

# Industrial Worker

MARCH 1996

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## Black Bus Workers Fight "Plantation" Conditions

Ralph Williams is a city bus driver for the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA) in Chattanooga, Tenn. He has worked for the bus company for almost ten years, and in that time has seen all kinds of racial discrimination, both in hiring and disciplinary practices. He has seen every Black worker who spoke out against company policies harassed and fired. Conditions are so bad that Black workers call ARTA "the plantation" and chafe at being treated as nothing but slaves. In 1993, however, all this began to change when a Black worker - James Jones, who was fired because of his wife's civil right activism - wouldn't take his dismissal lying down and filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This was apparently the first such complaint filed, and it shook up the company and its racially biased management.

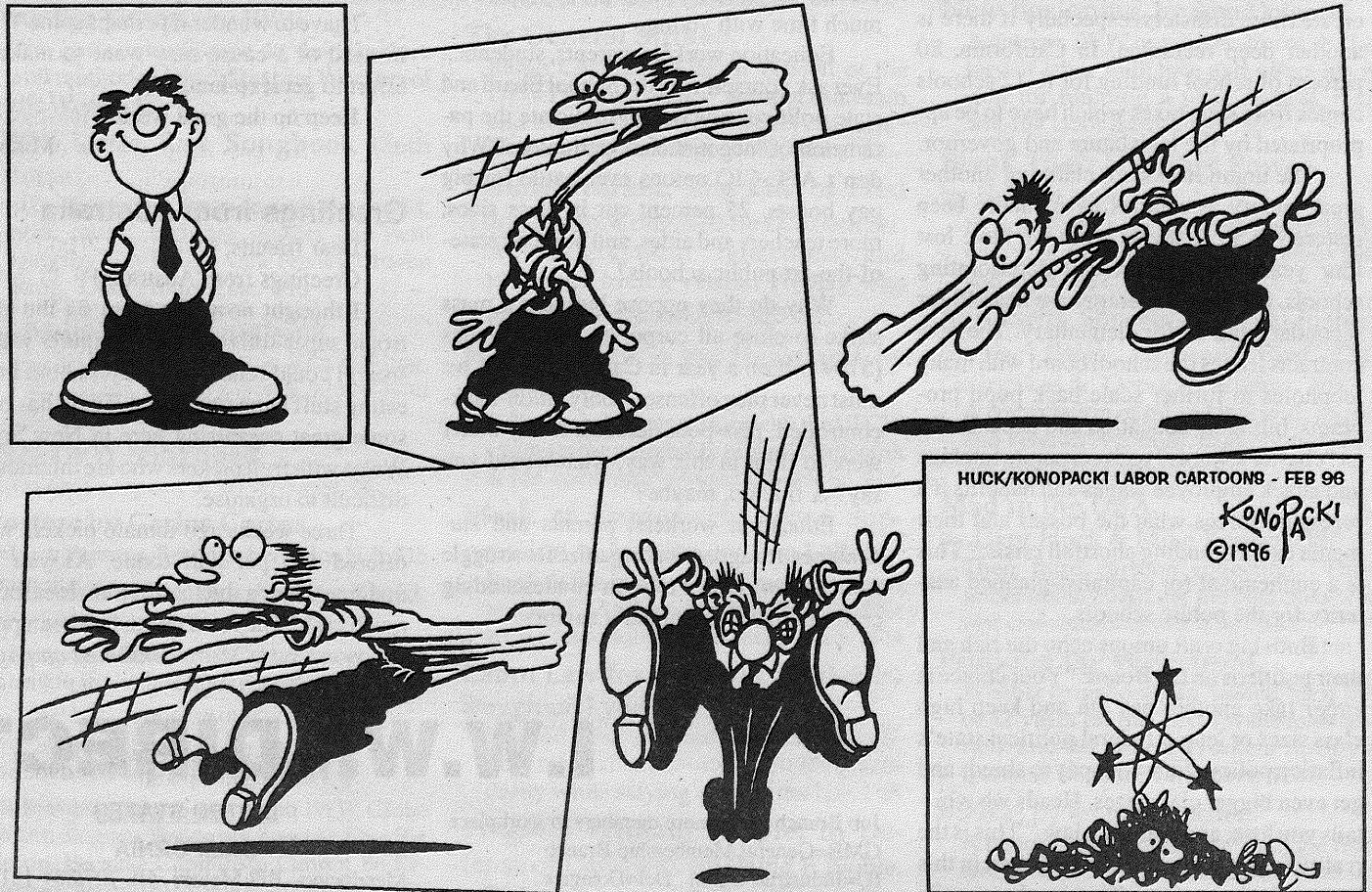
Jones then began to encourage other ARTA employees to complain about the many cases of racial discrimination and to take their cases to court.

Ralph Williams was one of those who did so. He had already filed a complaint with a city "Human Rights" agency, and this simple act of filing a grievance earned him the eternal hatred of the ARTA management. They targeted him for harassment and job termination; on one occasion they said to his face that they would fire him "just like James Jones." However this threat did not intimidate Ralph. He began to keep a daily journal of the acts of management harassment against him and send it to EEOC and other agencies as proof of illegal retaliation. But nothing was done to protect him.

In 1994 Ralph filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against ARTA for discrimination and harassment. The company then began to follow him on his routes, scream at him over the two-way radio, and file a series of bogus disciplinary reports which caused him to lose days off and paid hours. They hoped to pressure him to give up and resign, or to pad his record with false reports which would justify his firing. None of that worked, however, and Ralph continued to report for duty each day without fail - and with a smile on his face! Company officials were extremely frustrated because they had never had anyone fight them so hard, and yet

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## THE AVERAGE WORKING STIFF MEETS THE INVISIBLE HAND OF THE MARKETPLACE



## Solidarity Has Bosses on the Run...

# Mersey Dockers Still Out

In a stormy two-and-a-half-hour meeting 400 dockers have rejected the joint pleas of Transport & General Workers Union officials and church leaders and unanimously threw out a "final offer" from the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company. In the offer, MD&HC agreed to re-hire 40 of the 500 sacked men and pay £20-25,000 each as severance pay to the rest.

In a separate deal for 80 former Torside workers whose sacking provoked the original dispute, one third would be re-employed by a re-formed Torside company and the rest given £1,000 each. The dockers are still demanding the re-instatement of all sacked

## Staley Workers Fight Dictatorship

United Paperworkers International Union officials have locked the locked-out A.E. Staley workers out of their Campaign for Justice office and called police to bar them from their union hall, as a handful of workers returned to work under a yellow-dog contract rammed down workers' throats by UPIU officials.

Only 181 Staley workers returned Jan. 22, out of the 762 workers locked out by the company. As they began working side by side with scabs, Staley management issued warnings of "aggressive, swift and decisive" discipline against union members. Managers are working around-the-clock six-hour shifts (no 12-hour rotating shifts for the bosses) to make sure they can mete out instant discipline and firings.

Since taking office, UPIU Local 7837 president James Shinall has refused to allow non-returning workers to participate in union meetings even though they still had several days to reconsider their decision. Some \$140,000 in relief funds collected from supporters around the country has also been seized by Shinall, who refuses to release the funds to relieve distressed workers. One locked-out Staley worker suggested that

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men from both companies.

MD&HC said the offer would cost £7-8 million, but admitted that the international support action of dockers throughout the world for the Liverpool workers had so far cost them £4 million plus an additional loss by Euro-link of £3.3 million.

The dockers are now planning to revisit all the ports throughout the world that have supported them so magnificently. They are angry at an attempt to undermine their action by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), which issued a statement "stress[ing] the need for an effective co-ordination... Effective co-ordination requires the ITF's affiliates to wait for a request from the ITF before supportive actions are organised. Do not start any action against any vessel known to be loading/discharging cargoes to and from the port of Liverpool without contacting the ITF secretariat!"

Atlantic Container Line (ACL), one of the largest shipping lines using the Liverpool port, has backed off its promise to move its cargo operations if the locked-out workers were not returned to their jobs, claiming that T&GWU officials had asked it to stick with the scabby port while negotiations continued. The rank-and-file Mersey Dockers' Shop Stewards responded to the stalling by demanding that ACL honor its promise.

Despite these "union" call for scabbing, dock workers in America, Australia,

Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Spain and Sweden have all shown their solidarity by refusing to work scab cargo.

## Diary Of An Exceedingly Long-Range Picket

Lloyds List said an Australian shipping company, hit by Sydney dockers' solidarity action with Liverpool, had been a victim of "exceedingly long-range secondary picketing."

On 14 December Bobby Moreton, Tony Nelson and Kevin Bilborrow went to the US as representatives of the 500 sacked Liverpool dockers.

The delegation aimed to picket the docks at Baltimore, where the 36,000 tonne Atlantic Companion, owned by Atlantic Containers Limited (ACL) which had been loaded by scabs was due to dock.

Under US law the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) cannot organise a solidarity strike in support of the Liverpool dockers, but if a picket line is set up each worker has the right to decide individually whether or not to cross it.

The delegation's task was crucial because the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company (MDHC) can not afford to lose its contract with ACL, its biggest customer.

So concerned were MDHC directors to keep ACL using Liverpool that they have

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## In This Issue...

New Women's Column

Canadian General Strikes

The Boss Press

Bisbee Deportation (1917)

High-Tech Job Fantasy



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## Capital District IWW Sets '96 Plans

The Capital District Group of the IWW will continue its program of visibility in the struggle to raise the paltry \$4.25 an hour minimum wage in New York state. The Campaign for a Livable Minimum Wage, with support from Albany-area Wobs, is now in its fourth year. The group has agitated, lobbied and educated officials and citizens about the desperate need for a higher minimum wage.

Government reaction has largely been unsympathetic to the lowest-paid segment of the working class. The New York state legislature, a new labor commissioner, and governor Pataki have ignored a state-sponsored study that shows how to generate several billion dollars for a limp, cash-starved economy — raise the minimum wage!

Capital District Solidarity Committee spokesman John Funicello, in a recent edition of the group's monthly *Solidarity Notes*, said the time has come "to begin to talk about a living wage." The idea of a mandated minimum will always provide an opportunity for government to sanction subsistence instead of sustenance. Funicello sees a \$10 minimum as a reasonable goal.

"That's certainly the take we have on this fight," Greg Giorgio, Capital District IWW delegate said. "We worked with other Campaign members to produce a survey that would prove what we already know," Giorgio explained. "The minimum is a joke; we've revised the leaflet to concentrate on the words 'living wage.' We've got to change our thinking and our language."

Capital District IWW completed a busy year if picketing for the larger Campaign out in the streets once again, signing up low-wage workers to join in future efforts to attempt to organize them into this struggle.

On the political front of the Campaign, fundraising continues for a lawsuit to be filed to force New York's Labor Commissioner John Sweeney to convene a minimum wage board (to review the painfully obvious reasons the minimum's too low while business interests line up to cry poverty), and to put an organizer in the field.

Capital District held its first minimum wage demonstration of the year in mid-January, and will conduct two more actions into early Spring, when longer range plans will be made.

"We have no illusions," Giorgio said. "The politicians are not our friends, nor are they invested in a real sense, in a living wage in our state. But this most basic issue must be placed into the public discussion. It's a good jumping off point to develop more working-class consciousness in our community. We welcome that."

### 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.

## Around Our Union

### Calling All Fellow Workers & Friends

The Republican national convention will be in San Diego in early August, and a small group of locals would like you all to come on down to help us march, picket, demonstrate and disrupt the Republicanat fest. This is still early in the planning stages, so your ideas and suggestions are asked for and needed. SO put San Diego on your travel plans for this summer, cause we're still here!

