

# Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## Was UPS strike a victory for labor?

While most reports claim that the Teamsters won a sweeping victory in their 15-day strike against United Parcel Service, on closer examination the proposed settlement looks to be more of a draw.

The Teamsters clearly won on pensions, defeating UPS' efforts to pull out of the union's multi-employer pension plans and forcing UPS to increase its pension payments. Although the union stressed part-time jobs in its public relations campaign, the pension plans may well have been at the heart of the dispute. Many Teamster plans might have collapsed without the UPS payments, given the dramatic decline in union trucking (and hence truckers paying in) over the past two decades. And a substantial number of UPS part-timers (though a distinct minority) took those jobs in order to maintain their pension rights after being laid-off from other Teamster jobs.

However, most UPS workers are not covered under the pension plan, because of extremely high turn-over among the part-timers who make up nearly two-thirds of UPS workers.

The other significant gain under the proposed 5-year contract – which Teamsters are voting on as we go to press – is a provision requiring UPS to promptly correct short paychecks. Many workers say UPS routinely shorts their pay by under-reporting their hours.

But on the question of part-time jobs, the proposed contract appears to be at best a draw. While the actual contract language is not available at press time, it appears that UPS agreed to promote at least 10,000 part-timers into full-time jobs as they open, and to create another 10,000 new full-time positions through expansion and consolidation of existing part-time jobs.

The first will cost UPS nothing, as these jobs will open through normal attrition. The 10,000 new jobs are also largely meaningless. UPS added 8,000 full-time jobs (and 38,000 part-time ones) during the four years of the last contract, so the company has merely agreed to continue adding the same number of jobs each year for the next five years. Even this promise may be illusory. A contract summary distributed by UPS stresses that "Increase in full-time jobs is subject to continued volume growth." (No such escape clause is mentioned in the Team-

*continued on page 8*

## Solidarity with Mersey dockers...

# "The world is our picket line"

Ports were closed across the world September 8th, in the second round of dockworkers actions in solidarity with locked-out Liverpool dockers.

It has been over 23 months since five hundred Liverpool longshoremen were fired from their jobs for honoring a picket line put up by workers sacked for refusing to work unpaid overtime. The 2nd International Dockworkers' Conference, held in Montreal in May, brought together dockworkers' union representatives from seventeen countries to formulate a plan of action.

In the United States, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down all West Coast ports, holding stop work

meetings from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. discuss privatization issues, including the struggle against privatization and casualization at Liverpool and ILWU efforts to unionize a soon-to-open coal export terminal in Los Angeles. Nearly 100 ships were idled in ports from California to Alaska.

ILWU member Jack Heyman reports that rank-and-file longshoremen, angered by the treatment of their brothers in Liverpool and inspired by solidarity actions from dockers in South Africa, are hitting ships found to carry scab-loaded cargo from Mersey Docks and Harbour Company ports like Liverpool and Thamesport. The Hapag Lloyd vessel, Cape Charles, was delayed for

nearly two days.

The Maritime Union of Australia defied Government threats to bring troops on to the waterfront, closing all major ports for five hours on the daytime and evening shifts. Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney, Port Kembla, Melbourne, Burnie, Adelaide and Fremantle were affected.

The Danish port of Arhus was shut for 24 hours, Copenhagen also struck after a meeting addressed by a Liverpool docker. The Swedish ports of Gothenburg, Stockholm, Malmo and Helsingborg stopped all shipping to and from Liverpool and Sheerness (owned by Mersey Docks) and all ACL

*continued on page 10*

## Union-busting at Dept. of Labor site

IWW organizers at the Keystone Job Corps Center are now going into their fourth month of the intense drive. The campaign's simple requests of decent medical care, decent pay and equitable treatment have yet to be addressed by management. Keystone management, instead of coming to the table and negotiating the demands of its student employees, has begun forcing people suspected of organizing to open their lockers and confiscating anything critical of Center management. Organizers have taken to the airwaves to circumvent the confiscations.

### No Shock Here...

For nearly a month Matt Wilson waited for the Department of Labor to decide if they would reverse Keystone Center Director June Boswell's decision to terminate him for union organizing. In a stunning disregard for due process, James Bodnar, Regional Director of the Office of Job Corps, upheld Matt's discharge by side-stepping the issue at hand – that Matt broke no rules and did not receive a fair hearing before being fired – and rekindling a previous attempt to terminate Matt as a "completer."

In May, 1997, management of Keystone Job Corps Center tried to forcibly end Matt's enrollment by giving him "completer status" after he completed training in two trades and had a few weeks work experience. Matt was elected vice president of the student government in April, and had been an outstanding advocate for the rights of student employees.

In an "accountability meeting" with Center management, Keystone decided they were going to complete him. This decision was originally upheld by the Labor Department, but Matt discovered that Keystone had lied about their reasons for his dismissal. Keystone asserted that Matt had made no attempt to repay a student loan, and they inflated the amount of money due. Matt wrote a letter to Josephine Eichenberger, Dept. of Labor Job Corps Project Director outlining Keystone's falsehoods. Keystone was ordered to allow Matt to stay.

Now the Department of Labor has revisited this decision and rescinded it, again giving Matt "completer status." His disciplinary record has been wiped clean, and he will receive \$500 from the Department in readjustment money. When asked if this

*continued on page 4*



Delegates and friends from around the country marched in the St. Louis Labor Day parade, following two days of deliberations. Casey Tibbs' sign (left) reads "Down With Capitalist Bosses."

## Organizing tops agenda

Organizing and international communication dominated the agenda as 59 Wobblies gathered in St. Louis, Missouri, for the IWW's annual General Assembly. Delegates came from Hawaii to Massachusetts, from Seattle to Florida. Representation from the South was stronger than it has been in many years, but no delegates attended from outside the U.S.

General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase told delegates that the 1996-97 year was a good one, and that he looked forward to "our 93rd year of bashing the bosses." Membership continues to climb, and we added seven new General Membership Branches (Portland, Asheville, Austin, Toronto, Detroit, Olympia, Lancaster) and a Construction Workers Industrial Union 330 branch out of Portland. And several new branches are in the works, Chase reported.

Delegates reported on local activities ranging from organizing drives and negotiating contracts to walking the picket lines in

solidarity with workers in other unions. In the San Francisco Bay Area, IU 620 Wobs have reached a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California, recently negotiated a new contract with the Berkeley Recycling Center, waged several organizing campaigns in the past year, and are gearing up to help a new forest workers drive and for a campaign against Waste Management Inc., which is trying to grab work from two IWW shops.

In Atlanta, a new branch is doing solidarity work and investigating possibilities for a campaign among temporary and casual workers. In O'hau, the Branch is a bit Wobbly at present, but has a couple organizing efforts under way. Lawrence, Kansas, is on the verge of organizing a General Membership Branch and is active in the fight against Borders, which is opening a new store there.

Detroit Wobs reported that the newspaper strikers are following the labor laws in a

*continued on page 6*



### In This Issue...

Tufts U. Janitors Shafted in Contracting Scheme

High Tech Labor Solidarity

Workers Occupy Computer Plant, Win

Industrial Union News



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## Remembering Frank Little

We sold 144 t-shirts commemorating the lynching of IWW organizer Frank Little in the Butte area. So with the money we decided to send \$200 to Portland GMB to help send a delegate to St. Louis (the Butte Wobs, mostly IU 330, belong to the Portland Branch). Also \$50 to Headquarters to help cover literature and buttons expense. And \$50 to the *Industrial Worker*. The remainder of the money will go to an organizing drive here in Butte. There is a lot of interest in the IWW here, and we are working to start another branch in Butte.

For the OBU,  
Dennis George

## Wascally Wobs

Dear IWW,  
Resounding cheers for FW's John, Austin, Josh and Theresa for their physical and spiritual support in our struggle with our bosses. The company took away our ten minute breaks, endangering us, the bus drivers, and our passengers. These righteous Wobs didn't even hesitate in joining us in our picket of the transit authority here in Austin. The company has workers petrified about speaking out, so the Wobbly support was crucial to the success of our picket. I truly admire these wonderful, wascally, Wobblies for their dedication to the prin-

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace  
GMB=General Membership Branch  
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate  
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 120: Lumber Workers  
IU 330: Building Construction Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers  
IU 560: Communications Workers  
IU 610: Health Service Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
IU 670: Public Service Workers

# Industrial Worker

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# Readers' Soapbox

inciple of, an injury to one is an injury to all. We love you, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank y'all.

Glenn Gaven, President  
Shuttlebus Driver's Union  
Austin Texas

## Co-ops & Unions

In the September *IW* I suggested that theoretical confusion is tolerable as long as it goes hand in hand with honest organising. Maybe I was a bit hasty. Carlos Murray's letter in the same issue confirms my belief that the IWW of today has lost the place and bears no resemblance to the great organisation of Haywood, Gurley Flynn, Connolly, etc.

His advocacy of what I can only describe as "hippy" capitalism should have no place in any self-respecting union. I did not join the IWW to provide advice for small businesses. Small businessmen/women of

the world unite!?

Finally, he need not worry about his/others co-ops turning "into capitalist enterprises in the future" because that is what they are at present.

Yours for Industrial Unionism,  
Derek Devine, Edinburgh

**Editor's Note:** FW Devine seems to be reading quite a bit into FW Murray's letter, which suggested that worker-owned co-operatives might offer a means of replacing capitalism. While it seems clear to me that the pressures of operating within a capitalist society severely constrict what such co-ops can hope to accomplish and create constant pressure to undermine standards and violate solidarity in order to survive in capitalism's war of each against all (pressures FW Murray recognized), this hardly means that such cooperatives are indistinguishable from small businesses.

I would agree with FW Devine that co-ops offer little prospect of escaping capitalism – either for the workers in them, or for our class as a whole. For that we need industrial organization, and direct action to expropriate the capitalists. Is it not possible, however, that the efforts of workers in industrial cooperatives might offer useful concrete experience in self-management, even as our struggles to organize workers into One Big Union help limit the capitalists' ability to force down standards in co-ops?

## Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Toivo Halonen, Cleveland OH	\$35
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IU330 Branch, Portland OR	\$50

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## British Isles meeting

Delegates and members from around the Region met at the Secular Hall, Leicester, over the weekend of 6 and 7 September.

The meeting heard of the long list of activities groups are involved in and plans that local branches had for spreading the IWW message throughout the islands. The emphasis being that the IWW is alive and well and relevant for the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century.

The biggest branch, Edinburgh, had produced issue one of *Bread and Roses*, the newly founded IWW magazine and the meeting unanimously congratulated the branch and the editors for the work they had done and resolved to raise funds to ensure future production of the mag on a regular basis. Problems with Freedom Bookshop, who refused to stock the magazine on the grounds that it was "dull" would also be investigated.

On the propaganda side the meeting also delegated one comrade with the task of checking out the feasibility of a local version of the *Industrial Worker* and one member was tasked with the development of a leaflet library for use locally and for adaptation to meet the conditions of any drive, with the accent on relevant and non jargonised writing.

A pamphlet on Industrial Unionism is also going to be prepared in order to explain why the IWW ideal is so important.

Many members were involved in international contact building and these would be built up with the hope of ensuring better contact with those existing and potential members of the union on the European continent.

Members present also signed an application for a Regional Organising Committee charter which will be presented to the GEB. Pending formal establishment of the committee and the election of delegates from ROC branches Kevin Brandstatter was elected as Secretary and Fred Lee as Treasurer. In March of 1997 formal elections will be held.

The meeting was pleased to hear a report of what was going on in the rest of the world but agreed not to nominate London as a venue for the 1998 General Assembly.

### Northwest Gathering

The Puget Sound General Membership Branch will host the next Northwest regional gathering November 14-16. The meeting hall will accommodate 40 to 50 wobs, and a rally is being planned for Saturday, Nov. 15th, which will include soapboxing and general intimidation of the bosses.

## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

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

## Around Our Union

### Butte, Montana tavern goes IWW

The Irish Times Bar in Butte has become an IWW shop. The owner has voluntarily recognized his workers' union and they are in contract negotiations. Welcome to the IWW, Fellow Workers!

### IWW wins in Olympia, WA

Workers at Libros Sin Fronteras, a book distribution center in Olympia, Washington, won an NLRB certification election Sept. 2 by a vote of 5 to 2. Now the tough part; getting the boss to negotiate...

### Frank Little Remembered

Page 1 of the August 2 *Butte Montana Standard* features a large photo of Wobbly troubador Mark Ross performing at the unveiling of a sculpture honoring IWW organizer Frank Little, lynched by the copper bosses August 1, 1917. Thirty people attended the dedication ceremony, and others attended an earlier graveside ceremony. The black steel sculpture depicting two thugs carrying Little's limp body, stands near the site of the boarding house where the thugs roused FW Little from his sleep. The state legislature responded to the lynching by outlawing militant unionism.

The sculpture was designed by Butte artist Gloria Clark, and welded by Butte High School students. Local Wobs issued t-shirts for the occasion bearing FW Little's picture over the motto, "We Never Forget."

### Organizing KOOP Radio

The Lucy Parsons Branch is working to organize the staff at KOOP Radio (Austin, Texas). The station's Board of Trustees has agreed to recognize the IWW when we gain majority support, and is allowing organizers access to station facilities and events.

Wobblies are looking to develop a grievance procedure, and helping staff protest themselves against the pressures towards bureaucratic tyranny and corporatization that currently engulfing the Pacifica stations.

## Progress on Centralia Mural?

Three Wobs were allowed to attend the Aug. 24 meeting of the Centralia Union Mural Project Committee. Although the committee has not withdrawn the threats of arrest issued by co-chair Bill Henry or apologized for his racist, sexist and other insults to IWW members, IWW protests appear to have galvanized the beginnings of a democratic process within the committee.

