

# Industrial Worker

JULY 1995

#1581, vol. 92 no. 7

\$1.00



EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

## "Either the Union Will Leave or People May Die..."

Mandarin International, a Taiwanese-owned plant in El Salvador where goods are being assembled for export to the U.S. under contract with major U.S. companies, 850 mostly-women maquiladora workers are under attack.

In January 1995, Mandarin workers organized a union – the first union ever established in a free trade zone in El Salvador. At the time, the Salvadoran government and the Maquiladora Association pointed to Mandarin as proof that workers rights and unions are respected in El Salvador. Reality proved otherwise.

Mandarin International immediately lashed out at the new union, at first locking them out and then illegally firing over 150 union members. The company hired two dozen ex-military armed "security guards." Workers were told their union will have to disappear one way or another, or else "blood will flow."

Groups of five workers at a time are now being brought before their supervisors and told to renounce the union or be fired. Union leaders are followed around the plant by company security guards. At work, the women are forbidden to speak to one another. Colonel Guerrero, owner of the San Marcos free trade zone, has told workers, "I have no problem, but perhaps you do; ... either the union will behave, leave, or people may die."

Along with the threats, the company is systematically firing – a few each week – every union member and sympathizer. The workers cannot hold out much longer. They are appealing for solidarity.

Mandarin produces clothing for J.C. Penney, GAP, Eddie Bauer and Dayton-Hudson. These companies have codes of conduct which are supposed to govern their offshore operations, but workers at Mandarin had never heard of or seen any of these codes.

### Conditions at Mandarin

For eight hours of work an employee earns \$4.51 for the day, or 56 cents an hour. This comes to \$24.79 for the regular 44-hour work week. However, a typical week includes at least eight hours of obligatory overtime.

Conveniently for itself, Mandarin pays workers in cash in envelopes which do not list hours worked or overtime hours, or at

what premium it was paid. This makes it almost impossible for workers to keep track of whether they are receiving proper pay.

The Mandarin plant is hot and the workers complain of respiratory problems caused by dust and lint. The bathrooms are locked and you have to ask permission to use them.

Talking is prohibited during working hours. The women say the piece-rate quota for the day is very high, making the work pace relentless. Supervisors scream at the workers to go faster. Workers report being hit, pushed, shoved or having had the garment they were working on thrown in their face by angry supervisors.

The company refuses to grant permission for workers to visit the health clinic during working hours. Nor does Mandarin pay sick days. There is no child care center, which is a critical issue for the women, most of whom are mothers.

Working under these conditions you can earn \$107.45 a month, \$1,397 for the entire year, if you are paid your Christmas bonus. These wages provide only 18.1 percent of the cost of living for the average family of four.

Even by scrimping and eating very cheaply just to stay alive, food for a small family of two or three people still costs over 1,000 colones a month, or \$114.29, which is more than they earn. Rent for three small basic rooms costs around \$57 a month, which they cannot afford. There are other basic expenses as well. Round-trip bus transportation to and from work can cost over \$6.00 a week. Tuition for primary school costs \$8.00 a month. A simple breakfast and



HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS

**SILENCE HATE SPEECH,  
JOIN A UNION.**

lunch at work costs approximately \$2.50 a day. The wages of the maquila workers cannot possibly meet their expenses. Many workers are forced to live in tin shacks, without water and often lacking electricity in marginal communities on vacant land, along roadsides or polluted river banks. Asked if they had a T.V., a radio, or a refrigerator, the workers laughed. They can not afford those things, we were told. All the Mandarin workers can afford to purchase is

used clothes shipped in from the U.S.

It is a myth on the part of the multinationals and their maquiladora contractors that the cost of living in El Salvador is so much less than in the United States, that 56 cents an hour is really not a bad wage. In El Salvador a queen-sized bed costs \$177.85 on sale, or more than seven weeks of wages. A maquiladora worker would have to work three and a quarter hours to afford a

*continued on page 8*

## Will We Let Them Murder FW Mumia Abu Jamal?

Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Ridge has signed a death warrant for political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal. Unless the governor relents or a last-minute court appeal succeeds, Jamal will be killed at 10 p.m. on August 17th. Equal Justice USA has issued an urgent call for demonstrations and for letters to the governor at: Main Capitol Building Room 225, Harrisburg PA 17120 (phone: 717-787-2500; fax: 717-783-3369).

Jamal was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1982 and sentenced to death despite evidence which points to his innocence. For 13 years, appellate courts have refused to recognize the racial and political biases that led to the conviction.

The night of the shooting, Jamal was driving a cab when he came upon a Philadelphia police officer beating his brother, who had been stopped on a traffic violation. Jamal rushed to the scene to stop the beating. Several witnesses reported seeing someone fire on the officer and flee the scene. Jamal was shot and left bleeding on the curb. When police backup arrived they beat Jamal, who was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery only after a 45-minute wait.

The prosecution relied heavily on Jamal's history of political activism, in-

cluding his earlier membership in the Black Panther Party, to support their demand for the death penalty. The prosecutor claimed his BPP membership meant Jamal had been waiting 12 years for an opportunity "to kill a cop." The judge rejected defense protests, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held that it was permissible to allow Jamal's political views and associations (which were not raised in the trial – the jury had access only to the prosecutor's misleading and inflammatory claims) to influence the jury's sentence.

At the time of Jamal's arrest he was a

prominent alternative journalist in Philadelphia, especially because of his persistent coverage of police violence against the black community.

The IWW General Executive Board has condemned the planned execution, and General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase has written Gov. Ridge in the IWW's behalf requesting clemency and demanding a new trial with full disclosure to the jury of all the evidence. Several IWW branches have done the same. Please add your voice to those demanding a new trial and revocation of the death sentence.

### In This Issue...

**Temp Work: Or, How to Dig Your Own Grave Without Really Trying**

**Wobbly-Busting End-Up Bosses Go Belly-Up**

**100 Years of Copper Miners' Struggles**



Industrial Worker  
103 West Michigan Avenue  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870

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## LETTER: Nestle Boycott Update

Fellow Workers,

Thanks for printing my article in a recent (April) *Industrial Worker* on the Nestle Boycott against Bottle Baby Disease. As Coordinator of the North West Boycott Committee, which is organizing the boycott nationally, I was glad to see the letter to the editor (June) detailing the benefits of breast milk medically over formula, as well as a blurb towards the back of the paper about Nestle's attempts to do a plant closing in England and use cheaper labor somewhere in the southern hemisphere.

Your article on Nestle's proposed English plant closing had the address of Nestle's CEO, Helmet Maucher, in Vevey, Switzerland. According to a review (in the Sept. 1994 issue of *Barron's*) of Maucher's book, *Tough Minded Strategies From the Global Giant*, about Maucher's 12-year reign as Nestle CEO, Maucher believes that corporations do not have to answer to consumers, activists, environmentalists, etc.; but are accountable first and foremost to shareholders and stockholders. The review in *Barron's* called Maucher a "slash-and-burn" CEO who says "nutrition" is "over-emphasized" in food marketing (Maucher says palatability is also important), and that a company's CEO is responsible for a corporation's marketing practices.

I wanted to note that I personally joined the IWW this spring and will be working on trying to start up a local IWW chapter here in Portland, Oregon, in the coming months. I also was able to fly (first time I've taken a plane in ten years) to speak at the Salt Lake

City IWW May Day rally about the Nestle Boycott (and global capitalism), but, as I see in the most recent *Industrial Worker*, I flew back to Portland before the police-enhanced Chiapas march. I did want to thank FWs Jennifer, Hazel and Tony, among others, for their hospitality while I stayed briefly in Salt Lake.

On my own "real" (?) job (I volunteer as coordinator of N.W. Boycott Committee), this month I had a previous 30-day possible termination notice of my job (word processor for an insurance company) extended to a possible 60-day termination notice. If my job ends, however, that will give me more time to do organizing for the Nestle Boycott and the IWW, etc. (The company I work for has an anti-union page in their personnel manual; I have "come out" to my boss that I joined the IWW.)

I wanted to thank both the national IWW and many local IWW chapters (including Ottawa IWW, most recently) for endorsing the Nestle Boycott. There are now 89 Oregon-initiated groups endorsing the current Nestle Boycott in 13 states, D.C., and Canada. We can send speakers out of state, we have a 20-minute video, "Formula for Disaster," that we can loan out, and we have wallet-sized cards which list targeted products of the boycott. We are doing a direct mail follow-up to a recent fundraiser we did here in Portland, and hope to raise funds over the summer to print up an

initial batch of boycott buttons and bumperstickers. We are an all-volunteer group, and can be reached at 503/244-3726, or write N.W. Boycott Committee, P.O. Box 40821, Portland OR 97240. We also publish a newsletter, *The Agitator*.

Lastly, I want to thank you, Jon, as editor of the *Industrial Worker*, for calling in for our radio program here in Portland on KBOO-FM to discuss the IWW and the *Industrial Worker*. We particularly were happy to speak with the editor of an activist labor paper inasmuch as, on the previous program I hosted, I interviewed Sandra Rowe of the Newhouse family newspapers, who is currently editor of the 1,000,000 circulation statewide daily here, the *Oregonian*.

Lew Church, X344203

### Farewell, Fellow Worker...

(continued from page 12)

he always maintained that the British employers, "although they didn't slap your face, were more ruthless in dealing with the labour force and were gangsters of an older tradition." He also maintained that the labour scene here was much more corrupt in a different way. According to Bill, you always knew where you stood with American negotiators, not so the British.

After returning to Scotland, Bill drifted out of the IWW. However, in July 1993 Bill rejoined the union and contributed to its reemergence in the U.K. and especially in

Scotland. In his later years Bill became the convener of the John Maclean Society, travelling around Scotland and even south of the Border, giving talks on Maclean. He was also a well-known Burns speaker, and the talk he gave at Leicester's Secular Hall this year was quite well received.

Finally, a rebel to the last, Bill died steadfastly refusing to pay his poll tax. A few years ago he was in the news when he announced he was applying to the Lochaber District Council for a license to beg, as this was the only way he could pay the poll tax. He declared: "I will wear a placard round my neck saying 'Victim of the Highland Clearances, 1990-style.'" Even within the anti-poll tax movement Bill remained a rebel. Addressing a rally in Glasgow's George Square before protestors left to march to Parliament to petition Labour MPs, he told them they were marching the wrong way and should stop at the Border and declare for a Scottish Workers' Republic.

In spite of his years, Bill was very tough, keeping himself fit by cycling around the area of his Invergarry home every morning before porridge and displaying a level of activity that would put some young armchair Wobblers to shame. He will be sorely missed. [Much of the information was taken from D. Anderson's obituary in *The Scotsman* 2 May 1995]

— Fred Lee

## I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace  
GMB=General Membership Branch IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate  
GOC= Organizing Committee.  
IU 120: Forest Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 610: Health Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
IU 670: Public Service Workers

### AUSTRALIA

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

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

### CANADA

#### MANITOBA

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

#### ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB— 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>  
Toronto Group— 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

### UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620— F.Lee, Secular Hall 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. 0533-661835

London Group and Couriers Union— 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Couriers Union Hotline 071 358 9124

Oxford Group— c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street  
Central Scotland IWW and Postal Workers— PO Box 1094, Glasgow G14 0EL

Health Workers IU610 Contact: Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old Foundry Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU  
IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable Kent CT5 1DU

Swindon Region GMB/IU670 & Research Councils IU 620 Group— Del: Kevin Brandstatter, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UH; Tel: 0793-610707  
Somerset— Davey Garland, Box23, 5 High St. Glastonbury Somerset.

Stevenson College IU620 Job Branch— Bankhead Ave., Sighthill, Edinburgh. Del: Derek Devine, 1 Lochrin Place, Tollcross, Edinburgh EH3 8QX 0131-228-1347

### UNITED STATES

#### CALIFORNIA

Mendocino— Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.

San Diego Group— 619/284-WOBS  
Santa Cruz GMB— PO Box 534, 95061 <sciww@ucsc.ucsc.edu>

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop— 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers— 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop— M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

Los Angeles GMB— Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.

IU630 Film Workers— Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. LA 90026 213/368-4604

SF Bay Area GMB— PO Box 40485, 94140 Office: 1095 Market St. #616 (open Thursdays, 11 am - 5 pm) 415/863-WOBS East Bay Office— c/o Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/540-0751

#### COLORADO

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

Denver/Boulder— Del:Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

#### GEORGIA

Atlanta Group— George Nikas, 21 Clarendon Place, Avondale Estates. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu  
Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa— 673 Wylie St. SE, 30316.

#### HAWAII

O'ahu GMB— PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96822; 808/247-8584; email: wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

#### ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB— 4043 N. Ravenswood #205A 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Fri. 7:30 pm.

#### LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group— Steve Donahue, 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. 504/389-9572.

#### MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB— Tarawa IWW, PO Box 7036, 21216-0036. Del: R Bey, 301/367-3024

#### MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC— Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609

Boston Group— Steve Kellerman, del. 617/469-5162

#### MICHIGAN

SE Mich.GMB— 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548

IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop— Albert Parsons 313/769-0695

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

### MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB— 8 North Second Avenue E #311, 55802.

### MISSISSIPPI

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

### MONTANA

Butte— Mark Ross 111 W.Quartz 59701. 406/782-4465

### NEW YORK

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

Capital District Group— POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627

Rochester— Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005

NYC GMB— Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx NY 10471. 718/796-3671.

Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

### PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster Group— PO Box 2084, 17608

Lehigh Valley GMB— POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. email: len.flank@father.com

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

Philadelphia GMB/IU450 Duplicators Network— 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/747-0855.

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop— 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477. <ulrike@templevm.bitnet>

### SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop— Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

### TEXAS

Houston Group— PO Box 981101, 77098.

### UTAH

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

### VERMONT

Burlington Group— Anne Petermann, Orin Langlelle POB 804, 05402. 802/658-2403. <peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

### WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop— 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project— Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Puget Sound GMB— PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 Del.: Stan Anderson, 206/367-0477

### WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop— 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.

Delegate: Jerry Chernow

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

## Industrial Worker

### THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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ISSN 0019-8870 Official  
monthly publication of the  
Industrial Workers of the  
World. Second Class Postage  
Paid Ypsilanti MI & other mailing  
offices. Postmaster: send  
address changes to: Industrial  
Worker, 103 West Michigan,  
Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15  
Library Subs \$20/year  
(Member sub included in dues)

Articles not so designated do not  
represent the official position of the  
IWW. No ads. Donations welcome.

Press Date: June 7, 1995

# Anti-Union End-Up Bar Goes Belly-Up

The notorious union-busting End-Up bar and nightclub in San Francisco, Calif., which fired several IWW janitors in 1992 when they tried to organize this once well-patronized gay establishment recently went bankrupt.

But before the padlock snapped shut on this South of Market district club, poetic justice was served by the agreement of the End-Up bosses to settle with the three fired workers for a total of \$18,000 late last year to avoid going to trial for Unfair Labor Practices before the National Labor Relations Board. With this settlement, the workers dropped their charges.

Back in the beginning, the Wobbly swampers had presented the End-Up management a contract for negotiation, with their main grievances centered around discriminatory hiring and firing practices, job security and some control over working conditions. They were summarily fired instead, so we saw several months of intensive Wobbly picketing of deliveries during the day and of nightclubbing evenings, plus handbilling around the city. (The beef was

## Around Our Union

against the bar owners, not against the clubs who rented space from it during the week.) Union Teamsters refused to deliver beer, so scabs went to fetch it at the source.

Many SF Bay Area IWW members and allies did spirited support work on this issue, and it made waves, many positive, throughout San Francisco's lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. Gay employers who talked of "one big, happy family" at the workplace proved to be just as exploitative and anti-labor against any assertion of workers' rights as any straight capitalist. End-Up hired a notorious anti-union law firm to fight the Wobs.

## New Burning Fuse Boosts British Wobs

The May 1994 issue of this British Wobbly journal features a grinning bulldog on the cover over the caption, "For A Union With Teeth." Inside, articles report on resistance to a cutback in unemployment benefits from 12 months to 6 and increased pressure to force claimants into ill-paid and dangerous work; the nightmare world of the discussion workshop; ongoing efforts to organize bike couriers; the Chelmsford bus drivers struggle; the growth of "employment agencies" which furnish temporary workers; attacks on public service and education workers, etc. An IWW Merchandise listing lists IWW Globe, wildcat, and Wob Dog t-shirts at L8, hooded tops at L18, and Enamel badges from Oxford IWW. They ask for L1.25 for postage (but overseas orders should certainly send more). Single copies of *Burning Fuse* are available for L1.

The lead editorial reads: "So why bother to get involved in the IWW? How can such a (so far) small union make any real difference?"

"Well its not *only* because the big trades unions are bureaucratic, reformist and lacking the guts to fight for any real change. Unlike these other unions, work in the IWW isn't done by paid officials or careerists. We don't own offices across the country or have fat bank accounts waiting to be seized by the state when we take direct action. Our power lies with the willingness of ordinary mem-

bers to fight back and support each other in struggle. We aren't afraid to break the law because we know that laws are made to break us. We don't expect to win anything by backing down or accepting defeat from employers.

"Anti-union laws and the scrapping of employment rights mean that most people have very little clout when they lose their jobs or get harassed at work. The situation we find ourselves in calls for far more than the business unions are able or willing to offer. The IWW is, we believe, a solid platform from which to wage class struggle.

"OK, so we may not be in a position to get half of what we want immediately, but this doesn't mean that through our efforts we can't change things for the better in the here and now. Let's go for it!"

### INDUSTRIAL WORKER SUSTAINING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

#### APRIL AND MAY

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Jim Swierzowski, Amsterdam NY	10
Leon MacLean, Phoenix AZ	5

Thank you, 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.

Eventually the activist phase of pursuing the issue faded away and the battle lingered in the protracted legal processes of the NLRB before the agreement was reached.

While some unthinking types mourned the closing of The End-Up as the loss of a "fun place" for partying, it's to a class-conscious labor community.

— Harry Siitonen, X324965

## New Education WOB

The new issue of the *Education Workers Organizing Bulletin* focuses on the efforts to establish a formal Education Workers Industrial Union 620 (IWW) administration and structure (including a petition for industrial union charter). It also reports on deteriorating working conditions in British universities; the arrest of an IWW activist for distributing leaflets at the campus at which he works; discusses organizing teaching assistants; and lists recent educational resource materials. A copy was sent to all EWIU members, sample copies are available for \$1 (EWIU-IWW, 4043 N. Ravenswood #205A, Chicago IL 60613).

## Chicago IWW To Celebrate 90th Birthday

Chicago Wobblies will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the IWW with a 90th Anniversary Concert and Songbook Release Party. The June 29th celebration features the Icemakers of the Revolution & Friends, Kristen Lems, Jeff Dorchen, Bucky Halker, Carol Mason and Kathleen Taylor, Pat Jones, Mark Dvorak and Larry Penn. IWW poet Carlos Cortez will preside. The program will begin at 7:00 pm at Hot House (1569 North Milwaukee, Chicago). Admission is \$7, "more if you've got it, less if you don't."

This is a reunion for Icemakers of the Revolution, a political rock band originally based in Lafayette, Indiana. Their song "Food Not Finance" appears in the 36th edition of the IWW songbook. Kathleen Taylor and Carol Mason are former IWW General Secretary-Treasurers who performed with the Dehorn Crew; their recordings include "Wobblies in Space." Taylor's song "Soul Stealers" appears in the new songbook. Pat Jones, who described himself as a "model lumpen," works with the *Lumpen Times* newspaper. Kristen Lems is a feminist folk singer with several recordings; her setting of Mother Jones' "Fight Like Hell" speech is in the 36th edition. Jeff Dorchen, a local actor and musician, is presently appearing in his one-man show "The Life and Times of Jew-Boy Cain." Larry Penn is a labor singer and truck driver; his "So Long Partner" appears in the 36th edition. Bucky Halker is a labor folklorist, historian and singer-songwriter.

Liquid refreshments and IWW literature will be available.

## Cops Bust Food Not Bombs

Homeless folks waiting for Food Not Bombs activists to show up for their regular noon food serving at the United Nations Plaza were disappointed May 19th by a no show. The usual offering of hot vegetarian soup, surplus bagels and salad was prevented by the San Francisco Police Department's seizure of its twelfth Food Not Bombs van along with pots, spoons, bags of rice and other supplies.

SFPD officers pulled over the FnB van for having a "broken tail gate" and seized the van as evidence. The van had earlier that day gotten out of the shop with \$1100 dollars worth of repairs. Twelve Food Not Bombs vehicles have been seized since Mayor Frank Jordan began his 'Matrix' program of harassment of S.F.'s homeless and hungry.

## Ottawa Buskers Demand Rights

A campaign to encourage direct action will be launched Tuesday by IWW Ottawa to help defend buskers (street performers) and the liberty of free expression. The city has imposed a tax of \$5 a day and is even issuing one hour permits for a designated corner of the sidewalk!

Many buskers were refusing to cooperate, but some are getting sucked in. The bureaucrats, faced with buskers ignoring their requests to pay, have hired 4 security persons to patrol in the old-Market area!

There are currently three Ottawa IWW members who are buskers. In the city there are more than 100 buskers representing a wide variety of culture. There are, however, two different kinds of buskers, one is the type of flashy spectacle performers who only play lucrative festivals. The other type of busker are simply people of the community who go out to play their music or original performance art in all seasons. On good days they might get \$25 in tips, on a bad day nothing.

They are the true grassroots culture of folk art whom we wish to defend. We have nothing against the flashy entrepreneurs, but we want to defend the liberty of everyday people to sing, play, dance, juggle, theatre, etc.

Street music, poetry, etc. are a form of cultural communication of which the tradition goes back many thousands of years. Artists such as Woody Guthrie and Phil Ochs, Bob Dylan and many more have been part of this tradition, often expressing ideas of social revolution in the only venue that allows those unpopular ideas — the street.

This is the latest of several attempts by the city to tax and regulate buskers. In the past these attacks have been shrugged off because the great majority refuse to take part — they simply go play somewhere else.

Buskers are also frequently harassed by store keepers when they play on the sidewalk in front of a store. Beer and liquor stores are good for tips but some of the bosses call the cops because the good spots are on the parking lot area, i.e. private property. Incidents such as store bosses grabbing instruments, kicking cases or otherwise assaulting musicians have happened.

Buskers, instrument in hand and case open on the ground, cannot move quickly when police show up.

The bureaucratic regulation of the one street corner by one hour permits, came about because of complaints from flower vendors who set up on that corner. The complaint: hearing the same songs over and over was driving them crazy! One vendor said she couldn't sleep at night because the songs keep going in her head!

There have even been incidents where the vendors threw water from flower pots on the buskers! As you can imagine this is not good for your instruments!

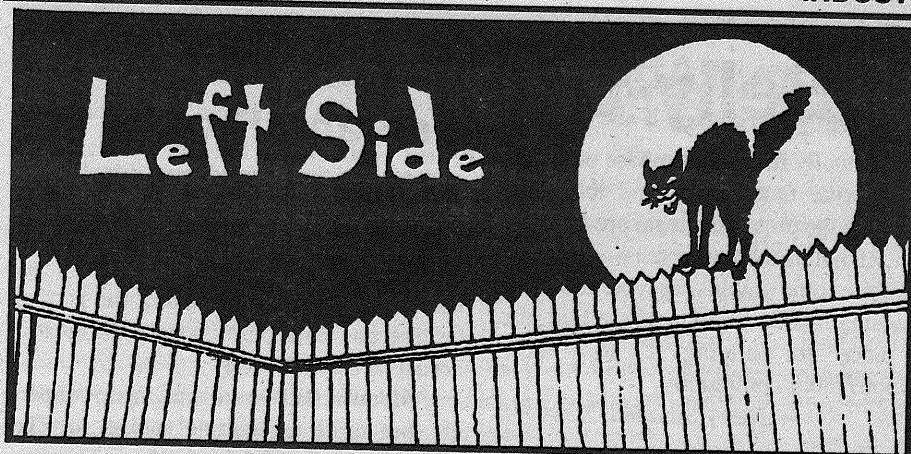
CLM

Each of these vehicles have been held by the police as evidence of illegal food transportation, and NONE have ever been returned.

Each stolen van represents a major setback for FnB. Homeless folks hungry for FnB food will be disappointed until the group can find a way to replace at least the pots and pans that the food is cooked in. Individuals will have to loan their own vehicles to pick up the regularly scheduled donations of food, which comes from an assortment of sympathetic bakeries & natural food stores. Eventually the van itself will have to be replaced.

Food Not Bombs activists have also been subject to thousands of arrests for serving food without a permit, even though

continued on page 10



Leave it to the military to see to it that that part of our pay that we never get to see is well utilized. This past September the taxpayers of Freedomland paid \$120,000 to shuttle General Joseph Ashy of the U.S. Army from his post in Naples, Italy to his new command post in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A C-141 with a crew of 13 flew from New Jersey to Naples to pick the good guardian of liberty up, then flew on to Colorado with only General Arschloch and his trusted aide.

Skyjackers, where are you all when we need you!

It only goes to show that generals and all their ilk are about as useful as an air condition in Baffin Land and slightly less annoying than a boil on a hemorrhoid.

The taxpayers put out sa pretty penny to keep these monkey-suited toy soldiers living high on the hog on the premise that they are protecting us from the foreign menaces and to track down all the alien terrorists who have been thumbnosing poor ole' Uncle Sammy.

When the big bomb messed up the federal building in Oklahoma City, the media experts started speculating on the likelihood of it being another example of near-East terrorism, if not the work of some disgruntled minorities. It was quite a shock when it was discovered that the culprit turned out to be an all-American boy-next-door type rather than some sneaky swarthy foreigner.

No one can deny that it is horrible that over a hundred people, including children, can be divested of their existence by the act of one lone fanatic. Yet one lone "non-fanatic" ordered the nuclear annihilation of two human cities a half century ago. There are those who would say that there is a difference between the two incidents, but in the opinion of your scribe the difference is only numerical.

I fail to see where the act of one fanatic (?) who on his own has committed a massacre with home-made explosives is any less moral than one whose authority has been vested by the electorate of a nation-state committing a much greater massacre, utilizing the latest methods of technological destruction. The question mark above indicates your scribe's suspicion that the explosion in Oklahoma City was the work of more than one person.