San Diego IWW, PO Box 907, San Diego CA 92112-0907

### Philly Borders Workers Lining Up

Booksellers and Cafe staffpersons at the Center City Philadelphia Borders Bookshop have filed a petition for union certification with the National Labor Relations Board. The petition was supported by 72% of the proposed bargaining unit (43 workers: 31 application cards).

The January 19th issue of Philadelphia's *City Paper* features a cover story on the Philadelphia IWW branch, focusing on the Ben Fletcher center in North Philadelphia. Despite a rather sensationalistic flavor (the author works in several referenced to "sabotage" and "industrial guerrilla warfare"), the article is on the whole rather favorable and should raise our visibility in the area and help rebellious fellow workers find their way to the One Big Union.

### Solidarity with Liverpool Dockers

The Birmingham group of the Industrial Workers of the World organized a very successful solidarity meeting in support of the sacked Merseyside Dockers on 19 January which raised in excess of two hundred pounds in donations and pledges.

The meeting attracted 50 people to the Union Club in Birmingham and was chaired by George Hickman, GPMU, and addressed by Kevin Brandstatter from the IWW, Bridget Bell from North Staffordshire Women Against Pit Closures and Mick



photo: Langelle/NFN

Native American holds sign in protest for Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier in front of the Burlington, VT, Federal Building. The demonstration was organized by the Native Forest Network, IWW and Anarchist Black Cross.

Tighe and Nick Silvano, sacked Dockers.

The meeting resolved to set up a support group to meet regularly and spread news of the strike in the West Midlands and heard from the floor of the work already being done by different groups and individuals.

Chas Stoll, local organizer with the IWW, said that he was very pleased with the conduct and outcome of the meeting and that the IWW would fully participate in the support group.

### Wobs Fight for Freedmen's Town

Freedmen's Town was founded in 1868, just after the Civil War. The land that was allotted to the former slaves was a large tract of "worthless" swamp land near the Buffalo Bayou in what is now Houston. In an ironic twist of fate that same land, sandwiched between downtown Houston and pricy residential districts, is worth an estimated \$65 million. Greedy developers on all sides of the area are drooling over the prospects of leveling the historic district and replacing it with the specter of high-rise office buildings, upscale shops and overpriced condos.

Most of the resistance to the sharks' encroachment into the oldest African-American community in East Texas has come from the Allen Parkway Residents Council (APVRC). Allen Parkway Village is a large housing project which after years of neglect is the first area slated to succumb to the bulldozers.

For the past 15 years the APVRC and its supporters have been able to keep the bulldozers out of the neighborhood, but the powers-that-be are once again attempting to level APV. The newest Demolition application was steamed rolled past the Houston Housing Authority, and quickly rubber-stamped by HUD.

The Freedmenstown Squatter Festival will be held April 27th-May 2nd and will feature a massive housing takeover/occupation of Allen Parkway Village, workshops, lots of live music, IWW/FNB/EF! direct actions against corporate assholes who seek to profit of the suffering of the people, etc. APV has hundreds of empty apartment units available for squatting, and large open spaces for massive tent cities.

To make it happen we need your help! So in the spirit of solidarity and mutual aid here's some ideas to get you started: Come to Freedmen's Town to volunteer/participate; Come early to help us organize; help raise \$\$ for material aid; Tell everyone you know about the festival; or send a contribution in the form of stamps or well-concealed cash to: Houston Food Not Bombs, PO Box 981101, Houston TX 77098.

— Nicky Richards

### Vermont Protest for Leonard Peltier

Almost 100 people demonstrated February 6 for Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier in front of the Burlington, Vermont, Federal Building. Featured speakers included long-time Vermont activist Dave Dellinger (former defendant in the Chicago Eight Conspiracy Trial) and Abenaki Native American Dee Brightstar. Bread and Puppet performed a street theatre production of "The Foot."

"Given this country's treatment of its original natives and their descendants, freeing Leonard Peltier could be as important for us as freeing Nelson Mandela was for South Africa," said Dave Dellinger. He continued, "South Africa did not become a Utopia and neither will we. But Peltier has already served twenty years for a crime that the FBI, Justice Department and Prosecutor know that he did not commit. So public insistence that he be freed will be a positive affirmation of all-embracing human solidarity and a preliminary insistence that we will not tolerate a criminal justice system that commits such crimes."

Non-violent protests such as Burlington's occurred internationally today on the 20th anniversary of Peltier being apprehended in Canada. The demonstrations were called for by the Kansas based Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and organized in Burlington by the Native Forest Network, Industrial Workers of the World and Anarchist Black Cross. IWW members helped organize and joined several Peltier demonstrations across the United States.

"The U.S. government now has the chance to right one of its terrible wrongs to its original inhabitants, us Native Americans," said Dee Brightstar of the Abenaki Nation. "We need to show justice, which this country was founded on, to a terrible injustice and set a beautiful human being free who has suffered enough for a crime he never committed."

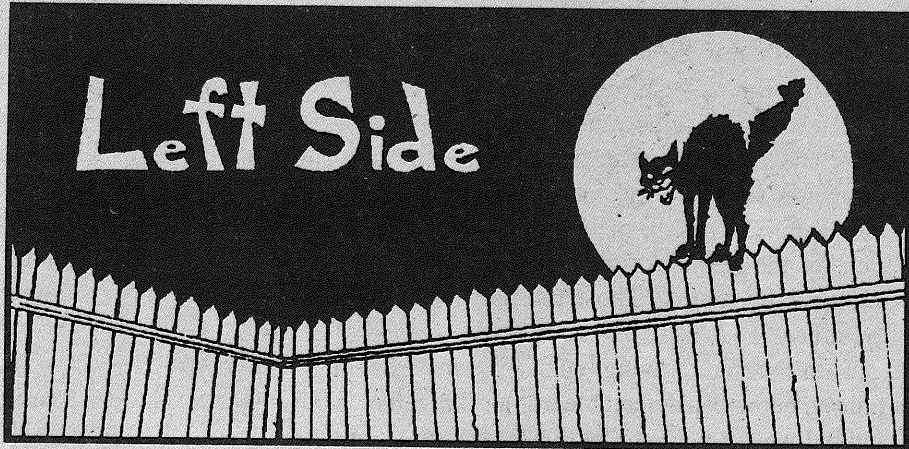
### May Day Greetings

Greeting Ads for our May issue offer an opportunity to demonstrate your support of this paper and our message of revolutionary industrial unionism. Ads for the May issue must be received by April 3rd. No commercial advertising accepted.

Suggested donation levels: \$10 for a 1.5 inch ad (1 column), \$30 for 4 inches by 4 7/8" (2 columns), \$75 for a quarter page. We can set it up from your message, or you can send in your camera-ready copy.

We can also provide extra copies of the May Day issue at normal bundle rates.

We are hoping for a special section on workers' culture, if contributions permit. Your submissions are welcome.



"A most ingenious doctor directed that every senator in the great council of a nation, after he had delivered his opinion and argued in the defense of it, should be obliged to give his vote directly contrary because the result would infallibly terminate in the good of the public."

So reads an excerpt from *Gulliver's Travels*, that well-known classic authored by Jonathan Swift, one of England's great social satirists. It is a shame that our politicians do not put that into practice, but such a thing is not to be and it is up to the "public" to take the bull by the horns and bring about a society where BS-ing politicians would be obsolete.

One of our Stateside politicians apparently followed Swift's admonition, though not exactly in the manner that old Jonathan had in mind. Senator Robert Smith, Republican of New Hampshire, voted for a bill that would drastically reduce compensatory payments that go beyond actual expenses. At the same time last December, his wife, Mary Jo, was awarded \$175,000 by a jury in Washington, D.C., for injuries incurred from falling off a parking lot ramp at a local hotel. She was rushing to a fancy luncheon where the main speaker was sweet Hillary, the better half of Freedomland's top banana. Only \$7,500 was for actual medical expenses.

Judging from current hospital expenses, she probably wasn't in the krakenhaus long enough to miss the luncheon.

This should be an indication that politicians are not going to voluntarily bring about their own obsolescence. It's up to somebody else, and you know who that is!

Over that well-known holiday that commemorates the birth of Christianity, your scribe was in the land of Jonathan Swift visiting family. (You might be curious how a half-breed like yours truly would have family in the Mother of Freedomland, particularly if the family is Greek. Resign yourselves that your not-so-humble scribe is a person of many talents.) Ten days in the city of London, the capital of what my old colleague Arthur Moyse referred to as the Island Nation, can at best be a scratch of a multi-faceted surface. Besides having at least met my fellow scribe, Arthur, who some of you readers may remember as a long-time contributor of a column and satirical cartoons to the *Industrial Worker* as well as the fellow workers at Freedom Press, I had a pleasant ten-day taste of London. Arthur is a hale and spry 81 who now devotes his full time to painting, with occasional visits to his favorite pub. Freedom Press has been enduring harassment from right-wing skinheads, as can be expected.

Besides sampling the potables at anarchist-frequented pubs and visiting various museums and galleries, I had a brief taste of life in London. Of course, England is expensive – not only for those who have Freedomland dollars, but for the Brit as well. I know this from visitors from England who come to Freedomland, stocking up on items that are far cheaper here than what they have to pay back home. That has something to say about the buying power of the Stateside working stiff's wages. The economic crunch weighs heavily on the English working-stiff as it does for our class around the world, but perhaps because the labor movement has not been pushed back to ground zero as much as it has been here in Freedomland, a worker in England has a few more benefits than his or her Stateside colleagues. Not having seen all parts of London in only ten days, one does not see the hosts of homeless or panhandlers that one encounters in Stateside metropolises. Perhaps some of our English fellow workers might care to comment on this.

For a metropolis such as London with nine million-plus inhabitants, there is surprisingly little pollution, the automotive traffic runs quite smoothly, and the public transportation is some of the best your scribe has seen.

Perhaps because the public transport is frequent and smooth-running and most Brits prefer to ride the bus or the tube over driving their own gas-guzzler is the answer to the lack of street congestion and lack of pollution. Unlike the cities in Freedomland, people in England are encouraged to use public transport rather than drive their own cars.

Methinks that is not because the commercial interests over there are less greedy than here in Freedomland, but that the English working stiff has gotten themselves a little better conditions than the colleagues over here.

Wage slaves of the World, unite!

You have nothing to lose but your hemorrhoids!

— C.C. Redcloud

Members of the New York General Membership Branch note the passing of **Matilda Tigner** in November 1995. Matilda and her sister Sophie worked in the Paterson textile mills when they were young girls and joined the IWW and were active participants in our struggles to organize the mills. They retained their IWW membership through the years. Matilda was a firm supporter of the union and will be missed.

FW **Charlie Sato** died calmly and peacefully January 28 after a ten-month struggle with ovarian cancer.

Charlie was born June 25, 1951, in Lahaina, Maui, and grew up in Wahiawa, on O'ahu. She had taught sociolinguistics and pidgin and creole studies at UH-Manoa for the past 14 years, and was Chair of the Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition. A tireless fighter for social justice and the

## Shut Them Down

As Gannett and Knight-Ridder's (owners of the *Detroit News* and *Free Press*) strike-related losses approach \$150 million, the giant media conglomerates show no sign of backing down. "We're going to hire a whole new work force and go on without unions," *Detroit News* editor Robert Giles said, "or they can surrender unconditionally and salvage what they can."

The publishers appear to be winning. Yes, circulation is way down; advertising is down; and the union-published *Detroit Sunday Journal* is being well-received. But in any starve-out strike, Gannett and Knight-Ridder start with a huge advantage – they can drop a couple hundred of million bucks on union-busting and cover the losses from their other newspapers, magazines, billboards, TV stations, etc. As long as they can keep their scab papers on the streets – and in the face of anti-labor injunctions, the newspaper unions have essentially given up on stopping the scab papers – they will eventually come out on top.