There has been discussion about Utah Phillips possibly speaking and/or performing at the unveiling of the Centralia Mural, apparently encouraging some committee members to soften their attacks on the IWW.

The Mural Committee web page ([http://www.evergreen.edu/user/Labor\\_Center/mural.html](http://www.evergreen.edu/user/Labor_Center/mural.html)) includes a rough sketch of the proposed mural (and also the Committee's public letter attacking the IWW, though not the letters threatening IWW members), as well as information about donors. So we may now see what the mural may look like; it was suggested at the meeting that folks contact FW Alewitz, to give him feedback,

and I would encourage all Wobs to do so if possible ([lamp@igc.apc.org](mailto:lamp@igc.apc.org)). A Centralia worker at the meeting indicated that the Mural was too vague, and communicated little of the attacks against the IWW and the efforts of Centralia workers to organize despite vicious repression. To this day, few Centralia workers will discuss unions for fear of being fired.

Now that a framework for decision-making is in place, the committee has invited FW Utah Phillips to the unveiling, and a motion was passed to have the unveiling on November 9th, 1997.

I want to stress that current efforts by IWW members to contribute to the mural process does not mean that the concerns raised by FWs Miller and Grant are secondary; they still need to be addressed. I remain skeptical of the intent of some on the committee, but it is possible that we may be able to accomplish something for the IWW of today in a positive way.

— John Persak, Puget Sound IWW



General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase (left) going over the IWW financial reports with delegates at the IWW's 1997 General Assembly in St. Louis.

## Solidarity Victories in Capital District

Capital District (Albany, NY) IWW was out on the picket line this summer and saw their efforts help win the day for workers fighting bosses on several fronts. Wobblies joined picketlines of striking Teamsters Local 294 members at UPS, spending many hours carrying "Wobs for Full-Time Jobs" placards. Despite the post-strike negatives from the Carey election irregularities, Wobblies here were positive overall about the impact of the strike and the Teamsters' key contract demands realized. "Boy, that felt good, didn't it?" FW Jack Beadle said shortly after the strike was settled, echoing the sentiments of millions of workers who finally were able to see a major workplace battle where labor actually won the day. FW Greg Giorgio covered the strike for his labor segment of WRPI-FM's "Capital District Progressive Radio" as well.

And IWW efforts to aid fired State University Research Foundation employees Ann Cornelius and Michele Acevedo were rewarded when the NLRB ruled that they were dismissed illegally last year while attempting to organize into a CWA local. Cornelius told the IWW she was given her job back with a full year's back pay a few weeks after an IWW/Capital District Solidarity Committee picket of SUNY's up-town campus in Albany. The women were fired from their jobs with the private arm of the public university for their leafleting of a NY Giants training camp session. Picketing and public information campaigns challenge SUNY Albany President Karen Hitchcock's characterization of Cornelius and Acevedo as "difficult employees." In newspaper ar-

ticles about the dispute, Hitchcock referred to "we" deciding to fire the two workers. But the NLRB recognized that the SUNY official did not have the authority to fire workers employed by a private firm under contract to the University, and that in any event they couldn't be fired for organizing.

Capital District IWW members also traveled to General Assembly in St. Louis over Labor Day weekend, and are preparing to charter anew IU 450, Printing and Publishing Industrial Union, this fall.

## Bread & Roses

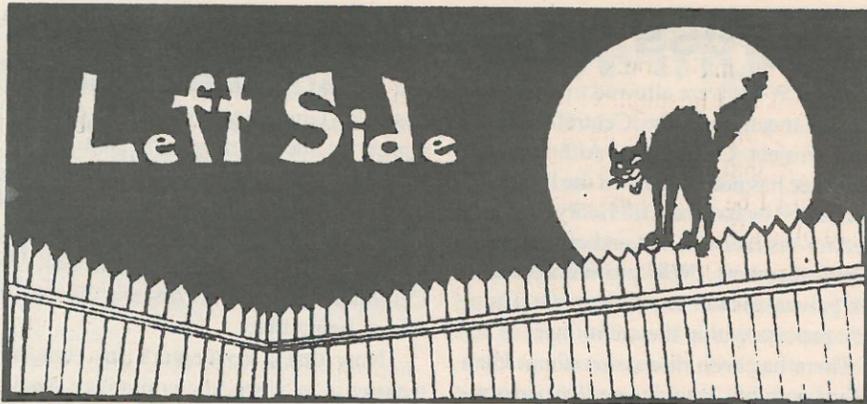
New Hampshire Wobblies Dave Pike and Jim Giddings put up an IWW table at the Lawrence, Massachusetts, Bread and Roses Festival on Labor Day and communicated with lots of fellow workers.

The annual festival commemorates the 1912 "Bread and Roses" strike in which Wobblies helped the young, largely female and low-skill workers build solidarity across ethnic and language barriers and win dramatic wage increases and hours-reductions. Unfortunately, while the number of Lawrence workers holding IWW red cards increased to the tens of thousands during the strike, their numbers dwindled rapidly when the strike had been won, and the AFL unions became the long-term beneficiaries of the strike they had abandoned.

We set up a literature table at the foot of a magnificent oak tree on Campagnone Common, and people came and stood or sat a while and talked or read. When the five musical stages were between acts, we played some Utah Phillips, Anne Feeney, Mark Ross and John O'Connor tapes. We were right beside the Labor Party table, and had some fun discussions with the union members who were staffing it. Several old residents of Lawrence came by to reminisce.

One old man who was born just after the strike was over saw our red and black banner and told his companions "The IWW! The Wobblies! That's the union that saved this town!" He said his family talked about

*continued on page 10*



In the last issue of this stalwart little rag it appears that the "analytical" historians are still trying to eliminate the IWW from the pages of labor history. Among the reasons given is that the present membership no longer represents the "true IWW." Of course, Joe Hill, Big Bill Haywood, Frank Little, Wesley Everest, et al. are no longer with us, but the present membership of the IWW believes in the same principles that the aforementioned late Fellow Workers lived and died for, and therein lies the rub. There are those in high places who are still scared of the principles we stand for, and they know from the past that the IWW has never compromised its principles for the sake of expediency.

Well can they be vigilant that no IWW philosophy find its way into their Centralia mural.

Your scribe cannot help but be reminded of a few years back, when there was the centennial observance of the Haymarket tragedy that took place here in Chicago. There were two schools of thought that oddly enough worked closely together. There were the pussy-footin' liberals who wanted to give the impression that the Haymarket Martyrs were not anarchists but the equivalent of today's AFL-CIO, and of course there were those Stalinists who wanted to imply that the Haymarket Martyrs were the spiritual ancestors of today's party-liners. There were also the Stalinists who masqueraded as pussy-footin' liberals.

There were those of us who got disgusted and boycotted further meetings of the Haymarket Centennial Committee, while others, including your scribe, stayed on and made their voices heard with the result that some acknowledgment was given, if grudgingly, to the ideology of the original Haymarket Martyrs.

Not only that, but your scribe's alter ego made a poster of Lucy Parsons, widow of one of the Haymarket Martyrs, with a quote from her speech at the founding convention of the IWW where she said that in future strikes workers would not go out on strike and go hungry, but strike and stay on the job and take possession of the machinery of production. "If anyone has to go hungry, let it be the boss class!"

Three decades later that's exactly what the auto workers in Flint, Michigan, did, and they were successful - which touched off a rash of "sit-down strikes" around various industries that were so successful that the United States Supreme Court under that great liberal Franklin D. Roosevelt declared sit-down strikes unconstitutional. It takes no great stretch of the imagination as to whose interests the Supreme Court is pimping for.

This poster of Lucy Parsons has gone on to appear in calendars, books and exhibitions around the country and has crossed borders. During the Haymarket Centennial, an exhibition was held in one of the union halls of the work of Joe Troy, one of the old Wobbly cartoonists who, as a teenager, got his start submitting his cartoons to a German anarchist periodical that was edited by those who were to become the Haymarket Martyrs - an example of the continuity of labor history.

A couple of months ago, your scribe's alter ego was approached by the director of a neighborhood gallery located in a poor working-class district of Chicago. Said director is the daughter of long-standing labor militants. Your scribe's alter ego was told there was room for a mural and he could choose any theme he wished. The chosen theme was Chicago labor history. The mural has been finished and is awaiting official dedication.

Among other things, this mural depicts the Pullman Strike, the strike that led up to the Haymarket incident, the subsequent executions, the founding convention of the IWW where Lucy is giving her speech with a vignette of the successful sit-down strike, and ending with the last great anti-war march which was led by Harold Washington, who would shortly be Chicago's first Black mayor and for a politician was a pretty nice guy, who unfortunately died before he could prove otherwise. As a good Wob, said muralist was not honoring a mayor as much as tweaking the noses of the Machine pollies who are now doing their best to erase his memory.

Let the Centralia babies have their go at giving labor history the Orwellian treatment; somewhere there are some painters or poster makers who will turn their interpretation of history on its nose.

— C.C. Redcloud

## 10 Billionaires Could Wipe Out Poverty

"As unbelievable as it may sound, the combined wealth of the world's seven richest people could end world poverty," reports the religious newsletter *Ministry of Money*. A United Nations Human Development Report reported in the June 22 *Manchester Guardian Weekly* notes that \$80 billion could pay for access to basic social services and eradicate poverty. The net wealth of 10 billionaires is worth 1.5 times the combined national income of the 48 least developed countries. In 1960 the richest

fifth of the world's population was 30 times as wealthy as the poorest fifth; in 1994, they were 78 times as wealthy.

As we witness accelerating economic polarization, it is important to ponder the global implications of wildly bifurcated distributions of wealth. The cold terms of financial accounting cannot begin to describe the incalculable human suffering that lies behind the numbers.

Gives one pause to reconsider Marx's aphorism: "expropriate the expropriators."

## Be Nice to Scabs

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Sept. 9 that some U.S. Senators are distressed that union workers aren't more polite to scabs when they cross our picket lines. Sometimes the low-lives even get roughed up, the outraged politricksters bleated. Somehow, they're not nearly so indignant at the daily carnage of workers maimed and poisoned on the job by greedy bosses, or the thousands of strikers roughed up and intimidated every year by the bosses' thugs and police...

## \$119 Mill for Politricksters

The AFL-CIO spent \$119 million last year on politricksters last year, according to the Sept. 10 *Washington Post*. Union political action committees contributed more than \$49 million to federal candidates, including nearly \$4 million to Republicans. Union treasuries were tapped for another \$9.5 million on "soft money" contributions, almost entirely to the Democrats.

The Teamsters gave \$2.6 million in PAC contributions, some apparently as part of a money laundering scheme intended to raise funds for Carey's re-election campaign. Unions also spent more than \$18.5 million on lobbying. But the bosses outspent labor 7 to 1, and appear to be getting a better return on their investment.

## Unions Win in Detroit (?)

The AFL-CIO's *America@work* quotes picard John Sweeney telling marchers, "You have won the battle of Detroit!" He pledged that the labor movement would pay

## Keystone...

*continued from page 1*

meant Matt would walk away from unionization efforts, he said, "although I'm not going to be able to work from the inside to improve conditions any longer, I will keep up this fight from wherever I am, and help my fellow workers on the Keystone Center in whatever way I can."

Joe Marra, who was suspended from Keystone with Matt in June, was also recently completed from the program. Joe has also committed to helping the union effort in any way possible. He is currently working with the IWW on radio broadcasts and preparing legal claims against Keystone.

## Nickels and Dimes

Student employees of Keystone Job Corps Center are told, mantra-like, by management that they are "on the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Student employees receive a cash payment based on seniority between \$22.96 and \$36.82 every two weeks for their work. The labor performed by the student employees of Keystone is integrated into the daily operations of the Center - people in the masonry trade program construct buildings, the culinary trade cooks for the cafeteria, the print trade runs the presses for the Center, the painters trade does all of the painting on the center, business/clerical trade workers write computer programs, do filing, and other office work, nursing assistant trainees work in the infirmary, and so on.

When your boss makes a work week that is 168 hours long, and your average pay is between six cents and ten cents an hour, every nickel and dime you get counts. The Philadelphia IWW was interested to see if wages in Job Corps were standard, and found that Keystone pays its student employees less than other Job Corps centers. The Harpers Ferry Job Corps Center in West Virginia, seems to be the winner as far as wages go, a whopping \$25 for two weeks of work is paid to their student employees with less than 60 days seniority, \$32.50 for workers who have been on the Center for 61 through 180 days, and \$40 for over 180 days. We will be investigating further to see

its debt to the Detroit strikers by picking up and winning the battle outside of Detroit.

If it's all the same with Sweeney, I'd rather he didn't. Workers here in Freedomland are having a hard time getting by, and we can ill afford "victories" such as the one that has left 2,000 Detroit newspaper strikers out in the streets...

But the AFL is on the forefront of efforts to rebuild workers' culture, sponsoring a week of "Wheel of Fortune" in early September. The TV game show featured union families and "union-made-in-the-USA" prizes donated by unions. Somehow they found a new car that met the spec.s, probably built

in the 1950s. (My "Japanese" car was assembled in Canada from parts manufactured all over the world. It won't be old enough to vote for a few years yet, but I haven't the foggiest notion how they'll determine its nationality when the time comes.)

## Down With Capitalist Bosses

Bob Tibbs' daughter made a sign with that message for the Labor Day march, and while I bet I wouldn't like any other type of boss any better I certainly agree. Our goal in publishing this paper is to help speed the day when we dump the bosses off our backs. It's always great at Assembly to hear about the work people are doing fighting the bosses. But it's frustrating too, because too many of these struggles go unreported. We need to know about each other's struggles, and if you don't get the information out to your fellow workers who will?

if Keystone is driving down industry pay standards or if Harpers Ferry is on the cutting edge of rising wages...

## "There's Got to Be Some Rights Around Here Somewhere!"

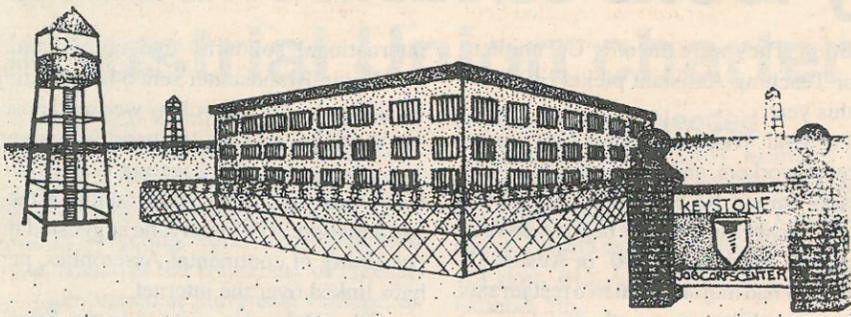
Philly organizers and Job Corps workers have been swimming in piles of paperwork trying to unearth the "rights" that student employees are entitled to. The National Labor Relations Board was ready to dismiss the IWW's charge against Keystone because the workers in question, in the estimation of a field examiner, did not meet the criteria for defining them as "employees." People in training positions who seek to better their paid working conditions are in a largely untested area of the law, so the NLRB was ready to look the other way - allowing them to get away with activities that are specifically and undeniably illegal.

An argument was made to the NLRB that the work outlined above makes the student employees of the Keystone Job Corps center eligible for the skimpy protections offered to American workers under the National Labor Relations Act. Will it be a big surprise if we find out that the government would like to allow multi-million dollar corporations to have totally unchecked power to "train" people for future employment possibilities by having them perform unpaid or underpaid work? In the meantime, we're also investigating the possibilities of a civil suit for confiscating IWW union organizing materials and internal actions within the Job Corps system.

If nothing else, the ambiguity we face in carving out legal rights for Job Corps student employees is an argument for direct action. Wobblies won't give up as easily as most - when our materials are confiscated, when our organizers are searched, harassed and intimidated, we will still press on.

## Pump Up the Volume

In defiance of FCC regulations and a Keystone Job Corps ban on all IWW-related material entering the Center, Philadelphia Wobblies and West Philadelphia's Radio Mutiny packed a 20 watt radio transmitter into a van and headed to Drums, PA, on



## Keystone Job Corps Rag

To Joe Marra, Matt Wilson, and all FWs organizing up at Drums

Well it's 1-2-3, what are we training for  
A boring, low-paid chore courtesy of the Job Corps?  
But it's 5-6-7, time to emancipate  
The government's paying off MTC  
But we're all joining the Wobblies!

Keystone's run by MTC – work for them, you're working for free  
Stick around you make level three – they may even let you leave  
But there ain't no time to wonder why – It's do or die.

Cause it's 1-2-3 for shop democracy  
We don't wanna be a prison camp for the service industry.  
And it's 5-6-7, open up the Keystone gates  
No waiting – our off-time is yours and mine, we're not assigned to the state.

But this ain't no time to assert your rights – hide those union buttons out of sight.  
Stash those songbooks up your sleeve – here comes the guard, we'd better leave.  
There ain't no time to wonderwhy – it's do or die.

And it's 1-2-3, Hand me that contraband  
But I'm a Wobbly, don't you understand – Don't tell me, I don't give a damn.  
Now it's 5-6-7, forget all about Penn State  
Don't ask me – they got the hook, they got the line, and we've taken the bait.

They told us we could go to Penn State – but that idea will have to wait.  
"You'll make 26,000 a year, deduct for food, housing and bathroom gear  
That comes to \$18 a week, just to learn to turn the other cheek.

[Repeat 1st chorus]

There's plenty of money for MTC but it's easy to die in their infirmary  
Those managers are getting rich and we're digging our own ditch for free  
But not if we act with solidarity when they give us the 3rd degree.

We're One Big Union and you got that right,  
Sista-Fella worker, black, yellow red and white  
We stick together, we know how to fight,  
Stronger than guns, our spirit is tight.  
Come to our meeting tomorrow night – it's do or die!

— X337036

August 22. A 100-minute broadcast of music, stories and readings of censored articles was well received inside the Center. From the pay phone about a half-mile away, we received reports from inside of Center management going from room to room demanding people turn off their radios, only to be met with an increase in volume.

Keystone called the police to try to make us leave, but nothing could be legally done by them to make us go. We decided to test and see if a mobile broadcast was possible and drove the van slowly around the perimeter of the Center followed by three Keystone security vehicles. Pete triDish, a Radio Mutiny technician and deejay, wrote afterwards in a press release, "This action really suggests new directions for the use of micro-radio. We can skip over prison walls! Radio Mutiny hopes that other micro-broadcasters will take up this useful technology for the struggle for rights of the incarcerated, the sequestered, and those otherwise held incommunicado by the powers that be." Broadcasts will continue for the foreseeable future.

### Too Legit To Quit

When the copies of this paper distributed to the student employees of the Keystone Center are inevitably seized, perhaps the bosses that read these words will understand that the IWW intends to give back pound for pound the trouble that they make for our fellow workers inside. Why not come to the table and negotiate for better conditions? Idiot managers, take our word of warning: the old IWW motto, "We Never Forget" still holds true today. We are prepared to face you at every turn.

— Alexis Buss

### It Can't Be Done

*This is an excerpt from Dario Fo's play Mistero Buffo, a segment of which was read by DJ Jah Sun of Radio Mutiny for the IWW broadcast into Keystone Center August 22. It is of particular relevance to Keystone student employees, who are arbitrarily restricted in their use of Center bathrooms.*

...the most grotesque incident was at the Ducatio plant ... The bosses ... decided to cut down the time allowed to workers for going to the toilet. Some people would stay in there for four minutes, some for as long as seven minutes, and the employers had had enough! They argued with the trade unions, and there was a tremendous struggle, and after a while they decided, "Two minutes and 35 seconds are more than sufficient for a person to fulfil their bodily needs..." Now, put like that it sounds most reasonable. A person would think: "Well, they must have carried out studies, they must have consulted technicians and experts, etc." But I can assure you, believe me, to do it in that time would be a record!

Two minutes and 35 seconds: a record! ... If you don't believe that this is a record, try it for yourself. ... Wait for a good day, put on a nice record of soothing Hawaiian music (it's very helpful in this connection...) and, as you will see, *It can't be done!* And it particularly can't be done when you're neurotic about clocks that go tick-tock, tick-tock. Yes! Because in every toilet at the Ducati factory there is a timing mechanism! As soon as you go in, it starts ... The worker goes into the toilet cubicle and tick-tock, tick-tock... he takes a deep breath ... and then tick-tock...PEEEEEEP!

Now, it's logical that ... there must be a

It's a few days since I returned from the annual General Assembly of the IWW, this time in St. Louis. Thanks to all the Fellow Workers there for their great efforts and hospitality. Most participants at Assembly crashed in a former convent, bringing back memories, some not so fond, of my cat'lic upbringing. Residue of that upbringing sometimes makes it difficult for me to enjoy a vacation. Shouldn't I be using the time to do something "significant"?, that sort of thing. Good ol' cat'lic guilt.

Now a working-vacation I can enjoy. And that's what Assembly constituted for me. It was great to share a beer with and put faces to all the names of new folks I had emailed, written, or phoned over the past year: a dynamic bunch. And it's always good to renew acquaintances with the long standing Wobs I only see once or twice a year, some of those relationships now going back longer than some of our younger members have been alive.

### from the desk of...

It was one of the youngest gatherings of Wobs I can remember, despite the presence of us dinosaurs here and there. The largest gathering during a time for caucuses was Fellow Workers with two years or less in the Union, about 80% of our membership. Many of them were representatives of new Branches and groups in the southeastern right-to-be-exploited states: Asheville NC, Austin TX, Atlanta, Memphis. I found that heartening; an indication that perhaps the south will rise again and this time it will be Union.

In my report to Assembly I outlined what a generally successful year the previous one had been for the Union. Membership continues to rise. It's doubled over the last two years. But, starting from a pretty small base, it needs to rise faster if we're going to again have a significant impact on the labor movement in my lifetime. It doesn't seem impossible judging from reports like the one I received the other day from Butte Montana where Fellow Workers lined up 16 new Wobs in two days. An email I put in the Assembly packet from a Fellow Worker in Lawrence Kansas tells of a dozen or so hard-core activists there planning to join largely as a result of IWW activity on the UPS picket line. Reports of that activity came in from around the U.S. Once again the Wobblies did themselves proud and won new allies among rank- and-filers for the support.

Then too, there are the eight new branches chartered over the past year, up from five new ones in the previous year. The winning of an NLRB election last week in Olympia, WA seems to have sparked public interest in us once again in the northwest. There were calls this week from reporters in Olympia and Seattle who are working on articles regarding the victory.

Internationally we have new Regional Organizing Committees in Australia and Tasmania. German Fellow Workers are setting up a tour for Wobbly musicians later this fall. The U.K. Wobs a putting out a new publication: "Bread and Roses", and had their own assembly a week following the General Assembly in the U.S. Bad news, but in the "we must be doing something right" category is that a FW in Moscow had her computer confiscated by whatever they're calling the KGB these days. We tried to get Fellow Worker Bright Chikezie from Sierra Leone to General Assembly, but failed because of communication problems. Hopefully next year.

The financial report is mixed. While deficit spending in the past year was half what it was in the previous year, it's still deficit spending. We need to get to break-even soon because the reserves are running out. And while still in the red (a good place to be except when talking about finances) we are having problems paying for adequate staffing to service the growing membership. It's an old adage that the treasury of the IWW is in the pockets of its members. Dig deep Fellow Workers.

On Monday about 40 of us marched in an energetic Wobbly contingent at the St. Louis Labor Day Parade. We didn't have the requisite AFL-CIO permission to participate. Not likely that it would have been forthcoming if we had asked since those bozos wouldn't even let the Teamsters participate when they were out of the AFL. We marched near the Gas Workers who used to be headed by deceased Wobbly Bob Tibbs Sr. Bob Jr. got dissed by one of their bureaucrats when he notified them of our intentions. "You'll have to get permission from so-and-so." said the bureaucrat. "No, we aren't asking for permission. I'm just informing you of our plans as a courtesy", replied Bob. Imagine workers having to ask permission to march in a workers' parade.

One the way back to Ypsilanti we passed a sign announcing the gravesite of Mother Jones. It seemed a fitting place to spend time on Labor Day, so we pulled off. While there we were joined by other Wobs coming from Assembly. Know, Mother, that your memory lives on and your message is being carried forward by the Wobblies.

See you at the next Wobbly gathering, in the next labor parade, at the next memorial to labor's heroes, or on the next picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

button under the toilet seat. No? ... But the employer knows that the worker is pretty smart. Given half a chance, he'll try to avoid actually sitting on the seat ... So as soon as the worker puts his hand on the door handle, the electric switch trips and it begins...

So, you have to get into training. You have to arrive with your bowels well loosened and ready for action... The first thing to remember is that you should arrive without your trousers on. You should have your trousers already folded, on your shoulder... Actually, this can look quite stylish... like a sort of scarf... Your shirt should be tucked

up ... And above all, you must forget all that silly stuff about nudity being embarrassing.

... It is only when you adopt a sense of shame that others become aware of the fact that you are naked. ... If you free yourself of this idiotic sense of shame, and just relax, then who's going to worry? There you are, stark naked, relaxed, walking down the street, and people will say: "Oh, look, a duke!"

So there you are, the worker must become a duke when he goes to the toilet; in addition to learning how to match the speed of the assembly line, he must also learn to handle the time limits set by the toilet cubicle.

# IWW Assembly looks to future

continued from page 1

march to oblivion. In Butte, Montana, Wobs led 300 construction workers off the job to join the UPS picket lines. In Albany, NY, Wobs are reorganizing Printing & Publishing Workers IU 450 and have been walking the lines at Borders and for the living wage campaign. In St. Louis, Wobs leafleted workers at Library Ltd., the largest independent bookseller in the area until it was recently gobbled up by Borders. They also have several local and international solidarity campaigns underway.

In Asheville, North Carolina, a food and beverage workers drive is getting underway, and the branch has been doing programs on local labor history in the public schools. Our Portland, Oregon, branch has grown rapidly in the last year, recently spinning off a Construction Workers IU branch and is on the verge of spinning off a branch in IU 630 as well. Philadelphia Wobs brought t-shirts produced by their Fired Workers Work Camp (the bosses do not take kindly to IWW organizing). In Austin, Texas, several restaurant workers have lined up in the OBU, and the branch is also organizing among day laborers.

In Washington state, Wobs have been involved in several organizing drives and a strike at Seattle's Lincoln Park Mini Mart. And Madison Wobs continue to be active in local May Day activities (the city hosts what is almost certainly the country's largest May Day celebrations) and have been active in several local campaigns with housing and labor activists.

## Organizing Everywhere

With increased IWW organizing efforts underway around the world, this year's Assembly heard Industrial Union reports for the first time since the 1950s. Construction Workers IU 330 reported on their efforts among traveling construction workers in the West, which have aided several rank-and-file campaigns for better conditions. IU 460 is organizing brewery workers in Portland, and has won some demands. In New York City Municipal Transport Workers are fighting to build a genuine union that will defend workers. Two San Francisco area computer firms are organized in Communications & Computer Workers IU 560/570, and efforts are underway to organize itinerant computer workers who go from job to job as "independent contractors."

