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EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

Union scabs defeat Utah strikers

The Hexcel strike ended January 11, the 85th anniversary of the Bread and Roses strike. The Lawrence strikers were in large part immigrant women. The use 'em, abuse em, work 'em until they die and send for another boatload class. The Hexcel bunch was about 60 percent women and/or minorities, a typical working-class mixture of the 1990s.

The Bread and Roses strike went 63 days and won gains of 5 to 25 percent for the strikers. It pushed up wages in the non-striking industries in the Lawrence area.

We went 68 days and lost. While there were only 188 Hexcel strikers, our loss will unfortunately have an impact on our community's wages.

Wobblies figured heavily in both strikes. Lawrence was an IWW strike. Hexcel was an IWW-supported strike. I don't think there's a Wob in the Salt Lake area who hasn't spent time on the OCAW 2-591 picket line carrying signs and yelling at scabs. Fellow Wob Dayne Goodwin's expertise was invaluable in arranging benefits and getting our message out. It would have been a different strike without him.

Since Hexcel took over the plant July 1, 1996, cutting wages and benefits, OCAW members and Wobblies have been putting pressure on the company. From early July until the strike November 2, one Wob made and hung signs on power poles in support of the Hexcel people. Power poles make good sign posts, and some are in great locations. About 15 were series of signs featuring Burma shave-style doggerel. Thirty were 2 by 4 foot signs, "Hexcel robs working families & drives down Utah wages."

One Hexcel worker topped those signs with 97 cent 4 by 8 foot tarps featuring anti-Hexcel slogans, which were hung from overpasses. More than 80 went up. Both tactics worked well and were cheap. Hexcel was kept busy trying to tear them down at an expense much greater than the cost of the signs. At the time of the IWW General Assembly, some unknown miscreants plastered a Hexcel parking lot with several hundred fliers in support of the Hexcel workers. If any miscreants are reading this, Thanks.

Hexcel ran a full-page ad in both Salt Lake newspapers in an attempt to counter the bad publicity. They couldn't keep up with the signs and tarps. Their bucket truck

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Wherehouse workers demand IWW recognition

IWW members have been picketing Wherehouse music and video stores in the San Francisco Bay Area since two IWW members working for the chain were fired Jan. 4 for union activity. The Wherehouse chain, which is owned by Merrill Lynch, has had an IWW union drive on in their El Cerrito store since November, and more than half the workers in the store are now paid-up IWW members. On the eve of a National Labor Relations Board hearing to determine whether the union could proceed on a store-by-store basis, the store manager fired union supporters Jason Justice and Lakiesha Keene for union activity.

Since the firings, Wobblies in the El Cerrito store have had their hours cut in an effort to harass them into quitting before the representation election (scheduled to happen shortly after we go to press, though the bosses are pressing for a delay to facilitate their efforts to drive union supporters out of the store), and to discourage workers in other Wherehouse outlets from organizing. Workers in the Alameda Wherehouse have already filed for union recognition, and workers in other Bay Area stores are lining up.

Since the IWW organized the El Cerrito store the manager has been replaced with an anti-union manager from Alameda. Several workers in the Alameda store overheard what was supposed to be a secret conversation about union-busting between corporate managers.

When the area manager, regional manager, human resources manager and store manager were having a conference call the call accidentally went out over the speaker phone system in front of all the workers. The managers admitted that fellow workers Justice and Keene were fired to stop the IWW drive, said the new manager for the El Cerrito

store was purposefully selected to carry out a union-busting drive and to weed out all IWW members at the El Cerrito store, and agreed that any workers seen in any Wherehouse store wearing an IWW pin were to be fired. They finally expressed fear of the IWW; they're worried because the IWW is "anti-management and anti-corporation."

Wobblies are not taking this union-bust-

ing laying down. Weekend picket lines have gone up at the Alameda, El Cerrito and San Francisco Wherehouse stores. Thirty Wobs and supporters picketed the El Cerrito Wherehouse Jan. 11, turning away most customers. Two weeks later, three dozen picketed the El Cerrito and Alameda stores, singing Wobbly songs and distributing so

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IWW members picketed the Alameda, Calif., Wherehouse Jan. 26 to demand an end to firings of union supporters. photo: Robert Rush

General Strike demands labor rights

Korean President Kim Young-Sam has suspended arrest warrants against union leaders and opened negotiations on a labor law - rammed through the National Assembly in a seven-minute pre-dawn meeting - which would allow employers to fire or lay-off workers more easily, replace strikers with scabs, ban public sector unions, and keep Korea's militant independent unions illegal. Negotiations are underway as we go to press, punctuated by weekly warning strikes.

Within hours of the Dec. 26 legislation workers began walking off their jobs at South Korea's biggest car plants and at major shipyards, stopping production of the country's major export items. A day later 350,000 workers were on strike, including many from the government-tied Federation of Korean Trade Unions. Workers rallying in Seoul chanted "fight, fight, fight!"

On Jan. 10, the 16th day of what had become the largest strike in South Korean history, strikers and police clashed in the industrial city of Ulsan. About 20 workers and police were injured as protesting workers threw chunks of concrete at cops firing tear gas. The Yonhap news agency reported that the streets looked "like a battle field."

Strikers formed human chains outside churches and workplaces where union leaders defied orders to turn themselves into police. The outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions says it will resume "all-out struggle" if the government does not repeal the anti-labor law.

The Korean explosion of labor protests resembles the strikes that shook France in December 1995 and the current strikes in Bulgaria in that workers are not striking for better wages and hours. Instead, with considerable popular support they are fighting

government actions that make workers pay for globalization. The weakness of organized labor has allowed the international business community to pass the full weight of dislocations caused by globalization onto the workers; those of each country being called upon to make sacrifices to retain "their" country's "global competitiveness."

Capitalism decrees that maximizing return on capital has priority over any other responsibility, and governments legislate accordingly. This tends to collapse politics and economics into the two sides of one coin, and one can expect that in the future more strikes will be directed against the governmental wing of the employing class. How much U.S. auto workers get paid depends partly on how much Korean auto workers make; the better-paid and more secure they are, the less their wage levels can be used to pull down ours in a lose-lose competitiveness game.

Korean workers are fed-up

In 1983 Jongsoae Oh worked as a mill-ing machine operator in the Hyundai Engine

Industry Company in Seoul, South Korea. He often worked 430 hours per month and had few, if any, annual holidays. 24-hour shifts on Sundays, followed by a Monday night shift, were not uncommon.

In 1987, Jongsoae formed an independent trade union at his workplace. Previously, workers averaged annual wage increases of 3-4 percent, but the new union struggled for and won a 15% annual increase. Within 12 months of becoming active on the job, Jongsoae was sacked.

Formerly president of the Hyundai group Trade Union Federation (HTUF), Jongsoae is a member of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU). This interview is excerpted from *Green Left Weekly*.

Question: What is the history, membership and structure of the KCTU?

The KCTU is the union federation made up of independent unions, formed in 1987. We cover 430,000 workers in major industries like metalwork, telecommunications, shipbuilding and the Hyundai group of companies. The average member of the KCTU

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Around the World

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Union Scabbing Must End

The upsurge in IWW activities in the last year has been very good, and it may be a beginning in the rebuilding of the IWW. But because we are heading into uncharted waters, we need to take the time to sit back and analyze each drive so that we all learn from them.

One thing that I think we should take a very close look at is the NLRB. The first thing we should remember is that the IWW and many other unionists opposed the law that created the NLRB. John L. Lewis was against that act, and even Lane Kirkland called for its repeal. There are two main problems with it that I can see: 1) It can be changed, underfunded or not enforced when it benefits workers. 2) And even if it does work for us as written, it does not give us all that much. In other words, you can win your election, but it is still up to you to win your demands. On the other hand, if you lose the election that is a killer for an organizing drive. What folks must remember is that labor laws are not written with us workers in mind, they are written to pacify us and to protect the employers. One good example of this is Workers Compensation - we all use this when we have to, but it was written to protect employers from law suits from their workers.

Next, while it is important for us to stand in solidarity with most all workers' strikes (I use the word most because I know

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

- IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

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Readers' Soapbox

of one strike that the IWW opposed, and that was a strike in the south by white railroad workers to force black workers out of that industry), still we must understand that there is a reason why the IWW exists - that being the drawbacks of the AFL-CIO. The main drawback is that the AFL-CIO will not use the true power of its organization to win strikes. That is the reason strikes last so long and why many of them are lost.

The main problem lies in union scabbing - when a shop goes out on strike and the workers are replaced with scabs or the work is moved elsewhere. The scab shop is still supplied by union workers; if the work is moved elsewhere union workers will do the work of their striking union sisters and brothers (Boeing is a good example of that), and union workers will transport and handle scab products (for example, when the UFW was boycotting grapes, union drivers drove them to the stores and union grocery workers sold them). In this day and age, the weakness of the labor movement lies in

scabbing on each other. Few industries are not dependent upon union labor to supply or handle their goods, and to truly shut down a shop or industry union scabbing must end.

This is where the ideas of the IWW are so important in today's world. For we stand for true solidarity and against all union scabbing.

One final note. Workers do not really win long strikes. True, they may get concessions from the bosses, but those do not make up for their losses in a long strike. Sure, the union bosses will play up these things as great victories, but for the rank-and-file worker things are different. I know this because I have been through some long strikes. We need to do two things: 1) Realize the cost on the rank-and-file worker. 2) Develop out tactics so that is the boss who suffers, and not the worker. In ending, I wish to say that the IWW is showing its true fighting colors, and the solidarity shown for Miriam Fried is inspirational.

Arthur J. Miller

Solidarity with the Workers of the Lincoln Park Mini-Mart

We, the activists of the Black Autonomy Collective of Seattle support the workers of the Lincoln Park Mini-Mart and the Seattle branch of the Industrial Workers of the World and defend and uphold their right to organize and strike on their own behalf and in their own class interests.

We, also, demand that LPMM owner Larry Parko recognize the IWW/Seattle as the official representative body of the workers of the LPMM and we demand that all recommendations and demands made upon the ownership and management of the LPMM by the IWW be implemented immediately, without prejudice or retaliation towards the workers...

We agree with the IWW that the means of production and distribution should be and must be owned and operated by the workers themselves; not the capitalists, reformist labor unions, or an authoritarian "socialist" state. All three have been especially savage and barbaric when dealing with Afrikans and other so-called "minority" populations. All three at various times in history (to the present) have allowed and openly collabo-

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Madison GMB- c/o Lakeside. Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

Jackson- Teton Jack Langan, del., POB 4056, 89001. 307/733-4553

Slinging Poetry at Borders

On the evening of January 28 four intrepid IWW members and a red card-carrying Junior Wobbly from Boston drove out to Framingham, Mass., for a poetry slam/open mike at the local Borders bookstore. Those among us who were so moved signed up to recite. After we all listened to a bourgeois matron recite her "Shakespearean sonnets," Gary Hicks led off for our side. Gary dedicated his reading to the workers in all the Borders stores and proceeded to recite a work of his own as well as poems by Michael Warr, Kenneth Patchen and Voltairine de Cleyre. FW Hicks was clearly the class of the show with his forceful readings and the quality of his own poem.

He was later followed by 15 year-old Andy Kellerman who read his prose piece "Mice Need Solidarity." The reading was dedicated to Miriam Fried, who Andy noted was fired for organizing at the Philadelphia Borders store.

Jon Bekken and Steve Kellerman read poetry by Covington Hall and Penny Pixler, and Jon gave a brief but thorough description of the events and conditions in the Philadelphia, Chestnut Hill, DesMoines, Ann Arbor and Chicago stores and called for audience members to boycott Borders.

All our efforts were warmly received by the audience. At the conclusion of the program we handed out our regular "Boycott Borders" fliers that we usually distribute at the downtown Boston store. Most of the people expressed support and told us they were happy we had come.

The Borders functionary who was running the program looked pretty down-at-the-mouth but did not try to interfere with us. In keeping with their trendy image, Borders stores regularly put on affairs of this sort. Alert Wobs should be on the lookout for a chance to turn these events into a forum for exposing the miserable pay and union-busting lurking behind the genteel facade at Borders.

A couple of Wobblies returned to the Framingham store a few days later to distribute the flier "An Invitation to Borders Workers" to the stiff in the store.

— X325068

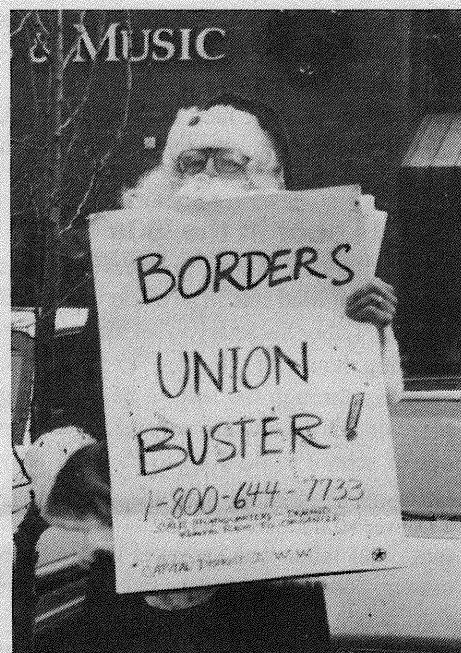
Richmond, Virginia

Richmond (Virginia) Wobs carried out our first action on Dec. 15th, the IWW national day of action against Borders books. With signs, hand-bills and info packets, the three Richmond Wobs and a supporter set up in front of Borders' entrance. In less than 15 minutes we were informed that their property line stretched up to the road. Rather than get arrested, we took up posts on both sides of the main entrance, with two of us

Around Our Union

standing further into the driveway to give out handbills to possible customers. This turned out to be an effective measure. Even with Virginia being an extremely conservative state with strong anti-union sentiment, we were successful in turning away several potential Borders customers.

