

# Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## South African Unions Join Effort to Save Jamal

The campaign to save Mumia Abu-Jamal, the former Black Panther and journalist now on death row in Pennsylvania, has touched a deep chord in South Africa, where black unionists recall the racist prisons and the gallows which sent hundreds of political prisoners to their deaths. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is among the South African organizations which have made urgent appeals to save Jamal's life.

ANC secretary general M. C. Ramaphosa sent a protest letter to Pennsylvania governor Ridge the day Ridge signed Jamal's death warrant ordering his execution for August 17.

### Wobblies Arrested in San Francisco Protest, Page 3

Several key South African unions have joined the fight to save the life of America's only death row political prisoner. These include the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union, the Food Farming Beverage and Allied Workers Union, Turning Wheel Workers' Union, the Steel Mining and Commercial Workers Union, the Transport and General Workers Union, and the National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA).

The struggle to save Mumia has particular resonance in South Africa, where the fight against the death penalty has been a key part of the struggle against apartheid rule. On June 6 the Constitutional Court abolished the death penalty, ruling that capital punishment was unconstitutional. For years Pretoria held the title of "hanging capital of the world." According to the Johannesburg *New Nation*, during the decade between 1979 and 1989, at least 1,212 people were hanged in South Africa. In the early '80s, railway strikers of the SARHWU union were executed. The executions peaked during the township revolts of 1983-87. But when the white-supremacist regime decided to open negotiations with the African National Congress, "unbanning" it along with other anti-apartheid groups in February 1990, a moratorium on the death penalty was simultaneously declared.

Just as black Americans saw in apartheid rule a mirror of their own oppression, South African leftists and workers organizations are taking up the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The SACCAWU supermarket workers, which waged a hard-fought struggle

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### In This Issue...

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## 2 Years Out, And Still Fighting

Nearly 4,000 workers marched through the streets of Decatur, June 25th to mark the second anniversary of the Staley lockout and to show their solidarity with Staley, Firestone and Caterpillar workers battling their employers in the central Illinois industrial town.

In June 1993, nearly 800 workers at an obscure corn-sweetener processing plant, A. E. Staley were battling the plant's owners, British conglomerate Tate & Lyle, for a contract. Members of Allied Industrial Workers Local 837 had worked without a contract since Oct. 1992. When local unions formed a human chain three miles long linking Staley and United Auto Workers at earth-moving giant Caterpillar, also working without a contract, Staley management responded with the lockout. The third battle in the War Zone, pits the United Rubber Workers against Japanese tire conglomerate Bridgestone/Firestone. Faced with permanent replacement, workers there recently abandoned their strike (though only a handful are back on the job), but still await a contract settlement.

Temperatures reached 94 degrees Fahrenheit as thousands of unionists from as far away as California and Massachusetts - along with international supporters from places as distant as Paris - marched on a five-mile procession through Decatur. Union banners and placards listed participating unions and other organizations and called for labor solidarity against the bosses' offensive. The Southeast Michigan IWW Branch's banner (emblazoned "We Never Forget"), accompanied by Wobblies from Illinois, Michigan and Missouri, brought up the rear of the march.

As the weary marchers drifted into the Decatur Civic Center, they were confronted by a giant American flag behind a platform filled with labor bureaucrats. A local Catholic priest, Fr. Martin Mangan, opened the rally with a prayer to a "God of Justice" who seemingly was neglecting Decatur. He offered prayers on behalf of both workers and management - for the workers, that they might receive justice, and for the bosses that they might offer it.

The prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance (one participant shouted out "if you're rich" after the concluding words,



These unionists, photographed at the Decatur UAW Hall waiting to join the march to the Civic Center, show what they think of scabs.

"with liberty and justice for all") and the singing of "America the Beautiful." Decatur's new mayor, elected with labor support, welcomed protesters to the city but offered no evidence of material support for the workers' struggles. A series of speeches by labor bureaucrats, with a brief interlude for talks by the children of striking workers, followed, building up to the keynote speech by Jesse Jackson. More than \$50,000 was donated for strike relief.

On one side of the podium sat AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Thomas Donahue. He represents the old guard, and has gained the endorsement of President Lane Kirkland, who is resigning under pressure. On the opposite side of the podium, was Richard Trumka, head of the United Mine Workers, who is running for the number two position that Donahue now holds.

"From this day forward, there will be no more lost strikes," Donahue declared. Despite these brave words, Donahue offered no promises of material support, nor did he call for the sort of direct action necessary to stop the scabs and shut down the works until they operate under union conditions. Trumka was better received by the crowd, but offered little more.

One of the more militant speeches of the afternoon was delivered by former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. "Workers, you have been too passive," Jackson declared. "You have responded too slowly, too weakly" to the bosses' attacks. He called on workers to engage in a series of protest marches, however, rather than to seize the factories or mount effective picket lines. Jackson called for labor to join with other disenfranchised groups to organize a new political force, since Democrats and Republicans are "joined at the hip."

As people drifted away for the long journey home we distributed hundreds of copies of the *Industrial Worker* and talked with fellow workers considering joining up.

### Eight Convicted of Trespass

The first trial of the Decatur 50 for blocking the entrances to the AE Staley Plant last June concluded June 26th with a verdict of guilty on the trespass charge and not guilty on the other three, more serious, charges. Previous trials have resulted in full convictions. The first group of eight defendants did not include local labor leaders or clergy. Sentencing is set for early August.

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## Peasants Close Stock Exchange

More than 2,000 peasants shut down Mexico's stock market June 5th with a protest against electoral fraud and economic recession. The two-hour protest brought growing social unrest to the doorstep of Mexico's financial world for the first time since the economy plunged into recession following the government's devaluation of the national currency last December.

About 2,500 impoverished peasants surrounded the futuristic dome-shaped stock market building, known as the Bolsa, on Mexico City's main thoroughfare and refused to allow dealers, analysts and employees in or out.

All entrances were barred for nearly two hours. The peasants sat outside chanting slogans against President Ernesto Zedillo, Bolsa "yuppies" and Mexico's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

"These are the ones who are bleeding this country dry while the poor are hungry and sick," said one peasant leader, pointing

to a group of 40 Bolsa traders and employees who stood waiting on a street corner dressed in sharp suits and speaking on cellular phones.

Many of the demonstrators ended a 40-day march to Mexico City from the southeastern state of Tabasco on Saturday to protest fraud in state elections last Novem-

ber. They had originally planned to march to the presidential residence of Los Piños but decided to hold an impromptu protest outside the Bolsa when they passed it on the way.

"The power in this country is not in Los Piños, it is here," one marcher said. However, after two hours the protestors left.

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## LETTERS: The Enola Gay Exhibit

Fellow Workers,

I view the Enola Gay Exhibit flap as one who was a member of a Marine Division scheduled to take an initial role in "Olympic," which was the code name for the proposed invasion of Kyushu in November 1945.

Because of our state of readiness when the war with Japan ended, our division was made part of the Occupation Forces and we landed at Kyushu Sept. 24, 1945. By the end of October I was assigned to duty in Nagasaki until early February 1946, when I was returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard for discharge or enrollment in the Marine Corps Reserve (I selected discharge).

It is evident that had the war with Japan not been terminated, I would have been one of those in the first invasion with duty as a 2nd Lt. in a mortar platoon.

Aside from first hand observation of the Nagasaki devastation and observing and talking to victims of the bombing, I did not become deeply involved in this issue until 1970, when I first learned about fellow marines who were coming down with various forms of cancer and attributed it to radiation (about the danger of which we were never informed).

Since that time I have been a participant in varying degrees in the struggle to obtain justice for atomic veterans, test site workers and downwinders exposed to radiation without warning in our tests back to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is estimated that at least 250,000 service personnel have been so exposed over the years through 1962 when

above ground testing was terminated.

It must be remembered that none of us participating in the occupation received one word of warning about the dangers of radiation and we all worked in the cleanup, walked and went sightseeing as we pleased, and in the 1946 Crossroads Tests personnel went swimming in highly contaminated waters.

During the intervening years I have talked to countless veterans suffering all manner of illness and cancers, as well as a great many widows of veterans exposed to radiation.

Therefore, without reference to Japan's past in the Smithsonian material, the exhibit should at least describe the thousands of veterans and civilians who have been victims of our nuclear program since its inception. Also, as an accurate part of history, it should be indicated that the following high-ranking military were opposed to the use of the atomic bombs: General Dwight Eisenhower, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Gen. Curtis LeMay, Admiral William D. Leahy, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, plus many of the nuclear scientists who worked for the Manhattan Project but were never supplied with the military intelligence required at that time as to the condition of Japan.

Since deception and deliberate lies have been part of the nuclear program since its inception, it is very easy to appreciate that

all those on the Enola Gay and others believed exactly what they were told about the reasons and need for the bombing, just as all of us in the scheduled November 1945 invasion did. The history we now know *must* be part of the Exhibit if it is to have any historical meaning and, above all, the truth.

In the past year or two, so much has been made public by the Dept. of Energy and the recently appointed president's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments it is significant that much of the original expose work was performed by laymen and writers such as Paul Jacobs in the *Reporter*, Carole Gallagher in *American GroundZero* (MIT 1993), Lawrence Wittner in *One World or None*, Eileen Welsome in the *Albuquerque Tribune* (1993), and Stuart Udall in *The Myths of August*.

Much of these revelations should and must be part of any exhibit unless the deceit, lies and coverup are to be continued.

Truth, honesty and loyalty are basic ingredients of any meaningful society and country.

The Smithsonian cancellation has had a chilling affect elsewhere for large exhibitions by both Carole Gallagher and Robert DelTredici scheduled for around the time of the 50th Anniversary of Hiroshima have been canceled. It will be interesting to observe other ramifications.

Walter G. Hooke

## Education the Key

Fellow Workers,

The editorial in the June issue of the *Industrial Worker* was poignant and personified the IWW's belief perfectly. From the beginning, when the IWW ran to the aid of workers everywhere, violence was met on them — never from them. But how many people know this? Education is the key.

The great events that happened when the IWW went to the aid of the despondent worker is more dramatic, more thrilling, than most of the stuff seen on TV because it's true...

On Saturday on Weekend Edition, Frank Beecham, grandson of the infamous Beechams, spoke. He was quite a different man from his grandfather. He knew very little about the Shakala Mills and what happened there in South Carolina.

On Memorial Day a special memorial commemoration was to be erected. Though little information was aired, I listened hoping to hear anything about the happenings.

He said that he received an invitation from his grandfather's then partner, and agreed to meet with him even though he knew he wouldn't agree with what will be said.

Frank Beecham believes that the tragedy in South Carolina is a part of the state's history and needs to be told.

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# 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 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 IU620 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@ucscb.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 96828; 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 #307,

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. 215/232-8754  
phillyiww@iww.org

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 Langlell 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

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# 283 Arrested in S.F. Mumia Protest

San Francisco police arrested 283 demonstrators, including at least eight IWW members, as they broke up a June 26th march protesting the planned execution of US political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The march — part of a series of events held to mark the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco 50 years ago which have been met with police brutality and a string of arrests — began at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza with some 700 participants. Protestors then marched to the Mission District. During the torchlight parade some one apparently rolled some garbage dumpsters into the middle of the street near a police station and set them ablaze. Police had largely ignored the march until that point, but seized on the incident as an excuse for a crackdown.

Police blocked off streets, ultimately herding the remaining protesters into a narrow street with no escape routes. Some 283 people were then arrested on felony charges including riot, arson and jaywalking. The arrestees packed the County jail; it took authorities some 36 hours to complete booking and processing. Most arrestees were released by the afternoon of June 28th, although some were being held on outstanding traffic warrants and three international participants were reportedly turned over to the INS for deportation. The district attorney announced that he would not prosecute the 283, but might reintroduce charges against selected protesters in the future.

Upon booking, each demonstrator was awarded an orange wristband with their name and prisoner number. The bands are black on the inside, and so the fellow workers turned them inside out upon release and are now wearing them to show solidarity with FW Mumia Abu-Jamal and as a medal of honor in the class war.

Bay Area Wobs also celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the IWW June 24th in Berkeley's People's Park. FW Mark Janowitz spoke, bands played, several copies of the new IWW songbook and other IWW literature were sold, and a couple of new members lined up on the spot.

## Torchlight March

*The following account is by a participant in the march:*

For the culmination of the Food Not Bombs International Gathering and the politician's mumble-fest known as the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, a Torchlight March to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal was held Monday evening, June 26th. Some 600-800 people marched including those from the FNB Gathering, African-American youth, long-

## Around Our Union

time activists, and some who have not been seen at activist activities since the Rodney King protests.

We began at United Nations Plaza with lit torches, a few black flags, banners and "Free Mumia" signs, and marched up Market St. (San Francisco's main street). Surprisingly, but ominously, there was almost no police around. We marched to a brand new neighborhood police station, chanting "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal" and "No Justice, No Peace, Fuck the Police."

The police presence intensified as we marched a few more blocks. The cops forced most of the demonstrators and some hapless shoppers down a side street and into an alley. They put cops in riot gear, paddy wagons, municipal busses and firetrucks on both ends of the alley.

As people realized they were surrounded, some people who lived along the alley let people go through their houses, backyards and across fences away from the police trap.

It took three to four hours for the cops to arrest all those surrounded on Lander St. The cops arrested 287 people and charged all of them with felony arson, urging a riot, and jaywalking. They were held in San Francisco's new jail. Upon entering a new tank, a standing ovation was given by prisoners who were there for other reasons. A zine called "Solidarity Press" was created in jail using smuggled paper and pens, newspaper clippings and toothpaste to stick pictures down. Discussions, including some on jail and prison organizing, occurred...

by Dean Tuckerman

## UN Anniversary Met With Mass Arrests

San Francisco police responded to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in that city with a wave of arrests and harassment apparently aimed at eliminating all evidence of poverty, homelessness and political dissent from the eyes of visiting dignitaries and tourists.

Nearly 400 people have been arrested at presstime in a series of demonstrations called by Food Not Bombs and other orga-

nizations. Nearly 30 marchers were arrested June 25th as they marched to the hotel where President Clinton is staying. Another 283 were arrested the next day protesting the planned execution of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. FNB founder Keith McHenry was arrested for setting up a literature table at UN Plaza, and scores of FNB supproters have been arrested in vigils, marches and while serving food to the homeless and poor people the city is trying to drive out of town.

## Protest to Target Governors

The 1995 Governors' Conference is being held in Burlington, VT from July 29th to August 1st. Governors from across the US will attend along with guest appearances by President Clinton and Presidential hopeful Bob Dole. A "People's Conference For Economic Democracy" is taking place on the 29th in reaction to the governors' invasion.

The Native Forest Network (NFN) and the Burlington IWW Group are working to have someone speak on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Pennsylvania's governor Ridge, who signed Mumia's death warrant, will be attending the Governors' Conference.

A Mumia Solidarity Contingent will join the Saturday morning march. Just another reason why you may want to come and visit Burlington, VT, on beautiful Lake Champlain.

For info contact the IWW at POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402, tel: (802)863-0571 An Injury to One Is An Injury To All!

# Madison May Day A Success

The Madison May Day Committee, an ad hoc grouping of Wobblies and other labor and community activists, sponsors an annual series of events around International Workers Day. For 1995, the committee undertook an ambitious agenda, with events scheduled throughout the week of May First.

On May Day, things got underway with a lunchtime rally at the state capitol to protest the Governor's budget proposal to cut services and programs, contract out and privatize government functions, and to lay-off unionized state employees. Labor and community activists and leaders spoke, punctuated by spirited song from Wobbly troubador Anne Feeney from Pittsburg. The afternoon played host to a number of workshops and presentations related to the Budget and the fightback. The day culminated in a mass rally at the Capitol and march to the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce Building.

At the conclusion of the action, an effigy of the Governor was set alight, which, draped as it was around the WMC sign, somehow managed to set the sign afire (the letters were made of plastic!), engulfing it in a ball of flame and completely destroying it. Of course, the Capitalist press and right wing politicians chose to focus on this "terroristic act of vandalism" (hey, it was an accident) rather than report on the political content of the day's activities, in which over 1,000 people participated.

The following evening featured a performance at the Labor Temple by Anne Feeney and labor singer-songwriter Larry Penn from Milwaukee. On Wednesday, the crowd was packed to the doors for a raucous Sing-Along of Irish rebel songs at Micky's Tavern. The Committee produced a special songbook for the occasion, "Irish Songs of Life and Work, Resistance and Rebellion." Thursday was back to the Labor Temple for Carmen Valadez, who spoke about women, labor, and organizing in the maquiladora plants of Mexico. Friday evening, the Committee joined with local Latino groups in a celebration of Cinco de Mayo and the Zapatista uprising. Saturday evening was

# Buskers Campaign for Free Speech

No Intention to Arrest Anyone...?

That's what a bureaucrat flunkie told a member of the IWW. If street performers don't go along with the bylaw — if they refuse to pay \$5 for the day, if they refuse to go along with designated sidewalk locations and hourly rotation — then the bureaucrats will just keep asking them. If the buskers still won't go along, then the bureaucrats would invite them into the office for a very serious talk.

But when the Wobbly talked to buskers, they said the bureaucrats told them they would be arrested if they didn't conform. The street artists are being harassed and intimidated into going along.

The Spaghetti Kid is a mime artist who wears a heavy costume of plaster and paint. She emerged furious from the City office one day in June. Having gone to pay her tax on free speech, she was offered only a 'designated location' in the hot sun — 90 degrees F. Finding her rights violated, she did what an increasing number of buskers are doing — she went to the sidewalk just outside the restricted area.

Others have been refused permits at all, on the grounds that their art is not "art." A bureaucrat with the mentality of a parking meter is now the censor of art in Ottawa — the capitol city of a once-great nation.

Many musicians are choosing to perform around the edges of the restricted zone, on the surrounding streets. Here they can still get a decent crowd and they don't have

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the traditional Workers' Sing Along at a local tavern called "Jamaica Jo-Mamas."

The week's events culminated in a big picnic in Tenney Park on Madison's eastside with music by local bands and short speeches from a number of local union activists. All amenities, including burgers, brats, and beer was provided to the over 300 present at no charge, courtesy of the Committee.

Hundreds of workers took part in these events and came away with a better understanding of Capitalism, workers' history, the need for international working class solidarity, and their own position in the global class struggle.

The May Day Committee was able to pull off a well-attended week of May Day activities because of the diversity and unity displayed by labor and the left. Representatives came from a half dozen AFSCME locals, the United Food and Commercial Workers at Oscar Mayer, the Childcare Union and the SEIU, Steamfitters, Teachers and the I.W.W., along with activists from the International Socialist Organization, students, environmentalists and minority organizations. This year's May Day was endorsed by over 100 unions and community groups, including the AFL-CIO central labor council, numerous locals of state and city workers, building trades locals, postal workers, office workers, and service employees, with workers' organizations contributing the money to make it all happen.

Each year, May Day in Madison becomes a bigger event, drawing radicals, workers both inside and outside the AFL-CIO, activists and others from diverse backgrounds and struggles. The format in the coming years will no doubt continue with, at minimum, a major action, picnic, and sing along.

Ron Kaminkow

## Send in Your News

Let us know of your efforts and campaigns so we can share these with fellow workers around the world in the columns of the Industrial Worker. The deadline for copy is the 30th of each month.

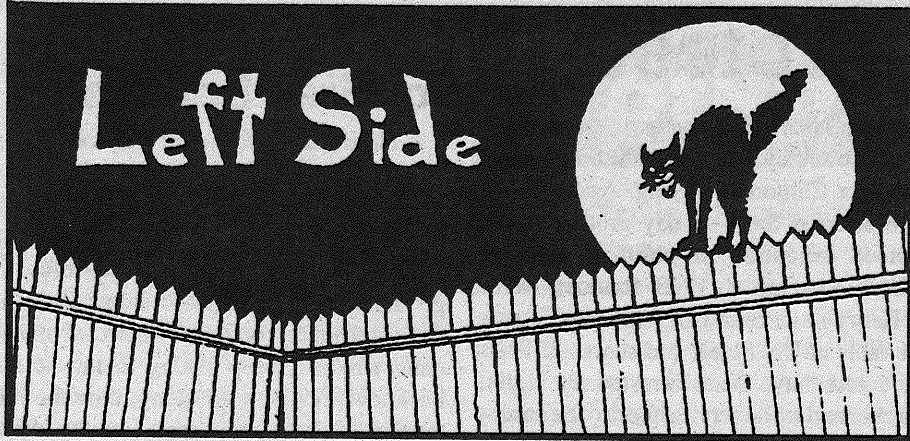
## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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.



Throughout the history of our species the names of ideologists and other idealists have not only been taken in vain by their detractors but in due time also by their professed disciples. Two such examples are a Jewish carpenter of two thousand years ago as well as another Jewish scholar who inspired the opening lines of the IWW Preamble.

A visiting relative brought me a clipping from a London periodical that happens to be germane, from which I shall quote in part. In an article entitled "Dear Che Guevara," the writer Jonathan Glancey notes how Che's likeness first appeared on T-shirts, and then a boutique in Kensington. But now Che's reputation is not only being disparaged by right-wing cynics, but is being exploited by a new wave of Anglo-Cuban capitalists.

Corporación Cerveza Clara SA (CCC), a Havana-based company set up last year, registered in Panama and with offices in London to boot, has come out with a new brand of beer called "Che Fruta," a fine premium lager with a hint of natural fruit flavors. While your scribe enjoys munching on fresh fruit and also enjoys quaffing a generous tankard of suds, he nevertheless does not engage in the same vices simultaneously and consequently is not intrigued by the prospect of the two distinct flavors being integrated.

Furthermore, while yours truly is not an adherent of his brand of ideology or tactical approach, he nevertheless recognizes that Che Guevara is a sacred icon for a certain segment of the left, and cannot help but be a bit bemused at said icon being immortalized by a fruity tasting beer.

According to Joe Grahame, a graduate of such hotbeds of international Marxism as Banker's Trust and J Rothschild Wolfensohn, Che Fruta has been banned in Freedomland by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in consistency with the trade embargo that has been imposed on Cuba for the past thirty years. However, it has been surmised that when Fidel either chooses to step down from his throne or has been summoned by his Grandfathers Vladimyr and Josef, Che Fruta will be legal in every bar from Key West to Bellingham, except those owned or patronized by right-wing Cuban refugees.

"Don't expect the older generation of Cuban exiles to drink the stuff," Glancey's article tells Che. "To them you were an anti-Christ, a long-haired Argentinian intellectual who inspired Fidel to declare himself a Marxist-Leninist and so deprived them of their air-conditioned villas in Vedado and Varadero. True, when you went to speak at the United Nations in 1964, young Manhattanites cheered you on your way, but I guess they drank Schlitz, Coors, Michelob or Budweiser without the fruit flavor..."

"Shortly before you were executed by the Bolivian army on orders from Washington DC back in 1967, you said that a new society would grow only if revolutionaries throughout the Third World set out to create 'one, two, many Vietnams.' If you could see Vietnam today... it's one of the most rabidly capitalist of all and I'm sure the Vietnamese will in due time be enjoying Che Fruta, even if the Yanks won't give it bar room.

"Sorry, Commandante Che Guevara, your battle cry of 'Socialismo o Muerte' gives way today, in a hail of hiccups, to 'Cerveza o Muerte.' Many happy returns on your 67th birthday..." As I told one of my intellectual friends who bewailed the "failure of Socialism," it is not the failure of Socialism, but the failure of the "socialists."

Face it, Fellow Worker readers and World-savers; despite the lofty phraseology of all the saviors of humanity, while social change may be advocated by revolutionary vanguards, such change can only come about when the majority of this world's producing class so decides on this social change. Whenever self-pedestalled saviors of humanity deviate from the interests of those they profess to save, they automatically cancel themselves out and instead of being the vanguards of the proletariat, become their chains instead.

While one may be loathe to quote from the Old Testicle, it is wise to remember the admonition, "Beware of false prophets." Social change has always come from the bottom and never from the top. There are those who ride the coattails of social unrest to occupy the vacant thrones of deposed rulers, but once they do that they are no longer revolutionaries as once they occupy the throne they become the established authority with a status quo to maintain.

There are those who may choose to call me pessimistic for not believing in "leaders of the people," but I believe that a primary requisite of being a radical is to be endowed with an indefatigable optimism. In my short life I have never encountered any pessimistic radicals! Hope springs eternal!

noisy June  
Ashland Avenue  
afternoon  
a Bird  
can still be heard...

—C.C. Redcloud

### Lane Kirkland Is Still Dead!

In June 1993 the *Wage Slave World News* reported the shocking news that AFL-CIO president-for-life Lane Kirkland was still alive, presenting photographs allegedly supporting claims that the elusive labor leader was actually on the job. But on August 1st, Lane Kirkland is stepping down, handing over the reigns of the dying AFL to Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Donahue, best known for seeking a Taft-Hartley injunction against Newspaper Guild strikers a few years ago.

Donahue may have a tough fight of it, however, as SEIU President John Sweeney has announced he wants the job and has lined up several of the AFL-CIO's largest affiliates behind him. "Sweeney isn't worse than the other international presidents," says one member quoted in *Labor Notes*, citing his weak record on union democracy. (Donahue is trying to line up a slate of candidates as we go to press, and may well cut a deal with Sweeney and/or his backers in order to avoid what would be the first seriously contested race for the AFL-CIO top-dog position in its history.)

But in fairness to Brother Kirkland, he did not create the problems over at AFL headquarters.

### A Sorry Mess

The AFL has been a sorry mess from the start. Organized on the false premise that labor and capital have common interests, it has always focused its efforts on electing "friends of labor" to congress, pressing for "reform" legislation, and calling for harmonious relations with the bosses. The AFL-CIO has never had an industrial program and never functioned as a union, not so much because it doesn't want to (though there is scant evidence of such a desire) but because it can not.

The AFL-CIO is a hodge-podge of affiliates, many of which can scarcely be considered unions in any meaningful sense of the word. Its affiliates are, by and large, thoroughly undemocratic — ruled by entrenched piecarts who pull down salaries many times what they could hope to earn if they had to work for a living. Some organize workers, some organize bosses (a few years ago the IWW lost a shop to a "union" that allowed the owner to become shop steward!), some sell insurance plans and benefits, and many don't organize at all. Rather than fight for the members they have, the business unions arrange with bosses to collect "union" dues from workers' paychecks, depriving workers even of the right to withhold their support from the labor fakers who mislead, divide and sell them out.