The biggest Education Workers IU 620 campaign underway at present is the Job Corps drive, which has seen four Wobs terminated to date as workers fight to establish their rights. IU 620 has recently petitioned the General Executive Board for an Industrial Union Charter, and hopes to develop a series of leaflets addressing specific issues facing education workers. IWW recycling workers at the University of California won a \$2 an hour pay hike this year, and are increasingly active in the UC Labor

proposal to eliminate the IWW's long-standing practice of imprinting dues stamps to indicate the category of dues (minimum, regular, maximum) being paid; a practice essential to enabling Branches and the General Administration to audit the records of union delegates and ensure that all dues collected are actually paid to the union. Similar proposals have been raised repeatedly over the past few years, with proponents claiming the current practice somehow places a stigma on low-income members. Others insist the current practice is essential to ensure accountability for union funds and protect against misappropriation of funds. This will be the first time members have been asked to vote on the issue.

The full text of all referenda will be published in the September issue of the IWW's *General Organization Bulletin*.

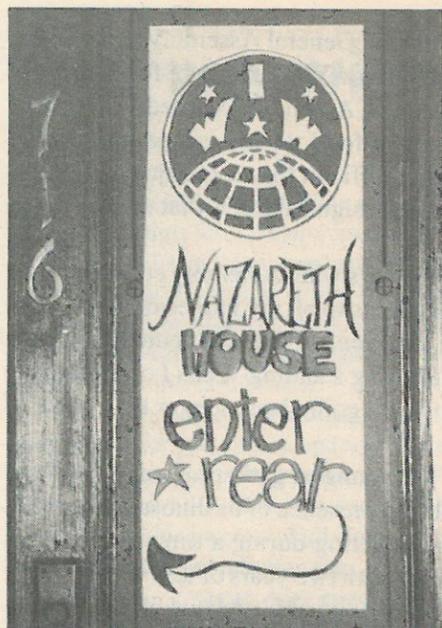
Coalition. They were the only UC union to honor Teaching Assistant picket lines earlier this year.

Portland Wobs are organizing entertainment workers, and are working to build contacts among IU 630 Wobs around the country. Asheville, NC, has begun a drive in Restaurant Workers IU 640. In Austin, IU 640 briefly had majorities in two restaurants but was not able to sustain them.

Restaurant, Education, Printing, Computer, Health Care and Education workers met during the Assembly to discuss organizing strategies and to better coordinate their efforts. Computer workers are organizing an Industrial Union Branch in the San Francisco Bay Area as a building block in forming a functioning Industrial Union. Restaurant workers are launching a newsletter and developing organizing literature. Printing and Publishing workers are drafting a Statement of Solidarity, and working around issues of standards for job shops, workplace safety, subcontracting and conglomerate ownership.

international solidarity and coordination. FW Kevin Brandstatter sent a letter noting the difficulty the Labor Day weekend poses for Wobblies seeking to attend from overseas, suggesting that meeting on the May Day weekend might better facilitate their participation. Alternately, he suggested the possibility of continental Assemblies, perhaps linked over the internet.

Other delegates pointed to the barrier the IWW dues structure presents to Third World workers. Given the enormous disparities in wages around the world, this is indeed a serious problem. But other delegates pointed to the costs of international postage, and the difficulties of conducting routine business over uneven international communications networks, suggesting that the problem might better be addressed by developing a network of autonomous regional sections united on a federal basis by the IWW Preamble and regular exchanges of publications and information. But some delegates felt such an approach would create a loose network of autonomous groups



St. Louis Wobs arranged for delegates to stay at a former convent just two blocks from the Assembly hall.

## Nominations

Fred Chase was the sole nominee for General Secretary-Treasurer. Several candidates were nominated for next year's General Executive Board: Tim Acott (Portland), Laure Akai (Moscow), Monica Berini (Oakland), Alexis Buss (Philadelphia), Bright Chicezi (Sierra Leone), Dan Fisher (Tennessee), Liam Flynn (Berkeley), Miriam Fried (Philadelphia), Mark Johnson (Seattle), Steve Kellerman (Boston), Fred Lee (Leicester), Morgan Miller (Portland), John Persak (Seattle), Penny Pixler (Chicago), Bob Rivera (Michigan), Michael Reinsboro (Los Angeles), Scott Rittenhouse (Los Angeles), Robert Rush (Berkeley), Nathan Smith (Asheville), Bob Tibbs Jr. (St. Louis), Pete Wilcox (Honolulu). Note that many candidates have not yet indicated whether they wish to stand for election, nor has eligibility been verified, so the actual ballot will not include all nominees.

Members will also choose between Asheville (North Carolina), Boston, Detroit, London, Madison, Portland (Oregon) and Toronto for the 1998 General Assembly, and vote on whether to hold the Assembly over Labor Day weekend or in May.

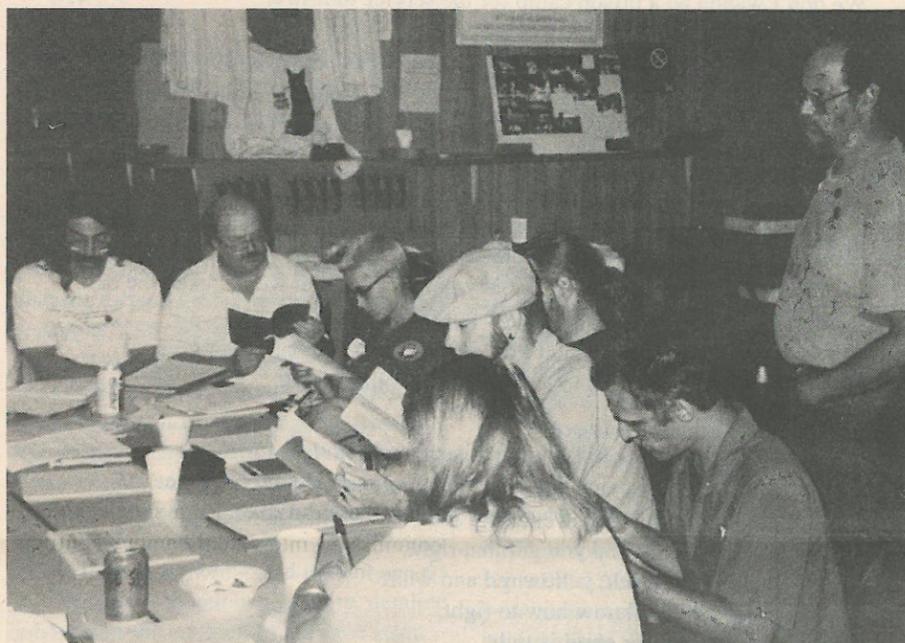
## Assembly Resolutions

Delegates approved a proposal urging each Branch to take responsibility for covering the full cost of providing services to members, even if this requires special assessments or fundraisers, and a motion calling on the General Executive Board to convene a committee incorporating representatives from countries where the IWW has significant membership to develop more effective international structures and communication. Another motion reaffirms the IWW's boycott against Borders Books and calls on IWW branches to step up organizing efforts against the bookstore chain.

Several proposals were sent to referendum vote of the membership, including a constitutional amendment to clarify minimum dues payments from overseas Regional Organizing Committees, a reorganization of the union's General Defense Committee, and to require IWW branches to furnish copies of all external communications to the IWW Archives at Wayne State University. (The text of the latter specifies that this would include email, web sites, and other non-traditional media; how this would be implemented is unclear.)

Another proposal being sent to referendum would amend the IWW Constitution to clarify the conditions under which non-waged producer cooperatives could be recognized as IWW shops. The proposal would require such cooperatives to not undermine wages in the industry, to honor all unions' boycotts and strikes, and adhere to democratic internal practices.

Also being sent to referendum is a pro-



## Industrial Focus

Other workshop sessions examined issues ranging from defense work to the union's difficult financial situation. An International Language Roundtable decided to create a repository of translated union literature in Austin with many items available in translation on the Portland Branch's web site. Their initial focus will be on Spanish-language materials, as this seems to be our most urgent need.

Participants in a round table discussion on Industrial Union & General Membership Branches agreed that GMBs should serve as a resource base for industrial organizing. They proposed that next year's Assembly include a full day of nuts-and-bolts organizing workshops, either immediately preceding or following the business sessions. Also discussed was the need to develop a core of trained organizers who could travel to assist local Branches in organizing campaigns.

A well-attended session on collectives in the IWW spent much of its time discussing how best to integrate these into the IWW's structure and to ensure that union standards were upheld. Delegates hammered out a proposed constitutional amendment which will be sent to referendum this fall. And a meeting of newer members discussed how to overcome barriers to fuller participation in the organization.

## International Growth

The IWW's rapid overseas growth and several inquiries from workers interested in organizing IWW branches in their countries have made the need to more carefully consider how we can maintain ourselves as a functioning international industrial union, at the same time that transnational capital raises ever more potent needs for effective

not strong enough to combat capitalism.

Also discussed was the possibility of organizing an international conference of revolutionary labor unions for 1999. An international commission is to be formed to explore these issues and come back to the membership with concrete suggestions for addressing them.

Other discussion addressed the union's ongoing financial crisis, which we have been attempting to grow our way out of with some success. But it seems fairly clear that while continued growth will continue reducing our operating deficit, a fund-raising campaign will be necessary in the short run to keep the union's office and publications going until membership once again returns to the levels necessary to sustain operations.

There was also extensive discussion of a proposal to revive the IWW's General Defense Committee, with many delegates arguing that under present conditions the GDC served little purpose and that its functions could be better carried out by the General Membership Branches. However, several West Coast locals argued that the GDC could play a useful role in mobilizing strike support and legal representation during disputes.

The Assembly adjourned with delegates gathering in a circle for a slightly off-key but vigorous rendition of Solidarity Forever. As always, I took special pleasure in hearing my fellow workers belt out the verses (e.g., "Is there aught we have in common with the greedy parasite...") censored out when the piccards call the tune.

The Assembly was preceded by two workshops organized by the St. Louis General Membership Branch on organizing and legal research. A Friday evening coffee house brought together delegates and local

# Education Wobs seek Industrial Union charter

EWIU 620 members have petitioned the IWW General Executive Board to issue an Industrial Union charter. EWIU has job control among University of California at Berkeley recycling workers, an Industrial Union branch at the University of Hawaii, and a job branch at Stevenson College, as well as ongoing organizing efforts at Job Corps and elsewhere.

At our meeting at the 1997 General Assembly it was decided to suspend publication of our *Education Workers Organizing Bulletin* in favor of a monthly column in the *Industrial Worker* and a series of IWW leaflets targeting specific issues and groups of workers. (Copies of the Fall 1997 issue are available, featuring articles on teaching radical science and issues of class in professional courses, alongside reports on EWIU organizing, the Keystone campaign, and resource listings. SASE to the Boston branch.) Several fellow workers volunteered to serve on an editorial committee, which is now in formation. It was also agreed to circulate a revised IU ByLaws draft for comment, and to vote on the bylaws and a Regional Organizing Committee concurrent with the Fall referendum.

labor activists for lively conversation and labor songs, though this reporter saw rather more beer flowing than coffee. On Saturday evening, Al Grierson and Joshua Freeze headlined an evening of music. And on Labor Day, those who were able to stay over joined St. Louis Wobs for a lively contingent in the local Labor Day parade. We drew cheers as we marched, chanting "Join the union of your class, Kick the Bosses in the Ass" and other slogans, though efforts to get some labor songs going in the sweltering heat proved less successful.

X331117

This is the first of hopefully many columns by and for Wobblies in Building Construction. We hope to carry news of struggles and other things of interest to 330 cats world 'round.

## Nominations Needed

Nominations of IWW members employed in the education industry to serve on the initial General Organizing Committee should be sent to EWIU 620, c/o 101 Western Ave. #15, Cambridge MA 02139 by October 5th.

## EWIU 620 on-line

An Education Workers Industrial Union 620 introductory leaflet and selected articles from the *Education Workers Organizing Bulletin* are now online at <http://parsons.iww.org/~ewiu>. You can also email EWIU at [ewiu@parsons.iww.org](mailto:ewiu@parsons.iww.org)

## Firings threat breaks strike

Professors at Ferris State University in Michigan struck in late August, but returned to work in the face of administration threats to fire all 450 striking faculty. Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Joseph Charkoff ordered strikers to report for work. He said faculty members who fail to meet his deadline "can be assumed to have resigned from the university."

## Radical teachers "banned"

At least three teachers or union organizers were recently banned on their campuses, and in one case banned across all of South Africa. On August 8, philosophy lecturer, graduate student, and U.S. citizen Aaran Amaral was dragged from his classroom at the University of the Western Cape by federal agents and charged with being a "prohibited person."

Two union organizers at the University of Durban-Westville were similarly removed from their campus in August after being found "undesirable" by a state-appointed commission into recent campus conflicts. The unionists were allowed back on campus



Al Grierson sung labor songs with IWW delegates at the Friday night coffeehouse.

August 29. The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration later agreed the bannings violated the recently-passed Labour Relations Act.

## Students with disabilities win suit against Boston U

A federal judge ruled August 17 that Boston University acted on bias and "uninformed stereotypes" when it changed its rules on accommodating students with disabilities during the 1995-96 school year.

