

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

We Can Win – If We Fight...

continued from front cover

prepared to fight plans to toss them on the scrapheap as a sacrifice to global capital markets. The French strike began as a defensive action, but quickly expanded as rank-and-file workers demanded a huge reduction in working hours, the right to a guaranteed income, and effective equality of access to health care and other social services.

"Do the laws of economy condemn us? one group of strikers asked. If so, 'Let's burn the statute book!'"

Neither our Canadian nor our French fellow workers won everything they demanded, but they were able to force "their" governments on the defensive and change the terms of the debate. The Ontario authorities resorted to using riot police March 18th to force their way into government buildings surrounded by strikers and supporters who wanted to shut down the legislature.

Neither did G.M. workers did win everything they were entitled to. Under their new contract, General Motors will continue to buy brake systems and other parts from outside companies ("outsourcing"), but will pay each worker \$1,700 for having violated the union's contract restricting the practice. G.M. has also agreed to increase employment in the plant, to cut mandatory overtime (workers are presently working 56 hours a week), and to improve safety equipment and training.

Ironically, G.M. and other auto workers have put in long hours of overtime even as automakers have been laying off tens of thousands of workers. A Shreveport, Louisiana worker reports that G.M. workers there were working overtime, even though the company had a five-month supply of trucks on hand, in order to build up stock in preparation for the strike. Imagine how much more powerful the strike could have been had workers prepared and fought it as intelligently and as ruthlessly as generals prepare for war.

Make no mistake about it, we are engaged in a global class war. Everywhere the bosses are demanding that workers work harder and longer for less, and enforcing their demands by throwing millions of workers on the industrial scrap heap, threatening to do the same to anyone who resists.

The bosses and their politicians say our only hope is to become more "competitive." But that strategy leads only to ever-worsening poverty, misery and despair as we fight our fellow workers around the globe in a death march to the bottom. Instead, we need to meet global competition with global solidarity; lay-offs and cut-backs with a fight for the four-hour day; attacks on labor rights with direct action campaigns and recognition of the maxim, "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All."

We can win, but only if we fight.

Michigan TAs Strike

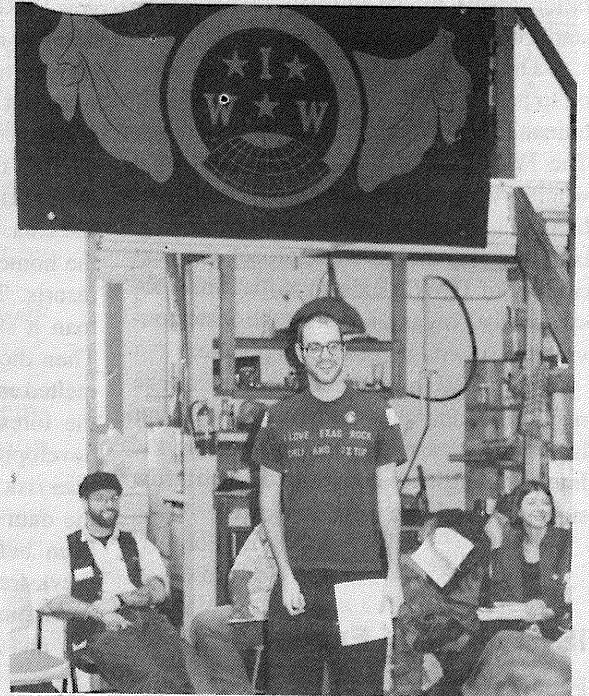
As the *IW* goes to press, teaching assistants at the University of Michigan have gone on strike because of the university's refusal to bargain over wages and other conditions unless the union gave administrators a free hand to fire graduate employees who happened to be born in other countries. Dan Gamble, head of the University bargaining team told GEO that he was not prepared to bargain with people 'who don't speak English.'

The strike began April 8th, a month before the end of Spring semester classes.



More than 50 Wobblies from the West Coast, Hawaii and Salt Lake City held a regional conference in San Francisco and Berkeley March 1-3 to discuss regional coordination, industrial organizing, and strengthening the IWW organizationally. Other sessions included unlicensed labor radio, labor history and its contemporary relevance, the grape boycott and working-class ideologies.

photos by Robert Rush



Bay Area Protests Rip Union-Busting

San Francisco Bay Wobblies joined three days of demonstrations March 19-21 in solidarity with hospital workers struggling for a contract with Hillhaven Hospital.

In order to increase pressure on the Vincor-Hillhaven chain to agree to a labor contract, hundreds of unionists participated in guerilla actions which tied up downtown San Francisco during morning rush hour.

Two contingents of about 100 workers each marched each day through the financial district, chanting and beating drums. At opportune moments they seized major intersections, sitting down and blocking traffic. When cops ordered them to disperse, they got up and moved on – only to repeat the whole process a few blocks away. The outmaneuvered police made no arrests in the first two days of protests.

On March 21st, a third contingent held back inside the staging area until the cops had left to "escort" the other marchers. They

then marched to a busy intersection where they threw down a mattress and settled in for the day. Two demonstrators attired as the hospital CEO and Gov. Pete Wilson climbed into bed, symbolizing the cozy relationship between the bosses and the state.

The police eventually arrived with their paddy wagons, arresting about 50 protesters (including at least four Wobblies).

A coast-wide 24-hour longshore strike a few months before (protesting the firing of union activists) received no press attention, one Wobbly marcher notes. But the media gave extensive attention to the hospital demonstrations; perhaps the only way to catch the boss press' attention is to take over the streets, inconveniencing the editors and publishers with a little bit of class struggle.

"Progressive" Union-Busting

Bay Area Wobs continue to join picket lines at the Hotel Lafayette, and recently joined a protest at the Sir Francis Drake

Hotel where a new owner fired the entire union crew. And in early March they joined a protest at the offices of Frontline Campaigns, a "progressive" telefundraising firm which recently fired 80 unionized East Bay workers as part of a sale to Great Lakes Communications, a subsidiary of A.B. Data Corp. of Milwaukee, which also owns New Boston Communications.

Frontline raises money for groups such as the National Organization for Women, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Neighbor to Neighbor, an array of AIDS organizations (including the American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Rainforest Action Network, Communities for a Better Environment, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, etc.

Frontline's contract with the ILWU expired in November, but the company stalled negotiations until Jan. 12 (right after

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Mad Cow Disease...

Bosses Endanger Lives for Profit

Thousand of jobs are at risk in Britain in the meat industry and in related industry in a health crisis sparked off by the Government's admission that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) may be passed on to humans who eat infected meat.

The roots of the crisis lie in industrial methods of agricultural production and capitalism but the debate which is going on does not criticize or even question the role that both these factors have played in the crisis. This article seeks to open up the debate.

Since the end of the second world war agriculture the world over has sought to respond to the growing population by focusing on increased production. Increased production has been associated with increased profits and in many western countries small farms have been bought up large companies keen to earn a profit from the land.

The farmers who once owned these farms became managers responsible to corporate absentee landlords. All types of farms have been involved, grain and cereals, sheep and cattle, vegetable and fruit growers – all have succumbed to the gradual monopolisation of agriculture. The corporate landlords range from pension funds to property developers and multinationals; all determined to use the land to boost their earnings. In the last couple of generations thousands have

become unemployed and drifted into cities as the farms were taken over, mechanised and turned into monocultural deserts.

They have brought with them modern management techniques and have reoriented land use for maximum production; moving farms to high input, high output regimes, dependent on massive amounts of fertilisers in the case of crops, and basing farms around high-production monoculture to further enhance profitability.

Animal production is similarly focused. Chickens are reared in battery cages, pigs in sterile pens and cattle in large sheds. Animals are regularly fed hormones to make them grow faster, selectively bred to enhance certain aspects of their meat and fed vast amounts of anti-biotics to ward off infection.

A consequence of such high input regimes has been the need for high-protein feed. Left to their own devices cattle would contentedly munch their way through fields of grass, growing a rate which while adequate for them would not be fast enough for the farmer. The quicker they grow, the quicker they can be slaughtered, sold and replaced, therefore more profit can be made.

In the early 1980s high protein feed was almost all based on concentrated grain, but changes in the world economy raised the

price of grain. The suppliers wanted to keep their costs down, thereby enhancing their profits. They moved away from grain and started to introduce concentrated animal protein into their products and sold them on to farmers. The animal protein came from the remains of carcasses of sheep, chickens and other cattle, which had been slaughtered for human consumption. Somewhere along the line the carcasses of sheep, which had died of an illness known as scrapie, were introduced into the animal protein manufacture and then the problems started.

Between 1984 and 1989 such feeding was widespread in Britain, often without the knowledge of the farmers who were simply told that the feed was the best and cheapest available.

In the late 1980s farmers noticed that some of their cattle were showing signs of distress, features included an inability to stand, walk or coordinate any body function. When the animals were killed and their brains examined veterinary surgeons found that the brains had literally turned to sponge, pocked full of holes and empty space. Searching for the cause they concluded eventually that infected sheep had been introduced to the food chain but that changes in practices would avoid this in the future. In 1989 the

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Mayday Greetings

Dear Fellow Workers:

I wish to extend hearty Mayday Greetings to all Fellow Workers including my fellow Education Workers throughout the world. The IWW has always been an inspiration to me as the ultimate challenge to statist exploitation everywhere.

The Ruling Class is determined to hold on to power at all costs, even at the risk of humanity's and other species extinction. The IWW and anarcho-syndicalism as a whole are the only effective challenge to the hierarchical authoritarian dogmas of statism. It is essential as we approach the next century of IWW's existence that anarcho-syndicalists organize against the State non-violently to end its genocidal policies.

The IWW and anarcho-syndicalism can reach other anarchists to help deal with our isolation by various means such as the Internet in order to nonviolently overthrow statism of both the "left" and right.

Solidarity Forever!
Howard Olson

IBT Local 814 Exposé

Fellow Workers,

Thanks for the IWW paper and your well-written first article on Local 814... Please send me the next one, also.

I'm enclosing a donation [\$20] for the work of the IWW because I believe that there are some good motives with your organization.

Warmest Regards,
Joe Dunst

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Press Date: April 8, 1996

Solidarity Needed

On Feb. 6th the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network held a very successful rally in support of Leonard Peltier and against FBI abuse. Both the people who showed up and the speakers represented diverse communities... The main speaker was LeRoy Mills, a long-time activist and member of the Yakima Nation. Though we were fortunate on the day of our rally that we were not rained upon, most other areas of Western Washington had very heavy rain.

Up on the Nisqually River there is a dam that produces power for the city of Tacoma. Behind the dam is a lake that has the homes of many rich people and a few resorts. The water level was kept higher than it should have been for the boaters. Then the heavy rains came and the snow melted and run-off from the clear-cutting of the forests of the watershed and endless development poured into the lake. Rather than risk the homes of the rich getting wet, the dam was opened up like it had never been before. Without notice, the people downstream were faced with a wall of water. Among the people who were flooded out and lost everything were the Native

people of Frank's Landing. Homes were lost and the Indian school was destroyed. Frank's Landing was the site of the Nisqually People's fight for fishing rights, where they were met with brutal repression. One of the main organizations involved in that struggle was the Survival of American Indians Association, in which LeRoy was a long-time activist. As he was out aiding the flood victims on Feb. 11th, his home not far away was burned down. He and his family lost everything.

The NWLPSN is aiding LeRoy and the people of Frank's Landing, and we ask for your help. We need to gather donations of money (please send them to: LeRoy Mills, 8205 East Martin Way, Box 166, Olympia WA 98506). We need people for work crews. And we have set up drop-off points for things like clothes and furniture...

Arthur J. Miller

Getting Competitive

The following letter was sent to New York State Senator Seward in response to his worker-financed *Energy & Telecommunications Newsletter*:

It is not known to me whether the air in

Albany contains pollutants which effect the judgment of "policymakers" or whether they actually believe the bullshit they present to the public, e.g.,— "Every manufacturer who has left New York has cited our higher than average utility rates as factors in New York's high cost of doing business."

Historically "Manufacturers" have sought to flee from the northern industrial states in search of cheaper labor costs. First the great "southern exodus" to the "right to work for less" states which make union security clauses unlawful and which give manufacturers unfettered leave to exploit workers in these southern tiers. Secondly "Manufacturers" have now entered the "new age" global exodus where U.S. plants are relocating in third world countries or, through joint ventures with foreign governments and other venture capitalists, are setting up shop outside the borders of the U.S.

Indeed, the entire former industrial base of this country has been gutted by fleeing manufacturers who are no longer interested in securing cheap labor — but rather, slave labor. The truth is, that with certain limited exceptions, we no longer make anything of consequence in this country. If you'd care to

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I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW— PO Box 508, Moss Vale 2577

CANADA

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

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

BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee— 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835

ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union— BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124
Oxford branch— c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Health Workers IU 610 and Suffolk IWW— del Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Centre, 16 Old Foundry Road, Ipswich IP4 2DU

Swindon Region GMB and Research Councils IU 620 group— del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707

General Distribution Workers IU 660 and Kent IWW— del: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DU

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch— Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW— c/o 14b Vulcan Street, Aberystwyth, ph: 01970-624 590

IRELAND

Co. Wicklow IWW— PO Box 20, Bray, Co Wicklow. Del: Bob Cullen.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

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

IU630 Film Workers— Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. Los Angeles 90026 213/368-4604 <fwo@mach1.directnet.com>

Mendocino— Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group— P.O. Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS

Santa Cruz GMB— PO Box 534, 95061
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop— 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers—504 Eshleman Berkely 94720 510/642-4895. del.s: Monica Berini and Liam Flynn. Comnposters del: Charles Long

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop— del: Jojo Mends, 1231 Second St., Berkeley 94710
San Francisco Bay Area GMB— PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. e-mail: sfgmb@iww.org Offices: Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/845-0540. Mon & Thurs 4 - 7 p.m., Tues, Wed, Fri 3 - 6 p.m., Sun. 6 - 9 p.m. The Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp St.), Suite #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open Delegates Meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m. General Defense Committee meets 2nd Saturdays as needed. GDC contact: Steve Ongerth 510/549-0358

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop— 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852
Denver/Boulder— Del: Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group— George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa— 673 Wylie St. SE, 30316.

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB— PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; 808/247-8584; wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB— 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Sunday 3 pm (call for location).

LOUISIANA

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

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB— Del. Rafie Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC— Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609
Boston Area GMB— PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB— 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop— Albert Parsons 313/769-0695

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

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB— 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.

MISSISSIPPI

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

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB— c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

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

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop— 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group— POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627

Rochester— Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005
NYC GMB— Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB— POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com> Bruce Mark Nevin, 141 E King St #8A, Lancaster 17602.
Reading Group— PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487

Philadelphia GMB— 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/724-1424 ext. 1 <phillyiww@iww.org>
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop— 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

TEXAS

Houston Group— PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch— Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 email: slcgm@iww.org

VERMONT

Burlington Branch— c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop— 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project— Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB— PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop— 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB— PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Capital District IWW Still at Work on Wage Issue

Capital District IWW continued its informational picketing during March to support the Campaign for a Livable Minimum Wage in upstate New York. Future actions are schedules, and local Wobblies will also conduct a May Day leaflet for the benefit of Leonard Peltier, to be followed by a "working-class holiday lunch."

March winds blew cold as local Wobs picketed an Albany McDonald's, joined by neighborhood kids and a cameraman from a locally produced show. "We're out there, beating the streets with a message of a real living wage, and we feel positive that our leafleting and public visibility will have an impact in the long term," according to Greg Giorgio, Capital District IWW delegate.

"Our next phase will be to contact survey respondents and begin to involve low-wage workers directly in this process. Up until now, there has been no real outreach to the workers most affected by the low, low minimum wage," Giorgio added. "This may develop into a real organizing opportunity."

The larger Campaign, meanwhile, has been busy in the courts and in the legislature. Former Rensselaer County republican party boss John Sweeney, now New York's Commissioner of Labor, has been sued by the Campaign to force him to convene a wage board. Sweeney, of course, will choose his own board should the suit succeed. It is a foregone conclusion that his hand-picked, business-oriented, labor-fakirish wage board will find no reason to raise the starvation

Burlington Wobs Picket Gannet

Members of the Vermont IWW picketed the Gannet-owned *Burlington Free Press* March 15th, distributing leaflets and promoting a boycott of that paper and the also Gannet-owned *USA Today*.

The Detroit News Agency, owned by Gannet is waging a brutal campaign against their workers who have been on strike since last summer. The campaign against the strikers has included acts of extreme violence.

The Detroit News Agency has lost more than \$100 million since the strike began but this loss is offset by the other Gannet papers. We encourage workers throughout the US to picket their locally-owned Gannet papers. We cannot let this type of brutality against workers continue unabated.

If Gannet is successful in breaking the union in Detroit, the last union stronghold in the US, it will send a clear signal that no union anywhere is safe.

wage. Sweeney has said he sees "no compelling evidence" that the \$4.25 an hour minimum needs to be bolstered.

Capital District IWW will be out on the streets again in late April to picket for the Campaign, will leaflet downtown Schenectady on May Day, and will celebrate the workers' holiday at historic Slick's Tavern.

Segments of the Wobbly produced "Project X" radio program are now featured on WRPI-FM's "Capital District Progressive Radio," a weekly show hosted by a local activist organization, the March 19th Coalition. "Project X" adds a radical working-class voice to the program, with local and general-interest news, interviews and commentary.

Around Our Union

Bum contract at Group Health

The Puget Sound IWW GMB has launched a new newsletter, *The Real Deal*, from which the following on the area's largest HMO is reprinted:

There's just no polite way to put it, fellow workers. So here it is straight up: The new two-year labor agreement at Group Health Cooperative is very unpleasant indeed. This deal features such delicious ingredients as wage and medical benefit concessions, plus layoffs on top of ones that have already taken place. The workers at Group Health have given serious, unstinting support to the unions to which they belong, yet this was the result.

What will they get in exchange for accepting the deal? The unions will be allowed to sign up unorganized labor sectors at Group Health. But why would unorganized workers feel like lining up for the same treatment? Of course, that's assuming that unorganized workers could figure out whose union would have jurisdiction over them. After all, the workers' side of negotiations was played by negotiators from no less than five unions - eight if you include the locals involved.

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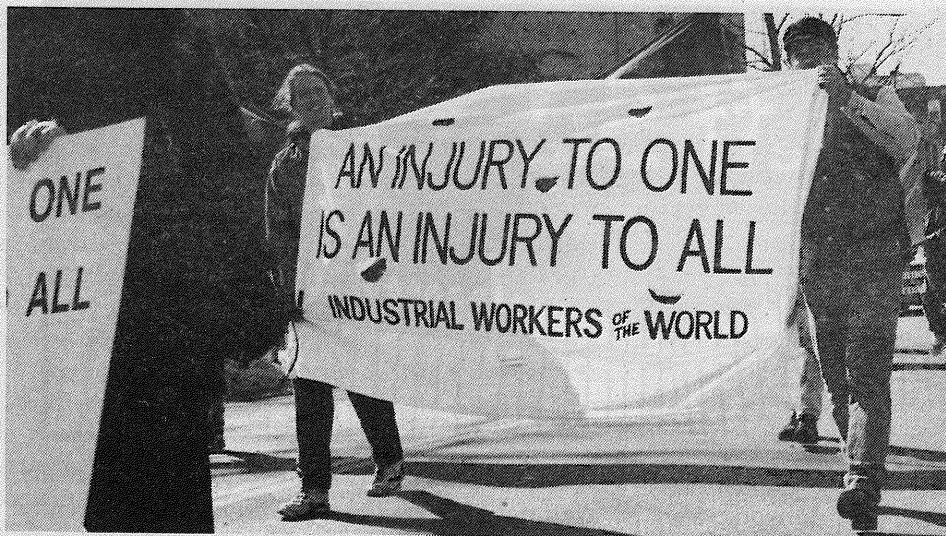
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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.



Boston Wobblies marched in Cambridge's St. Patrick's Day parade, carrying placards and a banner reading "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All" and a portrait of IWW organizer James Connolly. The Cambridge parade was organized as an alternative to Boston's parade, which bars gays and others to whom the organizers take exception. Several people requested information on the IWW, and a few called out "One Big Union" as we marched by.

On May Day the Branch will sponsor a Utah Phillips benefit concert with several local folk musicians (including some Wobblies) at Cambridge's Club Passim, and will join a May Day demonstration being organized by an immigrant workers association.



Bay Area Wobs Back May Day Immigrant Rights Action

The San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch of the IWW will be participating in the May 1, 1996 "May Day Action in Solidarity with Day Laborers and Immigrant Workers" and the May 11 "March and Rally to Defend Immigrants" which are being organized by Accion Y Unidad para el Desamparado Latino and the Bay Area Coalition Opposing Fascism.

A Branch statement notes that "Since 1905, the IWW has been in the forefront of fighting for the rights of the most exploited sectors of the working class, especially immigrant workers... We condemn the racist elements who are currently leading the anti-immigrant campaign. We realize that the repression and harassment directed against the most vulnerable sections of the working class represents a threat to the entire working class, and we call upon the entire working class to uphold the old Wobbly slogan, 'An Injury to One is an Injury to All,' and mobilize all its forces to combat the right wing's attempts to divide the working class in order to conquer us all."

The protests have also been endorsed by International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6, and several other area unions are being urged to endorse the actions and to make a donation to the solidarity fund being raised to buy (union-made) work clothes, boots and gloves for distribution on May 1st to needy day laborers.

Local 6's endorsement resolution reads: "Whereas, the Declaration of Principles of Warehouse Union Local 6, ILWU, states... that our Union shall be guided by the principle 'An injury to one is an injury to all'; and ... pledges our Union will 'fight all violations of democracy whether they be

racial, religious or political, to uphold the principle that all have an equal right to work, to security, and to leisure necessary to enjoy life'; and states that 'we reject racial or religious discrimination by anyone'; and

"Whereas, Latino day laborers - one of the most oppressed sectors of the working population in California - are under constant police repression and harassment; are exposed to the attacks of violent right-wing and racist vigilante organizations; are subject to deportation by the INS; have no legal rights to form, join or support labor unions; are forced to compete for jobs under horrendous shape-up conditions on street corners throughout California and the Bay Area; and work for minimum or sub-minimum wages under brutal working conditions, often being cheated out of their wages by employers..."

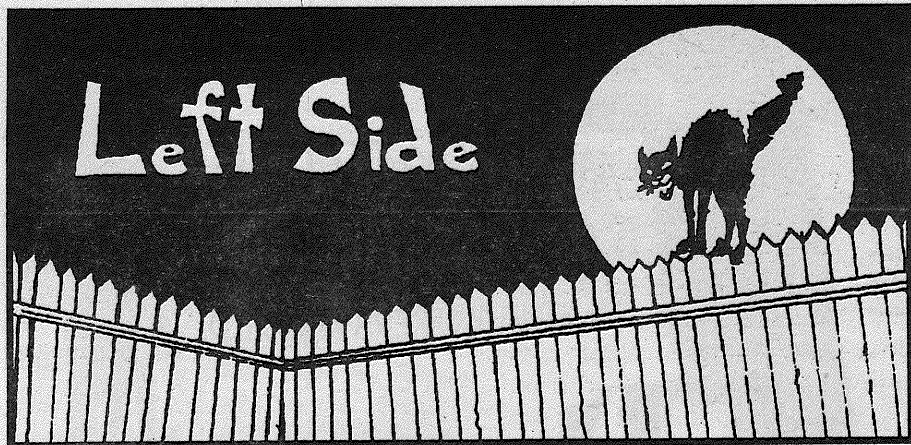
Bay Area Protests...

a two-week holiday layoff), when it informed workers that the company had been sold and all workers were being fired.

The workers are trying to bring pressure on Frontline and A.B. Data and its subsidiaries to reinstate the fired workers and negotiate with their union. If you are contacted in behalf of one of these organizations or by a telefundraiser working for A.B. Data, Frontline, Great Lakes or New Boston, you might let them know what you think of "progressive" union-busting.

— Send in Your News —

All IWW branches should send in regular reports of their activities by the 6th of each month for publication.



Marlene Kim, writing in a recent issue of *Poverty & Race*, notes, "Since many of the poor do work, work by itself does not eradicate poverty." She apparently came to this conclusion after surveying the working poor who qualified for food stamps, AFDC and Medicaid, via official census data. She found that most such recipients were in married-couple families in their prime working years, worked long hours and had at least a high-school education. They were not below the poverty line because of abnormal lifestyles or deviant behavior, but because of the plain, simple fact that they were in unstable jobs, earning too damn little. Some 60 percent of these workers are employed in retail, agricultural, personal household services, health care or residential care industries.

Marlene Kim is finding out something that we here in these editorial offices knew all along. The only people who get rich on work are those who don't do any work themselves.

The irony is that the Arkansaw Traveler is talking about "workfare" where welfare recipients would have to work for their welfare checks. I wonder if this "workfare" pay would come up to the federal minimum wage? And he's supposed to be a liberal! I guess he's a liberal because the other politicians want to lower the federal minimum wage.

At this juncture it behooves your not-so-humble scribe to quote from two wags of the past century. One says that the politicians get money from the rich and votes from the poor on the promise of protecting them from each other. The other wag put it more succinctly: "If voting changed anything, they would make it illegal!" And these two wags weren't even Wobblies.

The only possible function that voting seems to serve is to assure those who rule us that they have nothing to worry about. We, the great unwashed, have yet to learn about our own economic power through direct action. Some of our younger Fellow Workers a couple of decades ago published some matchbook covers with the legend, "Don't vote! It only encourages them!"

Taking my customary cancer-stick break while penning these words, your scribe read a letter he received today from a Swedish syndicalist Fellow Worker who is vacationing in Cyprus. The island is still divided, but he nevertheless bicycled around the island. What was interesting is that there was a little strip of tape at the bottom of the air mail envelope. I removed the tape to see what was underneath. Beneath my local address and state he had written USA and amerika spelt out in the Greek alphabet. Somebody at the post office is apparently one of these English-only goofs.

The stamps on the envelope were printed in three languages - Greek, Turkish and English - despite the fact that they are a divided nation. Why are some of these characters over here such xenophobics? A couple of centuries ago this land had many languages which naturally everybody here couldn't possibly know. However, they had evolved a hand language that was understood across the Continent. They celebrated May Day the year around!

There is a May Day observance coming up here in Old Windy at one of the local coffee houses at which yours truly was been invited to read some of his inflammatory poetry as well as a number of other speakers. There shall be two video presentations, one of them a documentation of last year's May Day march in Mexico City where over a million workers demonstrated through the center of that city.

Though things look rather bleak along those lines here in Freedomland, I nevertheless wish you all a happy May Day and

Keep the baby, Faith!

— C.C. Redcloud

Peltier Parole Rejected

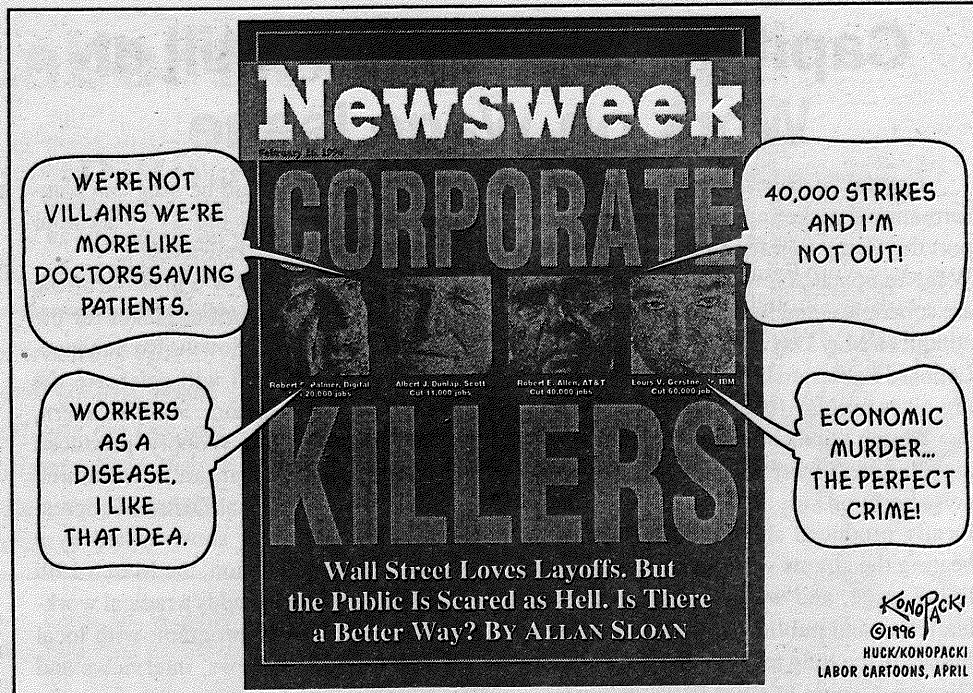
The U.S. Parole Commission has denied parole to class war prisoner Leonard Peltier on the grounds that he continues to insist on his innocence. This despite a (since fired) hearing examiner's recommendation that Peltier should be immediately released. The USPC rejected parole even though the government concedes that no direct evidence exists against Peltier.

Voice Your Outrage: United States Parole Commission: Phone 301/492-5952; Fax them at 301/492-6694. Fax U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno at 202/514-4371, phone 202/514-2001. Call the White House Chief of Staff fax 202/456-2883. White House Comment Line: 202/456-1111.

Charlene Sato Memorial Fund

David Goldsmith, Missoula MT	\$50
Emiko Yukawa, Toyama Japan	100
Richard Rothschilder & Acay Sancho, Honolulu HI	25
Jim Tollefson, Langley WA	20
Heidi Riggenschach, Seattle WA	20
Sandra Silberstein, Seattle WA	20
Bob Heald, Montpelier VT	20
Vermont GMB, Burlington VT	20
Robert Tibbs/St. Louis GMB	50
Peter McGregor, Sydney Australia	100
Mark & Rieko Sawyer, Mino City, Osaka, Japan	100
Hajime & Aiko Sato, Wahiawa HI	500
Valdo & Frances Viglielmo, Honolulu HI	50
Setsu Okubo, Honolulu HI	50
Rachel Saiki, Honolulu HI	25
Joyce Chinen, Honolulu HI	25
Michael Long, Honolulu HI	1,000

Contributions help support women members' participation in the IWW.



Getting Poorer

As noted last issue, the politricksters and the media pundits (see FW Konopacki's comment above) have finally caught on to the fact that most of us aren't doing nearly so well as they. The Brookings Institution reports that the bottom 53 percent (that's a pretty large bottom, no?) of Americans' income shrunk significantly between 1980 and 1994. Average household income fell 3 percent, to \$7,800 a year, for the poorest fifth. The next fifth saw their income fall 4 percent, to \$19,200. And the middle fifth lost ground too.

Those falling incomes are non-adjusted. They don't account for inflation, or for the growing numbers of people working two jobs, or for the continued growth in two-earner households. The Rand Institute similarly found that 'the bottom 50 percent' of Americans' income fell from 1989 through 1993 - by an inflation-adjusted household average of \$2,700 a year - even as the rich got a whole lot richer.

So while well-paid economists (the top 5 percent's income soared by 40 percent) chatter about the need to "improve" the economic statistics by cutting the official inflation rate (it seems the price of essentials such as yachts is rising more slowly than the price of luxuries such as rent and food), workers are getting angrier and angrier.

Some take out that anger by voting for the likes of Pat Buchanan, even though he is one of the rich-getting-richer crowd who salivates at the thought of forcing workers into sub-minimum-wage non-union jobs. Some shoot at government officials out in the wild, wild Midwest. More sensible types join unions to organize and fight back. And a few masochistic types are getting set to campaign for Bill Clinton's re-election. Whatever deviant acts consenting adults want to perform on each other is fine by me, but I take exception to getting dragged into these perversions willy nilly.

'Don't Blame Me'

Meanwhile, a University of Illinois Labor & Industrial Relations professor, Michael LeRoy, is going around claiming that the bosses aren't to blame for job cuts. It's the workers' fault, he says, because our pension plans (over which we rarely have any control) push corporations to improve their stock values.

Ironically, unions worked to establish these programs at state universities around the country - spending members' dues money so that well-paid hacks can train budding personnel managers (and the odd union bureaucrat) and travel the country feeding us propaganda for the bosses.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, however, recently called on pension fund managers to pay more attention to companies' labor records and to refuse to support managements that are trying to destroy the

wages and working conditions of the people who are supposed to benefit from the plans.

The AFL is developing a data bank to help member unions' pension funds monitor corporate boards, though the Securities and Exchange Commission has ruled that companies don't have to let resolutions dealing with workers' issues go to a vote. Vencor-Hillhaven CEO Bruce Lunsford is livid anyway, calling a union attempt to encourage shareholders to reject a buyout "almost extortionist" and part of a campaign to win a new union contract that also included picketing and distributing leaflets critical of the company...



Adopt A Scab

After you finish commiserating with the poor boss being

subjected to criticism for trying to break his workers' union, you might spare a few tears for the plight of the lowly scab.

Five scabs who crossed picket lines at Caterpillar's Decatur plant have taken the UAW to court seeking millions of dollars in damages. It appears that when the union put them on its Adopt A Scab list some workers let them know what they thought of their treachery by putting a bumper sticker on one scab's truck, making insulting phone calls, following scabs around to make them uncomfortable, etc. Being the scabby scabs that they are, Robert Hagerman, Donald Karch, Jerrold Shuff, Stephen Vail and Patrick Slevin want tens of millions of dollars in damages, which they will no doubt turn over to the company they have dedicated their lives to enriching...

Proof: Unions Don't Work

The Dutch army has abandoned efforts to maintain military conscription after decades of direct action resistance which won draftees union representation, the eight-hour day, the right to be gay, the right to wear ponytails and earrings, etc.

The generals have concluded that unionized workers make poor soldiers - being unwilling to shut up, obey orders, and do as they are told. Seems like a pretty good recommendation to me...

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Joseph Hickerson, Takoma Park MD	\$100
Marjorie Lee, High Falls NY	10
P&L Printing (IWW Job Shop), Denver CO	100
Lee Kliet, Latham NY	25
Mike Walsh, Homewood IL	36
Chicago GMB, Chicago IL	50
Robert Pasciullo, Saratoga Springs NY	15

BENEFIT CONCERT

May Day - Weds., May 1, 8 p.m.
Club Passim - Harvard Square
Cambridge, Mass. \$10
Bill Bumpus, Dave Rovics, Scott Alarik, Ellis Paul & others

Against Custerism For Class Struggle Unionism

It was with great interest that I recently read Lone Wolff Prometheus' article, "Union Fundraising Through Rebel Theft," in the March issue of *Wildcat*. I was amused. In fact, I came down with a fit of nostalgia for the good old days when I was a kid and I—did the better part of four years in reform school over activities that, however juvenile, were much more mature than the ideas and assumptions contained in the aforementioned article.

Comrade Prometheus argues that we need to get on top of our long-term financial needs... And he calls upon employed as well as unemployed members to engage in rebel theft: stealing from the rich.

He assures us that it's quite easy. That some folks have the ability to bag \$400 a day from their employer. That employed workers should allow (and even assist) the unemployed in stealing from their workplaces. That stolen goods can easily be fenced. That stolen goods can be swapped at regular intervals at IWW tables and other public venues. "Literally, union funds can skyrocket through stealing." And then after a couple of war stories about how this worked well for the author: "Rebel theft is not a theory that might work. It is a means of fundraising which does work. Try it with your branch of the IWW. It will work. Stealing from the rich means enhancing the poor."

Let me assert right here that anyone who takes this article seriously should first change his or her last name to Custer, after the general who had a similar level of hubris as does obviously this comrade. We know with what results. ~~viewed as a model for the right to~~ First, we have to assume that there is at least one agent of the political state who reads this newsletter. Were I that agent, I would be now have copies this article, circulated it locally, regionally and nationally to

every police agency in the country. And I would pose the question: as a copy, how can I facilitate these articles and assumptions in such a way so as to get a whole bunch of Wobblies busted? I would further be asking myself: how can I use such activities to frame-up known delegates, secretary-treasurers, all the way up to the GST and GEB?

Second, there are precedents in history. How many members of the Black Panther Party in languishing in jail in this country because of frame-ups resulting from well-intentioned, but police-sponsored, operations? Either comrade Prometheus is too young to remember these things and needs to march on down to the local Blockbuster Video and rent the movie "Panthers." Or he is a long-time activist, in which case he is suffering from selective amnesia. In either case, the same rule applies: history repeats itself, especially when you flunk it.

Granted, we need better methods of fundraising than we have now. Not only that. As an organization we need to review constantly our capacity to keep the ship together as we take on more crew members. We need to get ready for the times that are coming when our present 600-plus membership begins to grow by leaps and bounds. This will happen. It will happen because the economic order and its political repressive apparatus will continue to get worse. It will happen because our condensing saviors of labor in the AFL-CIO will prove unable to save even themselves, the result of a consistent history of class collaboration and wannabe capitalism.

It will happen because, in their numbers, our class will show up at our doorstep looking for answers. When that day arrives, we had better have an organization that can get through all of this without resorting to juvenile pranks.

—Gary Hicks, X344380

Let's Get Competitive...

continued from page 2

verify it open up your auto hood or your computer casings and check the components for the origin of the country in which they were manufactured. Better still, have your maids, houseboys, cooks or secretaries check the labels in the clothing and tools at your closest department store. Our largest export lies in agricultural products where giant agribusiness controls and the small family farmer is disappearing and becoming extinct. This may be because the "Manufacture" has not found a cost-effective way of transporting our rich farmlands abroad.

That "Manufacturers" are becoming richer and U.S. workers poorer is a fact not disputed. However it's a wealth not born of ingenuity, creativity or talent, but rather born from the exploitation of both our enslaved fellow workers outside the U.S. and those workers idled and held captive by the "manufacturers" in this country.

With all due respect for the offices of the New York State Senate to which it may claim title—where do you get off suggesting that lower energy cost will be an inducement to the "manufacturers" to locate here in NY—when they systematically, profitably and with impunity fuck the Colombian, Mexican, Pakistani, Peruvian, Taiwanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Africano and our fellow workers worldwide by paying chump change for their labor.

If you're really interested in "competing" for the return of the "manufacturer" in

New York State I suggest that you lower the federal minimum wage to 13 cents an hour, abolish OSHA and all workplace safety requirements, outlaw unions and abolish environmental restrictions and child labor laws. Certainly we are as capable as any nation of chaining our 7-year-olds to weaving looms to compete for U.S. domination over India and Pakistan in the "manufacturing" of area rugs.

C'mon Seward, let's really get American Workers pumped-up and into this fucking competitive productivity shit. We can throw any protesters into our prisons where the population has exceeded one-million for the first time in history and, at the same time, we can feed law enforcement and security as the fasting growing segment of the nations economy.

Now there's a thought—why not New York State as one big penal colony; just think of the job opportunities. Who knows, with any luck we might be able to abolish the public service commission in the energy area and leave decisions related to burying nuclear waste to the "socially responsible manufacturers." Trust me it would work Seward—in the same way that the regulatory Interstate Commerce Commission was abolished in the name of deregulation and "competition."

In conclusion, "Jamie Boy," let me just note that workers may not be faring too well these days—but they are not stupid. Take my name off your bullshit "manufacturers" propaganda mailing list. I can at least save the New York worker/taxpayer the price of postage.

Paul Poulos

We lost an NLRB election last week. Workers at Borders Books in Philadelphia voted 25-20 against being represented by the IWW. 31 of 45 workers had signed authorization cards. If three of the "no"s had gone the other way, the workers would now be sitting down with management to negotiate a contract.

Roughly two months pass between the presentation of authorization card and an election. Workers who might be vaguely supportive of unionizing are vulnerable during that period. Borders sent in managers from other stores around Philadelphia and executives from headquarters in Ann Arbor, not, so they claimed, to sway the workers, but to express their concern. Right. Captive audience meetings were held with the workers. An assistant manager at the Philly store asked six individual workers their opinions on the organizing drive. The company had hired a law firm mentioned as being notorious for union busting in the book "Confessions of a Union Buster."

from the desk of...

The concern of the workers went beyond wages and hours of work. They were disturbed by what they saw as a deterioration in the quality of the line of books being sold and wanted a say in the selection process. It's hard to imagine any union other than the IWW supporting such an issue. It's hard to imagine the IWW not supporting it since we're convinced that the workers are in the best position to make such decisions. Borders flew in management from Ann Arbor to explain the reasons behind their selections.

Borders found among its corporate officials one who had been an assistant manager at the University Cellar in Ann Arbor in the 1980s—a shop in which two-thirds of the 66 workers joined the Union before the NLRB election and two-thirds voted for the Union in that election. He put out a scurrilous and highly inaccurate letter about that experience. And he too flew in to talk to the workers. Airline company stock must have inched up as the Borders corporation gave its Philadelphia workers more attention than I'm sure they've ever experienced previously. Heady stuff. Gee they really do care. It could change a worker's mind. Let's see how long the attention lasts now that the election is over. One Borders worker they didn't fly in is a former Wob who was a negotiator for the IWW at the University Cellar. He's fairly comfortable now and chose to remain neutral. He would have had a very different story to tell from that presented by the former Cellar assistant manager.

Management put out the "give us another chance" message and a few of the workers who had previously supported unionizing bought it. Management says it was a wake-up call. One of the workers who switched says if things don't change he'll be voting union next year. They'll probably change... a few weeks before the next NLRB election. One advantage for the workers of engaging in even a losing election is that management tends to clean up its act for a while. That while can only be made permanent if the workers unite.

But why give management another chance? Why vote to accept dictatorship, no matter how benevolent it may be, when the alternative is to go Union and put the workers on an even level with management in deciding the terms of their employment? It makes no sense to me.

It's a setback, not a permanent defeat. Some of the 20 who voted yes have joined the IWW and are continuing to organize. And the Borders corporation made the mistake of putting out an email notice to management at its stores around the country that the Wobblies were coming. The notice was seen at many stores by workers who have contacted the IWW for information about organizing. Several drives are under way.

I hope we've learned what seems to me to be a clear lesson from this setback and another earlier in the year. We can't rely on authorization cards. It's like signing a petition to put a third party on a ballot. Lots of people will support that out of a liberal concern for democratic process even though they have no intention of voting for the third party, or in this case for the Union. Unlike other unions, the IWW doesn't just sign people up after NLRB recognition has been achieved.

The vast majority of our members belong because they want to build the labor movement, not just join something which has already been built. It's a lot easier to predict success if a majority of the workers have already joined the Union prior to the election. Signing an authorization card is relatively easy. Taking out that red membership card and paying dues shows a much higher degree of commitment. And if a majority of the workers in a shop act in solidarity with one another, election results hardly matter. They just confirm reality.

Stop Press: Ohio Strike

As we go to press Fellow Worker Kevin Chicwak reports that: 530 workers, 500 of them women, went on strike Friday, April 5 at Merck Electric, a subsidiary of Amatek in Cambridge, Ohio, near Columbus. The workers are members of Machinists Local 2088. Merck is a manufacturer of vacuum cleaners.

It has been 40 years since the workers last struck at the plant. Management's latest wage offer is 17 cents/hr. The CEO made \$835,000 in bonuses last year. Steel Workers have been supporting the strike. Teamster truckers have been honoring the 24 hour a day picket line and have chased off scab drivers from DNL and Jayrail trucking firms. One Teamster who followed a scab driver down the road was quoted as saying the scab "probably had to clean out his pants after I got through with him."

Signing up a majority in the Union takes a bit longer than signing up a majority to authorize a vote. But the results are far more likely to be in the workers' favor and long lasting.

So sign 'em up, Fellow Workers. If workers hesitate about joining the Union, be assured they're likely to hesitate about voting for the Union. If a worker accepts the idea of joining the IWW enthusiastically, he or she isn't likely to be swayed by the bosses con job in the days leading up to an election. So offer 'em red cards and find out where they really stand. And if you don't have a majority willing to join the Union, organize until you do.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase
General Secretary-Treasurer

Tough battle faces rank-and-file Teamsters...

The Enemy Within, Part 2

A Slice Of Union Corruption

Last issue began this profile of Teamsters Local Union #814 (Long Island, NY), which represents workers in the moving and storing industry under a multi-employer industry-wide collective bargaining agreement. We described the local's long, bloody history under the control of mobsters, the government's subsequent lame and unsuccessful attempt at reforming the local through a court-imposed trusteeship, and the collusion between the union's leaders and bosses to fire and blacklist members identified with the Brotherhood Team – a reform group whose activist members opposed the policies and practices of the local's officers.

Michael Lonergan, a founding member of the Brotherhood Team, and Salvatore Pultro, another Local 814 member, were fired by Universal Van Lines when they insisted that the company honor job-protection provisions in the union contract. Their discharges were upheld by 814's "in-house" joint labor-management board, which denied their grievance in a four-word written decision – "The grievance is denied." Lonergan and Pultro quickly learned that the union had no interest in defending them or their rights, a fact later confirmed by NLRB administrative law judge Steven Fish following a full hearing on the matter. Judge Fish found that the joint union-management grievance panel was plainly stacked against the two activists from the beginning.

More than three years after they were illegally fired, and more than a year after the judge ruled in their favor, Lonergan and Pultro have yet to be reinstated in their jobs or to be compensated for their lost wages.

In the final analysis Lonergan and Pultro were sold out by a union to which they belonged and which they supported with their dues for more than 35 years. Their only transgression was openly insisting that the terms of their labor agreement be upheld.

A greasy business

However, union-corruption is only one-half the problem. A "business" union is no more or less corrupt than its management counterpart. In fact, where the corrupt hands of union officers are extended they are richly greased by similarly corrupt high level business executives or managers who eagerly leap at the opportunity to purchase an "insurance premium" that will guarantee them labor peace, more favorable terms in their labor agreements, and finally, allow complete employer domination over their "unionized" work force.

NLRB: 'See no evil, Speak no evil ... Look the other way'

This is the naked face of labor-management racketeering – an equal partnership between top level union and business brass alike, in which both partners are staunchly aligned in an unholy wedlock against the interests of union workers. Although such unlawful partnerships are highly destructive of the rights supposedly guaranteed employees under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), regional directors and the offices of general counsel to the NLRB flatly refuse to act on the complaints of union members held captive in these destructive relationships. And there is no appeal from general counsel's exclusive authority in this area to either the full NLRB or the U.S. Appellate Courts.

Where organized crime has managed to infiltrate and gain control of labor organizations labor-management racketeering runs rampant and becomes the rule in the "collective bargaining" arena rather than the

exception. The real brass ring for the mob, however, lies in gaining direct access to and control over billions of dollars in employee benefit funds.

Government prosecutors mistakenly view businesses as innocent victims rather than voluntary participants in these insidious joint labor-management racketeering schemes. But corporate bean-counters fully understand the game and the gain. Illegal kickbacks or bribes to a union's officers or agents, in their countless, cloaked and often undetectable forms, are a cost-effective means of insuring that "unionized" employees are kept docile, impotent and powerless.

Rarely can local union members meet the onerous burden of proof necessary to unveil these unlawful relationships. And union members are held captive and are forced to live with degenerative contracts and working conditions – the terms of which are covertly negotiated and agreed to behind closed doors before they ever reach the "bargaining table."

Is this critical characterization of the world of labor-management "relations" in the U.S. and Canada unwarranted? Hardly.

The 'frightening face of reality'

In 1977 two U.S. Attorneys, Peter F. Vaira and Douglas P. Roller – assigned respectively to the Chicago and Cleveland organized crime task force – issued a preliminary report on *Organized Crime And The Labor Unions*. In the opening of their report, Vaira and Roller noted that organized crime influence in U.S. labor unions is "thoroughly frightening." They continued their indictment by asserting: "At least four international unions are completely dominated by men who either have strong ties to or are members of the organized crime syndicate. A majority of the locals in most major cities of the United States in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Labor International Union of North America, and International Longshoreman's Association unions are completely dominated by organized crime."

Apart from the the four International Unions noted above the report stated: "There are many other unions which are hoodlum infiltrated, such as the Laundry Workers and the Operating Engineers. Most of these unions are smaller in scope than the four mentioned above, and should be the subject of a supplemental report."

Perhaps more significantly, the report painted a dismal picture of the likelihood of removing these corrupt officers. "The officials of these unions are firmly entrenched; there is little hope of removing them by a free election process. Convictions for misconduct have been sparse and when one corrupt official is removed another soon takes his place..."

Interestingly, the 1977 report cited Teamster Local 814's then president as being controlled by La Cosa Nostra. And heading the U.S. Justice Department list of the worst-infiltrated international unions "without a doubt" was the IBT.

U.S. Justice Department: 'A day late and a dollar short'

But the Justice Department's report only confirmed what virtually every American

or Canadian worker familiar with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) already knew or suspected – because they live with it on a day-to-day basis. For decades millions of other working people ingested published news accounts of Teamster corruption along with their morning coffee – not the least of which were the scandalous abuses reported in connection with the corrupt administration of the IBT's mob-dominated billion dollar Central States Pension Health and Welfare Funds.

It's not surprising that public contempt for unions would follow as a natural consequence of the pervasive and chronic racketeering reports with which the public has been hammered. However, "organized labor" today still refuses to recognize the corrupt "Enemy within its own ranks."

Even as the number of organized workers in the U.S. private sector has sunk to a historical low of 6 percent, no causal connection is made between these diminishing



Morgan workers Frank Simpson (18-year IBT 814 member), Billy Jira (20-year member) and Jimmy Roche (30-year member) deliver Unfair Labor Practice charge to NLRB.

numbers and labor's self-inflicted, ruinous image which has been etched indelibly in the minds of American workers – the young and their elders alike.

The Justice Department's 1977 report has long since been tucked away and is gathering dust – but what of those millions of union members held captive by the mob-dominated unions it mentioned?

For the members of Teamsters Local 814, at least, the 1977 report and the government's racketeering suit leading to a one-year trusteeship of the local in 1987 has not altered conditions in the local in any positive way. If anything, the U.S. Attorney's lame cosmetic intervention and remedy did more harm than good because it created the illusion of change, when in reality, nothing occurred but a temporary reshuffling of chairs within the union.

Union democracy systematically slaughtered

814 officers continue to discourage union meetings and intimidate union members. At their will and with complete impunity, they can and have arranged the firing and blacklisting of union dissidents. Despite the fact that the Joint Labor-Management Board has been tainted by corruption, it still stands as the judicial body upon which members are forced to rely for the "just" adjudication of complaints affecting their day-to-day working lives, including whether or not they will remain employed.

To date, three of six founding members of the Brotherhood Team, a union-reform caucus formed in July of 1992 to try to put control of the local back in the hands of the membership, lost their union jobs and were

driven out of the industry because of their activity. A fourth was issued an involuntary withdrawal card from the union. The Brotherhood Team was able to garner support from some 250 members of the local before 814's officers systematically wiped-out virtually all of the ten B-Team board members who actively and visibly directed the organization's educational and reform activity within the local.

Union abandons bargaining unit of 50 members

In one sweep alone, the union managed to dispose of four B-Team Board members and a sizeable number of supporters by shutting down contract negotiations with their employer, Morgan Manhattan Storage Co. In effect the union abandoned a 50-member bargaining unit in order to dispose of and silence their opposition.

Morgan's employees were represented by the union under a succession of labor agreements for some forty years. Of Morgan's 50 union employees, four, including the union shop steward, were active members of the B-Team board, namely, Frank Simpson, William Jira, Ross Taylor and James Roche. Each fought a long and hard battle along with other Morgan employees to prevent the company from busting their union bargaining unit. In an election held by the union, B-Team board members Frank Simpson and William Jira were elected by their fellow workers to a committee to represent them in negotiating a new contract with the company.

Morgan insisted on the "right" to farm-out work to C&S a family owned non-union firm operating within the union's jurisdiction and using non-union workers to perform such work. The company did not bargain in good faith and actually came to the bargaining table seeking to remove all household moving from the union's jurisdiction – work which represented some 70 percent of the company's business and which had been done by Morgan's union employees for 40 years.

However it was not the company's bad faith bargaining or its union-busting demands that terminated a 40-year collective bargaining relationship with the union. The union itself engineered a no-win situation and thereafter delivered the final death blow to its long-standing members.

After eight negotiating sessions in which Simpson and Jira were major participants the union conducted a vote on the company's final offer. Although the union knew that the IBT strike fund was depleted, the officers never advised unit employees prior to the vote that no strike benefits would be available to them. Following workers' rejection of the company offer the union called a strike. The union offered no strike benefits and little other support for the strikers who watched scabs cross their picket lines. In fact, the union refused to reimburse strike captains for gas receipts totaling \$80 which was used to transport roving pickets to sites where company scabs were loading and unloading trucks.

Despite the financial hardship on the strikers the union failed to make any serious effort to organize temporary fill-in work for strikers on a revolving basis (which was

continued on page 14

From Paul Robeson to Mumia Abu-Jamal: The Struggle For A People's Culture

In June 1937, a public meeting was held at Prince Albert Hall in London. It was a fund-raising meeting to raise money, clothing and food for the women, children and men of Madrid who at that very moment were being bombarded by the tanks and planes of Franco's armies of fascism, backed by the governments of Hitler and Mussolini. Then, as today in the Balkans, the United States, Britain and France wept crocodile tears for these victims of civil war while they at the same time blockaded any form of aid. Today it is Sarajevo. In 1937 it was Madrid.

African Americans in those years responded in a number of ways to this conflict overseas. Over 600 of them enlisted in the 3,000-member Abraham Lincoln International Brigade. Of that number over 1,500 never came back. For the black men and women it was their first experience of an army that was not organized along the lines of racial segregation.

Other black Americans such as Langston Hughes and Paul Robeson joined white colleagues such as Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy Parker to use their art to call attention to the dangers of fascism to peace, justice and any kind of social progress. Paul Robeson, speaking at Prince Albert Hall, pretty much spoke for those artists and intellectuals who had the courage to be so-called premature anti-fascists. "The artist must take sides. He must elect to fight for freedom or slavery," Robeson asserted.

But he added, in order to make clear that this was no mere intellectual exercise: "I have made my choice. I had no alternative. The history of the capitalist era is characterized by the degradation of my people: despoiled of their lands, their culture destroyed, they are in every country, save one [referring to the Soviet Union], denied equal protection of the law and deprived of their rightful place in the respect of their fellows."

Today in 1995 we are on the threshold of another holocaust which threatens to dwarf the one that people of Robeson's generation struggled to prevent. Once again, genocide – in the Balkans, in Rwanda – has raised its ugly head. And let us not be fooled by those governments who today shed crocodile tears. The fifty million people who perished in 1933 through 1945 have not given us permission to assume that these governments are to be taken at their word. On the contrary, it is the white EuroAmerican leadership of these major powers who are the force

behind those who pull the triggers, wield the machetes, and rape and mutilate the women and young girls. And, unfortunately, these are the very people who will not be tried as war criminals.

Our country's foreign policy is a direct extension of what happens here at home. Jesse Jackson some years back pointed out that, for a long time and because of our commodity international trade status as chattel slaves, black people were the chief subject of U.S. foreign policy. If Croats, Serbs and Bosnians are slaughtering each other today, they are often doing it with the same weapons that have been made available to the young people of our cities. The president who weeps genuine tears over the death of Israel's prime minister, only yesterday wept crocodile tears over the 160-plus victims of Oklahoma City, murdered by people cut from the same ideological cloth as that of the West Bank settlers. The less-developed countries that keep workers employed at sub-minimum wages under the club and the gun are hosts to corporations which only yesterday enjoyed a no-union atmosphere under the clubs and guns of our very own Southland.

But to repeat. We are on the threshold of a major holocaust. For the first time since the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, masses of people are being thrown out on the streets to fend for themselves. The computer age has arrived. And while high technology has the potential of making life better, in the hands of the Clintons, Gingriches and their capitalist backers, this technology is not labor-saving, but rather labor-replacing. And in addition to all the downsizing, re-engineering, re-inventing government and all those other give-the-workers-the-boot euphemisms – the social contract we all swear by has been burst asunder.

Time was that when you needed food, a roof over your head, clothing and other creature comforts – to say nothing of good concerts, educational opportunities and other opportunities of expression and cultivation – you went to work, you got a paycheck of varying quality, and you paid for this stuff. Now the jobs just are not there. People who used to make high wages are fighting their sons and daughters for jobs at Burger King. The middle class can no longer say that they are sacrificing so that their children will have it easier. Their children are going through hell trying to make ends meet. People whose existence had been more or less stable

*"The artist must take sides.
He must elect to fight for
freedom or slavery..."*

are being cast out into utter darkness.

And this system will not feed, clothe, house or educate those wage slaves for which it no longer has any use.

Yet people have to live. Time was when you didn't have a job, you collected unemployment or welfare benefits or postponed unemployment by going to school. No more. The reptilian bastards – as the president of the American Bar Association called them – dominate Congress. And their program? Build jails, the one true affordable housing policy in our land. In some cases (e.g. New Hampshire) make the inmates pay rent! What is their program? Kill more people on death row. They kill people in Texas the way they pump oil. Bring back the chain gangs, as they are doing in Alabama. Cut off welfare benefits to women with children, especially young women. And fingerprint anyone who manages to remain on aid. Literally unleash the police on the population; first against people of color – increasingly against the people as a whole.

And then they tell us to vote. And while I'm not saying skip the elections, I have a gut feeling that when the day comes that we manage to vote effectively to meet our needs – then that avenue will be closed off.

In the midst of this, what's an artist to do? I think that in order to begin to answer that question we must look at the leading example today of an artist in the trenches, among the people, and sharing our fate most dramatically.

I am speaking of my dear brother and comrade, Mumia Abu-Jamal. A Panther at age 15, and even at that age on the hit list of the Philadelphia police. A journalist and radio commentator who has set the example of how to advocate for those who have been deprived of their ability and their right to speak. A defender of those who because of bad reputation or of being so-called controversial has remembered the Biblical injunction: when you do it unto the least of our brethren you do it to all of us. Mumia is an intellectual who has placed the questions of right and wrong in our time above personal considerations. This even while sitting on death row in Pennsylvania, where the powers that be would like to make Pennsylvania a northern version of Texas. And he is not afraid in the shadow of death to name this entire social order for what it is: in his words, a rotten-ass system, worthy only of being overthrown.

Now I know that not everyone agrees that this is a rotten-ass system, let alone agrees with the need to overthrow it. The going consensus in this land, even among many who fancy themselves radicals, is that this is the best of all possible worlds; that this country for all its faults is as good as it gets. I would simply say that if you happen to be a passenger on a luxury cruise ship called the Titanic, it does no good to comment on how good the food is, how nice the swimming pool, or even how warm and friendly are your fellow passengers. If the ship has hit an iceberg and is tilting, the amenities are quite irrelevant. In any event, time will tell.

In the meantime, we are faced with a many-sided holocaust: of society, of ecology, of technology – of the planet. And we who are artists, cultural workers in these

times, at the beginning (and not the end) of history, must take to heart the poetic words of James Russell Lowell: New occasions teach new duties. Time makes ancient good uncouth. Like that great abolitionist, we must pose questions to guide our work.

For example, do we really think that the freedom from want and fear, the freedom to think and live well, are simply dreams? Or do we think that these dreams are a material force that can be wielded to change the reality in which we live? Are we sick and tired of simply adjusting to reality, as everybody from the therapist to the preacher to Newt Gingrich exhorts us? Or are we convinced that the present can be changed for the better, to the point where we are willing to go among the people of this world and learn from them even as we advocate with them? Do we understand that the free development of each of us cannot be separated from the free development of all of us?

Do we understand clearly that creating such a new reality is dependent upon how we deal with certain kinds of baggage that continuously rents space in our minds, and therefore rules our deeds? I'm speaking of the thousand and one ways in which every one of us is visited daily by white supremacy, male supremacy, homophobia, misogyny. I'm also speaking of certain forms of individualism based on the assumption that since all is going to hell in a handbasket, therefore all is permissible. Most difficult of all, I'm speaking of identities and paradigms which we who are oppressed have created in order to defend ourselves. Ways of looking at things which, in the past, were necessary and useful – but which today amount to what Audre Lorde once called trying to dismantle the master's house using the master's tools.

We have to look at all of these things not in isolation, but in a particular context: that the victims of this societal roller coaster ride are figuring out ways in which to fight back. They are fighting police-backed union busting in Decatur IL, Detroit, and here in Boston. They are fighting police fascism in many cities across the land. They are defending women's clinics against the likes of Operation Rescue and terrorists like John Salvi. They are fighting against the cutbacks in education, the cutbacks in affirmative action, and the scapegoating of immigrants. They are fighting against the concentration camp conditions of the Indian reservations. They are fighting against the ethnic cleansing of our country called the death penalty.

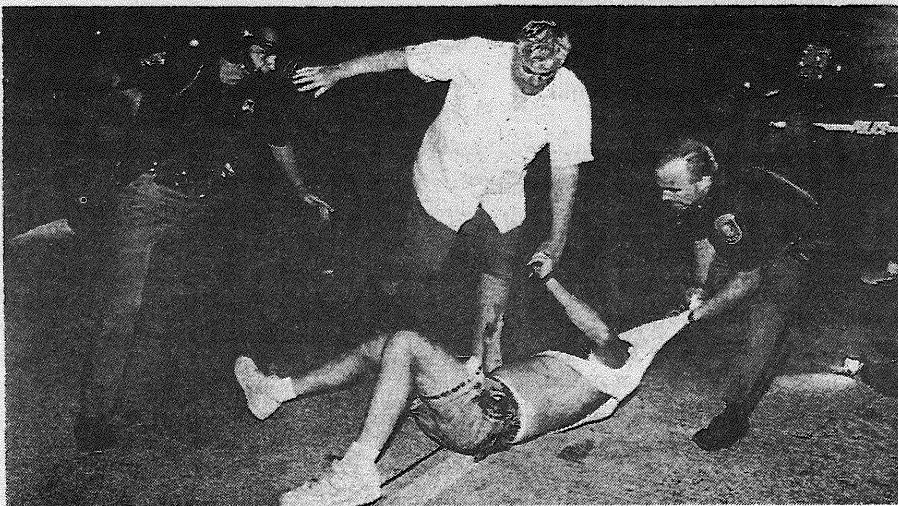
In the words of John Steinbeck, the "I" has become "we." We are fighting for our lives. And while fighting all these fights, we are also combating the ways in which we, as oppressed people, have been socialized to take our oppressions out on each other.

It is our job as cultural workers to place our work in the midst of these combat situations. We need to unite all who can be united. We need to maintain friendly and respectful relations with those who haven't quite understood that there's a class war going on. And we need to understand the differences between ourselves and those who make war upon us. Above all, our struggles need to be celebrated; our victories even more so. We need to raise these up, as well as we point out what's wrong. Otherwise we'll be doing a lot of whining when our true calling is to mobilize, entertain and exhort the troops who are entering the coming battle for civilization and against barbarism.

— Gary Hicks, X344880

ON THE LINE!

Defend the Detroit Newspaper Strike
**BOYCOTT KNIGHT-RIDDER
& GANNETT BOSS PRESS**



— Southeast Michigan Branch —

The Windowless Factory

Spring comes in
with the second shift,
jackets in hand.

Friday Layoffs

Monday after the massacre,
the parking lot was so empty
I looked at my watch:
was I that early?

Window Hogs

The bosses keep the windows to themselves.
Maybe it's to keep control
of the lights or temperature.
Maybe it's to keep the employees
from arguing whether they should
be open or closed.
Maybe it's to keep the employees
from defenestration.
Maybe direct sunlight would fade their gold
back to dead leaves.

Rat Race

As the wheelcage spun
they were too tired to think.
So half the time they told themselves
it wasn't worth the fight to unionize the place —
They could get better jobs elsewhere.
And half the time
it wasn't worth the fight to unionize the place —
They couldn't afford to risk their jobs.

— Penny Pixler

Crusty/Pastry in Kings Cross

One thin sheet of glass,
that cuts the world in two,
On one side the whole world is
condensed into a mango, coconut and kiwi
flavoured cake.
On one side the whole world is
reduced to just a piss-stained doorway.

That tart gets into Kings Cross,
like a smart missile,
Untouched by human hands.
Meanwhile,
a member of the underclass,
stands back to let the cars accelerate,
then waits,
clutching a cold, damp cloth.

The drivers wish he wasn't there,
they squirm a bit, or stare,
Avoid his eyes,
but can't avoid having to share,
the feeling of being stuck there,
trapped by glass.

— Mick Parkin

SALUDOS en el DIA del TRABAJO

A todos nuestros compañeros Obreros Hispanos. Vuestra
solidaridad es el documento que nosotros aceptamos.



Good Day Rising

From the mouths of the people who built you,
from the mouths of the people too often not heard;
you, wooden beam and steel,
you, stitch and fabric,
you, bread dough and wine.

These hands of the people who pound and wash
thread, hammer, mold, push, steer, point, pull, sweat.
These are the fingers of leather worn skin.

In handshakes and caresses
days spoken.

I've walked hometown pavement
and boardwalk avenues,
and still in the late hours of night
I hear the grunts and heat of tar being rolled out —
of hands
speaking so softly
the word is not recognized.

Through the chaotic cheering
the announcer's dribble drabble
I have pressed my ears against television screens
of game sevens, world series
listened and heard;

the caretakers of the field,
heard hammers swinging,
of the workers who've installed 30,000 seats,
of the farmer who cropped the corn in the fan's popcorn,
of the hot dog boy.
Listen.

I've heard it in the sweat around blue collars.
I've heard it in the twelve hour days.
I've heard it in the ink-stained fingers of typesetters and
sore backs of ditch diggers and scuffed knees of plumbers.

I didn't go to the library to read books;
I went and read tile floors, freshly waxed,
plaster on walls and rivets grasping bookshelves.
Show me a museum,
I'll see the quarry workers who cut the stone.
Point out a garden.
I'll find the shovel, hoe and gardener.

I hear voices when I look at things.
In the shadows of our creations
words rise up in concrete and taxi cab seats,
through the fingers of those unheard,
and if you listen closely
when the eysers of suspicion
see past the glitter and gleam
colors and shapes of objects,
you will hear the voice of the worker,
the voice of seventy-two cents jingling in a denim pocket,
the voice of bologna and cheese flat on crushed *Wonder Bread*,
the voice of gritty hands and sunburnt backs,
you will hear it in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay,
a hard day's work for a hard day's pay,
and the word spoken,
the name of the voice
is pride.

— Brian Comiskey

Strike!

Strike!
in the spirit of Eugene V. Debs,
an American Beowulf, who was like both
a sacred covenant rainbow
for all the blue proletariat and a
bolt of crimson lightning from a
powerful electromagnetic storm
and struck fiercely against the
industrial money monsters who
were mute, blind, stark and cold
to all colors of tears and as
brutal, bloodthirsty and beastly
as the Anglo-Saxon monster Grendel!
Strike like a prairie grass fire by the light
of the Morning Star at dawn, or
Strike like a heat wave by the light of the
scorching sun at noon, or
Strike like a hurricane by the reflective
light of the full moon at midnight,
But strike, as passionately as you love to
make love.

Strike
Strike
Strike!

— Tashuka Raven



In the Beginning

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



nothing anytime soon

A young black man in America,
without documents,
fresh from the motherland of Africa
Rasta on your breath, freedom on your mind,
and revolution in your heart.
You ain't got nowhere to turn, no family —
they're all dying off one by one —
and no one knows why.

The police stop you on the platform of the orange line
"What's that you're smoking?" the police officer grunts.
Flash! You see your motherland.
Coming home, coming home, coming home,
Mama, I'm coming home.

But your mama's gone.

And you don't know what to do.
"It's just a cigarette." You shuffle in your shoes,
looking at your feet.

I wasn't there, but I felt the fear in your eyes,
I felt your dreadlocks cringe with every sharp motion;
one wrong move or word or glance and you'd be out.

No. This gray day in Boston ain't as gray as your blues,
or your world.
You say, "You don't need to worry. You're legal.
You got your papers. You don't need to run. You don't
need to hide. You can get a job that'll pay your rent and
your food. You can go to school. And legally. You've got
your freedom. So don't be tellin' me to get myself a brighter,
better, happier future. Cuz it ain't that easy, sister."

Cruelty and deceit are what this beautiful land of liberty,
(I pledge allegiance), opportunity (for which it stands),
equality (one nation under God), and yes freedom
hands you on a silver platter —
And you can't even think of having love to give
Cuz the world hasn't given you nothing (yet)
and you don't see these blues giving you
nothing anytime soon.

—Ophelia Navarro

"No revolutionary movement is complete without its poetic expression. If such a movement has caught hold of the imagination of the masses they will seek a vent in song for the aspirations, fears and hopes, the loves and hatreds engendered by the struggle. Until the movement is marked by the joyous, defiant singing of revolutionary songs, it lacks one of the most distinctive marks of a popular revolutionary movement; it is the dogma of the few and not the faith of the multitude."

— IWW organizer James Connolly (1870-1916)

Let Me Die in My Footsteps A D

I will not let this country go down
'Cause governments are drivin' us into the ground
And I will not sell myself to a lie.
'Cause they say our hopes are set way too high.
Let me die in my footsteps before I let my country go down.

We've had governments that lied to our people a lot,
And what hasn't been stolen we know has been bought.
And we've massacred the natives with wars, booze & disease,
And now they've been screwed with fake sovereignty schemes.
Let me die in my footsteps....

There's always been people that have to cause fear
They've been talking 'bout "freedom" now for many a long year.
'n' I've read all their statements and I've not said a word
But now, **all you workers**, let my poor voice be heard.
Let me die in my footsteps....

I don't know if I'm smart but I think I can see,
When someone is pulling the wool over me.
'n' if a party steps up - tries to sell me its dream,
Let me die on this land 'fore I vote for their scheme.
Let me die in my footsteps....

Let me drink from the waters where the mountain streams flood,
Let the smell of wildflowers flow free through my blood.
Let me sleep in your meadows with the green grassy leaves,
Let me walk down the highway with my sister in peace.
Let me die in my footsteps....

Go out in your country where the land meets the sun,
See the prairies and the mountains and where the waterfalls run
Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho,
Let every part of the country seep deep down in your soul
And you'll die in your footsteps
Before you let your country go down.

New American version Oct. '94 by Smokey George
Via Bob Dylan, Feb. '62

Marsinah

(Indonesian worker)

Marsinah
has not been avenged
people
shocked but not changed
employers
dragged through courts
blamed
for her mutilated corpse
because
she asked for a raise
for workers'
dollar a day wage
to keep
hidden and safe
and as
a show of good faith
the upper hand
that abused
had innocent people
accused

Marsinah's
struggle continues
around the world
people are used
her gift
so bold
her death
made the news.

— anon.

One Human Heart

(for the martyrs of Tiananmen Square)

The headline might as well have read,
"Earth Breaks Orbit —
Alternate Reality Ensues."
The generals said,
"The people's army
should not be used
against the people."

Oh, the old chain-smokers
had other cards to play
and it ended the way it seemed
that those things always would,
when men and women dreamed
too soon, too well —
crunch of truncheons, smell of blood,
the bucket in the corner of the cell;
Masada and Spartacus,
the Boston Massacre, Harper's Ferry,
Warsaw ghetto,
Hungary, Prague,
Kent State, Soweto.
Some would add Calvary.

This time the masters let it go one day too long.
The crowd was dispersed, the gas diffused.
But "The people's army
should not be used
against the people."

What had been said could never be unspoken.
The beautiful princess had kissed the frog,
and the hard spell that had held us was broken.
As monolith shattered, projecting its shards
like the bullet of plutonium that ignites
the bomb. In this chain, the Berlin Wall
collapsed in rubble and dust tot he playing
of rock bands. The Soviet Union just gave up
and went away. Israel and Arafat shook hands.
Mandela is President in South Africa.
And it won't be over till the ripples wash back
even to Tiananmen Square.

"The people's army
should not be used
against the people."

In the front-page picture with that news, three students,
one a woman, stood atop a bus. The kid with
the headband was playing a guitar and singing —
what? Dylan? Perhaps Black Orpheus, summoning
up the sun of the new day. I wonder in what underworlds
he's sojourned since, what sunless paths he's followed;
how many seeds Persephone has swallowed.
Do they know what they started? Would they do
it over? Or, beaten, broken-hearted, next time
would they cut and run for cover? Perhaps they've learned
that anyone bringing fire to this ungracious race
should be prepared to be the first one burned.

Some say we're even worse off now, that we've unleashed
uncounted generations of pent-up tribal
hates, that our machinations inject
Star Trek weapons into grudges over
parking spaces, drunken insults, shapes of faces.

But perhaps the scale of evil is diminished
forever. I think something is afoot out there,
and the monoliths will all be finished when
it's played its part. And from that day
the most that we will ever have to change will be
one human heart.

— Jack McCarthy

Happy MAY DAY!

from the home of working-
class, radical radio —

"PROJECT X" Radio



"An injury to one is
an injury to all."

Capital District IWW
P.O. Box 74, Altamont NY 12009

Day Rising

mouths of the people who built you,
 mouths of the people too often not heard;
 iron beam and steel,
 cloth and fabric,
 dough and wine.

hands of the people who pound and wash
 hammer, mold, push, steer, point, pull, sweat.
 the fingers of leather worn skin.
 kisses and caresses
 en.
 ed hometown pavement
 walk avenues,
 in the late hours of night
 grunts and heat of tar being rolled out —

so softly
 is not recognized.

the chaotic cheering
 ncer's dribble drabble
 ssed my ears against television screens
 evens, world series
 and heard;
 kers of the field,
 mers swinging,
 kers who've installed 30,000 seats,
 ner who cropped the corn in the fan's popcorn,
 dog boy.

it in the sweat around blue collars.
 it in the twelve hour days.
 it in the ink-stained fingers of typesetters and
 of ditch diggers and scuffed knees of plumbers.

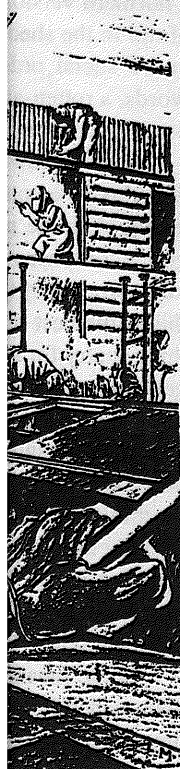
to the library to read books;
 read tile floors, freshly waxed,
 walls and rivets grasping bookshelves.
 a museum,
 quarry workers who cut the stone.
 a garden.
 e shovel, hoe and gardener.

es when I look at things.
 flows of our creations
 up in concrete and taxi cab seats,
 e fingers of those unheard,
 listen closely
 yers of suspicion
 e glitter and gleam
 shapes of objects,
 ear the voice of the worker,
 of seventy-two cents jingling in a denim pocket,
 of bologna and cheese flat on crushed *Wonder Bread*,
 of gritty hands and sunburnt backs,
 ear it in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay,
 's work for a hard day's pay,
 ord spoken,
 of the voice

— Brian Comiskey

BAJO

s. Vuestra
 ptamos.



Strike!

Strike!
 in the spirit of Eugene V. Debs,
 an American Beowulf, who was like both
 a sacred covenant rainbow
 for all the blue proletariat and a
 bolt of crimson lightning from a
 powerful electromagnetic storm
 and struck fiercely against the
 industrial money monsters who
 were mute, blind, stark and cold
 to all colors of tears and as
 brutal, bloodthirsty and beastly
 as the Anglo-Saxon monster Grendel!
 Strike like a prairie grass fire by the light
 of the Morning Star at dawn, or
 Strike like a heat wave by the light of the
 scorching sun at noon, or
 Strike like a hurricane by the reflective
 light of the full moon at midnight,
 But strike, as passionately as you love to
 make love.
 Strike
 Strike
 Strike!

— Tashuka Raven



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 And this is how shit happens.

nothing anytime soon

A young black man in America,
 without documents,
 fresh from the motherland of Africa
 Rasta on your breath, freedom on your mind,
 and revolution in your heart.
 You ain't got nowhere to turn, no family —
 they're all dying off one by one —
 and no one knows why.

The police stop you on the platform of the orange line
 "What's that you're smoking?" the police officer grunts.
 Flash! You see your motherland.
 Coming home, coming home, coming home,
 Mama, I'm coming home.

But your mama's gone.
 And you don't know what to do.
 "It's just a cigarette." You shuffle in your shoes,
 looking at your feet.

I wasn't there, but I felt the fear in your eyes,
 I felt your dreadlocks cringe with every sharp motion;
 one wrong move or word or glance and you'd be out.

No. This gray day in Boston ain't as gray as your blues,
 or your world.
 You say, "You don't need to worry. You're legal.
 You got your papers. You don't need to run. You don't
 need to hide. You can get a job that'll pay your rent and
 your food. You can go to school. And legally. You've got
 your freedom. So don't be tellin' me to get myself a brighter,
 better, happier future. Cuz it ain't that easy, sister."

Cruelty and deceit are what this beautiful land of liberty,
 (I pledge allegiance), opportunity (for which it stands),
 equality (one nation under God), and yes freedom
 hands you on a silver platter —
 And you can't even think of having love to give
 Cuz the world hasn't given you nothing (yet)
 and you don't see these blues giving you
 nothing anytime soon.

—Ophelia Navarro

"No rev
 without its
 ment has c
 the masses
 aspirations
 hatreds eng
 movement
 singing of
 the most di
 tionary mo
 and not the

— IV

Let Me

I will not let th
 'Cause govern
 And I will not
 'Cause they sa
 Let me die in n

We've had gov
 And what has
 And we've ma
 And now they'
 Let me die in n

There's always
 They've been t
 'n' I've read al
 But now, all yo
 Let me die in n

I don't know if
 When someone
 'n' if a party st
 Let me die on t
 Let me die in n

Let me drink fr
 Let the smell o
 Let me sleep in
 Let me walk do
 Let me die in n

Go out in your
 See the prairies
 Nevada, New M
 Let every part
 And you'll die
 Before you let

New Amer
 Via Bob D

18 Anti-Union Ploys

Excerpted from *Confessions of a Union Buster* by Martin Levitt (Crown, 1993). Levitt spent 15 years as a professional union-buster before he had enough of it. This book is an account of the anti-organizing drives he orchestrated. It's worth reading in its entirety.

1) "Convince the workers' immediate supervisors that the union organizing drive is a personal attack on them, a referendum on their leadership skills and an attempt to humiliate them. This makes all supervisors think that their jobs depend on defeating the organizing drive." (pp. 2, 11 and etc.)

2) Claim "we don't need a union here."

3) Claim unions are power-hungry interlopers, greedy outsiders intruding on the "company family." (p. 10, 11, 96)

4) Moan about union dues workers have to pay. (p. 254) Make a big deal about how unions can levy fines on their members.

5) Claim "when a union wins the right to collective bargaining, it only wins the right to ask. The workers may get more. But it is also possible to get less than they already have." (pp. 18, 104) Claim that to get anything new in collective bargaining, workers will have to trade away something they already have, and workers should "count their blessings" — which they might lose. (p. 195) Claim "unions have been known to trade away whatever it takes to win costly little plums for themselves." (p. 178)

6) Send "Dear Fellow Employee" letters from management to workers claiming "the union will tear us apart." (pp. 26, 58, 188)

7) Snowball workers with anti-union statistics from union leaders' salaries (\$10 an hour in the IWW for the General Secretary-Treasurer and the one office staffer) to the potential cost of a strike. These may be true, but not the whole picture, or half-true, or a "sublime perversion of the truth." (pp.

95, 170)

8) Claim that employees have "an 'inside' position of involvement that makes a union totally outmoded." (p. 133)

9) Try to convince activists that they'll accomplish more, perhaps have more power, without a union. (p. 137)

10) Cultivate pro-management workers as spies and rumor spreaders. (p. 181)

11) Initiate a by-the-book crack-down and blame it on the union drive. (pp. 189-90) Insinuate that this is how it will be all the time if the union wins.

12) Apologize for past mistakes and pleas for "another chance" to make things right. (p. 189)

13) Take surveys, supposedly to identify workplace problems but mainly to detect union sympathizers. (p. 151)

14) Set up a question box. Under the pretext of answering questions from the box, management can reiterate its point of view. (p. 179)

15) Set up an employee "roundtable." "Purportedly designed to give workers a way to air their grievances and influence company policy, in reality the roundtable becomes management's tap into the worker and its repressive thumb on the informal worker power structure." (p. 39)

16) Sponsor a contest of anti-union art for the supervisors' children and display the pictures around the shop. (p. 254) (This would probably be tried only in bigger shops.)

17) As the union election draws near, plaster the shop with anti-union posters. Distribute "vote no" hats, T-shirts, buttons. (p. 30)

18) Challenge everything; delay everything in the hopes that if the union fight drags on long enough the workers will lose hope and give up. (p. 59)

19) If the workers do win their union

Land and Freedom

If you go to see any film in 1996 make it "Land and Freedom," a film put together by Ken Loach, a well known leftist film maker. "Land and Freedom" is a powerful political drama centred around the Spanish Revolution and one young man coming to terms with his part in the conflict.

Film Review

It is 1936 and a young girl is clearing away the personal effects of her recently deceased grandfather. She comes across a number of press cuttings and personal mementos of Dave Carr's part in the Spanish Revolution. Through letters and photographs she learns of the struggle that went on in Spain not only against the fascists but also within the Left.

Dave Carr is stung into action by a talk in his native Liverpool from a resistance fighter. As a member of the Communist Party he feels duty bound to go to Spain and makes his own way there through France and by walking over the Pyrenees. By chance

representation election, management may "surface bargain" instead of bargaining in good faith. If the company can stall the first contract for a year, its "duty to bargain" is over and the union has been made to look ineffectual. Meanwhile, turnover is whittling away at the union's majority and subtle harassment encouraging the activists to quit, fanning management hopes of winning a union decertification election. (Nevertheless, union rank-and-file creativity can find ways of pressuring management into signing a contract.)

It's possible that there is an IWW pamphlet to be made out of all this. If you can contribute any additional anti-union ploys that you have experiences or telling comebacks to them, and your branch would like to produce such a pamphlet, feel free to.

plp

he ends up fighting with the POUM militia and his experiences lead him to make a number of painful choices.

You will not find any recognisable faces in this film, something which makes it even better to watch. What comes through is the vibrancy of the times, the well-informed debate about the future including a scene involving strong arguments between peasants in a village about whether or not to collectivise the land after the ejection of fascists.

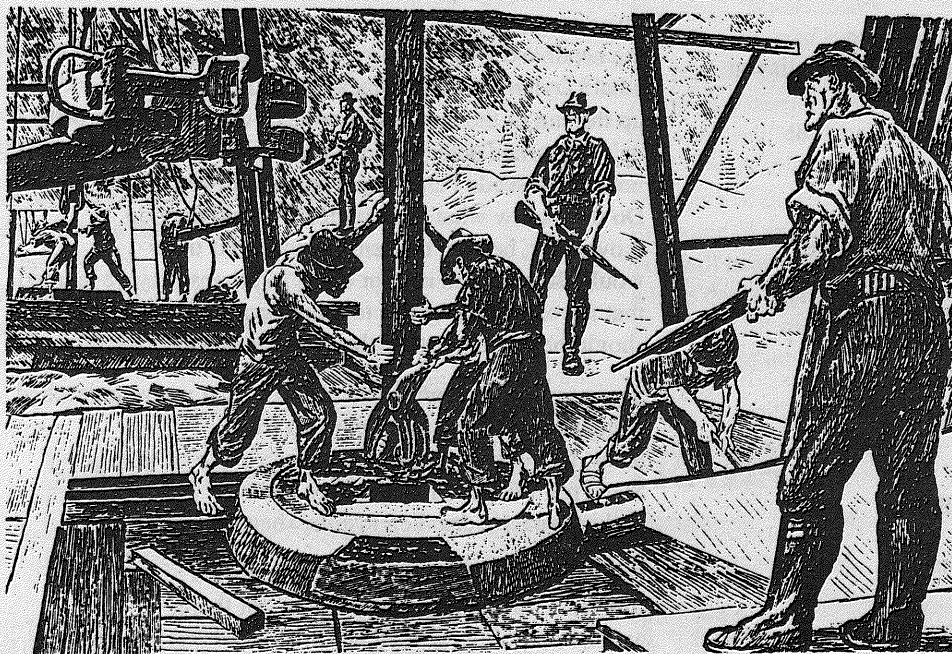
There were many emotional scenes in the film which certainly brought a tear to my eye. There were characters that I loved and characters that I hated and other times when I thought to myself "If only..."

Sixty years on the on Spanish Revolution is a distant memory for all but a very few. Showings of the film in Britain led to furious rows between politicians of all persuasions about whether this or that happened. The film is a sharp reminder, however, that revolution is never easy, and that political agendas can often overshadow the immediate possibilities. Many members of this union lost their lives in the conflict both seeking to defeat fascism and trying to defend the revolution against tremendous odds.

Truly a remarkable film. Any person who goes to see this film will come out feeling something — be it guilt, rage, hope or disbelief.

Kevin Brandstatter x341505

Distribution of the film in the U.S. gives the union many possibilities for making new contacts and re-establishing contacts with former comrades. The film is both an intense and heart-wrenching political drama and an educational documentary. Dialogue is both in English and Spanish and could provide groups with Spanish-speaking communities the opportunity to spread the word of revolutionary unionism... Use it wisely but be prepared for fanatical attacks by those who come out of the film not looking too rosy.



Abajo La Explotación Capitalista

V.T. Lee

May Day Note:

**Immigrant Workers
Are Not the Enemy;
World Capitalism Is!**

— By Harry Siitonen
San Francisco Bay Area
General Membership Branch

The Union Whose Time Has Come



The Global Union for the Global Economy

St. Louis, Mo. Branch

Rank and File Dockers Conference

From Feb. 17th - 23rd, Liverpool hosted an international conference on solidarity with the 500 dockers sacked by the Port Authorities there on Sept. 28th. Over 60 delegates attended, representing rank-and-file dockers from 17 countries in Europe, Canada, Australia and the United States.

A constant theme throughout the conference was the need to organise international contacts without relying on full-time bureaucrats who inevitably try and sell-out any struggle. A good example of this had just been supplied by the T&G in Liverpool when, about two weeks before the conference, they went into secret negotiations with management (from which the shop stewards committee were excluded – and came out with the offer of £25,000 each if the men waked away from this dispute. Despite the fact that most of the Liverpool dockers are over 50 years old, despite the press campaign for acceptance, and despite the fact that many stood to pick up £50,000 when their pensions were included... despite all this, the offer was rejected by 86 percent of those balloted.

This result was a massive boost to the morale of the men and their families, and the conference has only added to their confidence, as the whole event was centred around how to deliver practical support to the dockers beyond the help which has already come from all over the world.

My main contact was with the Spanish delegates (for whom I was acting as translator), so I'll mention some of the practical effects which they have achieved to give an idea of how things went. The delegates from Tenerife arrived with a cheque for over £3,000 which had been raised at a mass meeting in the port. This is an impressive sum by any standards, but even more so when you realize that it was raised by passing a form round on which each of the 112 dockers decided what to donate from their own pocket.

Before the conference Bilbao (the only Spanish port with a direct connection to Liverpool) had decided that they would not be able to boycott the ship which arrives there every Monday. However they did send a delegate, and he was so inspired that since he went back he has been able to get the five unions in the port to agree to a meeting with two dockers from Liverpool.

Two Spanish dockers' unions (Co-ordinadora and CGT) are collecting money, and Co-ordinadora have printed their own stickers which publicise the strike to put on any containers going to Britain.

Apart from the work in terms of resolutions and agreements at the conference, the delegates also went down the picket line one day, which was a great boost to morale... especially when we managed to blockade one of the directors of the port who was foolish enough to drive past in his car.

At the end of the conference there was a mass meeting for the delegates with all the Liverpool dockers. Speakers from each country pledged their determination to step up practical support and expressed their appreciation for the fight which the Liverpool dockers were putting up – obviously, if the bosses could have got away with this in Liverpool then who knows where they would have tried it next?

The delegate from Tenerife gave a particularly good speech which not only connected with the intense emotions which the event had generated but also made several practical points. He pointed out that they take rank-and-file control so seriously that they stopped work in the port for two hours so that they could discuss the latest agreement on terms and conditions.

For me, though, the person who summed it all up was a Portuguese delegate who said,



"Apart from the revolution in 1974, this has been the best event in my life."

As a result of the conference, the continuing international solidarity, and the overwhelming ballot result... management have agreed to meet the union again (despite £25,000 being their 'final offer'), but this time four shop stewards will be going along with a firm mandate which says that they will settle for nothing less than getting all 500 jobs back.

At the same time, the pressure is still on via the container company ACL who have threatened to stop using the port. Union members in America have said that if the company does not do so soon, then there will be a return to boycotting of any ships coming from Liverpool.

— Mick Parkin

In ports all over the world dockers returning from the historic international conference have called mass meetings to implement the boycott of trade with Liverpool. Donations to the strike fund are also pouring in.

Faced with this growing solidarity, the company has re-opened negotiations; this time with members of the shop stewards committee participating. Workers are confident of victory if they can turn up the pressure just a bit.

The Federacao Nacional dos Sindicatos de Trabalhadores Portuarios of Portugal has informed employers that its members will refuse to work any cargo coming from or going to Liverpool until the dispute is settled.

In Australia and New Zealand ABC ships have been impounded for debt, with

the line's financial crisis worsened by frequent hold-ups of their Liverpool ships. The "Cornelius Verolme" was held up for three days in Auckland.

Colette Mella and Mary Pendleton (Women of the Waterfront) flew to Stockholm as guests of the syndicalist union SAC to address meetings of Swedish women and dockers around International Women's Day, getting national press coverage.

Russian workers have pledged their solidarity. And the U.S. National Labor Relations Board has informed the Mersey Port Shop Stewards that charges brought against them by Mersey Docks & Harbour Company have been withdrawn.

This followed an angry exchange between ACL shipping company bosses and MD&HC. ACL, the port's biggest user is still threatening to stop using Liverpool if the dispute there is not settled. ACL has been trying to avoid further action being taken against its ships on the U.S. east coast and to maintain good relations with the International Longshoremen's Association there. ACL was furious that MD&HC named them in the NLRB charges without permission, and demanded that their name be withdrawn from the charges.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company had charged the "Merseyside Port Shop Stewards" with encouraging American longshoremen to refuse to handle goods or service ships calling at Liverpool. "The object of these activities has been and is to force such ocean carriers to cease transporting or otherwise doing business with MDHC." Labor solidarity is illegal under U.S. law.

Cyberpickets Hit Global Bosses

The following article is from the *Dockers' Charter*, the paper of the Liverpool Dock Shop Stewards' Committee. It's quick, it's cheap and it takes our message to the world...

A few years ago a hand-cranked mimeograph machine was state of the art for unionists producing their own leaflets. But within days of our sacking we launched appeals into cyberspace! Electronic messages and photos bounced off communications satellites to land in Australia, Japan and even more distant Manchester. Soon, the strike had its own 'web site' on the Internet and the *Dockers' Charter* was 'on-line.' What's it all about?

Greg Coyne helped set up and run the first European electronic mailing list for the union movement 'Union-D.' Subscribers can send messages via computer to all other subscribers, alerting each other cheaply and quickly to news of mutual interest.

From the Merseyside Trade Union Centre in Liverpool, Greg began posting our information to Union-D, giving the dock stewards' address and asking subscribers to advise on ways of conducting community campaigns, send messages of support, donations, information on the port of Liverpool and its international connections, and help with approaching Euro MPs. This information was then passed into other trade union electronic networks worldwide, including Canadian 'Labor-L' and US 'LaborNet.'

When we began to seek contact with port workers around the world, we found comrades in Australia in 12 hours. More recently we needed a fax number for dockers in Piraeus. The answer to our electronic appeal came back – from Manchester!

When word of our exploits began to get around, the local press rang Greg Coyne to ask about our 'web site,' an address on the Internet where information can be stored permanently, only to learn that we didn't have one ... yet.

While Union-D circulates to its subscribers, the Internet is a worldwide system used by millions of people, including a

growing number of union branches.

Greg buzzed Jagdish Parikh in the US, who approached 'GreenNet' which provides access to the Internet for a range of progressive organisations including environmental, union, peace and women's groups.

GreenNet is a member of an international organisation called the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). Another affiliate to APC, LaborNet in the US, has been working to develop a union computer network. It organises a wide range of union computer conferences for workers in auto, rail, public sector, maritime etc.

Because they are both part of the APC, LaborNet conferences are available to GreenNet subscribers in Britain. The conferences are U.S. orientated, but LaborNet has made serious efforts to develop them in an international direction.

For about two years GreenNet's Chris Bailey has been providing a British union news input and there are similar inputs from Canada, Asia and Russia. A few months ago LaborNet brought some of those involved in this work onto an international steering committee to lobby for a greater union profile in the APC. This resulted in discussions on the possibility of developing LaborNet here.

When the dockers' strike was discussed with GreenNet they were very sympathetic and agreed to launch LaborNet by providing a free web site to publicise the dockers' cause. This free site offer was later extended to all strikes and lockouts and the Hillingdon Hospital strike has also taken one.

Since the dockers' web site was the first, those involved didn't have much idea of how to do it. The Internet once more proved its worth – they were able to put it together by pooling the knowledge and skills of unionists in several different countries via the net.

Their first attempt was pretty basic and was mainly based on U.S. experience where a number of strikes have used web sites to build solidarity. These have been mainly designed to publicise the strikes to other U.S. unionists on the net.

They soon realised that the dockers' site was different and was breaking new ground. Its main potential was in publicising the strike internationally. They needed to develop new ideas and techniques.

A growing number of union activists throughout the world now have access to the Internet. Trade union web sites have begun to sprout up all over the place. They appealed to these to publicise the dockers' site and got an excellent response. Important union web sites in the U.S., Canada, Australia and many other parts of the world linked to it and gave it prominence.

This meant that anyone who used these sites could immediately connect to the dockers' site and learn all about the strike. Many trade unionists throughout the world heard about it this way. Although there is still only a relatively small percentage of trade unionists on the net they often print out material and pass it on to their union branches etc.

There are also a growing number of labour movement journalists and reporters using the internet for information. Several have contacted LaborNet to tell them that they are their main source of news on the strike and to keep it coming. Some of these messages were from places where the Internet is becoming well established such as the US and Canada, but others came from Italy, the Czech Republic, Finland and Norway. LaborNet seem to be reaching the parts other news sources don't reach!

Sometimes this bypassing of the usual biased news channels produced surprise results. Most trade unionists in the US were not aware of the solidarity action with Liverpool by East Coast longshoremen until it was publicised by LaborNet. West coast longshoremen, who are in a different union, only found out when they contacted LaborNet to get in touch with the Liverpool Shop Stewards. It then became "hot news" on the U.S. union network.

Information from a computer can seem impersonal and remote. At an early stage LaborNet decided to use photos on the web

continued on page 13

Bolivian Workers Strike Against Privatization

State workers in Bolivia, organized into the Central Obrera Boliviana (COB), have been on strike since the beginning of March for higher wages and to protest government plans to sell off the country's state-owned oil industries. The strike, initiated by education workers, has shut down public schools and universities and has been seconded by public health workers, state-employed miners and some oil industry workers.

There have been many clashes in the course of the strike between riot police and workers defending themselves against attack with rocks, sticks and slingshots. One worker was killed March 25 by police during one such battle. Two days later, 30,000 workers marched through the streets of La Paz, tying up traffic throughout the capital.

Police threatened to ask the government to declare a state of emergency if the demonstrations continue. Last year the government did just that in order to break another teachers' strike, rounding up 100 union leaders and deporting them to remote Andean and jungle villages.

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada appears determined to privatize state-owned concerns despite polls showing that most of the seven million Bolivians oppose such a move.

— Mike Hargis

General Strike Hits Paraguay

A 24-hour general strike called by four union federations froze transport and business in the Paraguayan capital, Asunción March 29. The military was called out to operate public transit vehicles, which nonetheless remained empty as they made their way to the city center. The banking system was shut down and financial operations were interrupted. Schools were empty, although the Education Ministry had asked that classes not be suspended.

The government had tried to head off the strike by charging that the unions were seeking to destabilize the government. The unions denied the charge: "The demands that are being made on this occasion are clear and precise and don't include any request for the resignation or overthrow of the head of state," spokespeople of the National Workers Central (CNT) said.

Alan Flores, one of the coordinators of the general strike, said he was satisfied by the high level of participation in the strike, which he estimated was about 95%. Unionists dismissed claims by Minister Morales that the strike's impact was only 20%; "he's trying to hide the sun with his hands," they

said. Flores said the strike was observed 100% in the areas of education, transport, state enterprises, banking and health. The

'Official' Unions Won't March

For the second year in a row, the official labor unions will not march in Mexico

Fighting Back Everywhere

unions declared the strike a success and demanded that the government make urgent changes in its economic policy and in the cabinet. Given the success of the general strike, union leaders are now planning a 48-hour strike for May 2-3.

Weekly News Update on the Americas

Hunger Strike Seeks to Free Ruta-100 Union Leaders

Jorge Garcia Ramirez and other union members and supporters have been on hunger strike in front of City Hall in Mexico City since March 6th. The hunger strike is protesting the continued incarceration of the union leadership of Ruta-100 who have been jailed for nearly one year and to ask for a resolution of the conflict between Ruta-100 and the government. Amnesty International and Americas Watch have denounced the improper and unjust incarceration of the Ruta-100 union members.

City on International Workers' Day, May 1. The decision was announced by Fidel Velazquez, head of the official Labor Congress (CT). Velazquez said they decided not to march in order to avoid confrontations with independent labor unions. However, several leaders of unions that belong to the CT responded that they were not consulted on the decision, and that once again, the CT officials are making decisions that go against the legitimate interests of workers.

Unions Need Independence

South African unionists are reconsidering the alliance between the African National Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party as a result of government economic policies that capitulate to the demands of local and international capital. In December, deputy president Thabo

Mbeki announced plans to privatise 49 percent of Telkom, South Africa's telecom-

Mad Cows & Mad Capitalists... *continued from page 1*

practice of feeding animal protein was abandoned. The problems have not gone away however, some 250 cattle per week are found to have the disease, and slaughtering of selected herds does not seem to have made a difference although the incidence of infection has declined. New rules were brought in governing the slaughter of animals to permanently remove from the food chain, the bits of animals, brains, spinal tissue etc. that might harbour the infection.

Quite rightly, however, many people asked the obvious question – if cattle can get BSE from infected sheep, can't humans get a similar disease from cattle?

For years politicians, relying on the views of their hand-picked experts said spe-

cies jumping infection was impossible. To demonstrate how safe beef was we had the absurd spectacle of John Gummer, Britain's Minister of Agriculture, force-feeding his youngest daughter a beefburger at an arranged photo-opportunity so beloved of all our politicians.

It is important to note that not all the experts agreed with the Government, well-respected academics who questioned government policy and the basis of their assurances found themselves labeled as cranks and lost their research funding. They were also frozen out of any discussions on whether BSE could affect humans.

Why was this done? It is well known that Britain's Ministry of Agriculture

(MAFF) is influenced by the farming lobby, organised through the National Farmers Union (NFU), a bosses union, not a union for farmworkers, and the Country Landowners Association (CLA). They did not want the purity of their product or the nature of their industry to come under the spotlight.

However the truth could not be kept back. Since 1989 a number of teenagers and young people have died in tragic circumstances from Creutzfeldt-Jacobs Disease (CJD), a human version of BSE and a number of cats have died from a feline version. The only thing linking these deaths together appeared to be meat consumption. The government's medical advisers were forced to admit in mid-March that – yes – BSE could be transmitted to humans after all. The consequences of that admission, based on research which the government's advisers had been trying to pick holes in for eighteen months, has caused a collapse in beef sales and brought the industry to its knees.

MAFF admits that as many as 4.5 million cattle might be infected and are preparing plans for mass slaughtering – not for any good health reason but simply to restore confidence in the product and restore the profits of the landowners. However in a number of spot checks on abattoirs they also found that parts of animals declared unfit for the food chain were still finding their way into food processes and thence to beefburgers and sausages.

Since the debacle broke British farmers have been unable to find a market for beef; the rest of Europe won't buy it and beef sales in shops have plummeted. Calves and cattle destined for the market place are not going there and more calves are being born every day. Analysis of the problem has been concerned with repairing the damage done to

the industry (and its profits) rather than asking the deeper question – what caused the crisis in the first place.

In simplistic terms the cause was infected sheep getting into the cattle food chain. The point that it was unwise for a herbivore (cattle) to eat another animal (sheep) was never addressed in the mad scramble for profit. The root cause however lies with industrial techniques of agricultural production. In the case of animals, the drive for profit led to the introduction of cheaper but more profitable alternatives to normal cattle feed. The disastrous consequences were never considered. In the drive for profit, animals are kept in what many consider to be barbaric conditions and suffer enormous levels of stress, which by the way cause a deterioration in meat quality.

In the case of plants, farms have turned towards monoculture with no respect for the environmental implications and the sterility caused to the countryside's biological infrastructure. The high input of fertilisers and pesticides make their presence felt in the food chain and certain root crops, such as carrots, have been found to contain pesticide residues above legally accepted limits. The consequences of that for humanity might not yet be known, but could be linked to the decline in sperm quality of a lot of males.

There are better ways of harnessing agricultural production. Some research is turning towards mixed farming as a sustainable alternative. It is probably doomed to failure. Landowners want profit and they want it now. An alternative regime could only be put in place in the longer term, and would be bound to yield lower profits, and therefore would not be favoured by those who rape the land. The research does however show how these techniques could still be used to feed the population and provide other resources for use in other industries. The lie that we *must* use techniques of capitalist production to feed ourselves needs to be exposed and a new solution sought.

There is, in truth, only one solution to this mess. That the land be collectivised by working people, trained in the emerging mixed sustainable farming techniques and that the barriers between town and country be eroded. Only revolutionary unionists have the vision to promote the collectivisation of the land; comrades go educate, go organise, go emancipate!

X341505

Join the Union of your Class

For Shorter Hours,

Higher Pay and

Workers' Control of Industry.

NOW!

Organize for the Abolition

of the Wages System

SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

Chicago GMB

**May Day
Greetings**

from the Vermont GMB

- One Earth
- One Union
- One General Strike

munications utility, South African Airways, airports and a range of other state assets.

COSATU affiliates have been chafing under government policies for years, but now even the National Union of Mineworkers is expressing its reservations about the ANC government's direction. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa is a former head of the mineworkers union.

NUM President James Motlatsi admitted recently that, "The ANC can sometimes appear to have a split personality, pursuing entirely contradictory policies in and out of government," and was following "capital's agenda." "The alliance is currently failing because it exists only at the top."

Seafarers Fight Nedlloyd Line

Some 40 Indonesian seafarers have been engaged two-year in a campaign to force the Rotterdam-based Nedlloyd Lines to compensate them for massive violations of their labor contract and improper discharge. Henki Rumampuk reports that Nedlloyd recruited more than 40 workers in May 1988 as seafarers, but later forced them to do offshore oil drilling work off the Angola coast. During 180 days of intermittent drilling work, workers were compelled to work 12-hour days with no days off even though their contract called for an 8-hour day, with a half-day on Saturdays (and Sundays and holidays off).

When workers objected to these conditions they were threatened with firing. In April 1994 workers demanded that the company honor the terms of their contract and compensate them for the drilling work. The company pretended to go along, but fired all 40 workers shortly afterwards.

The Indonesian labor court ruled that the case was outside of its jurisdiction, and so the workers are appealing to their fellow workers around the world to bring pressure against the company to compensate them for the violations of their labor rights and their 180 days of unpaid overtime. Send protests to: Nedlloyd Lines, c/o boompjes 40 - 3011 XB, Rotterdam, P.O.Box 1468, 3000 BL Rotterdam, Telephone: 010-4006111, Telefax: 010-4046130

For information: Henki Rumampuk at: Bekasi Jaya Indah, Blok B9 No. 7, Jl. Wijaya Kusuma IV, Comp. Danita, Bekasi 17112, Indonesia, telephone/fax: 62-21-8815057

Buffalo AFL-CIO Calls for 1-Hour National Protest

The 100,000-member Buffalo AFL-CIO Council passed a resolution March 13 calling for a nationwide demonstration, including work stoppages, to protest the wave of corporate downsizing and plant closings that have destroyed 43 million jobs since 1979. Experts predict that another three million jobs will disappear this "Whereas working people in our country - those not represented by unions as well as those so represented - are insecure today, and

"Whereas those who are working know that their jobs may be destroyed by people who place greed for profit before concern for working people and their need for jobs paying decent wages to provide for themselves and their families, and

"Whereas the time has come to fight against plant closings, downsizing, re-engineering, privatizing, and all the other catch-phrases for destroying people's jobs and reducing their standard of living in order to feed the greed for profit, and

"Whereas our government in Washington is supposed to have the responsibility to carry out legislation presently on the books to provide full employment, it now quite clear that we must act to compel our government to live up to this mandate,

"Therefore, the Buffalo AFL-CIO Council calls upon the national AFL-CIO to organize a simultaneous one-hour demonstration of all working people in our country - union & non-union - employed and unemployed - blue collar, gray collar, white collar - to send a message to those who are destroying jobs, and decent wages that the working people of our country will not take it anymore, and

"Further be it resolved that this simultaneous one-hour demonstration throughout the country take whatever form the working people in each place of employment and/or each area decide for themselves: stoppage of work, slowdown, work-to-rule, plant gate meetings, informational picketing, wearing of buttons and/or ribbons, special meetings, rallies, etc."

Thai Shoe Workers Struggle

Over the last two years, 2,300 workers at Piyavat Rubber Industry Co Ltd, which produces sports shoes under the brand names Adidas, Reebok and Converse, have been victims of unfair dismissal and union-busting by their employer.

Since January the Piyavat workers' union was becoming more active in expressing their grievances and insisting that the employer adhere to government labour standards. In response to the union's growing assertiveness, the owner shifted equipment and machines from the Piyavat factory to its factory at Wongpaitoon Footwear. Workers were then asked to 'volunteer' to go to the new factory. About 1,800 workers were eventually relocated. Although all of the members of the union committee volunteered to go, they were not accepted. As a result 60 workers targeted for their union activities remained at the Piyavat factory.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, the remaining 760 women workers were dismissed and the factory was closed. They were dismissed without notice or compensation. Since that time the workers have been protesting outside Government House demanding compensation and that workers' right to form genuine unions and to engage in union activities be respected.

On March 24th a boycott campaign was launched in Bangkok against Reebok sports shoes. The workers are seeking international support in their struggle. Please send messages of support care/of Arom Pongpangan Foundation fax: 662-428 4358 or the Textile Garment & Leather Workers' Federation of Thailand fax: 662-4276967.

Please send messages of protest to the Government of Thailand (U.S. embassy at Washington DC 20008) and to local offices of Reebok, Adidas and Converse.

Bill Gates' High-Tech Chain Gang

In promoting Windows '95, Microsoft mounted one of the most expensive advertising campaigns in American history. Microsoft understandably failed to mention that at least some of the company's new software was packed by prison labor.

This news comes to us from Paul Wright and Dan Pens, two inmates from Washington state who edit *Prison Legal News*.

According to people incarcerated at the Twin Rivers Correctional Center in Monroe, Washington, Microsoft hired a packaging company, Exmark to ship Windows '95. Exmark used prisoners for at least part of the job and also had inmates package tens of thousands of units of Microsoft Office, another software product, as well as hundreds of thousands of Microsoft mice.

Other companies making use of inmate labor in Washington state include telecommunications giant US West and Redwood Outdoors, Inc., which produces clothing for Eddie Bauer.

Washington is a pioneer in the use of prison labor, a true boom industry in the U.S. In 1993 the state legislature passed a bill to increase the number of prison laborers by 300 per year until the year 2000. The next year the state built a 56,000-square foot factory near the Monroe prison.

Companies employing prisoners pay \$4.90 an hour, the minimum wage in Washington, of which somewhere between \$1.80 and \$2.80 ends up in the prisoners' pocket. The rest is deducted for the "cost of corrections," a victims' compensation fund, and to pay state and federal taxes. The companies don't offer benefits to the inmates/workers - though Pens, who has written about the story in *Prison Legal News*, notes that Washington is one of many states that offers what he calls the "Three Strikes retirement plan" - and pay little or nothing for factory and office space.

from *CounterPunch*, P.O. Box 18675, Washington, D.C. 20036

Korean Unionist Jailed

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions President, Kwon Young-kil, was released on 13 March 13 after 3 months in prison. However, KCTU Vice-President Yang Kyu-heon, remains in detention. The KCTU was outlawed by the South Korean government, which legalizes only unions willing to submit to its control. Protests to: President Kim Yung-sam, The Blue House, 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea. Fax: + 882 770 0253

Nova Scotian Nurses Out

35 nurses employed by the Victorian Order of Nurses in Halifax, Nova Scotia, were forced to the picket line on March 28. VON is a non-profit home care nursing organization

The nurses are fighting to maintain historically high standards of nursing care and some concerns related to their lives as working women, wives and mothers.

The VON demanded a 3 percent wage rollback (retroactive to October!) and an increased assumption of transportation costs. This despite the fact that wages had not increased since 1991.

Picketing Online...

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site to portray the dockers as real living people, not just messages from cyberspace.

When Jack Heyman from the San Francisco longshoremen visited Liverpool to bring solidarity greetings a series of photos of him with the dockers was put onto the site. These images were projected onto a screen at a "support the Liverpool dockers" event organised by the San Francisco longshoremen's Local. LabourNet's is now starting a service to supply photos via the Internet to labour movement publications.

By turning their fight into an international fight the dockers are showing the way to begin to confront new problems facing workers all over the world. Many of these problems arise from the globalisation of production and distribution brought about through the use of computer technology by management. It is important that this same technology is used to fight back.

LabourNet web site is on: <http://www.gn.apc.org/labournet/> Besides the dockers' site it also includes links to many other union sites in Britain and internationally, including Union-D.

GREETINGS ON

MAY DAY



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The Enemy Within

continued from page 6

available through other industry employers who had signed the master agreement). Everything that could possibly be done to financially and psychologically defeat and frustrate the strike was done by the union.

Union, NLRB deal final blow

The company submitted a second "final" offer to the union during the strike in response to the unfair labor practice (ULP) charge which Simpson and Jira filed against the company with the NLRB. Morgan's second "final" offer was not presented to unit members or their elected representatives, Simpson and Jira; rather, union president Robert Corbett withheld it. Simpson and Jira inadvertently learned of the offer from the NLRB several weeks later.

Morgan's second "final" offer, which was actually lower than its pre-strike offer, was not made in good faith, but instead aimed at nullifying Simpson's and Jira's ULP claim by giving an appearance of good faith. Nevertheless it gave the workers standing to reopen negotiations, return to work, halt the company's hiring of replacements, install the union steward back on the job, provide additional documentation of company's illegal transfer of work to its alter ego company C&S, and put a halt to the unfair labor practices. Simpson and Jira moved promptly and aggressively in notifying both the union and the company that the strikers would be returning to work while bargaining continued at the union's offices until a contract was reached.

Morgan challenges authority of employee representatives

Morgan immediately balked at Simpson's and Jira's notice to commence bargaining and in an April 28, 1995 letter to the union challenged Simpson's and Jira's authority. The company's attorney wrote: "As you are fully aware, the National Labor Relations Act requires Morgan ... to deal only with the lawfully elected collective bargaining agent for its employees covered by the Local 814 - Morgan Manhattan Collective Bargaining Unit. That lawfully collective bargaining agent is Local 814. Therefore, unless we receive from you written confirmation that [shop steward] Frank Simpson is legally authorized to discuss these issues with Morgan ... we will continue to deal directly with [the union]."

The Morgan bargaining unit died with this letter from the company's law firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliff - coincidentally the same firm representing Universal Van Lines and challenging the back-pay award of Lonergan and Pultrone who were sold out by the union.

Neither the Local Union nor the International responded to Simpson's and Jira's pleas to confirm their authority to negotiate with the company under the union's auspices as the elected and designated representatives assigned by unit employees for that purpose. Nor would the union move on its own to engage Morgan in renewed negotiations. The union's do-nothing say-nothing position freed Morgan of its obligation to bargain. Without negotiations it was impossible for workers to get their jobs back and it was inevitable that the financially weakened bargaining unit would disperse for lack of work. In one sweep the employment of leading B-Team activists and their

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Northwest Labor News...

continued from page 3

Given the health care environment, says a nursing union official, we believe this is the best choice for our members. This statement hints, first, that the Group Health bosses have been playing hardball for years. (No doubt about that!) And secondly, that other health care bosses are greedy SOB's too, so there's only so much that the Group Health workers can expect to win.

With this view, though, we don't agree. We say that we workers can expect to win everything, from improved conditions on the job on up to sovereignty over the Earth itself, when we learn the value of solidarity. In short, a democratically organized health care workforce, taking direct action on the job, can create a completely different health care environment in this region and elsewhere.

If Group Health workers could still win better conditions, then will they have to strike this year? That depends on their cause's public support, the bosses' ability to hold out, and their own level of fighting organization. Do Northwest workers understand that the Group Health bosses are cheap-skates, sacrificing patient health and job conditions in their pursuit of profit? Are patient appointments severely backlogged, and is Group Health facing a cash squeeze? Finally, have Group Health workers elected a strike committee to cadge food donations, leaflet other HMOs and hospitals, and generally make their strike a Cause?

If the answers to these questions is no, then a strike would be awfully risky.

The IWW has a history full of tactics designed to win better working conditions without facing the risks involved in striking, tactics like the customer's-free-ride, the work-to-rule, and many more. Such direct action strengthens solidarity in the work-

base of supporters among Morgan unit employees was terminated.

As a result of the union's failure to act, Simpson and Jira filed unfair labor practice charges against Local 814 and the union. The charges assert that both the union and IBT interfered with and prevented the "designated and selected" negotiating committee from satisfying its duty to represent Morgan's workers in the collective bargaining process.

Neither the union or the IBT advanced a lawful, legitimate or indeed any purpose for abandoning the Morgan employee bargaining unit. They simply remained silent. Against this background the NLRB's region 2 director Dan Silverman and his general counsel counterpart in Washington dismissed Simpson's and Jira's ULP charges against the union.

Silverman ruled that union members have no right to act on their own behalf in exercising their collective bargaining rights, and that the union had no obligation to represent them either. His December 21, 1995 ruling said: "members of the [union's] negotiating committee, whether elected by the membership or appointed by the union, have no statutory right to direct the union concerning the manner in which it shall respond to proposals or demands made in collective bargaining... to request renewed negotiations" or to assist workers trying to get their jobs back.

Silverman's ruling was wholly confirmed by the general counsel's office of appeals without citing any supporting NLRB case law or court rulings consonant with such outrageous conclusions. The decision has the effect of overturning the labor laws'

place, so it has a solid track record, whether used by Wobblies, AFL-CIO unionists, or those unable to join any union. (They're just as successful on non-union jobsites as in union shops working under a contract, too.)

We invite all Group Health workers to examine our legacy and adopt any of our tactics for their own use and benefit. And, if they wish, they've got a standing invitation to take out the red

cards of Wobbly membership. So-called two-card unionists, who already belong to an AFL-CIO union, are completely welcome within our ranks!

Striker's defense fund

During the 1995 strike of International Association of Machinists, District 751, against the Boeing Company, one of the few scabs openly taunted and attacked strikers in the pages of the *Valley Daily News*. When this scab, Gerhard Bartos, got his cabin torched in November, a striker was quickly arrested for the arson. Pete Joseph Kolbusz, the accused unionist, will go on trial on May 15. He has pleaded innocent, and, contrary to rumors that some people are spreading, has not confessed.

His friend and co-worker Jim Rabourn (10211 87th Avenue NE, Marysville WA 98270), has set up a defense fund at U.S. Bank to help Kolbusz win against the frame-up. You can donate at any U.S. Bank branch by writing checks to the Pete Kolbusz Defense Fund, account #3111589507. The Fund is not connected to District 751, which hasn't publicized its existence. Kolbusz's lawyer, Donald Winkill, can also accept defense donations sent to his office (4041 Ruston Way, Suite 1C, Tacoma WA 98402). These checks should be made out to Trust Account of Donald W. Winkill, and should be marked as for Kolbusz fees.

claims to protect workers' rights, instead placing these rights solely in the hands of top "union" officials - even when they act directly contrary to the interests of the union members and against the expressed wishes of their elected representatives.

This decision to strip workers of basic, supposedly guaranteed, rights was not taken through any democratic process, but rather by appointed officials at the National Labor Relations Board who claim the absolute and unreviewable power to dispose of employees' claims with impunity notwithstanding their merit.

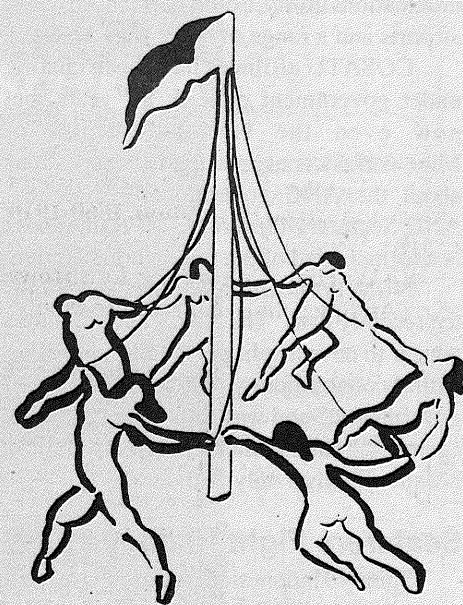
But then again the preferred federal policy is indeed "labor peace." What better way to guarantee "peace" than to grant immunity to those corrupt institutional labor organizations which have proven track records of trampling underfoot the voices of union members crying out for union democracy and industrial justice.

Paul Poulos has been an IWW member for 19 years. He spent two years in 1978-79 working as an organizer for PROD, a 10,000 member Teamsters rank-and-file reform group which was formed in the early '70s by a group of road drivers with the assistance of Ralph Nader. Poulos, a truck driver, returned to work in Local 814 and has been a member of Local 814 since 1980 and was one of the founding members of the Brotherhood Team.

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Industrial Worker



We Can Win – If We Fight...

Some 3,200 General Motors workers at two Ohio brake plants forced G.M. to shut down 26 assembly plants that employ more than 175,000 workers across the U.S. and Canada. The 17-day strike showed that the bosses are far more vulnerable to industrial direct action than they would have us believe – and that the bosses can only push us around if we let them. G.M. slashed inventories of parts in order to save costs, leaving the company much more vulnerable to parts and transportation strikes.

In Ontario, Canada, government workers brought the province to a halt when 55,000 workers struck against “outsourcing” and “down-sizing” plans that could cost more than 20,000 jobs. And in France, the government settled for a scaled-back austerity scheme when a General Strike showed that French workers were

continued on page 1

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ers are going to less developed countries where vast numbers of desperate wage slaves are ready to take any jobs offered.

Because workers around the globe are desperately competing for fewer jobs, the bosses are riding rough shod over us. 'Des-

destructive outlets, people lack affordable transportation, education and information. We have starvation amidst plenty, and hordes of jobless people prevented by our economic system from doing the work that needs to be done.

labor solidarity – not merely to recognize but to live the principle that “An Injury To One Is An Injury To All.” If jobs are being shipped overseas, we need to follow them to help our fellow workers organize to win better conditions. In helping them, we help ourselves.

But most of all, we need to organize our power and wield it, so that we can put an end to this economic system where prosperity means poverty and de-

perate' is the key word here. Workers are submitting to abuse and bad conditions because if they don't work, they have no guarantee of food and shelter. Millions of skilled, educated workers are sleeping on streets and eating from garbage cans.

Production per worker has multiplied 100 times in this century and there is plenty of wealth to go around. The question is, how do we get this wealth out of the hands of the bosses, and to those who need it?

Alongside the problem of too many workers left idle and without a livelihood, there is another problem. Our communities are increasingly without basic services. Houses fall down, the sick and elderly are neglected, youths have no productive outlets for their creative energy and turn to

Forward? Or Back?

To solve this, we need to build different kinds of unions – unions that organize all workers, regardless of where they live or whether they currently hold a job. We need to fight for shorter hours – much shorter hours – so that we can reap the fruits of our increased productivity, instead of handing them to the bosses to use as a weapon to pit us against each other to work ever harder for ever less. The four-hour day is not a utopian slogan, it is an urgent necessity.

Are you with us? We need to organize real international

pair for those who create society's wealth, and where basic social needs go unmet because there is no profit in them. We need to take charge of the means of production, and operate them to meet the needs of the majority – the workers.

We can sit back and wait for the bosses to drive us back into the most brutal industrial slavery – or we can organize and fight to build a better future.

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Working people in North America, Europe and other parts of the world made a lot of progress between 1900 and 1950. We made progress because we organized unions, and through those unions we demanded progress. We reduced the hours of work and increased the pay, required safety and health measures, and limited the bosses' ability to push us around.

Between 1950 and 1978 some progress was made towards equal treatment of black and women workers. But since then working people have been losing ground with reduced pay, fewer jobs, declining safety standards, speed-ups, longer hours, etc.

Our answer must be once again to organize unions and through those unions to demand progress. But the shape of progress in 1996 is different than it was in 1930. Both the problems and the opportunities have changed.

The big difference we are facing is that capitalist industrial production claims to need fewer and fewer workers, often on short-term contracts so the boss can throw us over without any notice or compensation.

The capitalists have taken their capital (which we created), and instead of purchasing labor they are buying machines to do the jobs. Capitalists who need industrial work-

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