During the slow part of the cold afternoon we kept up our spirits by whistling and singing Solidarity Forever. In the local context we had a small picket that got out about 150 flyers and talked to many people. In the national context we participated in a growing campaign to fight for the working class' right of self-organization and to get Miriam Fried her job back.



Syndicalist Santa

The Capital District Group of the IWW marked the six-month anniversary of Miriam Fried's illegal firing with a lively picket line at the Albany (New York) Borders December 15th. Local Wobs were assisted by fellow workers from Central New York, several Albany-area activists, and the man in red.

"Just call me 'Saint Syndicalist,' the jolly, bearded supporter announced. Then the old timer went to work, drawing a great deal of attention and plenty of puzzled looks from passers-by on busy Wolf Road.



San Francisco GMB Wobblies picketing the Emeryville, Calif., Borders

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, having a Santa Claus on a picket line is quite a public relations feat, according to Capital District IWW delegate Greg Giorgio. "Santa's a class conscious guy. He was up and down that sidewalk, fist raised, shouting 'no!' to motorists crossing our picket line, and telling Miriam's story to those stopping to ask." Many children riding past Borders saw their first picket line with Santa Claus leading the action.

Capital District IWW prepared a letter to be presented to the local Borders manager (copies to Borders CEO Flanagan) which expressed outrage at the union-busting and suppression of free speech at Borders. "We thought it only appropriate that Santa should deliver the letter himself," Giorgio explained. So after a couple of hours' display of a Boycott Borders banner outside, "Saint Syndicalist" and FW Paul Poulos delivered the demand for Miriam Fried's reinstatement to a visibly shaken Borders manager. With Poulos snapping off several photos of the ceremony, Santa passed the letter along and wished the ashen-faced Borders boss a Merry Christmas.

Borders workers in Albany are attempting to unionize in the UFCW, which is reportedly discouraging other area unions from supporting the IWW's boycott of Borders. Capital District Wobs are explaining that there is no contradiction between supporting both efforts.

Capital District Wobs returned to the Albany Borders on a bitterly cold January 18th afternoon to continue the struggle to educate local shoppers about the IWW boycott of the corporate bookseller.

Capital District IWW has been active in solidarity with other local labor organizations as well. The Group adopted a child for Christmas in conjunction with the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District's efforts to provide ongoing aid and support to locked-out Granville NY furniture workers in IUE Local 36. And Wobs manned the phones over the holidays to solidify the CWA's organizing drive at U.S. Air.

The IWW is also planning more events for the coming year to address the subsis-

tence minimum wage in New York State.

FW Utah Phillips will be a featured performer at the annual Old Songs Festival June 27-29, just outside Albany at the Altamont Fairgrounds. Utah's stint will be promoted with labor and environmental organizations. The Capital District IWW urged Wobs to attend this event, considered one of the nation's finest traditional music and dance festivals. Camping is available on site. For information on the above activities, please contact Capital District IWW.

St. Louis Borders opening picketed

On Sunday December 8, over a dozen Wobs descended into what one fellow worker described as "the belly of the beast," Creve Coeur, Missouri, a very affluent St. Louis suburb, to attend the grand opening of another Borders Books.

Demonstrators chanted, sang and picketed to protest Borders union-busting activities. After a couple of hours some guy pulled up in a Porsche claiming to be the owner of the property we were on, and ordered us off of his property. Upset and unable to produce a deed or title to said property, Porsche boy called the police. The owner's girlfriend told cops "They're ruining our party!"

So Wobs split into two groups as potential customers joined our ranks to picket the entrances to Borders' parking lot for another hour. Some shoppers honored our picket line, but a few seemed disturbed that common workers would dare exercise free speech rights in "their" community. Picketers returned December 15 and 22.

Attacking Borders in Los Angeles

Members of the Los Angeles General Membership Branch and the Green Party assembled at different Borders Bookshops around the greater Los Angeles area Dec. 15 to picket with signs and informational flyers and let management know that they can't hide in Southern California.

Three stores were picketed, and well over 500 flyers distributed. Still more people learned about Borders union-busting through internet notices and a local weekly. The Los Angeles Alternative Media Network came out to video picketers and learn more about the dispute. Some members of the public even stopped their day to join the picket line and pass out flyers. One picketer held a sign encouraging support for a local long-standing independent bookseller with a long history of community service and progressive activism, "Why support a corporate bookstore chain when you can support progressive Midnight Special?" Mysteriously, flyers were discovered placed in books through-

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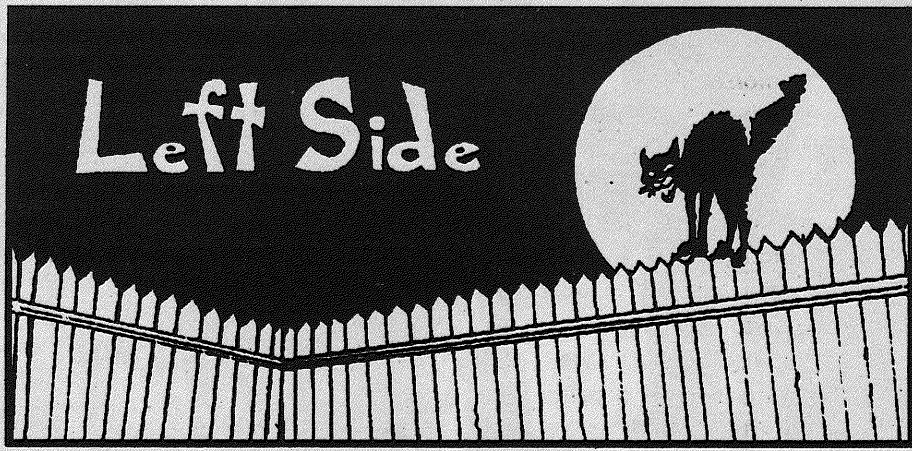
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

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



What famous politician of Freedomland, early in his career, mouthed these words: "I am not, nor have I ever been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races... nor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people..."

If you are thinking about Strom Thurmond or George Wallace, guess again, because the author of that quote is none other than the revered icon of a century and a half ago, that great liberator, Honest Abe Lincoln.

The recent brou-ha-ha over the infamous Texaco tapes is but another facet of a long-standing Freedomland tradition. One of the secretaries of the corporation, who was black and pregnant as well, received a birthday cake with this tender little inscription: "Happy Birthday Sheryl. It must have been those watermelon seeds."

Obviously the Honest One pandered to certain voting blocs ever bit as much as do our present polities. Don't vote! It only encourages them!

Climatologists have announced that the year 1995 was the hottest year on record. This bolstered the consensus of scientists around the world that global warming-induced human emissions of greenhouse gasses, carbon dioxide especially, has begun. The average surface temperature was 0.7 degrees higher in 1995 than the average for the years between 1961 and 1990.

The congressmen of Freedomland passed a budget bill discontinuing \$625 million from non-military science programs, particularly for research on the atmosphere and global climate change. During the appropriation process, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, protested that funding research on global climate change is "throwing money down a rat hole." Translation: The kickbacks from military contracts are more important to the politicians than any benefits to us ordinary yahoos from a better environment. Behold your withholding taxes at work, Fellow Workers.

The reduction in Freedomland's military spending since the end of the Cold War was ten percent, while reduction of foundation support for disarmament and peace activism was ninety percent. Nobody wants peace but the people.

In Europe there is the growing movement of the Green Revolution, which has been making some waves. If the politicians remain unmoved, at least the populace is being alerted to the machinations of their manipulators. The Green Revolutionists are waging a battle against the increasing use of pesticides, especially in what is referred to as "Third World countries." However, many of them are unfortunately unaware that most of the food targeted for large-scale pesticide use does not feed the Third World population, but is destined for export to wealthier countries.

Remember when buying your Chiquita bananas, you are not only paying for the poisoning of the peones who pick those bananas but also to keep the corrupt politicians down there in their cushy saddles.

All this talk about stemming the influx of undocumented workers from below the border is just so much hot air. When Georgie the Bush was top banana of Freedomland he initiated an ongoing relationship between the immigration department and the military. The military and National Guard assisted in a number of border security-related projects, among them a 7-mile wall of corrugated steel between San Diego and Tijuana. There are now several such walls along the Mexican border. The administration of Willie the Clint has doubled the length of the wall between San Diego and Tijuana.

Closet Republican Willie proposes progressively more punitive measures against illegal immigrants and immigration efforts, so they say, have been escalated – but as was mentioned above, it is all so much tropical atmosphere. The only thing that keeps the Mexican politicians' derrieres safely in the saddle is the Mexican working-stiffs' opportunity to go North. That is the safety valve for the politicians down there. So much for Freedomland's paranoia over falling dominos.

Carlos Heredia writes in *NACLA Report on the Americas* that it's an open secret that the labor of undocumented Mexicans subsidizes the economy of the Freedomland Southwest, nor is any legislation likely to change that fact soon. The relevant variable for migrants is the wage disparity between the two countries. So despite all the hot air emitted by the polities, immigration will continue unabated.

A brief footnote: It was Georgie the Bush who, while attending a banquet in Texas that featured Mexican food, took a whole tamale and ate it, corn husk and all. Such awareness of the customs of a next-door neighbor, along with the astute pronouncements of his mentor, the former cowboy movie star, should be a reminder that it doesn't take a genius to be president of Freedomland.

You may damn well know that the efficiency of the present economic order is not being entrusted to minds like that. They are nothing more than the window dressing that serves to conceal the real rulers of our lives.

— C.C. Redcloud

**SUPPORT THE
WORKERS' PRESS**

**Contribute to the IW
Sustaining Fund**

Union Scabbing Must Stop

As we go to press, Giant Food truckers in the Washington, D.C., area have been out on strike for weeks, after refusing Giant's demand for giant concessions. Meanwhile, UFCW members – many of them family of the striking drivers – are working the warehouses and the stores, handling scab goods at every step of the way...

Out in Utah, the Hexcel workers lost because "union" carpenters and other craft unionists saw nothing wrong with crossing picket lines to keep scab production lines going. Yale teaching assistants just won a National Labor Relations Board ruling that the university violated their rights by threatening and blacklisting TAs who joined a grade strike a year ago. While Yale was crushing the TAs, "union" workers kept the college running and no doubt typed up and sent out the letters warning "Your union or your job."

In Detroit, union retail clerks sell scab newspapers, union postal workers deliver mail to the scabby operation, union telephone workers keep the lines humming, and union workers at other Knight-Ridder and Gannett papers around the country keep the profits rolling in to subsidize the hundreds of millions the newspaper chains are spending busting the unions in Detroit...

This is the new face of the AFL-CIO, and I can't see as how the face-lift was worth the trouble...

Child Labor in the '90s

In 1993, labor lawyer Thomas Geoghegan filed suit in an effort to compel the U.S. Labor Secretary to set limits on the working hours of 16- and 17-year-olds. Halfway through the suit he began losing his plaintiffs as students were forced to drop out of school to hold on to the jobs they relied on for food and clothing. He lost the suit, as the Clinton administration insisted that child labor was essential to keep the country competitive and the kids under control. So do the Democrats make a difference? Geoghegan says yes: "Even if these new Democrats do little, at least they give you a meeting. As a lawyer, I can tell you it makes a good impression on the client."

Lincoln Park Mini-Mart...

continued from page 2

rated with the social, economic and ideological forces of racism and white supremacy worldwide. So we have a specific interest in supporting this strike in that:

1) It was initiated and organized by a grassroots labor union of workers at the local level, not labor bureauckrats and political action committees, many of whom are tied to the Demokkratic Party and Bill KKKlinton; the other "wing" of the three-headed hydra (executive, legislative, judicial) known as the two-party system.

2) It was organized by a labor union of so-called "unskilled" workers. The workers that the mainstream trade unions largely ignore and the employers largely exploit (with the level of exploitation determined by skin color and/or nationality, of course).

3) These particular workers actually want to see the end of capitalism! *It is this capitalist system that produces racism and white supremacy, so it's this capitalist system that must be destroyed to get rid of it!*

In solidarity with the strike, we refuse to cross the picket line, purchase anything from the LPMM, and call upon all others within and outside the Black community to not purchase anything from the LPMM or from any other business operated by the owners or management of the LPMM

All power to the workers of the Lincoln Park Mini-Mart!

Poor people must do for ourselves!

Black Autonomy Collective
323 Broadway Ave E. #914
Seattle WA 98102

That Giant Sucking Sound

Canadian auto suppliers looking for low-cost foreign labor are setting up shop across the border in Macomb County, Michigan, a few miles from United Auto Workers headquarters. Being the competitive wage slaves that we are, the bosses find they can escape the unions and pay us peanuts. Wages in these plants are so low that the county gives these auto workers free bus passes so they can afford to get to work...

Meanwhile, OSHA carried out only 24,000 workplace inspections last year, nearly half the level two

years ago. Instead, the safety bureaucrats are asking the bosses to police themselves. After eight Texas workers were killed in an explosion, the *Wall Street Journal* headline said the blast "Rais[ed] Safety Concerns." Anyone for a fighting union?

One Big Union

Workers are under attack everywhere, but we're also fighting back. We mention more than a dozen recent general strikes this issue (many more were crowded out). But too many of these fights are fought alone, and we're losing battles we could win with One Big Union solidarity. Part of that fight is getting IWW literature into the hands of your fellow workers, and letting them know they need not stand alone. *IW* bundles are available at very reasonable rates... [JB]

Boycott UA Cinema

San Francisco Bay Area Wobs picketed the United Artists cinema in Emeryville Feb. 14 to protest racial discrimination and harassment of union supporters. IWW member Jason Mottley was fired by the chain Dec. 5 despite an exemplary 15-month work record for challenging management's arbitrary and unfair practices and encouraging his fellow workers to unionize to protect their rights. The rest of the theater workforce was subjected to a captive meeting where managers threatened to fire them too if there was any more union talk.

Local Wobs are demanding that United Artists rehire FW Mottley and Berlin Scales, a black assistant manager fired on the flimsiest of pretexts, and stop harassing and intimidating workers from forming unions. Write United Artists Senior Vice President Neal Pinsker, 21700 Oxnard Suite 1000, Woodland Hills CA 91367.

Since the UA cinema happens to be in the same shopping mall as the Emeryville Borders, the leaflet is a flip-over containing information on both disputes.

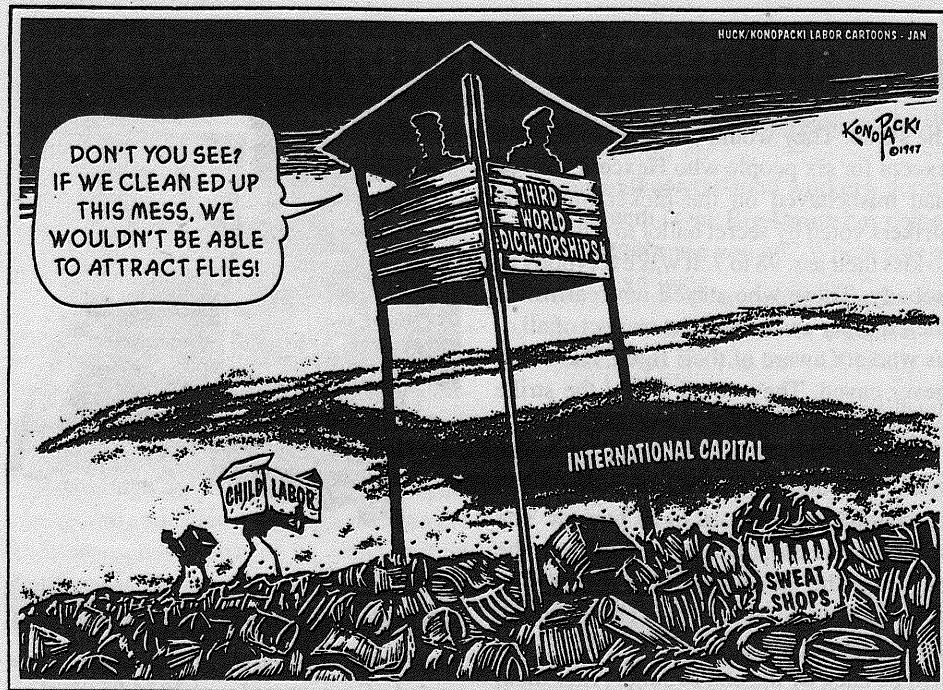
Sierra Leone IWW

I am very sorry for not communicating for a very long time. It was due to the peace process that has been signed now by the government forces and the rebels to end the four years senseless killing in Sierra Leone. Since there is absolute peace now all the provinces are accessible. We are trying to rehabilitate those displaced by the war. We are starting mining very soon to finance our activities. I received 20 Scottish pounds from the IWW Edinburgh. The IWW Wales sent books. Bill Runacre wrote us offering to print our posters...

Please thank all these people very much on our behalf while we promise to make use of every resources given to us to uplift the status of the IWW in Sierra Leone...

Due to the level of education of the miners we are finding it difficult to translate the literatures we received from the IWW Wales and other material. Our membership increases daily and we hope to send a representative to this year's conference.

We still remain part of the One Big Union.
Solidarity
Bright Chikezie



“Economic Freedom” – For Bosses Only

America's top business newspaper has put out a fascinating document called the 1997 Index of Economic Freedom. It's a thick book that illuminates the priorities of *Wall Street Journal* editors, who teamed up with the influential Heritage Foundation to rank the countries of the world.

So, which sovereign nation scored highest in economic liberty? Singapore.

In Singapore, the indexers of “economic freedom” have seen the future, and it works: “an efficient, strike-free labor force...no minimum wage...no antitrust regulations.”

But some significant facts go unmentioned. For instance, chewing gum has been illegal in Singapore since 1992. The government recently reaffirmed the ban and warned citizens that ordering gum from foreign mail catalogs could bring a year in jail and a fine of \$6,173.

The crackdown came after authorities blamed wads of gum for jamming subway doors. Evidently the visionary leaders of Singapore have realized that people can't have economic freedom and chew gum at the same time.

Nor do financial liberties on the Asian island extend to anyone who might want to buy or sell – or read – a copy of *Watchtower* magazine. The Jehovah's Witness religious group and its literature have been banned in Singapore for a quarter of a century.

Throughout last year, at least 40 Jehovah's Witnesses were behind bars in Singapore for refusing military service on religious grounds. Amnesty International calls them “prisoners of conscience.” Dozens of other Jehovah's Witnesses spent weeks in jail for “peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.”

The unfettered commerce that dazzled the “economic freedom” indexers does not include the exchange of ideas or information. As the Associated Press reported last spring, Singapore “has some of the world's strictest media controls.”

And Singapore's methods of punishment remain harsh. Brutal caning is mandatory for vandalism and 30 other crimes. Death by hanging awaits those caught with 500 grams of marijuana. As you might guess, dictator Lee Kuan Yew has scorned “decadent” notions of civil liberties.

Ranked just behind Singapore – and also classified as “free” in the Index of Economic Freedom – is Bahrain. The small Persian Gulf country wins profuse accolades: “a free-market economic system...no taxes on income or corporate profits... few barriers to foreign investment...a vibrant and competitive banking market with few government restrictions.”

Overall, in Bahrain, “businesses are free to operate as they see fit.” To investors, that's high praise indeed. But you wouldn't

know from the report that Bahrain is a traditional monarchy. Long ruled by the al-Khalifa family, it's a nation that gives plutocracy a bad name.

A royal decree abolished Bahrain's parliament 22 years ago, and since then the government has suppressed dissent. During the mid-1990s, several thousand people were arrested for pro-democracy street protests. Amnesty International notes that Bahrain's recent political detainees have included “children as young as 10.”

In Bahrain, the past year has brought “large-scale and indiscriminate arrests,” says Human Rights Watch. “Serious, extensive and recurrent human rights abuses continued in the form of arbitrary detention, abusive treatment of prisoners and denial of due process rights.” Torture has been common. But “there were no known instances of officials being held accountable.”

Clearly, political tyranny can be quite compatible with the kind of economic order favored by folks at *The Wall Street Journal* and the Heritage Foundation. The touting of countries like Singapore and Bahrain is proof that one-dimensional fixations are foolish – and dangerous.

Despite persistent efforts by some media outlets and think tanks, it's not possible to credibly separate the flow of money from the exercise of power. Every day, much of the real world is buffeted by a political version of the golden rule: Those who have the gold make the rules.

All too often, terms like “economic freedom” get defined in ways that just so happen to favor the interests of the wealthy few. In the process, such definitions set aside democratic values.

Inadvertently, the 1997 Index of Economic Freedom renders a valuable public service. It shows that narrow concepts of “economic freedom” can be catastrophic for genuine human freedom.

— Norman Solomon

Fire Your Boss

Olympia, Washington, Wobs are continuing to sponsor a series of “Fire Your Boss” workshops around the area, focusing on direct action tactics suited to workers trying to improve conditions. Wobs are also involved in co-organizing an activists' skills-sharing conference slated for May, and a May Day celebration.

Edinburgh Wob Calendar

The Edinburgh IWW printed up and distributed 300 copies of a 1-page wall calendar to local unions, unemployed groups and other organizations, along with information about the IWW. The calendar features a reproduction of Flavio Constantini's painting of Frank Little soapboxing alongside the dates and contact information.

We lost a key legal battle last week. The NLRB dismissed the Unfair Labor Practice charge against Borders for firing Miriam Fried for union activities. No big surprise. If you want to win a claim before the NLRB, you'd better be fired on national t.v. with the perpetrator clearly stating “You are being fired for organizing.” If the perp says you're fired for insubordination, and the Union says you're fired for organizing, the NLRB will say, “Oh, then it must have been for insubordination.” They'll say this even in the face of evidence such as written reviews from management showing that you have a virtually impeccable work record; evidence that you have been encouraged to state your criticisms of store procedures; evidence that Borders claims to welcome the opinions of it's employees; evidence that the only other firing in the history of the Philadelphia store was for theft.

We've lost two out of three cases before the NLRB in recent days. In Seattle they ruled that a scab with managerial prerogatives was really a worker eligible to vote in the union recognition election, a vote which when combined with those of the other scabs meant no union by 1 vote. But we've won some solid Wobs out of that continuing struggle. The boss has won a paper victory and is losing the capitalist raison detre – bucks.

The one ruling we did win was in San Francisco where Fellow Worker Liam Flynn proved more persuasive than the union-busting lawyers of Warehouse Records. The Board has determined that the union can organize on a shop-by-shop basis rather than being required to organize the entire chain of stores all at once. That should mean that one store will vote to go IWW soon, since a majority of the workers there have already voted by joining the Union. Others are in the works.

We can't and don't rely on the NLRB. It checks to see which way the political winds are blowing before it issues decisions. The winds have been blowing against Labor for decades now. They only blow in Labor's favor when the NLRB knows that the working class is mad enough and strong enough to enforce its rights in the streets. Then the NLRB will legitimize the inevitable.

The entire IWW should be proud of the way we've handled ourselves in the Borders struggle. The day after Miriam was fired we were out on the line at Borders stores across the country. No union bureaucrat ordered this. It happened because of the determination of individual Wobs to live up to the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all. Handfuls of Fellow Workers have been leafletting, picketing, and engaging in creative actions at Borders in places where we don't even have Branches. Borders opens new stores and Wobblies have been at the grand openings to spoil the party. I have the feeling Borders execs must feel like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Wherever Borders goes, there are the Wobblies. They must be wondering “Who are those guys?!”

The boycott has been going on for eight months now and every week I continue to get reports of actions from new locations. The word is getting out. The Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor has begun selling tickets to its performances through Borders. A Fellow Worker called to ask them if they're aware that there is a boycott in process against Borders. The harried clerk on the other end of the line said she knew, that there had been calls of complaint from many customers. If they're going to ignore the wishes of a segment of their customers, they're going to have to take the heat along with Borders.

Borders seems to be weathering the storm just fine at the moment. We're small. We only get national publicity on rare occasion when Borders bumbles onto the toes of someone like Michael Moore. But we're growing, as is word of the boycott. By their refusal to resolve the issue of Miriam's unjust firing they are creating a situation in which, even if we were to walk away tomorrow, years from now principled people planning to buy books are going to ask themselves: “Is the boycott against Borders still active? I'd better shop somewhere else, just in case.” But we aren't going to walk away. We're the folks who never forget. If Borders doesn't come to its senses, we'll be on the line there come the millenium and well beyond.

Meanwhile we move on to the campaign at Warehouse Records on the west coast. The Borders campaign made us visible in a way nothing else has for decades. Maybe the Warehouse campaign will be the one on which we turn the corner to again becoming a key factor in the working class struggle for justice.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Obo Help, San Francisco CA	\$30.00
Bill Rogers, Knoxville TN	1.50
Kenny Hone, Peterborough ONT	5.00
Ralph Muller, Hamburg Germany	20.00
Lance Feik, Pinckneyville IL	10.00
V.T. Lee, Tampa FL	18.00
Ric Garren, Rochester NY	10.00
Mark Chicwak, Caldwell OH	10.00

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Jan Edwards & Bill Meyers, Gualala CA	\$25.00
John Hanna, Vacaville CA	25.00
Ric Garren, Rochester NY	30.00

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Wendy Allen, Montreal Quebec	\$100.00
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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Northwest regional meet

The Portland GMB will host a regional gathering on March 7 - 9. We've arranged meeting space at the Phantom Gallery, SE 31st and Belmont, in Portland. We'll provide space to sleep and cook meals of the simple and healthy sort and try to meet specific dietary needs as best we can.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend, how many of you, when you'll arrive, whether you need to be picked up, and whether child care is needed. Also let us know about specific needs in terms of crash space (such as smoking/non-smoking, cat allergy, etc.) or food needs (vegetarian, vegan, low-salt, etc.).

Portland IWW, PO Box 15005
Portland, OR 97293-5005
503/234-0101 (conference committee)
mmiller@orednet.org

Hexcel Workers Beaten by Scabs...

continued from page 1

kept breaking down. A scroungy black sabbat had nested in it. The cat had kittens. Soon they were all over the plant.

P&L Printing, a Wobbly shop in Denver, donated a stack of large bumper stickers, "Hexcel Drives Down Wages." Even an immoral corporation like Hexcel wasn't up to ripping off car bumpers.

When Hexcel workers went out Nov. 2nd there were a half-dozen or so Wobblies in the procession that marched on the plant. We had good public support, to a large extent because of Wobbly actions. Even the Hexcel workers knew when they went out that the strike didn't have much of a chance of success. Revenge seemed the strongest motive. Workers had endured a 32 percent pay cut four months before the strike. The average worker had 17 years in at the plant. They were middle-aged people faced with losing their homes. Hexcel had been putting them through a campaign of intimidation and degradation to lower workers' self-esteem to the point that they would willingly accept a 32 percent pay cut. Sometimes revenge is deserved.

The beautiful Bread & Roses song came out of the Lawrence strike. We had "You can kiss our ass - We're sticking with the Union." OCAW member Kyle Wulle wrote the song. We got a lot of mileage out of it. Dane would set us up with a group, Kyle would play his song, Hexcel strikers would explain the situation. We'd get new support and a few bucks in the hat.

Hexcel corporate headquarters in Pleasanton, California, got to hear the song. Utah Phillips played it on his Berkeley radio show. Our Utah university played it several times. It's a good song, we milked it for everything we could.

We had good public support. Our strikers were pissed-off and determined. What could keep us from a victory?

What beat us was anti-union laws, sold-out elected officials, and some AFL-CIO craft unions, and scabs.

When the Hexcel workers went out the lines were in poor working order. The use of inexperienced scab and supervisory labor caused frequent breakdowns. From day one of the strike, millwrights affiliated with the carpenters union went through our pickets to repair the lines.

My father's lathers union was absorbed by the carpenters about 25 years ago. My dad told me "I've fought those scab bastards for 30 years. Now I am one." The membership of the carpenters union has changed over the decades, but the Salt Lake bunch are still an association of scab-bastards. About a week into the strike, seven of our 10 OCAW maintenance people went back. Why stay out when union people are doing your work? The lines started to function. Replacement scabs started to pour in. The president of the sheet metal workers union came out to our line to apologize for his people crossing. "They have to," he said. The god-damned tanners were crossing also. One good reason for One Big Union.

State and federal laws were against us. Ed Mayne - an honest, tenacious veteran of several strikes; a Democratic state senator in a Republican-ruled state; and head of the Utah AFL-CIO - told me "You guys would have won the strike if the courts hadn't overturned Clinton's executive order that prohibited businesses with federal contracts from hiring permanent replacements."

Much of Hexcel's product goes to defense projects. Our tax dollars subsidized Hexcel during the strike. The 80 permanent scab replacements Hexcel hired, the 40-man imported goon squad security force, the racks of bright lights aimed at our picketers - all paid for by U.S. taxpayers who purchased Hexcel's product.

What beat us was anti-union laws, sold-out elected officials, some AFL-CIO craft unions, and scabs...

We ran a 24-hour picket line. The goon platoon had video cams on us almost every minute. They'd edit the film and OCAW would end up in court. We had a pretty fair lawyer. Hexcel had a team of top-notch lawyers. Justice and elected officials have one thing in common - you get what you pay for. We heard from the courts a lot.

The classic *Labor's Untold Story* remarks on the "vibrant, triumphant" spirit at Lawrence. We had that feeling at Hexcel. It's no mystery what causes it. It's the sense of relief people get when they wriggle out from under the heel of a domineering, dehumanizing, ulcer-causing employer. There was a good feeling on the picket line, kind of like being human.

We did have good support and encouragement from the public and most unions. The Kennecott mine and refinery unions donated a great deal of money. Their members and officers would frequently stop, bullshit with us, bring us firewood and donuts. Everybody brought doughnuts or muffins. The postal workers contributed in a large way. The little musicians union donated their members' skills. The news media generally treated us like a fart in church - something best ignored, but we did get some letters to the editor in the newspapers.

Wobblies and Wobbly-style tactics helped get our message out. There is a more pro-labor atmosphere in Northern Utah now because of the Hexcel strike.

As for the strikers, they lost. I haven't talked to one who is sorry they went on strike. There wasn't a choice. All 97 workers from the fiber line went out. Every one of them stayed out despite severe financial pressures. Sixteen from the pre-preg stayed in. Seven maintenance people crossed after a week. Two more pre-preg workers crawled through during the strike.

Hexcel made an offer seven weeks into

the strike. They would take everyone back except for six people who Hexcel believed had misbehaved on the picket line. The strikers voted by secret ballot to tell Hexcel to kiss their ass, 98 to 7. It was everybody or nobody. Those who stayed out reaffirmed their dignity and earned the respect of all of us who are aware of their fight. The union never caved. They voted to end the strike only when all hope was exhausted.

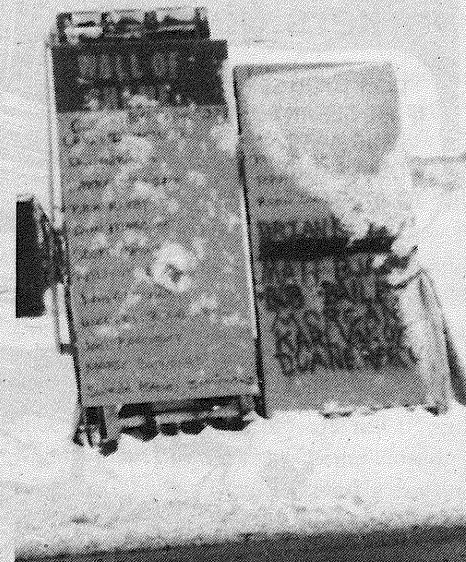
On a more pecuniary level the scabs won. The union managed to get the 32 percent pay cut reduced to 24 percent. The scabs stay in the jobs and benefit from the pay raise the union fight established. The union people go back in two groups of 30. The first group started back Jan. 20. The last will be back by the end of June. After then, Hexcel will hire union workers desiring employment from a recall list.

I am fortunate, in that I never worked for Hexcel. I did work at that plant when it was part of the Hercules Bacchus operation. I know many of the workers. I know the history of the place.

Until about 1970, Bacchus was an almost lily-white defense contractor. Civil rights laws forced them to hire minorities. In 1974 they were forced to place women in traditionally male jobs. Debbie Chicharillo was the first woman to work on the line. "I worked as a clerk for Hercules for five years. When I went on the line I doubled my pay the first month." With a 20 percent loss in spending power since 1974 and a 24 percent pay cut, Debbie is back to "women's" wages, and so are her co-workers.

We've got to organize the scabs. Nobody wants to, but there's not much choice. We've got 30 union people in there now. There are 105 scabs, plus non-union salary people and supervision. The general consensus seems to be that of the 174 union workers when Hexcel took over July 1, maybe 40 or 50 will go back. The rest have found better jobs, just quit, or will find better jobs before they go back. Of the original, company-picked, out of seniority group of 30, eight didn't report for work. It's organize or lose the union.

Damn; if I had wanted to belong to a union full of scabs I would have become a



Hexcel strike camp the day after the strike ended. Carpenters local 2834 heads the list of scabs on the Wall of Shame.

carpenter. Thank god I still have an IWW card.

I wish I could compare the results of our strike to those of the Bread and Roses strike. I can't do it. A loss just doesn't compare to a victory.

— Kenneth Wulle

Member OCAW 2-591 and IWW

Since this article was submitted Hexcel has begun filing charges of criminal mischief against former strikers and supporters. Those who have viewed the evidence being used against them report that it consists of edited and spliced videotapes with sounds dubbed in. Hexcel has expressed reluctance to allow the union access to the videos.

Kyle Wulle, author of the Hexcel Strike Song, has been charged with keying scabs cars. Kyle has expressed his innocence and determination to fight the charges. However, he said that he is pleased to be charged only with criminal mischief. "Around here we traditionally frame-up writers of union songs on murder charges. Utah appears to be getting soft on invented crime."

At least ten people who've been served summons during the last week. I expect more charges may be filed. Because of this latest round of Hexcel harassment and intimidation, some of the names and incidents reported in the original article have been deleted. No Wobs have been charged yet.

FBI caught lying in Bari bombing

Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's civil lawsuit against the FBI and Oakland City Police has turned up a wealth of evidence that FBI is still America's Gestapo and has not forgotten its roots as an organization that was created to destroy the IWW. The lawsuit, which was initially funded with a grant from the IWW, alleges that the FBI violated the civil rights of Bari and Cherney.

It seems the FBI cannot stop lying to the people, to the media, and even to the Courts and Congress. The discovery process of the lawsuit shows the FBI lies so much they cannot keep their lies straight. The lawsuit itself results from the 1990 assassination attempt on FW's Cherney and Bari that left Judi Bari permanently crippled. The FBI arrested the victims, refused to look for the bomber(s), and lied to obtain search warrants. This was in the midst of Judi, Darryl and many other activists organizing the first Redwood Summer mass action to save both the Redwood forests and the timber workers of Northern California.

On November 22 U.S. district judge Claudia Wilkin refused to consider an FBI motion to dismiss Bari's claims that illegal searches were made. Instead she moved to consolidate a variety of FBI motions so that a trial could begin as early as the Spring of 1997. The FBI had stated it hoped to drag the pre-trial phase out for several more years, doubtless hoping that Judi and Darryl

will simply run out of money or the energy needed to pursue such a difficult case.

Meanwhile, in this pre-trial phase, the FBI has been caught lying and its ongoing, illegal operations to disrupt radical political organizations have been exposed. For instance, the FBI, in sworn testimony, repeatedly claimed to not have heard of Darryl or Judi before the bombing, and claimed they had no ongoing investigation of either Earth First! or the IWW. But the Oakland Police, in sworn testimony, said the FBI informed them, within minutes of the bombing, of Judi and Darryl's belonging to Earth First! and being "the type of individuals who would be involved in transporting bombs." A recently released FBI field report, written minutes after the bomb exploded, stated the victims were "the subjects of an FBI investigation in the terrorist department."

The bomb that almost took Judi's life was underneath the seat of her car and was triggered by a sophisticated device that was sensitive to the car's motion. Obviously this situation occurs when someone is the victim of a bombing, not when they are transporting bombs to use against others. In fact, FBI bomb expert David R. Williams has testified that the bomb was directly under Judi's seat, and that this was obvious from the damage to Judi's car. Yet to obtain the warrant issued FBI agent Frank Doyle claimed the bomb "was on the floorboard

behind the driver's seat when it detonated." The search warrant has Doyle claiming that nails were found in the trunk of the car that were identical to ones taped to the bomb (to act as shrapnel). But, when said nails were obtained as part of pre-trial discovery, it turned out that the nails taped to the bomb were finishing nails; the nails in the trunk were roofing nails, visibly quite different to the naked eye.

The FBI, instead of trying to find the bomber, arrested Judi and Darryl and raided several sites including Judi's house and an activist group house in Oakland. Since this event occurred just before the Redwood Summer campaign, and during the IWW/Earth First! campaign to unite workers and environmentalists, there can be no doubt that, even if the FBI did not plant the bomb themselves, they did take advantage of the situation to try to destroy and discredit Earth First! and the IWW.

Many Americans have concluded that the IWW is a marginal organization, not worth any special effort on the part of the FBI. But Judi Bari told me that the IWW comes up regularly in FBI agents' testimony about the case; they are very aware of both the IWW's current organizing efforts and of its historic role. They were also aware that the IWW sent several activists to help organize Redwood Summer and continues to play a role in the struggle to save the

Wherehouse workers go IWW...

continued from page 1

manys flyers they ran out – and two teenagers at the mall volunteered to get more copies made. They proceeded to hand out leaflets all over the mall while we picketed.

The cops and the mall security tried to get us to leave, but a judicial decision recently found that public protests in shopping malls is protected under the state constitution. Hurrah for the Bill of Rights (when it works).

Although the Wherehouse chain operates record and video stores up and down the U.S. west coast, most of its outlets are in California. The text of the leaflet being distributed at Wherehouse outlets follows:

The Wherehouse Music And Videos – Union Busters!

Wherehouse music and videos has recently begun firing and threatening workers for trying to organize a union with the Industrial Workers of the World. Workers of the El Cerrito Wherehouse and the Alameda South Shore Mall Wherehouse have both filed a petition for union election with the NLRB. Wherehouse workers make only \$4.75 per hour and have little or no benefits, but when workers started organizing they were threatened and fired. On January 4th, 1997, IWW Wherehouse workers Jason Justice and Lakeisha Keene were fired for union-related activity from the El Cerrito Wherehouse. The Wherehouse is currently planning a strategic union-busting effort in which they have instructed managers of both stores to “Make all IWW workers feel very uncomfortable; give them the worst jobs and cut their hours to the point where they want to quit. If they won’t quit, find any small reason and fire them.” Workers have also been threatened and told, “If you join the union, you’re fired!”

We must demand that the Wherehouse respect the rights of workers to unionize! Please do not patronize union busters; boycott all Wherehouse stores!

Call the Wherehouse and tell them that you won’t shop Wherehouse until they respect workers’ rights to unionize with the IWW: Corporate Office: Barbara Brown, Senior VP: 1-800-776-8290 ext. 2907. El Cerrito Store (ask to speak to the head manager) 510-524-3582 and Alameda 510-523-8159.

Bari bombing case...

Headwaters forest.

The FBI is very afraid of the discovery process in this case. Pages of FBI reports are missing, most material turned over to our side has been heavily censored (in some cases our attorneys have gotten the judge to force the FBI to provide relatively uncensored documents).