BU President Jon Westling provoked widespread outrage by ridiculing a fictional character he created whose disability caused her to fall asleep. Westling follows a tradition of right-wing theatrics set by former BU President John Silber whose conflicts with students, faculty and workers reverberated throughout academia. In July 1996, 10 students sued BU for discrimination against students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities at BU must now be respected as disabled if so evaluated by a trained professional (not only certified psychologists or physicians, as BU required).

*continued on page 9*

## Organizing Printing & Publishing IU 450

Nine IU 450 fellow workers from across the U.S. met at the General Assembly to discuss issues facing workers in the printing and publishing industry.

We established workplace safety as a top priority for printers. We also decided to work to develop a more precise standard for job shops in the industry. That standard will elaborate what it means to be an IWW IU 450 shop.

For writers, we agreed to handle grievances and discussed attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which supports small and literary presses. The IU 450 committee was divided on this issue. One poet felt that support for the NEA was necessary to defend the small press and diversity in publishing. Some printers felt that fundraising should be left to the bosses, however, and that workers should concentrate on shop-floor issues.

The committee developed a common statement of solidarity between all the different crafts within the printing and publishing industries. Look for the statement in upcoming issues.

Next, we committed to publishing a newsletter/job-zine to aid our organizing. Finally, we planned to research pressing issues in the industry, including sub-contracting, for example, and to educate the public about the effects of media conglomeration.

On the Detroit newspaper strike, we decided to follow the lead of the Detroit and Huron Valley GMBs since those members are on the scene locally and know just what solidarity work needs to be done.

The committee elected Nick Patti as coordinator. For more information, or to get involved, write him at: 180 Washington Ave. #304, Albany NY 12210 phone: (518) 426-0528 e-mail: [pattin@sage.edu](mailto:pattin@sage.edu)

Higgins. Petitions are available from the Portland IU330 Branch; funds are also needed. Send checks to the Brian Higgins Defence Campaign, POBox 447 SWDO, 4 Falcon Road West, Edinburgh, EH10 4AB UK

Wobs, let's make this an International Defence Campaign, An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

## On the Road?

Remember the IWW is the One Big Union. Get involved where-ever you are by contacting the local IU 330 delegate listed below or General Membership Branch listed on page 2 of this newspaper.

## On-Line

Portland IU 330 Branch maintains a World-Wide Web page at: [www.teleport.com/~obu/330.html](http://www.teleport.com/~obu/330.html)

## 330 Delegates (\*) & Contacts

IWW Delegates can sign up new members and take dues. If you are already a member consider becoming a delegate by contacting IWW Headquarters.

Butte: Dennis Georg\* 406-494-5837  
Cape May Courthouse, NJ: Richard Neill\*, POB 261, Cape May Courthouse  
Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074

W. Michigan/N. Indiana: Patrick Klocke\* (Vicksburg, MI) 616-649-1214

Portland: Ian 503-650-7187 (voice mail)  
Seattle/Tacoma: Mark\* 206-935-9012  
or Paul Harris 425 271 0518

St. Louis: Tom Madden 314-647-2093

## Give us a ring

Got news for 330s? Wanna be a contact? Call the Portland IWW Hot-line at 503-650-7187 and leave a message. We'll call you back! Or write to POB 15005, Portland OR 97293 USA. E-mail [obu@teleport.com](mailto:obu@teleport.com)



# The Wobbly



## News from IU 330-Construction Workers

### 300 Walk in Butte, Montana

On Tuesday, August 12th, around 300 Construction Workers here walked off the job to join striking UPS workers. The 300 workers surprised a UPS truck and prevented it from entering the UPS facility. While the boss press has been reporting that Butte is dead as a union town, this action and the widespread boycotting of UPS show up their lies.

IWW Construction workers have been holding meetings here through the summer. The August 20th meeting attracted 25 workers, including a dozen wobs. After the meeting, 6 new members signed up, and 6 more expressed interest.

### Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey IU 330 Branch

Things have been quiet over the summer as our FWs are working overtime. We wish FW Richard Neill well as he recovers from his operation.

### Hiring in Michigan

AFL building trades having hard time finding enough electricians, pipefitters, carpenters, brick masons, etc. Many halls are clear, sad fact is that the non-union is busy too.

The Detroit area has several large projects coming soon. The airport, 3 new casinos (Las Vegas style) and a new baseball stadium. Some of these projects have union labor agreements which might mean

opportunities for non-AFL Wobblies to work by signing up at the Union Halls, they will need all trades including Laborers and cement finishers.

For O.B.U., X344304

### Three Die in Portland, Oregon

Three Iron-workers fell to their deaths here July 31st, after support for a beam gave way. The tragedy occurred on a Parking Garage project at Portland International Airport.

Wobblies investigating the accident are coming across recurrent rumors that several Electricians walked the day before because of unsafe working conditions. Even the local boss press has admitted that many safety violations occurred on the site. Ironwork subcontractor, Midwest Steel, out of Detroit, has recently left the job with 40% of work remaining.

Our efforts to talk to Union officials were rebuffed.

While our knowledge of the "hard" facts of this particular case are few, we can draw up several conclusions. We need a union that doesn't work for the boss, but one that tells the truth - "The working Class and the Employing Class have nothing in common." We don't need the American Separation of Labor, where Electricians and their union don't talk to Steel workers and their union.

It was the rush for profits that killed these Brothers, the need to make a deadline makes dead workers. Capitalism has got to

go! We need One Big Union, Brothers, join the IWW.

### Solidarity Needed for Scottish Construction Worker

Brian Higgins is a Scottish Building Construction worker who needs our help.

Like many of us, Brian Higgins has been fighting for a democratic union. He is a member of UCATT (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians), an "industrial" union in the U.K. Building trades. He has been active with the Building Workers Group and has been Secretary of the Northampton UCATT.

After several workers had been unfairly fired and their UCATT local had done nothing to defend them, Brian sent a polite letter to a local paper. In this letter he pointed out that another UCATT official, Dominic Hehir, while claiming to defend the workers, had in fact done little or nothing.

Hehir then took an unprecedented step of suing Higgins. This is very uncommon in the UK and UCATT is supposed to have mechanisms for dealing with such internal dissent. The question arises: Where does a union official such as Hehir receive the funds to hire lawyers for his suit? The only answer Higgins and his supporters can see is from UCATT and employers who want to see Higgins and the militant Building Workers Group silenced.

The UK IWW is asking IWWs and workers everywhere to support Brian

# Did we win at UPS?

continued from page 1  
sters' summary.)

While a handful of part-time workers will have the opportunity to bid into full-time jobs, the proposed contract does nothing about UPS' practice of defining "part-time" not by the number of hours worked, but rather by what it is willing to pay. Thousands of UPS "part-timers" put in 30, 40, 50 or even 60 hours a week, but are paid at the bargain-basement part-timer rate the Teamsters negotiated back in 1982 – and which hasn't increased since.

The proposed contract does include a 50¢ an hour increase in starting pay for part-timers, and a 40 percent pay hike for current part-timers who stay on the job for the full five years of the contract. However, part-timer turn-over is so high that few workers will actually see much of this increase. Full-time workers will see pay hikes about equal to the current inflation rate.

While the contract does restrict subcontracting outside of peak seasons, the Teamsters agreed to greater labor "flexibility." The new full-timers would handle more packages and be shifted to ancillary work if supervisors think they are not busy enough. The company also determines where to create the new full-time jobs, forcing workers to compete against each other to see who can work fastest and be the most docile.

Many of the workers who will be upgraded to full-timers are known as "air drivers." They work nights loading packages that arrive by air and must be delivered to customers before noon. Often these part-timers, after sorting and loading for several hours, jump into a truck to make the deliveries, adding several hours to their shifts. Under the new contract, their salaries as newly minted full-timers would rise to \$17.50 an hour over five years, from as little as \$11 an hour today. That is still well below the \$20 an hour and up earned by UPS' traditional delivery drivers, who handle par-



On the line in Eagan, Minn.

## Fired for solidarity

Bently Nevada Corp. fired two clerks, Jessica Gomes and Carlene O'Neil, August 8 for refusing to sign for United Parcel Service packages during the Teamsters strike. Other workers at the non-union company signed for the packages, which were delivered by scabs, to show their support for striking workers.

The National Labor Relations Board is considering whether the refusal to sign for packages from scabs is protected activity under U.S. labor law. Nevada union officials have rallied around the women and set up a relief fund for them.

Bently manufactures high-tech protection devices for rotating machinery ranging from turbines to drilling rigs.

Gomes and O'Neil refused to sign for a UPS package when it was delivered to their office on Aug. 6, three days into the UPS strike. But they arranged for another employee to sign for it.

"Bently is not union and is very anti-union," Gomes said. "But we were raised you just don't cross picket lines, and signing for a package would have been like doing that. You're taking bread and butter out of people's mouths if you do it."

Gomes, the sole support for her disabled husband and 9-year-old twins, also has held down a part-time job as a casino keno runner. O'Neil, who's single, still is unemployed. Each had worked at Bently at least five years.

cels that go entirely by truck. The proposed contract would allow "air drivers" to handle ground packages as well.

While the wage gap between full-timers and the relatively small number of part-timers with several years on the job would narrow substantially under the contract – in part by cutting full-time wages – UPS will have a strong incentive to increase its already high turn-over rates, since part-timers will start at \$8.50 (about a third of the rate paid to experienced full-timers) for the life of the contract.

The settlement evidently contains no protections against reprisals, as scores of

## The strikers knew the bosses could not run the plant...

On Saturday I called the Teamsters locals around Minneapolis-St. Paul and got recorded messages saying to call back during office hours. After days of picketing, there was still no hot line for strike information. When we joined the picket line in North Minneapolis, we learned that despite an injunction limiting pickets to three to a driveway, most of the scab shipping was being handled from a suburban depot.

Supervisors were getting trucks in and out of the Eagan depot, though their driving was a bit shaky. Even there, most trucks were going out practically empty, while packages were littering the floors. Supervisors finally resorted to calling customers and asking them to pick their packages up themselves.

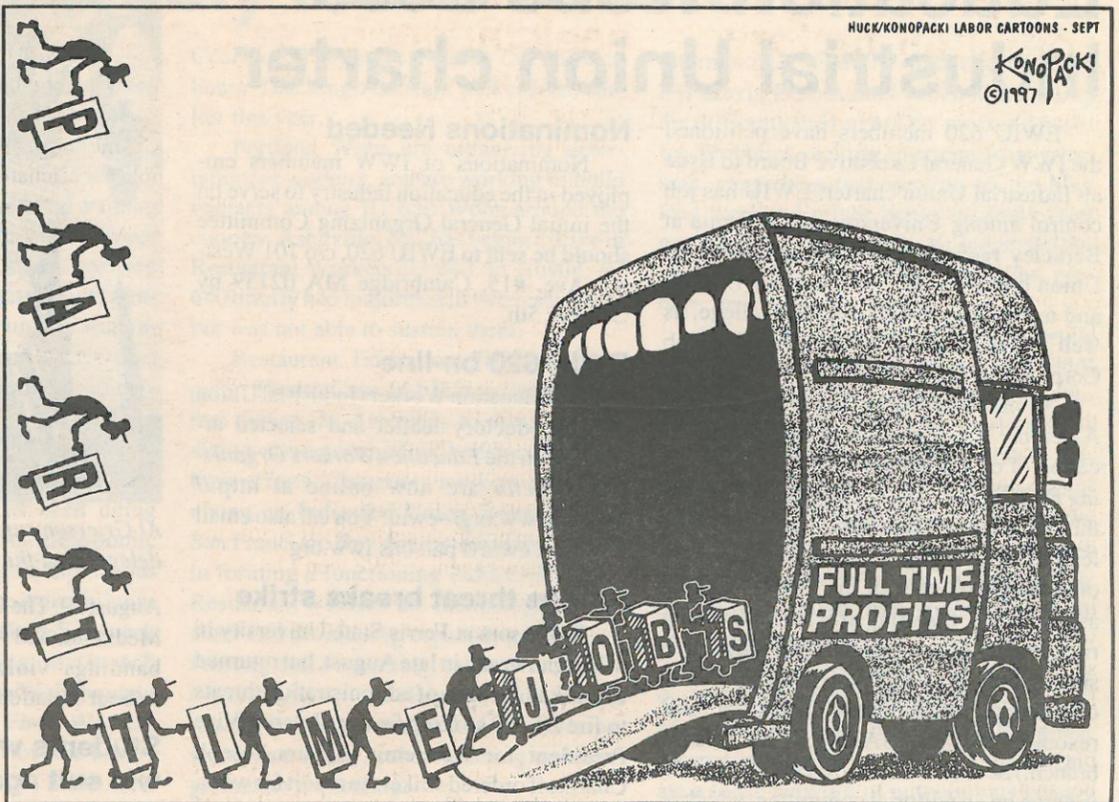
Wobs walked both picket lines throughout the strike. The strikers all knew the bosses could not run the plant, except half-assedly, without the workers. Of course, this is almost always the case – the workers run the plant, the bosses take the profits.

— Don Kurth, Minneapolis/St. Paul

## Union Scabbing

While Teamsters were on strike across the U.S., they were scabbing on themselves in southern Illinois. UPS drivers in Teamsters Local 710 work under a separate local agreement which includes a no strike clause that continued in force even after the contract expired July 31. By picking up trucks off the UPS property, drivers circumvented union rules against crossing union pickets and honored the no-strike clause.

UPS workers in the Chicago area are also covered under a separate local agreement, but joined the national strike. They remained on strike for several days after the national contract was signed and other UPS workers had returned to work, until local negotiations were concluded.



Teamsters learned when they returned to their jobs to find they had been fired or disciplined for union activity. The Teamsters are grieving these case-by-case.

Nor does the proposed contract speak to health and safety issues – other than preserving the current limit of 150 pounds on packages, and workers' right to request assistance for packages of more than 70 pounds – despite UPS' appalling injury rate. Last year UPS workers suffered 33.8 injuries for every 100 workers – an injury rate two and a half times the national transportation average. With managers constantly pressing part-time loaders to work faster, injuries are inevitable. When these part-time workers get injured, they are simply tossed aside and new, cheaper workers hired in their stead.

We hope to publish a more detailed analysis of the contract in our next issue.

## Can Carey Survive?

Meanwhile, IBT President Ron Carey has been forced into a second election after Hoffa forces documented that at least \$221,000 was taken from the Teamsters treasury through illegal kickback schemes and funneled into Carey's re-election campaign. (Why Carey, who owns \$2 million in UPS stock, could not simply finance his re-election himself is unclear.) As we go to press, federal officials are considering a request to bar Carey from seeking re-election based on the massive violations. The Carey camp has asked that opponent Jimmy Hoffa Jr. be expelled from the union.

If the election does go forward, Carey seems likely to run on the strength of his "victory" over UPS. The Hoffa camp claims the reballoting has been rigged in advance, with no contested regional races in their Midwestern stronghold (where the Hoffa slate won the initial election, and would remain in place).

Some consultants involved in the kickback scheme are reportedly bargaining with prosecutors and may turn informer, implicating top Carey aides – and possibly Carey himself. Carey's reputation as a reformer has already been badly tarnished by the scandal, and it may yet cost him his office.

## Fired for speaking Spanish

Two workers hired because they spoke Spanish, and so could communicate with Allied Insurance's Spanish-speaking customers, have been fired for speaking Spanish to each other.

Allied co-owner Pat Polk issued a memo stating that "this be an English-speaking office except when we have customers who can't speak our language. ... If you can't live with the rules here – Draw your pay and make the rules at your next job."

## Bosses salivating at USWA "victory"

The *Wall Street Journal* quotes an industry analyst as saying that "steel industry CEOs are salivating to see what Wheeling-Pitt got" from the Steelworkers union. The USWA heralded the contract as a victory. "None of [the CEOs] will want to accept less than Wheeling-Pitt, so 1999 (when several steel contracts expire) could be a very turbulent year..."

The new contract restores workers' pension plan, but allows Wheeling-Pitt to eliminate nearly one-fifth of the work force, maintaining current production levels through speed-ups and "flexible" work assignments. And workers are locked in to a 5-year contract paying wages far below industry standards.

## No Right to Vote in Longshore union

Several hundred longshore workers were denied the right to vote in the ILWU's recent balloting for international officers, allowing ILWU President Brian McWilliams to eke out a 338-vote victory. The workers are "Class B" members of ILWU Local 13, who pay union dues but are denied the right to participate in the union and can get work only after Class A members have been dispatched.

Ironically, the ballot challenge was supported by ILWU Local 13 officers who continue to go along with the ILWU's decades-long practice of denying these members equal rights in their local. Local 13 allows "B" members to attend meetings, but not to speak or vote. In the past, workers who challenged this second-class status have been blacklisted by the ILWU.

Opposition to the incumbent administration was strongest in the Longshore Division, where resentment against the recently negotiated contract remains fierce.

Less than a third of ILWU members participated in the election, despite a switch two elections ago to a mail-in ballot system. Thus, only about 10 percent of ILWU members voted for the new (old) president.

## Clinton, Union-Buster

President Clinton barred a strike against the Amtrak railroad for 60 days, after 2,300 workers represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) union announced they might strike after two years of fruitless negotiations. The union is seeking to matching terms it won from freight rail companies last year. This is the 12th time Clinton has invoked the Railway Labor Act since he took office in January 1993.

## Workers seize computer factory

Nearly 100 striking workers barricaded themselves in PC World's main plant in Toronto Sept. 8, forcing an end to an eight-month strike in which the computer parts maker was found to be bargaining in bad faith by Ontario's Labour Relations Board.

Members of the Canadian Auto Workers union, who had been on strike since early January, stormed the plant and vowed to continue the occupation until a contract was signed. "They've been using every trick in the book to make sure that we don't get an agreement here," said Bob Cernicki, a union spokesman. "What they're trying to do is bust the union, and damn it, we're not going to let them do it."

Hundreds of unionists picketed the plant in support of the strikers. The company, which makes circuit boards for companies such as Honeywell Inc., Northern Telecom Ltd. and Celestica Inc., had hired 140 scabs.

When strikers refused to surrender the plant or allow managers to re-enter it, they began negotiations – ultimately agreeing to allow workers to return to their jobs and submit the contract dispute to binding arbitration. The strikers then returned the plant to the bosses.

The company has been demanding wage rollbacks and other concessions. Workers had originally sought a pay hike, but later offered a three-year wage freeze. Wages have been frozen since the company sought bankruptcy protection in 1995. In its ruling, the labour board said the company is now "doing well [and] it is therefore difficult to see how the employer can maintain that it must, for financial reasons, seek the concessions it is seeking."

## Education WOB

*continued from page 7*

BU must also reevaluate its no-exemption policy for the foreign-language requirement and pay a \$30,000 fine.

### Until our education's free

Over 2,000 students began a building-occupation August 19 to demand an open meeting on fee increases at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia.

Approximately 80 students remained in occupation two weeks later, when the action became the longest "confined occupation" in Australian history. The campus administration approved a fee increase despite widespread opposition. Most trustees who voted for the increase are representatives of major corporations.

"The Vice-Chancellor and the rest of administration are not elected. As long as this non-representative elite continue to override the wishes of tens of thousands of students and staff, we will continue to fight on," declared one defiant student.

The students wrote a song expressing their stance:

"And you see me, somebody new  
I'm not a stupid little student to be  
screwed over by you

And so you felt like selling out and  
charging students up front fees

And now we're fighting all the way  
until our education's free."

Support letters may be e-mailed to nus@nus.asn.au or

### Asia-Pacific Conference

Education workers from Asia-Pacific countries will share experiences and discuss strategies for dealing with neo-liberal policies in education November 19-20 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The forum is part of the larger 'Peoples' Summit' against the main APEC summit of state and corporate leaders. For information, call the BC Teachers' Federation at 604 871-2255 (fax 604 871-2294) or e-mail kuehn@bctf.bc.ca

## Mexican unions seek independence

Several major Mexican unions struck a blow for labor independence by forming an alternative to the pro-government Labor Congress (CT) August 22-23. Dissident unions formed the yet-unnamed labor group at a two-day assembly in Mexico City.

The new labor federation, likely to be called the National Union of Workers (UNT), could represent as many as 1.5 million workers from nearly 150 independent unions.

Federation leaders vowed to vigorously defend workers' interests. "For the first time, they (government and business) are going to have to sit down at the table and work with us," Alejandra Barrales, leader of a six-union group called FESEBES, told the Reuters news agency. "We won't have any more of those decisions where everything is cooked up ahead of time and they just hand us a line."

### Soldiers break oil rig siege

Soldiers and police removed strikers from an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico August 22, arresting them and carrying them off by helicopter in a dramatic end to a 40-hour siege at sea.

Thirty contract workers on the drilling platform, which belongs to Mexico's state-run oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), effectively held the oil rig hostage for nearly two days in protest against poor pay and working conditions.

### Bosses Strike

Here's a switch. A general strike called by the bosses. Nepal's Chamber of Commerce (NCC) called a day-long general strike Sept. 8 to protest against the government's planned implementation of value-added tax.

### Oust Administrator

The face-off between civil servants in Kaduna state (Nigeria) and the military administrator, Lt Col Ahmed Ali, boiled over when 5,000 protesting students took to the streets demanding Ali's immediate removal for non-payment of teachers salaries. The angry students also accused the military administrator of mismanaging the industrial crisis which has crippled government activities in the state for the past two months. The government refuses to recall 30,000 striking civil servants sacked en-masse for their refusal to return to work after an ultimatum. Students marched from various public secondary schools to the administrator's residence chanting anti-government slogans: "Ali Must Go," "Pay Our Teachers" and "Pay Our Parents." They reportedly held Ali and his aides hostage for more than four hours.

### Labor Curricula

The Global Sweatshop Curriculum Packet has more than 50 pages of information for 4th- through 12th-grade teachers, including classroom exercises and background materials. The packet is campaign-oriented, presenting a highly abstract concept – global economics – in concrete terms. Issues are framed around two campaigns dealing with child labor (FoulBall and Rugmark) and three campaigns dealing with sweatshop practices (Nike, Disney, Guess). The packet discusses sweatshop issues at home and overseas. \$12.50 (US, \$20 Canadian) to Campaign for Labor Rights, 1247 "E" Street SE, Washington DC 20003.

The Yummy Pizza Company curriculum seeks to introduce elementary school students to the work world, featuring a role-play in a pizza factory. During the course kids "work" in the factory, learn about the importance of unions, and produce small pizzas on an assembly line. \$3. For information, Labor in the Schools Committee, California Federation of Teachers, One Kaiser Place #1440, Oakland CA 94612.

## Prison labor

California prisoners have been disciplined because they complained to the press about their being forced to change labels on T-shirts from "Made in Honduras" to "Made in America." Two inmates were sent to the hole by Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility authorities who suspected them of reporting the practice to local television reporters. Both prisoners were then transferred to other prisons for "impugning the credibility" of a prison program.

As a California Department of Corrections (CDC) document put it, one prisoner was transferred – despite the fact that there was no finding he did anything wrong – because of the "negative impact the news media placed on" the CMT Blues Joint Venture Program. Another CDC report notes, "Inmate [Shearwood] Fleming was placed in Ad Seg after it was discovered that he attempted to impugn the credibility of the CMT Blues Joint Venture Program by contacting the news media, thereby, disrupting the orderly operation of the institution."

### Iranian workers protest

Workers at a Machinery Company producing steam boilers and other industrial components in Arak, southwest of Tehran, ended protests demanding increased pay Sept. 8. The plant has 4,000 workers.

The only legal worker representation is through guilds and Islamic work-based councils which are directly controlled by the government. "Shop stewards" must prove their allegiance to the Islamic faith.

There were strikes in the oil refineries of Tehran, Tabriz, Shiraz and Isfahan last December, where one of the workers' main demands was to be allowed to negotiate an agreement with the managers of the Iranian National Petroleum Company. This February further strikes took place outside the Teheran refinery, when 2,000 workers protested over the deterioration in their working conditions and the erosion of their wages. Armed police were used to disperse the strikers and at least 300 were detained.

### LaborTech Conference

*continued from page 12*

through subcontracting and part time/temporary workers. Hamide also reported on racism at Intel where many of the technologists are immigrants, yet when pictures are taken of the developers they are white executives with the company. The threat to democratic rights on the Web was also raised since these workers faced an effort to ban their web pages.

At the closing discussion, many participants talked about the need to stay in touch and the possibility of an electronic mailing list that would keep people together (available from labortech@labornet.org). It was also agreed that the conference reports would be available on video and on the Labor TECH web page at [www.labornet.org/labortech/]. There was also discussion of a future LaborTECH meeting and where it might be held and the re was general agreement that the conference had provided an important vehicle to network and build stronger labor communication links worldwide.

— Steve Zeltzer

## Bangladesh general strike

Police used batons and teargas in running battles with opposition activists during a countrywide general strike that kept transport off the streets and shut businesses across Bangladesh August 24. Up to 50 people were injured, including a newspaper photographer who was hit by a teargas shell and was rushed to hospital in critical condition. Police arrested nearly 20 activists.

The day-long strike was called by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), to protest against a recent increase in fuel prices.

In Dhaka and the main port city of Chittagong, there was no transport on the streets except for a few rickshaws. Trains did not leave their stations or were halted by pro-strike activists on their way. Only a few ferries sailed off before dawn.

## Executive Pay Outpaces Profits

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service reports that pay increases for the nation's top corporate executives over the last 15 years outpaced the growth of corporate revenues and profits. Executive pay surged to \$307.6 billion in 1995, a 182 percent rise from \$108.9 billion recorded in 1980. During that time, corporate revenue rose to \$14.6 trillion, a 128 percent gain. Taxable corporate income rose to \$560 billion in 1995 from \$246.6 billion in 1980, representing a 127 percent gain over the 15 year period.

The rate of executive pay increases could be even higher because the IRS data do not include stock options and other deferred compensation plans. The AFL-CIO reports that the average salary and bonus for top executives in 1995 was \$1.7 million. Including the gains from stock options and other compensation, average executive pay was more than \$3.7 million.

### They're getting nervous...

According to a recent Associated Press report, the experts now concede that workers choose co-workers over bosses by 2 to 1. A study released by the Marlin Co., a developer of workplace communications products, surveyed 1,000 people, while consultants Watson-Wyatt questioned 9,100.

While 61% claimed to be "satisfied" with their jobs, only 32% feel management make "good and timely" decisions. Only 35% felt favorable trust between labor and management, while only 36% said companies sought workers' opinions.

Other figures – 77% of those over 50 felt loyal to management, 57% of those between 18 to 34 felt the same way.

"While 51% of workers said last year they weren't angry at work, the figure dropped this year to 40% this year. Another 40% this year were a little angry, while 23% were somewhat to extremely mad."

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## Non-Union Britain "A Hell On Earth"

"Focus on Fear" is the name of a new report and video issued by the Trades Union Congress, at its recent annual Conference, where "Labour" Prime Minister Tony Blair called on unions to restrain members' demands for better conditions. It shows the hidden world for many workers in a non-union Britain.

The report gives examples of the hundreds of thousands of people who have their health and lives put at risk daily because their bosses exploit the lack of workers rights in Britain, or deliberately flout health and safety laws.

Luke Williams, 17, lost his job as a trainee at a glass factory, when he requested gloves to protect his hands from dangerous chemicals. At a bakery in north London, workers work a 72-hour week in 12-hour shifts for less than £30 a day take home pay. Full-time workers get no company sick pay, and are only allowed two weeks holiday after three years.

Delegates called for a repeal of some of the anti-union legislation brought in during the 18 years of Conservative rule. The "Labour" government shows no interest in doing so, arguing that increased labor rights will reduce competitiveness.

## World Solidarity for Mersey Dockers

*continued from page 1*

and CAST container traffic.

Amsterdam dockers held an all-day stop-work meeting, while dockers in Spain and Portugal held shorter stop-work meetings. In Ireland, dockers in the port of Derry announced a go slow and overtime ban.

The Centre for Indian Trade Unions stopped work in all ports, while Zenkoku Kowan (All Japan Dockworkers Federation) has pledged future action against major shipping lines that do not agree to boycott Liverpool and Sheerness.

St. Johns in Canada was shut the full day, while Vancouver shut in line with the West Coast ILWU action. Halifax shut for 4 hours on the morning shift after pickets ("Supporters of Liverpool") appeared at the gates of the port.

Thirty members of Reclaim the Streets picketed the house of Mersey Docks Chairman Gordon Waddell in West London from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. A sympathetic neighbour brought them tea on a tray. The group then went to the offices of Drake International. 13 protesters managed to enter the building and occupy the offices for over 30 minutes. RTS engaged Drakes management in debate over the Liverpool dispute, and attempted to hang banners from the windows. The group dispersed after the police arrived and threatened arrests.

### Dockers block fruit exports

South African dockers held work stoppages and demonstrations Sept. 9 linking Liverpool to the problems in South African ports and the demand for a national dock labour scheme. They are implementing a total boycott of Liverpool and Sheerness trade, and will halt fruit exports to Britain. Oranges and other South African citrus fruit marketed by Capespan land at the Port of Sheerness, which is owned and operated by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. MDHC recently announced a 20-year contract to handle Capespan imports.

Fresh produce represents over a third of activity at Sheerness. MDHC has invested over £9 million to upgrade cold storage facilities at the terminal and a further £8 million on a new hinterland complex.

Other solidarity actions are hitting ports around the world, as rank-and-file dockers show their determination to stand with their

# Growing Up Wobbly

**Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. London & New York: Verso, 1997. 224 pages

Roxie Dunbar, her name during the period covered in this book, has written a truly remarkable memoir. During her childhood and adolescence in the 1940s and '50s she neither witnessed nor participated in any momentous events. Yet by describing her own life and that of her family, she draws a compelling portrait of her people – the Okies.

The Okies are probably best known from John Steinbeck's epic account in *The Grapes of Wrath* of the fictional Joad family, forced to leave their Oklahoma farm by the Dust Bowl conditions of the 1930s, their trek to California, and the execrable conditions they are then forced to live under as migrant farm workers. Dunbar's family was among those who remained in Oklahoma, participating in the culture of their people while struggling to survive through sharecropping and wage slavery on the fringes of the petroleum industry.

Dunbar's father worked as a tenant farmer during her childhood. When the landlords changed over from cotton culture to wheat with its large-scale mechanized character, the sharecroppers were pushed off the land and the elder Dunbar became a truck driver for the Mobil Oil company. Neither pursuit ever paid much of a living and the Dunbars always experienced a grinding, soul-destroying poverty. Roxie describes the way in which this poisoned the lives of

her parents and corroded their relations with each other, turning their frustrations in upon themselves.

The aspect of this memoir that is of particular interest to readers of the *Industrial Worker* is that Roxie's paternal grandfather, a veterinarian, was an active member of the Socialist Party from its founding in 1901 and of the IWW from 1905. She describes him as an organizer for both organizations. Of the two he preferred the more radical IWW; the family kept a framed copy of the IWW Preamble on the wall along with other mementos of grandpa's wobbly days. Oklahoma had a larger percentage of its population enrolled in the SP than any other state and the wobs were enjoying success in organizing the workers of the region, particularly oil workers. When naive radicals launched the Green Corn Rebellion in 1917, the boss class unleashed a campaign of terror that succeeded in crushing the workers' movement. Grandpa Dunbar was beaten almost to death, from which beating he suffered permanent brain damage, and driven out of town. The workers of Oklahoma retreated into demoralization and were subjected to a boss regime harsher than what most of the rest of us have to bear which has persisted down to this day.

The ongoing red scare was so successful that by the early 1950s, despite the Preamble on the wall and her father's stories, Roxie was politically disoriented and believed McCarthy and Cohn to be heroic figures. She describes her family's reaction

Liverpool fellow workers. The Port of Auckland was closed for two and a half hours August 18 for a support meeting. Dockers there unanimously approved the following resolution:

### A vital need for solidarity

"Whereas Those attending this meeting have stopped work to support 500 Liverpool Dockers locked out for 24 months by the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company for refusing to compromise their principles and cross a picket line

"Whereas Actions by Waterfront Workers on five continents around the globe, on this international day of action, highlights the effects of casualisation on permanent waterfront workers' jobs worldwide caused through deregulation, privatisation, and re-enforced by repressive legislation ...

"Whereas Attacks around the country have eaten into our permanent jobs, we recognise the vital need for solidarity, and recognise that only international solidarity has kept the employers from crushing the 500 Liverpool Dockers and their families. Thus demonstrating that solidarity, on local, national and international levels, is the best way to ensure waterfront workers maintain their specific culture and job security.

"Therefore it is resolved:

"That this meeting of the New Zealand Waterfront Workers Union, Auckland Branch determines to continue holding the belief that the Liverpool struggle is our struggle and that victory for the Liverpool Dockers and their families will be a victory for dockers the world over. Therefore just as waterfront employers have gone global, so too must workers to enable them to protect and assist each other ..."

### Union Scabbing

Despite this strong and growing international support, the Liverpool dispute continues to be prolonged by union scabbing. Members of the Transport & General Workers Union, to which the Liverpool dockers are affiliated, cross the picketlines on a daily basis, carrying scab cargo in and out of Mersey ports.

The Labour government is the single

biggest shareholder in Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Nor has the TGWU taken any action either to stop its union scabbing at MDHC ports or for a general shutdown of British ports until the locked-out dockers are restored to their jobs.

Instead the TGWU has focused on negotiating surrender terms. The "settlements" the TGWU has offered would restore only about 50 dockers, earning wages half those they earned before the dispute began. The dockers have consistently refused these surrender pacts, despite the fact that most are approaching retirement age and would receive relatively large buy-outs. The MDHC has refused to consider the dockers' demand that Drake International and other scabherders be removed from the port, instead insisting that workers be employed through these employment agencies.

Unemployment in the region is so high that Drake has been able to recruit scabs, though few of the scabs stay for more than a few weeks. Business is down substantially at the port, but MDHC relies on revenues from other ports and its property holdings to cover the heavy losses in Liverpool.

Ultimately, this strike will be won only when the labor movement – in England and around the world – decides to act on the principle that An Injury to One Is An Injury to All, and acts to shut down all MDHC operations and all shipping lines doing business with them. Sporadic acts of solidarity, as important as they are both symbolically and as a means of imposing real costs on the shipping industry, may eventually bring the company to terms. But more determined, consistent action could win now – none too soon for the nearly 500 dockers who have been locked-out for the past two years.

### Step Lively, Mates

The U.S. Post Office fired a White Plains, NY, mail carrier after 18 years on the job because her step is too short. A time-and-motion man clocked her at 66 paces per minute, "with a stride of less than one foot... At each step, the heel of your leading foot did not pass the tow of the trailing foot by more than one inch."

to the execution of the Rosenbergs as a generalized inchoate fear – fear of Russia, fear of atom bombs, and, above all, fear that they or anyone might be strapped in the electric chair like Julius and Ethel. (Parenthetically, I remember my family in New York having a similar reaction and have wondered ever since why people didn't ask instead why the government was framing up reds in a show trial atmosphere that Vyshinsky and Stalin would envy.)

After a childhood blighted by the effects of poverty, illness, and parental alcoholism, Roxie entered the substantially dif-

## Book Review

ferent worlds of work and school. Work in Oklahoma involved being subjected to serf-like conditions and miserable pay. When Roxie remarked to a group of fellow workers that they should form a union and try to improve things, she was instantly fired and blacklisted. Education, on the other hand, allowed her to cultivate her remarkable writing ability, to understand her experiences in the context of the larger Oklahoma society, and to meet other people of a rebellious and bohemian bent.

Told in a spare style that manages to convey much more than a lot of flowery description, *Red Dirt* tells the reader what the life of an Okie is like and confirms Grandpa Dunbar's conviction of how it could be improved.

PS: Roxie Dunbar's father's name is Moyer Haywood Pettibone Scarberry Dunbar!

— Steve Kellerman X325068

### Bread & Roses Festival

*continued from page 3*

the strike as the golden age when he was growing up. He pointed out that Sharon Kennedy, the historical re-enactor who was telling the story of the strike, was dead wrong on one point... the strikers never sang that "Bread and Roses" song. We agreed it had been written after the strike. He said, "I know three songs they sang. My father taught them to me." We showed him the Little Red Songbook, and he leafed through it and found all three.

We were interviewed for the local cable channel, and a German radio reporter came by to interview the old-timers and comment on the IWW. We exchanged visits with the other labor tables, including Jobs with Justice, the United Farm Workers and the Detroit Newspaper strikers. Several varieties of socialist came by, and we even had fruitful discussions with a couple of "long-haired preachers." And of course, we heard and talked with the musicians, including Patty Larkin and Si Kahn.

A group of workers from Vermont who are working on restoring a Rutland labor hall (where some of the strikers' children were sent for safety during the strike) had an enlarged photo of some of the children and were asking people in Lawrence to identify them. Four of them were identified that day.

The Festival came at the end of a five-day North American Greens' Gathering, and both of us were able to attend some sessions of it. It was a good cross-fertilization of the various left tendencies, and there were some very clear presentations on things like community organizing and energy deregulation.

— Jim Giddings X346961

### Northeast Regional Meeting

Plans for the Northeast regional gathering in Amherst, Mass., are shaping up. Local Wobs and early arrivals will socialize Friday evening, Oct. 17. The main program begins Saturday at 10 a.m., and conclude with an evening dinner and concert (there will be a place to stay for the night). The tentative agenda includes industrial organizing and regional coordination.

# Labor Song

**IWW Little Red Songbook** (36th Edition)  
103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

**Cassettes, \$10 each.**  
**Rebel Voices.** IWW Songs sung by IU 630 Wobs.  
**We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.** Utah Phillips sings Wobbly songs.  
**Heartland, Anne Feeney Live** includes "War on the Workers"  
**Good News.** Sweet Honey in the Rock  
**All Used Up.** Utah Phillips  
**Don't Mourn, Organize!** Songs of Joe Hill by various artists  
**I Have Seen Freedom.** Si Kahn  
**As Seen on No TV.** Chris Chandler  
**Smash the State and Have a Nice Day.** Citizens Band  
**It Takes A Lot of People.** Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids  
**A World to Win.** Tom Juravich  
**Greenfire.** Dakota Sid, Travers Clifford  
**Food Phone Gas Lodging.** Charlie King  
**Justice.** Toshi Reagon  
**Out of Darkness.** Tom Juravich

**Compact Disks \$15 each.**  
**Look to the Left.** Anne Feeney  
**Heartland, Anne Feeney Live**  
**Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs.** Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, \$10.

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

## New Button

**3" IWW Button** (Red & Black, "Labor Is Entitled to All It Creates") \$2. Minneapolis/St. Paul IWW, 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield MN 55423-3025.

## Bumperstickers

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

## Silent Agitators

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

## Clearance

**The Road to Rebellion, Class Formation and Kansas Populism, 1865-1900** by Scott McNall, pub'd \$49.95, now \$10.  
**Power!** by MacShane, Plaut & Ward. Black workers' fight to improve everyday life and transform South Africa. \$8, now \$4  
**The Yale Strike of 1984-85** now \$4  
**The Cointelpro Papers,** now \$7

# Books for Rebel Workers

**One Big Union.** by IWW.  
The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

**1998 Labor History Calendar**  
14 photos, hundreds of dates. \$8.50

**The General Strike.**  
Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2

**Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.** by Staughton Lynd.  
Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

**IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Ed)**  
A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5

**Bread & Roses, \$2**  
British IWW magazine #1 Lead story: Five More Years of Hard Labour?

**Red November Black November: Culture and Community in the Industrial Workers of the World** by Salvatore Salerno.  
Examines the interactions between the IWW and anarcho-syndicalism, with more attention than usual to the IWW's foreign-language papers. \$21.95

**A New Union Vision**  
Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2

**Baseball caps \$9**  
Black globe on red cap, adjustable sizing.

**Joe Hill T-shirts**  
Gray w/ pocket. Front has picture of Joe Hill, back IWW Globe & "Because capitalism cannot be reformed" \$12

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**Fire Your Boss! \$1.**  
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**IWW Globe** circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

**Greeting Cards**  
May Pole cards, featuring workers dancing around a May Pole flying the red flag, \$5/dozen. The cat knocking over the xmas tree \$5/dozen. Also a card designed by Joe Hill, 4 color, glossy cover, \$10/dozen.

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

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

**Democratic Rights for Union Members: A Guide to Internal Union Democracy.** by H.W. Benson  
What you need to know to take on union bureaucracy through established procedures, \$8.

**From the Ground Up, Essays on Grassroots & Workplace Democracy.** by George Benello  
Essays by eminent libertarian philosopher with commentaries by others, \$6.

## Workers' Culture

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

**Posters by Carlos Cortez**  
Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

**Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid.** by Carlos Cortez.  
IWW artist's poetic take on life today. \$4

**Images of Labor.** compiled by John Gorman  
Memorabilia from the National Museum of Labor History, London - badges, banners, buttons, sculpture, paintings, etc. from the British labor movement. \$12

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**Mad in the USA.** by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.  
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**Schooling for "Good Rebels": Socialist Education for Children in the United States, 1900-1920** by Kenneth Teitelbaum  
Explores the weekend schools American socialists organized to teach children about social justice. \$20 (published at \$44.95)

**Art for the Masses: A Radical Magazine and its Graphics, 1911-1917** by Rebecca Zurier  
An innovative revolutionary magazine that showcased artwork by Robert Minor, Art Young and Pablo Picasso to name a few. 150 illustrations, \$10

**RAW, High Culture for Low-brows** ed. by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly, \$10.

**X, Pictures by Sue Coe** by Coe and Judith Moore  
Life of Malcolm X, \$5.

**Food Not Bombs.**  
Veggie recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

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

**Video Documentary**  
**Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders,** by Zimya Toms-Trend. 28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

# Radical Thought

**War Against the Greens: the "Wise-Use" Movement, the New Right, and Anti-Environmental Violence** by David Helvarg \$15

**Rebels Against War: The American Peace Movement, 1933-1983** by Lawrence S. Wittner \$10

**Live From Death Row** by Mumia Abu-Jamal, \$17.

**Death Blossoms** by Abu-Jamal  
More death row writings by America's most famous political prisoner. \$12

**A Little Working Class Sense** by Gilbert Mers  
A veteran labor activist calls on workers to once again take up the struggle against capitalism. \$3

**The World Bank: A tale of power, plunder & resistance** by Alec Dubra & Mike Konopacki  
A comic book in lurid color. \$2.95

**Behind the Silicon Curtain, The Seductions of Work in a Lonely Era.** by Dennis Hayes.  
All the dirt and alienation of technomonad-"paradise," \$6.

**Life & Thought of Friedrich Engels, A Reinterpretation.** J.D. Hunley. \$15

**The Political Economy of Participatory Economics.** by Michael Albert & Robn Hahnel.  
A nuts-and-bolts approach to a participatory, egalitarian economy. \$8.

**Opposing NAFTA, International Opposition to NAFTA.** Jason Justice, \$1

**Classrooms First! The 1996 Oakland Teachers' Strike.** Jason Justice. \$2

**Fields, Factories and Workshops.** by Peter Kropotkin.  
Analysis of early 20th Century production of relevance to contemporary adherents of decentralized production. \$10.

**The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric** by Ben Sachs, \$3.

**Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico.** by Dan LaBotz.  
Rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

**Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism.** David Noble.  
Technology is a political question, and too often workers are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses, \$15.

**Stonewall** by Martin Duberman, \$15.

**The Movement and the Sixties, from Greensboro to Wounded Knee.** Terry Anderson. \$15

**Break-Ins, Death Threats and the FBI, The Covert War Against the Central America Movement** \$6.

## Available from IWW Branches

### T-SHIRTS

**I'm A Little Wobbly** Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. **The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union** Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. **An Injury To One Is An Injury To All** Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. **Joe Hill** White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10. **Employing Class** Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514  
**IWW "Wings" 3" wide bullion pin,** IWW Globe between sabots. \$10. Zeta-max, POB 8882, Baltimore MD 21224.

**Workers' Guide to Organizing** \$4.50. **Guide to Direct Action** \$4.50; both \$8.25. Lehigh Valley GMB, POB 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

**Collective Bargaining Manual** \$2.50. New York GMB, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

**Out of the Depths (Ludlow Massacre) \$11.95; Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History** by Noel Ignatiev. \$7. P & L Printing, 2298 Clay St., Denver CO 80211

**British Isles - Songbook** (36 Edition) £4 post-paid; a selection of IWW literature is available from IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1.

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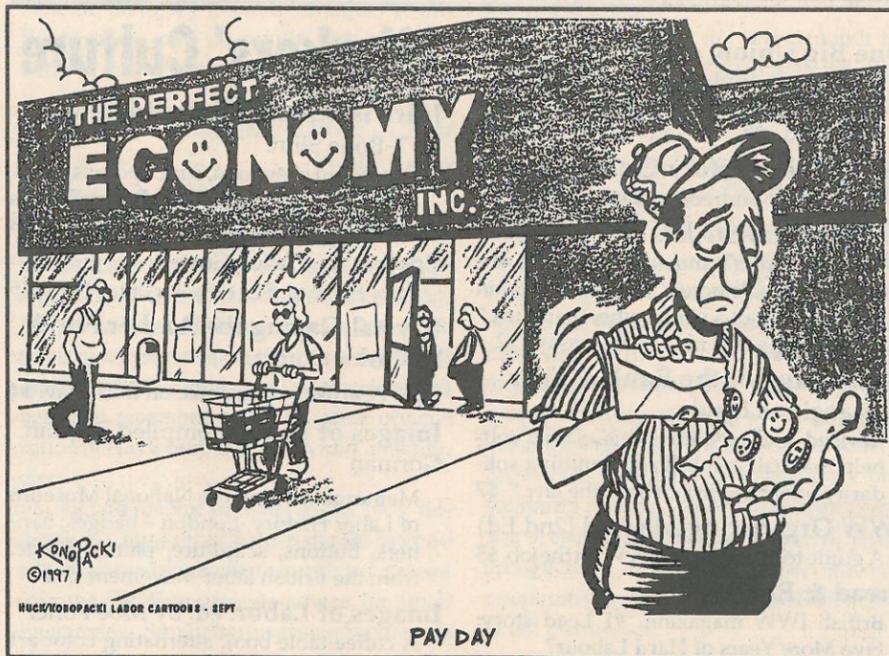
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# Tufts custodians fight SEIU sell-out

Seventy Tufts University custodians have been picketing the school's Somerville, Massachusetts, campus since they were locked out of their jobs July 31. Instead of defending its long-time members, Service Employees International Union Local 254 signed a contract with the contractor who fired them. Under that contract SEIU 254 will continue collecting union dues from workers' pay checks, but wages were slashed from \$12 to \$13 hourly to just \$9.50 an hour. Only two of the original workers have gotten their jobs back, though most picketing custodians say they can not afford to work at the new scale. "They threw us out like we throw out the trash," said Jose Melo.

Tufts contracted out the custodians' jobs in 1994, and workers who had put in 25 years working for Tufts were transferred to Unico. Local 254 negotiated a contract freezing wages for existing workers and slashing benefits, while allowing new hires to be paid \$9.50. Workers initially rejected that contract, but approved it under pressure from SEIU officials who said it was the best they could get. Dozens of workers retired or were forced out between 1994 and 1997.

Workers were negotiating for a new contract when Tufts decided to transfer their work to a new contractor in order to save \$2 million over three years. The new contractor, International Service Systems, announced that workers would have to reapply



for their jobs and accept deep pay cuts if they wanted to stay on. SEIU officials then stepped in, scheduling a vote on a proposal to merge the Tufts work into its existing contract with ISS.

Janitorial contractors are making profit margins of up to 20 percent, according to former chief steward David Reese, by paying workers rock-bottom wages and cutting back their hours. Even under the old contract, Reese says, workers were not trained

to handle biohazards—resulting in the bomb squad being brought in on one occasion to handle improperly disposed of wastes—and were required to work with dangerous chemicals without proper protection.

SEIU 254 officials don't understand why the janitors are griping. "This is a contractual issue," spokesman Francis Fanning said. "ISS has offered [workers] employment, and they can take that, just at a lower wage."

# Using Technology to Build Labor

Over 150 labor video, computer and media communicators came together from around the world for the 1997 LaborTECH conference held at San Francisco State University July 11-13.

The conference began with a report on the use of the internet by unionists for union democracy and solidarity. Daymon Hartley, a striking worker from The Newspaper Guild in Detroit, reported on how he used the internet to mobilize for the June 21 national labor demonstration in Detroit and helped build support for the action through a web page and a cybercampaign. Hartley noted that the use of the internet by rank-and-file workers had forced more unions to start using it. Show by example, Daymon said.

He was joined on the panel by Mark Hannibell, an American Airlines Pilot who helped establish a web page called APA Pilots Defending The Profession. Mark outlined how the union prepared to fight AA and how he used the network to inform members of a proposed contract that would have made major concessions. Using their network, the pilots were able to get the deal voted down and also put in new leadership.

The last panelist, Chris Bailey from Labournet UK, helped established the Docker's web page which was used to help build an international dockers strike in solidarity with the Liverpool dockers. Bailey pointed out that for the first time dockers world wide, as well as other unionists, had the opportunity to not only share information instantaneously but to discuss strategy and tactics in the trade union movement.

The internet for labor has offered the basis for a democratic vehicle for labor internationally to deal with every issue it faces and this, according to Bailey, has helped transform the relationship, consciousness and solidarity of dockers around the world.

After these strong initial presentations the conference broke down into workshops on a host of issues from developing labor tv shows on cable and how to finance them, as well as on-line labor communities on the internet.

Another important panel was the use of multi-media in labor education. Fred Glass,

Communication Director of the California Federation Of Teachers, showed videos and a lesson book on labor education that is now being used in the schools. There were also panels on how to use web pages to get your information out and break the information blockade.

This was followed the next day by a session on privatization of the internet and cable along with PBS. The panel reported that TCI and other media companies are dominating every aspect of broadcasting from the internet, cable television and PBS. This monopolization has led to further censorship and a threat to democracy in the US and internationally. Labor film maker Rick Tejada Fores, who produced "Fight In The Fields," was told that he could not take any labor money if he wanted to get the documentary on PBS. This double standard is the common operating practice. While big business has dozens of shows, labor plays the role of second class citizen.

The conference also provided a cybercafe for participants to use to see what new labor web pages and other technologies are being used internationally. The conference organizers provided tutors for those who were unfamiliar with the use of the internet and the use of web pages.

One of the hottest debates was the labor communication and NAFTA and GATT panel. Jim Catterson, an information officer with the ICEM in Brussels, pointed out that the implementation of GATT and other trade agreements are a direct threat to labor rights internationally. The growth of non-union industries not just outside the US but in the US is now threatening the strength of labor internationally. The United States now has the largest number of non-union auto plants in the world. BMW, Mercedes, Toyota, Nissan and Honda are all non-union in the US while they are unionized in most countries around the world.

A discussion also took place about how to provide information on the dangers of these new trade agreements to labor and the environmental movement. Judith Barrish, Communications Director of the California Federation of Labor pointed out that the effort to expand NAFTA throughout the

hemisphere is opposed by more and more unions and Ed Rosario, president of the SF chapter of Labor Council For Latin American Advancement raised the need for direct links between all trade unionists in the America. He also announced a conference November 14-16 in San Francisco of unionists from throughout the Western Hemisphere to organize against NAFTA and privatizations. A web page is also being set up to provide a report from each and every country that will have representatives on how these trade agreements have effected their members and the country as a whole.

Myoung Joon Kim from the Korean Labor Video Production pointed out that through the use of video and the internet, the Korean labor movement was able to link up with labor world wide. This was especially the case during the general strike in December/January. Kim presented his video at a solidarity night during the conference and the audience was enthralled with the use of music and editing to tell the story of their strike. He also invited participants and unionists around the world to attend an International Labor Media Conference in Seoul November 10-12. Korean unionists are very interested in hearing about the use of labor technology in order to build and develop

Shop steward Edward Spinucci was shocked when SEIU 254 bussed in non-Tufts workers to vote on the contract. Workers had planned to vote the proposed contract down. "Tufts didn't want a strike; they wanted SEIU to do anything they could to stop it," Spinucci said. "Between Tufts and 254, we feel there was corruption there."

Tufts is hiding behind its contractors, pretending it has no obligations to its workers even as it tries to contract out more workers' jobs. But the custodians aren't buying it, and are determined to step up the pressure until the university is forced to give them their jobs back. "We have to fight for what we believe in," Spinucci says. After all, "there are no jobs out there" paying a living wage.

More than a hundred Tufts faculty have signed a petition supporting the custodians, and community supporters have organized a food bank to help them carry on. A handful of students are trying to organize solidarity on campus. And more than 100 people—including contingents from the IWW and the Labor Party—joined a September 3 rally and march through the Tufts campus.

Meanwhile, SEIU collects \$21 a month from workers earning poverty wages. ISS rakes in its profits. Tufts' other unionized workers show up at work each day confident in the knowledge that Tufts hasn't attacked them—yet. And the fired janitors picket every morning at Somerville's Powderhouse Square, fighting for their jobs and a chance at a living wage.

their movement. They also have a web page for their conference at <http://kpd.sing-kr.org/labormedia>

Under Ozdemir representing the Turkish trade union federation DISK reported that the expense of the internet in Turkey made it very difficult for unions to use this technology but efforts were being made to train unionists in the use of web pages and provide regular information on how this technology is being used around the world

Onder also reported that the struggle against privatization in Turkey had been helped as a result of his ability to get information about anti-privatization fights around the world. He said that the Turkish government and capitalists have said that Turkey was the only country that was fighting privatization and everyone else had accepted it but when he translated information about worldwide struggles against privatization with the use of the web and the internet he was able to get it out to tens of thousands of workers.

One of the most interesting developments was the participation of workers from the computer industry. Ken Hamide, an organizer of Face Intel, and a group of workers from Microsoft reported on how the industry contracts out their work and seeks to isolate workers from each other

*continued on page 9*

## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

**To Join** mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker*