOR CORPORATIONS... WHICH LEADS US TO WONDER: WOULD THIS MEAN THAT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS COULD REWARD THEMSELVES WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BONUSES REGARDLESS OF PERFORMANCE?



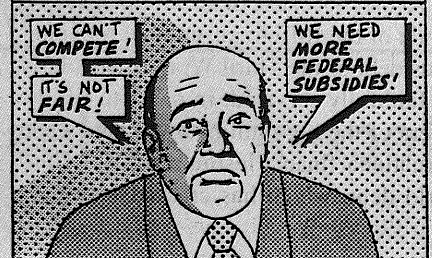
WOULD CORPORATE RAIDERS TAKE OVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN LEVERAGED BUYOUTS -- AND THEN SELL OFF THE SCHOOLS' ASSETS TO PAY OFF THE DEBTS INCURRED?



IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE PROFITS, WOULD THE WASTEFUL EXTRAVAGANCE OF LIVE TEACHERS BE ELIMINATED--IN FAVOR OF A MORE COST-EFFICIENT AUTOMATED INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD?



AND...WOULD THESE PRIVATIZED FREE-MARKET SCHOOLS RESPOND TO INEVITABLE FOREIGN COMPETITION IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER OF AMERICAN BUSINESS... BY WHINING AND BEGGING FOR GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS?



these funds. It can afford millions to throw a fourth-rate film festival and millions to replace old street signs with new ones. New Mercedes buses for the police. Billions in lost taxes from people who pay off or own tax inspectors. Millions in road construction for rich motorists. Simply, the government's priorities are making sure that they entrench themselves as an ultra-rich, ruling class — to hell with all else.

Given the despicable behaviour of these bureaucrats and capitalist pigs, the working poor are going to have to learn tactics more serious than standing outside some government building with signs. One idea: parents can bring their kids en-masse to the rich schools: 500-1,000 screaming running little kids will disrupt the entire process and no Russian soldier is going to shoot into the crowd. Another idea: teachers and all the parents who are getting screwed in Moscow (at least a million people) should march on the homes of the government elite and do whatever they want. Sad to say, the likelihood of this small justice being done is close to null.

—Lauri Akai

Rubber tappers' unionist arrested

Antonio Batisda De Macedo, a Brazilian rubber tappers' leader, was arrested September 20. Amnesty International has concluded that his detention is "part of a long-standing pattern of intimidation and threats of rubber tappers in Brazil which first captured international attention seven years ago with the assassination of trade union leader Chico Mendes. We believe Antonio Macedo is imprisoned solely for his peaceful activities in promoting rubber tappers' associations and cooperatives."

Macedo was arrested in Brazil's western Amazonian state of Acre, and has begun serving a 16-month prison sentence for having "incited rubber tappers to disobey an eviction order" in June 1991. Macedo was in the United States at the time of the incident. Another rubber tappers' leader, Damiao Goncalves da Silva, has been summoned to appear in court in connection with the same case and may face similar imprisonment.

The charges stem from an incident in June 1991 in which rubber tappers from the 29-year-old community of Riozinho Cruzeiro do Vale failed to obey an eviction order issued by the courts. Since the rubber and timber company bringing the eviction had no legal title to the land in question, the company later abandoned its claim, and the rubber tappers continue to work the rubber trails there.

Colombian "Revolutionaries" Kill Workers

Colombian "revolutionaries" have taken to slaughtering unarmed banana workers and union officials on their way to work or at union meetings. Union officials have lost count of how many of their 2,000 members have been murdered since the union was organized six years ago, but estimate that the number is around 700. The union is dominated by former guerrillas who accepted a government amnesty and are working to build a grassroots movement for social change. They have been targeted by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as "traitors to 40 years of armed struggle."

On August 29, 19 workers were slaughtered on their way to plantations outside Apartado. Their hands were tied behind their backs, they were forced to lie face down on the ground, and they were murdered with shots to their heads. At least 24 more workers were killed September 20th, when guerrillas opened fire on a bus carrying banana workers to their job (some reports say 28).

"The Way Backward" or "A Love Story"

Recently Australian State Transit (STA) drivers have received the glad tidings of a "marriage," entitled "The Way Ahead." It is an unorthodox "group" marriage perhaps like those favoured by the Rev. Moon of the Moonies religious cult. The happy couple (or couples?) includes the STA and PTU (transit union) bosses. We understand the happy event follows a long, passionate and steamy courtship over many years. At exclusive, intimate corporate candle-lit dinners, Pat Ryan, Trevor Avery and Ron Pearsall cast "smoldering glances" on Len Harper, the workers' friend, who said 5% of STA drivers were "arse holes", Guy Thurston and the new romeo Lucio ex-SRA Godfather Di Bartolomeo. Of course during the course of this lovely romance, the sweethearts have touchingly done little favours for each other - Drew Robertson, previous ATMOEA (now PTU) State Sec., got a job on the STA's board for services rendered, such as selling out the conductors. Ron Pearsall assisted the STA bosses campaign to scare drivers into accepting an increase in the hours worked per day from 8 to 9, a reduction in holidays to a maximum of 5 weeks, and assisted the speed-up. These little favours have cost drivers dearly.

"The Way Ahead" details the love birds' plans for a new happy life together and of course the newly weds' hopes and plans for the first home — the new joint palatial, marble columned STA/PTU headquarters. Unfortunately for drivers, the expense of the "happy life" is to be borne by them. They have to "share the load" and dispense with conditions of service which the "passionate

lovers" regard as the "old ways" which would interfere with rapacious profit-making. To help drivers become "modern" and "devil-may-care" about their hard-won conditions, the "soul mates" have in store corporate brain-washing courses. If this "load-sharing" leads drivers to the cemetery, we are certain such news will not distract the "lovers" from their romance.

Anti-Corporate Plan Unveiled!

We at SPARKS (a rank-and-file transit workers' newsletter) take a hostile view of such "corporate romances" and "intercourse." However, we are not just being negative. We have:

Our Vision: Workers' Control of Transport Industries, and for that matter all industry.

Our Mission: Sack the STA/PTU Bosses and have them earn an honest living, if possible. Given their expertise and enthusiasm for "Best Practice," suitable positions should surely be found for them as "performance based" "management consultants" at such institutions as "Touch of Class" in Surry Hills. (Expensive brothel in Sydney suburbs)

Our Goal: To establish a new transport workers' union organised on the basis of depot/workplace assemblies of members and the co-ordination of decision making by strictly mandated, instantly recallable union representatives, without full time officers invested with executive powers. Such a union would be based on direct action on the job to win back lost conditions and win improved conditions.

from *Rebel Worker*

"Burma needs independent unions"

"We do need international attention focussed on what is happening to workers in Burma," the Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi told an international union delegation in the country's capital, Yangon (Rangoon), October 6. Burmese workers have "no rights at all," she said. "Certainly, they have no independent trade unions."

Released from house arrest by the Burmese military dictatorship this summer, Aung San Suu Kyi was obviously speaking under some constraint during the interview. Burma is in the grip of one of the world's most brutal military regimes, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

An elaborate police state also oversees the systematic use of forced labour (in fact, part-time slavery) on a wide range of projects. There are persistent reports that slaves are being used for the preliminary work on joint ventures with multinationals, notably the energy sector, which is the country's biggest currency earner.

"As part of the process of democratisation," Aung San Suu Kyi said, "we need an increasing number of such organisations as independent trade unions, not only to help democracy but to help the workers themselves." This in turn would assist the Burmese economy, because "labour is the backbone of any economy. Our greatest resource, our greatest asset, is our people. We need organisations to protect the rights of our people."

War on Structural Adjustment Programs!

The following declaration was written by participants in the recent international women's conference in Beijing:

We the undersigned, assembled for the NGO forum of Women - Beijing '95, announce to the World that we declare war against all IMF-dictated Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). These programmes have traumatised whole continents, torn apart the social fabric of entire societies and are wreaking havoc on the lives of billions of people worldwide, especially women.

At the root cause of these policies is the agenda of the IMF to ensure that the monstrous debt of the Third World is regularly and faithfully serviced, in order to fill the coffers of the big multinational banks and international finance institutions. This Third World debt, which has crossed way over one trillion dollars, is one of the principal levers of bleeding the former colonial countries. According to the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), from 1982 through 1990, total resource flows from the developed to the developing countries (new loans, grants, trade credits, etc.) was \$927 billion, while developing countries remitted in debt service alone a total of \$1,345 billion to the centres of finance capital. Thus the inflow-outflow difference from the underdeveloped countries to the coffers of the big banks was as much as \$418 billion. This massive hemorrhage from the underdeveloped countries to a handful of international banks has intensified since then. The SAPs of the IMF-World Bank are directed to ensure that this hemorrhage continues without obstacles!

SAPs ensure that the debtor countries

Migrant Women in Middle East

"Almost without exception, the women we (Middle East Watch) interviewed spoke of non-payment of salary, passport deprivation and near confinement in their employers' homes."

To human rights groups, the abuse of migrant women in the Middle East merely conforms to the general pattern of violation of women's rights in the region. "Some governments in the Middle East have said they will put women's rights on their agenda, but nowhere in the region have women been accorded the full rights and protection they are entitled to under international law," charged Amnesty.

Most Gulf governments dismiss these criticisms as anti-Arab propaganda. The Philippines embassy in Kuwait has repatriated 506 Filipina maids who fled their employers after alleged abuse this year, but Kuwait denies that abuse is widespread.

Some Gulf states are acting against abusive employers. Last year, Kuwait became the first Gulf state to imprison a local woman for abusing her domestic worker. Last month, an airport official stopped an Arab family from the Emirate of Sharjah from sending back their maid on the grounds that she was too ill to travel. When examined, the young Sri Lankan girl was found to have 72 injury marks on her body. The family is now being prosecuted.

The maids however, keep on coming. Though paid a pittance by Gulf standards, they earn four to five times as much as they could make at home.