So something needs to be done. There is growing support for a national labor march on Detroit to support the striking newspaper workers. But we don't need more symbolic marches, replete with politicians mouthing pious platitudes about the "little people" (leprechauns, grab your wallets).

We've done plenty of marching in recent years, and all it's given us is sore feet. We need direct action at the point of production to hit the bosses where it hurts – in their pocketbooks.

There are in the neighborhood of a half-million union members in the Detroit vicinity – more than enough to effectively picket the printing, editorial and distribution centers and shut the scab papers down. It can be done – and sustained – as long as necessary, if the unions (and members) are determined to turn back the union-busters.

## Union Scabbing

A few weeks back an appeal ran in the *New York Times* pleading with other workers to honor building workers' picket lines. "This is your strike too," the full-page ad explained. "If you cross a picket line, you hurt the members of Local 32B-32J and you hurt the members of your union. You hurt yourself too..."

"The old truism 'an injury to one is an injury to all' was born in times of turmoil and every union is facing times of turmoil again... The reason unions became successful in the early years of this century was because working people banded together. The spirit of unionism was alive in every worker's heart... It didn't matter what union was involved, when a picket line went up, no union member crossed." (emphasis in original)

One could quarrel with their history (the AFL was built on union-scabbing), but the basic premise is sound – Union scabbing must stop!

## Farewell, Fellow Workers

rights of working people, she was a supporter of LACASA, the People's Fund and other projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, and an active member of the O'ahu General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Various projects are planned to help commemorate Charlie and to continue her work, including a volume of papers edited by John Rickford and Suzanne Romaine: *Creole Genesis, Sociohistory, and Aesthetics: A celebration of Charlene J. Sato* (publisher to be announced). Two funds have been set up for purposes specified by her. The first will help support students doing work on any aspect – linguistic, social,

The labor movement is weak today. But we aren't so weak that we have to stab our fellow workers in the back in a desperate scramble for the occasional crumb the bosses dangle in front of our noses. If workers once again begin taking picket lines seriously – refusing to do scab work, refusing to haul scab cargo, refusing to service struck employers or struck job sites, refusing to do anything whatever to aid the bosses while they are trying to crush our fellow workers – we are strong enough to make it stick.

Some unions did honor the 32B-32J lines, and the bosses had to scale back their give-back demands. But it's

time to stop battling the bosses with both hands tied behind our backs, blindfolded, playing by their rules...

## Editor's Notebook



## Mickey Mouse Beats Workers

While the U.S. and other governments turn a blind eye to labor repression in China, the State Department is threatening substantial penalties if the Chinese authorities don't crack down on pirated movies, CDs and computer software. It seems Mickey Mouse has much more pull in the corridors of Washington than do workers...

## Dollars for Democrats

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney says the federation will spend \$35 million in the 1996 election campaign in behalf of 75 targeted candidates. The AFL is meeting this month to formally endorse President Clinton's re-election.

Sweeney, a member of Democratic Socialists of America, has been wandering the country offering olive branches to the employing class. He might do better to borrow a page from our French fellow workers, who apparently know what to do when they find themselves under attack...

## Public Safety

The *New York Times* (2/10/96) criticizes Guinea's government for its incompetence, "unable to achieve such elementary results as paying salaries on time or keeping the streets safe from policemen..." It's nice to see our paper of record finally admit that people need protection from the police, rather than the other way around.

## Featherbedding

As we go to press, another rail accident, this time in New Jersey, has killed two engineers – one of whom had been working for 14 hours – and a passenger. We've had a string of such "accidents" in recent months as rail companies have slashed train crews and increased working hours in an all-out war against the dreaded feather-bedding.

Not that the bosses are against feather beds, mind you (one need only visit the management suites to see that they have no objection to a little luxury). But the thought of paying a few "extra" workers to keep an eye out for safety gives them indigestion...

educational, artistic or political – of Hawai'i Creole English. The second will help support women members' participation in the IWW. Those wishing to do so may donate to either or both. For the former, checks should be made payable to "UH Foundation" (mentioning the Charlene Sato Memorial Fund), and sent to the University of Hawai'i Foundation, P.O. Box 11270, Honolulu HI 96828. For the latter, checks should be made payable to "IWW" (mentioning the Charlie Sato Memorial Fund), and sent to 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197-5438.

## Charlene Sato Memorial Fund

Dr. Alison Mackey, East Lansing MI 50  
Donald Loritz & Jane Carroll, Fairfax 25  
David Cozy, Tokyo Japan 50

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous contributions.

# Sweatshops in the New Post-Fordist Economy

The following is translated from the Jan. 23rd issue of the Italian daily paper *il manifesto*. Although Wobblies will disagree with the conclusion, it contains useful information on the plight of the "self-employed" in Italy, a situation little different from that encountered by wage-slaves around the world:

The stories recounted elsewhere in *il manifesto* tell us that self-employed or atypical workers work more than those employed for wages.

They can choose when, but not how much. But if that is the case, the reduction of working hours as an instrument to fight unemployment risks losing its credibility.

Here is another of the walls that postfordism condemns us to beat our heads against: so long as growth does not create employment, the reduction of working hours is necessary. But so long as postfordism lengthens the social working day, reducing hours is impossible. This thesis, which is very much against the stream, was argued by Sergio Bologna last summer at a conference on the 35-hour week held as part of the Festa di Liberazione.

I want to summarise his presentation, since it intersects in a number of ways with *il manifesto*'s current enquiry into the world of work:

The postfordist labour market is no longer that of the 19th century, which was divided between the employed and the unemployed. Instead, it is characterised by four phenomena:

1) The existence of an army of "working poor" – people who work but remain below the poverty line.

2) The aggravated and chronic reality of "joblessness," above all amongst the young: an existence in which people are tossed back and forth between casual (and different) forms of employment, with no possibility of accumulating a profession in the process.

3) The division – stemming from Toyotaist productive decentralisation – between the employees of the mother-firm and those of supplier firms (the further from the centre, the more uncontrollable the conditions and hours of work).

4) The spread of the miniaturisation of enterprises, to the point where individuals be-

## Tomato Pickers Down Under...

(from page 2)

ing to increase the amount to \$47 per 1/2 without success.

This season things changed. The pickers went out on strike and refused to pick unless the new price was paid. The bosses refused, knowing that tomatoes have a very short picking season so if the workers did not accept the old rate and work they would be out of a job.

The pickers are mostly travelling workers pretty desperate for cash. Nevertheless, almost three weeks later over 1 million dollars worth of tomatoes have rotted in the fields.

There is still an impasse at the moment and we are waiting to see what happens. The union says they aren't sure what's happening, but people just weren't coming to work and for their part they were encouraging it! You see the union didn't have many members so there were no formal way of contacting people but that ol' grape (tomato) vine has kept the

come firms, with the consequent enlargement of the sector of self-employment.

An objective consequence of these four aspects of postfordism has been the progressive lengthening of hours worked. This has happened just as much in the "central" sector of the labour market, that of traditional wage labour.

If in the latter case a limit could, if desired, be placed upon overtime, elsewhere a weak workforce, outside the regulation of industrial contracts and available for anything [disposta a tutto] is forced to endure working days of more than ten hours' length. Here it is possible "to hire a young woman part time for four hours and make her work eight." She would still only be paid for the four hours because "pay has now become uncoupled from units of time."

In the industrial districts of Emilia, which Clinton so appreciates, "working days of 12 to 14 hours are considered normal." ... The need to link the concentric circles of the Toyotist system has meant an increase in the number of employees in the transport sector, where the working day is amongst the longest. Self-employed labour, around which – according to Bologna – 7 to 10 million Italians gravitate, has been one of the driving forces in the lengthening of the social working day. Self-employed workers are forced to work so many hours "because of objective market mechanisms," not because of some "tendency towards self-exploitation" or an "irrepressible yearning for individual aggrandisement," as a myopic left thinks.

Conclusion: "we have to get the idea of resolving unemployment through reduced working hours out of our heads." Only two options remain: either a guaranteed wage for all, or else an active employment policy entirely supported by the state. And who will pay for all this? Bologna does not say, but we should thank him all the same for his provocative arguments.

Manuela Cartosio, "POSTFORDISMO Le nuove frontiere di un orario senza controllo," *il manifesto*, 23 January 1996



action going with no reported breaks in the strike.

Here is hoping this electronic zappy stuff finds you in good health and spirits.

Stay strong – great paper.

— Jamie

"I ain't scared of your jails cuz I want my freedom." In honor of Black History Month there was a fine retrospective on the radio yesterday about the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee during Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964. Of course it mentioned the murder of three civil rights workers there, Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman. They were about my age, young men at the time. I was just coming into political consciousness. They already had theirs. I had just engaged in my first demonstration in Ypsilanti at Eastern Michigan University, a support march for the freedom fighters in the south. I knew I wanted to be involved in bringing about change. Those murders made me very aware of the potential price of freedom.

"I ain't scared of dying 'cuz I want my freedom!" the voice on the radio sings defiantly, but with a detectable tremor that tells me the singer was indeed scared of dying but wasn't going to let that deter him from his goal. And the former SNCC

## from the desk of...

activists on the program told of how every once in a while they would be very scared of dying, but would suppress it by plunging back into their organizing. My personal heroes scare easily, but they don't deter easily.

Someone sent a postcard to General Headquarters recently. It has a picture of Mother Jones on it. She is quoted saying: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." Well, I'm not a praying man, but I do honor the dead while I'm fighting for the living. And those three names are branded into my consciousness. I can only imagine how many others were radicalized by their sacrifice.

They were part of a seminal movement. Their courage and that of thousands of others like them brought the beginning of the end of segregation. Of course it didn't end racism. That's a struggle which will no doubt always be with us. But they're part of a long line of people from the beginning of human time who have risked all for principles like freedom and justice. Their example inspired others to risk in other movements for the same principles. They were no doubt inspired by the risks of those who came before them.

I'm getting the feeling that a seminal movement today may be the struggle for economic justice.

And one of the key battlegrounds may be in Detroit where the strike against Gannett and Knight-Ridder drags into its 7th month. Detroit remains a relative stronghold in the U.S. labor movement. Close to a quarter of a million people in Southeast Michigan are Union. I have to wonder if that isn't the reason Detroit was chosen for this particular battle. If Gannett and Co. can bust the six striking unions at the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*, in the back yard of the UAW, in an area of Teamster strength, it will promote the illusion that they are invincible. And that will send a message of encouragement to other corporate giants that, if they haven't done so already, now's the time for the final drive to crush the unions.

Each of the Detroit papers has reported more than \$50 million in losses and expectations of losing tens of millions more because of the strike. Yet a spokesperson from Gannett shrugs. The corporate giant which publishes *U.S.A. Today* can lose 50 million in Detroit and still report corporate profits of 70 million for the year.

Former Governor George Wallace of Alabama will be remembered for posturing in a schoolhouse door to block racial integration, his infamous comment: "Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!" George was proven wrong because of the courage of people like Schwerner, Chaney and

Goodman. If people like them decide it's time to take a stand in today's struggle, the suits at Gannett and Knight-Ridder will be proven wrong as well.

There's talk of efforts to get the AFL-CIO high mucky-mucks to come back to Detroit to lead a march in the spring. And there's talk of using that march as a springboard for massive civil disobedience against the papers. There's even talk of promoting a general strike in Detroit. That kind of talk was starting to be heard last September when thousands of strikers and their supporters stood up to Sterling Heights cops and Vance Security goons at the *Detroit News* plant. It faded with the imposition of an injunction against mass picketing which the leaders of the striking unions decided to honor.

Now the NLRB has ruled the unions have engaged in an unfair labor practice by harrassing scabs. The Gannett spokesman says he hopes this will encourage the unions to change their tactics. It's certainly time to change tactics. The ones determined to be acceptable by the powers that be are bound to lose the strike for the workers.

So maybe it's time for civil disobedience and general strikes. And maybe talk of these or other actions shouldn't be limited to Detroit. Gannett is everywhere in the U.S. If it succeeds in busting the Detroit strike, it will use its deep pockets to fight the unions at its papers across the country. Of course we all know that the general strike is a romantic dream, an impractical theory. That's what I was taught in school. Apparently French workers aren't as well schooled as those of us in the United States.

The "leaders" of the striking Detroit newspaper unions don't seem likely to take any action which might put them in jail or put their treasuries in jeopardy. If it is to happen, it will come from the rank-and-file workers who have had enough, who are ready to say "I ain't scared of your jails, goons, injunctions cuz I want my freedom, want my freedom, want my freedom NOW!"

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

## Boss Press Propaganda...

## Taming the Wage-Earner

This article is reprinted from the November/December 1995 issue of *Extra!*, published by Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting. It has been slightly edited.

In the last five years, the vast majority of US workers have seen their wages stagnate or shrink, with 80 percent of the male and 70 percent of the female workforce the same or worse off than in 1989. Total compensation (wages plus benefits) fell 3 percent from March 1994 to March 1995; what tiny wage gains were achieved could not keep pace with the cost of living. This is all the more disturbing because workers' productivity — their output per hour of work — is increasing, and corporate profits are through the roof, hitting their highest rates in at least 25 years.

Mainstream media have reported these alarming realities. But, given the bland euphemism, obscuring jargon and sheer business boosterism of much economic reporting, they haven't done much to make sense of things. In fact, what's being called a growing "disconnect" between workers' well-being and traditionally defined economic health is mirrored in the gap between mainstream media's economic perspective and most people's lives.

## Workers as "Employment Costs"

An April 26 *USA Today* story reflects corporate-owned media's typical approach to economic news: Headlined "Economy Shows It's Still Hot," the front-page item celebrated the "good news" that "employment costs rose just 2.9 percent" in the last year — welcome evidence that "inflation pressures are in check."

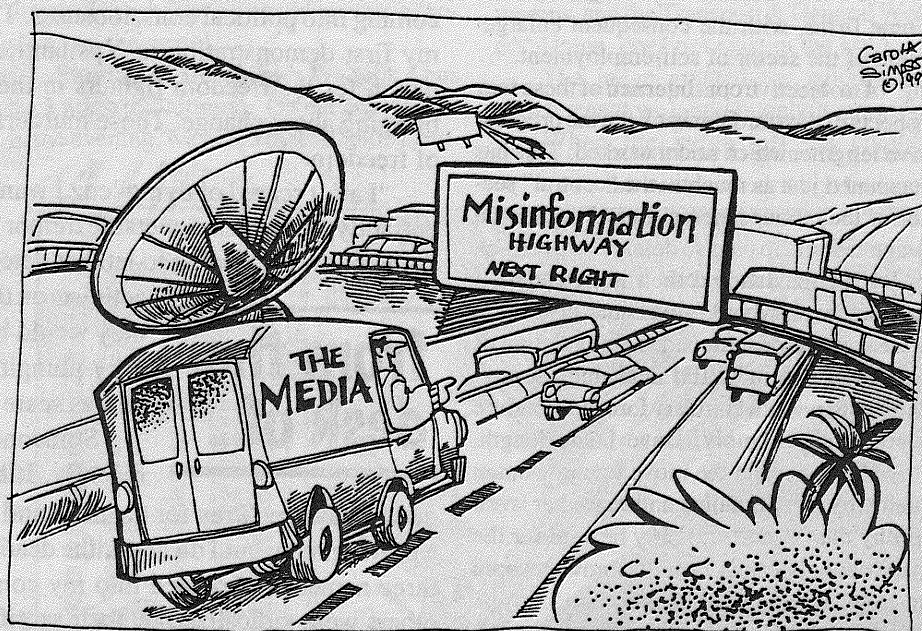
In this view, the pay and benefits earned by workers are "employment costs"; their "modest increase" is good news. The article warns of what could happen "if the economy rebounds too much," but assures readers that "with wages still tame, the inflation threat remains modest." Of course, "wages" here really means wage-earners, and what's really being "tamed" are workers' expectations of keeping up with the cost of living, and someday, perhaps, getting ahead.

The business press, while hardly an advocate of workers, is generally more forthright and informative. As early as January of 1995, *Business Week* (1/30/95) was reporting a "dramatic shift in who is benefiting from the revival of Corporate America"; by July 17 the magazine was questioning whether workers would ever regain lost ground.

In business publications, stagnant wages aren't the product of some "invisible hand" — they're the result of active decisions made by the sort of people who read these publications. A July 17 *Business Week* cover story offered specific instances of employers who, despite "profits...at a 45-year high," are "tearing up pay systems and job structures, replacing them with new ones that slice wage rates, slash raises and subcontract work to lower-paying suppliers." ...

Most of the mainstream, meanwhile, had yet to notice anything amiss. A July 25 *Washington Post* story found the economic vista "upbeat and unambiguous." The headline exclaimed, "Signposts Across U.S. Point To an Economy in Full Bloom; Downsized Firms Produce More With Less." Without apparent irony, the *Post's* Steven Pearlstine demonstrated the "dynamism" of the economy with a series of anecdotes about companies that have boosted productivity by firing workers.

Pearlstine ended with a quote from a Coors executive "who spent much of his last two years engineering a 10 percent reduc-



"Turn here. We're covering a labor story."

tion in the Coors work force" "Hey, this is fun again," the executive declared.

As late as August 9, *USA Today* was still blithely reporting that a rise in productivity could only signal the "health and competitiveness" of the US economy, because "when workers produce more in less time, their standard of living improves."

## "Perceived Lack of Sharing"

When the Labor Department released statistics in late summer showing wages unhinged from productivity — turning wage stagnation, briefly, into a political issue — mainstream media might have confronted the contradictions in their coverage. Instead, most reporters took recourse in a superficial "balancing" of opinions and a pretend naiveté about the economic system.

Articles in major papers echoed the theme of a Sept. 4 *Los Angeles Times* story on "the angst of wage-earners." The article cited estimates that profits for major blue chip companies, measured in return for equity, hit an unprecedented 19.8 percent in the second quarter of 1995 — double the rate in most other large economies. Even as corporate profits were setting records, the median weekly wage continued to fall, down 5 percent since 1979. The *L.A. Times* could only describe this situation as a "perceived lack of sharing" of corporate wealth.

The worst of this tendency was represented by an August 13 *New York Times*

story, comparing Republican and Democratic responses to the wage stagnation that is "dashing the traditional American dream." The Clinton administration, the article says, believes that improving workers' skills will "eventually" lead to higher pay, while Republicans argue that "a balanced budget in itself will push up wages over time."

But rather than take on the inadequacy of either theory, *Times* reporter Louis Uchitelle throws up his hands. "No one knows which approach is right," he concludes, because "professional economists can be found advocating each viewpoint."

This juxtaposition of what "some economists say" with what "other economists say" was the favored analytical approach of mainstream reporters. Not all sources appeared to have been selected for their insight; the Associated Press (9/2/95) found one "private economist" who, presented with the scenario of declining worker compensation, replied: "I better get my handkerchief out. Maybe people are being paid what they're worth."

The *Times's* Uchitelle even hints that the general public might be too dim to understand how wage levels relate to public policy, as "voters need skills in economics" in order to "make a judgment."

What voters really need are *journalists* who regularly report economic facts from the point of view of the salaried employees

and wage-workers who constitute the majority of society, and who challenge politicians' myth-making before it becomes misdirected policy. The public is poorly served by reporters who pretend to scratch their heads over how wages can go down while profits increase, and who present as baffling economic "contradictions" what are in fact basic conflicts between workers' interests and those of the corporate elite.

## Beyond Labor Day

How is it, after all, that mainstream reporters almost never mention, in their stories about unemployment and wage stagnation, the fact that the government has an official policy to bolster corporate profit margins at the expense of wages and jobs?

As we saw no less than seven times last year, whenever unemployment gets "too low" the Federal Reserve Bank raises interest rates to keep the economy from "overheating." The official explanation — fear of inflation — really means that employers and investors fear that, without a large pool of unemployed people desperate for jobs, those workers with jobs will have greater leverage to demand higher wages.

This policy is hardly a secret, though it's true that most people are underinformed about it... Even to acknowledge the existence of a problem represented an exception for the corporate-owned press. Call it a "Labor Day Special": The combination of the holiday and a timely, incisive report — the Economic Policy Institute's "Profits Up, Wages Down" — basically handed the media the story on a plate and accounted for much of the coverage given the issue.

Experience suggests mainstream media's concern for workers will be fleeting and rhetorical, and won't affect their conventional economic wisdom. On June 25, for example, a prominent *New York Times* article noted that employees "are receiving less of the fruits of their labors" and suggested this was due partly to the "declining power of unions." The *Times* even published an editorial (6/24/95) bemoaning "labor's plight" and warning that the "social consequences" of such inequity could be explosive.

But a week later, "labor's plight was forgotten and the paper of record went back to business as usual. In order to ensure New York City's "financial health," a July 3 editorial demanded, Mayor Rudolph Guliani "must get more from the unions."

— Janine Jackson

(Subscriptions to *Extra!* are \$19 [6 issues] from POB 120, Congers NY 10920-9930 or 800/847-3993.)

## Ontario General Strike Wave Builds

Despite wind chill temperatures of minus 30 Celsius, some 15,000 workers rallied in the streets of London, Ontario on December 11 last year in the first attempt at a city-wide general strike. The strike was called for by the Ontario Federation of Labour as a weapon against the increasingly reactionary policies of the Progressive Conservative provincial government.

Business in the city of London was brought down to a trickle as protesters marched in two rallies that converged at the city's fairgrounds. City bus services were cancelled as transit workers did not report for duty. Picket lines went up the evening before at a GM diesel plant, Ford plant in Talbotville and CAMI car assembly plant in Ingersoll and kept 9,000 workers off the job. Production was also shut down at other plants including the Canada Post sorting plant. Federal, provincial and municipal government offices functioned only with skeleton crews.

At the Fairground rally workers were encouraged to extend their protests across the province by leaders of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Canadian Union of

Public Employees. Bob White, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, brought greetings of solidarity from striking workers in France. Politically charged music was provided the entire day by musicians volunteering for the event.

The next city targeted for strike action was Hamilton — steel centre of the province. It is taking place over a two-day period, Feb. 23 - 24, at the same time the Progressive Conservatives are holding their convention.

Debate has been heavy within the Ontario Federation of Labour leadership over the strikes. The Steelworkers are reluctant to place so much emphasis on industrial action and indicated that they would not shut down Hamilton's steel mills. They have continued to push the legislative road to organized labour's predicament through support for the New Democratic Party.

The Canadian Auto Workers and some public service unions have argued, however, that reliance on the NDP is a dead end at this crucial stage and that nothing is left but opposition at the job level. A compromise was finally reached with the USWA agreeing to join the strike and giving promi-

nent New Democrats a major role.

Meanwhile, local labour assemblies are taking matters into their own hands as the government begins to ram through Bill 26, the newest piece of legislation designated as "the bully bill."

This new bill forces massive changes to 44 existing provincial statutes. Under the guise of supposedly paring down big government, the bill will transfer and extend significant power to municipalities, allowing them the right to hire and fire teachers, cut funding to conservation authorities and social agencies, contract out firefighting to private enterprise, impose user fees, all with little or no public input.

While former governments at least made a pretense of being democratic in allowing public input, this bill will be rammed through the legislature by a majority Conservative caucus after only two weeks of public discussion. Local labour councils and community organizations have been staging protests at all cities where hearings are held. As part of that protest, 40,000 teachers from across the province staged a demonstration at the doors of the Ontario legislature in

## Dictatorship at Staley Local...

the funds, contributed by unionists around the world, be used to help the Detroit newspaper strikers or other fighting workers.

When workers insisted on speaking at a Jan. 16 meeting, Shinall adjourned the meeting after 15 minutes and had police clear the union hall. "The police pepper gassed us and harassed us throughout this struggle," locked-out Staley worker Jim Roarick said. "Now they've called on the same police to keep us out of the union hall."

**"For three long years, we fought corporate greed. Now we're being treated like criminals by our own union."**

UPIU international officials cancelled the next two scheduled union meetings and ordered that dissidents be kept out of the hall. Although many workers have signed recall petitions against Shinall, the union refuses to acknowledge the petitions because most of the signers refused to go back to Staley under the yellow-dog contract.

Five UPIU 7837 executive board members condemned Shinall's actions in a January 22nd statement: "It would not surprise us for Shinall to have the police at every meeting," they said, noting that many union members chose severance rather than "return to work in a police state atmosphere."

Staley worker Mike Griffin says the workers were on the verge of winning when UPIU stabbed them in the back. "Pepsi had given A.E. Staley until Dec. 31 to get this settled," Griffin said. "If Pepsi had pulled out, then I believe Coke would have followed suit and the company would have had to deal with us." Pepsi and Coke refused to comment, but Staley management insisted that the its contract be accepted by that date.

Shinall is under fire for taking what is considered by a majority of the local's executive board to be a sweetheart and possibly illegal deal for himself. On Jan. 16 Shinall announced that the International had negotiated a side agreement which would allow him to be paid by the company, possibly until April, even though he is not returning to work under the contract he supported. Members had not been told about this before voting on the contract, nor had other local officials been informed.

"Jim Shinall was the most prominent leader in the surrender crowd," said local

Toronto to voice their opposition to the bill.

More and more sectors of society actively oppose the government's actions. The course of events is changing the political landscape of the province. Public sector workers have been forced into an activist role. (This month, thousands of Ontario Public Service Employees Union members may be forced into a strike.) Teachers have entered the fray. Medical professions have spoken out and even small business organizations are nervous and shake with growing threats of radical strike actions from labour's ranks.

While the New Democrats desperately paint themselves as the "see, you shoulda voted for us even though we screwed you" good guys and Liberals sniff at the edges of the workers movement trying to pass themselves off as the friends of labour, the public is disillusioned with politicians of every stripe.

The strike in Hamilton will be different from the one in London, revealing very different approaches to where the movement should proceed. In the process, however, more workers have become radicalized and are calling for strike action in more cities and across the entire province.

— Len Wallace, X304149

union Recording Secretary Ron Van Scyoc. "A number of us have felt for some time that he was being guided by the International Union in his efforts..."

Shinall's actions, coupled with the timing of a letter from International Union President Wayne Glenn to Shinall on the meeting date, which said that severed members had no further rights in the UPIU, "has further undermined the confidence of locked-out families who paid so dearly for standing up for their rights and the rights of union members everywhere," said Local 7837 Vice President Gary Lamb.

A majority of UPIU Local 7837 Executive Board members—Gary Lamb, Ron Van Scyoc, Bob Scheibly, Dave Duncan and Stoy Blissl—reject the move toward dictatorship by Jim Shinall and its apparent support by the International Union. "For three long years, we fought corporate greed. Now we're being treated like criminals by our own union." However, Van Scyoc and Lamb are joining Shinall in taking severance. Since they were not offered a similar extension, they will soon be forced to step down, giving Shinall a majority on the Board.

However, one worker noted that Staley's offer to Shinall supports the company's oft-repeated claim that they weren't out to bust the union. Staley's objections are to unionism, not unions. "If all we want to do is pay union dues and have a social club, that doesn't bother them any."

### Dying For Jobs

Three workers nearly died from carbon monoxide poisoning, and four others were injured, January 6th while working across the street from the Staley plant at Archer Daniels Midland, but were rescued by fellow workers on the job. Since ADM did not call ambulances or other emergency personnel to the scene, the injured workers were driven to the hospital by co-workers. Grain Millers Local 103 vice president John Friis noted, "We just have to cover our own butts at ADM unless we get some backup from OSHA."

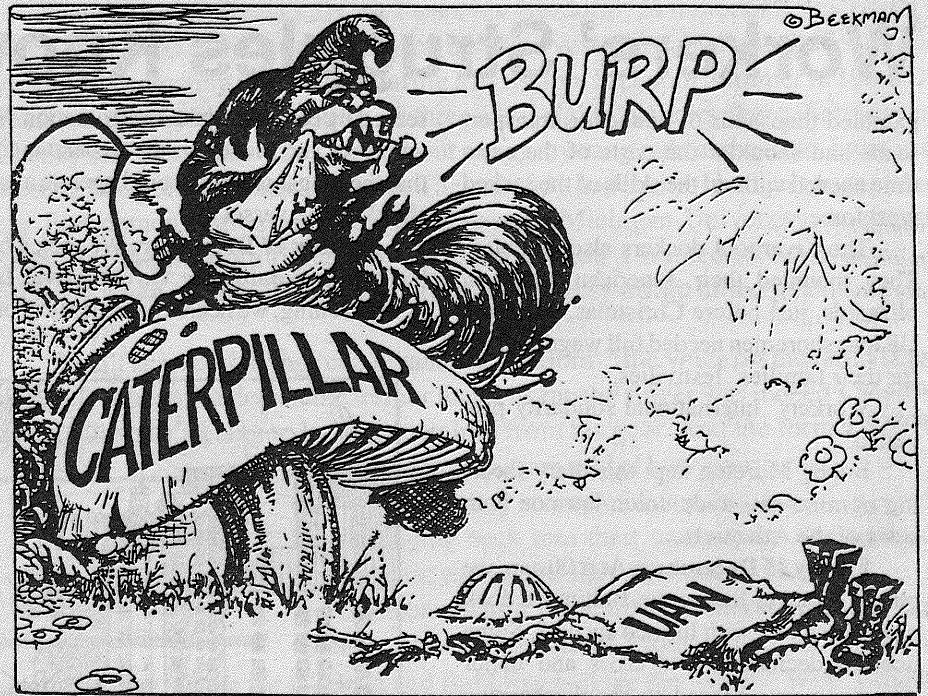
OSHA investigations are continuing into industrial "accidents" that killed three workers at ADM. One fell 50 feet from a platform, a second was scalded to death, and a third died rescuing a foreman who had collapsed from toxic fumes inside a tank. OSHA is reportedly particularly distressed that ADM does not have a plan in place for responding to emergencies. The agency also proposed a \$23,500 fine against Staley for unsafe working conditions that killed a scab in a July 30, 1995, cornstarch explosion.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 UPIU members were locked out of a Charleston, Illinois, Trailmobile plant Jan. 22 after they rejected a contract to extend a four-year wage freeze for an additional three years. Workers were particularly enraged to learn that managers and other salaried personnel received substantial raises even as the bosses cried poverty. Trailmobile (which makes truck trailers) claims workers were carrying out "numerous incidents of sabotage [and] violations of company rules."

## Bulgaria Organizes

The eighth congress of the Bulgarian Anarchist Federation met in Sofia Sept. 23-24 in the large hall of the Alexandra-Stambolijski Farmers Union. The hall was packed with representatives from local organizations. There were also guests—writers, members of the Farmers Union and social democrats who had all spent long years with the anarchists in concentration camps under the yoke of the Communist Party. They came to salute the anarchists for whom they have respect because of their courageous behaviour in the Bulgarian gulag.

The social, material, economic and



MALICE IN WORKERLAND

## Cat's Reign of Terror

Some 8,700 UAW members continue to work under a reign of terror at Caterpillar, as managers pick off militant workers one at a time for suspensions and firings. Nearly 150 workers have been disciplined for crimes ranging from wearing union t-shirts to refusing to shake hands with a scab. Calling a scab a scab is strictly forbidden, and grounds for immediate discharge under Caterpillar's draconian work rules.

Many workers have retired to escape constant management harassment. UAW Local 1415 President Joe Vasquez committed suicide after complaining at a December meeting of union officers representing Cat workers that the union had no strategy to deal with the post-strike repression.

Union workers are working alongside scabs, who are given the best jobs and are taunting UAW members—secure in the knowledge that any union worker who responds, even verbally, will be out the door in minutes. The following account is excerpted from the January 20 *The Unionite*, published by UAW Local 974. Scores of additional workers have been fired or suspended since:

### Revenge, Retribution, Retaliation ...

Disciplines, separations, suspensions and discharge continue to increase in the few weeks since workers began returning to Caterpillar's Industrial Hell. The following information on Cat's reign of terror in its Illinois plants does not include victims in other states or the dozens of workers disciplined before the UAW returned to work.

moral situation in Bulgaria is not only degrading—it is intolerable! Unemployment is making shocking progress. Retired people have been plunged into misery. The last rise in their pensions was a farce and an insult to humanity's honor. Workers' wages are low, inflation is beyond reason. In one year the prices for bread, cheese, meat and oil have doubled where they have not tripled.

To escape the crisis the BAF proposes: Dissolution of military forces. A declaration of true neutrality distanced from all military alliances. To create, within the country, an organization for peace which aims to work with neighbouring people against war. Form local groups under citizen control—the police, who in the majority have links to the criminal mafia, being incapable of getting rid of crime. These groups should stand up to the new mafia which has emerged from the Communist Party.

A struggle against the new millionaires who are using the people's money which was stolen by the Communist party. To organise a free commune outside the shadow of the state through which citizens may express their wishes and carry out projects

UAW Local 974 (E. Peoria, IL) 24 Indefinite Suspensions, 22 Disciplinary Actions, 7 Separations, 1 Discharged

UAW Local 2096 (Pontiac, IL) 12 Indefinite Suspensions, 6 Discharged

UAW Local 751 (Decatur, IL) 14 Indefinite Suspensions, 12 Separations

Caterpillar's actions appear to be arbitrary... A supposed infraction in one area may cause little more than a few words of admonition, yet in another facility the same or similar situation results in suspension. In almost all cases, former strikers are expected to perform at a different standard than are temps, office personnel, and other individuals who crossed the picket lines.

The majority of members separated were new members who began employment with CAT during the strike, joined the union, and subsequently honored the picket lines. Caterpillar is punishing these new members by removing them from employment, while at the same time keeping contracted temporary workers and other so-called "permanent new-hires" who did not join the union or join the strike.

The indefinite suspension is probably one of CAT's most preferred methods of punishment. It leaves the worker in limbo. Not knowing if he or she will ever return or how long before returning. After several days of anxiety, CAT will call the individual or send a registered letter stating the length of the punishment or turning the suspension into discharge. In almost all cases Caterpillar communicates with the individual alone and ignores the union to further isolate and perpetuate the anxiety of the member.

decided upon by the General Assemblies.

Stoian Tzolav, who participated on the side of the Spanish anarchists in the revolution of 1936 and who spent any years in the fascist concentration camps of Bulgaria before being sentenced to death (later commuted to life imprisonment) by the Communist Party in 1949, gave a report on the international anarchist movement.

Many problems await the Bulgarian anarchists. The situation within the country is disastrous. Young people flee from their responsibilities and are indifferent to the debate of ideas. However, the comrades are aware of the situation. They are dedicated to the organization and the solidarity found in its heart. Both are worthy of success.

We will succeed. Onwards!

(condensed from the Jan. 18th *Le Monde Libertaire* and translated by *Freedom*)

### Ignorance is Bliss

"While some knowledge can be a good thing, sometimes too much is a dangerous thing..." — Mike Harris, Ontario's budget-slashing premier, defending his choice of a high-school dropout as education minister.

# Workers' Struggles Know No Boundaries...

gambled thousands of pounds to transport scabs and shoulder the costs of the extra time needed without the skills of the sacked workforce.

The Liverpool dockers also gambled. They mounted their American picket in blizzards, just before Christmas, when the US longshoremen needed full wage packets for their families' festivities.

Workers' international solidarity prevailed!

Bobby Moreton kept this diary (bearing in mind anti-trade-union laws on both sides of the Atlantic!)

**Friday 15 December:** At 6:00 a.m. we put up a picket line at the Baltimore dock gate which met with limited success. Some dockers decided not to cross and major disruption was caused to the discharging operation.

In the afternoon we were informed that the vessel would leave that evening for Norfolk, Virginia, to discharge and load containers. We decided to follow.

Within minutes ACL directors knew of our decision and offered the Baltimore dockers four times their normal rate of pay to unload the containers. They refused.

The ship sailed that evening. We drove down to Norfolk.

**Saturday 16 December:** At midnight we attempted to mount our picket line but unfortunately were met by a massive police presence, an attorney and port officials.

We were advised that under Virginia state law a picket could only be set up at a venue chosen by the port officials and representatives of the state. The attorney said that the chosen place was a small unused gate at the back of the terminal. We refused.

Tempers became frayed. The attorney and the police chief threatened us with jail and physical violence if we refused to move.

I conferred with the local ILA official and advised him that the three of us we were prepared to go to jail if it meant that the ship would not be worked.

He repeated over and over again that if the picket line was broken for any reason whatever then the vessel would be worked.

We decided that no cause would be

served by continuing the confrontation. We withdrew the picket on the understanding that the longshoremen would operate a 'go-slow' on the vessel.

**Sunday 17 December:** We took a bus back north to Baltimore. On our arrival, late in the evening, we heard that Atlantic Com-

pany was sailing to Newark, New Jersey, to discharge and load containers beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday. We stayed the night in Baltimore.

**Monday 18 December:** We took a plane to Newark and mounted our picket line at 6:00 p.m. Suffice to say that not one longshoreman crossed the picket line.

**Tuesday 19 December:** The next shift started at 8:00 a.m. We mounted our picket line in a blizzard, which continued throughout the following days. ACL ordered three gangs and 30 extra men (85 in all) and, again, they refused to cross our picket. It was a 24-hour picket with a shift system.

In the evening, when I returned to the hotel for a bit of sleep, I was served with papers by Louis Pachman, an attorney on behalf of the company. I was ordered to appear in the New Jersey state court at 1:30 p.m. the following afternoon.

**Wednesday 20 December:** At 6:00 a.m. I was about to leave the hotel. In the lobby was Pachman and the head of the New York Shipping Association, Jimmy Melia. They followed me down to the picket line.

During the course of the morning an ILA official, Al Sernadas, came to the picket and introduced himself. We told him our problem that we had no money, were not attuned to the US legal system, and needed representation. He advised us to contact the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU's legal director agreed to represent me in court. It was agreed that my attorney would argue that under the First Amendment I was allowed freedom of expression on a public highway - and that the picket was set up on the public highway.

We were led to believe that Pachman's line would be to seek a restraining order, effectively to prevent picketing. However, in court he advised the judge that instead of seeking a restraining order that afternoon, he would seek an adjournment until the following afternoon.

The reason given was that just before the court session he had heard that negotiations were to take place the following morning between ACL and the ILA, which had

been asked to act as intermediaries on our behalf. (Obviously the company would not meet us, and the Transport & General Workers' Union, does not exist in the US.)

The judge granted the adjournment, which meant we could maintain our picket. When the judge left the chamber



Solidarity, March 9, 1927

Pachman asked my attorney, Marsha Wenk, whether he could speak to me. She replied that I was available to go to the witness stand while the court was in session, so why hadn't he taken advantage of that to speak to me?

He ignored this and addressed me anyway, saying: 'You seemed upset when we served the papers, please understand that it is nothing personal.' Naturally I laughed contemptuously.

He lost his cool and said: 'You are only smiling because you have stopped the ship!' Wenk said that I didn't have to reply. But I told him: 'I'm a professional! I'm smiling because it's Christmas and I'm happy!' He could stick his liberalism up his \*\*\*\*.

**Thursday 21 December:** The picket was cancelled because ACL did not apply for labour while negotiations were taking place.

Negotiations started at 9:30 a.m. There was a three-way telephone line - ACL and ILA representatives on one, me on another in the ILA office, and, on the third, Jim Nolan, Jim Davies and strike committee members in Liverpool.

ACL offered to make a statement that the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company (MDHC) should sit down with the TGWU in an attempt to find an immediate solution to the problem and, if it is not settled by 15 January ACL would switch to discharging and loading its vessels in another UK port.

The strike committee in Liverpool discussed the matter. We decided that it was in our best interests to lift our picket, as long as ACL committed itself in writing.

ACL said that putting their statement in 'black and white' would be a problem. We said that if they refused they would have an even bigger problem when they applied for labour to discharge and load the vessel.

We then heard from the ILA representatives that they had a written statement. We received it within an hour. The deal was finally agreed on the basis that no action of any kind would be taken against any of us pickets or the TGWU.

During the course of the afternoon Ber-

nard Cliff of the MDHC telephoned the executive vice-president of ACL, Conrad Dezaggo. Cliff said he was highly critical of ACL's decision and asked it to reconsider.

After a heated exchange Dezaggo told Cliff: 'I ain't taking any more shit out of you. Get it sorted or we leave permanently!'

That night there was no limit on how much we drank!

## "Reigniting Trade Unionism"

Jack Heyman is a docker from San Francisco. He visited Liverpool on behalf of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union to express solidarity with the sacked dockers on strike since 28 September. Arriving in the wake of industrial action by rank-and-file members of the (East coast) International Longshoremen's Association who respected a picket line of Liverpool dockers in Newark NJ, Jack was given a standing ovation by the 500 men. He told them they were "reigniting trade unionism" all over the world.

Heyman spoke to Greg Dropkin for LabourNet:

I haven't seen this kind of militancy for years, I'd have to think back to some of the militant miners strikes in West Virginia in the United States. But the support they're getting is astounding to say the least, because there hasn't been this sort of international campaign in a long time.

Most of the cargo from Liverpool to the United States goes to the East coast. And so the rank-and-file longshoremen on the Atlantic coast have been refusing to unload the scab cargo. It is quite unusual given the state of class struggle in the United States. There's an atmosphere that if you go on strike you may not have your job. So to say that these East coast dockers have honoured the picket line in support of a struggle not in their country or their union but of another union in another country is quite an amazing feat.

Unfortunately, Liverpool ships don't come to the West coast. If they did, I think our rank-and-file would respond in the same manner. However there are other ways that we can help, one of which is to spread the word around to other dockers unions particularly in the Pacific Rim and South America to support this critical strike.

I think dockers are beginning to realise that the struggle here in Liverpool is one we can all identify with. The employers have been pushing casualisation everywhere. So to the extent that the Liverpool dockers are successful in combatting the employer here, it will have a ripple effect around the world. That's why solidarity is exploding internationally.

LabourNet: The strike has had to go outside the law in Britain. What kind of legal constraints do American workers face?

For workers to win struggles, we've always had to challenge the law. In the United States for example not too long ago, blacks were not permitted to sit at a lunch counter with whites. Blacks sat down at the lunch counters. It was illegal but it spread like wildfire and became known as the Civil Rights movement. But a lot of those tactics like the sit-down ... came out of the labour movement in the '30s... Employers said it's illegal for you to occupy the plant. And it was illegal under capitalist law. However workers challenged that and won.

LabourNet: What are the main organising issues for the ILWU now?

As I said, one of the big issues is casualisation. The longshore union has jurisdiction on the docks, but the employers are attempting not to register any new longshoremen. I think they're called "permanent" here, we call them "A" men... So we're having to fight the employers over casualisation, which essentially means organising workers on the docks. That's

## "Flexible Work"

Flexible Working is now a key business strategy for most of the UK's top employers. This is a key finding of a survey, "Long Term Employment Strategies," undertaken by the Institute of Management and Manpower plc, a leading temp supplier.

Nearly 90 per cent of leading employers use part-time and temporary workers and 70% have contracted out core operations. The primary factors behind these trends have been cost (ie wage) cutting, boosting productivity and improving flexibility.

Within the next 4 years employers estimate that the proportion of full-time employees will fall from 80% to 47%.

Some employers recognise that they will have severe problems explaining the wonders of corporate goals to temp staff and realise that there will be a loss of cohesion but see no end to change. 40% of employers intend to restructure over the next 12 months and 70% over the next five years. Three-quarters of employers expect to see job cuts as a result.

Trade Unions have few answers to this essentially global problem of casualisation. The Liverpool dockers are the only group of organised workers fighting the introduction of such casualisation but have had to fight their own union along the way. However the very act of fighting may encourage others to do the same.

— Kevin Brandstatter



# Between NAFTA and the FZLN

The following is excerpted from the February 1 *Le Monde Libertaire*, weekly paper of the French Anarchist Federation:

The third round of negotiations between the EZLN and the government began on January 8th. On January 1st the EZLN announced the formation of the FZLN, a Front far broader both geographically and politically. From the 5th to the 10th January, in San Cristobal de Las Casas, a forum of indigenous people was convened, bringing together several indigenous organisations from Chiapas, Oaxaca, Morelos, Guerrero...

The first aim of this new Front is to demonstrate to the government that the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) is not alone and the problems involved have implications well beyond Chiapas. The main themes that were tackled at the Forum relate to strategy: create either

## Crisis in Bolivia

A one-day Jan. 18 general strike by the Bolivian Workers Center (COB) demanded wage increases of 18 percent, repeal of gasoline price hikes, and justice for coca growers. The government has offered an 8 percent increase, an amount even the country's vice president concedes is insufficient to meet workers' most basic needs.

In La Paz, 50 coca farmers from the Chapare region, the main source of coca and cocaine in the nation, started a hunger-strike in protest against the forced eradication of their crops. Most of these protesters were women who had walked for 31 days from their homes in order to present their case to the government in La Paz.

The women say they have no other way of making a living and will starve to death if the government continues to destroy coca plantations. They also want an end to violent police repression, and the release of imprisoned coca producer leaders.

Farmers from the Cochabamba and Santa Cruz departments took over highways, setting up blockades which the police tried to destroy. Four farmers, including one 12-year-old boy, were shot and some 200 people were arrested.

The government says that if talks with the COB are unsuccessful it will reinstate the state of emergency under which thousands of union activists were herded into concentration camps last year.

why this is not just a liberal gesture of support. It's rooted in a material basis, that if the Liverpool dockers win their fight against casualisation it will have a ripple effect in the United States as well.

*LabourNet: Do you think that there is any permanent possibility of international rank-and-file organisation?*

Well I not only see it as a possibility but as a necessity. Unless the dockers can organise themselves internationally I'm afraid that unionised dock forces around the world will be decimated... It's not easy to organise workers internationally. It hasn't been done in maybe a century really. There've been efforts at particular times.

For instance in 1948 we had a strike on the West coast in which the government threatened to use the military to load the ships. Our president at the time, Harry Bridges, responded by reaching out to the European dockers unions and they in turn said to the government in effect that if the ships are loaded by scab labour they will not

**The Liverpool dockers need your support.** For more information or to contribute to their fighting fund, contact Jimmy Davis, Port Shop Stewards Committee Secretary, c/o TGWU, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool. Phone: 0151 207 3388. Fax: 0151 298 1044.



a class Front or a political Front, whose struggle would be based on political freedoms... Secondly, the very nature of the revolution and the eternal debate between 'reform and revolution.' Anarchists, particularly from Oaxaca, were present and we hope that their libertarian and self-management ideas will make some ground.

At the beginning of January, four 'Aguas calientes' (indigenous cultural forums, centre for training and information) were set up, despite a strong military presence in the region. The EZLN also called for an inter-continental anti-liberal meeting at Easter in the Lacondan forest.

## The Economic Situation

Capitalism is international. This is well understood by everyone but was noticeably so when in December 1995, in France, thousands came out onto the streets and also, on the streets of Mexico, thousands of people protested against privatisation plans for their own social security system (IMSS). Capitalism has but one policy. Its restrictive measures and social pressure vary from region to region around the world due to historical circumstances and the state of the forces of resistance.

In the '60s and '70s Mexico was the Latin American country which saw the biggest economic boom, thanks to its oil. The IMF financed this policy to a large extent and the growing governmental debt accelerated the progressive integration of Mexico into the American economy. This growth of capitalism produced aggravated social inequalities. In 1992, 40% of the poorest people owned only 9.3% of the country's wealth; in Chiapas 2% of landowners held 70% of the land. In 1993 there were in Mexico 24

millionaires (putting it into fourth place in world ranking) whilst 500,000 died from malnutrition.

This situation is made worse by the economic crisis... This situation is made worse by the economic crisis... This situation is made worse by the economic crisis... This situation is made worse by the economic crisis... This situation is made worse by the economic crisis...

*LabourNet: Are we entering a period where the whole concept of being in a union is under challenge, like the period before unions?*

We're really going back to the fundamentals of what unionism is all about, and that is directly related to the cockiness, the arrogance of the capitalist class internationally where they are pushing privatisation and the destruction of unions. In their minds there's a sense that they're completely unchallenged. I think we have something like only 15% of the workforce actually unionised in the US.

So we're going back to the drawing table, going back to the basics and seeing what we have to do, what we haven't been doing for decades and decades, and we're relearning things. And hopefully this will lead to more militant tactics and more of a political class consciousness on the part of the working class.

millionaires (putting it into fourth place in world ranking) whilst 500,000 died from malnutrition.

This situation is made worse by the economic crisis...

## The Social Movement

After the failure of the 1910 revolution we had to wait until the 1960s to see a renaissance in the real social movement. In October 1968, when the student movement was at its peak and with the approach of the Olympic Games, the government massacred 300 demonstrators on Three Cultures Square in Mexico City. At the same time there was a wave of repression directed at all political organisations and in particular those on the far left. Some organisations resisted by going underground. There followed a long and difficult period. Now over the last few months we can see the development of a dual indigenous movement and of civil society with the emergence of the National Democratic Convention and the development of a social protest movement.

Independent unions are appearing in several towns and have carried out sporadic actions at Ford, in telecommunications, in the oil industry... Some unions give libertarian ideas a warm welcome. Thus we saw a meeting in December 1995 between militants of the Anarchist Federation and a dozen other Mexican anarchist groups which took place on the premises of the Independent Textile Workers Union and which also welcomed a travelling group of artists which had been set up by the EZLN.

A number of major events have characterised this rebirth of struggle and collective political consciousness throughout 1995. Thus on May 1st when for tactical and technical reasons the official unions did nothing, Mexico saw its biggest protest march since 1968, with 1.5 million people. We should note, the better to understand these statistics, that to demonstrate in France is far easier given that repression in Mexico takes on incomparable dimensions. The claims of the demonstrators were, on the 1st of May, the following: no to the NAFTA, a rise in salaries, the reinstatement of workers sacked during the last strikes, political freedom and support for the EZLN. The 1st May 1996 promises to maintain the temperature. Since last year there have been many demonstrations against the IMSS.

## Hong Kong Police Attack Workers

Royal Hong Kong Police attacked a peaceful protest of unionists and activists outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre Jan. 10, where a World Toy Fair was taking place.

Three activists were brutally attacked by police and required emergency medical care. Five additional activists were arrested, but were released after an emergency telegram campaign on their behalf.

The demonstration was organized by the Hong Kong Coalition for the Charter on the Safe Production of Toys. The protesters were distributing literature protesting the Hong Kong Toys' Council refusal to address the issues raised by the Coalition. Hundreds of workers' lives have been lost in Thailand toy factories and the Special Economic Zones of China, to mention only two countries, as a result of the lack of any health or safety provisions in the factories.

## Korean Workers Demand Shorter Hours

The Korea Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) is demanding shortening weekly working hours to 40 in its affiliates' collective bargaining for this year. Korea has the seventh longest working hours in the world with 48.9 hours a week, according to the International Labor Organization.

The KCTU has some 400,000 unionized workers from about 860 unions, including unions at Hyundai Heavy Industries Ltd. and Daewoo Heavy Industries Ltd.

## Swaziland workers demand democracy

Workers in the small landlocked kingdom of Swaziland are spearheading a determined campaign for democracy despite threats of violence from supporters of King Mswati III. Swaziland is paralysed by a general strike which began January 22, led by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and banned political parties, most notably the underground People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO).

Four workers were killed Jan. 23 when police fired on demonstrators, and several union leaders have been arrested during clashes with police. The streets of the capital, Mbabane, reek of uncollected rubbish and rotting produce after strikers refused to restore the capital's electricity.

PUDEMO and the SFTU called a general strike for two days in March 1995. The government was forced to agree to redraft repressive labour legislation, repeal the 1973 banning of all political parties and reinstitute democratic structures. When the government failed to honor its promises, the SFTU announced another general strike in November. The government again pledged substantial reforms if the strike was cancelled. Its repeated failure to implement democratic reforms has led to the most determined assault on the monarchy yet.

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# High Tech: The Jobs Of The Future?

It has become a contemporary article of faith that the jobs of the future will be in the high tech sector. Of late, however, there has been a great deal of evidence that presents a prima facie challenge to this article of faith. First, the string of lay-offs in the telecommunications industry:

## Announced Job Losses In Telecommunications Since 1992

	Latest date of Announcement	Jobs to be Eliminated
AT&T	January 2, 1996	40,000
AT&T	through Feb. 1994	19,500
<i>Cumulative Totals</i>		
NYNEX	January 1994	38,800
Bell South	May 1995	21,500
GTE	January 1994	19,600
Pacific Telesis	June 1995	10,500
Pacific Bell	January 1994	10,000
US West	September 1993	9,000
Ameritech	March 1994	7,500
South New England Telephone	August 1995	4,160
MCI	August 1995	3,000
Southwest Bell	September 1993	1,500

Not to be outdone, the more "entrepreneurial" computer industry is slashing away at its work force, as well. This week Apple announced that it is cutting 1,300 jobs, or 8% of its work force. Apple's is merely the latest announcement of this nature. Over the past three years there has been widespread bloodletting in this industry. On January 18, Associated Press provided a list of the top ten lay-offs in the high tech business over the past three years:

1. IBM cut 63,000 jobs in July 1993
2. Digital cut 20,000 jobs in May 1994
3. NCR cut 7,500 jobs in Nov. 1993
4. Wang cut 3,300 jobs in March 1993
5. Digital cut 3,200 jobs in April 1993
6. Apple cut 2,500 jobs in July 1993
7. Novell cut 1,750 jobs in Nov. 1995
8. Storage Technology cut 1,500 jobs in November 1995
9. Electronic Data Systems cut 1,358 jobs in January 1994
10. Apple cut 1,300 jobs in January 1996

## Bus Driver Fights Racism...

remain so cool in the face of their outrageous daily provocations.

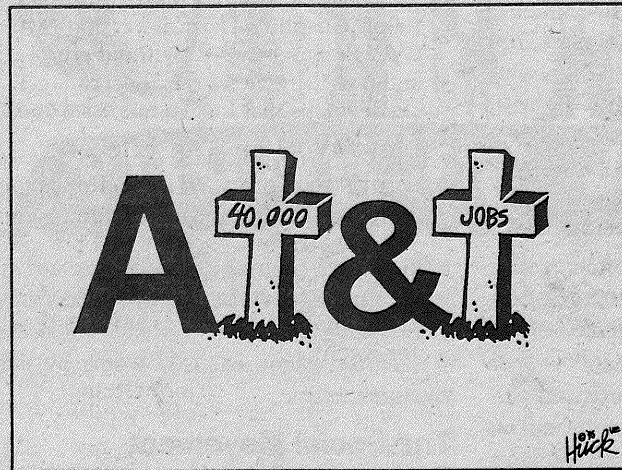
Ralph held on for years, and he began to organize on the job. He got other workers to file complaints when they were mistreated, including a number of Black women subjected to sexual pressure from the corrupt "union" president and a company vice president. He enlisted a number of labor-based groups to write complaint letters. And it did stop the severity of the harassment for a while, but then management got desperate to stop this on-the-job unity and really bore down on anyone who stood up. Some people unfortunately folded and went into a shell, and some sold out entirely.

Even though the harassment by the company wore the women down and they dropped their EEOC charges, Ralph never wavered. In 1995 he and a group of Black passengers, organized as the "Chattanooga Bus Riders Union," filed a complaint with the federal Department of Transportation alleging that the bus company was engaged in racial discrimination in its employment and disciplinary practices, routing and overall operations. The complaint asked that all federal grants earmarked for the company be terminated.

After the DOT failed to act, the Bus Riders Union and several CARTA employees filed a lawsuit in federal court charging these same issues, and seeking a court injunction against a proposed fare hike which would hurt poor and elderly riders. This really marked Ralph for harassment by management, and he was given a number of

Is there anybody who seriously believes that the number of new jobs that will be created in high tech will compensate for these lay-offs; let alone generate a net increase in employment in this sector?

— Sid Shniad



## The Name Of The Game Is Greed

Working people are in a war zone. Our casualties come in many forms, from the factory worker to even middle management. Mass firings have forced hundreds of thousands into the unemployment line, while those of us still lucky to have "permanent" jobs wonder how long we will have it and if (or more likely when) our benefits and wages will be cut. Temporary workers wonder how they are going to survive. Young people and laid off workers fight over the same scarce jobs, and all of us wondering when it will all end.

The mass firings taking place in America are a national disgrace, and it seems 1996 will bring more of the same.

The opening shot was AT&T's announcement that 40,000 of its workers would lose their jobs. Workers are finding out that just because you work at a profitable business there is no guarantee that your job is safe.

LORAL workers (formally IBM Federal systems) suddenly found themselves sold to a new owner, Lockheed-Martin, while the owner and his corporate cronies will get millions in bonuses for the deal. Who says the plantation system is dead?

In November and December of '95 thousands of IBM workers, who thought the bad times were finally behind, suddenly found themselves without jobs. It was a painful lesson. We can't fall for the "we are all one team" line because corporate management will dump you whenever it suits them.

The goal of our corporate royalty is simple—they want more. Company profits are soaring; the stock market reaches new highs (while our wages reach new lows); and the salaries of corporate executives goes through the roof.

Meanwhile they play their economic games by buying the competition and shutting down plants and offices. They weasel their way out of paying taxes and think nothing of disrupting the whole social fabric of the country — all because of greed.

Across the nation there is a sense that something is drastically wrong, but what must be understood is that it is not simply some "invisible hand of the marketplace" that is causing our economic troubles, but the very heavy hand and closed fist of American and International corporations.

There is only one way to challenge organized money and that is with organized people. Working people must stick together regardless of our differences and unite around the common thread that affects us all — our economic survival.

reprinted from: *Resistor* #48, published by IBM Workers United (PO Box 634, Johnson City NY 13790)

drive out the corrupt union officials, so a real union would bring an end to these types of injustices against workers. Ralph is very strong, but he should not have to fight alone. Everyone of us who believes in racial justice, and that a worker has a right to organize and protest company misconduct on his job, should join in his fight.

Many workers in Chattanooga are even more frightened now to say anything because of this act of terrorism. Clearly he needs our help, and we should give it to him. The terrorists cannot be allowed to succeed in silencing this symbol of the best that unionism is all about. If he is crushed the workforce there has no hope at all.

What can you do?

1. Write, fax, or telephone a complaint to CARTA company management to protest this harassment of Ralph Williams and other Black/female workers. Send these complaints to the head of the company and to the union at the same address: Tom Dugan, CEO, CARTA, 1716 Wilcox Avenue, Chattanooga TN 37404 Tel: 615/629-1411 fax: 615/698-2749

2. All of Ralph's furniture, food and clothing, along with his word processor and papers, were destroyed in the fire and must be replaced. Send funds to Ralph Williams at: Workers Aid Fund, c/o Atlanta WSA, 673 Wylie St. SE, Atlanta GA 30316-1162. Please send funds in U.S. currency only.

3. Write to Ralph and tell him you stand with him in this fight, send copies of your protest letters to: Ralph Williams, 2506 E. 3rd Street, Chattanooga TN 37404

Let's take a stand against racism and the harassment of workers!

— Lorenzo Komboa Ervin

## Book Review

### The Bisbee IWW Deportation of 1917

The Great Bisbee IWW Deportation of July 12, 1917 compiled and with an introduction by Rob E. Hanson. Signature Press (PO Box 238, Bigfork MT 59911), 1995. 64 pages, \$2.50 Available from IWW Literature Department.

On July 12, 1917, 1,182 striking miners (including 350 Wobblies) were rounded up by sheriff's deputies in cahoots with local mine operators, herded at gunpoint into box-cars, and shipped to New Mexico, where they were dumped in the desert. FW Rob Hanson has gathered materials about the deportation for the last 12 years, and organized annual observances at the gravesite of IWW member James Brew (murdered by deputy O.P. McRae when he refused to be deported).

This is not a book, but — as the cover explains — "a compilation... from newspapers, magazines, photographs, official records and the accounts of some of the participants." The result is a fascinating, if inevitably uneven, glimpse of the events surrounding the deportation and the ramifications down the years. An article from the *Bisbee Daily Review* makes clear the depravity of the leading citizens who sanctioned the assault; deportee Frederick Watson offers his detailed recollections of the events; documents from an official investigation include an affidavit from one woman who successfully refused to be deported and rescued her sons from the deputies; an unsigned 5-page (9/3/17) report to President Wilson from an Arizona Council of Defense investigator notes the vicious brutality of the deportation and supports our fellow workers in their determination to see justice done and have their rights restored.

The story does not end with the deportation, however. FW Hanson also includes material from the Phelps-Dodge Strike of 1983-85 in nearby Morenci, in which the company demonstrated the same contempt for workers and our rights that it had shown 65 years before. As these documents show, Phelps-Dodge workers were well aware of their employer's brutal past, and of the role local and state government played in enabling it to carry out its reign of terror.

The book concludes with several pages of notes, press releases, etc., pointing to books, articles, document collections and other sources for those interested in investigating the Bisbee Deportations further.

In his conclusion, FW Hanson argues that the Bisbee Deportation was the inception of a series of government attacks that led to the sorry present condition of the labor movement. "What started in Bisbee in 1917," he concludes, "culminated in Morenci in 1985."

In digging up and passing along these accounts, FW Hanson has restored these workers' voices and revived our memories of a brutal crime by the employing class that must not be forgotten.

### San Francisco Book Fair

In celebration of the 20th anniversary, Bound Together Bookstore presents the first Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair held in the San Francisco County Fair Bldg near Golden Gate Park on Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. til 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Approx. 30-40 anarchist groups, alternative book/magazine and publishing folk will be represented selling and distributing materials and examples of their work. The event includes daycare, a cafe and bar, entertainment (Jello Biafra of the Dead Kennedys, conspiracy theorist Robert Anton Wilson and other notables), spoken word and visual displays.



# Women's Column

At the 1995 General Assembly, the women's caucus proposed that the IWW include a Women's Column as a step toward bringing the IWW closer to a much-needed gender balance. The GA consensed on this proposal and this is the first time it has been published. The column will be published whenever there are submissions.

Submissions (artwork, photos, articles or poetry) from women are welcome. Please send them to Anne Petermann, Editor, PO Box 57, Burlington VT 05402. email: pfnena@igc.apc.org Articles must be emailed or mailed on mac disk.

## Swedish Syndicalist Women

Sisters,

One of society's strongest and most firmly rooted hierarchies is the one between the sexes. As an important step in the struggle against this male-dominated hierarchy, the SAC (Swedish Workers Central organization) women went on strike on the 8th of March, 1993. This was a landmark in Swedish history. Among others, the following points were brought up in the strike notice:

- Women are still paid less than men for doing the same work.
- Women are still usually disregarded when someone is being promoted.
- When there are cuts in staff, women run the greatest risk of being dismissed.
- When women are employed outside the home, the type of work they do is often similar to the work women traditionally do inside the home. They are therefore often told not to go on strike on the pretext that it would affect a third party. We don't accept that women's loyalty to this third party is used as an argument against our rightful demands.

• Because women usually don't work as much outside the home as men do, many women have very low retirement pension.

• Women are bullied out from male-dominated workplaces by the means of sexual harassment.

As another important step in the struggle against the oppression of women, the SAC's yearly women's conference of 1994 decided to form a Women's Committee. The main objects of the Women's Committee are as follows:

- To bring attention to women's situation in working life, especially to issues such as sexual harassment and discrimination in the setting of wage rates.
- To encourage more women to actively take part in union work.
- To break the unquestioned patriarchal preferential right of interpretation, in working life and in the ideological debate.
- To combat sexism inside the union.
- To reword SAC's declaration of prin-

ciples so that the anti-patriarchal struggle is explicitly included. The intention of this is to emphasize that this issue is equally important for the SAC as the anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and anti-racist struggle.

• Compiling a list of addresses – the first step for a women's network.

One of the Women's Committee's main concerns is to analyze and define how gender sets the terms in women's lives, especially in connection with women's working lives. Sexual harassment and discrimination in the setting of wages are the two areas that we are mainly interested in. We'd like to get in contact with other women's groups in trade unions or women's groups working with these issues. We would appreciate if you wrote to us telling us about your feminist activities and experiences, and about your group's ideology.

We would also like to see the formation of an international network between women's groups in independent fighting unions, anarchist women or other women activist groups closely connected to ourselves, in ideology and political practice. The first step to such a network is an address list, so please send us your address, preferably before March 1996.

Yours in solidarity,  
SAC Women's Committee

## Union Women's Northeast School Set For July, 1996

The 21st Annual Summer School for Union Women in the Northeastern and MidAtlantic Region of the U.S. will be held July 21-26, 1996 at Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

This five-day residential program focuses on basic unionism and skills training and is designed to increase women's participation and involvement in their local unions. Workshops are taught by teams of unionists and university labor educators. Two IWW members, Ida Torres and Rochelle Semel, are on the teaching staff. Typical skills workshop offerings include such topics as Basic and Advanced Grievance Handling, Collective Bargaining, Mobilizing the Membership, Running and Facilitating Meetings, and Public Speaking.

The week is enlivened by music and singing led by a folk singer. The highlight of the week is Labor History Night – with a program that combines film, slides and women's own experiences to honor the contribution of labor heroines, past and present.

The Northeastern School is unique for several reasons. The women who attend are involved in the entire process: planning, coordination, facilitation, and evaluation. Students elect their own representatives to serve as a "grievance committee" for the



school and to plan their own graduation. They also elect representatives to the next year's planning committee. The staff of unionists and educators contribute their labor to the school in order to keep costs down and to insure that such necessities as childcare are provided.

The school tackles many sensitive issues. Women are encouraged to appreciate the diversity of their unions and to see differences in race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and ability as a source of strength and the basis of unity.

The school frequently hosts unionists from other parts of the globe. In past schools, European, African, and Asian women have joined U.S. women for the week.

The Northeastern School is one of four regional U.S. schools for union women sponsored by the University and College Labor Education Association, an organization for people who work in labor education programs. A growing number of unions sponsor members to attend the schools. IWW branches and groups might consider sending a representative. There are also scholarship funds available through the schools which are awarded on the basis of need.

For more information and an application contact Frieda Rozen, Penn State University, Labor Studies, Old Botany Building, University Park PA 16827; telephone: 814/865-5425 or fax: 814/863-9545.

— Rochelle Semel

## UVM Student Fasts 62 Days for Change

On Thursday, January 18th, the 49th day of ALANA (African, Latino, Asian & Native American) student Shontae Praileau's hunger strike, there was a protest at the residence of UVM President Salmon in support of her and of the continuing anti-racist demands of students of color on the UVM campus. White students and off-campus supporters, including members of the Mumia Solidarity Coalition, the Native Forest Network and the Industrial Workers of the World, participated.

On day 62 of her hunger strike, Shontae Praileau announced that she would be ending her hunger strike that day, but would be passing the baton on to Kei Kurihara, another ALANA student who has pledged to carry the hunger strike until the end of the semester or until six demands are met.

These demands are very basic and focus primarily on campus democracy and campus life; namely increasing student control over decisions made by the university regarding the issues of students of color and creating a campus environment free from racial discrimination, degradation and

harrassment. The administration has not taken these demands seriously and has, instead, marginalized Shontae by calling her a "separatist" and tried to convince her to quit her fast.

Rather than taking a long hard look at why so many students have been so upset for so many years (beginning with the 1988 Waterman Administration Building takeover and peaking again with the 1991 Waterman takeover), the UVM administration, with Salmon – a former Vermont Governor – at the helm, has chosen public relations and damage control as its primary tactic. This strategy is backfiring, however, as the situation is gaining national attention. Recently Salmon received a letter from Dr. Ray Winbush, an executive board member of the National Council of Black Studies (NCBS), which called the administration's handling of this situation "disastrous." With the rest of the NCBS, he is "encouraging [their] members as well as members of other ethnic studies associations to avoid the University of Vermont as a place for employment" because of UVM's hostility toward "the full development of ALANA students and faculty."

This hostility has been exemplified dramatically in the last six months by the UVM administration as they have disbanded the Commission on Racial Equality and Multicultural Education and fired ALANA Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs Anthony Chavez and replaced him with an interim director against the wishes of the ALANA community who had selected a more qualified candidate.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact the Shontae Praileau Defense and Support Committee, PO Box 57, Burlington VT 05402

by Anne Petermann, SP Defense and Support Committee, Burlington IWW, Native Forest Network

## 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

## It's Them or Us

Striking workers at a pet food factory took two managers hostage Jan. 15 to protest the planned closure of the site. Union representatives for the 143 workers in the southwest of France, said that Daniel Boulet, managing director of Spillers Petfood France, and human resources director Bernard Manhaval, had spent the night in the factory after having been taken hostage on Monday during a meeting of the works council. The striking staff want the closure plan to be withdrawn and demand that Spillers' owner, Britain's Dalgely Plc, either modernise the plant at Boe or built a new production unit there.