Behind all the maneuvering, however, is the specter that the FBI planned and executed the bombing or assisted the timber companies or some right-wing terrorist group to do so. Doubtless the proof is deeply buried, but by coincidence the FBI did teach members of the Oakland Police how to make bombs similar to the one used against Bari, in a formal course given just weeks before the bombing.

The FBI hopes to win the case solely on the basis of its essentially infinite funding with money stolen from taxpayers. In addition, Judi recently announced that she has breast cancer that has spread to her liver. Doubtless the FBI is praying that her death will take the wind out of the lawsuit. Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney’s defense team is largely working pro bono, but there are still very significant costs involved. Donations should be made out to Redwood Justice Fund and sent to POB 14720, Santa Rosa CA 95402; they are tax deductible.

— X337515

Which Side Are You On?

(Original words Florence Reese, adapted by Dick Gaughan and further adapted for singing on the Wherehouse picket line by X324965)

Come all of you good workers, good news to you we’ll tell
Of how the One Big Union has come in here to dwell.
Which side are you on? Which side are you on? (Repeat 2X)

They say at Wherehouse Records, there is no union here,
But the Wobs are here to organize, so all workers stand as one.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)

Don’t listen to the bosses, don’t listen to their lies,
Us working folks don’t stand a chance, unless we organize.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)

Get your music elsewhere, Wherehouse is no good,
Until such times as workers can freely organize.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)

Boycott Wherehouse Records, don’t buy their merchandise,
Until they learn to recognize the right to organize.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)

Come all of you good people, you women and you men,
Starvation wages are no good, so help us organize.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)

Workers and consumers, together we can win,
Support the One Big Union, so justice can begin.
Which side are you on? (4X in all)



Picketing the Van Ness (San Francisco) Wherehouse Jan. 19. photo: Robert Rush

Utah truckers beat 90-hour week

A proposed regulation that would have allowed Utah employers to work truck drivers up to 90 hours a week (October '96 IW) has been defeated for now, after truckers warned that the measure would lead to dangerous conditions and fatal accidents. Similar rule changes have been adopted in 17 other states. Drivers will work longer hours, innocent people will die, and wealthy employers will become wealthier.

The new regulations were authorized by the National Highway Safety Bill, which gave states the option of working drivers up to 15 hours a day as long as no more than 10 hours is spent behind the wheel. Previously, federal law permitted working truckers no more than ten hours a day.

Although the Teamsters local ignored the proposal, rank-and-file truckers mobilized to block it. “We felt from the beginning that if the public found out about this, we stood a chance to beat it,” said Jay Wulle, who got together with other drivers to fight it. They circulated information about the proposal, petitioned against the change, and mobilized opponents to speak at public hearings. Wulle is willing to discuss the tactics used to defeat this regulation with anyone facing a similar abomination in their state. He can be reached at 801/966-7518.

Toronto Wob Busted

Toronto activists, Matthew Behrens and Toronto Wobbler Brian Burch, turned themselves into police Jan. 16th, after being charged with defying a ban on participating in any demonstration within 500 meters of the Ontario legislature.

Boycott Borders

continued from page 3

out Borders’ shelves, alerting browsers for several more days that Borders Books is a union-buster.

Borders Boycott Notebook

Boston Wobs have turned away over 500 customers, Philadelphia has tallied more than \$500,000 in cancelled sales (many bulk sales to local academics), and every week brings word of picketing somewhere previously untouched by the Boycott Borders campaign. We’re hitting the Borders bosses where it hurts – in their pocketbooks.

It seems safe to say that Borders’ union-busting has cost them more than a million in sales, and continues costing them every day they persist in trampling workers’ rights underfoot. Meanwhile, Borders continues losing ground in their battle with Barnes & Noble. One measure of our success thus far – though Borders continues threatening workers, no one else has been fired since we started picketing, even though two stores have voted for union representation.

Who was that woman in the four-wheel drive wagon?

Someone who claimed to be in charge of human resources (no doubt this is how they actually feel about workers at Borders, as “resources”) played dumb and asked us “Why boycott Borders?” Well we told her why, as if she didn’t know. She probably hoped to catch us in some sort of lie. Heck, “juice is stranger than friction,” as one old Wob used to say.

But we couldn’t help but notice that the Borders boss-type drove a \$35,000 vehicle.

Sears refuses to negotiate firing

Michell Heim, an IWW member fired by Sears for union organizing, must wait until March for her case to be heard. In early January, Sears backed out of a settlement conference scheduled for January 22nd, and a back-to-work order is still pending. A full hearing of her case will happen March 26th, where Sears will attempt to dispute the NLRB’s findings that Michell was fired due to her union organizing activities.

Michell signed an IWW card on August 1st, and started to organize her co-workers at a Sears in northeast Philadelphia. She was suspended from work six days later by her supervisor Liz Stewart to wait for an official termination by store operator Glenn Fleming. Fleming fired Michell on August 16th. His reason was that Michell was “intentionally spreading rumors and maliciously spreading misinformation.” Michell had an excellent record and was well known in her department as a conscientious worker.

It is not difficult to understand Sears’ vindictive response to Michell’s efforts to improve working conditions for herself and her co-workers. As in most non-unionized retail chains, workers are expected to jump through hoops for peanuts as pay. Employees of Sears were told they would not be paid if they worked less than three hours a day, even if the computer-driven scheduling system would kick out a two-and-a-half hour shift. The same scheduling system also occasionally made eleven hour shifts, making planning for workers that have children or other jobs impossible. Overtime was tightly guarded, subject to approval only by the store’s operator. After an entire year of working for Sears, health benefits can be denied to workers for coming up only a few hours short of the store’s requirement, and then forced to wait an additional year before benefits would be granted.

It’s a sure bet those booksellers and cafe swabs can’t afford a car like that on \$6.50 an hour. And that’s no lie.

A mid-Atlantic Wob writes: “...I have been busy inserting leaflets inside books at Borders here as well as passing them outside. Been leaving photocopies of IW articles around coffee bar inside Borders. God! I love covertness!”

In Defense of Santa Claus?

While picking up to leave the National Day of Action picket in Albany, an irate observer jumped out of his pickup truck and began ranting about our having Santa Claus on the picket line.

“I don’t care what you’ve got against Borders or what you’re protesting,” the rather large scissorbill screamed. “When you come out here dressed like Santa Claus you send the wrong message!”

We stared into the maniacal face of a modern-day Mr. Block.

“You ruin it for the kids,” his diatribe continued. That was about all we could take. Here’s this guy who has absolutely no concern for our grievance, but wants to defend the honor of a myth. “Look,” we said, “the truth is what’s important here, and if Santa can’t support an illegally fired worker and the right to organize” then he doesn’t stand for much.

“Yeah, but the kids,” he whined. “They’re innocent of this. They don’t understand.” Vain efforts to convince him that Borders and other corporate crooks don’t make it easy to raise and support kids these days, that children are victims of these policies too, fell on deaf ears.

Then he wants to know why, if we are concerned about jobs, we called a boycott. “Well, I’m not gonna shop here; how do you like that?” he sneered, and drove away.

Talk about clueless, confused logic. But count us in for another Borders boycotter.

CNT-France sued by anti-abortion politician

French anarcho-syndicalists faced off with the anti-abortion deputy Christine Boutin from Yvelines, a county adjacent to Paris, in civil court recently. Her rank is that of a U.S. congresswoman. Boutin has introduced legislation authorizing lawsuits against people who shouted insults or other "provocation" at pro-lifers who badger the clientele at women's clinics. She belongs to the UDF-FD, a major party at center-right of the French political spectrum.

In April 1996, the Confederation Nationale du Travail (CNT) published an article in its monthly organ *Combat Syndicaliste*, entitled "The black and brown beast raises its head: Marshall Boutin of Vichy-sur-Yvelines." This means that Boutin's bill was an expression of fascism, and identified the deputy with Marshall Philippe Petain, the French fascist whose government (based at Vichy, France) proactively collaborated with the Nazi occupation forces during World War II. The article criticized those who, like the pope, talk of the "genocide of the embryos," which, according to CNT, trivializes the extermination in the concentration camps. Boutin is suing the CNT for defamation and demanding 60,000 francs (\$12,000 US) in damages.

The CNT turned out in force for their court appearance, dressed in black. Their clothing brought on warm jibes from the press, but their number precipitated a vaguely unfriendly remark from the public prosecutor: "You've done well to bring your troops along with you, since they are unaccustomed to the process of justice."

The newspaper's director, 62-year-old Yves Peyrault, admitted that the rhetoric was "a bit heavy," but he explained to the court that his union believed in family plan-

ning, and that everyone must be free to make the decisions of private life. He said that Boutin was chosen as a target because "even before she was a deputy, she was on the extreme right of vengeful, fundamentalist Catholicism."

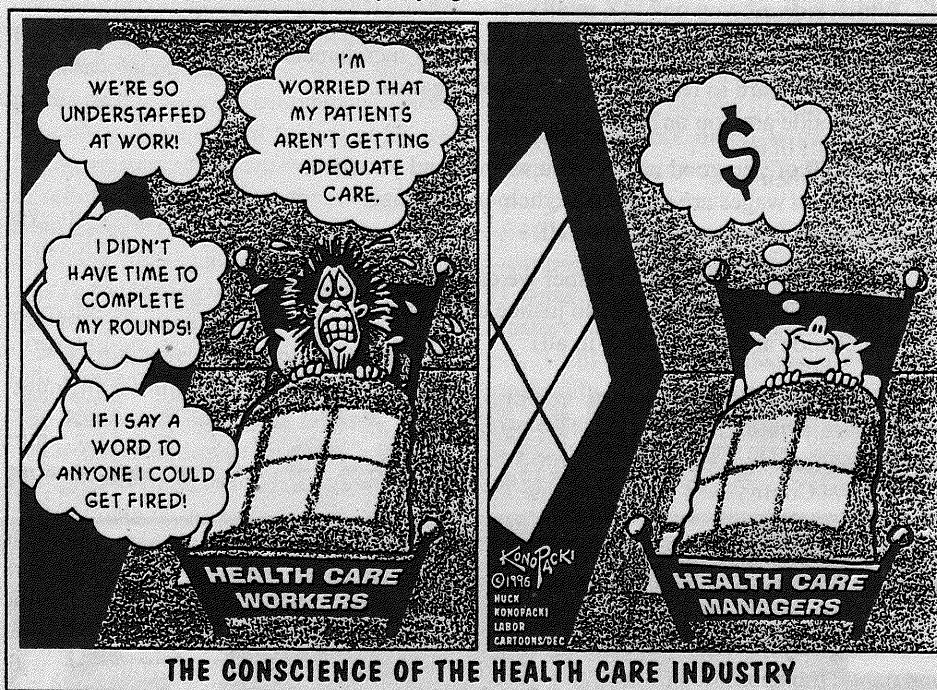
Boutin's lawyers gave lip service to the right to criticize political leaders, but said the CNT "has gone too far when it passes from Vichy into Nazism." They went on to state that while anarchists may consider the UDF-FD party to be extreme right-wing, French people in general see it as the center, and "it's got nothing to do with the Nazis!"

The CNT's lawyer countered by saying

that his clients were making no attempt at politeness, but that "if you castrate political expression to the point where one cannot attack a fully responsible member of the parliament, then you've turned it into the politics of sheep!"

The judgment for this case will be announced February 14th. The UDF-FD party has been taking steps lately to distance itself from the neo-fascist National Front party, going so far as endorsing Communist and Socialist Party candidates at the last minute to assure the defeat of the National Front in local elections.

— Bob Helms



Stadiums or Health Care?

St. Louis has just announced the closing of Regional Medical Center, the public hospital which serves the city's poor residents — who now will have no alternative to the private hospitals which try to restrict their services to the wealthy. Regional was founded in 1985 when St. Luke's Hospital abandoned the inner city for the distant suburbs. Since then, Regional has suffered from privatization of Missouri's Medicaid system and from persistent underfunding.

Ironically, during the same period the city government went on a spending spree building huge stadiums to attract sports teams and convention business. Instead of meeting the inner city's desperate need for health services, the city fathers prefer to close the city's last public hospital.

Meanwhile, St. Louis health care workers are continuing their efforts to organize. "Health care is now a more dangerous in-

dustry than construction," said Susan Wilburn of the American Nurses Association. Wilburn monitors employee safety in hospitals around the country, and has found that hospitals undergoing "downsizing" have become the most dangerous for nurses and other health care workers.

"No one believes today that people have to die in the mines for coal to be produced, so why do people think that nurses have to risk their lives to provide health care?" she asked. The answer was obvious — coal miners unionized and fought for safer working conditions, something health care workers are only beginning to do.

Wilburn urged nurses to organize in unions, be more militant, and to track workplace injuries themselves as hospitals frequently destroy or manipulate records of employee injuries.

— Robert Rice

Newspaper Strikers' Appeal for a National Labor March on Detroit

We are newspaper workers who have been on strike since July 13, 1995, against the *Detroit News*, owned by Gannett, and the *Detroit Free Press*, owned by Knight-Ridder. We were forced to strike by these greedy billionaire newspaper chains who are out to bust our unions and deny us and our families a decent livelihood.

Gannett and Knight-Ridder are demanding the elimination of hundreds of our jobs as well as takeaways that would gut our contracts. In a public statement made a month after the strike began, Robert Giles, Editor and Publisher of the *Detroit News*, said: "We're going to hire a whole new workforce and go on without unions, or they can surrender unconditionally and salvage what they can."

That has been the publishers' position from the beginning and it has not changed in all these months. They are taking heavy financial losses in Detroit as a result of the strike but they are prepared to absorb such losses to achieve their main objective: bust

the unions.

We believe the labor movement can stop them, that the Detroit newspaper strike can be won through labor solidarity and strength demonstrated in a massive national mobilization of the entire labor movement.

At its August 1996 meeting, the AFL-CIO Executive Council considered a proposal for a National Labor March on Detroit. Although the proposal was endorsed by the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO and the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions (made up of all striking Detroit newspaper unions), the AFL-CIO Executive Council did not issue a call.

Now that the national election campaigns are over, we are appealing to unions around the country and supporters of our strike to join us in urging AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and the Executive Council to reconsider. A national labor march on Detroit will show Gannett and Knight-Ridder that all of labor supports this struggle — physically as well as financially. And it

Canadian Labor Under Attack

An Ontario government committee examining business regulations has recommended the province's work week be increased to 50 hours from the current 48. As well as lengthening the legal work week, the committee suggested eliminating a provision in the current law that requires employers to get permits for more than 100 hours of overtime for each worker each year. The committee also proposed changing the Employment Standards Act to reduce severance requirements employers must meet when a plant or business is being closed.

The Canadian Press reported organized labour is "alarmed" at Irving Oil's requirement that about 100 unionized workers involved in a bitter strike at its Saint John refinery under go "reorientation." "Labour leaders said yesterday the reorientation is actually brainwashing and they want the provincial government to investigate on the basis of labour-law and possibly human-rights violations." The reorientation involves two weeks of theory and four weeks in the workplace. "Workers do not get paid until they pass the program," CP noted. "They are reportedly assessed every day."

Killer Boss charged

Thomas Bowley, president of a Tewksbury (Mass.) scrap metal company which has been cited repeatedly for failing to correct known workplace safety hazards, was indicted Jan. 3 on manslaughter charges for killing two workers in separate "accidents." The charges stem from the 1994 death of Antonio L. Lopez, who was pulled into a scrap metal conveyor that lacked required safety devices, and the 1995 death of Earl Shikles, who was crushed by a front-end loader with inoperable brakes.

An OSHA investigation after Lopez's death cited the company for 24 serious and 8 willful violations. A willful violation is one in which the company has a recognized serious hazard but has not corrected it. The company was fined \$600,000 and ordered to develop a comprehensive safety and health program. But in July 1995 — one year after Lopez's death — Shikles was crushed by a front-end loader that had numerous known safety defects, including inoperable brakes and a rag stuffed into the top of the loader's hydraulic brake-fluid reservoir as a substitute for a missing cap. There was no fluid in the reservoir.

Demand shorter hours

Belgian state workers rallied in Brussels Jan 29 to demand shorter hours and a ban on unpaid work. The government agreed to the demands last May but failed to honor their deal.

can help spur actions in cities around the country directed against Gannett and Knight-Ridder facilities, including *USA Today*.

We must act now because the future of the labor movement will be critically affected by the outcome of this strike. After all, if corporations like Gannett and Knight-Ridder can break unions in a labor stronghold like Detroit, what union anywhere is safe from similar union-busting?

It's time for Solidarity Day III, this time in Detroit. Please send a message to AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., urging a national labor march on Detroit in support of striking newspaper workers. And please send a copy to us. We deeply appreciate your continuing support.

Contact John Sweeney, President AFL-CIO, 815 16th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20006 Fax: 202-508-6946 Phone: 202/637-5000 email: 71112.53@compuserve.com Please send a copy to: Dia Pearce, Newspaper Guild of Detroit, 3300 Book Bldg., Detroit MI 48226

Women workers face more violence

Violence is increasingly following women from their homes to their jobs as husbands and boyfriends attack them at work. Of the 15 workers murdered on the job *each week* in the U.S., a significant percentage are linked to domestic violence. Each year current or former husbands and boyfriends commit more than 13,000 non-fatal attacks against women in the workplace. If the woman and her harasser are no longer living together, her job is the one place he thinks he can get at her.

Even if the abuser doesn't follow the woman to work, victims of domestic violence may find it difficult to function. Often the woman will not let her supervisor or boss know what is going on, lest the company decide to solve the problem by firing the woman, pushing her further down as a victim and giving the abuser his wish.

The typical batterer is after total control of "his" woman. Batterers prefer women to be financially dependent and will do everything in their power to get them fired from any job they have. Some batterers will give their wives a black eye in the hopes that they will be too ashamed to go to work. Others will take the car or disable it to keep the wife home. Sometimes the abuser volunteers to take care of the children while the mother works, and then doesn't do it, to create childcare problems. But if his ploys fail, the batterer may come after the woman at work.

Girl Scout cookie slowdown

Leaders of 27 Girl Scout troops in southern New Jersey announced a January slowdown in cookie sales to demand an extra dime per box sold. Girls in the troops are selling only the required 12-box minimum. Currently troops keep 50 cents on every box sold, with the remainder going to the local Scout council. This seems to be the first such action in 61 years of cookie sales.

Workers warned to tighten belts

The new year came in with French President Chirac and German Chancellor Kohl practically singing a duet on how workers must keep making sacrifices so their countries can meet global economic competition. Kohl was able to ram through most of a \$3 billion government spending cut in social welfare in 1996, but German workers have so far been able to prevent cuts in sick leave benefits particularly desired by their employers. Though nearly 150,000 more French workers are jobless now than were this time last year, raising the unemployment rate to 12.5 percent, they have been able to resist cuts in employer-paid benefits.

The question is, if the French and German workers are fighting just to hang on to what they have, as are the South Korean workers, just who are these people that U.S. bosses are telling us we have to accept cutbacks to compete against?

Fighting back

When the Israeli government arrested Histadrut union official Shlomo Shani Dec. 28, workers responded with a half-day general strike that shut down the country. Shani was arrested after refusing to call off a protest strike against government austerity plans. Rather than accept the decision to outlaw their strike, workers voted with their feet to spread it to other sectors. Ultimately, the government was forced to back down and release Shani from jail, and to moderate its viciously anti-worker budget.

Chamber of Commerce head Danny Gillerman called the strikes "a Bolshevik move of a burnt-out trade federation." Finance Minister Dan Meridor accused the Histadrut of "having gone way too far this time. It has violated every rule possible. There isn't anyone who can understand what this strike is all about. Even protest must

have a reason and some rules or we will all sink into unredeemable anarchy."

However, a quarter of a million workers did understand what the strike was about, and demonstrated that they were not about to allow the government to terrorize them.

Haiti – Workers successfully closed most workplaces Jan 16 with a general strike organized by 160 union and other grassroots organizations. Workers rallied to demand the Prime Minister's resignation and an end to neoliberal capitalist economic policies supported by the IMF. Some strikers tried to liberate food from an international aid agency's warehouse, but private security fought back, killing one worker. Food prices have risen 40% since 1994 and three million small farmers face destitution from the current neoliberal policies. The general strike followed a week of sporadic local strikes. In the capital city of Port-au-Prince some workers defended themselves behind barricades.

Greece – Workers in Athens shut down most workplaces Jan 23 with a one-day general strike to protest taxes increased in the 1997 state budget and to demand pension increases. The strike followed an 11-day strike by seamen and sporadic strikes by teachers, aviation workers, and farmers. It was organized by Greece's largest union, the General Confederation of Greek Workers. The government claims tax hikes are necessary to prepare for entry into the European Union's single currency program.

Uruguay – Workers closed banks and public transportation routes Jan 14 in a one-day general strike against state repression and corporate layoffs.

Swaziland – Workers organizing a general strike were met by arrests of Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions leaders Jan 31. A similar strike in 1996 won a state commission to review workers' demands

but the governmental body soon lost the opposition's faith. This year the military began occupying public streets in anticipation of the strike.

India – Many workers in Bombay supported a general strike Jan 17 to protest a unionist's murder. Data Samant headed the Kamgar Aghadi (Workers' Front) of one million members. He was killed by unidentified assassins Jan 16 on his way to work.

Egypt – Over 1,500 mill workers in Assiut struck in December after bosses eliminated a longstanding discount on flour. The workers defied a state ban on strikes, imposed in 1977 after nationwide food riots.

Cambodia – Locked out striking garment workers rallied Dec 19 to demand a

Korean workers fed-up...

continued from page 1

is 35-45 years old and has been employed for 10 years. Most of our members are men.

Underneath the KCTU are 13 federations comprising more than 300 enterprise unions. The delegates from the enterprise unions elect representatives to both their federations and the KCTU.

The most important part of the union structure is the workplace delegate structure. KCTU representatives can decide to strike, but nothing will occur unless the workplace delegates support the decision. The current general strike was called by the workplace delegates. Below the delegates are sub-delegates, who communicate with and organize 10 members at a workplace.

How does the KCTU's illegal status affect organising?

Whether the KCTU is legal or illegal, the structure would remain the same. If the KCTU became legal, it could influence the legal enterprise unions. Half of the industry federations are legal, especially white collar

40-hour work week and monthly wages of \$50. The strike of 3,000 was reportedly Cambodia's largest protest ever.

Ecuador – Workers and students in Ecuador joined forces in the streets in late January to protest energy price increases of 300%. Striking telecommunications, electricity and gas workers joined students and campesinos for massive rallies in Quito, Ecuador's capital. Education workers and students in two cities forced police to retreat Jan 14 after destroying police vehicles and seizing a tear-gas rifle and its ammunition.

The Ecuadorian state claims price and tax increases are necessary to reduce its debt. On Feb 6 the president declared a state of emergency. However, Ecuador's Congress ousted him under growing pressure from strikes and demonstrations.

unions, whilst others like the metalworkers' federation and the shipbuilders' federation are illegal.

What are the roots of the latest wave of labour radicalisation?

... The economy has just begun to be restructured, which will mean mass lay-offs for workers. Labour-intensive industries will be restructured into more technological industries. Workers in their 40s will be especially badly affected. These workers were key to South Korea's industrialization in the late 1970s. They worked very hard for this and now feel betrayed.

There is no social security system in South Korea. Unemployment is already at around 8%. Before the new labour law, retrenched workers would be given large pay-outs. Now workers are given only 45 days of pay.

Workers are also angry about flexible working hours, which will mean they work longer with no increase in pay - equivalent to a pay cut of 7-15%.

Has there been public support?

Seventy-five per cent of Koreans oppose the labour law, and about 65% support the general strike.

Do golf courses benefit workers?

"Jobs. The project will bring lots and lots of jobs!"

This is the lure dangled by the new wave of multinational entertainment industries. The best-known entertainment industry scam is the gambling casino. But a new player is starting to show up: urban golf course developers. A few tax abatements is all they ask for in return for all those supposed jobs. And with people being hired right and left, shouldn't the city also be willing to foot the bill for extra roads, cops, garbage removal and sewage?

Golf courses may well bring 300-400 construction jobs. But these are short-lived. At most, 30-40 jobs are needed to maintain a golf course and most of these are low-paying positions such as working at a gift shop. Who gets to pay for all of those city services the company wants for free? City residents, the bulk of whom are working people.

The new breed of entertainment mega-industries are basically ways to transfer capital from local businesses to multinational investors on the backs of taxpayers. As with gambling, urban golf course developments are typically financed by corporate giants which do not reinvest money in the communities they victimize. Investors in the far-off corporation get richer and the communities which host them get poorer. Financially strapped people who hope to make it rich throw money away in a casino. The neighborhood bar with a poker game in the back room gives way to the gambling giants. Big capital get stronger and small capital gets weaker. More workers get addicted to legalized greed.

Golf courses have a very special problem - pesticide poisoning. In 1991, the New

York Department of Law documented that Long Island golf courses averaged 18 pounds of pesticides annually per acre, a figure roughly seven times the 2.7 pounds of pesticides used on a typical acre of US agricultural land. This intensity of pesticide usage puts three groups at risk: golf course workers, golf players, and neighboring residents.

Golf workers. The Summer, 1994 *Journal of Pesticide Reform* reported a mortality study of golf course superintendents. Compared to the general population, they suffer a higher death rate from lung cancer, brain cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the large intestine and prostate cancer. Those who keep the courses green by applying sprays and those who work on the greens (such as caddies) receive even higher pesticide doses than office managers.

Golf players. In 1983, Navy Lt. George Prior played golf at an Army-Navy Country Club. Afterward, the 30-year old flight officer had a headache, fever and nausea. He was soon plagued by a rash and blisters. Pneumonia and kidney failure followed. Lt. Prior went into a coma and died 20 days later. He had experienced a severe allergic reaction to a common golf course pesticide.

Golf course neighbors. According to the New York study, "Anyone on the golf course or nearby is at risk" to exposure to mists and vapors from pesticide storage, mixing and application. "People living near a golf course may be affected by sprays and dusts blown from the golf course onto their property and into their homes."

Dying a few weeks after exposure to golf course pesticides is rare. Cancers with latencies of 15 - 20 years are more frequent. It is important to realize that pesticide toxins are both cumulative and interactive. "Cu-

mulative" means that golf course pesticides are added to the body burden which a person has absorbed from other toxins. "Interactive" means that chemicals which are not dangerous by themselves can be quite toxic when combined with other pollutants.

It is bad enough that high levels of pesticides are used on suburban golf courses with little industry nearby. Workers who are exposed to chemicals on the job and then play 18 holes on Saturday are risking cumulative contamination. Likewise with anyone exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam or god-knows-what in the Persian Gulf War. Urban golf courses are so despicable because their toxic sprays blow into highly populated areas. Combining air borne golf course pesticides with poor air quality and industrial pollution bodes a public health nightmare. Golf course pesticides are no different from the many other chlorine- and phosphorous-based chemicals which kill living organisms. Whether from golf course pesticides, household pesticides, incinerators, pulp and paper mills, "perc" dry cleaning, or cement kilns, organochlorines cause

cancer, birth defects, nervous system disorders, and reproductive problems. All of these compounds contaminate natural resources and kill wildlife.

In 1989, a developer persuaded the city of Leander, Texas to build a public golf course. The City Administrator found that he had to rob other funds to meet the golf course debt. The 1% of the residents who played golf were being massively subsidized by the 99% who didn't. Last year Leander decided to close the golf course.

Now St. Louis politicians are backing the "Gateway Village" project which would force hundreds of residents from their homes so that an urban golf course could be built. The targeted area is a predominantly black working-class neighborhood. Many people who retired after working for decades would be pushed out of their homes so that a few entertainment developers could get richer while spewing golf course pesticides into St. Louis air. An increasing number of residents are saying "No!"

Don Fitz is a member of the IWW and is spokesperson on Toxins for the Gateway Green Alliance in St. Louis.

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Organizing Workers of Color

Beyond Identity Politics: Emerging Social Justice Movements in Communities of Color, edited by John Anner. South End Press, 1996. 186 pages, \$14.

This book examines campaigns that developed "mechanisms of reconnecting identity politics (race, gender, sexual orientation, immigrant or student status) with class issues," that is, how to organize in several-front situations. The chapters in the book are based on articles that appeared between 1993 and 1995 in the Center for Third World Organizing's magazine *Third Force*. Chapters which may be of particular interest to union activists and organizers are "Building Class Solidarity Across Racial Lines: Korean American Workers in Los Angeles," "How the Empress Gets Her Clothes: Asian Immigrant Women Fight Fashion Designer Jessica McClintock," and "Contesting the Price of Mexican Labor: Immigrant Workers Fight for Justice."

Points well taken are the need to seek community support and endorsements from local organizations early on, not as a last-ditch strategy to revive a failing strike, and to look at what identity politics may be involved in a situation, not as a distraction from labor organizing but as an opportunity to bring additional allies into a campaign. Labor activists may want to consider making more use of the tactics of public disruption and media events used by community organizers to gain publicity and leverage for their drives.

— Penny Pixler, X331052

Jobzine Reviews...

is ours. All of these are bad things to be prosecuted for, but hey, we've all got one foot in a forced labor camp and the other foot on a banana peel, anyhow. Desktop published. \$3 to: Squeaky, 1750 30th Street, #198, Boulder CO 80301

Stupor #5: Stupor goes to work. The employment issue. (January 1996) is "dedicated to publishing anonymous confessionals and rants for readers." This one is about as good as Fast Food Janitor, I guess, and shares the same tendency to wander away from job issues toward sexual anecdotes and clippings of bare breasts. I'm not complaining, since many people ventilate their slave-frustrations with just this sort of chatter. I remember it well from my days as a factory worker. There's one piece about a guy volunteering for an endoscopy study, which is quite a wiggler. Free. 2639 Evaline, Hamtramck MI 48212

Temp Slave! (Described above). Off-set printed, neatly done. To order, send money to: Keffo, PO Box 8284, Madison WI 53708-8284

Xtra Tough #1. If you're wondering how things are for the herring and salmon fishing crews along the coast of Alaska, this jobzine is where to find contributions from editor Moe and her shipmates. Fun to read, hand-made. \$1 to: XT c/o Moe, PO Box 4076, Kodiak AK 99615

— Bob Helms, X341465

Jobzines: Fanning the Flames...

Jobzines are one worthwhile method for a worker to stir up that pot that the boss would rather have you leave alone. I've been stirring away by this method lately, and I'm having a great time of it.

Whenever a working person decides to do something about their job, they will take an inventory of the various approaches, and then decide which of these are feasible in their situation. While the best approach of all is to organize a dynamic union and then take it from there, many workplaces do not lend itself easily to that method. For example, you may be a completely casual worker who wanders from job to job, never intending to stay for very long, like a waitress or a dishwasher. The employer who you actually see and dislike may not be the employer who pays you, as is the case if you're an office temp or a paid volunteer. The size and physical layout of the job site may be another obstacle. A human services worker, caring for disabled people in one among fifty rural group homes, or a visiting nurse, will face a major problem in finding enough coworkers to form an organizing committee before the next step can be attempted. One's work may be off on the fringes of things, or entirely illegal, as with a phone sex worker or a nude dancer, or a prostitute. For that matter, your boss could be a gangster, and not a regular businessman. Even worse, you could be in the army, where the discussion of an organizing drive can land you in Leavenworth. That'll put the chill on it every time!

For workers such as these, one viable method of changing the situation is to create a "jobzine." If it doesn't change anything on one's own jobsite, it may, at least, increase the awareness among workers in the same occupation. The term derives from "fanzine," which is a self-published journal by the fans of a particular band or type of music. A jobzine focuses on one's life as a worker, and is totally under the control of the one who produces it. Typically it will consist of only a few stapled sheets, have a circulation of 100 copies or less, and be produced on the company's copier or in a pirate-friendly copy shop where the editor has a discount. All of this depends on the skills and resources of the editor. The important things to remember are that a jobzine can't be destroyed by a boss or a union buster, it can contain literally anything, and it will happen even if the editor is anonymous or has never spoken to a single coworker about the project.

About two years ago, I began volunteering as a healthy subject for experiments that pharmaceutical firms must perform on humans before they can market a new drug. I am paid for doing this on a piece-work basis, but the compensation is often worth the trouble. In this line of work, one gets to know a lot of fellow guinea pigs, especially in Philadelphia, where there are many research units in the same area. There is a distinct culture among us because of the way we are isolated together for weeks at a time, sharing a rather odd experience.

However, almost none of the usual rules of organizing apply to human guinea pigs. We are not "employees," and our relationship with a particular unit doesn't take on the grinding quality of a workplace. We are expected to act like civilized people and to arrive and be stuck with the needle on time. Beyond this, we simply sit around reading, gabbing or watching videotapes. However, the recruiter who signs the volunteer on has the power to refuse anyone admission, and so there is an understanding that troublemakers need not return, just like in a regular workplace. There are good units and bad ones. Instead of labor laws we have ethical codes that are interpreted and enforced, after a fashion, by a board of doctors and two federal agencies.

What, I asked myself, can a labor activist do in such a situation? In a departure from the various organizing efforts with which I'd been involved, I took the example of two guys who had already taken possession of the terms of debate, as well as the culture of their jobs by publishing jobzines. They are Dishwasher Pete of *Dishwasher* and Keffo of *Temp Slave*, which are the classic, definitive works of the genre.

Pete has become a legend in the world of zines during the eight years he's been in print. He travels everywhere from Alaska to an oil derrick in the Gulf of Mexico, getting jobs as a dishwasher and throwing them away without a care, but writing insightful memoirs along the way from the anti-authoritarian worker's point of view. Cartoonists render some pieces into visual form, and dish washing-related passages from literature and history punctuate the every issue of this modestly presented journal. *Dishwasher* most distinctly captures the culture of the occupation by conveying the attitudes of "dishdogs" toward themselves and their work, and savoring everything from early model dish machines to 1940s vintage restaurant training manuals, to historical accounts of dishwashers on strike at various times and places. Pete has been known to conduct some first-rate research.

Keffo's zine *Temp Slave* is also successful, and is now coming into its tenth issue. He fills it with criticisms and statistics on major temp agencies, a letters column, memoirs of rotten agencies and worse bosses by himself and his readers, and excellent cartoons. Every issue is relevant to the slave's life from beginning to end, and is peppered with Keffo's raw, much-loved "rip-'em-a-new-asshole" writing style.

In order to do what these guys had done, which meant to take ownership for ourselves, the workers, of both the guinea pig subculture and the terms of ethical debate regarding the use of human subjects for drug experiments, I started a zine called *Guinea Pig Zero*. In it, I share information about things like the experiments on inmates of nazi concentration camps, current news accounts of a young woman who volunteered for a \$150 gig and lost her life in the bargain, short literary selections on the topic, photos and illustrations, drug study memoirs by me and other guinea pigs, and report cards on particular research units.

These report cards were taken seriously and were covered in the press. Some time later, I was delighted to learn that one in particular had led directly to the correction of a problem. My write-up of the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ, included the important fact that a volunteer needed to pester nurses before receiving his own copy of the informed consent document, which amounts to a heavy violation of the ethical rules. I knew shortly afterwards that the zine was being discussed by researchers, mostly with approval, but it was a few months before a fellow guinea pig described his recent study at the same

institution. "They laid two copies in front of me," he said, "one of which was for me, right at the beginning. After I had read it and signed, the lady put the thing into my hand, and kept double-checking afterward to make sure I wasn't leaving it behind."

The zine has improved the quality of the debate on bioethics by reminding the public that we have an awareness and a will and we're careful not to be casually misused by researchers, who we trust as far as we can throw them, but not an inch farther. The pharmaceutical companies, however, are hopelessly untrustworthy. My fellow research volunteers and I now have a forum to ourselves. We have a great deal of satisfaction from a creative project that's been a big success. It's important to realize, though, that the success of Guinea Pig Zero is helped along by the intense public interest directed at human research these days. Another major boost is that my comrade Alexis Buss does the zine's layout so well that GPZ's latest issue has waltzed into the company of professionally polished magazines simply because of her involvement.

Why not look over a jobzine or two, think about your job, and start doodling up a jobzine? If you have no computer, hand-write the thing, as many zinesters do. Get as creative as you like, or just give 'em the straight facts. You've got nothing to lose but your boredom.

Jobzine Reviews

These will give you a better idea of the various types of jobzines, and how to send for them (in alphabetical order).

Dishwasher (described above). Hand made. Send \$1 to DW, PO Box 8213, Portland OR 97207-8213

The Door #149. A dissident jobzine for Christian ministers — just what you've always prayed for. This time-honored, glossy-covered organ of satire has a 20-odd year history of bashing televangelists, popes and Mothers Theresa. The present cover anoints Beavis & Butt-Head the "Theologians of the Decade," for their timeless utterances "Thou Shalt Not Suck!" and "The Bible kicks Butt!" Also wonderful are an interview with a Christian nudist, lewdly religious personal ads, great cartoons, and plenty else that carries with it a quick wit and a professional command of Scripture. It's rather special when someone slams the problems of religion from the inside. Send \$22.95/year (6 issues) or \$4.50/copy to: The Door, PO Box 616, Mount Morris IL 61054-7610, or call 1 (800) 597 3667

Adventures of an Unemployed Entomologist #6 & #7. The anonymous bug expert is still working as a temp, but practices her profession with a passion nonetheless. She writes very well, so that one learns all about insects in a serious, but enjoyable, way while perusing this cleanly-prepared, cleverly illustrated newsletter-style zine. She also reviews museum shows, insect books, and the hiring practices of her would-be employers. I strongly recommend this one, both as a jobzine and as a bugzine. I grabbed this issue by the base of the wing, bashed it on the ground, and pecked out its meat, the way a house sparrow devours a 17-year cicada, on the day it came in the mail. This is not something I do with every zine I get, let me tell you! Send \$2 to: UE, P.O. Box 3026, Worcester MA 01613-3026

Blow My Colon #3. Not one of my favorites, but worth reading, BMC is more sensational than it needs to be but reflects the helplessness workers feel on the job in its section "101 ways to murder your boss." We know that we can't really do anything about the asshole, so we talk about killing him, get high, and forget it — this is the sad, but common attitude of U.S. workers. I've heard people saying, "what if a pallet fell on

In March We Honor

Our Gallant Fellow Workers Who Fought for Working-Class Liberation

at the
Paris Commune, March 1871
and at
Kronstadt, March 1921

— Harry Siitonen
San Francisco Bay Area GMB

his head by accident" so many times that it's tiresome by now. However, few people discuss bossicide seriously, and the subject is totally forbidden in the mainstream media. When Joe the janitor comes to work with an Uzi and forty extra clips, the boss is almost certain to be the first one down, but the papers say only that a crazy guy shot his co-workers, and then wander off into his tragic personal life. Anyway, BMC devotes a lot of space to gas station and convenience store work, and carries job stories that are as good as any jobzine's. For two bucks, it's a square deal. Pasted-up & xeroxed. Cash to BMC, PO Box 1881, Santa Ana CA 92702

Fast Food Janitor #7. Entitled "The thanks I get." Gary Peterson is schlepping away at the lousiest of jobs, and writing about the particulars thereof, especially as it affects his body and its various functions. A bit overpriced, but where else can you get a careful comparison of the ass-widths of the staff of the Hardee's in Baldwin, Wisconsin? Hand-written. \$3 to: FFJ, PO Box 136, Hammond WI 54015

Lackluster Jobs #1. This one's a gem, and knows that it's a jobzine. The editors interview various types of workers, getting the seamy side of their professional jobs and creating a large, neatly done zine with a silk-screened cover, no less. Strongly recommended. \$2.95 to LLJ c/o Amy Balkin & James Harbison, 456 14th St. #8, San Francisco CA 94103

McJob, #1, #2 & #3. "The zine for the disenchanting employee of low-paying jobs," McJob is a well-edited and quite interesting jobzine, describing the current condition of the US work force. The narratives evaluate jobs the real way, i.e. for the environment, the boss, the stealing potential, and the way the person quit or got the ax. There's one report on a job suffered by a "girl reporter," as "an ambassador of Washington, D.C.," which reveals just how thin the veneer of patriotism is as it's presented to tourists at Arlington National Cemetery in those open buses. McJob takes in good contributed stories, cartoons and news clips, all of which keep right on the clear thread of the sheer absurdity of our lives as disposable slaves. Featured in #1 is an egg donor consent form, which is a real pain in the gut. This is one of the best jobzines out there. Hand-made, computer layout. Send \$2 to: Julie Peasley, PO Box 11794, Berkeley CA 94712-2794.

Static #1 (Summer 1996) This is a sabotage on the jobzine, if you will, and a sharp-looking piece of work at that. Huge at 62 pages, with fold-out sheets and variously colored stock, it's just the zine you need for skimming some of the cream off your boss's profits, and sabotaging billboards for the sake of humanity, and all of that scammy, youthful, poetic terrorism stuff. It's a well laid out, usable presentation of baseline anarchist non-cooperation. I like the "Sidewalk Bubblegum" cartoons by Clay Butler and the illegalist strategies to get back what

continued on page 10

Books for Rebel Workers

IWW Calendar

1997 Calendar, 14 photos. \$8.50

Greeting Cards

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

One Big Union. by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

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

A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5

Are You Furious?

Borders Boycott resource manual. \$5

A New Union Vision

Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2

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

Rebel Voices.

Wobbly songs sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10.

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.

Utah Phillips sings IWW songs. Tape \$10.

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1.

Black Cat/Direct Action, \$1.

IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." \$1.50.

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

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. 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.

From the Ground Up, Essays on Grassroots & Workplace Democracy. by George Benello

Essays by eminent libertarian philosopher with commentaries by others, \$6.

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

Labor History

The IWW: Its First 70 Years. Fred Thompson & Pat Murfin, \$14.95

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies by Tom Copeland. \$17.50.

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.

A rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s tells how they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95.

Working the Waterfront.

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

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Sacco and Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background. by Paul Avrich. hardcover, 265 pages, \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. ed. by Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15

Beyond the Martyrs, A Social History of Chicago's Anarchists, 1870-1900. by Bruce C. Nelson.

A social history of Chicago's anarchists & socialists of the period. \$10.

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by Peter Rachleff. P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. pub'd \$12, now \$5

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Wobbly Globe, (S, M only), Join the OBU (L, XL only), Sabo-Cat, General Strike (S, M, L, XL) \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size & color (red or white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

Film Workers (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: **Don't Whine – Organize** Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

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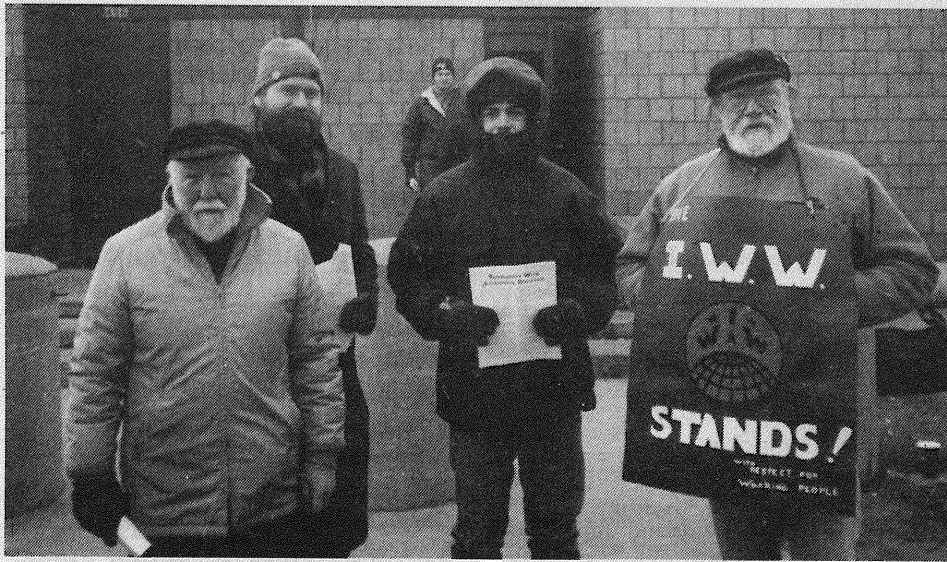
International Strike Backs Mersey Dockers

Dockers, seafarers and other workers in 105 ports and cities in 27 countries joined workplace meetings, work-to-rules, demonstrations at British government offices, and full-scale strikes ranging from half an hour to 24 hours. While most actions took place Jan. 20, other actions were reported from the 15th through the 25th.

Liverpool: Eight dockers and 7 environmental activists occupied three cranes at the grain terminal for 27 hours, preventing unloading of the "Lake Erie" for 35 hours,

Council of Dockworkers Unions (Zenkoku Kowan) held workplace rallies and limited time strikes in 50 ports, affecting shipping lines such as OOCL, Evergreen, NYK and P&O. The union has threatened further strikes if the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company does not settle.

West Coast U.S.: All ports stopped for at least eight hours; Oregon ports were closed for 24 hours. In Los Angeles alone, over 100 cranes were stopped with 32 ships in harbour and another 16 due that day.



Four Wobblies and a retired Irish seaman leafletted the Boston International Longshoremen's Association hall with information about the Liverpool Lock-out January 20th in solidarity with the International Day of Action

while a continuous mass picket of Seaforth Container Terminal was in progress. On their descent, most were arrested and charged with aggravated trespass.

Down on the ground a mass picket of dockers and Women of the Waterfront gathered at 6 a.m., cheering the occupation and chanting at the scabs. The picket included a delegations from the victorious occupation of Scottish engineering factory Glacier RPB, where 103 workers had been sacked in November and won reinstatement earlier this month, and the Darlington kitchen equipment firm Magnet, where TGWU workers remain sacked after beginning an official pay strike last year.

During the morning faxes arriving at the stewards office were delivered to the picket line. A torrent of solidarity messages, letters to Mersey Docks or British embassies and consulates and press reports flooded in.

Australia: The "Zim Australia" was diverted from Sydney Harbour, and the "Zim Sydney" was hit by actions in Melbourne and Sydney. The Israeli-owned Zim Line trades with Liverpool.

New Zealand: Seafarers picketed the three major container terminals in Auckland, Wellington and Lyttelton for an hour at the beginning of shift on Jan. 20. Members of the Waterfront Workers and Harbour Workers honoured the picket lines, along with truck drivers in Wellington.

Vessels were detained in Auckland and Lyttelton, where seafarers met the crew of the P&O "Mairangi Bay" during its hold-up. P&O operates in the Port of Liverpool.

Japan: The 40,000 strong National

Crooks in Maritime Union

National Maritime Union President Louis Parise and his son Louis Jr. have been convicted of labor racketeering for looting union and pension funds to finance his reelection campaign, buy jobs for his sons, and pay for chauffeurs, topless dancers, health spas and fancy meals (many of which actually cost far less than the union was charged). The jury dead-locked on charges relating to kick-backs for steering injured NMU members to Philadelphia attorney Bernard Sacks. NMU funds also went to son Robert Parise to set up an off-shore affiliate in the Cayman Islands. Sentencing is set for May 15.

Shipping lines affected in Los Angeles included Maersk, American President Line, Evergreen, Hapag Lloyd, NYK and OOCL. In Oakland, the Korean-owned "Hanjin Washington" was among the vessels stopped. The ILWU action was also taken in solidarity with Korean unionists. A demonstration at the British Consulate in San Francisco was held Jan. 17 with ILWU, Wobblies, San Francisco Labor Council, and others.

Mexico: 125 unemployed transport workers from the union Ruta 100 marched to the British Embassy in Mexico City Jan. 20 in support of Mersey dockers. "We are here because they supported us. This is happening because of neo-liberalism."

Brazil: The three national Brazilian docker organisations representing over 70,000 members are writing Brazilian and foreign shipping companies requesting them to persuade Mersey Docks to reinstate the 500, and discussing boycott action against Liverpool cargo.

East Coast U.S.: Lloyd's List quoted International Longshoremen's Association members in New Jersey, Baltimore and Hampton Roads (the ports served by ACL vessels calling in Liverpool) who "intend to honour the request for a boycott" of Liverpool ships. The ILA organized a demonstration at the British embassy in Washington, D.C. In Boston the IWW leafletted at the ILA hiring hall, where the Liverpool dispute did not appear to be known.

Canada: The ILA-organised port of Saint John, New Brunswick, shut from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in solidarity.

Quebec: Following the historic first meeting of 500 longshoremen, checkers and railway workers in the port of Montreal, the CAST and CanMar offices were occupied on Jan. 20. CanMar's managing director fled his office. At the three container terminals, health and safety rules were strictly applied by the Syndicat des Debar-deurs so that many pieces of equipment required maintenance. The "Cast Elk" and "CanMar Spirit" were delayed.

Sweden: All ACL and CAST containers were immobilised Jan. 21 in a national 24-hour stoppage by the Hamnarbetarforbundet and members of the Swedish Transportworkers Union, affecting Gothenburg, Malmo, Helsingborg and Stockholm.

The syndicalist SAC union picketed ACL offices in Stockholm.

Russia: The Russian Trade Union of Dockers of the Sea in St. Petersburg is watching the port for vessels and cargoes of companies calling in Liverpool. Solidarnost in Kaliningrad sent a solidarity message.

Denmark: The ports of Arhus and Copenhagen held 24-hour stoppages.

France: An OOCL ship was stopped in Le Havre on the night of Jan. 19.

Holland: In the giant European Container Terminal at Rotterdam, the Morline/Baltic Line "Mor Europe" was delayed by a work-to-rule on the night shift of Jan. 20 followed by two gangs refusing to service the vessel the next morning. It sailed for Hamburg at 4:30 pm.

Belgium: The ACL "Atlantic Compass" was delayed seven hours Jan. 15. The ship plies a regular route connecting the U.S. east coast with Europe via Liverpool. Dockers delivered a petition to the British Embassy in Brussels demanding the UK government intervene to restart negotiations given their shareholding in Mersey Docks.

Germany: The ACL "Atlantic Conveyor" was stopped for two hours in Bremerhaven Jan. 25. Many solidarity messages and letters to MDHC were sent by OTV branches. The rank-and-file "Blue Monday" group leafletted dockers.

Switzerland: The offices of the Rhine Shipping Company in Basel were occupied by "Swiss Revolutionary Reconstruction" in solidarity with Liverpool dockers and Women of the Waterfront. Unidentified activists glued the locks at the British consulate in Zurich.

Greece: Three day seamen's strike (Jan. 20-22) and general strike of transport workers (Jan. 23) affected Gracechurch line, trading with Liverpool.

In many other countries including Spain, Portugal, Algeria, Mauritania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Hong Kong, unions informed their membership, wrote to Mersey Docks or the British Government, or sent money and solidarity messages to the dockers.

End Union Scabbing

Even as the dispute spreads to ports across the globe, it is also spreading to other unionized workplaces in Liverpool. A meeting of some 60 shop stewards from 16 firms held Jan. 11 included contingents from Fords, Vauxhalls, Road Transport drivers, AC Delco, Post Office, local government and Further Education.

Since the first few weeks of the Lock-out, dockers have made impassioned appeals for local industrial action. But except for tugboatmen who have repeatedly delayed ships, the response had been limited to a partial strike on May 1, mainly by UNISON local government staff, and isolated

action by AEU members in an engineering factory. However, the local mood is now moving in favour of isolating Mersey Docks, whether by shifting contracts to other ports, refusing to handle individual cargo, or withholding services.

Workplace collections picked up when the recent Ken Loach documentary "The Flickering Flame" was screened on BBC2 just before Christmas. The closing sequence, where a retired docker decries the stream of trade unionists driving through the picket lines as if their own jobs were secure, had clearly hit home.

The stewards' meeting also heard of an impending dispute involving drivers set to lose their jobs as VW-Audi switches its car delivery contract to the one such firm crossing the picket line in Liverpool.

The meeting voted unanimously to "confirm their determination to impose a physical boycott upon any raw materials or products shipped through the Port of Liverpool to their workplaces, and on services supplied to the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company. "Such actions will be co-ordinated and last until the dockers are reinstated.

"Union representatives present call upon the community of Merseyside to maintain their opposition to casual labour, privatisation and de-regulation in favour of a dignified life in industry.

"As such we remain opposed to all laws that oppress ordinary people and destroy their basic human rights."

New Settlement Proposals

Merseyside Port Shop Stewards unveiled new proposals Jan. 24 to break the deadlock in the 16 month long dockers dispute. The proposals involve the sacked men investing a portion of their severance pay out from Mersey Docks to form a new "labour supply unit" which would provide dock employment in all areas of the port on a non-profit basis.

The stewards insist on the removal of Drake International and its scab workforce recruited to replace 500 sacked dockers in Seaforth Container Terminal. They also insist on maintaining pensions, holiday and sick pay as well as permanent employment for all sacked dockers who wish to return to the industry, and an end to casual labour.

Before the press conference, the stewards' Chairman Jim Nolan talked with Terry Malone of the Port Users Committee on BBC Radio Merseyside. Malone, who frequently speaks in place of Mersey Docks, acknowledged that the Port was not functioning normally in the general cargo areas and appeared sympathetic to the proposal. However, MDHC insisted it would not discharge the scabs and Malone quickly fell into line.

compiled from reports by Greg Dropkin and LabourNet

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