The Filipino diaspora remits at least 10 billion dollars a year, which is used to pay debts, buy land, and feed and educate families. In Sri Lanka, the maids' remittances are the country's second largest source of foreign exchange. There are an estimated 75,000 Sri Lankan maids working in the United Arab Emirates alone.

orient their whole economies towards export market, even at the cost of starving their own people. This insane drive for exports by the debtor countries has led to an unprecedented fall in their commodity prices. In 1988 alone, famine-ravaged Africa lost something in the region of \$19 billion.

These adjustment programmes have inflicted brutality and violence not only on the people of the Third World. They are also directly affecting the people of the developed countries. The crumbling of social welfare policies, the rising unemployment and the bankruptcies of small businesses in these countries is the automatic structural adjustment programmes inflicted on the developing countries. Therefore SAPs cannot be the concern of only people of the developing countries. They have to be opposed by the people of the developed countries as well.

Worldwide, women have been the main victims. All indicators of human well-being have shown a rapid deterioration ever since the implementation of SAPs. The responsibility of childcare has become more agonising and painful for billions of mothers forced into starvation and malnutrition. Rising infant mortality rates, a rising proportion of high-risk pregnancies and babies with low birth weight, declining educational standards, an increase in the prevalence of diseases, the re-emergence of diseases previously thought to have been eradicated, have all become facts of life. Widespread unemployment of menfolk due to layoffs, closures and retrenchment is forcing millions of women into a labour market whose brutality is more savage than that of the jungle. Women and children are being devoured by the monster of sex tourism, encouraged by third world governments to earn more foreign exchange. Some of the most criminal consequences of SAPs have been the spread of shameless consumerism amid widespread destitution, the lumpenisation of sections of the youth, the brutalisation of social life, and the intensifi-

France Arrests Tahitian Unionists

French colonial authorities have launched a wave of reprisals against protesters in the wake of the demonstrations that convulsed Papeete after the French nuclear tests. Among those arrested are Hirohiti Tefaarere, general secretary of Tahiti's largest union organisation, A Tia I Mua, and 15 members of the union's executive. Hundreds of riot cops flown in from Paris and Kanaky are patrolling the streets.

Tefaarere has been charged with organised criminal damage, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. The union leader had been in hiding for four days when police seized him September 10 as he arrived to address a press conference at the union's headquarters.

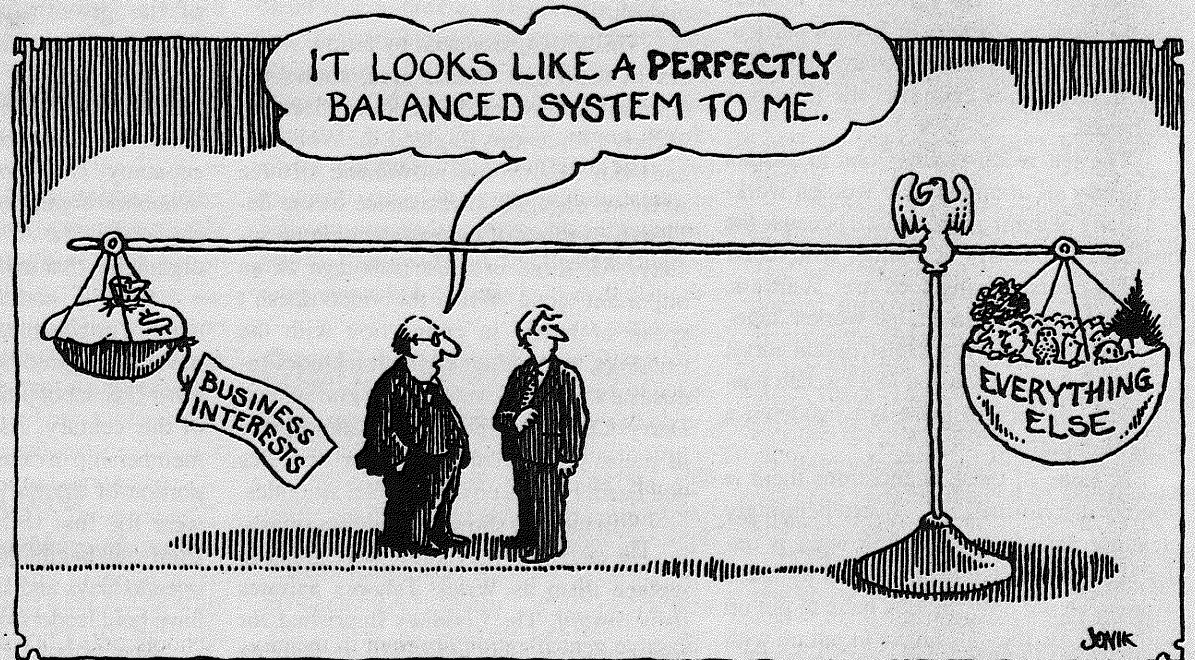
The unionists have said they were tortured with electric shocks and forced to kneel with their noses on the ground for hours after their arrest. The arrests were condemned by the South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions and unions throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

cation of social alienation and mental traumas. Mass cynicism and selfishness have been institutionalised. All human values have been reduced to money, creating a spiritual and intellectual void in society.

For the women's movement, the most profound consequence of the crisis has been the increase in the inequality and discriminations already suffered by women. And yet despite this, should our struggle be for the designing of policies "that will distribute the adjustment burdens equally and fairly between women and men"? NO. We are not struggling for a world in which IMF-World Bank created barbarisms and savagery fall equally on the shoulders of men and women. We aim to wipe out the very system that

ests of these banks have become a threat to our economies and society itself, we women cannot and will not remain silent. We pledge to take our struggle to every corner of the world.

What we are demanding is not only rational and just but also practical. Every minute as much as \$2 million is being spent on arms, i.e. as much as \$1000 billion a year. This is as much as the total debt of the developing countries. Thus the resources of the world are being criminally squandered in the manufacture of mass death and the destruction of human societies, even while millions die due to hunger and poverty. Therefore in one voice we declare - Down with criminal wars! War against debt!



produces this barbarism and savagery!

We declare that this system of barbarism and savagery cannot be ended by the present rulers of the world, who themselves are in the forefront of implementing IMF-World Bank policies. It can only be ended by an international mass movement from below. Structural adjustment programmes are not only traumatising women worldwide. They have unwittingly succeeded in creating a basis for women to unite globally even as they organise locally.

We declare that our struggle is not for "adjustment policies with a human face." What human face can there be where the most savage law of the jungle prevails! We declare that without the unilateral cancellation of the entire debt of the developing countries, the necessity of the structural adjustment programmes will continue. There is only one way to fight and end the constant traumatic adjustments being enforced on us - the unilateral cancellation of all third world debt. This debt has been repaid many times over. Therefore, either we force the international banks to adjust to us or we have to be prepared to adjust to them. This or that. There is no midway choice.

We declare that we women will bear no more the pain and suffering of adjusting to the big international banks. When the inter-

General Strike Closes France

More than 5 million French government workers struck October 10th to protest a pay freeze and other government austerity measures. France's biggest strike since 1986 shut down trains, subways and buses. Telephone, airline, power, postal, education, health care and other workers also joined the strike. Tens of thousands of strikers marched throughout the country in support of their demands.

The strike united the seven major civil service unions for the first time in a decade. A giant banner at the head of the Paris rally said it all, speaking not only for pay but also the feared effects of planned overhauls of key state sector industries: "Together for the public sector, jobs, wages and pensions."

The government is officially committed to massive job cuts and privatization in order to cut budget deficits caused by France's economic crisis. However, plans to privatise France Telecom have been stalled for several months by union and public opposition. Ironically, the neo-gaullist party now in power is proving more susceptible to such pressure than was the "socialist" government before them.

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Dock Workers...

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Minimum wage row splits UK unions

The 1995 Trades Union Congress in Britain was disrupted by a group of women delegates calling for the labour movement to support a national minimum wage. Sporting tee shirts with the logo 4.15 (the figure they are aiming for) the women disrupted proceedings for a short time.

The abolition of all minimum wage legislation except for agricultural workers has hit women workers in Britain particularly badly. Pay rates for many unskilled jobs fell by 20 per cent after the floor was abolished.

The ten worst-paying jobs in Britain are nearly all dominated by women workers, many of them un-unionised because the business unions will not bother with them.

The worst-paying jobs are: Waitress, hairdresser, child minder, bar worker, laundry worker, sewing machinist, dental nurse, cleaner, catering assistant and kitchen porter. Only the last of these is considered a male occupation.

In some of these occupations there is double discrimination – overwhelmingly cleaning, laundry and sewing work is undertaken in sweatshop conditions by black women, so not only do they have to put up with poverty, they also have to put up with sexism and racism.

The large general unions support the idea of a minimum wage but the craft unions are vehemently opposed. This has played into the hands of the Labour Party leadership who believe the minimum wage will lose votes in its new middle class and skilled male white working class constituency. The Labour Party have opted to set up a Low Pay Commission made up of unions and employers to examine its feasibility and make recommendations.

Meltdown warning in Wales

Nuclear Electric in Britain faced a six-figure fine for breaches of health and safety law in incidents which could easily have led to a "two mile island" disaster.

The company pleaded guilty following an accident on 31 July 1993. A grab – part of an overhead crane used to refuel uranium cylinders – fell into a fueling channel. The potential for disaster was "the worst in my time as an inspector" said Dr. Sam Harbison, chief of Britain's nuclear inspectorate.

The company should have ensured that the plant was shut down to investigate the missing machinery but this was not done for nine hours. Apparently staff were instructed to carry on with normal operations.

British McDonald's Worker Death Commemorated

October 12, 1995, is the third anniversary of the death of Mark Hopkins, a worker electrocuted at McDonald's Arndale store in Manchester. During the McLibel Trial, Jill Barnes (McDonald's UK Safety Officer) was challenged by the defendants over a previously confidential internal report into Mark's death. The report had not been disclosed at Mark's inquest. The inquest decided that Mark's death was an 'accident.' But the McDonald's report catalogued a number of company problems, and made the damning conclusion: "Safety is not seen as being important at store level."

Maureen Hopkins (Mark's mother) organised a picket at the Arndale Centre store: "I think the Report should have been put before the inquest. It may have made a

Video: Resistance, Sabotage & Music

"Resistance, Sabotage, and Music": Opposition to the Industrial Machine. General Strike Productions, 1994. \$17.50 to Wobblies (include card number), \$21.50 from non-members, from the Puget Sound Branch, POB 20752, Seattle WA 98102.

A major issue in the current Detroit newspaper strike is the elimination of jobs. The unions are accused of "featherbedding," trying to preserve jobs which are no longer necessary to produce profit. In the scheme of the bosses, that's the only reason workers exist. Workers who think the survival of their families should have priority over profit are "featherbedders," obstructers of efficiency. It isn't a new issue. It's one well covered in the video "Resistance, Sabotage, and Music."

This video, produced by fellow workers in the Puget Sound area, shows the similarities between the Luddite movement of early 19th century England, the Wobblies, and today's Earth First! movement. All three were/are engaged in resistance to the destructive impact of industrialization on society. All three used/use sabotage as an important tactic. While the video doesn't speak of music in connection with the Luddites, a soundtrack which includes industrial strength Tchung!, Utah Phillips and Darryl Cherney emphasizes the importance of music in the Wobblies' labor struggles and Earth First!'s environmental struggles.

Still pictures show the Luddites smashing the machines they knew were going to replace them as Wrick Tahoma narrates their history. The Luddites flourished for five years from 1811 until 1816, mobilizing thousands of workers and their families in resistance to industrialization. They drew their name from the mythological General Ned Ludd whose signature was affixed to a proclamation of their intentions to resist replacement by machines. They were

difference. I have never been down to the branch where Mark died and it will be hard for me. But I am doing this in his memory." The discovery of the report and other documents not shown to the inquest jury has led the Hopkins family to demand that a new inquest be held.

There was also a picket in Central London, organised by the Support Network for McDonald's Workers. The Network is run by unionists in Hackney, aiming to provide advice and information, and to promote solidarity for all McDonald's workers wanting to fight for their rights. In addition, other stores across the country were leafleted with information about employment rights (particularly concerning health and safety).

"I want every McDonald's worker to stand up for their rights, which is why I am backing this support campaign 100 percent. In this way, Mark's death will not have been in vain." – Maureen Hopkins

The Support Network for McDonald's Workers can be reached at: 56 Clarence Road, London E5, UK

Turkish Police attack workers

Turkish security police attacked a group of unionists on 13 September who were standing outside the gates of a factory from which they had been sacked 72 hours before. 50 members of the Turkish Motor Vehicle Transport Workers Union were beaten up and taken into detention. The same fate befell a further 45 workers who turned up at the same factory.

The company Inchcape Retrains sacked 150 workers days before the union was due to start pay negotiations. The workers had been employed by a sub contractor but won the right to be employed by Inchcape after a court case when the contract ended.

Among those arrested were the union's general secretary and education officer.

crushed when six Luddites were hanged in 1817 for the crime of textile frame breaking. Destruction of the livelihoods of the working class was no crime then any more than it is today. The ruling class decides what constitutes a "crime" and what is a fit punishment.

Howard Zinn is interviewed and provides a concise correlation between sabotage and direct action. Sabotage is direct action, sometimes involving the destruction of property, but generally just dramatic action bypassing the decision making of the governmental representatives who don't want to represent us.

Fellow Worker Stan Anderson speaks of the growth-for-the-sake-of-growth economy which eats up both rainforests and workers. It has created a permanent underclass of 30 to 40 percent of the population which is no longer needed for the economy. He points out that, just as the Wobblies organized the unskilled workers shunned by the AFL in 1905, today we are organizing that underclass.

Wobbly history is covered in some depth. The film mentions that the IWW was never segregated by race as most if not all other U.S. labor unions were in the first half of this century. Asian-Americans denied membership in other unions were a sizeable portion of the the IWW in the West. We were the first to have women members, from our beginning. We have long been open to Gays and Lesbians many of whom have held leadership posts in the Union.

Stan points out that sabotage includes tactics such as the slow down, work to rule, and undoing work. He defines it as consciously and collectively removing efficiency from the job. In a rational system jobs would exist to meet the needs of com-

Lafayette Park Organizing...

continued from page 1

had already been pissed off about the situation; now I exploded.

"If you ever try that again I'll put a dent in that fucking car, asshole!" I shouted. The cop with the decibel meter threatened to arrest me (and several others). I yelled back at him, suggesting he warn the driver to watch where he was going.

Now everybody was angry and fired up. The picket took on a life of its own; even the picket captains began putting energy into it. We shouted, cussed and flipped off the hotel, management and their stupid security camera, and the cops. At the end of the afternoon we had our usual pep talk, but this time everybody meant it when they shouted "we'll be back!"

Saturday, Sept. 9— Five hundred people showed up to show their solidarity with the Lafayette Park hotel workers. In addition to Oakland-based Here 2850, members of several other unions were present alongside the Free Mumia Coalition, Immigrants Rights Action Pledge, M.E.Ch.A. and the IWW. FW Rod Neves had prepared sheets with some songs from the *Little Red Songbook*. As we marched we sang "Solidarity Forever," "Which Side are You On?" "We Shall Not Be Moved" and "Put it On the Ground." But the singing union was a vocal minority in what turned out to be yet another lackluster demonstration.

As we arrived we were handed a quarter-sheet of paper directing us to stay in the designated lane during the march, not to slow down or stop in front of the hotel, and not to make any noise in front of the hotel. In other words, more subservience to authority. True, an injunction against the union would be a major problem, but why cave in completely? A HERE 2850 monitor scolded us for softly singing "Solidarity Forever" in

munities, not communities existing to meet the needs of the workplace.

Judi Bari is interviewed extensively. She was responsible for bringing about a connection between the IWW and Earth First! She helped Earth First!ers realize that logging workers

are victims rather than the enemy. At the same time she was making many a logger realize that they had more in common with members of the ecology movement than they did with their bosses. She and Darryl Cherney who also appears in the video both as a musician and an activist were apparently too effective in communicating this message. They were victims of a car bombing which both fortunately survived.

Footage includes an interview with a Wobbly survivor of the Everett Massacre, extensive use of IWW graphics, and significant coverage of recent Earth First! direct actions on the west coast of the U.S.

It's a well-conceived production: educational and inspiring. Technically it has the feel of an early and low-budget production. Some of the transitions between scenes are choppy; the sound isn't always clear. I had to strain to read some of the dubbed identifications of participants. I almost missed an interesting Earth First! direct action which came after the credits with no warning. The video could have been more tightly edited. But the video's message is strong. There have long been and will continue to be militant workers and environmentalists who will convey their message through their art and music, working to turn things around through direct action at the point of production or the point of capitalist destruction. I'll look forward to seeing further productions by FW Amy Westerholm.

— Fred Chase x331591

front of the hotel! The rally that followed was several thousand feet from the hotel, and the loudspeakers were pointed towards the freeway so that we would be heard by nobody but ourselves! What a waste!

The city has threatened to impose a limit of no more than eight picketers. In this supposedly "free" country we do not even have the freedom of speech and assembly. Under capitalism such rights must be fought for, and they will not be gained if we give in to authority every time they threaten us with class warfare.

A human chess match is inherently unfair to the pawns.

The situation has taken on the characteristics of a chess game. On one side are Western Lodging and the city. On the other side is HERE local 2850 and the AFL-CIO. Meanwhile, hotel management is imposing another game on the workers: divide and conquer. Most of the shit work (janitorial, food and maid service) is performed by Latinas, many recent immigrants, while the more glamorous jobs are held by white suburbanites. Management has managed to play them off against each other.

I have had just about enough of that stinking hotel and their pretentious image. Imagine giving four stars to a hotel built across the street from a freeway in the middle of corporatopia... The hotel has lost some business due to the picket, but how much is not known. With the help of MEChA, HERE 2850 was able to pressure Stanford University Law school into dropping their business with Western Lodging's Stanford Park Hotel. But Longs corporate officers, Hewlett Packard, American Express and People Soft, who all do business regularly with Western Lodging, have refused to respect the picket line. After all these months the workers still don't have a contract.

These workers need to be empowered.

continued on page 12

Reviews

Labor History & Popular Culture

The IWW Literature Department is offering a limited stock of academic labor studies, (auto)biographies of people involved in labor struggles and labor history. Many are about to go out of print. Some already have. Available while supplies last...

Live From Death Row by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Just Published at \$20, \$17 from us. **The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the aWobblies** by Tom Copeland. Univ. of Washington Press, 1994, 232 pp., \$17.50, paper. **Rebel Girl**, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95, paper. **Let Us Now Praise Famous Men** by Eward Agee & Walker Evans. Text and photos of 1930s Appalachian workers. 467 pp., \$9.00, paper.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. 420 pp., \$10.00, paper.

A People Betrayed - November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. The story of the Spartacist Revolt and the rarest of all things, a politically correct political novel. 638 pp., \$8.00, paper.

Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs. Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, 50 pages, published at \$16, now \$10.

The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric by Benjamin Sachs, cooperatively produced, pamphlet, 38 pages, \$3.

How the Warren, OH, local was destroyed by the 12 hour speed-up and labor-management "cooperation."

American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor, 1900 1941 by Daniel Nelson, Princeton Univ. Press, 1988, hardcover, 340 pp., now \$12.

Waterfront Workers of New Orleans: Race, Class and Politics, 1863-1923 by Eric Arnesen, Oxford Univ. Press, 1991, hardcover, 353 pp., published at \$45. \$20.

The Kid From Hoboken, An Autobiography: Bill Bailey, edited by Lynne Damme, Smyrna Press, paper, 424 pp. \$12.95.

Itinerant worker, one-time Wobbly, sailor, longshoreman, Spanish Civil War veteran, Red, Bailey ripped down the swastika on the Nazi flagship Bremen in N.Y. Harbor in 1935.

Books for Rebel Workers

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh.

Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

Sabotage in the American Workplace. edited by Martin Sprouse.

Tales of shop-floor resistance to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. \$12

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff

Rachleff participated in P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW. That struggle suggests the possibility for a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. \$12

One Big Union. by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips - Wobbly songs.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

A World to Win. Tom Juravich

Greenfire. Dakota Sid & Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney
All Cassettes: \$10 each

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition)

103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

Canadian IWW Songbook

41 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5.

1923 IWW Songbook

Facsimile reprint of IWW Songs, \$5

Posters by Carlos Cortez

Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fufeld.

A short history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strike wave through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid.

by Carlos Cortez. Long-time IWW artist Cortez's poetic take on life in the late 20th century. \$4

Solidarity Unionism.

by Staughton Lynd. Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. \$7

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.

Rank & file insurgencies, maquila-doras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated for the 1990s. A classic self-help manual. The subtitle says it all: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble.

Technology is a political question, and too often workers are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin. The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and

Bumperstickers

Six IWW bumperstickers are available, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend

28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

"fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Break Their Haughty Power.

by Eugene Nelson. Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Mad in the USA.

by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki. Their third cartoon collection. "These unbeheldden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Working the Waterfront.

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells the story of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

The General Strike.

by Ralph Chaplin. Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble has the line "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He expands that idea in this 1933 essay. \$2

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Food Not Bombs.

Veggie recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.

A history of black workers and their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system. \$8

Juice is Stranger than Friction.

by T-Bone Slim. Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected for the first time. \$8

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

Silent Agitators

10 designs to a sheet. 50 cents a sheet, minimum order 4 sheets. Wet and stick.

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1 each

Black Cat/Direct Action

IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

T-SHIRTS

Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe, General Strike \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size (S, M, L, XL) & color (red or white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

Film Workers (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: **Don't Whine - Organize** Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

Sab-Cat \$8. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

I'm A Little Wobbly Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. **The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union** Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. **An Injury To One Is An Injury To All** Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. **Joe Hill** White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10.

Employing Class Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Please add \$5 for postage/handling. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

Available from IWW Branches

Workers Guide to Direct Action. **Workers Guide to Organizing** \$2.95 each. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog
Workers Guide to Direct Action 75 cents. **Collective Bargaining Manual** \$2.50. New York Branch, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker. \$1.
Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Songbook \$5. **36th Edition Little Red Songbook** \$10. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2
British Isles - a selection of IWW literature is available from F. Lee, IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB, as is the magazine *Burning Fuse* £1
Black IWW t-shirts, red globe logo £5 plus post and packing from Oxford IWW

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Newspaper Bosses Feather Their Own Nests

This article by Michael Betzold, a striking *Free Press* columnist, is reprinted from *The Detroit Union*, issued by the strikers:

I laugh when Detroit Newspapers spokesmen moan about how union featherbedding is holding their profit to \$1 million a week. Unions get accused of featherbedding when companies automate jobs and workers fight to keep positions. At production plants, newspaper unions have offered to cooperate in job reductions, but management wants quicker cuts.

My Webster's says featherbedding occurs when an employer is forced "to pay more employees than are needed for a particular operation or to pay full wages for nonproductive labor or unnecessary or duplicating jobs."

Detroit Free Press management has made a science of that. About 15 years ago, when I first stuck my nose into the Free Press city room, there was an army of people reporting and portraying the news and a handful of decision-makers. News drove the paper and news filled the paper.

In the 1990s, reporters and photographers are overwhelmed by an army of suits who massage and package the news. New species of managers spawn every week, all with a single imperative: to meet. Only the pushiest news can get through the meeting blockade.

It starts with a morning news meeting, where top editors concoct story ideas that often involve minor events in their pricey neighborhoods. That's why you see stories about fish flies in Grosse Pointe but rarely

read about fights over land use in Romulus.

In mid-afternoon, the same editors meet again to spin out bizarre variations on their morning ideas, often based on what they overheard at lunch at the Detroit Club. At other times, they meet to plan weekend stories and project stories, to devise new types of training for staff members, to reorganize beats and departments, to kiss the right cheeks and to dream up new reasons for meeting. They frequently disappear for weekend retreats and return abuzz with new agendas.

To get a major story into the paper, a reporter must engage in "team building," an endless series of meetings whose purpose is to massage the egos of various department heads and subheads. Stories get in the paper not on news values, but because the proper twits were tweaked. Good stories get killed or trimmed for lack of face time with the right people. While union members are working to get news into the paper, in the bloated ranks of middle management the only mandate is to meet management goals. It's a huge make-work project.

A while back the Free Press created the inventive position of Editor for Change. About nine months later, I bumped into her. I asked her what she did on her job. She replied: "I haven't figured it out yet." And they say unions make the paper inefficient.

I have a solution to the strike: Put all the managers in a huge conference room with plenty of feathered beds, lock the door and throw away the key. Give the rest of us a fair raise, get out of our way and let us put out a

paper again.

Union-Busting in Frisco Bay

Since settling a strike a year ago, management at the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco Examiner* have continued their efforts to smash the unions. Since the strike was settled, the San Francisco Newspaper Agency has refused to sign contracts with the pressmen and teamsters. Despite a post-strike amnesty pledge, 51 strikers were fired and several remain out of work. Many full-time jobs have been broken into part-time work. Pressmen and mailers are suffering dramatic speed-ups, causing many crippling injuries. Meanwhile, the papers publish more ads and less news. Just as those who produce the paper work more for less, so readers are paying more for less

Ten Union Workers

by Pat Kernaghan,
CEP Local 1120

from *The Ford Worker*

10 cooperative workers, bought the company "line,"
The company cooperated right back – then there were nine.
Nine tireless workers, agreed they should work late,
The company bought them pizza – then there were eight.
Eight grieving workers, committed a brother to heaven,
The company called it "attrition" – then there were seven.
Seven flexible workers, thought their jobs might mix,
The company showed "flexibility" – then there were six.
Six trusting workers, thought they'd stay alive,
The company scrimped on safety – then there were five.
Five complacent workers, thought "it'll never happen to me,"
The company contracted out a job – then there were three.
Three harried workers, one came down with the flu,
The company said, "You're sickly!" – then there were two.
Two stressed out workers, couldn't get 10 jobs done,
The company called them lazy – then there was one.
One bitter worker, put up a picket line,
Now again there's 10 people working, all under the union sign.

The Spirit of the Italian Revolution

Herewith we reproduce a corner of the daily Italian labor paper *Umanita Nova* (*The New Humanity*). It is an anarchist daily, and ... contains the original text of a proclamation addressed to the metal workers of Italy, then busy occupying the shops through their unions. Alongside of it runs the English translation.

Read it carefully. It is an immortal document. It is the condensed program of the real world revolution.

Note the words "A great Revolution without the shedding of blood..." It is the irony of fate that such a proud and hopeful message should reach mankind through an organ of the much abused anarchists, and that the bourgeoisie, after all, should live to accept such charity from those it has so cruelly persecuted.

Metal Workers:

Whatever your leader may be deciding, do not abandon the factories, do not return the mills, do not deposit your arms. If today you leave the factories, you will return tomorrow decimated after having passed under the yoke prepared for you by the employers.

Workers of all industries, arts and commerce; follow immediately the example of

the metallurgical workers by occupying all establishments, warehouses, naval yards, bakeries and markets.

Peasants, occupy the land.

Sailors, occupy the ships.

Railwaymen, allow the trains to run only for the common cause.

Postal & Telegraph Workers, suppress the correspondence of the bourgeoisie.

An unforeseen possibility is in prospect through the occupation of the factories: that of accomplishing a great revolution without shedding of blood, or the disorganization of national life.

Do not allow the opportunity to get away from you.

And you, Soldiers, our brothers, remember that the arms which the masters have given you to defend privilege and to massacre the workers struggling for their emancipation, can also be used against the oppressors and for the triumph of the proletariat. *The One Big Union Monthly*, November 1920

A Flimsy Shell Game

Politics is the game of capitalism; it is a flimsy shell game in which your very lives are the stakes played for. As long as you workmen are allowing yourselves to be

bamboozled into pinning your faith to the ballot, the capitalist class does not want any better snap. For no matter how you vote, capitalism is perfectly safe. "Praise be to God," the capitalists whisper, "the blamed fools are still voting!" Therefore, throw away that old weapon of times bygone, the boomerang vote, and spring into the ranks of the militant industrial army, where shoulder to shoulder with our fellows we shall gain victory through organized strength...

"Political activity may justly be considered of little or no value for the overthrow of the capitalist system... Let us assume that a revolutionary political party carries a national election, and is allowed to take possession of all offices from President down. What will be the result? As has been so frequently demonstrated, that day of our political victory would be our political funeral. The function of government is to make and enforce laws for the running of the capitalist system and to safeguard it against all comers. Or in other words, the sole purpose and function

of government is to regulate the relations springing from the private ownership of the means of production and distribution, and everything connected therewith. But the new form of society, which we are preparing for, does not recognize this private ownership. It proposes to recognize production and distribution on collective lines, a function which cannot possibly be filled by politicians. Like Shakespeare's Moor, the politicians would find their occupation gone. There would be positively nothing for them to do, unless they were to continue to run society on

capitalist lines, the very thing they were supposedly elected to discontinue. Neither can it be reasonably suggested that these men, thus elected, should instantly sit down and reorganize society on co-operative lines. Society may be reformed by decrees and resolutions, but a complete organic change, a revolution, as we contemplate, must begin at the bottom. The so-called political organization does not occupy itself with this task. It is left to the economic organization of the IWW. – John Sandgren, 1906

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

- I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
 I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
 I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
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