The two crimes of half a century ago were the collaborative initiative of a phalanx of the best military and scientific minds at the disposal of on nation state. Despite the moral railing against the slaughter of innocent civilians (by the other side, of course), such slaughter has been a long-standing tactic since Old Testament days. One has only to read the passage where Jahweh commands his chosen ones to "leave not a stone upon a stone." A Further passage which exhorts the chosen to "take unto yourselves all the women who have not known men" is but another long-established military maneuver, despite disclaimers on the part o whichever participant happens to be railing about the other side.

One way to break down the adversaries' resistance is to break the spirit of their civilian population. Never mind the claims of "our side" that only munitions factories are being bombed. Your scribe has seen factory towns in Germany that remained intact while cities that were residences only had been leveled to the ground. It is safe to say that there were no Standard Oil plants in Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Indeed there is honor among thieves!

Let us put this word, "Terrorism," in its proper perspective. Is the individual destruction and mayhem of a handful of ideological fanatics really any different than the wholesale all-out warfare that is waged between nation states? Both result in the destruction of human creativity and the untimely cessation of life, except that the former does far less. However, both crimes remain the same.

The coming of another century makes it imperative that we divest ourselves of all terrorists. As long as we consent to live under a system where all the decisions are made by far too few of our species, and while those far too few make mistakes, it is the greater majority of us voiceless ones who have to pay for those mistakes. Our next century might very well be our last one.

Instead of certain parasites having the luxury of having an airplane at their personal disposal, the rest of us could enjoy four-hour work days or less and have month-long vacations while drinking wine under the willows. If we wait for the politicians and the generals to do that for us, we will well deserve what we will get!

—C.C. Redcloud

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### That Economic Recovery

A recent study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that just a third of unemployed US workers receive unemployment benefits. More than three-fourths of jobless workers in Indiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Virginia go without. Is it any wonder that wages continue to fall?

Meanwhile, a British official told the United Nations' March 1995 Summit in Copenhagen that the solution to world poverty "was simple. Open up markets, drop all trade barriers and the poor would vanish from the face of the Earth" (quoting a summary in the *Observer* newspaper, quoted in the March 25th *Freedom*.) But then-French President Francois Mitterand, who presided over the dismantling of the French social safety net, "rejected the model of 'naked capitalism.' 'Are we really going to let the world become a global market without any rules other than those of the jungle and with no purpose other than maximum gain, maximum profit, in the minimum time?'" In a word, if the bosses have their way, yes.

### One World

Among the odder publications to find its way to my desk is the *International Mail Incident Bulletin* published by the consolidator we use to send papers to Europe. Each issue reports dozens of incidents, most with little obvious postal implications. The current issue, for example, opens by reporting that the number of strikes in Indonesia quadrupled last year (to 1,130, from 312); that the capital of Bangladesh was closed by an 8-hour general strike January 3rd, that 470 people were killed in northern Iraq by battles between two Kurdish armies... Other items report earthquakes, wildcat strikes, floods, and military battles. (The same issue reports that the former Soviet province of Abkhazia has issued two new postal stamps honoring Marx and Lennon. That's Groucho Marx and John Lennon.)

Most of this has little direct impact on the mails, but the bosses know that the world is closely interconnected—and that they will inevitably be affected by the myriads of localized struggles and catastrophes chronicled. Unfortunately, most workers have not yet learned that lesson, and so we allow the bosses to pit us against each other.

*Working Together: Labor Report On the Americas* reports that the Juarez sit-down strike (June *IW*) forced Thompson to close two plants in Indiana. Because Thompson uses just-in-time inventory, the week-long strike forced a Bloomington plant assembling finished TV sets using chassis manufactured in the Juarez plant to close after four days. The Indiana workers formerly did the work now done in Mexico, and RCA-Thompson has used the threat of moving more work abroad to force workers to accept a four-year wage freeze and other concessions. IBEW Local 1424's business manager responded to the shut-down by announcing his intention to establish direct communications with the workers in Juarez to present the bosses with a common front.

### Workers Reject AFL

I mentioned last issue that organizing is hard work. Going through my clippings, I find a report on the AFL-CIO sponsored National Association of Working Americans, founded five years ago as part of the AFL's effort to draw in unorganized workers. Despite the AFL-CIO's enormous resources and a decision to make NAWA members eligible for the AFL's "Union Privilege" benefits program (low-interest credit cards, dental plans, insurance, etc.), NAWA has signed up only "approximately 1,000 members" (the Feb. 20 *AFL-CIO News* is vague on just how one joins, but it appears that first-year membership is free).

### Editor's Notebook

Meanwhile a public relations firm working for the AFL has issued a 50-page report concluding that Americans are suspicious of unions, that half of union members believe unions are undemocratic, etc. The solution? A public relations campaign to refurbish the AFL's image. Labor leaders should be taught to be more telegraphic, unionists must be placed under "message discipline" spouting a carefully tailored message of the day, and the AFL should play down the words labor and union (and instead talk about "workers") – and perhaps change its name. Might not it be simpler to simply dismantle the thing?

### US Labor Unfair

The Union of Telephone Workers of the Republic of Mexico has filed a complaint with the Mexican government over Sprint Corp.'s shutdown of its La Conexon Familiar San Francisco subsidiary in order to avoid unionization. The complaint charges Spring with implementing a "vicious anti-union policy" in violation of basic human rights, and calls for sanctions under the NAFTA agreement until Sprint agrees to respect basic labor rights.

Meanwhile, a US Post Office supervisor ordered a newly elected Flushing NY shop steward to undergo a psychological examination to determine whether he was fit for duty, suggesting that grievances he had filed over the years indicated he might be paranoid. Fortunately, the shrink did not believe objecting to lousy working conditions was a sign of mental instability.

And in Milwaukee, a NALC steward was suspended from his job after filing a grievance signed by 70 carriers complaining that their supervisor practices favoritism, screamed at carriers, and intimidated workers by staring at them for 30 minutes at a time. A September GAO report noted that the Postal Service suffers from "a dysfunctional organizational culture" of autocratic management. Perhaps the supervisors need psychiatric treatment to fit them for mingling with other human beings in the workplace. (Thanks to *Union Democracy Review* for this suggestion.)

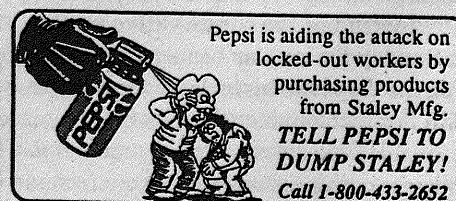
### 30 Years Before the NLRB

Maintenance workers at Long Island College Hospital voted for union representation by SEIU local 144 in July 1964. Today, 30 years later, they're still fighting for union recognition and a contract. The hospital has filed appeal after appeal and refused to bargain. The union won a second election in 1979, and a third last February. But to no avail. Rather than placing their faith in the Labor Relations Board, these workers would surely have done better to turn to direct industrial action. Then some of them might have lived to reap the fruits of their organization.

### Boosting the Paper

A Berkeley FW writes that they find their *Industrial Worker* bundle a useful outreach tool, and are planning to start selling the paper on the street. "I always tell people wanting to know more about our union that the best place to start is with the IWW horn." Another FW (the lone Wobbly in his town) reports that the May issue sold out in two local bookstores. We offer very reasonable terms (10 cents per copy per month) to IWW groups and branches to help support your efforts. It costs non-members a bit more (50 cents), but is still cheap. Are you distributing the *Industrial Worker* in your area?

—Jon Bekken





## Workers Block GM Shut-Down

Our factory, which manufactures car parts for General Motors, has been in Kirkby (UK) for 38 years. In its heyday in the '60s and early '70s we had 4,000 working here – now it's just over 1,000.

At the beginning of 1994 we got a new plant director who made it clear that the factory was uneconomic and would have to be demolished. Instead he proposed that a high-tech unit specifically designed for our product be put up on the same site – the first time any multinational that has come to Kirkby has said they would reinvest here.

The problem was the proposal had to go first to the General Motors European Committee, then to the World Committee, which only meets quarterly. Just before it finally met, the World President received bad figures for Delco world-wide – so the news came back, they couldn't do it. They wanted to move the plant to a factory in Neston, 35 miles away across the river. The shop stewards' committee decided to fight.

The company announcement was made on the 20th October, and at the same time they asked us to work through the normal holiday period. We always take a holiday in October because of the school half term.

On the basis that there was no valid reason for the move, the shop stewards' committee instructed our members not to work over the holiday, and effectively to operate an overtime ban over the weekend.

The members obeyed. This is the result of our shop stewards' committee operating one of the best closed shops in Merseyside. You don't get a job here unless you've got a union card. This has greatly strengthened our organisation.

As well as going direct to the workforce, we also decided not to get the union full-timers (officials) involved. Their first priority is always going to be union funds, keeping within the law and all that. Our first priority is our members and jobs. This is a workers' organisation, run by workers.

Of course the company was very concerned, because our plant operates on a "Just-in-Time" system, meaning very few stocks are held and all the key components go straight to the assembly lines. If we stopped working on Friday, by Wednesday or Thursday three of the main plants in Europe would be stopped.

We told them we were not being unreasonable – we just wanted a meeting with the World President. But this was seen as totally impossible; it was as if they were saying "This is God."

So, we decided, if it wasn't possible, and his decision was going to jeopardise all our jobs, then "If he's not going to meet us, we're not going to work."

The stoppage started on Friday. On Saturday afternoon we were called in and told we could meet the European president. We told them that wasn't good enough. At 5am Sunday I was woken by a phone call telling me they had received a fax from the World President – he would meet us.

By this time we'd started a community campaign to keep the factory open, involving the whole of Kirkby – local schools,

churches, the lot. Our campaign stickers, "Delco, Don't Go," were on all the buses and taxis in the area. We also organised one of the biggest marches in the North West, with over 3,000 people.

The World President came over and we had our meeting. His basic message was that we had them by the short and curlies this time, because we could stop three assembly lines. But after that, GM could wipe us out in a few years. With this scenario, he agreed to the new plant.

But our troubles weren't over. The company said they wanted a no-strike agreement as part of the deal. That was when we were even more glad we hadn't let the piecards in – they would have gone straight for it. We said we were not prepared to have the new plant built on the basis of a no-strike deal. We were not prepared to give up our birthright. If there was to be no plant, so be it. There comes a time when you have to have a bit of dignity. We said to them, if you want a no-strike deal, don't build the factory. Just go away.

And we won. We got a "new labour agreement," but all that means is that, if both sides want it a dispute can be taken to arbitration. Our response was taken to the GM board on December 12th, and on the 13th they ratified the decision to build a new factory. On the 13th of January, the first turf was turned on the site.

We fought, we kept on fighting, and we won.

— Steve Donnelly, Convenor  
AC Delco Merseyside

## Clinton Panders to Racists, Again

US President Bill Clinton proposed legislation May 3rd which would drastically reduce the rights of immigrant workers. Clinton's proposals include 700 more Border Patrol agents, additional border inspectors, stepped-up workplace raids, expedited deportations, imprisonment of workers who repeatedly attempt to enter the United States, extending racketeering statutes to attack organizations which assist undocumented workers, and higher border crossing fees to deter legal visits to Freedomland.

A White House press release says "This legislative proposal, together with the President's FY 1996 Budget ... will continue this Administration's unprecedented actions to combat illegal immigration..."

In reality, of course, these proposals will not stem the flow of workers desperate for work in order to feed themselves and their families – they will "merely" result in increased harassment of (particularly) Hispanic workers and strengthen the hand of the bosses who employ undocumented workers and then use the threat of arrest and deportation to terrorize them and keep them from organizing for better conditions.

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## Free Mumia Abu Jamal

I continue to find myself very busy and behind at the Union office. So I don't have a lot of time to plan ahead on a topic for this column. Every one to date has wound up being what was on my mind at or a few hours after whatever "absolute deadline" the editor has laid out for me. This month only one thing is on my mind, heavy on my mind:

Mumia Abu Jamal is scheduled for execution on the 17th of August. If you're a regular reader of left wing publications, you probably know the details of the case. For those of you who aren't, there's an article on the front page of this issue. Thanks

### from the desk of...

to editor Jon Bekken for last minute layout changes to meet the heartfelt need of his fellow workers. In a thumbnail sketch: Mumia was a Black Panther in his teens. He later became a journalist and used his talent to question the behavior of the Philadelphia police in a 1978 attack on the MOVE organization, the same folks who were bombed by the Philly police in 1985, with the resulting death of five children and six adult Move members. His '78 writing drew criticism from Mayor Frank Rizzo. That constitutes high praise in some quarters, including this one.

In 1982 while driving a cab, Mumia witnessed a brutal assault by a cop on his brother. He got in an altercation which left Mumia seriously wounded and the policeman dead. Mumia was charged with murder. Witnesses who saw another man running from the scene were not called to testify. Out of more than 125 witnesses, only 2 whose testimony had changed several times were called on to testify against him. The jury consisted of 10 whites and 2 blacks in a city where 40% of the population is black. Comments made as a teenager were used against a man who had become a father and respected member of the community. It goes on and on. I urge you to read everything you can on the case.

Last Friday, June 2nd, new Republican Governor Ridge of Pennsylvania who has promised to clean up the backlog of 189 prisoners on death row, signed Mumia's death warrant. And my heart sank, as did that of every Wobbly I have talked to since then. The IWW General Executive Board had just passed a resolution with no dissent which directed me to express our outrage to Governor Ridge, and our solidarity to Mumia. I sent a fax telling the governor that going through with this execution would bring disgrace on the government of Pennsylvania and would assure him a footnote in history as a butcher. The phone rang as soon as the message had been sent. Silence and a click.

Since then in every spare moment I've been on the phone spreading the word, talking to anyone who will listen, making signs, attending a rally, writing about the case. Monday night there will be a planning meeting for local activities here. I'll be advocating everything I can think of to make it clear to the government that if they carry through on this one, it's going to cost them. Word is coming in regarding actions being planned by IWW branches from our corners of the planet as we add our voice to the outrage which is being expressed by union and political activists around the world.

I firmly believe this case is on a par with the executions of Wobbly organizer and songwriter Joe Hill, Sacco and Vanzetti, and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. There is speculation in each of those cases about whether they committed the crimes for which they were executed. And in each case it didn't matter. Three immigrants and two Jews – a labor activist, two anarchists, and two communists – were murdered by the state for their politics. And it is about to happen again, this time against an African American advocate for racial and economic justice.

Someone was on the internet a while back with a message about Mumia, stating that some issues are so important that you are required to take time out from your normal pursuits to do everything you can to resolve them. We have two months.

Some of the Fellow Workers with whom I've been sharing our mutual pain over this case have had strong disagreements with me on internal issues in the past. We all recognize that it's time to put those differences on the back burner. The life of a man who has struggled to make the world a better place is on the line. I've had disagreements with some of the people who called the rally I attended Saturday too.

## Jamal Solidarity Demonstrations

The Free Workers Union (FAU) congress has just approved a resolution protesting against the state-murder to be committed against Mumia Abu-Jamal, and calling for three days of nationwide actions in Germany in mid to late June.

Ann Arbor Wobblies joined a June 3rd solidarity demonstration at the Federal Building to protest the scheduled execution. The chant at the rally took up the long-standing IWW slogan "An Injury to One is an Injury to All. Save Mumia Abu Jamal." IWW member Bob Rivera designed some striking posters for the demonstration, featuring a blowup of Mumia's face, the international ban sign, with the cross bar designed as railroad tracks and IWW "Injury to One..." bumper stickers beneath.

Wobblies are also joining protests in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco as this issue goes to press.

But the chant they chose made it clear that those differences can also wait for another time: "An injury to one is an injury to all! Free Mumia Abu Jamal!"

— Fred Chase x331591

IWW General Secretary/Treasurer

## Haymarket Monument Hit

The monument to the Haymarket Martyrs in Waldheim Cemetery has been attacked by vandals who stole a bronze plaque and wreath earlier this year, apparently for their value as scrap metal. The stolen plaque commemorated the three Martyrs who served long prison terms before being pardoned. The plaque commemorating the hanged Martyrs remains in place.

The Haymarket Monument and Emma Goldman's nearby headstones were also defaced by graffiti. Chicago anarchists removed the graffiti at a commemoration May 6th. Cemetery owners filed for bankruptcy Dec. 14th after selling the iron fence surrounding the cemetery for scrap metal and laying off maintenance and security staff. The cemetery is \$9.2 million in debt.

Recently, there's been an ad on t.v. for a certain temporary service. In the ad, various well-scrubbed looking office types, standing in front of a partly cloudy deep blue sky, tell you how their service meets all your office needs. As inspirational music plays in the background, you're informed that they can help you out if you need one legal secretary for one day, or one hundred telemarketers for a month, just before the holidays. What they don't tell you is that these "employees" have no benefits, no health care, and that at many jobs they're treated like dogs – or that soon, unless you have a cozy position in management, you'll be working for a service just like this one.

**Temps need to organize if they want to see any possibility of increasing their quality of life. The longer that's put off, the harder it's going to be...**

I've been working as a temporary since I graduated college in 1988 (I had two permanent jobs that, combined, lasted a year and a half – they were both so hellish I was driven back to temping). I just wanted a job to pay the rent, etc., and had no idea of what to try and get. I stumbled into temping by accident, answering a want ad for what I thought was a real job (temp firms commonly place ads for jobs that don't really exist, just to get people to sign up). It turned out to be a temp service, and as luck would have it, I got a job starting the next day.

After that I signed up with a new service every time work was slow. Since I moved around the country a few times, temping turned out to be a pretty good way of getting work quickly. So when I started, temping was for me a matter of choice. I've always liked knowing that, if a job was too much to take, I could just leave at any time and get paid for the time I worked. It's also nice to get paid every week. And you never have to take a place that seriously – no matter what they say, you are absolutely *not* part of the team (most places let you know this inadvertently). That is a particularly attractive thing about temping considering most of the places you get sent.

But as I say, for me temping has been more a matter of choice. For more and more people these days, it is not. For a lot of younger people with little or no work experience, temping is some of the only work

they can get. The same is true of people laid off from factories. While "office work" is the standard image of temporaries, factory work is also a big part of the picture (approximately 1/3 of all temps are factory workers). In either case, temps are lucky if they get a job where people remember their name or let them make a personal phone call. In most cases, adults are treated like children, and few work in the "glamorous" office settings presented on t.v. Keffo, in his zine *Temp Slave! Work Work*, reports (in Issue #5) that 1.9 million Americans work as temps every day, which is twice as many as five years ago. Not too long ago General Motors was America's largest employer – now it's the temporary service ManPower.

Telemarketing is a job that many temps end up taking – usually experience isn't important, just the ability to completely degrade yourself. Imagine spending eight plus hours dialing the phone and trying to convince someone that they need Product X or asking if they will just take a few minutes to conduct a survey. Even people who are good at it meet with rejection more than anything, and it's easier said than done to just put that out of your mind.

It isn't that you're so upset that you didn't win them over; but that people can be pretty damn nasty. You either get hung up on, yelled at, talked to like you're an idiot – or, even better, you get that nut who's going to "put you through your paces" and make you really try to sell it to them (and of course, most people who do this work know why people don't like the calls, because when they go home they don't want them either – it's intrusive, and if you really wanted whatever it was, you would have called them). You almost always have a quota of several hundred calls a day (which a computer tallies) and from that, a certain percentage of "sales", "wins", "closes" or whatever they want to call it. Usually a big tally sheet is up on the wall with everyone's name on it, and the number of calls, sales, etc. – the best person each month will sometimes get a prize or a bonus.

On top of everything else management monitors your phone calls randomly, just to remind you that you're part of the team. At one telemarketing job I had we were supposed to get donations for several organizations, including an airplane owner's group. On one call I talked to a woman whose husband had just died flying his plane, so I wasn't about to ask her for money. But as I

was about to get off the phone, my boss handed me a note which said if she would make a donation, we could make it in his name.

The most disgusting place I've worked was on the west side of Chicago, and I think of it every time I go to the supermarket, because they manufacture those metal magazine holders that are by the checkout counters. It was a small two story factory building with offices on the second floor and the factory on the first. I worked in the office part, doing light typing, data entry, etc., and my work really wasn't hard at all.

It was a horrible place to work, though, because the family who owned it showed such bold-faced disrespect for their workers. The husband was always screaming at people, and the wife would come waltzing in a couple hours after everyone else, trailing behind her two little white dogs who would nap in her office. The daughter did the design work and the (very clever) son was the foreman of the factory, a job he got when his father demoted a man with 20 years seniority. The husband and wife spent a large amount of time harassing people for minor mistakes, for taking what they considered too long a lunch or just for the hell of it. But this wasn't the disgusting part – what made it like a plantation was that the majority of the factory workers were temps, who were paid anywhere from minimum wage to five dollars an hour. They would make them work ten hour days Monday through Thursday, then send them home early Friday so they wouldn't have to pay them overtime. The temps had made these people millionaires – they own three houses, two in the Chicago suburbs and one in Arizona.

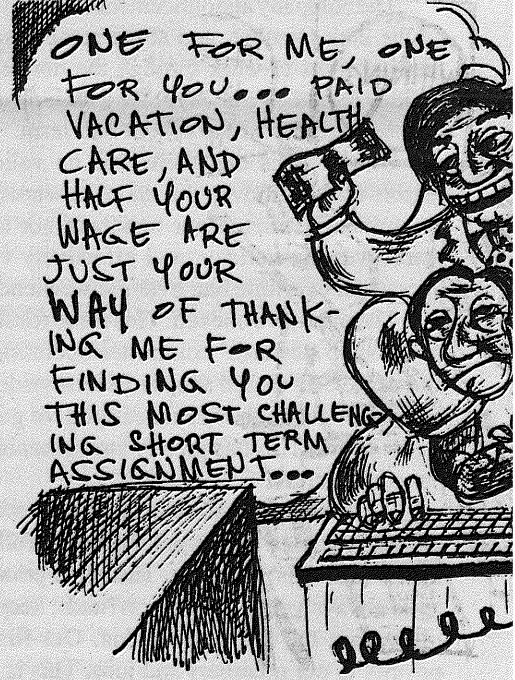
Temporary workers have no benefits and no health care (while some services offer health care after a temp has worked a ridiculous number of hours – which isn't altogether likely as most temps work through several services – seeing as you're not assured that you'll always be working, paying

# TEMP

## Or, How To Dig Without R

out extra money is risky). You can't really plan ahead. You might hit a lucky streak where you're working steadily and making decent money, only to hit a dry patch with no warning. You might go from one job where you got on fine to one where the office manager takes an instant dislike to you – and, inexplicably, a job meant to last four months lasts four hours. Equal Opportunity Employment regulations fly out the window when employers can call a temporary service and ask for "someone presentable" or "someone without an accent." If an employer doesn't like the looks of a temp, for whatever reasons, they can ask for another, no questions asked.

What's really interesting about the lack of job security and benefits, etc., is that the temporary pays quite a lot towards those things. Not for himself, however, but for the temporary service. Every hour that the temp works, the agency gets a cut. So, a temp making \$6 an hour is making the agency at least \$3 an hour (probably more like \$4 or \$5). At one job I had working in an account-



### Temp Workers Union

The Temp Workers Union (IWW) wishes to announce the grand reopening of its office at 1095 Market Street Suite #616, San Francisco CA 94103 (phone 415/863-WOBS).

Short-term goals are to open a non-profit worker-run temp agency, a worker-run hiring hall, a retraining/skill updating school, and an apprenticeship program.

Long-term goals are to do away with the current trend to replace full-time workers with temps (currently contingent workers represent 25 - 35 percent of the workforce, and are projected to grow to 50 percent by the year 2000), do away with the concept that only an elite or vanguard can run workers' lives for them, and do away with the idea that temp agencies must make a profit off a commodity called temps.

Too many workers are told by the unions that the only alternative to the boss's exploitation is to let the union officials exploit them and have their outmoded battle plans defeated by the supposedly impartial umpire (government). Having strike funds seized and uppity leaders jailed has stalemated conventional union action. We need to be creative.

Eventually employers will be made to see that it is to their advantage to have full-time non-TWU employees. It is our hope that the new full-time former temps will take the lessons of the TWU into their new full-time jobs and organize their brothers and sisters anew.

There will be a continuing need for willing temps to take the place of vacationing or sick full-time workers for a short time. Career temps who only need to work temporarily will be able to fill these needs without having to pay 40+ percent to labor sharks. A free co-op will be the result of the TWU.

Although we have taken much too long to reorganize and restructure the TWU, we have done this part-time and without asking anyone for more than stamp money so that any local can have a model which they can afford no matter how poor they are.

We have also tried to have a model for others who are not remotely connected with temps that would inspire them to look for nonconventional solutions to the stacked deck that passes for labor struggles in the US.

— Temp Workers Union, San Francisco

## Memoirs of a Temp Slave

### A Noose Around My Neck

I went in to pick up my paycheck one day and Matt (one of the temp bosses who lives off my labor) asked why I wasn't wearing a tie. He insisted they'd never send me out on another job unless I wore a tie at all times, so I was forced to go shopping (I threw out my last tie when I graduated high school in 1976, and hadn't worn one since).

I don't like ties. They're ugly, they're uncomfortable, they interfere with breathing. And they're a mark of servitude. Since its no longer permissible to make us wear chains and shackles to work, the bosses insist we wear a noose around our necks, lest we should forget who's in charge.

As I enter stores in search of a cheap, not-too-hideous tie it becomes clear that I am not alone. Every tie shouts disgust. They're fat, like a baby's bib. They're garish, guaranteed to clash with everything. They scream "I'm only wearing this tie because they forced me to," much like those my fellow high school students used to wear on mandatory tie days. I end up blowing \$1.25 on a tie in a thrift shop, about 20 years

out of fashion but not too hard on my eyes.

### Disproving Marx

It quickly becomes clear that the temp agencies and the bosses are engaged in a mutual conspiracy to prove that Karl Marx was wrong when he said the cost of labor power would revolve around the cost of its reproduction. (Rather, they follow Groucho Marx's analysis – "What makes wage slaves? Wages! I want you to be Free...") Even if I could get 40 hours a week (and in my best week I've never done better than 36, usually I get a lot less) at my regular rate (and the agency is always trying to chisel me down), I'd only just be able to meet my rent payments (I live in a SRO hotel these days), food and car payment. But its enough to drive me to sacrifice my free time (which I'd much rather use for more interesting purposes) to the task of earning a living.

But it doesn't begin to cover the costs of reproducing my labor power. For that I need enough to buy books, to rent a decent place, to take in the occasional concert or movie or meal out. If I had a family to support on

# WORK

## Your Own Grave

### Really Trying

ing department, I was paid \$9 an hour. One day I was filing invoices and ran across the one for me – it had my rate down as \$17.95 an hour. Subtract my \$9 and the agency was getting \$8.95 every hour I worked. Every hour the temp works, the agency makes nearly the equivalent; at the very least around minimum wage. They are your sleeping partners.

It is important that people realize that, for now, temping is not only here to stay, but is something which will continue to grow in the current climate. Unions have been successfully smashed, corporations are the only constituent group the government still takes seriously, and all that fine rhetoric about full employment and an end to poverty has disappeared now that those things (once again) don't jive with profit-making.

Eventually, temps will need to organize if they want to see any possibility of increasing their quality of life. The longer that's put off, the harder its going to be to do; as it is right now, it's a monumental task. As employers can get rid of temps with no notice and for no reason, anyone trying to

organize their fellow temps is vulnerable.

But the IWW's own Temp Worker's Unions project in San Francisco is a good step in the right direction. The TWU will be like a temporary service, sending people temps on jobs, but with two important differences from current temporary agencies: instead of charging a huge fee every hour, the TWU will only charge enough to keep their office running; and the TWU will not charge employers a fee if they want to hire one of their temps (most services try to discourage employers from hiring their temps by charging a fee if they hire the temp within six months or a year – the fee is usually a percentage based on what the temp's salary for one year would be). This is a way of using the "logic of the marketplace" to undermine it. And at the very least, it can lay the foundation for the work to come, which, if it is to be successful, must have as its motive the eradication of temporary labor.

—Don MacKeen

*Temp Slave! Work Work* is a 'zine about temporary work, it is available for \$7 for 4 issues (\$2 a sample) from: Keffo, P.O. Box 8284, Madison, WI 53708-8284.

when the system went down, killing both my working file and the backup) in the process. I still finished what was billed as two days' work in about seven hours. (A couple weeks later they asked for me by name.)

To work any slower I'd have to start meditating between key strokes, which somehow lacks appeal. I've asked some of my fellow temps how they do it, and they claim not to know what I'm talking about. And yet they clearly have mastered the art of doing little or no work for their meager pay, thereby stretching out the jobs. Meanwhile, I keep working myself out of a job, despite going as slowly as I can.

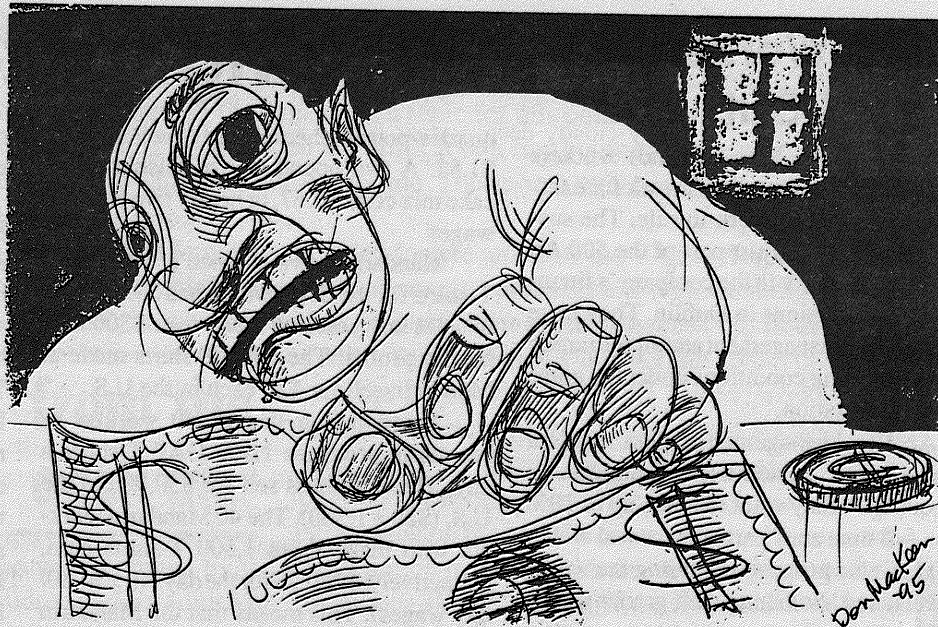
Perhaps we should organize classes for temp workers. The agencies all boast about how they offer classes to help workers upgrade their skills, but that doesn't seem to be what's needed. Rather, those of us accustomed to working on jobs where the work needs to get done need sessions on how to look busy without getting anything done, how to type 40 words a minute without dying of boredom, etc.

### Competing With Myself

As I write, it's been two weeks since I've gotten any work. So I'm calling a new agency to sign on. I'll keep adding agencies until the work starts to come in. Each agency, then, goes to the bosses offering to sell my labor. Given the competitive pressures to cut costs, each has an incentive to sell my labor just a bit more cheaply than the agency down the street. While they drive down the cost of my theoretical labor power, I sit at home waiting for the phone to ring (in the early morning, anyway; then I head out to the library or the IW office to get something productive done). This crazy system forces all of us to register with several temp bosses, artificially inflating the apparent supply of labor and thereby driving down our wages.

Isn't capitalism wonderful?

X331117



## The Temp-ing of America

In February, *Solidarity* (the UAW's monthly magazine) ran a long article on temping in America including personal accounts of temp work and information on the changing nature of work in America, from which the following is excerpted:

One in five American workers now works part-time, up 25 percent since 1968. "All of the increase," according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, "was among involuntary part-time workers who usually work full-time" – that is, people stuck in part-time jobs who want full-time work...

Contingent workers enjoy few legal protections... Two-thirds of part-timers and nearly three-quarters of temps are women... One-fifth of the temp workforce are African-Americans, as against 10.5 percent of the total workforce, and blacks are 1.7 times more likely than whites to be stuck with part-time jobs when they want full-time work...

Manpower is now the largest employer in America, with 640,000 workers. According to the National Association of Temp and Staffing Services, the temp industry trade organization, agencies employed 1.6 million people every day in 1993, up 20 percent from 1992.

A June survey by NATSS revealed that only 8 percent have ever received health coverage, only 3 percent got sick pay, and 77 percent made less than \$9 an hour.

For the temp agencies, these kinds of arrangements translate into big money: their total turnover in 1993 was \$28.4 billion. Kelly Services, the nation's second largest agency, saw profits jump 44 percent to \$14.4 million between April and June of 1994 alone.

The switch from full-time workers to part-time workers is a major factor in corporate "downsizing" – cutting back jobs in

order to cut costs and raise profits. Corporations laid off 600,000 workers through downsizing in 1993 alone. For instance Fleet Corp., New England's largest bank, put 19 percent of its workers out on the streets last spring despite record profits. The reason? The 5,500 laid-off workers will save it \$300 million.

Corporations are also "outsourcing," undercutting union jobs by sending work to non-union contractors. This undermines union pay and creates a two-tier system within union shops.

It's part of the corporate squeeze on working families that boosted the real income of the richest 5 percent of families by over 35 percent between 1977 and 1990, while the bottom 70 percent of families' income stayed the same or dropped to 11 percent.

"Keffo" of *Temp Slave!* notes that labor protections for temporary workers could fit on a Post-it note. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that there are now 1.9 million people employed by temp agencies on any given day (lots more temp workers didn't get called that day). "I can't get that figure of 1.9 million temps working every day out of my head. Let's just say that each temp makes \$7 an hour and is paid for 8 hours and the agency gets the extra \$3 an hour (you should be making \$10 instead of \$7) for every hour worked. I'm being conservative here. So on a daily basis the temps make \$56. Which means temp workers in total make \$106,400,000. The agencies, skimming their \$3 off the top, make \$5,700,000. Weekly, temp agencies make \$39.9 million. Yearly, they make \$1.995 billion. And these are conservative estimates. Over one billion a year is made by people who don't even do the actual work!"

## Asbestos Still Poisoning Workers

South Korea, which has become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world on the basis of exploiting and endangering its workers, has now become the biggest asbestos importer in the world. South Korea imports all its asbestos because it does not have any mines of its own. The majority of this chrysotile comes from Canada, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Reports coming out of South Korea are horrifying. Health Service inspectors visiting a factory in a residential district of Pusan found fibrous material hanging from the ceiling beams and broken corrugated asbestos cement all over the company grounds. Workers were exposed to asbestos dust concentrations of 6.2 fibres per cubic centimetre – six times over European maximum levels.

In some factories the Health Service found their entry blocked by employers, even though union representatives came forward from within their workplaces. One had to be observed from the union office. Union officials pointed to torn sacks of

asbestos lying around the courtyard and to the fibres blowing into the atmosphere from primitive ventilation hoods.

In another plant, where there was again major resistance against taking samples in the factory, inspectors found that workers' masks were improperly worn and that the masks had in fact become fibre traps. Workers had only a brush for cleaning surfaces.

Workers generally are unaware of the seriousness or consequences of asbestos inhalation – unfortunately for many asbestos-related cancer will be the leading occupational disease in years to come. The European firms that own these plants are happy to ignore health and safety standards and to exploit South Korean workers.

International labor co-operation is needed to promote a world ban of asbestos material and improve medical monitoring. The fight in South Korea is just beginning and the need is for unions all over the globe to link workers in an international campaign to stop the ever-growing asbestos industry.



these wages, it'd simply be impossible.

But most weeks I'm lucky to work half-time, and then the agency calls with an offer of work at \$7 or \$8 an hour, well below my usual rate (I type better than 80 words a minute, know my way around both IBM and Mac computers, and know the leading word processing programs). My policy is not to accept work that doesn't pay enough to cover my expenses for the day, and so I turn those jobs down. But presumably there's someone out there more desperate than I taking those jobs, working a second job on the side or skipping meals or resorting to petty crime to keep their head above water.

### Bum Work for Bum Pay

I'm new at this temping business, and I clearly don't have it down right. Three times, now, I've been called in for a job with a promise of a few days' (or, in one case, two weeks) work, only to finish everything they had within the first four or five hours. This despite my effort to work slowly and take lots of breaks, as I've been having some problems with my hands. On one job, I lost several pages of work when the computer crashed, wiping out my file (I was resaving

## Postal Workers Locked Out

Fifty-one An Post (Ireland) workers were locked out of work this week for exercising their right to work to rule. The suspended workers are just part of the 500 An Post staff who work in the company's financial services sections in Dublin. They have been resisting management attempts to erode pay and working conditions under the guise of computerization.

An Post management's plan treads a familiar route. In addition to eliminating jobs outright, they want to make up to 10% of the full time staff part-time casual workers. They also propose extending the working week and abolishing staff grades which would effectively remove any promotion path for workers. An Post says the workers are "delaying progress."

## Repression in Brazil

The L'A.T.L.A.S./C.O.B.-A.I.T. and the group pro-C.O.B./A.I.T. of Sao Paulo are engaged in an incessant struggle against the intendante (a municipal officer) of Sao Paulo, P. Salin Maluf, and the Secretary of Health, Getulio Hanashira and his "plan for surveillance of the health service" (P.A.S.).

This plan is a menace to the integrity, the jobs and the dignity of the members of L'A.T.L.A.S. (Association of Free Workers in the Domain of the Health Service of Sao Paulo). It is in fact an oppressive, authoritarian, discriminatory and nazi-fascist plan.

The situation of the L'A.T.L.A.S./C.O.B.-A.I.T. (Brazilian Workers Confederation, International Workers Association) members is worsening daily because of the repression and persecutions inflicted upon them.

This is why we are making this urgent international appeal to all sections and unions of the International Workers Association and to the libertarian movement. Actions and demonstrations at Brazilian embassies and consulates are needed to pressure the government to suspend and revoke the "plan for surveillance of the health service" in Sao Paulo. It's been proven in the past that the government of president Fernando Henrique Cardoso does not like this kind of international intervention.

The P.A.S. violates the Brazilian constitution, the constitution of the province of Sao Paulo, the organic law of the municipality of Sao Paulo, and the municipality's labor laws. For some time, for political reasons, President Cardoso feigned ignorance of the consequences of the P.A.S.

Please send letters and telegrams of protest to: Ministro de la Salud, Ilmo. Sr. Dr. Adib Jatemi, Explanada des Ministerios, CEP 70.000-000, Brasilia - DF - Brasil; Presidente de la Republica, Ilmo. Sr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Palacio do Planalto, CEP 70.000-000, Brasilia - DF - Brasil.

Translated from *Le Combat Sindicaliste* #156 (May 1995) by Mike Hargis.

## Indonesian Workers Demand Rights

Twenty-one people were detained for several days following demonstrations on May 1 in Jakarta and Semarang. The demonstrations involved at least 1500 workers and students organized by the Centre for Working Class Struggle (PPBI) and Student

# Working for the GAP for \$25 a week...

quarter-pound cheeseburger, which costs \$1.82. A two pound box of Pilsbury pancake mix costs \$2.67, or nearly five hours of wages.

Mandarin sews women's 3/4 sleeve T-shirts for the GAP, which had \$3.6 billion in sales last year and made over \$300 million in profits. The GAP T-shirts made at Mandarin sell for \$20 each in the U.S.

A production line of 40 workers at Mandarin produces 1,500 GAP T-shirts a day. These T-shirts sell for \$30,000 in the U.S. (\$20 x 1,500). The 40 Mandarin workers who make these 1,500 T-shirts earn, collectively, \$180.23 for the day (40 x \$4.50/day wages). This means that the Mandarin workers earn .6 percent, or just a little more

of the GAP however, it means the system is working fine.

This is the second time Mandarin workers have formed a union. In November 1993, management illegally fired 100 workers, including the entire union leadership, the same day they were notified that the union had registered with the Ministry of Labor. The Union of Workers of the Mandarin International Company (SETMI) was not reorganized until this January. However, despite promises from the Labor Minister, when the company was notified on February 7 that a legal union had been established at Mandarin, it responded by locking out all 850 workers the next day.

Mandarin representatives said that they

Since then, Mandarin has illegally fired over 150 union members, in a systematic campaign to destroy the union and spread fear among the workers. The Ministry of Labor could be fining Mandarin \$5,700 a day for violating the country's labor code, but nothing has been done.

On May 15 the union called a work stoppage to protest the mass of illegal firings. As the union leaders stood up to announce the work stoppage, company goons moved in and attacked them. At one point seven company guards were punching and kicking Dolores Ochoa. They broke her leg. Marta Rivas and Esmeralda Hernandez were also beaten. Elisio Castro Perez, General Secretary of the SETMI union, was beaten and detained for several hours by company security guards.

Mandarin responded by locking out all 850 employees, and firing 50 more union members, including the union's entire leadership. Another commission was formed and another agreement was reached with the company. Mandarin committed itself to reopen the plant the next morning and to reinstate all of the fired workers.

When the fired workers showed up May 16, armed guards refused to let them enter the plant. When the union protested, the guards again roughed up the women.

Union workers and their supporters - a majority of workers - have stopped working and left the plant to

stand in solidarity with their fired sisters and brothers. The workers are desperate and they are asking for our solidarity.

They are demanding the reinstatement of all fired workers with back pay, demilitarization of the Mandarin plant, an end to the firings, repression and threats, compliance with the Labor Code, including the union's right to organize free of company reprisals; and that Mandarin negotiate in good faith a collective contract with the SETMI union.

Please contact J.C. Penny, The Gap, Dayton-Hudson and Eddie Bauer (all major Mandarin customers) to demand that they notify Mandarin to immediately end its campaign of repression and firings, and write the Salvadoran Labor Minister and the US Trade Representative asking them to pressure Mandarin to respect basic labor rights.

Addresses: Dr. Juan Sifontes, Minister of Labor, **Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social**, San Salvador, El Salvador (fax: 011-503-279-0877); James Oesterreicher, CEO **JC Penney**, 6501 Legacy Dr., Plano TX 75024-3698 (fax 214-431-1977); Richard Fersch, President, **Eddie Bauer Inc.**, 15010 NE 36th St., Redmond WA 98052 (fax 206-882-6383); Robert Ullrich, CEO **Dayton-Hudson Corp.**, 777 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis MN 55402 (fax 612-370-6565); John Shea, CEO **Spiegel Inc.** (owns Eddie Bauer), 3500 Lacey Rd., Downers Grove IL 60515 (fax 708-796-2828); Donald Fisher, CEO **The Gap**, One Harrison St., San Francisco CA 94105 (fax 415-495-2922); Ambassador Mickey Kantor, **US Trade Representative**, 600 17th St. NW, Washington DC 20506 (fax 202-395-3390).

For more information, contact: National Labor Committee, 15 Union Square West, New York NY 10003; or Felix Blanco, Central de Trabajadores Democráticos, Urbanización Esperanza, Boulevard María Cristina #165, San Salvador, El Salvador.



than one-half of one percent of the sales price of the GAP shirt they make. What happens to the other 99.4 percent?

Under the U.S. government's Caribbean Basin Initiative trade and aid benefits, maquiladora exports from El Salvador to the U.S. grew by 3800 percent between 1985 and 1994, to \$398 million. The number of maquiladora workers producing for the U.S. market increased from 3,500 to 50,000. At the same time, the real wages of the maquiladora workers were slashed 53 percent - to the current 56 cents an hour or \$4.50 a day, which provides only 18 percent of a family's basic needs.

This is what trade benefits look like from the perspective of the maquiladora worker on the ground. From the perspective

Solidarity for Democracy (SMID). Several workers were severely beaten during their detention, and one had to be hospitalized.

The May Day actions launched a joint student-worker campaign for an increase in the official minimum wage to Rp7000 (\$4.50). These were the first actions on May Day since General Suharto seized power in 1965.

The government's puppet union, the All Indonesia Workers Union (SPSI), denounced the demonstrations as "illegitimate," and condemned the demand for a wage rise to Rp7000 as "irrational." The dictatorship recently increased the national minimum wage from Rp3000 to Rp3800. The PPBI argues that Rp3800 falls well below what is needed to meet minimum physical needs.

The Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (LBH) condemned the SPSI's attack on the PPBI demand as exhibiting a desire that "workers remain at a subsistence level." The LBH argued that the many strikes - 1130 in 1994 - were a response to inad-

equally would rather fire all of the workers than accept a union. The workers refused to leave the industrial park and spent that day and night camped out in front of the factory. An emergency commission was formed to mediate, made up of National Assembly deputies, United Nations delegates, representatives of the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, several Labor Ministry officials, and union officials and Mandarin management. An agreement was signed on Feb. 9.

Mandarin committed itself in writing to end the lock-out, to strictly comply with the Salvadoran Labor Code, to recognize the union, and to continue negotiations to reach a collective contract. The company also stated that there would be no reprisals against union members.

equate wages. It said that the new official minimum wage was below workers' actual expenditures for survival.

Indonesia has the lowest wages in the region according to a recent report by the private firm, Crosby Research Ltd. Hourly wages are: Indonesia 28 US cents per hour, China 54 cents, Philippines 68 cents, Thailand \$1.17, Malaysia \$1.80, Hong Kong \$4.21, South Korea \$4.93, Singapore \$5.12, Taiwan \$5.46, Japan \$16.91.

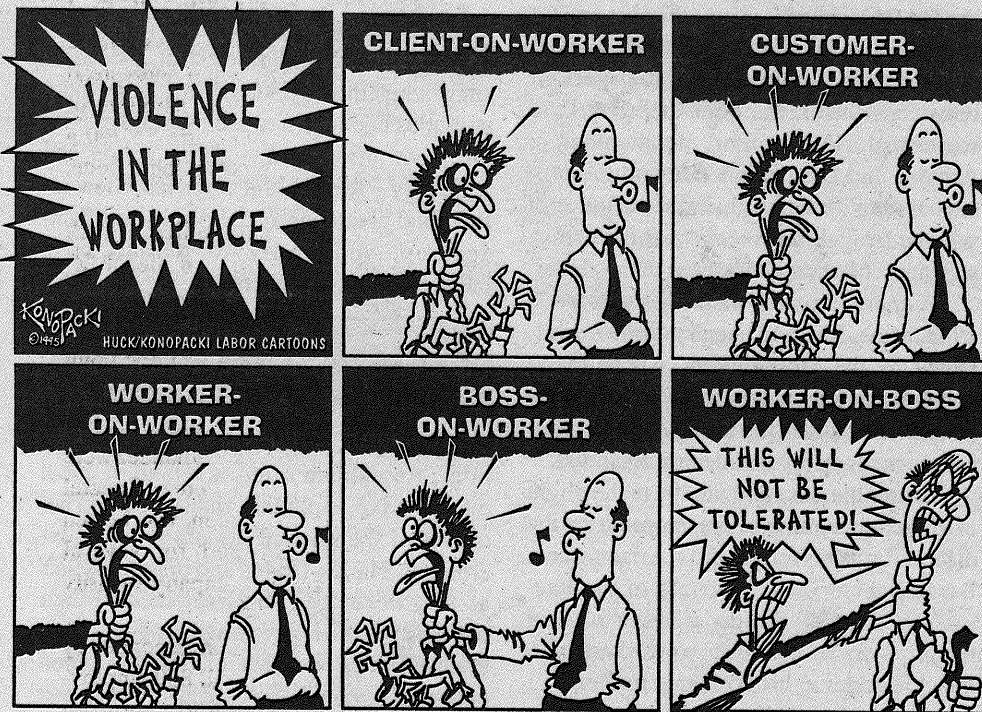
LBH says many employers have gone on record that they could pay higher wages if other costs could be reduced, in particular bribes to government officials. Such costs amount to 30% of overall production costs, compared to 10% for wages.

Indonesia's Supreme Court ordered that a prominent union leader be freed from jail May 19 pending a final ruling in the appeal of his conviction for instigating labor unrest. Mochtar Pakpahan, chairman of the independent Indonesian Prosperity Labor Union, was serving a four year prison term for organizing a strike in Sumatra last April.



# Dispatches from the Class War

## Korean Unionists Under Attack



### Mine Bosses Kill 37

37 coal miners died March 26th in an explosion at the Sorgun coal mine in central Turkey. Labelling their deaths an "assassination," Bayram Meral, chairman of the Turk-Is union confederation, said that criminal charges should be brought against "those who have the responsibility" for the coal mine. "If the State tolerates such a disaster, this will pave the way for similar murders," Meral charged.

Owners of the mine accept no responsibility for the accident, and say that the workers are all insured. Unions report that the mine lacked proper ventilation, exit passages and safety equipment. Companies routinely ignore safety requirements, since the typical fine for violations is only \$25.

As many as 80 miners were fired at the Sorgun mine in the months leading up to the explosion because they joined unions. Fahri Aral, an official in the DISK union confederation, says the lack of union representation means that the workers are unable to fight as a body for better working conditions.

"Take this last incident," he said. "The union could have agitated to improve working conditions." But, he added, few workers will risk joining unions with unemployment officially at 30 percent.

## Gingrich Floats Slave Labor Plan

Republican presidential hopeful Phil Gramm told the National Rifle Association recently that if elected he would turn prisons into mini-industrial parks where inmates would work 10 hours a day, six days a week. "I want to decriminalize prison labor in America," Gramm told the gun-toting wackos. "I want to stop building prisons like Holiday Inns [what drugs is he ON?]."

Gramm told reporters that it would be necessary to abolish laws that make it illegal to sell or transport goods produced by prisoners unless prisoners are paid prevailing wages.

Prison labor accounts for a growing portion of US industrial production despite these restrictions, as governments turn to their captive labor forces to do everything from manufacturing furniture to telemarketing. However, US trade officials continue to condemn other countries for their prison labor practices.

As the bosses learn the advantages of a captive, ill-paid labor force prevented from striking or complaining about substandard conditions by armed guards, the push to expand the prison population will be even stronger. The way things are going, pretty soon the only way to get a job might be to rob a bank. Of course, if Gramm has his way, that job won't pay a dime.

### It's Official: US Minimum Wage Too Damned Low

Dane County Judge Michael Nowakowski has ruled that the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relations failed to set a realistic minimum wage. Under a 1913 Wisconsin law, the state is required to set a minimum wage "sufficient to enable the employee receiving it to maintain himself or herself under conditions consistent with his or her welfare."

At \$4.25 an hour it is impossible to work enough hours in a day to be able to pay for rent, food, transportation, health insurance, clothing and other essentials.

Nowakowski reached the only logical conclusion: That the current rate was set with no evidence that it provided a "living wage." He gave DILHR six months to come up with and justify a new minimum wage.

Korean unionists are battling for their basic rights against a massive government attack. After a workers protest at the Hyundai #1 and #2 plants, more than 7,000 police were sent to the south-eastern city of Ulsan to crush a protest strike. During the week-end of May 20th, police arrested over 280 auto unionists who are members of the Federation of Hyundai Labor Union (FHLU) which is not recognized by the government or the company.

The protests began on May 12th when a Hyundai auto worker, Yang Pong-su, a former worker at car plant #2 who was fired two years previously, attempted to attend a union rally at the Hyundai auto plant in Ulsan. He had been fired for "alleged unlawful activity." In Korea, the government controls the main union federation, Korea Federation Of Trade Unions and this union along with Hyundai management refuses to recognize the independent FHLU, to which the majority of Hyundai auto workers belong. The government also refuses to allow any teachers to form unions.

Yang Pong-su was beaten by guards and later attempted to set himself afire (he was seriously injured, but is still alive) to protest his beating and firing. Workers began an indefinite sit-in at the company gate.

The Hyundai Labor Union (FHLU) has 50,000 members from 25 Hyundai companies. A company spokesman said the stoppage had cost the firm 18,530 cars in lost production and \$190 million.

Threatening to join the Hyundai workers are the workers at Korea Telecom. The government is seeking to privatize and deregulate the telecommunications industry. President Kim Youngsam said it would outlaw the strike as a "threat to the national security." The strike was threatened to force the government to withdraw punishment against union leaders who have an independent union leadership not supported by the government or the KFTU.

Unionists can help support the struggle of the Hyundai workers by calling Hyundai in the US at 800-633-5151 extensions 1,2,4,5,6 and demanding that Hyundai release the arrested workers and rehire the fired workers as well as recognizing the Hyundai Labor Union (FHLU). They should also send letters of support to Korean Council of Trade Unions at 2F1, Myungga Bldg, 188-20 Myungryeon-Dong 4 Ga, Jongro-Gu, Seoul Korea.

### Korean Police Seize Telephone Unionists

Police stormed Myongdong Cathedral and Chogye Temple in central Seoul June 5 and arrested 13 Korea Telecom union leaders who had been staging sit-ins there.

The union members had been holed up at the church and the temple in protest against the company's decision to discipline 64 union members for participating in a plant occupation. About 50,000 Korea Telecom union employees nationwide have been staging a work-to-rule struggle since late last month, reporting to and leaving work on time.

Among the 13 union leaders were Chang Hyon-il, Park Su-ho, Lee Jae-suk, Yang Han-ung, Kim Se-ok, Chong Yong-chil, and Hyon Kyong-yong. Please write demanding that the government's oppressive labour policy be immediately lifted, and the arrested workers be released: President Kim Young-Sam, The Blue House, 1 Sejongno Chongno-Gu Seoul KOREA (Fax 82-2-770 0253); Minister of Justice/Minister of labour, 1 Chungang-dong Kwachon-myun, Shihung-gun, Kyunggi Province KOREA (Fax 82-2-504 3337 [Justice] 503 7171 [Labour]).

### India: Du Pont Workers Strike

Villagers in the western Indian state of Goa have been fighting for 6 years against the chemical multi-national Du Pont's attempts to open a plant in the central county of Ponda. In a recent demonstration of mostly women, police killed one protestor and injured several others. Nearby, 600 workers are involved in a year-old strike for better pay. After being locked out by management they suffered beatings from police and their hut was firebombed. The lockout has been lifted but the workers have pledged to continue the strike for improved wages.

### ILO Condemns Canada Gov't

The ILO (International Labor Organization) has condemned Canada for not allowing federal public servants to bargain collectively. The federal workers have been under a legislated pay freeze since 1992, which is supposed to last until 1997. The government is in the process of eliminating 45,000 jobs, doubling the workload of remaining workers.

### Norway: SAS Fight Back

In Oslo the anarcho-syndicalist NSF (member of the AIT) is playing an important role in a conflict with the hotel chain SAS (Scandinavian Airlines System). The company is trying to sack 42 workers, many of overseas origin, and has been answered with illegal strikes and even a hunger strike (the first in the history of the Norwegian working class). The number to be sacked is now down to 24 but they continue to work while a court case drags on.

### Spain: Labor Repression

On 30th March a labor demonstration at the Naval works in Xixon against industrial reconversion ended with barricades and confrontations with the police. Such incidents are happening every Friday.

In Barcelona local plainclothes police

### Anarcho-Syndicalist East-West Meeting in Hungary

The fourth meeting of this kind will be held from 31 August to 4 September 1995 in the town Fuzesgyarmat in Eastern Hungary (about 200 km from Budapest). If you're travelling by train the closest station is Puspokladany. From there you take a bus south about 15 km to Fuzesgyarmat. Bring a sleeping bag and tent, because the meeting is at a camp ground. There are also 40 sleeping places in little huts. For "Westerners" there is a fee of 10 German marks per day (which includes one warm vegetarian meal). For information write the organizers, the "Gravediggers (of Capitalism)" (but don't write the name on the envelope!): Lali/Bogi, Pf. 107, H-5351 Tiszafured.

illegally arrested six members of the CGT and one member of the Sindicato Unitario as they were coming out of a metro exit. A few hours earlier there had been demonstrations organised by the underground workers in front of the town hall. The syndicalists have denounced the police for ill treatment and holding people illegally.

### Privatization, Repression Spark Riot in Egypt

The Egyptian government's campaign to sell off state-owned factories took a violent turn after some 7,000 evening-shift workers at the Kafr al-Dawwar Spinning and Weaving Factory staged a spontaneous sit-down strike Sept. 30. Security forces quickly sealed off the plant to prevent other shifts from joining the strikers who were protesting recent firings and pay cuts.

The next day, workers from textile plants in nearby Mahmudiyya and Kum Hamid seized company buses and drove to Kafr al-Dawwar to support the strikers. The military responded Oct. 2 by sealing off the factory from the surrounding area. When families tried to deliver food to the strikers, troops threw the food into a nearby canal. Fighting erupted and lasted more than two hours. Four people, including a 10-year-old boy, were killed and many dozens injured, some critically.

The killings spurred angry residents to stone the railway line connecting Cairo and Alexandria, cutting it for several hours. At least 75 "troublemakers" were arrested in the melee. After the sit-in ended on the afternoon of Oct. 2, 31 more workers were seized by police despite a promise of no reprisals. The factory remained shut for a week. Most workers returned on Oct. 8, after the government agreed to reinstate some 2,000 workers fired over the previous several months.

### Germany: Shorter Hours

IG Metall, the German engineering and metal workers union, has beaten off an attempt by the employers' association to delay implementation of a 35-hour work week with no reduction in pay.

After weeks of warning strikes and demonstrations which involved tens of thousands of workers, IG Metall called the first national strike in the industry in 11 years when management continued to press for postponement of a 1990 agreement to reduce the work week one hour - to 35 - effective October 1.

The union held firm for the 35-hour week, and also won a 3.8 percent wage increase.

Information from *Counter Information, Acrotador, Worker News Service, and Freedom Press International*

# The Copper Miners' Struggles to Live

**Race and Labor in Western Copper: The Fight for Equality, 1896 - 1918**, by Philip Mellinger. University of Arizona Press (Tucson, AZ 85719-4140), 258 pages, 1995, \$40 hardcover.

**Copper Crucible: How the Arizona Miners' Strike of 1983 Recast Labor-Management Relations in North America**, by Jonathan D. Rosenblum. ILR Press/Cornell Univ. Press (Ithaca, NY 14853-3901), 246 pages, 1995, \$16.95 paper.

In 1896, southwestern copper miners worked 10-hour days for low wages, under the thumb of mining corporations that sought to control every aspect of their lives. By 1918, when Mellinger's book concludes, copper miners had largely won the 8-hour day and were well on the way to overcoming the "racial" antagonisms (between "Mexican," a category that often included Slavs, Greeks and Italians, and "Anglos," including the Irish) that had undercut earlier unionization efforts. Today, 75 years later, copper miners are still working eight hour days for paychecks that get smaller every year, and living in towns (and states) under the firm grip of the copper bosses.

These two books address the origins of unionism in western copper (essentially Arizona and Utah) and the catastrophic Phelps-Dodge strike of 1983-1986. At the turn of the century, copper miners were organizing into the Western Federation of Miners (later renamed the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers), with occasional interventions by AFL craft unions, and, when workers tired of WFM conservatism, local workers' societies and, in 1917 (before IWW-led strikes were broken by mass deportations), the IWW.

The Western Federation of Miners entered this period representing the elite of the western miners. As mine operators transformed the industry from small-scale craft production to the giant industrial operations that now chew up the earth and spit its remains into giant smelters, the owners went searching for a cheaper workforce - one untainted by unionization.

But the thousands of immigrant and Mexican-American workers hired to do the hardest, most dangerous and poorly paid jobs proved not quite as docile as the owners had hoped. Managers pitted "Mexican" and "Anglo" miners against each other wherever they could, but where unionized min-

## Food Not Bombs Attacked...

the city has abolished the process for which the group could apply for a permit. Further, the 6:00 PM serving in U.N Plaza has been cut short lately by city clean-up workers with high power hoses whose supervisor has decided that they simply must spray down the plaza during our regularly scheduled food service.

Despite this harrasment, Food Not Bombs continues to serve free vegetarian food to any who desire it seven days a week and twice a day. FnB groups continue to pop up in new cities around the country. The first International Food Not Bombs Gathering, will be held in UN Plaza June 15-26. This event is intended as an alternative to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations which takes place in S.F. at the same time and place.

FnB is hosting protests of the International Monetary Fund the World Bank, and the newly created World Trade Organization for their policies which amount to plunder of the resources of poor nations for the benefit of elite multi-nationals.

Donations are sorely needed to replace the equipment stolen by the SFPD. Contact: Food Not Bombs San Francisco, 3145 Geary Blvd. #12, S.F. CA 94118

— Corin Royal Drummond

ers reached out to the immigrants they found fellow workers determined to battle for equal pay and dignity. A debate raged for years within the Western Federation over whether to organize these "unskilled" workers, before union leaders finally accepted the fact that their survival depended upon organizing the immigrant workers they had hitherto ignored.

Because the IWW stayed out of the southwestern mine fields until 1917 in deference to the WFM (which was briefly affiliated to the IWW), WFM locals were able to debate organizing without the pressure of a Wobbly alternative. When the IWW entered the field, IWW organizer Grover Perry focussed on winning the six-hour workday and a \$6 daily wage. The WFM's Bisbee affiliate quickly changed allegiance to the IWW, and Mexican workers flocked into the IWW despite the lack of special efforts to line them up (the Arizona Wobblies originally lacked even Spanish-language literature) because the IWW demands would have eliminated the lower wage scale under which they worked. The Arizona drive was still getting off the ground when the Jerome and Bisbee deportations (July 10 and 12, 1917) of some 1,300 Wobblies and other miners destroyed the IWW presence. Mine, Mill quickly signed exclusive contracts with the copper bosses to keep the IWW out. But immigrant workers continued to struggle for better conditions, and by 1918 it was clear that segregation - at least on the job -

## A Call to the Clothing Workers of America

Fellow Workers,

We have struggled for years to improve our conditions through organization. We have spent our time and money building the United Garment Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, International Ladies Garment Workers, etc., etc., and what good have they been to us? Are we any better off than we were ten years ago? Have we any more of the good things of life? Are we any nearer our dream of industrial freedom?

No, we are, if anything, worse off, for we now have two bosses, where formerly we had only one. We are held down by a double tyranny - the boss and the union machine. Even the right to strike has been taken away from us. If we want to strike to improve conditions in our shops, the union agents threaten to take our cards away and send union scabs to take our jobs.

How much longer are we going to submit to this double slavery, fellow workers? When are we going to wake up and throw off this intolerable yoke? **We can free ourselves if we will!** But we must first understand the reasons for our difficulties...

1. In the first place, we have too many unions. Our shops, instead of being united solidly against the boss, are split up into a dozen different locals - cutters, pressers,

was on its last legs.

*Race and Labor in Western Copper* pays relatively little attention to the IWW, however. Rather, the book is primarily a social history of mining communities in Arizona and Bingham, Utah, and the process through which miners set aside (not without struggle) ethnic differences to pursue their common interests as wage slaves.

*Copper Crucible* picks up the story in 1983. Mine, Mill had been long since swallowed by the Steelworkers, whose class-collaborationist leaders left Phelps-Dodge workers twisting in the wind when the company unexpectedly decided on total war.

Rosenblum is sympathetic to the plight of the copper miners, but more so to the discomfort of his former boss, Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt (now Secretary of the Interior), as "Scabbit" decided whether to honor the promises he had made to workers or to knuckle under to his corporate masters.

Rosenblum sees the Phelps-Dodge strike as a turning point in US labor relations, demonstrating that under present conditions workers have little choice but to knuckle under to the bosses. Government institutions - from universities and the NLRB to the National Guard and secret police - were placed at Phelps-Dodge's service. Gov. "Scabbit" sent in the National Guard and placed mining communities under martial law when vigorous picketing threatened Phelps-Dodge's ability to operate with scabs. State police infiltrated the union and worked

pantsmakers, vestmakers, Lithuanian, Polish, Italian, etc. This prevents solidarity of the workers and makes it easy for the boss and the union officials to confuse and divide us.

We must reorganize on the IWW plan - **all the workers in one shop in the same local.** In this way, workers in any establishment can act together against their common enemy, the boss. The cutters and pressers in a shop have more in common with the vest and pants makers in that shop and can take action with them against the boss better than with the cutters and pressers working for other employers in other shops. Our present method of organization, instead of uniting us, divides and weakens us. "One shop, one union" should be our motto.

2. Secondly, we must take the power away from our officials and give it to the rank and file. Business agents and managers getting \$85 and \$100 a week **cannot represent the workers.** They are capitalists themselves, living off the workers, the same as the boss. They are naturally anxious to preserve a system which brings them such a comfortable income.

## 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. 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

<input type="checkbox"/>	I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
Name:	Occupation:
Address:	City:
State/Prov.:	Zip: Phone:
Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker	

hand-in-glove with company police. And local NLRB officials met with Phelps-Dodge to help bust the union.

Under such conditions, workers will indeed be defeated so long as we continue to play by the bosses' rules. But instead of suggesting that workers learn from these struggles and return to the tactics that built the labor movement - direct action and solidarity - Rosenblum urges labor law reform and greater union flexibility and management sensitivity in pursuit of a labor-business "partnership."

## Book Review

However, despite his political limitations, Rosenblum offers a wealth of detail on the strike, including richly detailed accounts of the internal discussions by government, Phelps-Dodge and union officials as they developed and implemented their policies. He makes a compelling case that Phelps-Dodge was out to bust the union pure-and-simple, and could easily have met the union's terms.

I cannot agree that this strike recast US labor relations, but it was certainly an important salvo in the bosses' renewed offensive against US workers - an offensive that left unions reeling and destroyed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our fellow workers. If the bosses have their way, we will soon find ourselves returning to the conditions of the 1890s. Surely there is no need to wait until then to organize our own counter-offensive.

— Jon Bekken

We must take control into our own hands, fellow workers... Our officials must be our servants, not our rulers, as they are today. Until we free ourselves from their tyranny, we cannot hope to win in our struggle with the boss.

There is only one sensible thing for us to do, fellow workers, and that is to abandon these organizations which only help to keep us in perpetual enslavement, and organize under the plan of the IWW. This will give us the strongest form of organization - by shops, not by trades, controlled by the workers, without interference by corrupt or ignorant officials.

Under this plan, each shop will be free to act as and when the workers in that shop think best, while all the shops in every branch of the industry will be united in One Big Union, solidly constructed on scientific lines and controlled by the rank and file.

Join the IWW, fellow workers, and help to build up a real industrial union in our industry. This is the first step to take if we want to better our working conditions and ultimately free ourselves from the curse of wage slavery.

Do not wait any longer. Now is the time to act. Join the IWW - the only Workers' Union in the United States.

**Textile Workers' Industrial Union**  
of the IWW Headquarters: Paterson NJ  
*Solidarity*, July 3, 1920

## The Workers Did Not Forget

Recently the Nichols & Shepard Threshing Machine Company of Battle Creek sent their switch engine over to the Grand Trunk railroad shop for repairs. The railroad workers remembered the machinist strike of some three years ago, and the molders strike which has been on since last September in that factory. They refused to overhaul the engine, but did condescend to do a little free painting. Mysteriously there appeared in yellow letters 16 inches high on both sides of the boiler the word "SCAB."

*Solidarity*, May 8, 1920

## Labor History & Popular Culture

The IWW Literature Department is experimenting with a limited stock of academic labor studies, (auto)biographies of people involved in the history of labor struggles, and labor history. Many of the titles are remaindered, originally very expensive, and many are about to go out of print. Some already have.

The focus of this experiment will be to make available more materials regarding the IWW, directly or peripherally; although other voices will be heard. Theoretical dogma will be avoided. These titles will be available in small quantities, on a one-time basis while supplies last.

**American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor, 1900-1941** by Daniel Nelson, Princeton Univ. Press, 1988, clothbound, 340 pages, published at \$32.50. now \$12.

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

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

**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 without overtime pay, corporate-controlled worker "self-management" and other illusions of labor management "cooperation."

### IWW Buttons

**Fire Your Boss!** \$1 each  
**Black Cat/Direct Action**

**IWW Globe** surrounded 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

# 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.**

## 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.

**As Seen on No TV.** Chris Chandler

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

**A World to Win.** Tom Juravich

**Greenfire.** Dakota Sid and Travers Clifford

**Food Phone Gas Lodging.** Charlie King

**Justice.** Toshi Reagon

**Out of Darkness.** Tom Juravich

**Look to the Left.** Anne Feeney  
All Cassettes: \$9 each

by Peter Rachleff

Rachleff participated in P-9's struggle against the Hormel Company and 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

**IWW Little Red Songbook** (36th Edition)

103 labor songs from around the world, with music & chords. Includes the 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

**Rise and Repression of Radical Labor.** by Daniel Fusfeld.

A concise 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. Lynd offers no easy answers, rather a faith in working people and an argument that building solidarity today means nurturing resistance in the face of corporate power. \$7

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

Rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention in this timely book. 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 and others are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

**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

**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 "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

**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 his 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

**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 unions in South Africa, following 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 here 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 different designs to a sheet. 50 cents a sheet, minimum order 4 sheets. Wet and stick.

## 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

**Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History** by Noel Ignatiev. \$3, Denver Group

**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

### ORDER FORM:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Item	Price

return to: IWW Literature Dept.  
103 West Michigan Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197 USA

total of above \_\_\_\_\_

add 10% shipping \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Funds Only

TOTAL ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Never Too Soon to Teach Unionism

The accompanying photograph and following article are excerpted from *The American Postal Worker*, the newsletter of the American Postal Workers Union. I thought that everyone would appreciate the exceptionally bright child in the middle of the picture holding a placard with the IWW Sabo cat. This proves that its never too soon to teach our children unionism.

Trish D'Amore, X341628

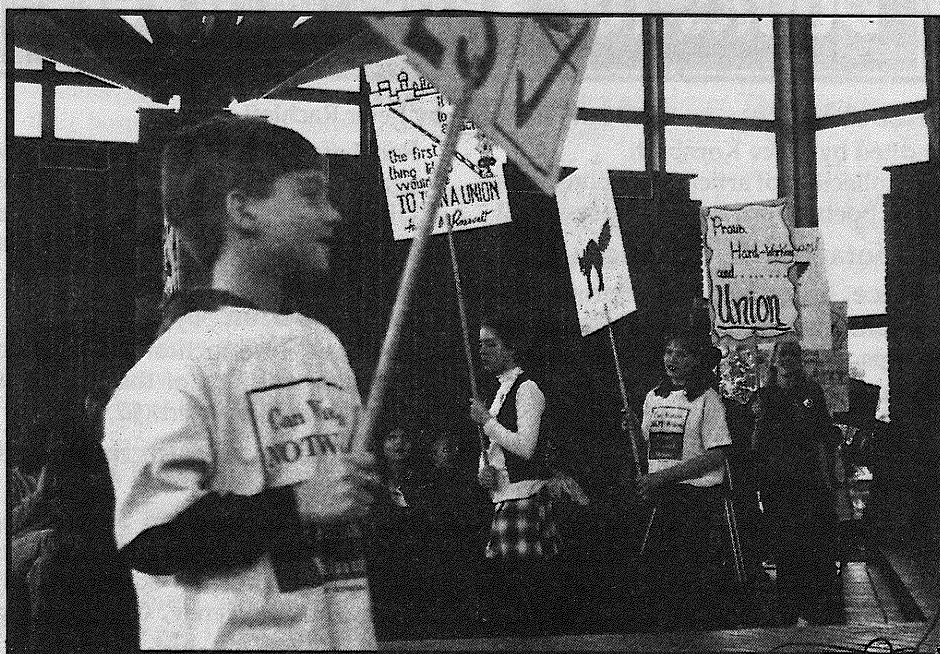
More than 500 unionists from the St. Paul/Minneapolis area and all around the country took part in "Meeting the Challenge III," a labor education conference held in St. Paul on February 3 and 4. The conference combined labor history, testimonials by workers who have recently been on strike, workshops, and a performance by the Solidarity Kids, a group of more than twenty sons and daughters of trade unionists.

The group proved that kids understand and can take part in the labor struggle. The Solidarity Kids, along with a number of adults, performed a variety of acts that delighted the audience — including song and dance numbers and a poetry recital. On one skit, the Kids gathered around Mother Jones while she read stories about child workers during the early part of the twentieth century. Those children, some as young as three or four years old, spent long hours working in mines, shucking oysters, shelling nuts, sewing buttons, and working with dangerous machinery in textile plants.

In another educational skit, two teams of adults including historical figures A. Philip Randolph, Joe Hill, Mother Jones and the Union Bug competed in a fame show based on labor history. The goal was to involve children in a union activity which would provide learning and lots of fun.

## Labor History Education

The *Boston Globe* reports ("Long hours, low pay" by Steve Early and Suzanne Gordon, Jan. 29 1995, pp. A36-37) on an inno-



native labor education project at the Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell, Mass. The program, housed in the old Boott Cotton Mill, teaches junior high students about the highly regimented world of Lowell textile workers through a day-long intensive program. Students are told about 12 to 15 hour work days, unsafe conditions, speed-up and piece work, boarding houses for women workers, etc. But they also spend a few hours working on simulated production lines, surrounded by foremen and signs warning them against leaving their work stations or speaking without permission. Then they leave for a meeting of the "Teenage Workers of the World," where an "organizer" leads them through a mock union meeting.

The center also includes video-taped oral histories with retired mill workers and managers, a large exhibit on the 1912 Bread and Roses strike (organized by the IWW), and a museum. (Call 508/970-5000 for information on school programs.) Curriculum guides include collective bargaining exercises and an outline for class discussions

about the nature and future of work, seeking to connect the past to the present. Several area unions sponsor speakers to visit classrooms before or after the visit to the museum. "I got a much better idea of what happened to the workers than if I'd just been told about it," one student said. "I could tell what it felt like when they cut your pay or sped up the machines. If I hadn't experienced that, I would think that today workers were lazy when they complained about having their money taken away."

## In The Beginning

In the beginning was the Plan.  
 And then came the Assumptions,  
 and the Assumptions were without form.  
 And the Plan was completely without substance.  
 And the Darkness was upon the face of the Workers.  
 And they spoke among themselves, saying:  
 "It is a crock of shit, and it stinketh."  
 And the Workers went unto their Supervisors, and sayeth: "It is a pail of dung, and none can abide the odor thereof."  
 And the Supervisors went unto their Managers and sayeth unto them: "It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong such that none can abide by it."  
 And the Managers went unto the Directors and sayeth: "It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none can abide its strength."  
 And the Directors spoke among themselves, saying to one another: "It contains that which aids plant growth and is very strong."  
 And the Directors went unto the Vice Presidents, and sayeth unto them: "It promises growth, and is very powerful."  
 And the Vice Presidents went unto the President, and sayeth unto him: "This new plan will actively promote the growth and efficiency of this company, and certain areas in particular."

## Farewell, Fellow Worker

Bill Johnston (1924 - 1995)

Bill Johnston was a Scotsman and a rebel all his days. As a youth he was a 'runner' for the Independent Labour Party in Bridgeton, transporting messages by bicycle, often dodging the local police, and warning meetings of raids. As an engineer he became a trade union official and formed the Association of Scottish Nationalist Trade Unionists.

Bill Johnston also was a Wobbly. He first joined the IWW around 1945 and spent some time in Chicago helping out at the headquarters. One of his acts while in Chicago was to help draft a response to a Russian request for a set of back issues of the *Industrial Worker*. A Russian Communist functionary requested five years of back issues in 1946; Bill and some other Wobblies drafted a response to the request ("Chicago Replies to Moscow") reciting a long litany of killings of syndicalists, anarchists and IWW members going back to the early 1920s. They offered to trade the newspaper for the lives of our murdered fellow workers, or, if Stalin's powers did not extend to resurrecting those he and his henchman had murdered, they suggested we might send the paper if the Stalinists would allow Russian workers the right to read what they chose, organize genuine unions, and resume the class struggle against the "Communist" bosses.

Another Chicago incident involving Bill was recounted by a friend: "I remember one Wobbly's anecdote of how the American workers used to march from the town centre to run riot in the middle-class suburbs to express their grievances. Bill told them how we did things back here [in the UK] and persuaded them to march from the outskirts to the town centre and hand in a petition to the mayor of Chicago. The mayor read their petition demanding more bread, and told them 'This ain't no goddam bakehouse!' The workers then marched to the suburbs and smashed up cars and windows in their traditional way, telling Bill in no uncertain terms what to do with his British labour traditions."

Bill had to leave the States because of threats from the gangster element there. But  
*continued on page 2*

## NESTLE BABY KILLING CONTINUES

Nestle corporation is continuing its baby killing advertising tactics including distribution of free samples of its baby formula. A number of years ago, sufficient pressure was put on the Swiss company that it promised to stop its unethical advertising practices in the Third World. Apparently the bad publicity wore off and the company could no longer resist the lure of extra profits.

The free sample ploy seems harmless, except that when new mothers start using Nestle's gifts and quit nursing, their own breast milk dries up. When the free sample is used up, the mothers must buy more to

feed their infants. To make the expensive formula go further, mothers usually dilute it with local water. Depending on the purity of the local water, the child either dies of some form of starvation or of a gastrointestinal disease. The World Health Organization estimates some 1.5 million babies die each year of "Baby Bottle Disease."

In the fall of 1993, the NW Boycott Committee was formed to try to put new pressure on Nestle. Its address is PO Box 40821 Portland OR 97240; (503) 244-3726.

Targeted products in the boycott (or girlcott) include:

- NESTLE/
- CARNATION
- Alcon
- Buitoni
- Carnation
- Chase & Sanborn
- Cross & Blackwell
- Hills Brother's
- Libby's L'Oreal
- MJB
- Nestle
- Perrier
- Rowntree
- Stouffer's
- WINE
- Beringer
- Chateau Souverain
- Los Hermanos
- Nappas Ridge
- GROCERY
- Coffee Mate
- Contadina Products
- Maggi seasonings
- Nescafe
- Nestea
- Sofrito
- Taster's Choice
- WATER
- Calistoga Water
- Perrier
- Poland Spring Water
- PET FOOD
- Dr. Ballard's dog food
- Carnation Friskies Buffet
- Carnation Mighty Dog
- AMERICAN HOME PRODUCTS
- A.H. Robbins
- American Home Foods

- Sherwood Medical
- Whitewall
- Laboratories
- Wyeth-Ayerst
- DRUGS, ETC
- Advil
- Anacin
- Arthritic Pain Formula
- Anbesol
- Bisodol/Riopan
- Antacids
- Compound W
- Dristan Products
- Medicated
- Cleaning Pads
- Preparation H
- Primatene
- Sleepeze
- PERSONAL CARE
- Clearblue
- Denorex
- Neet
- Semicid
- Today Family
- Planning Products
- FOODS
- Chef Boy-ar-dee
- Dennison's Chili
- Jiffy Pop
- Gulden's Mustard
- Polaner Jam & Jellies
- Quik
- INFANT FORMULA
- SMA
- S-26
- Nursoy
- HOUSEHOLD
- Aero Wax
- Black Flag
- Easy Off Cleaners
- Griffin Shoe Care
- Prods.
- Kwik Light
- Plastic Wood
- Old English Furniture Care
- Sani-Flush
- Three-in-One Oils
- Wizard Air Freshener

## For Every Dollar Someone Gets That They Didn't Earn, Someone Else Earned It And Didn't Get It.

And the President looked upon the Plan.  
 And saw that it was good,  
 and the Plan became Policy.  
 And that is how shit happens.