Rather than follow the sound IWW policy of one shop - one union, the AFL-CIO prefers to divide workers up into as many unions as possible. (Every piecart wants his split of the dues, after all.) Each "union" scabs on the others during strikes, while passing empty resolutions promising solidarity in the great bye-and-bye. And to further weaken the working class, the AFL-CIO rejects industrial unionism. Thus, distribution workers can be found in the Teamsters, United Food & Commercial Workers, Steelworkers and Retail, Wholesale unions (and perhaps more). Air transport workers are divided between machinists, pilots, teamsters, flight attendants and a host of other unions. Where the IWW works to organize One Big Union of the working class, the AFL-CIO favors One Big Jigsaw Puzzle.

The AFL-CIO is decrepit not because of its sorry leadership, but because it is organized on false premises and structurally unsound. If you replaced the entire Executive Council with Wobblies, but left the same structure and principles in place, there would be very little they could do. We sympathize with those fellow workers who find themselves locked into the AFL-CIO,

and with their struggles to try to transform it from a millstone around their necks into a genuine working-class organization.

We sympathize, as one might sympathize with anyone who braves such overwhelming odds. But we cannot recommend that rebel workers follow their example. Electing new officers, expanding the AFL-CIO executive council, or putting a few more dollars into organizing cannot solve the fundamental problems. A structure built on such a shaky foundation, and pieced together so haphazardly, cannot be salvaged with a new coat of paint and some

carpeting in the hallways. Rather, it needs to be built anew, from the ground up.

That's why the IWW was organized back in 1905. It's a big job, and we're far from completing it. But with your help we can build a labor movement capable of defending workers' interests against the bosses, and, ultimately, of doing away with the parasites altogether. Are you with us, fellow worker?

## Editor's Notebook

### A Partying Crowd

Down in Decatur, Ill., a few days ago, we were besieged on all sides by those wanting to build a new party. The Democrats and Republicans are the same, they cried (took them long enough to notice), and so workers need to form our own party to combat the bosses' politricksters.

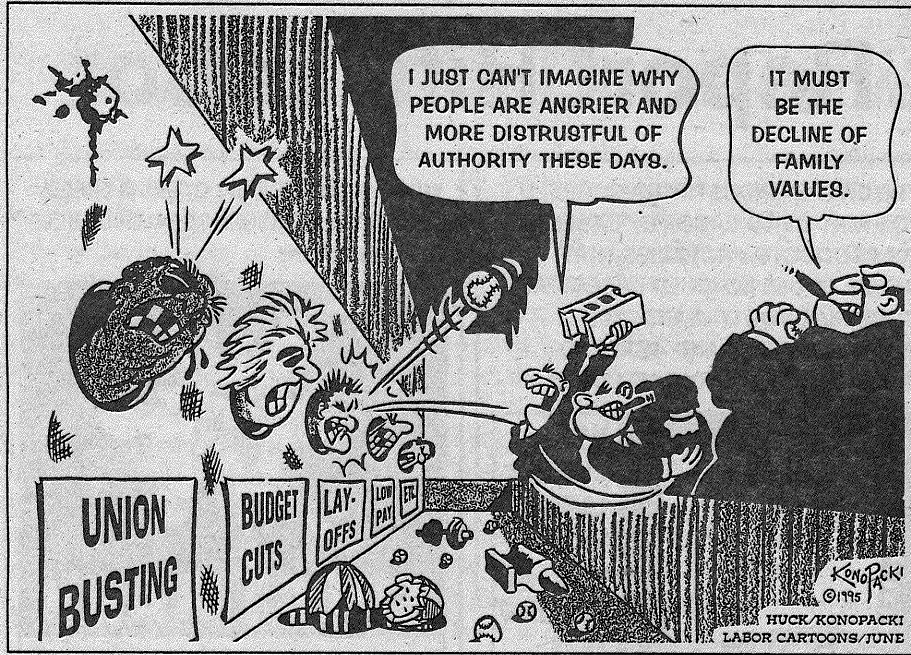
Union officials (some quite highly placed) beat the labor party drum from the speakers' platform. Decatur's new mayor was introduced with the statement that since the city government worked hand-in-glove with the bosses to bust unions, Decatur workers had decided to take their struggle into the political arena. So now Decatur has a "friend of labor" in the Mayor's office and a union scab on the city council. But the police are still scabherding, a sweeping injunction still prohibits effective picketing, scabs still go into the plants every day, and no municipal road crews are tearing up the roads leading into the Staley and Caterpillar plants for long deferred maintenance work. The energy spent on the election might better have gone into organizing some mass picketing or a takeover of the plants or organizing at the other (nonunion) Staley plants or picketing customers and suppliers to shut the scab plants down.

Workers around the world have poured enormous resources into building labor parties, only to see the labor politicians carry out the bosses' anti-labor agenda once they took power. In Canada, angry workers just ousted the New Democratic Party (Canada's labor party) government in Ontario, fed up with the NDP's "social contract," the gutting of government workers' rights, and other anti-labor policies.

In South Africa, workers are in the streets demonstrating against the austerity policies of the ANC government they put in power through years of struggles in which hundreds gave their lives. In Europe, "socialist" and "labor" parties vie with conservatives to see who can gut social programs fastest and with the least resistance.

The labor politicians serve as a fifth column in the workers' ranks, preaching class collaboration, moderation and accommodation to the dictates of the employing class. Meanwhile our conditions, and our organizations, weaken by the day.

There is a class war going on, and the workers are losing badly. We're losing even though we are the vast majority, and even though the bosses could not so much as feed themselves without our labor. We are losing because we aren't organized, and because too many of our fellow workers are willing to rely on others (politicians, deities, benevolent employers, whatever) to do for them what can only be done for ourselves.



## Homeless in Seattle

Near the glass pergola in Seattle's Pioneer Square, two signs announce the reality of this downtown neighborhood: skidroads in the midst of nightclubs and yuppie splendor: "Chief Seattle, Now the streets are your home." "Far away brothers and sisters, We still remember you."

In the 1890s Seattle became a hub for working-class men shipping out to Alaska canneries, eastern Washington farms or maritime and logging industries in the Pacific Northwest. Trees were felled, rolled down hills and skidded into the waters of Puget Sound past flophouses where they were barged to lumber mills. "Skid road" denoted run-down neighborhoods of SRO (single room occupancy) hotels in downtowns where working-class men resided.

Pensioners and low-income renters were the next tenants to occupy these SROs as buildings were left to decay. Missions had their own motives in providing Skid Road inebriates, transients and hobos a meal, mandatory prayers, and a bunk. By the 1970s developers – quick to sense a profit – began purchasing SRO hotels, razing them and converting them into lucrative middle-income condominiums. This greatly reduced low-income housing options.

Only a handful of social service providers and progressive community activists acknowledged the phenomena of homelessness. As a psychiatric social worker in the jail, I saw the debilitating effects of addictions, mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). My clients weren't technically homeless, but they'd been disowned by families because of lack of community services. Also living on the streets were Vietnam vets with PTSD.

It's estimated that 14,000 people are homeless in Seattle. The wait for subsidized low-income housing is 5-8 years, while it takes about a year to get housing through the Seattle Housing Authority. More than 3,000 people are on waiting lists for SHA public housing; another 6,000 are on the Section 8 waiting list. Several hundred homeless disdain the shelters, and instead live in "the Jungle" – greenbelts along freeways, railroad tracks, and on land where the terrain is too hilly for development.

The jungle on Beacon Hill was razed in July 1994, displacing 200 people from an area where they had lived undisturbed for a decade. Eleven homeless were arrested, and the jungle was razed at a cost of \$200,000 to make way for bike paths and sidewalks.

Seattle has some 64 foodbanks and hot

### Correction

Last issue a headline falsely claimed "Gingrich Floats Slave Labor Plan" (p. 9). Actually the culprit was, as the article reported, Sen. Phil Gramm. With Republicans and Democrats locked in mortal combat to see who can strip us of our liberties and deliver us into dire poverty first, it is sometimes difficult to keep track of which gumpet is which. [JB]

meal programs, 43 emergency shelters, 29 transitional housing projects, and a dozen health, education and employment centers. Yet only 70 beds are available for the 500-800 homeless youths who walk the streets daily. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the nation's homeless population, but relatively few services are available to help them find solutions to their needs. And while Seattle is considered a leader in providing homeless services, it has also adopted ordinances prohibiting homeless people from sitting on downtown sidewalks or in commercial districts, trying to force the homeless out of public view.

In 1972 the boarded-up Beacon Hill High School was occupied by Latinos clamoring for social services. Later, when university students joined them, news media began nightly TV broadcasts; within months the school district donated the building, the city provided renovation money, and El Centro de la Raza came into existence. Two years later Left Bank Books collective members squatted six empty houses being razed for condos. The houses were successfully occupied for several months until police arrested the ringleaders and carted them off to jail. The houses were quickly bulldozed.

Downtown Human Services Council, a private nonprofit organization founded in 1978, seeks to improve the quality of life for the 20,000+ people who live downtown by envisioning neighborhoods where no one is homeless, where enough permanent low-income housing exists for all, where programs serve the mentally ill, where chronic indigent alcoholics wouldn't be abandoned but would have a continuum of care, where young runaways would be helped before acculturation to street life.

Executive Director Juan Bocanegra, who occupied what's now El Centro de la Raza in 1972, Wounded Knee in 1973, and Cascadia Human Services in 1976, spoke of the 10,000 units of low-income housing that existed in downtown Seattle before gentrification. Out of 20,000 projected low-income housing units proposed by Mayor Royer in 1984, only 7,111 were created. Now there are only 4,300 units – a loss of 2,800 units, with 400 more to be lost when the Convention Center expands in 1996-98.

Bocanegra believes we've come to an impasse: "The right wing has been very effective in impoverishing the working class of the west coast. California's Initiative 15 and Oregon's Proposition 13 rescinded social services and benefits." Washington state has not passed such regressive legislation. In 1986, 11% of homeless shelter applicants were recent Seattle arrivals, by 1994 up to 36% entering emergency shelters were estimated to be from out-of-state.

The bankrupt social policies of Rayguns, Bush and now Clinton led directly to the November 1994 victory of the Contract on America.

Zimya A. Toms-Trend

## Let's Get Rowdy

General Headquarters had a visit from a member of the Michigan Militia a couple of weeks ago. You remember them. They guy indicted for the Oklahoma bombing is from their ranks. Our visitor was a V.I. Warshawski type who runs a detective agency down the block. She wanted to know if we were communists. That's still an issue? I guess. When I told her we were militant unionists she said, "Well, you'd better let the people in the street know; because otherwise you're liable to get a brick through your window." Smile – after Oklahoma City a brick from the militia would seem like a bouquet of roses.

During the conversation she expressed anger at the recent Supreme Court decision against affirmative action because it is going to eliminate job opportunities; and, combined with welfare cutbacks, that is going to leave people with nowhere to turn. Go figure.

### from the desk of...

By the time she left I had her agreeing that both groups are struggling for freedom (although we'd find some major differences on how that should be defined) and that both are not too happy with the government. And most of the membership of both groups is working class. So we have some things in common which we might want to explore rather than blindly accepting the propaganda the powers that be put out against anyone who doesn't fit into their nice little boxes. The conversation ended on a less than hostile note. So I'm not expecting the brick, although no roses either.

The countdown on Mumia's life continues. August 17th, 10 pm. I talk on compuserve most evenings when I get home from work, except for this past week when my fershlugginer computer decided it was no longer willing to put up with my abuse. It's a good way to unwind. Like Cheers, it's a place where everybody knows your name, well, your handle. And people don't care much whether you're tall, short, fat, skinny, rich, poor, good looking or ugly because most of us aren't likely to ever meet and generally the conversation is light. Usually my handle is \*Iconoclast\*. Since June 2nd, the day that Governor Ridge of Pennsylvania signed Mumia's execution papers, I've been going by the handle "August 17 10 pm." It has evoked a lot of queries. One who asked promised a long letter to Gov. Ridge.

Most find out it has a political connotation and politely excuse themselves from the conversation. One said, "I'm just a law-abiding citizen and I don't want to get involved. I just want to be left alone." Well, I hope he gets left alone. But I wouldn't count on it. I'm a firm believer in Pastor Martin Neimoeller's comment about Nazi Germany to the effect that he didn't protest when they went after the Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, communists, etc., because he wasn't any of those; and when they came after him there was no one left to protest. If we can't save the Mumias, the Mumias won't be there to save us. So take a moment from your busy schedule and write that letter to the governor (Main Capitol Bldg. Room 224, Harrisburg PA 17120, fax: 717-783-3369) and to the editor of your local paper, attend that rally, Get rowdy.

The press has generally been ignoring the issue. But articles are starting to creep in as international protest continues. FW Harry Siitonen tells me 800 were in the streets of San Francisco last week. And 283 of them got arrested and spent 36 hours in jail, including FW Siitonen and several other Wobs. Because we live in a capitalist society, you can bet that will save Mumia's life will be the bottom line. If San Francisco can be repeated around the country and the world, eventually the bosses will decide it's going to be too costly to kill Mumia. Get rowdy.

This was a busy week for demonstrations. Every Friday a local coalition has demonstrations for Mumia in Ann Arbor. Saturday I went to a Klan counterdemonstration in Hillsdale Michigan, a small rural community about 40 miles southwest of Ann Arbor. The Klan claimed it was the home of the type of people they were trying to recruit; but they didn't get a warm reception. An all-day teach-in on the nature of the Klan was coordinated by FW Richard Wunsch of Hillsdale at a site a few blocks from the Klan rally. 20 Klan members showed up at the rally, maybe 100 counterdemonstrators, several hundred curiosity seekers, and probably 200 cops.

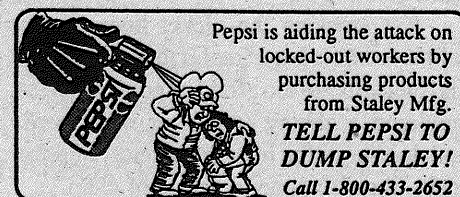
The cops were focused on maintaining tight order and the mere semblance of freedom of speech. The Klan speakers had to address the crowd from behind a wire fence. Observers had to go through two metal searches and discard keys, coins, pens, umbrellas carried for the sporadic rain, and lighters to get into the area fenced off for spectators. The searches took so long that there were as many outside waiting to get in as were inside when the rally ended. FW Sam Copi was hustled out of the gathering when a Klansman tore down the poster he was bearing. It didn't matter to the cops who was the aggressor. Law was not their concern, just order.

Get rowdy.

Last Sunday some of us from here went to the Staley rally in Decatur, Illinois. It was an impressive gathering. Thousands of people in the streets to support workers' rights is inspiring. And it was good to meet Fellow Workers from Illinois and Missouri. But unlike past gatherings in Decatur, there was no civil disobedience. And I had to wonder how Staley was going to be made to listen if it wasn't going to cost them to turn a deaf ear. Get rowdy.

— Fred Chase, X331591

IWW General Secretary-Treasurer



**SUPPORT THE WORKERS' PRESS — Contribute to the IW Sustaining Fund**

Despite the World Bank's new leadership, its just-released World Development Report on labor represents a continued adherence by the Bank to a set of economic policies that have benefitted foreign investors and driven workers, small farmers and businesspeople toward poverty.

"You would think that the new Bank

*"They live in a fantasy world in which those profits translate into better wages and working conditions rather than in the real world of very unequal power relationships between local unions and increasingly transnational capital."*

president, James Wolfensohn, would have taken greater care that the first document released under his stewardship would be something other than a warmed-over treatise arguing for wage suppression and against organized labor," said Pharis Harvey, Executive Director of the International Labor Rights Education and Research Fund. "The World Development Report is a body blow to those throughout the Third World struggling to earn a fair wage and a decent living for their families."

The WDR rejects the linking of internationally recognized labor rights to international trade and investment agreements. It blames those workers in the cities who have organized into unions to improve wages and working conditions for holding back less-favored workers in rural and urban areas. It places responsibility for growing unemployment primarily on "inflexible labor markets," minimum wage requirements, and health and safety concerns. It also recommends that collective bargaining take place at the plant level. Such decentralization decreases the opportunities for organized labor to inject its voice into the making of national economic policy.

In a detailed analysis of the WDR for the 50 Years Is Enough Campaign, Jerome

# World Bank Report Hits Labor

I. Levinson of the International Labor Rights Fund debunks these efforts to pin the blame for unemployment and the plight of non-unionized labor on urban workers and the labor rights they have secured. "Anyone who has spent any time on the ground in Latin America, for example, knows that the declining opportunities and deteriorating conditions of the rural and urban poor are due to power relationships and economic policies that have bolstered large exporters and undermined small enterprises and food producers that employ most of the work force," he said.

"The World Bank refuses to recognize the connection between the development model it promotes, with its dependence upon attracting foreign direct investment, and labor abuses that are endemic among its major borrowers, especially Mexico and Indonesia," added Levinson, who formerly served as General Counsel of the Inter-American Development Bank. "The World Bank has conditioned its lending upon borrowing countries removing obstacles to the entry of foreign capital, but it has not, at the same time, attempted to secure core worker rights."

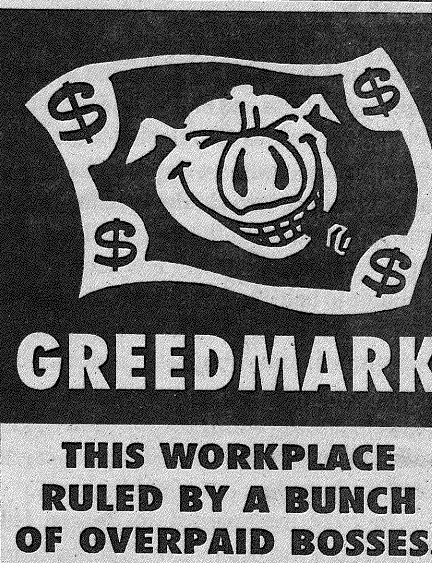
Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Latin American Coordinator of The Development GAP, a 50 Years Is Enough Campaign founder, stresses this imbalance. "The WDR is supposed to be a report on labor, but its authors seem most concerned about increasing private profits. They live in a fantasy world in which those profits translate into better wages and working conditions rather than in the real world of very unequal power relationships between local unions and increasingly transnational capital."

Gemma Adaba, Washington Director of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, criticized the World Development Report for arguing that standards against gender-based discrimination in the workplace have many "unwelcome effects" including lower wages for women, the reluctance of management to hire women, the use of fixed-term contracts to avoid paying

THE CARPET INDUSTRY HAS AGREED TO FIGHT CHILD LABOR BY LABELING ITS PRODUCTS. FACTORIES THAT AGREE TO USE NO CHILD LABOR, PAY GOVERNMENTALLY-MANDATED MINIMUM WAGES, AND AGREE TO INSPECTIONS, CARRY THIS LABEL.



WHAT IF OTHER EMPLOYERS AGREED TO INFORM CONSUMERS WITH LABELS OF THEIR OWN?



for maternity leave and requiring that women show proof of sterilization before they are hired. The WDR says these poor, unacceptable labor practices are an inevitable consequence of efforts to introduce gender-based standards in the workplace," Adaba said. "This thinking flies directly in the face of the considerable body of progressive policy and regulation that has evolved over the years."

The Bank's approach contrasts sharply with that of the International Labor Organization. In its recent report, World Employment, 1995, the ILO warns against the danger that globalization, in the form of increasingly "foot-loose" multinational corporations, will have negative effects on la-

bor standards. It calls for cooperative international action to protect those standards.

The Institute for Policy Studies' John Cavanagh commented: "The World Bank claims that it seeks to promote participation by citizens' groups in Bank programs, yet when it comes to unions - one of the key arenas of citizen participation throughout the world - they are outright antagonistic."

"The Bank's draconian approach to labor can be seen in its own Washington headquarters," observed Cavanagh, "and now it has the audacity to tell the rest of the world how to treat workers."

Cavanagh points to the eight-year struggle by the Service Employees Interna-

*continued on next page*

## Don't Scab, Carpenters Hint

A recent issue of Madison's *Union Labor News* includes a column from Carpenters Local 314 hinting that union carpenters might want to think twice before working on scab jobs. It is hard to convey the timidity of this appeal, so we will let the porkchoppers speak for themselves:

### What Picket Lines Mean

"Picket lines. What's your responsibility? Recently your District Council established a picket line in front of a project at which several union carpenter contractors were employing our members. When the members came up to the line, they were not sure of what they should do. When they asked the people at the line what they should do, they received a non-committal response - 'read the sign!' The picketers did what they were told to do - 'do not instruct any persons as to what they should or should not do.' Why? Due to technicalities of the labor laws, it is unwise for anyone on the line to sell someone attempting to cross the line what to do.

"The decision is an individual one. Each and every member has information available as to what action they should take. First of all, you all have received a blue card with the words, 'GOOD UNION BUILDING TRADESMEN Do Not Work Behind Banners. Not Even With 4 Gates.' On the reverse side of this card is a discussion of what the front is stating. Secondly, you have information on the back of your work dues card that also explains what you can do. Whenever faced with a picket, please con-

sult these two sources of information.

"If you are unsure as to what this picket is about, call your union hall and ask them simply one question - 'Is the picket at (name of the place) a legal picket?' If the answer is yes, then go to your card for your answer. Union Yes."

After years of waltzing across each other's picket lines, scabbing themselves into oblivion, the Carpenters are starting to wise up to the fact that union scabbing is not in their interests.

Of course, the membership is understandably confused after years of being told either that Taft-Hartley makes it illegal to honor picket lines (the "progressive" line) or that the "sacred contract" must prevail over union solidarity (the conservative spiel). (And one wonders whether the unions are dispatching members to these scab jobs?) It will no doubt take some time to get the idea that picket lines mean "don't cross" back into members' heads.

Of course, all this fancy footwork for the lawyers doesn't help. It is, of course, illegal for unions to direct workers to honor other unions' picket lines. That's because union solidarity is a potent weapon in the working-class arsenal, and the bosses don't want us using it.

But crossing the picket lines of our fellow workers is a crime! If the labor fakers and picards are too afraid of going to jail to condemn scabbing (union or otherwise), and do everything in their power to stop the scabs, then it's time to get rid of them.

## Unions Too Strong?

This month Jean-Paul, a garment worker in Toulouse, France, will lose his \$400-a-week job and enter the government welfare rolls. In Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Hoa, a garment worker, has just been hired at \$30 a week by a French joint venture company.

Though separated by thousands of kilometres, the lives of these two workers are interlinked. They are two key characters cited in the introduction to the latest World Development Report (WDR), the World Bank's key annual policy document.

The 251-page 'Workers in an Integrating World' calls for "labor market flexibility," reduced labor protections, privatization and free-market policies. It was published just four months after the International Labour Organisation called attention to what it termed a "global unemployment crisis." About 30 percent of the global labour force of 2.5 billion people are currently unemployed or underemployed.

Much of Europe faces double-digit unemployment. Higher jobless figures afflict Africa, Latin America, South Asia and the Near East. The result is rising unrest in what the World Bank calls "revolutionary times in the global economy."

The World Bank rejects claims that greater mobility of capital and a growing

low-wage labour supply in poor countries contribute to falling wages and job insecurity in the industrialised world. "Fears that emerging economies are siphoning jobs from industrial countries are largely unfounded," according to Michael Walton, the WDR Team Leader.

Instead, the report insists that unemployment problems are due more to "technological change - combined with rigid wage and social security systems" - than to competition from cheap labour in emerging economies. In simple English, that means the World Bank thinks we make too much money when we're working, and too much when we're disabled or retired. If we only learned to live on less (lots less), we'd all be better off.

But the World Bank says that policies favoring strong, industry-wide unions (policies we are unfamiliar with) have transformed unions into "monopolists, improving wages and working conditions for their members at the expense of capital holders, consumers and nonunion labour." To reduce unions' - referred to as a "small but vocal minority" - power the Bank recommends that they be permitted to negotiate only local agreements.

(based on an Inter Press report)

# Solidarity with Decatur workers...

## Firestone Boycott Pickets

Although Bridgestone/Firestone workers have abandoned the picketlines and called off their strike in hopes of getting some strikers back on the job (most have been replaced by "permanent replacements" and other scabs), the United Rubber Workers and the Steelworkers (which are in the process of merging) are holding demonstrations across the country at tire stores, Japanese consulates and other sites. The unions say they will continue the boycott campaign until their members get their jobs back.

## Adopt a Staley Family

Many of the locked-out A.E. Staley workers' families are struggling to survive on the UPIU's \$60 per week strike benefit and groceries from the local union's food bank. In response, Local 7837 has launched an Adopt-a-Family program to aid the most distressed families with \$600 a month to meet mortgage payments, utility bills, medicine and other necessities. They ask unions to commit to regular contributions of \$600 (smaller contributions are welcomed too) for a period of three or six months. Participating unions will receive regular reports from the adopted families. For details write Adopt-a-Family Program, UPIULocal 7837 Campaign Office, 3080-B Kandy Lane, Decatur IL 62526 (217/872-2209). One-time contributions to the Food & Assistance Fund are also needed.

Staley is demanding that workers agree to unlimited subcontracting (it hopes to replace some 550 workers with subcontracted labor), replace the 8-hour day with a brutal program of rotating 12-hour shifts (workers would work days one month, nights the next, different days each week, and would be on-call on their days off), eliminate already inadequate health-and-safety protections, and restrict the union's right to grieve assignments and other workplace issues.

The company is demanding these concessions despite earnings hundreds of millions of dollars in profits.

## Stop the Scabs!

Before the lockout began, Staley management brought in professional scabs from Harmony Construction to observe workers on the job so they could learn how to keep the plant running once the union workers were locked out. Inexplicably, workers continued working while these scabs-in-training were breathing down their necks. The following is excerpted from an editorial

## Anti-Labor World Bank...

International Union's Justice for Janitors Campaign to force the World Bank to hire a cleaning contractor that paid fair wages and benefits to the people who clean the Bank's plush offices in Washington. The union finally won, not because Bank officials changed their position, but because the company with the janitorial contract for the building was bought by a larger, unionized company.

Additionally, the May 26 edition of Washington's *City Paper* featured a front page story on the exploitation of foreign domestic servants by highly-paid officials working at international institutions in Washington. Many of the cases cited involved World Bank senior staff.

"It's clear that in its policy prescriptives, as well as in its own practice, the World Bank is operating from a formula for keeping workers, particularly women, in their place: powerless, unorganized and subject to the dictates and caprices of management," Cavanagh said.

The 50 Years is Enough Campaign is an international coalition working for the dis-establishment of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

from the current *Libertarian Labor Review*:

"There has been substantial scabbing at Caterpillar and Firestone plants around the country... The Caterpillar and Staley plants are being run with scabs (foremen, office workers, imported scabs), and the bosses seem determined to wait as long as it takes until the workers surrender.

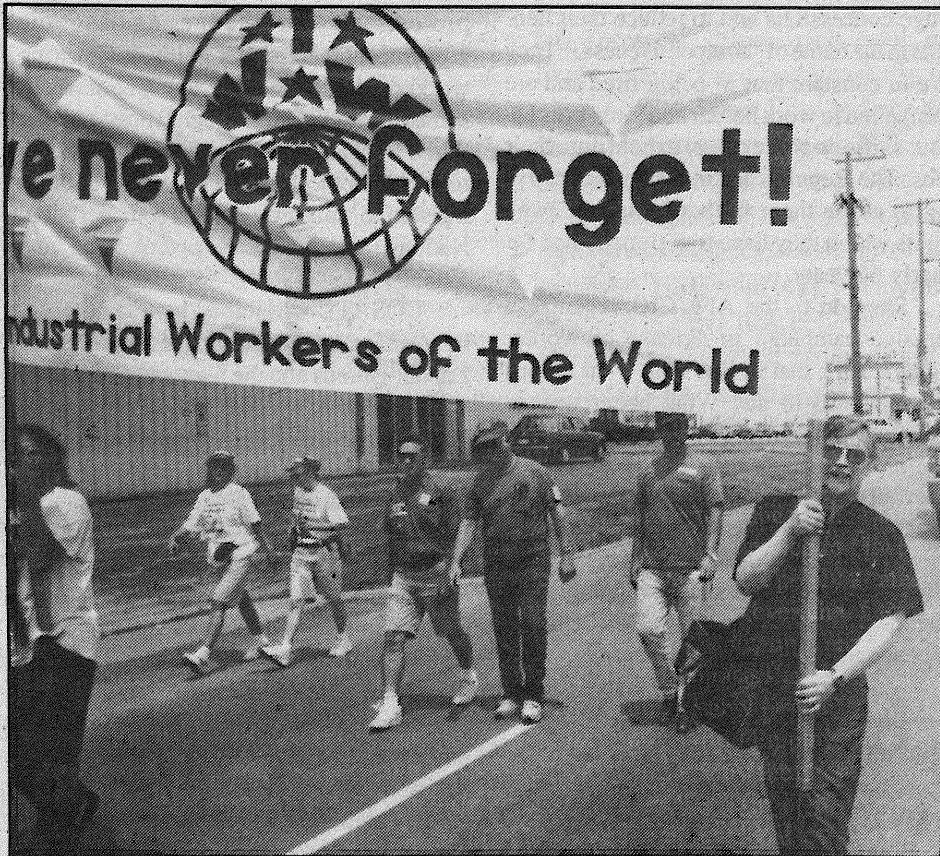
"The Staley strike has captured national attention with its Ray Rogers-style corporate campaign, civil disobedience actions, vicious attacks by police on local pickets, and national tours by strikers. These tactics have drawn widespread attention and helped raise much-needed strike relief funds, but it is clear that the corporate campaign has been a bust (as have nearly all such campaigns) in terms of winning the strike. Two bankers did resign from the Staley Board of Directors early in the campaign, but that had no effect on the company. A boycott campaign against State Farm Insurance (which owns a slice of Staley) fizzled badly, and never made sense in the first place. (Rogers was dumped in January in an effort to placate AFL-CIO piccards who

resent his role in the Hormel strike.)

"Economic action has been more promising. A boycott—called several months into the strike—against Miller Beer (which used Staley sweeteners without a peep from the union workers who brew the beer) was more successful: [Miller] corporate executives capitulated... Some supporters are now trying to bring similar pressure to bear against Coke and Pepsi, though taking on both at once will surely be a tough nut to crack.

"Enormous time and energy has gone into the corporate campaign (especially the slick and ill-fated campaign against State Farm) for relatively sparse results. A sparsely attended national solidarity demonstration on October 15th, however, showed the way to victory. Some 3,000 workers paraded through the streets of Decatur. Managers closed the plants in order to avoid trouble.

"This was the first time Staley stopped production since the lock-out began (even if the scabs' production levels have been somewhat anemic). There are some 4,000 striking and locked-out workers in Decatur. They have family, friends, fellow workers. There



## CAT Strike Drags On, Scabs Going Batty

June 21 marks the end of the first year of the second strike at Caterpillar in four years, and UAW Cat workers held spirited rallies in Peoria, where Cat has its headquarters, as well as at the gates of Cat plants in Decatur, Pontiac and Aurora, Illinois. Union supporters are trailing Cat at trade shows across the US and in Germany, presenting evidence of poor scab workmanship.

Meanwhile, despite company claims of full production and high profits, union sources report that the situation inside Cat plants is deteriorating rapidly. Cat has been caught using convict labor at its plants in Decatur and York, Pa., and train cars full of spoiled parts have been seen on their way to the Mapleton, Ill. foundry. Key replacement parts are in short supply and dealers are being forced to scavenge parts from junkies.

Plant managers in Decatur wrote a bitter memo to Cat President Don Fites complaining of long hours with no time off since the strike began, and a failure to pay promised Spring pay raises. "Is this the way we are to be rewarded for all the long hours we have spent away from our families?" the scabs ask. "What justification was there for this deception?"

In Pontiac, Ill., the pressure of working behind a picket line became too much for one scab who had been an office worker,

but was "promoted" to being a shop floor supervisor. After several months under pressure to get out production with scabs, he walked out of the plant, took off his clothes and walked down the road stark naked. Police took him to a mental health facility.

A York County jail official has confirmed that prisoners are working as scabs there as part of a work-release program. The number of prisoners involved has not been disclosed. And in Decatur picketers speaking with a scab discovered that he was a prisoner on a state-funded work-release program. The agency he was assigned to ordered him to scab. Prison officials promised to stop sending scabs into the plant, but picketers have seen the same man being driven into the plant since then.

Solidarity with the Cat workers is growing with Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers members refusing to repair railroad tracks at the company's Peoria tire facility. "We don't cross picket lines — we honor them," said a union foreman. And a contractor is refusing to repair worn-out welding tables in East Peoria until the strike is settled.

Belgian Cat workers staged a series of one day strikes in April and May when Cat executives refused to negotiate for shorter hours, improved health insurance and protections against layoff. Cat tried to have the strikes declared illegal, but failed.

are more than enough to shut down the scab plants each and every day.

"Stop the Scabs! That is the way to win. No strike was ever won by appealing to corporate consciences. Every time we have won better conditions it has been through the application (or the threat) of our industrial power. Our power lies not in our ability to persuade the bosses that they should be nice, not in the ballot boxes the lying politicians invite us to repose our trust in, not even in boycott campaigns (though a carefully targeted boycott can be an effective supplemental strategy).

"Our power lies in the simple fact that we do all the world's work. It lies in our ability to withdraw our labor in order to force employers to grant better terms. It lies in our solidarity. (It is truly shameful that unionized auto workers are putting scab tires on vehicles at UAW-represented plants around the country; IAM members are scabbing on their fellow workers who happen to belong to another union; union members are handling Staley and Tate & Lyle [Staley's owner] products without complaint. True, it is against the law to refuse to work with scab goods, but it was once against the law to organize a union or to strike as well.) It lies in the fact that we, the working class, are the vast majority.

"There are more than enough strikers in Decatur to mount picket lines capable of presenting scabs with a persuasive argument against their scabbery. Strong picket lines could stop the flow of materials and products in and out of the plants. No doubt, the bosses would cry that such picketing was illegal, but if confronted by a determined labor movement there would be nothing they can do.

"Stop the Scabs! That is the way to win the strike. Stop the Scabs! Whether by picketing from the outside or by re-entering the plants and taking possession of them. Stopping the scabs will stop production. Without production the bosses will have no choice but to abandon their union-busting.

"The labor movement's future is on the line. We cannot afford more defeats, more vacillating, more concessions to power.

"Stop the Scabs."

## IWW Summer Minimum Wage Pickets Begin

The Capital District Group of the Industrial Workers of the World began a series of informational pickets to support minimum wage and other low wage workers with a demonstration at McDonald's (780 Hoosick, Troy NY) Wednesday July 5 at 6:45 pm.

"McDonald's is a kind of symbol for many of us, an archetype of the large corporate entity that refuses to allow its workforce to access any of the benefits one is supposed to earn through hard work," says Red Nero of the Capital District IWW. "Our paltry minimum wage is simply not a living wage."

"This cruel and unjust sentence we have imposed on our lowest paid workers is one that eventually comes back to haunt us all in the forms of paying for welfare and housing subsidies, food stamps and the like. In the name of a 'global economy' it appears we're about ready to burn down the barn before we've milked the cows. It's time to stop the lies and get real with the powers that be and demand a raise of at least \$6.00 per hour, with cost-of-living adjustments," Nero said.

The Capital District IWW is joining with the Campaign for a Liveable Minimum Wage and the Capital District Solidarity Committee to urge everyone to help fight this most basic fight for dignity and justice. A low minimum wage drags us all down. A living wage should be a right. "An injury to one is an injury to all!"

## When do we fight back?

For the past two years, US corporations have been wiping out the jobs of tens of thousands of their employees, while reporting record profits. Because there has not been a storm of protest from the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions, corporate managers feel free to continue their ruthless dismissals, showing not the slightest compassion, even for people who had given them loyal service for twenty or more years.

On May 4, the headline on the front page lead story in *The Wall Street Journal* stated: "Amid Record Profits, Companies Continue to Lay Off Employees." As an example, it cited Mobil Corp. which had posted soaring first-quarter earnings and then a week later had announced plans to cut 4,700 jobs from its work force. The newspaper cited these figures:

In 1994, corporate profits rose 11% after a 13% rise in the preceding year. Meanwhile, Corporate America eliminated 516,000 jobs in 1994, far more than the 316,000 it slashed in the recession year of 1990.

On May 8, only four days later, the AFL-CIO Executive Council met in Washington at the federation's headquarters. One would have expected that the latest statistical evidence of corporate greed at the ex-

## Ukrainian Workers Organizing

The independent union "Direct Action" has launched a new publication, *Bulletin of the Workers' Movement of the Ukraine*. An editorial in the first issue notes: "The spring wave of strikes and protest actions in the Ukraine showed convincingly the growth of consciousness and militancy of the working class. The open opportunism of the leadership of so-called 'independent' and 'free' trade unions and their efforts to divide the workers of different industries led to the emergence and strengthening of truly independent workers' initiatives.... The workers' movement needs a real tribune for informing about our problems and activities, exchanging information and experiences and strengthening class solidarity..."

A resolution from a meeting of workers' organizations from Poltava, Kharkov, Gorlovka, Sevastopol and Kiev condemns the government's policies of privatization, unfettered capitalism and private ownership of the means of production and of land. "We are against so-called 'social consensus' in the interest of strengthening the power of the bourgeoisie. We are for establishing a firm rule of the workers from below by the workers themselves - in the form of workers' councils, workers' committees and other organs of the workers based on the principle of workers' democracy..."

And Donetsk union report on conditions: "Once more prices rise. And again our answer is silence. The community is agitated. What remains are thoughts and feelings: Where can we eat and where do we get the money for it? Everybody is in agony all alone. There are enough goods, yet prices grow by leaps: every price doubles or triples. The wages are miserable. The factories are shutting down. What next?"

"We are no prophets. But one thing is clear: There is no economic improvement and there will be none in spite of ... the government's firm promises. And that means that the present conditions will continue, leading irreversibly to general chaos. A change can be brought about only by the working people. There is only one way to stop the rulers... - teach them to fear their own people. It is for this reason we say today: stop believing the government and its reforms. Unite and fight!"

adapted from *News & Letters*

pense of employees would have aroused bitter condemnation of this practice and that finally, there would be an all-out campaign to challenge this cold-blooded, immoral behavior by faceless corporate directors.

Nothing of the sort happened. If there was even a hint of indignant protest, it never seeped through the closed doors of the council meeting. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland did not mention the issue at his press conference. And not a word appeared in the *AFL-CIO News* report on the two-day council sessions.

Why are not AFL-CIO unions seriously challenging the corporate practice of treating their employees as expendable in order to enrich stockholders? Why can't the AFL-CIO show some militant leadership on an issue that affects not only union members but countless thousands of unorganized workers?

For at least the past dozen years, working people have been getting a raw deal. If they try to exercise their legal right to join a union, they run the risk of being fired. Their real wages have shrunk by at least 10%. They are under heavy pressure to make wage concessions and to reduce their benefits in the name of "competitiveness." They live in constant fear of being fired and are compelled to work harder and longer (in 12-hour shifts, in some cases) to hold onto their jobs. The Republicans in Congress are trying to abuse them further by taking away rights which they have traditionally had for nearly 60 years.

Shouldn't the AFL-CIO organize a massive campaign in defense of worker rights? Isn't that in line with what unions are supposed to do? What better way to convince the American people—and the doomsday critics—that unions are indeed relevant to men and women who have to toil for a livelihood?

A paramount question for every union officer, especially for those who may soon assume the leadership of the AFL-CIO is: When, and how, do we fight back?

By Harry Kelber

## Rebel Buskers...

*continued from page 3*  
to pay a tax.

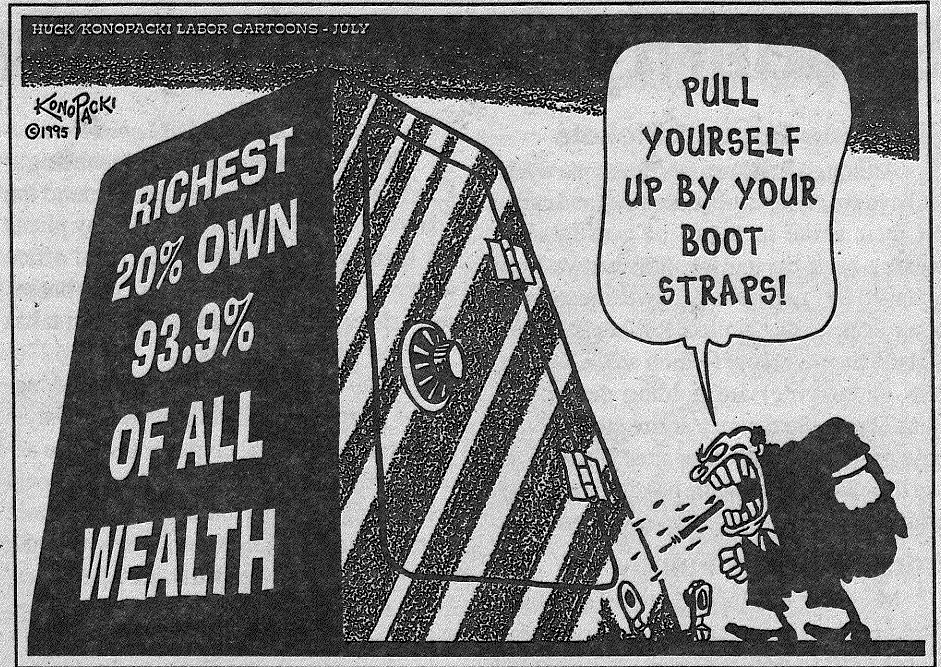
Rebel Buskers are setting an example by refusing to pay for the right to play. A lot of the time, there are no buskers at all in the regular places of the Market. You're not going to pay \$5 and have to shift around every hour, on a Thursday afternoon when you might not get more than \$10 or \$12 in tips for your 4 hours performing.

A number of additional tactics are in the planning stages. For now, education is our main focus. We want people to know that artists don't have to pay the tax and the City can't make them pay it. Rebel buskers are already setting the example by refusing to pay. They are continuing to spread the word, new leaflets will be issued from time to time and meetings held. We have just received a shipment of IWW songbooks that we will distribute among the buskers.

Please encourage local artists, musicians, and libertarians to send a letter or fax to the Ottawa Mayor and City Council. Protest the restriction, taxing and censorship of speech and artistic expression, in the Byward Market area of Ottawa! Fax: 613 244-5373 (If you can, send IWW Ottawa branch a copy: 613 233-2217) Or mail: Mayor Jacqueline Holzman and Ottawa City Councillors, Ottawa City Hall, 111 Sussex Dr., Ottawa ONT Canada K1N 5A1

## Cheap Canadian Labor

New stats show Canada workers are among the cheapest in the industrialized world, having fallen from 5th to 9th place (of 13) between 1989 and 1994.



## South African Unions Fight ANC-Led Government

Long seen as obedient allies of the ruling African National Congress government, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) organized a series of protests in early June against the government's anti-labor policies. Chanting workers descended on the Chamber of Mines, the provincial legislature and the Stock Exchange in Johannesburg June 6th in an attempt to force amendments to labor legislation currently under consideration. Nationwide demonstrations took place June 19th.

COSATU was joined by two other labor centers, the Federation of South Africa Labour Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions.

In three-way (labor-employer-government) talks under the auspices of the National Economic and Development Labour Council, employers have demanded the right to fire striking workers and other restrictions on the right to strike, and have refused to agree to proposals for industry-wide collective bargaining, workplace forums and disclosure of information to workers.

The COSATU-ANC alliance is breaking down as a result of the government's decision to privatise state-owned industries, slash wages, and implement other "free market" economic "reforms."

A South African business representative threatened to pull out of the economic talks as a result of the union actions. "The tripartite structures were set up precisely to lift the debate off the streets and into the

## Mumia Solidarity...

*continued from page 1*

last year against the Pick 'n Pay grocery chain, wrote in a letter to Governor Ridge:

"In South Africa we have long struggled against racism and oppression and the use of jails and death sentences to silence political protest.... We know from bitter experience how a state criminalises the activities of political activists in order to silence them... Your system of justice is on trial. Mumia Abu-Jamal must not die."

In a statement dated May 31, the 1.4 million member COSATU federation noted: "Our organisation has struggled against all forms of racism, oppression and the use of [the] death sentence to silence political activists. We are therefore vehemently opposed to [the] death penalty on both ideological and humanitarian grounds."

Send protests to: Governor Tom Ridge, Main Capitol Bldg., Rm. 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120; fax (717) 783-1398; phone (717) 787-2500. Write to Jamal to express your solidarity: Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM8335, SCI Greene, 1040 E. Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090.

boardrooms," Adrian du Plessis says. "We cannot understand why the unions persist in taking the battle into the streets."

Perhaps a better question would be to ask why unions ever agreed to take the debate into the board rooms in the first place. South African business and the government have joined in demanding that workers tighten their belts in order to bolster national "competitiveness." But few workers are in a position to do so.

## Philadelphelia Wobs in Mumia Demo

The July 3rd demo at Philadelphia's Liberty Bell was an unqualified success. More than 500 attended, including Wobs from Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Lancaster and New York. There were a variety of speakers, and even though we had not scheduled a wobbly speaker, on several occasions the Haymarket Martyrs, Joe Hill and Sacco and Vanzetti were mentioned as precursors in this grim tradition of State murder. I found this particularly significant, as these victims of State oppression are often unknown within the African-American tradition of activism, and hopefully we are all better understanding our common role in the class struggle.

It was also the first opportunity for us to see the IWW Solidarity ad in the most recent *Jamal Journal*, which in appreciation for our timely help was placed on the back cover. Very few groups came through like the Wobblies and they will be reprinting the ad in the next issue as well (we gave them \$300 on behalf of the Philly GMB, Monkeywrench Press, O'ahu GMB, Lehigh Valley GMB, Salt Lake City GMB, SE Michigan GMB, and the Queer Labor Victory Fund).

On another front, a local wob working at Borders Bookshop informs us that Borders (Kmart-owned, operating under several names including Waldenbooks, Borders, Brentanos, etc.) has classified Mumia's book as "true crimes," which means it will be hidden between Amy Fischer and Klaus Von Bulow. We are discussing a campaign to pressure Borders to change this classification to something more appropriate.

In ending, our common participation in today's event encouraged the three South East Pennsylvania IWW groups to work together more this summer and to organize more regional activities. (Wobblies also joined July 3rd demonstrations in Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.) At the same time the solid national participation of the IWW in Mumia's fight to live encourages us to better coordinate Wobbly activity on his behalf.

Josie, X341890



## Solidarity is a Two-Way Street

Two independent unions in the US and Mexico have joined forces for cross-border organizing. This international solidarity effort comes in the face of the erosion of workplace rights in the fallout from NAFTA, further aggravated by the devaluation of the Mexican peso last December.

UE (United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America) and Mexico's only independent labor federation, the Frente Autentico del Trabajo (FAT), have come together to promote solidarity between the two nation's workers and address the common themes in workers' struggles both north and south of the Rio Grande.

At a UE-FAT "Alianza" tour stop in Albany, NY, local UE organizer Keith Eveleth teamed with UE's international affairs coordinator Robin Alexander to bring three FAT members before local labor activists to tell their stories of the rigors of the working class in modern day Mexico. The capital district labor and social justice community gave a great deal of support to the tour. This stop on the 3-city journey was co-sponsored by CWA, PEF (AFSCME), UUP (AFT), the Capital District Solidarity Committee, Teamsters local 294 and, among others, Otis Elevator Workers local 35 who greeted Mexican worker Felipe Gonzalez, an Otis worker in his homeland.

FAT is a model that US labor organizations might learn from. They apply democratic principles not only to problems directly associated with the workplace, but also in areas of tenants' rights, workers' cooperatives, as well as efforts in agriculture. Their willingness to organize in smaller workplaces and their broadly based community-minded approach is a lesson the AFL-CIO could use to its own advantage. FAT represents 50,000 Mexican workers.

NAFTA and the peso devaluation have had devastating effects on the Mexican economy. Runaway inflation and demands from business for wage and benefit cuts in order to remain "competitive," or should we say unsympathetic to basic human rights for workers, have helped to raise the issue of solidarity for some unionists in the US and Mexico.

"We believe workers in the US should have a more permanent relationship with workers in Mexico," elevator technician Gonzalez explained. "Both countries suffer from increased unemployment, cost of living and tax rates."

Mexican workers have seen costs skyrocket in recent months, making it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves. Utility rate hikes of 35 percent, with monthly compounded add-ons of .4% place most workers in a position of desperate need. "Our salaries don't let us live in any dignified way," Gonzalez said.

UE research shows that while a US auto worker would work about 4 minutes to buy a dozen eggs, his or her Mexican counterpart must toil for 70 minutes. How about three hours to earn enough to purchase a 16 ounce bag of potato chips? Many of these Mexican laborers are employed by US-owned multinationals like General Electric and General Motors.

At the Otis plant in Mexico, the elevator manufacturer asked for a 15 percent wage cut as part of a package of givebacks. While some benefits were lost in the most recent contract, FAT refused to cut wages, instead winning a 20% pay hike. "It is still not enough," Gonzalez noted. "I earn in a week what US workers would earn in a day" for the same work.

Ricardo Perez, a 10-year employee of US-owned auto parts maker Sealed Power, spoke of the Mexican government's unholy alliance with its "official" unions. Perez and the others maintain that these corrupt labor fakirs cater to the corporate bottom line.

"My union just received an invitation from the provincial government to agree to no strikes for a period of one year," he said, in exchange for a federally mandated minimum pay increase plus 1 percent. But while the government's projection for 1995 inflation is 42 percent (which the pay offer won't begin to cover), FAT estimates that it will be at least 50 percent.

A representative of one of the "official" unions in Perez's home district wanted the FAT to sign a "civility pact" agreeing not to organize any of his union's people into the FAT. "Obviously we didn't sign any of these agreements. We don't believe we have the right to sign away workers' rights to free association."

"Could I be worse off," Perez asked. After all, his real wages have fallen from a 1994 figure of about \$18 a day to \$10.50 this year. Transportation costs alone eat up to on-third of many workers' pay, just to get back and forth to work each day!

Perez is firm in his resolve to make US workers understand that he and other Mexican workers are anxious to come to terms with the common problems of those employed in both countries. "We're not lazy, and we're not out to steal jobs from you. We are just trying to earn the wages we deserve."

Metalworker Benédicto Martínez began his quest for solutions to gain understanding across borders before NAFTA's passage in 1993. "The actions of international corporations are criminal," he said.

Sickened by the sight of fellow workers forced to sell gum or perform fire juggling acts for tourists in order to survive, Martínez is also keenly aware of the immediate economic realities. "NAFTA," he pointed out, "is completely leaving out the interests of the worker and small businesses. It's not that we're concerned about small businesses, but they employ 60 percent of Mexico's workforce. We're seeing the same results in the US and Mexico. There are threats on both sides."

Government repression of labor is often swift and direct in Mexico, as in the case of a transportation workers' union whose 12,000 members' jobs were eliminated with the stroke of a pen because of their opposition to new economic policies. Privatization of many state functions is another common consequence workers can claim to share.

Of course, US government sanction for union-busting was pretty much out in the open with the PATCO strike in 1981. Reaganomics-like right wing government partnership between Mexico's P.R.I. and P.A.N. (the nominal opposition party) presents what Martínez refers to as "the same monster with two heads."

And, as in the US, economic disadvantage facilitates crime, which impacts low income, working-class people more dramatically. International capital or Mexican capital, "it doesn't matter," Martínez said. "Their practices are the same."

The FAT has been somewhat strengthened, inspired by the US labor movement's willingness to share resources and information. In addition to UE, the Teamsters and ACTWU have also had discussions on these problems that stretch beyond national boundaries. But Martínez also recognizes that real class consciousness is hard to come by where truly democratic unions are in the minority. Sound familiar?

"The AFL-CIO was looking to its counterpart in Mexico (CTM), which declared itself clearly on the side of the Mexican government on NAFTA. This is really a two-way street," Martínez said.

"We have tested a side agreement of NAFTA," and FAT found out for themselves that US workers' rights have been violated. And now it's come full circle.

*continued on page 10*



## U.S. Anti-Labor Laws Scored

The ICFTU's annual survey of union rights identifies abuse of workers' rights in a record 98 countries, including the United States. The report cites scores of violations of workers' rights including long delays at the National Labor Relations Board; restrictions on the right to strike, on boycotts, on on-the-job actions and other forms of mutual aids, even while employers are permitted to unilaterally impose terms, lock out workers, move work to another location, and replace strikers; the exclusion of large categories of workers from labor law "protections"; and the intimidating effects of firings of union supporters, which now occur in 25 percent of US organizing efforts.

The report cited the closure by Sprint of a subsidiary eight days before a union election, the inability of workers at Borg-Warner's Pony Express to achieve a con-

tract, and the use of striker replacements at Bridgestone/Firestone, Diamond Walnut and the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas as examples in which unfair labor practices were prevalent.

While abuses in developing countries tend to get more attention, "a new trend of transferring increasing power to the uncontrolled and unbridled free-market forces and the large financial trusts that control them, often with the collaboration of local political leaders, is generating more subtle and often more effective repression of unions," said ICFTU Secretary General Bill Jordan.

"The role of the trade unions has never been more relevant," he said. "In an age when the globalization of trade is shaping the world, trade unions have to make sure that where trade goes, freedom and decent conditions go too."

## Anti-Labor Repression Around the World

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions' annual Trade Union Rights Survey reports that 528 unionists were killed last year, twice the number in 1993. Some 4,300 people were arrested or detained for their labor activities.

The figures reflect a growing trend of government interference in unionism, the ICFTU said, implying that some states were suppressing workers rights in order not to get left behind in international trade. "Increased trade wars between countries and international economic policies have had a disastrous effect on workers and on those whom they have chosen to defend their interests," the ICFTU said.

Civil strife also plays a part. Of the murders of unionists, 300 occurred in Algeria, where Muslim fundamentalists are engaged in a violent fight against the military-backed government.

Several killings also took place in Colombia, where 176 trade unionists were murdered. A typical case was that of Jorge Rodriguez, killed by "seven armed and

hooded men last April, just after his union had presented claims to the management." Colombia has been in the annual survey a number of times for being one of the most dangerous countries for trade unionists.

Other countries in Latin America, such as Bolivia, also feature among the 98 countries in which trade union abuses have been reported. The ICFTU sent a mission to Bolivia to investigate the imprisonment of 300 trade unionists, but two members of the mission were themselves held and expelled.

The report also highlighted persistent and continuous violations of trade union rights in Indonesia. On El Salvador, the ICFTU condemned the assassination last year of an official of the Salvadoran sugar industry trade union. It said violations of labour rights were continuing.

In Peru, the ILO committee said, the government had failed to identify the killers of 23 mine workers and union officials in 1988 and had dragged its feet on an investigation of the murder of members of a teaching union in 1991.

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# Solidarity...

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Mexican immigrant telephone workers fired in a CWA organizing drive in California drew attention from the Mexican government.

Benedicto Martinez urged his neighbors to the north to "file cases. Make them function." Challenge "your" government and the legality of NAFTA at every turn. "It's important to think creatively about all means at our disposal," Robin Alexander added.

The UE-FAT stop in Albany concluded with a song, "Solidarity Forever," the labor anthem penned by IWW organizer Ralph Chaplin.

(To sponsor a FAT organizer write: UE/FAT Solidarity Fund, 2400 Oliver Bldg., 535 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh PA 15222.)  
—Greg Giorgio, X341883

# Letters...

continued from page 2

"I don't know who called the police, or what the facts are," he said. "But I believe people should not try to cover up the story, because it's a part of our history."

He's correct, of course.

I wish there was coverage of the event in any newspaper. Wouldn't you like to know about the memorial presentation?

Phyllis Sembos

# Russian Industry Collapses...

missions has been "stopping instruments without permission and blocking testing equipment." After one disaster, a sensor designed to detect explosive methane gas was found to have been wrapped in a sack.

Coal miners are also at risk from worn-out machinery and from the inability of mines to pay for safety devices. A union study found that the number of accidents per ton of extracted coal rose by 58 percent between 1990 and 1993, when there were 343 deaths. Between 1988 and 1993 a total of 1,720 miners were killed in Russian coal mines, compared with a death toll in US mines over the same period of 219.

Cutting back on safety may be all too profitable for the new private entrepreneurs, who are often able to force others to pay the costs of workplace butchery and environmental havoc. In the areas of job safety and industrial renewal, the interests of workers and environmentalists converge. There is an obvious need for them to join together to organize around these issues.

—Renfrey Clarke, *Russian Labor Review*

# Scabs Wanted

"Alternative Work Force" is seeking laborers to scab during a "possible labor dispute" in Michigan. They have a toll-free number: 1-800-486-1544. If you're in the area of a phone with nothing else to do, you might want to dial the scab-herders and give them a piece of your mind

# New Video: Resistance, Sabotage & Music

That is the title of a new video documentary tracing the history of radical resistance from the Luddites to the Industrial Workers of the World and Earth First! The video features interviews with historian Howard Zinn, IWW organizer Stan Anderson and former IWW members Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, and performances of an 1816 Luddite anthem, IWW songs and Earth First! songs.

The video was produced by the Madrona Media Foundation, established to producing educational materials in an entertaining format. We hope to review this hour and 45 minute documentary in a future issue. In the meantime, copies are available to Wobs for \$15 from the MMF, 1202 East Pike #1065, Seattle WA 98122-3934.

# Workplace Health

## War On Toxic Chemicals

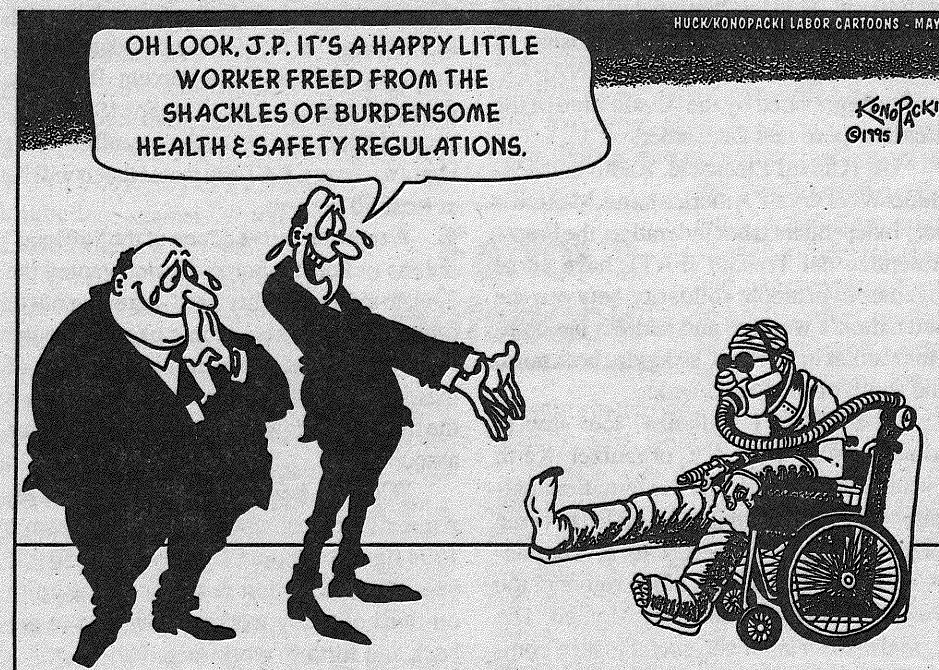
Now is the time to declare war on toxic chemicals in your workplace. Any chemical which is essentially poisonous, even in very small doses, can create problems with repeated exposure. Even if it doesn't bother you now, it might get you later - or one of your co-workers who is more sensitive.

Toxic chemicals build up in the body, gradually interfering with organic functions and lowering your tolerance. It also makes you less able to deal with stress. A little extra dose one day and boom! It hits you. You may die on the spot. Maybe you won't die, but will be plagued with problems such as headaches, depression, skin rashes or hair loss. Maybe your children will be born with health problems.

Routine handling of common chemicals such as chlorine (bleach), detergents, cosmetics and gasoline can lead to serious problems.

Insist on open windows, fans, ventilation. Insist on wearing a protective mask when handling chemicals, and gloves to keep it off your skin. If you value your health, Refuse to handle chemicals without these measures.

But that's only a temporary solution. Insist on Replacing those poisonous chemicals at your workplace with an alternative



product that is not toxic. There are many non-toxic cleaning compounds and disinfectants. Less toxic paints are available; there is always an alternative to poisons. Even heavy industrial chemical processes can be made pollution free, by a combination of replacing chemicals with less toxic ones, and filtering and recycling systems.

It's also important to know what the doctors won't tell you, that toxins can be

eliminated from your body, at least partially. A daily shot of fresh lemon juice and lots of fruit in the diet is a good plan, also avoiding fried foods which interfere with the liver's ability to eliminate toxins [R.Stone]. Certain herbs are effective for de-toxifying - talk to a herbalist.

Now is the time to declare war on toxins in your workplace. Because the toxins have already declared war on you. Mobilize your co-workers with the 3 R's of a toxin-free workplace: Refuse, Resist and Rebel!

Get support from your community by showing people the routes where dangerous chemicals are transported through your town. Accidental spills from trucks, railways and ships do happen. The best way to stop toxic chemical spills is to stop the end use of the products.

# Ban Herbicides, Pesticides, and Chemical Fertilizers

It's summer in the northern hemisphere, so the annual attack on health and the environment is on, as farmers and landscapers dump billions of tons of deadly poison onto the soil: herbicides, pesticides and artificial fertilizers.

There is only one reason these chemicals are used: to save labor. It is marginally more profitable for farmers to poison their fields, than to hire workers to dig the weeds and pinch the bugs. It's easier to buy a truckload of chemical fertilizer than it is to hire workers to compost waste. This practice is destroying the soil, and poisoning every person on earth.

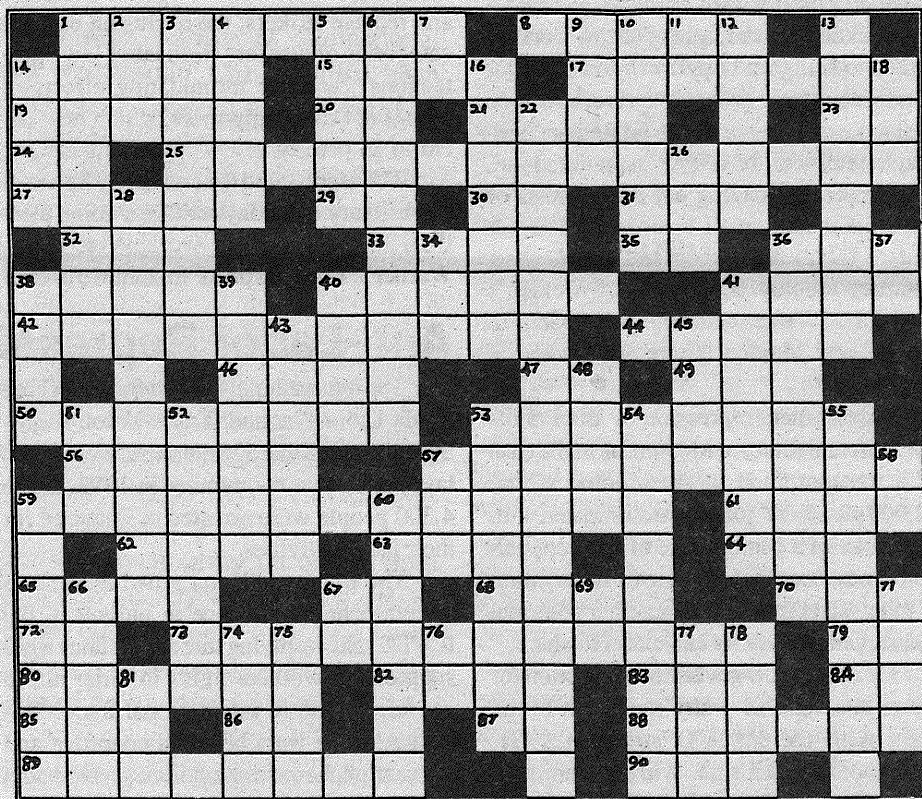
But farmers are locked into buying chemicals by a conspiracy of the banks and governments. The best places to shut it down is at the point where these poisons are produced and distributed. [Whatever you do, don't touch the stuff.]

Organize immediate action in your neighborhood to ban pesticides and herbicides on parks, lawns, along roads and railways. Tell your local authorities that your children's health is endangered by these needless practices. Threaten to sue them. Get toxic products removed from the shelves of lawn & garden stores. Demand the use of only non-toxic compounds and labor intensive methods for weed and insect control.

In stopping this evil industry, we must remember the chemical workers whose jobs will be lost. We can support OCAW's demand for government support and re-training for the workers displaced by environmental re-structuring. Perhaps some will become farm workers.

The agri-chemical industry creates more unemployment than jobs. We can well demand that seasonal jobs be created for the unemployed on farms and in urban horticulture, to compost, dig weeds and swat bugs.

CL Murray [IU610]



# Labor Crossword Puzzle

Key - page 12

### ACROSS

- 1. Ben \_\_\_: IWW maritime organizer
- 8. What workers get for creating all wealth
- 14. Cost
- 15. Chemical union (abbr.)
- 17. Deadly sport?
- 19. Last walk for fiancée?
- 20. Prefix for -worker
- 21. Polish-German river
- 23. African tree
- 24. You and I
- 25. Scabless labor (2 words)
- 27. Fasteners
- 35. You (archaic)
- 36. Draft beer spout
- 38. Healing plants
- 40. Penetrate
- 41. Stick for bouncing
- 42. Worker control advocate
- 46. Nathan, for short
- 47. Location preposition
- 49. Plead
- 50. One who imitates
- 53. How brakes sound?
- 56. Hunt (archaic, French)
- 57. They orbit the earth
- 59. Big walkout (2 words)
- 61. An exchange for money

- 62. Three, in Mexico
- 63. Take apart
- 65. Ship part
- 67. You and me
- 68. Sit \_\_\_ (2 words)
- 70. Hill, in South Africa
- 73. Rodney King's abusers were guilty of it (2 words)
- 79. 24
- 80. Inherited property
- 82. Pie in the sky (2 words)
- 83. Egg (Latin)
- 84. Perform
- 88. Brain part
- 89. Anti-\_\_\_ laws, used to frame IWW

### DOWN

- 1. Amiable
- 2. French flower
- 3. Hid by shadow
- 4. Adolescents
- 5. \_\_\_-pocus
- 6. Maxxam, for example
- 7. Egyptian deity
- 9. Greek sea word
- 10. Elizabeth \_\_\_ Flynn
- 12. \_\_\_ Press, online
- 13. Conscious withdrawal of efficiency

- 14. Cat feet
- 16. They create all wealth
- 18. Over there (archaic)
- 22. \_\_\_ the goods (3 words)
- 26. Utilize
- 28. Actions to repay
- 36. Hard negotiation (2 words)
- 38. Gompers was one, as was Uncle (2 words)
- 39. Honest
- 40. Head, in Paris
- 41. Exact
- 45. Cain killed him
- 48. Journey
- 51. I have
- 52. Tendency to remain
- 53. Bitter, sneering
- 54. Contests
- 55. No-union contract (2 words)
- 59. Early AFL member, once socialist
- 60. Keep going
- 67. Dole (abbr.)
- 69. Iridium (abbr.)
- 71. Laborer
- 75. Tau \_\_\_
- 77. Hot place
- 78. Visit and view
- 83. Bit

## 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 are remaindered, or about to go out of print. Some already have. These titles will be available in small quantities, on a one-time basis while supplies last.

**The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies** by Tom Copeland. Univ. of Washington Press, 1994, 232 pp., paper, \$17.50

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

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

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

## Video Documentary

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

28-minute video features veteran Wobblies reflecting on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

## Bumperstickers

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

## 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.

# Books for Rebel Workers

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

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

**Sabotage in the American Workplace.** edited by Martin Sprouse.

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

**Hard-Pressed in the Heartland.** by Peter Rachleff

## 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

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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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 bozoz 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

**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

**Food Not Bombs.**

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

**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

**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

**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.

## 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. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

## Available from IWW Branches

**Workers Guide to Direct Action. Workers Guide to Organizing** \$2.95 each. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog

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

**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

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# Russia: Workers, Environment Suffer as Industry Decays

When a country stops renewing its industry and infrastructure, production does not simply wind down uneventfully. Owners and managers who cannot afford to replace worn-out machinery often cannot afford to shut it down either. Instead they cross their fingers and keep it going. Sooner or later it breaks. And when it breaks it very often kills or maims people.

This is the situation that has now made Russia one of the most accident-prone countries on earth... Nearly half of machinery and equipment has now exceeded its anticipated life-span. Accordingly, the rate of accidents and disasters is soaring.

The main victims are workers, as is shown by figures for job-related deaths and injuries that are among the worst in Europe. But the lives of huge numbers of other Russians are also at risk, and the environmental implications are horrifying.

At the end of July 1994, the Moscow daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* noted a rapid increase in serious accidents. On average, there are now two serious accidents each day in Russia's gas and oil pipeline system, one per week in transport, and one per month in industry. Among the causes, the paper noted both the continued use of worn-out equipment and the increasing habit of "economizing" on safety.

The greatest potential for catastrophe is not in the aging, leaky installations of Russia's nuclear power complexes - now operating far below capacity due to problems with indebtedness - but in the chemical industry, the paper says. Stocks of dangerous substances sufficient to kill everyone on earth 20 times over are stored in chemical plants. In 15 installations in the city of Dzerzhinsk, there are 20,000 tons of

highly toxic substances; a major leak here would put 300,000 people in acute danger.

Meanwhile, three-fourths of the equipment of Russia's chemical industry has been in service for more than 20 years, and a good deal of it dates back to the 1950s. On average, there are four "incidents" involving leaks, explosions or fires each day.

Leaks in the gas and oil pipeline system do not usually take human lives, though an explosion in the city of Leninsk demolished an apartment block and killed 20 people. But the cost to the environment of frequent oil spills from cracked and corroded pipes is incalculable. A tenth of Russia's pipeline network has now been in service for more than 35 years, even though pipes ten years younger than this are normally considered unreliable. Production of steel pipes has fallen drastically in recent years.

In the field of transport, wide publicity has been given to the dangers of air travel in Russia. The number of people killed in air crashes per million passenger journeys in 1993 was ten times higher than the figure in 1987. Trusting in competition to improve air services, the government has encouraged the splitting of former monopolist Aeroflot into nearly 300 new airlines. Responding to market pressures, the new managers have abandoned Aeroflot's "pedantic" maintenance procedures. Controls on factors such as aircraft weight loadings have become haphazard. "Pilots do not know how much cargo and how many passengers they are flying because of under-the-table agreements made by ground staff," a leader of the Pilots Union complains.

Less well known are the sharply increasing dangers of traveling or working on Russian railways. According to *Nezavisimaya*

*Gazeta*, in 1993 the railways say more than 3,250 "incidents," including many disasters. This figure was almost three times the total in 1992.

Most of the carnage in the new Russian economy, however, has not been the result of "disasters" but of "minor" workplace accidents, each of which kills or mutilates one or a few workers. Such accidents are now almost routine. Labor Ministry figures show 7,600 work-related deaths in Russia in 1993, an average of 21 a day, while 13,800 workers were permanently injured. In relation to the workforce, the rate of industrial accidents was 2.5 times the US figure and seven times that of Japan.

*Izvestiya* reports that the casualty rate climbed even higher in 1994, reaching about 30 deaths and 50 permanent injuries per day. The toll in privatized industries is about twice that in their state-owned counterparts. "This is due basically to the contempt for job safety and safety equipment that reigns in the private sector," the paper said.

Another cause of the high accident rate is the widespread practice of tying wages to output, giving financially pressed workers an incentive to ignore safety provisions. This occurs even in dangerous industries such as mining. One of the main causes of mine disasters found by investigative com-

*continued on page 10*

## Manchester Univ. Blacklists Workers

Construction workers have been picketing the new Manchester Metropolitan University Humanities Building site since May 11th. The 27 electricians and pipefitters are fighting for reinstatement after being sacked by sub-contractor Rosser and Russel. The trade unions have refused any kind of official support.

The dispute began when two workers were sacked unfairly. All the electricians and pipefitters on the site walked out in support. The boss refused to negotiate and sacked everybody. Local building workers refused to cross the picket line, but scabs have now been recruited from an agency in the North East.

A collecting table has been set up outside the site, on Oxford Road, and is getting a good response from passersby. The strikers are entirely dependent on collections to keep going. Most of them are not in unions, which in any case are proving irrelevant to the dispute. The unions will not give any

support on the grounds that they could then face legal action and have their assets seized. The dispute coincided with the end of the university year, making it difficult to organise support among students - management may have timed the lockout with this in mind.

The leaflets handed out at the collection table make the following request: "We are appealing for assistance from other workers and trade unionists. Our representatives would gladly accept an invitation to address meetings or meet with individuals to explain further details of this dispute. We are appealing for solidarity and financial support to maintain our ability to continue this dispute. If you can provide assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

"On behalf of all those in dispute, Spokesman, Terry McBride (01706) 881854; Treasurer, Geoff Bridges, 154 Broadway, Royton, Oldham OL2 5BW (0161) 678 6044."

Amid all the ignorance, cupidity and chaos surrounding the capitalist system today, the characteristic that stands out most strongly is the growing hatred of capitalists for the working class...

When an employer of labor, for example, sees a workingman who has slaved away in some machine shop or factory for twenty years riding around in a Ford automobile of his own, he just naturally foams at the mouth and shrieks

that the only way to save society from utter barbarism is to lower wages right away.

When a magazine writer who has done nothing in a long life of uselessness but dress up the ideas of the owners of industry ... sees a workingman buying a ticket for a vacation and riding in a Pullman, he goes home and breaks out in a long article showing why the extravagance of the laboring classes is raising prices and driving the old ship of state straight for the rocks.

He exclaims with horror that the workmen today are demanding good and "expensive" clothing instead of shoddy, and to prove his statement he tells us how the second-hand clothing dealer has gone out of business and how a bang-up haberdasher is doing a land-office business at the old stand.

Working girls are known, during these unprecedented times, to go about wearing

### Labor Crossword Key

F	L	E	T	C	H	E	R	W	A	G	E	S	S			
P	R	I	C	E	O	C	A	W	G	U	N	P	L	A	Y	
A	I	S	L	E	C	O	D	E	R	U	N	I	O	N		
W	E	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	I	A	L	U	N	I	O	N
S	N	A	P	S	S	P	K	R	E	S	K	T				
D	T	S														
A	L	O	E	S	P	I	E	R	C	E	P	O	G	O		
S	Y	N	D	I	C	A	L	I	S	T	L	A	R	V	E	
A	E	N	A	T	E	A	T	R	E	G						
M	T	M	C	K	E	R	S	C	R	E	E	C	H	Y		
V	E	N	E	R	S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E	S		
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	T	R	I	K	E	S	A	L	E
O	T	R	E	S	U	N	D	O	C	E	L	L				
M	A	S	T	U	S	O	N	I	T	K	O	P				
P	I	I	N	C	I	T	I	N	G	R	I	O	T	W	E	
E	S	T	A	T	E	A	L	I	E	D	V	O	D	O		
R	N	A	W	T	I	C	T	N	E	U	R	O	N			
S	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	S	N	R	G				

silk stockings occasionally, and the clergy are shocked and grieved to learn that plumbers and steam fitters and electricians are to be seen now and then wearing silk shirts.

And during all these outrages the employers of labor have been forced to sit hack helpless and grind their teeth and endure these sights and plot to bring back the good

old days when the workers who produced everything had to be satisfied if they had any sort of clothes

to their backs and to eat the tougher portions of beef, when they had any.

The workers have had the employers in a corner owing to the great demand for American goods the past year and the shortage of labor, but the old politicians and the capitalist class are preparing to give us a great jolt in the near future.

Now that the bank deposits amount to about 22 times the currency in this country, the banks are up against the proposition of obeying the banking laws and holding the legal reserve in bank to (partially) protect their depositors, or of starting the printing presses going again...

And so the banks are going to curtail credit... There will not be enough credit to go around, so that some industries are going to find their loans called and the capitalists in these fields will probably have to dispose of their stocks at a reduction to meet the bank calls; some will be put out of business.

And while the press and the politicians and, above all, the capitalists cry for "increased production" out of one side of their mouths, they will be forced to refuse credit where it is necessary and will thus cause decreased production in certain industries.

Now some capitalists are up against this curtailment of credit. The banks have called their loans; they know they are up against a stiff condition; the banks require additional security for any loans. But the

## THE SPENDTHRIFT WORKERS

employers of labor, the exploiters of labor, are so obsessed with their growing fear and hatred of the workers that in spite of their own economic danger they often welcome a situation that will throw labor out of employment. They imagine unemployment will take out the new backbone the workers have developed during the past two years and make them servile wage slaves once more.

The capitalists regard it as perfectly right, justifiable and natural for the financiers, bankers and other groups of capitalists to prey upon any social group, to hold them up when they can do so, to squander and loot an lie and steal. They admire and envy the capitalist who toils not and who is known as a conspicuous waster, but their bile rises when they read about a teamster eating porterhouse steak or a mere producer owning his Ford or wearing a silk shirt.

A silk shirt on a workingman unites the entire capitalist and parasitical classes against the productive workers in society as nothing else on earth can. It draws attention

so patently to the difference between the new and the old conditions and it strikes the fear of the giant home into the hearts of those who prey upon society.

The workers in America today are in no mood for curbings, and the capitalists are in danger of losing all the power they have misused for so long. Consequently, they are organizing to put up the fight of their very lives against the working class.

We shall see the waging of a giant battle during the coming months, in which... the pure and simple craft union will prove utterly unable to stand up before the onslaughts of united capitalism, and great numbers of men in the old unions will refuse to suffer disaster for the sake of an outgrown and dying institution.

...It would be an extremely wise man who would be able to foresee what the next year will bring forth. But of one thing, I think, we may feel rather certain. It will bring us the greatest opportunity for the organization work of real class unionism that we have ever seen.

— Mary E. Marcy, *One Big Union Monthly*, August 1920

## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker*