

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

Union scabbing breaks port strike

After a three-and-a-half-day shutdown, the Los Angeles and San Pedro ports were back to usual July 16th, as longshoremen worked vessels idled by a strike by harbor pilots and unloaded and loaded ships brought into the port by two scabs working 14-hour days to do as much of the work of the 13 striking union pilots as possible.

Los Angeles is the U.S.'s second-largest port; with the nearby Port of Long Beach it is the largest. Virtually nothing moves to Asia or from Asia to the U.S. unless it goes through our port.

The port had closed when 1,500 longshore workers honored pilots' picket lines at the port terminals. But when a judge prohibited the pilots from picketing, longshore workers began handling the work they had refused as scab labor the day before. The striking pilots are members of the same union.

"We're back in business," said Ricky Howard, director of operations for the Distribution and Auto Service Inc. terminal, where three massive vessels of Nissan Pathfinders and other vehicles were being unloaded. But an official at Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line said the company was pressuring the port to settle the strike. "You can't be in the position of acquiescing to the pilots' demands, but something's got to give," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "We have to really scramble now. We're burning 50-gallon drums of money faster than you can imagine."

The union seeks a substantial pay hike and protection against efforts to privatize the port. The pilots are also fighting efforts to compel them to submit future disputes to binding arbitration.

"The whole issue is, what is going to become of the port? Is it going to remain a union port?" said one city official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "There's a lot of churning going on. People are nervous and scared. I think that's evident by how quickly they went on strike and how quickly the [members of other branches of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union] refused to cross the picket lines."

This is not the first time Los Angeles longshore workers have scabbed on fellow port workers. Last year the ILWU worked behind picket lines mounted by truck drivers striking for union recognition. The drivers, who earn as little as \$5 to \$6 an hour,

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UPS strikers fight corporate greed

The Teamsters strike against UPS has effectively shut down 7 percent of the U.S. economy. But despite UPS's efforts to whip up sympathy for businesses (theirs) unable to ship parcels, and their thus-far unsuccessful attempts to prod President Clinton into outlawing the strike, the strikers enjoy widespread support. An example: a Wobbly was standing on a street corner in Seattle as a UPS truck passed. All four people standing at the stop spontaneously yelled "SCAB" as the truck passed. Even the guy in the suit...

But the boss media has blocked many reports of direct action and solidarity. While we IWWs walk the line with Teamsters here in Portland, we pass along news from other cities and nations. This boosts morale and also gives workers the idea of their power.

To further that information sharing the Portland IWW has converted our "OBulletins" web page (www.teleport.com/~obu/obulletins.html) into an unofficial UPS strike page. You can contribute via e-mail to obu@teleport.com or phone in a report to our Voice Mail at 503-650-7187.

Over the past week we've collected these reports:

• Austin, TX: Over 70 drivers were at the gates before the 12 PM Eastern deadline, carrying signs. The last truck came in and the driver refused to cross. He stopped the engine, got out and handed the keys to a manager that came out. We just kept walk-

ing our line (if you keep moving, a picket line is "legal," but if you stop then you are an obstruction) and the manager (after grinding the gears a few times, not used to driving the big brown truck) inched his way through. The Teamsters, here in Texas at least, were going very much out of their way to obey the letter and spirit of the law. And we did in this



instance. However, an Austin police officer claimed (contrary to my eyes and 50 others) that a Teamster had slapped the truck as it went past and arrested him for disorderly conduct.

• Belgium: The union representing UPS workers has shut down UPS operations here

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Job Corps Workers Hold the Fort

Despite desperate attempts by the management of the Keystone Job Corps Center in Drums, Pennsylvania, to stop the IWW union organizing effort, our campaign continues stronger than ever. In the past month, two delegates on Keystone have signed up enough members to charter an Industrial Union branch, student employees have made trips to learn how to be union organizers, and daily reports on the antics of their bosses are called in to the Philadelphia General Membership Branch.

The unfair labor practices of the Keystone Job Corps Center are being investigated by the National Labor Relations Board and the Federal Labor Relations Authority. In arguing for our charges to be dismissed, Job Corps insists that our fellow workers are "students," not employees entitled to protection under the law. A shocking claim indeed, as Job Corps in their own publication *Job Corps In Action* (Winter 1997) applauded Centers for describing the young people on their Centers as employees. The article quotes Deb Kelley, a manager of an Oregon Job Corps Center, as saying, "At the beginning it is explained to student employees that the entire center is their work site. Every staff person is their supervisor. They are on the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week." With hours that long, no wonder our campaign is catching on so quickly.

Keystone Center now chooses to play a linguistic game to cover up its disgusting union-busting activities. What they seem to forget is that even if it turns out our fellow workers aren't defined as "employees," they still have rights - unlike other American workers they will be protected in their practice of free speech and freedom of association. The IWW is on the Center, and our presence will continue to grow no matter what.

Kere Harcourt, a union activist who continued to organize even after Matt Wilson and Joe Marra were suspended for ten days after their first meeting with IWW representatives, was "medically discharged" in late July. Kere had been complaining to the infirmary on the center for more than a month of cramps and severe pains in her

stomach. She was told for over a month that she was fine, given water and Motrin, and sent on her way. On Thursday, July 24, Kere was rushed to a hospital in the nearby town of Hazelton for emergency surgery. Her gall bladder had swollen to four times its normal size, encroaching on her appendix, which had to be removed.

Kere called the IWW Philadelphia Branch July 27 to let us know what happened and that she was told she had six months to recover and if she was not better within that time, she could not come back. The IWW began a campaign that night to demand that 1) Kere be reinstated to the Job Corps program whenever her doctor says she is again medically fit, 2) full medical coverage be extended to Kere while she is on leave, 3) the infirmary is investigated by an independent third party, and 4) that all employees of the Keystone Center are authorized to call for 911 ambulance service. Your help is needed to ensure that the Keystone infirmary is held accountable to its charge of providing quality health care to the young people on the center and that Kere Harcourt is reinstated. (Information on who to contact is in the box page 6.)

Scissorbills on parade

A letter to the editor of the local paper in Hazelton, PA, the *Standard-Speaker* was printed August 6. A Keystone student employee wrote in to insist that the Job Corps helps to "prepare them for their future."

Curiously, her letter begins, "I am writ-

ing in response to an article about the Keystone Job Corps Center that was displayed in your newspaper a couple of weeks ago. Unfortunately I do not have a copy of it." When the *Standard-Speaker* published articles detailing the reasons the union drive was started - the wrongful suspensions and harassment of our activists, the illegal firing of Matthew Wilson, the center security classifying and confiscating our organizing materials as contraband, and the shameful incompetence of the Keystone infirmary staff - all copies of the newspaper were confiscated. Even an article on Keystone's management's unwillingness to bargain in good faith with the union representatives for the residential advisors was censored.

If Keystone would honestly like to prepare the young people on their center for the future, one of the first steps is to develop their critical thinking skills and not control their ability to receive information. Another preparation for the path that the young people are put on by Job Corps after they receive training for low paying, highly competitive jobs is training on how to organize a union - training the IWW is glad to provide.

A 56-page appeal of FW Matt Wilson's termination was filed August 7 at the Office of Job Corps, Region III in Philadelphia. Matt was terminated July 8 by Keystone Center Director June Boswell. Her reasons for terminating Matt have yet to be fully explained; only one sentence and one multiple choice answer on a Job Corps form

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In This Issue...

Recyclers win new pact

Kellogg's 6-hour day

Fighting on in Detroit

Bosses in killing spree

Jobs With Justice?



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Worker co-ops & the IWW

In theory, I agree with Mike Hargis' letter (*IW* August, 1997). Co-ops are not about transforming society. But, then again, the IWW is not renowned for its theory or theoretical clarity.

In practise, Fellow Workers Neill and Adams are, I believe, members of the union organising amongst their fellow construction workers and are having some success. It should be noted that for an organisation whose aim is to unite the whole working class into One Big Economic Union "we" aren't doing too well, are we? Is this still the aim?

So, for what it's worth, give me a bit of theoretical confusion any day, if it goes hand in hand with honest organizing on the job. As a member of the IWW, I prefer this kind of action to those who seek to portray the "union" as an anti-political sect which hangs around demonstrations with "libertarian" groups.

Yours for Industrial Unionism,
Derek Devine, Edinburgh

Dear Editor,

I am in agreement with the article in June 1997 *IW*. Industrial Cooperatives are a necessary type of organization to replace capitalism, and a good way to create jobs.

We found pretty good success in signing people up into a LETS exchange system, which is a type of distribution cooperative. I am now trying to put together a wild herbs

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

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Press Date: August 13, 1997

Readers' Soapbox

cooperative.

However, in order for the workers in an industrial cooperative to have a reason for joining a union and paying dues, the union needs to provide us with something to improve our work conditions and to assist the running of the cooperative.

The workers in an industrial cooperative do not need a union to fight the management; we are the management.

What we do need is good models for workplace democracy, so we can ensure our co-ops do not turn into capitalist enterprises in the future; we need advice on laws and finances from other peoples' experiences; we need sharing of technical knowledge and support from related cooperatives; and we need connections for supply and marketing.

Solidarity
Carlos Murray, Ottawa

A Forceful and Critical Voice

I just want to send out my appreciation to all those working on the *Industrial Worker*. Being affiliated with more radical elements

for a while now, I have struggled through far too many newspapers in old leftyspeak. The *IW* has created a forceful and critical language which takes a radical message to its readers without bludgeoning them with these dusty tirades.

In order to create a truly effective movement, radical unionists must create a fresh and vibrant arena of communication which directly appeals to contemporary struggles.

It appears to me that the IWW is on the verge of being a truly vibrant movement again. Branches all over the nation are growing and the country in general is frustrated and cynical regarding hierarchical labor organization. The IWW is organized in such a fashion that it can address these concerns directly. Our heritage is rich but history is not our best organizing tool. We must ensure that all our literature reflects the nature of the contemporary labor situation in the US and our understanding of its struggles. It may be time to look at our organizing materials for purposes of updating them.

I know that much of our organizing

literature is, and should be, created locally. In our restaurant campaign, we are moving on this now. I was wondering how people feel about the core lit like *One Big Union*. It has been almost 20 years since the last rewrite. For example, I think it might need some fresh discussion on organizing service industry and temp workers rather than so much focus on factory and dock type work.

Also, is it necessary to have in our IWW organizing flyer info about General Strikes and direct action? Whereas other parts of the flyer show the IWW in a favorably broad-based and radically democratic light, discussion of a general strike straight away has scared off less-radical types who have great interest in joining a radically democratic union but need a bit more time to swallow the idea of a general strike.

We will win!

Greg Snyder, Austin, TX

In November We Remember

Greeting ads for our November memorial issue are due no later than October 3. Standard rates apply: \$5/inch for non-commercial notices by Wobs, \$10 otherwise. The issue will feature a round-up of recent historical work on the IWW.

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW- PO Box 241, Surrey Hills 2010

TASMANIA

Organizing Committee- Bill Bartlett, 27 Emma St., Bracknell 7250 billbartlett@vision.net.au

BRITISH ISLES

IWW Regional Organising Committee- 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835. For contacts throughout the British Isles write or phone this office.

ENGLAND

Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620 group- del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707
General Distribution Workers IU660 and Boce-memouth IWW- Ray Carr, Flat 2, 35 Parkwood Rd., Boscombe, Dorset BH5 2BS

SCOTLAND

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

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW- PO Box 17, Aberystwyth, Dyfed Workers Helpline 01970 624590

CANADA

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <bh295@freenet.carleton.ca>
Toronto Group- Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

GERMANY

Del.- Daniel Zimmermann, Atroper Strasse 22, D-47226 Duisburg-Rheinhausen. 02065-56 446

WEST AFRICA

Sierra Leone-Del.: Bright Chikezi, 22 Wellington Street, Freetown. Temporary Address: c/o Ben Isaacs World Outreach, No. 25, Sule Str., Idimangoro, Off Mangoro B/Stop, Abeokuta Expressway, Agege, Lagos, Nigeria

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. For location: 213/368-4604 or 735-8648. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group- PO Box 907, 92112-0907.
Santa Cruz GMB- PO Box 534, 95061
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop- 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176
San Francisco Bay Area GMB- PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140.
Berkeley office and IU 670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Branch: 2022 Blake St., 94704, 510/845-0540. Meets Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. IU 620 Berkeley Worms: 504 Eshleman UC Berkeley 94703 510/643-0440. IU 620 File 13 Recy-

cling Job Shop: 504 Eshleman, 510/642-4895.
San Francisco office: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp), #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS e-mail: staff@iww.org

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group-George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB- PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; Mike Long, del mlong@hawaii.edu and 808/946-1271 or wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu
Honaunau Group- POB 868, Honaunau 96726.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 2nd Friday 7 pm (call for location).

KANSAS

Wichita- 1559 N Market, 67214.

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620- PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 5 p.m., Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.
Pioneer Valley Group- PO Box 154, Northampton 01061, e-mail: pviww@iww.org del: Mike D'Amore 413/549-1143

MICHIGAN

Huron Valley GMB- 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
Detroit IWW- Trumbull Theatre, 4208 Trumbull 48208. 313/832-4074
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons 313/769-0695
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB- 206 W 4th St., #216, Duluth 55806 218/723-7887.
Minneapolis-St. Paul- 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield 55423-3025. 612/869-4139.

MISSOURI

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

MONTANA

Butte- Mark Ross, PO Box 233, 59703. 406/782-4465

NEW JERSEY

Cape May County GMB & Building Construction Workers IU 330- c/o Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Court House 08210.

NEW YORK

Capital District Group- POB 74, Altamont 12009. 518/861-5627.

Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/385-6681.
NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671 Del: Danny Isaacs, Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.
IU670 Socialist Party Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville- BB&T Building Suite G130, Asheville 28801 704/285-9521.

OREGON

Eugene GMB - c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org
Portland GMB and Building Construction Workers IU 330 Branch- POB 15005, 97293-5005. email: mmiller@orednet.org 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com>
Lancaster GMB: POB 796, Lancaster 17608.
Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. phillyiww@iww.org Meets on the third Sunday of every month at 4:00pm at A Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave. Del: Alexis Buss 215/724-1925

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

TENNESSEE

Memphis- c/o Dennis Henke, 3461 Douglass, Memphis 38111 901/458-9907.

TEXAS

Lucy Parsons Branch- c/o Joshua Freeze, 1309 Norwalk Apt. C, Austin 78703. 512/482-9402.
Rio Grande- Del.: Erik Carlos Toren, 1018 S 12th Ave., Edinburgh 78539-5606/210/381-6786

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- POB 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 slegmb@iww.org

VERMONT

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

VIRGINIA

Richmond Group- c/o Tom Williams. 2404 Boyle Ave., Richmond 23230 804/285-3699

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Olympia- PO Box 2775, 98507. 360/753-5919.
Puget Sound GMB- P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB- c/Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

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

Recyclers win new contract

The Berkeley Curbside Recyclers have negotiated a new contract including several new benefits, including a pay hike and a union hiring hall to dispatch replacements for sick or injured workers. Local Wobs are also looking into the possibility of launching a campaign against Waste Management (WMX), which is bidding to get the city contract for curb-side recycling. The Berkeley Ecology Center's contract with the city expires next year, and WMX hopes to underbid them by busting the IWW and using nonunion labor.

Bay Area Wobs are also working to re-establish the IWW's timber workers branch in Northern California, and recently co-sponsored a direct action training camp with East First! groups in the region.

Wobs have been meeting with disgruntled timber workers, and distributing IWW literature pointing out the common interests timber workers and environmentalists share — including preserving long-term jobs in the timber industry by keeping the timber companies from clear cutting. A Forest Workers Industrial Union 120 site is being set up on the Web, and several other projects are in the works.

Because of continued rapid membership growth, the San Francisco Bay Area Branch is considering setting up separate branches on each side of the Bay. East Bay Wobblies are holding weekly meetings in their new office (2022 Blake Street, at Shattuck Ave.), and organizing video showings and organizing workshops.

Northeast Regional IWW Meeting Set

The Boston General Membership Branch and the Pioneer Valley IWW Group will cohost a regional IWW gathering October 18th in Amherst, Massachusetts. Wobblies from throughout the Northeastern U.S. (and any who happen to be passing through) are welcome to attend. Location and other information will be available by mid-September, contact the Pioneer Valley group for details.

General Assembly

The IWW General Assembly will meet in St. Louis' Preservation Hall (1921 S. 9th, Soulard area) August 30 through September 1. Contact the St. Louis Branch for housing and transportation information.

Regional Meeting in England

The IWW Regional Organising Committee meets Sept. 6 and 7th at the Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester.

PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

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

Around Our Union

New Branch in Olympia, Wash.

Olympia, Washington, Wobblies have petitioned for a General Membership Branch charter. Wobblies at a local brewery are fanning the flames of discontent sparked by the bosses' decision to pay for their rapid expansion by cutting workers' wages. Local Wobs are also participating in local Asian/Pacific American Labor Alliance activities, helping to gather oral histories as a resource for future generations. The IWW has withdrawn from participation in the Centralia Mural Project to protest the undemocratic nature of the project.

Ballots will be counted September 2nd for the Libros sin Fronteras organizing drive, after the boss's challenge to the bargaining unit was rejected by the NLRB. Since a majority of the workers are paid-up IWW members, we expect to win the election.

Twin Cities Wobs Back Harmon Glass Strike

In late July, union workers for Harmon Glass, a national auto glass replacement firm, in 15 Metro-Minneapolis/St. Paul stores went out on strike. Scabs were called in, the company was demanding "flexible" shifts (both with hours and length), scabs were being paid \$1.50/hr more than union workers, etc. A Wobbly joined the picket line, and other IWWs were prepared to join in but the strike was settled after a few days.

Twin Cities Glaziers, Architectural Metals and Glass Workers, Local 1324 business manager Larry Reynolds informed FW Don Kurth that the strike ended July 25. The workers got most of their money and shift demands in the new contract. Because the strike involved operations only in one city, Harmon was able to continue pulling in profits from its other operations around the country. An agreement was reached because while the bosses were going all-out for union busting, the bosses were ultimately not willing to pay the price for such actions. But much more could have been won had the union been prepared to hold Harmon's feet to the fire on a national basis.

Seattle On the Line

Seattle Wobs attended an August 11 rally for UPS workers, which was organized by IBT local 174. It appeared that the Seattle UPS hub had shut down for the day as no trucks passed, and "scab alley" (the name given to the side gate where workers normally enter the facility) remained quiet. Speakers at the rally had a more militant strain than those of most of the rallies here; many rank-and-file Teamsters, and some folks from UFW spoke. There was not much of the normal schmoozing by democratic party hacks, but there were a few token pie-cards that have been notorious for running in Party circles. There was a strong showing of Rank and File Teamsters, with support from ILWU, IBU, IAM, Jobs with Justice, CWA, and of course the IWW.

A Wobbly was also interviewed for a local Public Access cable show called Earth on the Air, which went very well. The drives at Job Corps and in Olympia were mentioned, as well as the ideas of industry-wide organizing and cross-industry solidarity, and how it tied in with the principles of the IWW.

Wobs will continue to help picket in Seattle, and organize for strike support.

Boston Wobs going strong

Boston Wobs picketed Borders Books July 26th, and are joining picket lines at UPS's Somerville depot. Our July meeting featured a discussion on organizing temp workers, the August meeting heard a report from FW Alexis Buss on the Job Corps campaign. The Boston GMB has launched a new server, named Parsons, as part of the IWW computer net. It will host the online *Industrial Worker*, which should soon be current once again.

Bisbee deportation commemoration

The 1997 Bisbee Poetry Festival will double as a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Bisbee Deportation. The program will include three days of labor singers, poets and readings running September 26th through 28th in Bisbee, Arizona. Veteran Wobbly Carlos Cortez, author Barbara Kingsolver (*Holding the Line*), labor troubador Charlie King, David Dellinger, Rita Magdalena, and Becky Reyes are among those who will participate.

The program will take place at the Lowell School Auditorium; a weekend pass is \$15 in advance (PO Box 1350, Bisbee AZ 85603; for information 520/432-5063). The pass does not include writing workshops scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27.

Solidarity Action for Leonard Peltier

Wobblies and other supporters of imprisoned Native American activist Leonard Peltier will gather for International Indigenous People's Day on October 12 to rally at the U.S./Canadian border in Peace Arch Park in Blaine, Washington. Peltier's trial contained all of the usual ingredients of a government railroad effort — falsified evidence, intimidation of witnesses, spying on the defense team, a biased judge, and so on.

Now in the twenty-second year of Peltier's incarceration, the government has agreed to conduct oversight hearings on the events at Pine Ridge from 1972-1975 and the case of Peltier. This is a critical time for the struggle to finally win justice for Peltier and the Lakota people who are victims of a partnership between the U.S. government and multi-national corporations which cooperated to steal native land to mine for uranium. For more information on this action or the case of Leonard Peltier contact the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network, 5201 Capital Boulevard, Suite 119, Tumwater, WA 98501.

Borders Books stalls negotiations

After months of contract talks between Borders Books and the UFCW local representing workers at Borders' Lincoln Park, Chicago, store, workers are no closer to union protection than when they voted to go union nearly ten months ago. Contract talks are also stalled at other Borders outlets.

Madison Wobs blast Exxon mine

The Madison, Wisconsin, General Membership Branch passed the following resolution against the Crandon Mining Company and its planned sulfide leach mine in Northern Wisconsin at its July 1 meeting:

Whereas, the Industrial Workers of the World has historically taken strong positions on worker health and safety, nationally and internationally, and on protection of our Earth and all her creatures;

Whereas, the Crandon Mining Company (owned by Exxon and Rio Algom) has embarked on a massive public relations campaign to influence opinion in favor of its proposed zinc/copper sulfide mining operations near Crandon, Wisconsin;

Whereas, Exxon and Rio Algom have poor records regarding worker health and safety, and in the area of environmental protection, and at times have exhibited outright hostility towards unions;

Whereas, no sulfide mine has ever been successfully reclaimed;

Whereas, the effects of the proposed Crandon mine on water table levels, groundwater quality, wild rice beds, lake and river quality, air quality, the tourism industry, human and other forms of life is likely to be negative;

Whereas, metallic sulfide mining tailings leach out toxic acid containing dangerous heavy metals requiring containment and monitoring for hundreds of years; ...

Whereas, cost, both financial and social, beyond CMC's limited responsibility for any potential negative impact of the proposed operations near Crandon will be borne by an increasingly economically exploited and underpaid public;

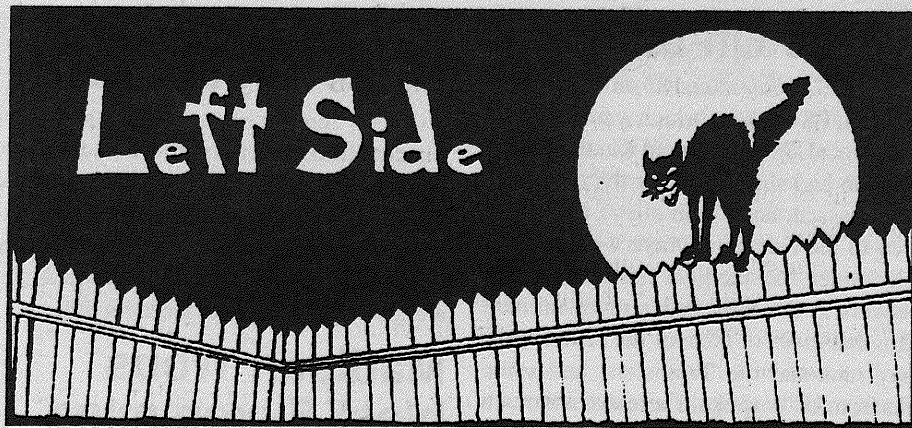
Whereas, the unrepentant capitalism practiced by Exxon and Rio Algom is a threat to the sovereignty of Indigenous nations and their cultures;

Whereas, the working class and employing class have nothing in common and any benefit of the proposed Crandon mine will be largely enjoyed by only a small wealthy corporate elite;

Whereas, groups as diverse as Citizens for a Better Environment, the Wisconsin and Milwaukee Area Greens, The Menominee Nation, the Oneida Nation, the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, Kids for Clean Water, Gray Panthers, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Greenpeace, Wolf River Watershed Alliance, Peace Action-Milwaukee, Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, United Steel Workers' Association Local 1527, Teaching Assistants' Association/American Federation of Teachers Local 3220 AFL-CIO-Madison, University of Wisconsin Employees' Local 82-Milwaukee, among many others, are united in their opposition to the proposed Crandon mine:

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the IWW-Madison Branch strongly opposes CMC's proposed zinc/copper sulfide mining venture in the Crandon area, and strongly supports the Mining Moratorium Bill currently in the Wisconsin state legislature.

Be It Further Resolved, that if the Exxon and Rio Algom venture in the Crandon area should become a reality, we demand and are committed to the creation of a unionized permanent workforce for all operations with safety of workers, the environment and Indigenous communities a top priority. Because an injury to one is an injury to all.



"The effects of ozone (smog) are not that serious... What we're talking about is a temporary loss in lung function of 20 to 30 percent. That's not really a health effect." So says Richard Klimisch, vice president of the American Automobile Association.

God's in his heaven and Willie's in his White House and all is well with their World. Somewhere the rest of us are underneath stuck with what's left over.

Southwest of Salt Lake City in Tooele County, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in the process of burning 42 percent of Freedomland's chemical stockpile. The facility, which cost the Freedomland working stiffs some six hundred and fifty million dollars, contains some fifteen thousand tons of the World's most lethal weapons of chemical warfare. Nerve gasses, blister agents, an arsenal of bombs, mines, mortar rounds and rockets. You name it.

Due to malfunctioning equipment, seven shut-downs have occurred within the past eight months. Among the reasons were filter leaks and cracking concrete. They apparently hired some of the contractors your scribe used to work for as a construction stiff. Nerve agent was found in areas that were supposed to be clean.

According to some experts, a single drop of this agent can kill a person and a major leak into the atmosphere could reduce the population within a forty mile radius. Those of you Stateside stiffs who live west of the Rockies, don't feel too smug; that stuff can climb mountains, too!

This plant is the first of its kind in Freedomland and if it goes according to plan all the nasty stuff should be incinerated by the year 2004, twenty years after 1984. Let's hope we're still around to enjoy it.

The Army flatly insists that no leaks have happened, either in the plant or into the environment, but the old Greeks were the ones who said, "In war, truth is the first causality."

Interestingly enough, within the same periodical from where these tidbits are gleaned, was a lengthy article on the number of nuclear electrical plants throughout Freedomland that have been experiencing some major dysfunctions that are quite hazardous. It is obvious that quite a few construction contractors have lined their pockets with their jerry-built construction methods while the rest of us will be paying for that in more ways than one for some time to come.

It has been said that if all the computers in the World were combined into one massive computer it would only have the intelligence of a 7-year-old human child. Upon thinking about those who are now programming the computers that affect our lives, we would be far better off if the computers were being programmed by a tantrum-prone 7-year-old human. Even an epileptic chimpanzee would be preferable to those who now program our computers.

I am by no means belittling technological advancement. Technology has been and can continue to be a great benefit to the human race as well as to those whom share this Planet with us. It is only another example of the machinery being under the control of the wrong hands. As long as such machinery is under the control of those who seek to perpetuate the present socio-economic system, don't expect any great strides for the rest of us.

The law in its majestic impartiality punishes both rich men and poor men alike for stealing loaves of bread or sleeping under bridges!

— C. C. Redcloud

"Team Concept"

Contracts are reflective of the class nature of this society, and until we make a reversal of which class makes the major decisions concerning our very livelihoods, we are likely to see contracts become more restrictive, confining and dictatorial. How democratic is it when major decisions are determined by who has the most shares of stock, i.e., who is the wealthiest, rather than those who actually make the product?

When they inflict their will on us through our contracts, they merely contribute to an already revolting situation.

This "team concept" bull might be a tad more palatable if profits and bonuses were equally divided amongst all levels of management and the workers, as was brought up by a union negotiator at the Ford-UAW opening negotiating session in 1987; the Ford rep. burst out laughing. Truer still to fundamental unionism would be shortening the work day and employing, rather than displacing, workers.

If "we" work as a "team," let's include all levels of management, as well as all

levels of the work force. Otherwise "team concept" is just another scheme to screw all workers as a whole, just another ploy by the boss class to pull the wool over our eyes.

We will show them that we are not sheep, but human beings. They will be made to comply for once to our collective will.

And this will be accomplished by what has always been and will always be out gateway to a better world — education, organization and emancipation.

— Joseph Blough

No food for homeless

Food Not Bombs co-founder Keith McHenry was attacked by San Francisco police June 21 at a Beggar's Banquet outside the Fairmont Hotel, where the national mayors' conference was taking place.

McHenry's head was banged into his truck when he arrived with food for the homeless, and he was arrested on charges of "failure to obey a police officer" and "assault with a deadly force other than a firearm" (a steamed carrot, perhaps?). He was held in jail until after the conference closed, and then freed on \$5,000 bond.

Bosses, Who needs 'em?

I saw a UPS truck being driven by scabs the other day, and of course yelled at them. There were two scabs driving the truck (they never have more than one except during training). Yesterday I found a package in the lobby (policy requires they be signed for; I've emailed UPS telling them to keep their scabs away).

UPS says it has some 50,000 managers doing the work of 180,000+ strikers. Leaving aside the question of why they need so damn many straw bosses, it's interesting to note that by UPS's own count these scabs are running less than 10 percent of normal volume.

What does this tell us? (a) It takes two bosses (supervisors and managers are doing almost all the scab work) to do half the work of one worker; (b) they don't get it done nearly as quickly; (c) we'd all be a whole lot better off without the bosses.

Growing Organizers

The July issue of the AFL-CIO's magazine, *America@work*, illustrates as well as anything I've seen why the AFL is in such sorry shape. An article titled "How To Grow An Organizer" aims to help the piecards who read the magazine understand how to develop organizers. The magazine asks veteran AFL organizers insightful questions such as this: "So your new organizer spends three or four very intense months organizing workers somewhere... Then it's over. How do you help your new organizer walk away?"

Julee Jerkovich of the United Food & Commercial Workers had this answer: "We do NLRB elections, so we're in, we're out."

"Commemorating" Centralia

The Centralia Union Mural Project has issued an "open letter" (circulating in several different versions, each less accurate than the last) attacking the IWW and the *Industrial Worker* for telling the truth about their efforts to misappropriate the IWW's legacy for their own political and commercial interests. In a 3-page single-spaced letter, the Project attacks members of the IWW who attempted to participate in the mural project and the *IW*'s coverage of those efforts. The letter is filled with distortions and outright lies, accusing us of everything from censorship and red-baiting to rudeness. (Oddly enough, the Project simply ignores co-chair Bill Henry's false charges of embezzlement and his repeated sexist and racist insults against IWW members.)

Space precludes publishing more than brief excerpts from the letter. Those interested in getting a copy of these lies can write Helen Lee, Evergreen State College Labor Center, Olympia WA 98502. If you do write, while you're at it you might ask why she signs her name to lies about the IWW and defends racist liars.

The Project letter begins by describing themselves, and suggesting that their mural "will deal with the efforts of the IWW and other unions to create decent conditions for workers in 1919. But it will also look at the challenges working people confront in 1997... The mural is an opportunity for Centralia to begin a dialogue about its past which can lead to new organizing initiatives and solutions today." Thus, the lynching of Wesley Everest and the judicial lynching of 8 other Wobblies — ostensibly the event to be commemorated — is subsumed within a broader political project shaped by people (business owners, political vanguardists, etc.) openly hostile to the IWW and our aspirations.

The letter falsely claims that the IWW was invited to participate in the Project in its beginning stages, and claims our Puget Sound GMB would confirm this. However, branch secretary John Persak denies that the

The disappointment, the balancing act, the failure, the separation — I think they have to go through it individually... It's a growth thing."

"We're in, we're out." What kind of way is that to help workers develop their power on the job? And why should any worker trust a union that announces in advance its intention to abandon them to the tender mercy of the bosses if the campaign isn't successful on the first go-round?

Reminds me of a conversation I had a few days ago on a picket line with a UFCW member who makes minimum wage at a local supermarket. He doesn't understand why his local president pulls in \$120,000 a



year, and the union rep.s \$70,000, while most members of the local earn "union" paychecks within 50 cents of the minimum wage. The local recently raised dues; when he suggested to some members that they might want to show up at the "union" meeting to vote on the question the shop steward warned against it. Why would you want to go to the union meeting? he asked. You'll only make trouble for yourselves.

The UFCW is a particularly miserable excuse for a union, of course, and has been for a long time. But it's growing. By lying supine as the supermarkets it represents replace full-time workers with low-paid part-timers, its dues base grows at a steady clip. Next month it swallows the Retail, Whole-

Branch was ever formally approached about the Project and notes that this claim is of relatively recent origin.

"Jess [Grant] did not crash the meetings. He was invited, and welcomed. He was invited because the committee wanted IWW participation and we believed Jess represented the IWW." (emphasis added) FW Grant was not in fact invited, but attended on his own initiative. The letter goes on to accuse FW Grant of "sectarian squabbling," ignoring the continual efforts of the Project's vanguardists and labor bureaucrats to control the project and exclude the IWW from its representation of events.

The letter then attacks the *Industrial Worker* for not publishing a letter by muralist Mike Alewitz that was never sent to us. It attacks the IWW for not organizing in Centralia, even though we have several organizing campaigns going on in neighboring Seattle and Olympia. And it denies that IWW members have been insulted and attacked by Bill Henry and others with the Project, even though more than a dozen Wobblies witnessed Henry's abusive behavior and we have insulting, libelous and racist letters from him in our possession.

"We are appalled by the hostility and controversy the mural project has generated in an organization we hoped would support it... The sarcastic and disrespectful tone of Jess' article, and the insults and misrepresentations that have been flung at us by the *Industrial Worker* make a mockery of the ideal that progressive people can work together in solidarity, regardless of individual differences."

The letter purports to be signed by 12 Project members, though no actual signatures are affixed. In a cover letter, Anne Fischel denounces your editor for allowing IWW members to use this newspaper to express their concerns.

In a 4-page single-space letter, IWW delegate Arthur J. Miller (PO Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415) offers a detailed account of IWW efforts to participate in the

sale and Department Store Union. The Distillery Workers, United Textile Workers and Chemical Workers unions were all swallowed by the UFCW within the past two years. And the UFCW is in talks with the Communications Workers of America (which just swallowed the Newspaper Guild) to merge into a new super-union united by little more than their opposition to what passes for reform in the AFL-CIO. They're upset that Sweeney and company are rocking the boat which has kept them comfortable for so long...

So we see textile workers merging into a retail clerks' union, leather workers merged into a building service union, and reporters merged into the telephone union. The AFL-CIO's mag is enthusiastic about this merger mania, but admits there are some problems. It's often necessary to raise dues to support the merged operation. New affiliates have to feel they have a voice. But most important is job security for top union officials and bureaucrats. I suspect these are the same problems facing the bosses of any large corporation...

Sweeney on Madison Avenue

But ya gotta admit those piccards are forward-looking folks. While I'm here kvetching about minimum-wage unionism and union mergers that line the pockets of the piccards while leaving workers in unwieldy, hodgepodge outfits, John Sweeney & Co. have their finger on what ails organized labor.

The AFL-CIO is launching a \$5 million television advertizing campaign aimed at refurbishing the Federation's rather tattered public image.

No doubt the campaign was developed by the very brightest of the high-priced consultants wandering the halls of AFL headquarters hawking their snake oil cures. Just as John Sweeney can't give a speech without having someone else write it for him, so today's new AFL can't take a step in

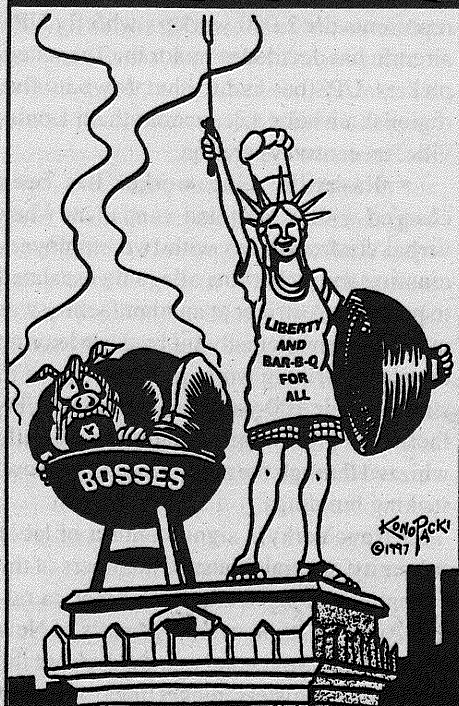
mural project, and the continuous attacks IWW members were subjected to in the process. "We were told many times that we were not real IWW members. It became clear to Jess and I that those who sought to control this project were only in this for their own gain and that they were seeking to suppress the truth about the IWW."

FW Miller's letter raises nine specific problems: efforts to use the Project to support a political party; misrepresentation of the IWW by speakers; lack of democratic process; domination of the project by bureaucrats (one of whom fired an IWW member for refusing to work unpaid overtime) and political vanguardists; secret meetings from which the IWW has been barred; Bill Henry's threats of arrest against FWs Miller and Grant; Bill Henry's racist and sexist insults against one Wobbly; Bill Henry's repeated lies accusing FW Grant of embezzlement (ironically, Henry is implicated in withholding workers' pensions to enrich his union's treasury - see below); attempting to use the IWW name to legitimize their fundraising efforts.

Pipeline workers get \$12 million in settlement

The International Union of Operating Engineers agreed last year to return \$12 million in pension payments to nearly 11,000 former Alaska pipeline workers represented by IUOE locals 302 and 612. Mural Project co-chair Bill Henry is an official of IUOE Local 612. The locals stripped workers of pension benefits who were laid-off after several years of pipeline work before meeting the union's requirement that workers put in at least ten years on IUOE jobs before receiving pension benefits. The IUOE simply absorbed the workers' pension payments in order to enrich its pension plan. (Seattle Times, March 20, 1996, p. D2)

HAPPY LABOR DAY



public without running it past a focus group, a half-dozen consultants, and their PR agency. All this gets very good press, but it doesn't seem to be doing much to emancipate our class from wage slavery.

We Will Win

But workers are increasingly receptive to our message of direct action unionism. We need the active involvement of every member to make it happen - talking to your fellow workers on the job, getting IWW literature (including this paper) out, and letting us know about struggles in your part of the world.

The IWW is contraband at the Job Corps, and your boss would probably prefer not to see it at your workplace either. But perhaps your fellow workers might take a different view... —JB

FW Miller notes that the Project is run by people who have long lived off the labor movement, and are apparently unable to understand workers' demands to run their own affairs. "They are a breed of vampires who have been feeding upon the life force of the working-class struggle for a long time..." FW Miller notes that while the IWW agreed to mediation, the Project dictators refused.

"We at no time have ever stated that the project should exclude anyone, all we have said is that a project that deals with IWW history should not exclude the IWW.... We Wobblies have fought many battles to defend our right to tell workers the truth... We have never backed down to the forces of repression.... Though we have resigned from the project, that does not mean that we will not respond to the continued attacks upon us by these liars and crooks. What our withdrawal means is that we will not legitimize this fraud with our name."

And Puget Sound GMB Secretary John Persak weighs in with a letter protesting the Project's attempt to demonize FW Grant, and noting that the "open letter" "contains outright lies, out-of-context quotations, and other mechanisms found in corporate 'crisis management' literature designed to paint a contrived picture..." He notes that many other Wobblies have witnessed the Project's undemocratic, abusive behavior. "The open letters on the e-mail lists and others never address the above issues, but resort to slander and are written deliberately to mislead the reader that hasn't heard the full story or seen other documents."

He calls on Mike Alewitz to withdraw his false statements against FW Grant, and warns the Project that continued attacks will not go unanswered, "especially those designed to demonize FWs Miller and Grant for simply standing up for the IWW and its principles."

As I write this the Teamster strike at UPS enters its second week. Mediation has broken down. UPS C.E.O. James Kelly is threatening to hire scabs to replace the 185,000 Teamsters out on strike. UPS says that 6,000 have crossed the line, When 96 2/3% of your work force is telling you that you aren't going to have things your way, when your distribution is reduced by 90%, when you lose tens of millions of dollars in a few days, I'd say it's time for the bosses to do some serious negotiating.

If you need to send something to IWW General Headquarters, don't send it by UPS. Aside from the fact that it would be foolish to trust the bosses to do the job as efficiently as the workers, as a sign in our window tells the world, scab deliveries are not accepted here.

Crucial issues are involved in the strike: the replacement of full-time jobs with part-time, and outsourcing through which living wage jobs are replaced by those paying minimum wage. Unfortunately the issue which is reported to have caused Teamster negotiators to walk from the bargaining table is the UPS demand for control over pension funds. How the pensions of Teamsters are managed is no business of UPS. But that this is the key issue for Teamster leadership might be cause for concern. The old Teamsters had a long and shoddy history of stealing the pension funds. If I were a Teamster hearing that this is the key issue for the Union leadership, I'd watch my wallet.

Whether the strike is successful could depend on politicking within the Union. The old Teamsters aren't going away quietly. It wouldn't be out of character for them to undermine the strike to weaken the hold of the reformers on power. If they can close ranks, success will still depend on whether they can exercise their power effectively. They need to reach out for support from the entire labor movement. And they need to be militant.

Wobblies have been out on the line in support from Boston to Austin to Seattle. In Ypsilanti AFL-CIO rank and filers who showed up at the UPS terminal to walk the line were told that they weren't needed. There's a rumor that a message came down from the national union that solidarity pickets weren't welcomed because of the possibility that "socialists" might be involved. Ya ain't done nothin' if ya ain't been called a red, goes the song. The Teamsters at UPS are doing just fine regardless of support from the rest of the labor movement at the moment. But if scabs are hired, they're going to need all the support they can get. Reports from around the country indicate great concern on the part of the Union bosses about maintaining control on the picket lines. National Public Radio reported on a Union rep telling pickets to conduct themselves like "ladies and gentlemen". Sorry, wrong class. I'm hoping they'll conduct themselves like workers and do whatever it takes to protect living wage jobs.

Some Wobblies have raised the point that the Teamsters have it backwards. They're fighting to increase the hours part-time workers get at UPS rather than fighting to increase the wages for those jobs so that more hours aren't necessary to make a living. I couldn't agree more. But it clearly isn't going to be raised by the Teamsters in this struggle. Meanwhile, when some workers are doing two part time jobs for a total of more than 40 hours a week and no benefits, and many workers are doing forced overtime so that UPS doesn't have to hire more full-timers, moving more part-timers to full time will be an improvement.

Other large corporations are watching this one closely. If UPS wins, we can expect a rush to expand the already major trend to turn full time jobs to part time with few if any benefits. If the Teamsters win it could be the beginning of turning around a trend which has forced more and more of the work force to turn to two, sometimes three part-time jobs to make ends meet. Similarly, UPS outsourcing is taking decently paid jobs out of the bargaining unit and turning them into low wage no benefit jobs for workers employed by sub-contractors.

The potential for building labor solidarity is great in this strike. UPS distribution centers are everywhere. None of us have to go far to find a place to show our support. The Teamsters at UPS should never have to walk the line alone. They should never have to buy lunch or a cup of coffee on that line. They should never want for entertainment on the line. Musicians should join them there and at rallies. Union locals should be making plans to subsidize the \$50 a week the strikers will receive in picket line pay.

If UPS hires scabs, it will be time for some militant direct action. UPS bosses are whining about how the strike is disrupting the economy. Too bad they don't show a little of the same concern for the economy of their workers. So far President Clinton has kept his hands off. If the bosses prevail and Teamsters are enjoined from mass picketing, whether or not the Union honors that injunction will determine whether or not the strike will be successful. Injunctions are a one way street. They never enjoin the bosses from using scabs. They only enjoin the workers

from taking effective action to win strikes. The cause of labor has never been advanced by adhering to laws which only benefit the bosses. If an injunction comes and is ignored, the cause of labor will take a great leap forward. If it comes and is honored, labor will be facing another major setback.

See you on the picket line at a UPS distribution center.

— Fred Chase
General Secretary-Treasurer

from the desk of...

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

- Clark Hull, Redding CA \$5
- Jack Wheeler, San Bernardino CA 15
- John Schraufnagel, Superior WI 10
- Jerry Pandora, San Pedro CA 15
- Mark Damron, Cincinnati OH 20
- James Giddings, Greenville NH 10

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

- James Giddings, Greenville NH \$10

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

On Strike Against UPS...

continued from page 1

in sympathy with the IBT.

- A UPS scab was arrested on reckless endangerment charges after striking two pickets with his car as he tried to enter a UPS terminal in Buffalo, New York.

- Chelmsford, MA: UPS strikers blocked the distribution center in Chelmsford.

- Somerville, MA: 23 strikers have been arrested on charges of delaying scabs. UPS is hiring police for scab-herding duty from the city. As we go to press UPS has secured an injunction barring strikers from blocking scab trucks or threatening scabs. Scabs testified that strikers had called them scabs, and otherwise expressed strong disapproval of their scabby ways.

- Strikers in Chicago tried to stop scab trucks.

- Columbia, MO: 200 Teamsters are on strike and walking the picket line. The media has been mostly unbiased (only strikers have been on camera). However, in keeping with the "news you can use tradition," the media has been telling people to send parcels through the post office.

- Hialeah, FL: A UPS scab was stabbed six times Friday as he sat in a truck at a traffic light and a local TV station claimed striking Teamsters committed the act. Local IBT officials deny the assailants were Teamster strikers.

- The head of Houston's second-largest police union urged members to support the strike against United Parcel Service by using any excuse to pull over UPS trucks and issue citations.

- Latham, NY: Two IWW members from the Capital District IWW joined 1,000 Teamsters and members of other unions in a rally on the UPS picket line in support of the striking Teamsters on Thursday, July 8. Enthusiasm ran high at the rally. The emcee, from the Civil Service Employees Association, announced the names of all unions in attendance at the rally. The IWW, along with all the unions announced, drew cheers and applause from the demonstrators.

- Some 230 aircraft crew members of the Independent Pilots Association, which represents the 2,000 workers who fly UPS aircraft, has decided to honor the Teamsters pickets. UPS has had to shut down its five regional air hubs to concentrate on Louisville, its central operation.

- Nashville: One worker has been charged with assault and vandalism when verbal confrontations with two employees crossing the picket line allegedly escalated to punches. A striker at another facility was injured when allegedly hit by a car leaving the plant. Striking workers were ordered to stick to their 100-yard distance from UPS facilities after marble-sized lead balls whizzed through the air two nights in a row, striking buildings.

- New York: In significant act of labor solidarity, several thousand members of the Communications Workers of America rallied August 7, took over large parts of New York's 42nd Street and marched across the city to the Teamsters' picket lines to support their fellow workers on strike against UPS.

- A picket was arrested in Norwood, Mass., after a police officer and several pickets were pushed up against a moving truck.

- Ontario, CA: At least six striking United Parcel Service workers reported they were injured by scabs crossing picket lines. Five picketers were injured when a UPS tractor-trailer struck them while trying to cross the picket line. Another striker was knocked down in a confrontation with a scab who was trying to drive his car past the picket lines.

- Portland, Oregon: Four Portland Wobs joined the picket line at UPS out on Swan Island August 7. We asked the president of the local if we could show our signs; he looked them over and agreed.

Many people were curious about us, whether because they knew we didn't work for UPS or because they noticed our IWW shirt, buttons, and signs. Quite a few struck up conversations, asking if the IWW was really still alive, what our structure was like, how big we were, etc. Several thanked us warmly, and at least one went on at some

length about reforming the Teamsters to be more like the IWW.

We're also readying a leaflet, and intend to hit the temp agency at the first word of scabs being hired; we expect that to be our main contribution to the strike.

- Seattle: Out of the 5,000 that struck in Washington state, only ten have crossed the picket line. Most of what is being delivered now are packages that were mailed before the strike began.

Picket line violence has occurred in Seattle; a truck driven by a manager/scab ran down a picketer, which was captured on video and shown on the news. (maybe some folks at the labor board here in Seattle will reconsider their view that "people aren't capable of that kind of behavior").

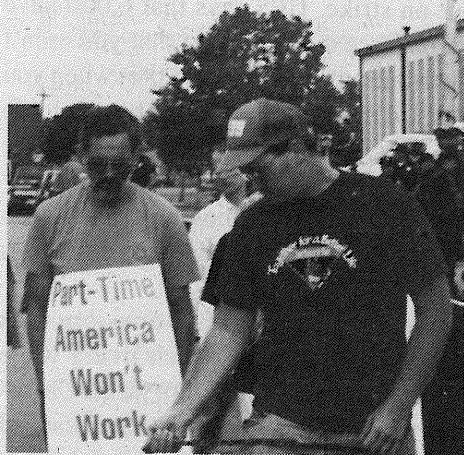
The Wobs walked picketlines at the Seattle Hub of UPS for several hours the evening of August 8. The line was calm for the most part, but then some longshore folks and rank and file teamsters spotted a couple of trucks on the way out. One Teamster commented that he loads those 18 wheelers and that these were empty, as evidenced by the way the trailer sat on the truck's axles.

The trucks sat for a few minutes while Teamsters, Longshore, IWWs, and a few ISOs created a little ruckus. Wouldn't you know that a few minutes later a woman claiming to be vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters showed up and began cussing everyone out for blocking the driveway and, of all things, cussing.

Using an IWW picket sign, she demonstrated the procedure for proper picket line conduct. After her chewing out, there was not a mandate of approval from the pickets. The picket captain was diplomatic, but seemed uncomfortable at being caught in the middle. There is definitely a huge element of rank-and-file-ism that is willing to challenge the leadership on direct action tactics. If this strike drags out, this could be pretty messy.

Since the IBT VP showed, and the cops didn't, the theory was that the UPS bosses called the union to quiet things down; probably a smart move on their part, as the police problems would not look good for UPS.

— CA Canny, Portland IWW



Teamsters picketing in Somerville, Mass., where police on the UPS payroll have arrested more strikers than anywhere else in the country.

Bicyclist meets scab

Bicycling down Market Street in downtown Philadelphia and what do I see but one of UPS's brown trucks plodding along, obviously being driven by someone who knew not how to operate such a vehicle.

I pull up and say, "Get off the road, jerk!" He pretends not to hear (impossible as several people on the sidewalk all chimed in "SCAB!" after I said it.) Ah, another scab comes out from the back to the cab and slams the door. Two UPS scabs to drive one truck? One for the gas, one for the brake?

So I pull my one speed coaster in front of the truck at the red light and I didn't budge when it turned green. The truck tried to back up and get around me but that didn't work. I kept them there for 5 or 6 light changes before they radioed for the police and I left. All this time I and other responsible citizens tried to convince them to get out of the truck and give us the keys. They failed to listen to reason, of course.

It was so much fun that now everybody wants in. Plans were cooked up to make Brown Truck hunting a part of Philly's next critical mass bicycle ride. Bright orange "CAUTION: SCAB DRIVER" stickers will be affixed as a public service.

UPS Strike at a Crossroads

Only time will tell whether the current strike between the Teamsters and United Parcel Service represents a crucial turning point, or another skirmish in a protracted struggle. With over 180,000 union members employed at UPS, the repercussions, whatever they may be, will be felt far and wide. Until now the Teamsters have kept UPS virtually shut down, but the strike continues.

The UPS contract presents a critical test to Ron Carey and the reform leadership of the Teamsters. Carey is under tremendous pressure from rank-and-file members to reverse the continuing decline in wages and working conditions. To his credit, the union has brought public attention to the pervasive problem of part-time workers. Over 60 percent of the entire UPS workforce is hired on a part-time basis, at lower wages and reduced benefits.

Yet the Teamster leadership remains hesitant. Carey and the Teamster leaders continue to rely on their ties to the Clinton administration, and to local Democratic party politicians as well. In Somerville, Massachusetts, site of several picket line clashes, Teamster Local 25, a pro-Carey local, organized a rally at the UPS depot. Among the politicians provided with a platform was Mayor Michael Capuano of Somerville. Capuano was applauded for his statement of support, and yet he bears personal responsibility for the very cops who had clubbed several Teamsters peacefully blocking UPS trucks just a few days previously. Indeed, Somerville has authorized UPS to hire off-duty cops to clear the way for scab trucks to

deliver parcels.

Teamster leaders are eager to avoid a lengthy and bitter strike. It may be that the cautious policy being pursued by union officials will lead to a quick end to the strike. Such an outcome would be likely bring with it a contract providing for a modest increase in full-time jobs, while leaving the overall situation pretty much as it is. Still, there are troubling signs that UPS may be intent on humbling the Teamsters. The corporation has insisted that the new contract permit it to withdraw from the existing pension plan, one that covers those working for several employers. Union acceptance of this provision could well spark a series of withdrawals, creating havoc with Teamster pension plans throughout the country.

If UPS refuses to budge, and begins to hire new scab employees to move increasing quantities of parcels, the skirmish will rapidly escalate into total confrontation. We can expect court injunctions, tear gas, and riot police. Such a confrontation can only be won through militant direct action, with the active participation of tens of thousands of working people ready to block each and every scab truck from moving.

The Industrial Workers of the World stands behind the UPS workers. Enough is enough!



Job Corps Appeal...

continued from page 1

were provided to Matt for him to base his appeal. It is quite clear that Matt was vindictively brought before the Keystone Center Review Board, a panel of center staff that makes disciplinary recommendations, on unsubstantiated charges in retaliation for his efforts to organize for the IWW. Instead of detailing her real reason for firing Matt, Boswell claims in a July 8 Separation/Transfer Notice that Matt was dismissed for "violence," even though there was not a single shred of evidence presented at his hearing to justify such a claim. The process of termination at Keystone is a circuitous one where the Center Director, who acts as judge, participates in the prosecution. Boswell in-

You Can Help the Keystone Campaign

While appeals and unfair labor practice charges are being pursued, this is not enough to keep the pressure on the Keystone Job Corps. Contact IWW General Headquarters at 313/483-3548 for an activist kit on the Job Corps campaign and current information.

Phone or write to complain to let Keystone, the Department of Labor and Keystone's management company, MTC, know that the IWW will not sit by and watch injustices occur.

Keystone Center Director June Boswell: 1-800-864-0496 fax: 717/788-1119

Management and Training Corporation: Sam Hunter, Executive Vice President, 3293 Harrison Blvd, Ogden UT 84403 801/626-2000 fax: 801/621-2685 jobs@mtctrains.com

MTC Northeast Regional Office: Carol Glasser, Regional Director, 900 Lee Street, Charleston WV 25301-1721 tel: 304/344-1788 fax: 304/344-1759

MTC Southeast Regional Office: 229 Peachtree NE Suite 200, Atlanta GA 30305 tel: 404/522-6810

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Job Corps: Mary Silva, National Director of Job Corps, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC tel:202/219-8550

This office of the Department of Labor is directly in charge of the Keystone Center: U.S. Department of Labor Office of Job Corps, Region III, 3535 Market Street, Philadelphia PA 19140 fax: 215-596-5076; James A. Bodnar, Regional Director tel:215-596-6302; Lynn Intrepidi, Deputy Regional Director tel:215/596-6315

Job Corps workers hold fort...

continued from page 6

tentionally denied Matt enough time and information to prepare a defense. She helped compose a memorandum to the Center Review Board to recommend his termination before evidence was even presented. And after the Review Board made its ill-founded decision to terminate Matt with "completion status" (similar to an honorable discharge in the military), Boswell changed the termination classification to "disciplinary

Living on Part-Time

It is hard to believe that several decades ago, it took only one job of one "breadwinner" to support a middle-class family. That was before we were gifted with the marvels of technology that were supposed to make life better and easier for us.

In those days, it was not unusual for a male worker to insist, "No wife of mine is going to have to go out to work." But we've long ago stopped hearing that kind of talk from even the most sexist of men.

The well-known fact is that it takes two jobs, even more, for any middle-class family to live in modest comfort. And we're talking about a period of steady economic growth, low unemployment, low inflation and a booming stock market. It's most unlikely that these "good times" are going to get any better for us.

Here is the United Parcel Service, one of the country's best-run companies, with annual profits of more than a billion dollars, claiming that it can't operate as a viable business unless it restricts three-fifths of its 185,000 workers to part-time work. In the last four years, 80 percent of the 48,000 workers UPS hired were part-timers. (Three decades ago, 85 percent of UPS employees had full-time jobs.)

The UPS starting wage for part-timers is \$8 an hour for loaders and \$9 for sorters. The rate has remained unchanged since 1982. Working 20 to 25 hours a week, UPS part-timers can't support an individual, much less a family. That's why millions of part-timers scramble for a second job or a third to eke out a modest livelihood.

Unlike the UPS workforce, most part-timers are not unionized and earn the minimum wage or not much more and have fewer benefits, if any. Only 19 percent of part-time workers have health insurance, compared with 77 percent of full-timers.

It has taken a strike by the teamsters union to jolt people into paying some attention to an issue that is undermining the standard of living for the millions of workers who depend on a job for the survival of their families. Part-time work is pervasive in health services, education, retail trade, finance, real estate and other industries. There are now nearly 20 million on part-time - nearly one-fifth of the work force - and their number is growing.

Companies say they need part-timers to operate with "flexibility" so they can stay "competitive." They feature stories about the people who enjoy "flextime." What they don't say is that flextime has to be for the convenience, benefit and profitability of the company or else it would not be allowed.

In short, we are living in an age where people are expendable and have to adapt to the needs of the corporation, whether it means down-sizing, part-time employment and other measures to shrink the number of full-time, well-paying jobs. That's a great legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren for the new century.

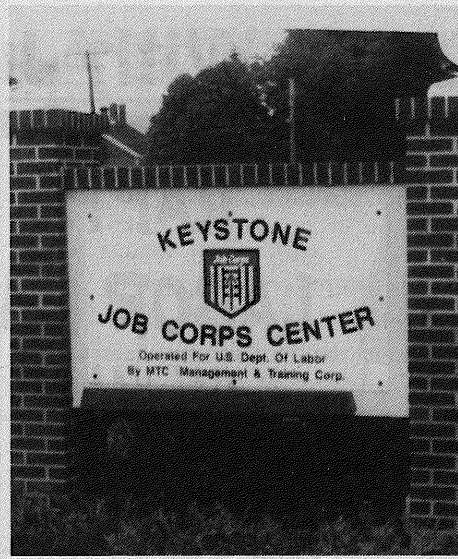
The teamsters strike for full-time jobs has brought to the fore a moral issue that should get the widest support. It should become the first stage of an all-out campaign for the promotion of full-time, decent-paying jobs.

— Harry Kelber

discharge" when his appeal of the Center Review Board's decision was heard. This action cost Matt \$500 of his readjustment money, which is given to Job Corps student employees when they leave the program.

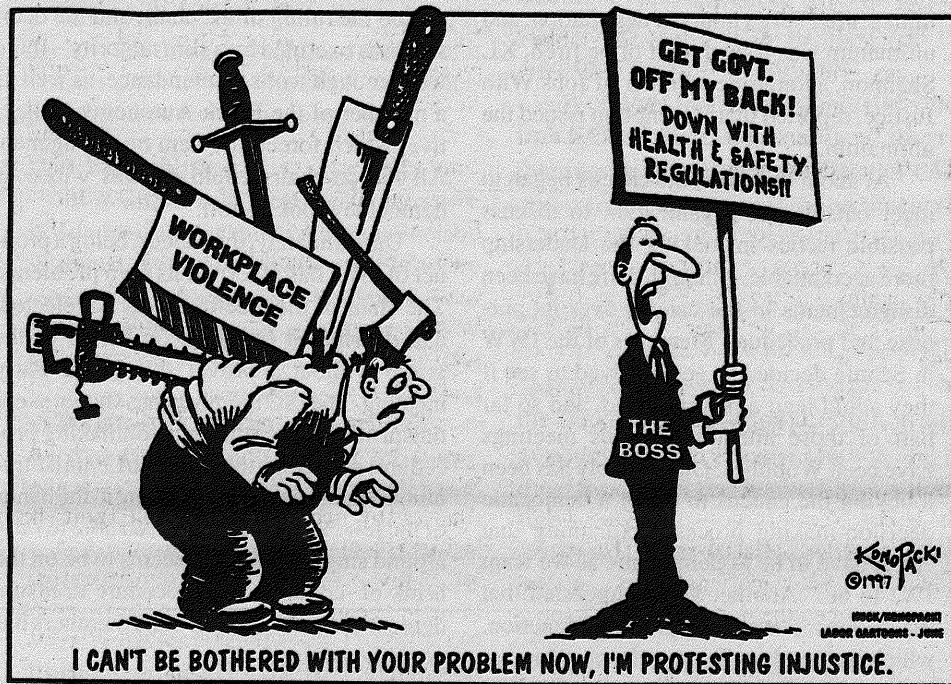
Who knows how far this appeal must be taken before it lands on the desk of a responsible party which can see Matt's termination for what it really is: as described in his appeal, "an undisguised act of bias and retaliation." As we go to press, Matt's appeal is on the desk of Lynn Intrepid, the Deputy Regional Director of Job Corps Region III, who is to convene a Board to review his argument and make a decision by mid-month. While we don't hold out much hope in Intrepid's ability to do the right thing since her office directed Matt's suspension in the first place, the merits of his case and his wonderful record on the Center can't be ignored, even by union-busting Job Corps bureaucrats.

The risks that the organizers in the Keystone Job Corps Center have taken are enormous. They're willing to risk not only their jobs, but also their homes, as the Keystone



Center is where they reside. Many of our organizers signed up for Job Corps because they used to have nowhere to turn and wanted to make a better life for themselves. Now, in their efforts to make a better life for themselves and their fellow workers on the Keystone Center, they turn to the IWW. We're there every step of the way and then some -- and will stop at nothing to secure their right to form a union.

— Alexis Buss



Bosses more deadly than tobacco

Some doctors say there are few remedies short of a revolution!

"While you daydream about strangling your boss, beware," the Associated Press says. "It's more likely that your employer is killing you."

A recent study of British civil servants published in *The Lancet* suggests that having little or no control at work results in rates of heart disease 50 percent higher than for people in the executive suite.

"The issue of control I think is a relatively new idea but certainly one that makes a lot of sense," said Dr. Robert Carney, professor of medical physiology at Washington University in St. Louis. Asked if bosses are a big source of job stress, Carney said: "Oh, absolutely."

Feeling out of control was the largest single risk factor identified in the study.

"Low control, but not high demand, at work is associated with increased incidence of (heart disease) independently of measures of socioeconomic status, and ... low control is associated with higher plasma fibrinogen concentrations," the study concluded. Elevated levels of fibrinogen, a protein that binds blood cells together to form clots, could increase the risk of a heart attack.

Job-related injuries common

Job-related injuries and illnesses are more common than generally believed, according to a news report published in the journal *Archives of Internal Medicine*. "Occupational injuries and illnesses are an insufficiently appreciated contributor to the total burden of health care costs in the United States," researchers say.

In 1992, about 6,500 Americans died and 13.2 million were hurt from work-related causes. That toll averages to 18 deaths and 36,000 injuries a day, compared with government estimates of 17 workers fatally hurt each day and 9,000 nonfatally injured.

Occupational illnesses - such as lung diseases and lead poisoning - caused 60,300 deaths and 862,200 illnesses in 1992, the researchers said. That averages to 165 deaths and more than 2,300 new ailments daily, compared to government figures of 137 and 1,095 daily in those categories.

The new report probably underestimates the totals because injuries and illnesses are undercounted, the researchers said.

In all, the direct costs of injuries and illnesses totaled \$65 billion in 1992 (\$178 million a day). Indirect costs - including lost wages - were \$106 billion (\$290 million a day).

Perhaps if the bosses had to pay these costs themselves, instead of dumping them on the backs of workers and the social service safety net, they might take our health and safety more seriously.

Bosses kill British workers

Government figures show that 302 workers were killed in industrial "accidents" in the year to March, compared with 258 during the previous year. For "self-employed" workers the number of deaths jumped to 83 from 49.

Labour environment minister Angela Eagle said that while she was concerned by the figures she did not want to see knee-jerk reactions. No doubt the employers will be asked to moderate their murders of our fellow workers.

'Why I joined the Job Corps'

The following is excerpted from the July 8th edition of the *Standard-Speaker*:

Matthew Wilson came to the Keystone Job Corps Center in the spring of 1996 with one goal: "At the time I was kind of homeless and I needed a place to get back on my feet... I came here for a college education..."

Things did not go exactly as planned. Now Wilson faces expulsion from the center for trying to start a union.

"I did not expect the treatment I'm getting here."

[The charges against Wilson] changed for the fifth time: from riotous activity to inappropriate behavior that poses a threat to self or others, harassing students, to trying to unionize on company time (since Job Corps students are always considered federal employees), to the current charges.

He got the idea to unionize after other staffers at the center joined a union earlier this year. Unionizing, he said, brought them respect, something he and other students wanted.

As vice president in the student government, Wilson said he saw little action from officials when they made requests. He thought a union would help him and the others.

Wilson said many students feel the way he does but are scared of being kicked out since they have nowhere else to go.

"I feel that we need representation other than what we're getting."

Still, he said his comments are neither positive or negative, but a portrayal of conditions at the center.

"I'm not going to say the Job Corps program is a bad program," Wilson said. "The application of the Job Corps program on the Keystone property has much to be desired." ...

"If I do get terminated, I really hope the students here don't give up," Wilson said. "The union is a good thing. If everybody sticks together there's no reason why we can't make this better for everybody."

Carpal Tunnel standards

The state of California has adopted safety standards intended to protect workers from carpal tunnel syndrome and other kinds of repetitive motion injuries.

The new ergonomic rules are unprecedented. No other state is working on developing such standards, and the federal government is just in the early stages of doing so. Ergonomic injuries strike more than 300,000 workers across the country each year.

The rules call for California companies to be responsible for improving work conditions if employees suffer muscle, nerve or joint injuries as a result of performing repetitive tasks on the job.

Workers can also demand that employers consider safety measures such as installing adjustable tables, providing wrist guards and better chairs, increasing work breaks or rotating job duties.

Employers have sued to prevent the new standards from taking effect, challenging the existence of repetitive motion injuries and saying the standards will cost too much.

Unions have attacked the standards for not going far enough to protect workers because they exempt business with fewer than 10 employees, fail to require employers to act before workers are injured and allow companies to skirt compliance by claiming an ergonomics program would impose an "additional unreasonable cost." "With all the preconditions attached to the regulation, we think it's pretty useless," said Tom Rankin, president of the California Labor Federation. "Ideally, there would be a lot more meat attached to it."

Rebellion in Jobs With Justice?

The leadership of the Washington Chapter of Jobs With Justice has come under scrutiny of its membership, and a caucus has formed within the organization in an attempt to make decisionmaking more accessible to groups outside the AFL/CIO-Democratic Party paradigm.

Calling themselves the Caucus for Democracy in JWJ, the group of assorted lefty party types, radical unionists, and disgruntled JWJ members has been meeting and developing a strategy to address ongoing problems in the organization, such as racism, sexism, and lack of democratic control by its members. Currently, decision making rests in the hands of a "steering committee" comprised of trade union piecards and reformists alike, and representatives of liberal reform groups. The steering committee sets by-laws, agendas, and are not elected; an organization pays \$50, and buys access to the decisionmaking process. The members of the committee are not recallable, and are not accountable to JWJ membership in regards to abuse of power, and some members of the committee have fought bitterly to keep these issues from spilling out into the rank and file.

The membership is only allowed to vote on specific actions, and has to get approval from the committee to have items placed on the agenda.

This recent rebellion was sparked by turmoil in March of 1997, when issues around how women were treated in the organization and racist attitudes by other leaders went unaddressed and were ignored. Several active members of JWJ have resigned, citing the lack of accountability of leadership. A new organizer was also forced to resign, after questioning leadership on these issues.

In January of this year, an "outreach committee" was formed to select an organizer to replace Johnathan Rosenblum, whose term had expired. The committee included Rosenblum, Ron Judd (chair of the King County Labor Council), and other prominent leaders on the steering committee. They received 19 applications nationwide, and the (unelected) committee weeded out 16, and placed 3 on the ballot for the membership to elect. Hilary Diamond, who had lived in

Signing away your rights

Many workers who have tried to sue their bosses for illegal firing or discrimination have found that they inadvertently signed away their rights as part of the job application process. Although courts have generally upheld the bosses' right to compel workers to submit to binding arbitration, a recent California appeals court ruling found one such "agreement" so unfair they they ruled it could not be enforced.

The Parc 55 Hotel (San Francisco) employee handbook required arbitration of all job-related disputes by a committee to be comprised of two managers and two workers picked by hotel executives. The company's personnel department would determine who could testify, and in the event of a tie vote the hotel executives would have the final say.

The California Court of Appeals ruled that the hotel's arbitration process was so unfair that it was not binding.

Although this case was particularly egregious, arbitrators are neither licensed nor regulated. They are often selected from the ranks of trade associations, and few have any experience or sympathy for labor.

Even the National Academy of Arbitrators agrees that many arbitration policies are quite unfair. Few nonunion workers have any meaningful choice in whether to sign such agreements, and many arbitration plans give companies almost total control over evidence and procedures for any hearing.



Chicago was elected, and served for three months; after attempting to intervene on behalf of JWJ members who were in conflict with the leadership, she was asked to arbitrate with members of the steering committee; after seven hours of negotiation, and ultimatum was issued; quit or be fired. KL Shannon, a longtime member of Jobs With Justice, reported that Rosenblum issued the ultimatum.

At about this time, the caucus began to meet outside the organization to discuss possible tactics in making the leadership more accountable, although there have been disagreements in the caucus over its purpose and procedure. Members of the IWW in Seattle decided to get involved to see if they could lend a helping hand, and so far half of those attending caucus meetings have been Wobblies. One Wobbly has been lobbying the caucus to adopt a democratic decision-making process, explaining that "[we] have to be as democratic as we want JWJ to be." Another IWW suggested that the caucus serve an additional function, which was to draw support from organizations and communities marginalized by JWJ in an attempt to build a coalition that was more encompassing, and more powerful within JWJ. This idea was stonewalled by a Freedom Socialist Party member, with the support of International Socialist Organization representative Steve Leigh and the Democrat who has been chairing all of the meetings.

The caucus scored a minor victory on July 2 at a Jobs With Justice meeting. A caucus member wanted to have a resigna-

tion letter read to the membership at a meeting, written by someone who had left because of racist attitudes of some leaders. At the meeting, the chair ruled the addition to the agenda "out of order"; a wobbly appealed the ruling of the chair, and the decision was overruled by a slim majority—there were enough wobs in attendance, as well as a member of the Black Autonomy Collective, which forced the item on the agenda. All the co-chairs could do was wince as democracy took its toll.

Unfortunately, the caucus, being a product of JWJ, has inherited its own problems. The chair of the meetings was not elected, and distributed literature on behalf of the group without approval at a Labor Party meeting. The ISO members has shown skepticism at a democratic decisionmaking procedure, reflecting the Marxist/Leninist tradition of keeping decisionmaking in the hands of the few. The caucus has been able to rally around single issues, but seems to be on the brink of collapse, as a procedure to insure democratic participation of its members has yet to be adopted.

The caucus does continue to meet, providing an opportunity for Wobblies to work for democracy; it will be interesting to see how tolerant the JWJ leadership is of workers building democracy in an undemocratic organization which claims to represent the interest of all workers. Jobs With Justice did help the IWW at the Mini Mart in Seattle, and hopefully the IWW can return the favor by helping to build democracy within the organization.

— John Persak

The 10 Commandments of Globalization and Corporate Rule

For Citizens

1. Thou shalt have not rights to livelihoods, to work, to food, to water, to safe environment.
2. Thou shalt have no rights to work and livelihoods and to economic security.
3. Thou shalt have no other identity or morality except that of being consumers on the global market place.
4. Thou shalt elect governments but the governments' role shall not be to protect you. They will protect corporations.

For Governments

5. Thou shalt give up all functions to protect your citizens and all duties and obligations required of you national constitutions.
6. Thou shalt consider you first duty and obligation to promote the freedom of transnational corporations and take away the freedom of your people.
7. Thou shalt take the environment wealth of your country and citizens and hand it over for free to the transnational corporations.

For Corporations and Business

8. If you are small and local, thou shalt disappear and make way for transnational monopolies.
9. If you are global, thou shalt demand absolute rights in every country to walk in and walk out as you find profitable.
10. Thou shalt destroy the environment and jobs everywhere to maximise your profits and returns on investments which will be the end towards which all governments and citizens must assist you as their highest moral duty.

from V. Shiva, *Ecological Cost of Economic Globalization*

Rolling strike

4,500 members of District 1199 of the Service Employees International Union have begun a series of 24-hour strikes throughout Ohio to support their fight for a new contract that safeguards basic rights to decent wages and benefits.

The State of Ohio is attempting to cut wages by 5 to 8 percent for experienced workers, slash pay by up to 70 percent for workers who use more than 4.5 days of sick leave per year, and force workers to work up to 5 days without pay as a form of discipline. The state has a budget surplus of \$900 million.

The rolling strikes began August 5, and was called after state negotiators announced they would unilaterally impose their proposals.

Nike workers attacked

Nine workers from the Youngone (Bangladesh) factory were in jail, 300 injured (50 seriously), 97 fired and 800 charged with criminal offenses after they tried to present a statement to their employer, a Nike contractor. Before the workers had chance to make their statement, they were attacked by an overwhelming contingent of police. The attack was in response to a demand by the workers for the release of two of their colleagues who had been arrested earlier in the week.

The Youngone factory, is known for its repressive atmosphere and for suppression of all union activities. Youngone employees, like other workers in the Dhaka export processing zone, are deprived of their legal rights—even those supposedly guaranteed by law, such as freedom of association—and are underpaid.

Youngone is a Korean company, the largest export manufacturer of sportswear in the world. In addition to their Bangladesh operations, they have factories in Jamaica, Korea and China. They were the first foreign investor in Chittagong and still are the largest one, with 5 factories there and two in other parts of the country.

Pepsi plant fires 28 unionists

A three-year-old union at the Pepsi bottling plant in Guatemala City is under attack. The firings occurred just as the union submitted a new contract proposal; several of those fired were involved in the contract negotiations. On July 15, management of Embotelladora Mariposa, S.A. (EMSA) illegally fired 28 members of the union SITRAEMSA in a surprise assault on the union. The union is requesting international pressure to secure reinstatement of the workers and respect for the union.

SITRAEMSA obtained recognition and a contract in 1994 in part because of pressure from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade probation that had been imposed on Guatemala by the U.S. at the urging of Guatemalan unions. In 1993 union members reported death threats, intimidation, and other attacks on the union. The struggle became an important GSP issue and the company negotiated a contract, which expires in October, under pressure.

Thirty-five administrative personnel were fired at the same time as the 28 union members. However, all fired non-administrative personnel were union members. The plant has 1,300 employees, approximately 360 of whom belong to the union.

Immediately after firing the 28 salaried workers, the company hired 75 new people on a temporary basis to fill the same slots; seriously undermining its claim that the firings were simply a personnel reduction. The company refused to review the firings under the grievance procedure, and is insisting that the fired unionists waive their appeal rights and accept severance pay.

Cargill strike ends

Striking workers at Cargill's High River Alberta plant narrowly voted to return to work after three weeks on strike. UFCW local 1118 members struck July 10, but were unable to keep the plant closed after an injunction barred picketing.

Over 1,000 pickets blocked plant entrances on the first day of the strike. The pickets were so boisterous that the company security force recommended that the company discontinue their scab shuttle for management and those workers who were crossing. Cargill responded by getting an injunction to ban pickets. An Alberta Labour Relations Board official described the workers' actions as "unlawful" and banned them from coming within ten feet of vehicles entering or leaving the plant.

"Everybody wants to go on strike because they're fed up with this place. They treat you like slaves," said meatcutter Fayyaz Khan. The same line that processed 1,300 cattle during an eight hour shift a year ago

But after three weeks without effective picketing, many workers became discouraged. Only about half of the 1,600 strikers showed up to vote and only 53% voted in favour of the new contract (457-404). Cargill had proposed a \$1.50 increase over a four year contract. The union proposed a \$1.95 raise over three years. In the end a deal was reached for \$1.50 over three and a half years. The minimum wage in the plant is now raised to \$8.80 an hour and full time employees are guaranteed 36 hours of work per week (although it can be reduced to 32 hours a week ten times a year).

Cargill is retaining 75 scabs who were hired during the strike, but in a touching display of reconciliation it was agreed that neither workers who walked the line nor those who scabbed would be penalized.

"I think we got screwed" said meatpacker Tim Ressler, who voted no because the wage increase was too small. Other workers believed it was the best they could have achieved.

The workers took on one of the biggest companies in the world and made at least some gains. Could the union have done more? At the ratification meeting there seemed to be little criticism of the union. Workers say that in the past few years the leadership had become more responsive to their demands. Still, a call to the UFCW International during the strike for more information revealed they were not even aware a strike was taking place.

— Neil Fettes

26 Indonesian unionists arrested

Twenty-six participants and trainers at a union seminar in Kalianda, Sumatra, were arrested by Indonesian police July 29. The SBSI union, which organized the seminar, reports that soldiers and police also seized documents and computer materials from the union's regional office in Lampung.

SBSI leader Muchtar Pakpahan has been in prison for a year, charged with subversion for his writing and for public statements calling for democracy and union rights. He faces a possible death sentence.

New general strike in Ontario?

Delegates participating in a special conference of the Ontario Federation of Labor voted for a Province-wide strike, but set no date, to protest Bill 136, which sharply restricts union rights for public sector workers and gives the government the right to unilaterally rewrite contracts, determine union affiliation, etc. Previous general strikes have been mounted on a local basis, and were abandoned after several major unions said they would scab on any future strikes.

Sick of exploitation

British Airways is still reeling from July's mass "sick-in." It has now emerged that only 350 BA workers struck for 72 hours whereas over 2,000 went sick. The combined strike and sick-in cost the company some \$170 million. The sick-in was prompted by threats to discipline and sue workers who went on strike and led to high levels of stress in the workforce. Workers went to doctors en masse and were told to take time off; two weeks after the strike began over 1,000 were still off sick with costs and delays continuing to mount for the airline.

As the Guardian (21 July) reports: "In a country with no formal right to strike or legal protection for individuals who have gone on strike, BA staff have found an instant, painless, legally safe, cost free method of hitting back at their employer. Even though the tactic has its limits others will learn the lessons..."

Mersey Docks fined for unsafe work

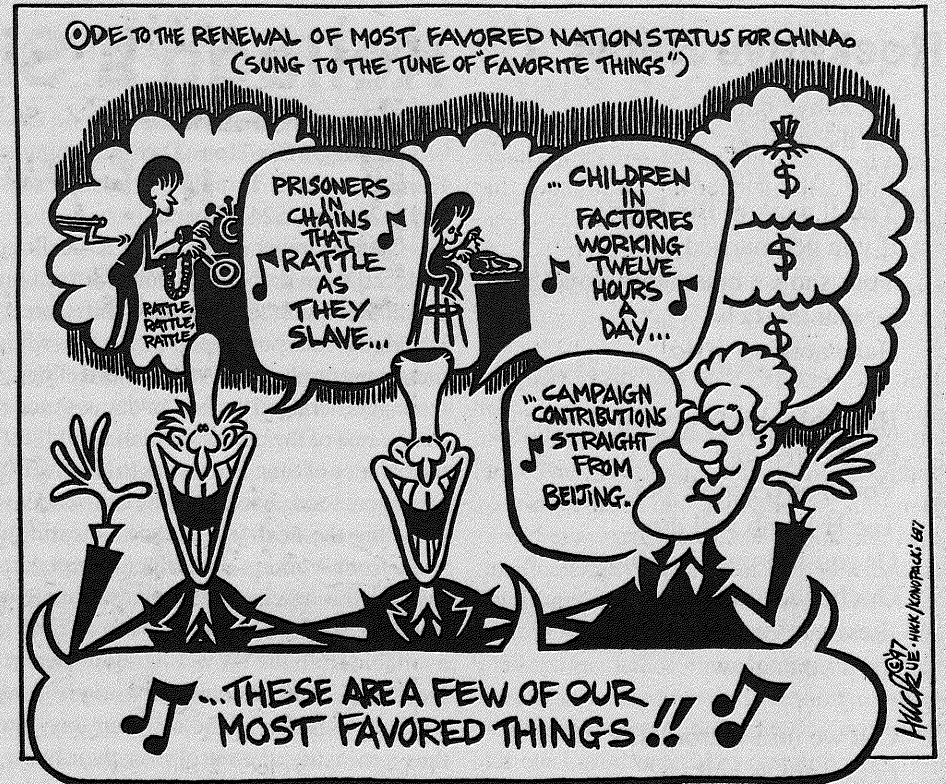
Serious injuries to a scab contract labourer resulted in a £12,000 fine for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company MDHC yesterday. MDHC is 13.87% owned by the Government, which has refused to intervene in a mass lock-out of union dockers that began in September 1995. The industrial injury rate has increased eight-fold since the lock-out began.

On 20 August 1996 Perry Birch, an employee of the Warrington-based contractor PNT, was assigned to the Forest Products Terminal. PNT was one of three stevedoring companies discharging copper from the "Laser Atlantic" in the Port of Liverpool.

While Birch helped to guide a fork lift truck into a stack of copper on the quayside, another truck accidentally knocked a 3.8 tonne bundle from a nearby stack, pinning the PNT man to the first truck. Birch was trapped for 25 minutes and suffered two broken legs and a broken ankle.

No time for unions

Britain's new "Labour" government is refusing to meet with union leaders. Government officials have regularly been briefed by British Airways chief Robert Ayling about its labor disputes, but Prime Minister Tony Blair has refused to meet Bill Morris of the Transport and General Workers Union.



Venezuela: General Strike

Public transport and other commercial activities ground to a halt in the Venezuelan capital Caracas August 6 as the result of a general strike over low wages and gasoline price increases.

The 12-hour protest strike called by the Venezuelan Workers Confederation, the biggest labor action in the past eight years, came 15 months after the government placed into effect an IMF-approved economic readjustment program that included sharp increases in prices of gasoline and other basic goods.

Public transport in Caracas, including the underground Metro, was halted, and stores and banks remained closed.

The workers confederation estimates that 3 million Venezuelans do not earn enough to meet their basic needs, which cost an estimated \$300 a month.

Bangladesh general strike

Workers and police clashed during a July 30 nationwide strike for higher pay in Bangladesh, injuring at least 100 people. The injured included at least 10 people shot by paramilitary troops who were trying to stop more than 3,000 protesters from entering a garment factory in Dhaka, the capital.

An alliance of 17 unions organized the strike, demanding a minimum wage of \$68 per month, up from \$23. The alliance, which represents 5 million workers, also was protesting the privatization of state owned mills and factories.

Striking workers put up barricades on major roads, cutting off Dhaka and the country's main port, Chittagong, from the rest of the country. Most mills, factories and ports did not function.

Down under

Striking coal mine workers of the Hunter Valley New South Wales recently summed up the Government of Australia: "the Liberal Party is the political wing of Rio Tinto," the largest mining corporation in the world. The bosses have been pushing their mates in the Liberal Party to come up with some law to scab-herd and break the solidarity of the pickets. Railway workers have refused to load scab coal (and wharfies refuse to put it on ships) as pickets and their families with children present a health and safety hazard to a moving train. The laws which are supposed to stop such secondary picketing and boycotts have thus been unused so far.

Meanwhile black civil rights activist and Wobbly Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin has been barred from Australia, after having been released from prison on procedural grounds. In a press statement before leaving the country, Ervin endorsed a boycott of the upcoming Olympic games called by aboriginal groups, and said his treatment "showed the rest of the world how intolerant

Chinese Workers Demand Jobs, Pay

Thousands of Chinese workers took to the streets in early July in the southwestern city of Mianyang to demand jobs and welfare payments after several large state factories declared bankruptcy. Police broke up a demonstration by 100,000 workers, reportedly arresting more than 80 workers. Local authorities say they arrested only a few workers who were putting up posters calling for labor protests.

Mianyang has been promoted as a model for the conversion of obsolete military factories and their workers to competitive civilian production.

A more dramatic disturbance took place several months earlier in the city of Nanchong, not too far from Mianyang. An estimated 20,000 workers besieged the city hall for 30 hours, demanding back pay from their failing factories.

On that occasion, authorities gave in. Loans were arranged, allowing workers to be paid for the first time in six months.

While issues such as forced resettlement, environmental degradation and poor housing have prompted many protests, the disturbances most unsettling to Chinese leaders are those involving workers.

Indeed, it appears that the Communist Party's greatest fear is the very working class it claims is running the country. Public security chief Tao Siju warned recently that strikes, petitions and demonstrations were "gravely disrupting public order," adding that all disturbances had to be "handled firmly... [with] no compromise."

A recent front-page article in the state-owned *China Daily* provided a good example of the Chinese government's attitude toward worker power. The article criticized "radical unionists" in Hong Kong for sponsoring legislation that would give unions there the right to bargain collectively for their wages and working conditions.

"This may create labour confrontations and scare away investors," the article warned. "The politicization of trade unions is also possible."

this country is. How in fact its human rights record is no better and in my opinion even worse than the country it defeated to get the Olympic Games - China... So my coming here, my having been arrested and subjected to this has shown millions of people but also the government that in fact when they arrested me and threw me into prison that there were people all over the world who had heard me speak, had been touched by me and who took action - 17 countries - to demand that I be released, that I be allowed to continue my tour. And we have gone ahead with this tour and against all odds." He vowed to return to Australia.

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On the treetop,
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You'll work at Big Mac's.
If you get married
Your spouse must work, too,
So that the rich
Have nothing to do.

Hushaby baby
On the tree top,
You'll never grow old,
The H-bomb will drop.
Or you'll drown in pollution
Or choke from foul air
'Lest nuclear plants
Turn you aglow.

Can we turn it around?
Let's sure as hell try,
Get your neighbor to act,
Your workmate to fight.
Join forces we must,
Together revolt,
Give it our all
Or else we are dust.

Updated version of an old radical saw
by

Harry Siitonen, May 8 1988
San Francisco, CA

Workers' Education

Workers' Education Local 189(CWA) will hold a conference to celebrate its 75th anniversary and to discuss the past and future value of education in the labor movement November 7-9 at the Walter Reuther Archives at Wayne State University, Detroit. Registration is \$55 for non-members. For information write Anne Green, 116 Oakdale Ave., Akron OH 44302

1998 IWW calendar

The 1998 IWW Labor History calendar is now in press and will be available from the IWW Literature Department in mid September. Copies are \$8.50 each (inquire for bulk rates).

The calendar includes 14 photos from historic and recent IWW and other labor struggles around the world, and a Mr. Block cartoon on the back cover.

Union Scabbing...

continued from page 1

were defeated, though their efforts to unionize continue.

Some unionists have tried to defend this latest round of union scabbing by noting that the ILWU did not actually cross picket lines. The pilots stopped picketing in compliance with a court injunction issued as soon as it became clear that their strike was crippling the port. With only 14 members (one is on sick leave), the pilots were hardly in a position to defy the injunction without the support of other unions willing to walk the picket lines once the entire union was locked up. But the fact that the pilots were prevented from picketing by the threat of arrest hardly justified working ships brought into the port by scabs, or loading ships destined to be taken to sea by scabs.

Effective industrial solidarity has always been against the bosses' laws, and their judges have always been quick to issue injunctions ordering workers to defeat ourselves. Direct action and solidarity are the only effective response to such injunctions. We will continue losing ground as long as workers continue crossing each other's picket lines, handling struck work, and doing the bosses' bidding.

Kellogg's Six-Hour Day

Kellogg's Six-Hour Day by Benjamin Kline Hunnicutt. Temple University Press, 1997, 261 pp., \$24.95 paper.

On December 1, 1930, W.K. Kellogg replaced three daily eight-hour shifts in his cereal plant with four six-hour shifts, creating jobs for many unemployed workers while increasing production. At the time, Kellogg's managers heralded the 6-hour day as a model for the rest of the country which would shift the balance of time from work to leisure. But managers soon abandoned the six-hour day, spending the next few decades wresting it back from workers department by department. In this new book, Benjamin Hunnicutt (whose earlier book, *Work Without End*, is available from the IWW Literature Department for \$16.50) documents workers' long struggle to preserve the six-hour day, and thus a measure of control over their lives.

This is an important chapter in labor history, and Kline discusses many of the divisions managers were able to seize upon in their drive for longer hours. Although the book is sometimes bogged down by an overly academic style (including the discussion of "liberation capitalism," a term Hunnicutt coined to refer to Kellogg's managerial ideology, and the other managerial philosophies that soon supplanted it), the sections dealing with the actual history of this struggle are clearly written and often quite engaging.

Hunnicutt uses company and union records, interviews with Kellogg's workers, and letters to tell the story of one of the last battlegrounds in the struggle for shorter hours, a battle long since abandoned by the U.S. labor movement even though the need for a shorter work week remains as acute as ever, and the economic means to realize it have long been at hand.

Between 1930 and 1932, a national movement emerged to "share the hours" by cutting the work week to 30 hours. But it soon bumped into the harsh reality that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common — bosses were glad to cut working hours as long as they could cut wages too; workers demanded shorter hours, but fiercely resisted wage cuts. While Kellogg's managers originally tried to split the difference, recognizing that shorter hours would lead to increased productivity, they too quickly began chipping away at workers' gains under the six-hour plan, so that by the time the eight-hour day was completely reinstated in 1985 six-hour workers actually made less per hour than their eight-hour counterparts.

The business union which represented Kellogg's workers went along with this policy, encouraging workers to abandon the six-hour day and offering little resistance to the company's department-by-department reintroduction of longer hours.

But many workers (especially women workers) valued the extra time the six-hour day gave them to live their lives, and fought to hold onto shorter hours even at the cost of substandard wages. Workers used the extra time to pursue hobbies, to take care of their children (including permitting fathers to spend more time in child-rearing), to build active communities, to live their lives. Hunnicutt's interviews document the variety of uses workers made of this "extra" time, and also the ways in which many workers were gradually made to feel guilty for valuing their lives over their jobs.

Ultimately workers were defeated in their efforts to hold onto the six-hour day. But while Hunnicutt seems to pin much of the blame on cultural factors, it might make more sense to look to the labor movement's failure to win shorter hours on a broader scale, or to fight to hold onto them (and extend them) where they existed.

By the time the six-hour day was abolished at Kellogg's in 1985, it was not even a distant memory anywhere else (except, of course, for the growing number of "part-time" workers who suffer non-union wages, unstable work and no benefits because they work "short" hours).

The six-hour day survived at Kellogg's as long as it did only because workers fought for it, struggling to hang onto their time as long as they could. The rest of us could learn from their example.

— Jon Bekken

The Activist Cookbook

The Activist Cookbook: Creative Actions for a Fair Economy, by Andrew Boyd. United for a Fair Economy (37 Temple Place, Boston MA 02111), 1997, \$16.

As radio talk show host Jim Hightower proclaims in his Foreword, "If we want to touch the hearts and minds of America, we need to unleash our imaginations, take creative risks, and explore new means of communication besides the lecture and the press release." *The Activist Cookbook* has the recipes for doing just that.

My first feeling, however, on opening this purple volume was disappointment. What I had expected from the title was directions toward shaping the fair economy the subtitle proclaims. What I got was instructions for creative and dramatic public actions to expose economic unfairness and make it real to its victim — a worthy goal, although not my own primary interest.

On the other hand, Irish revolutionary James Connolly, executed after the Easter Rising of 1916 and quoted on page 3, was right when he observed that a revolutionary movement without artistic expression remains "the dogma of the few and not the faith of the multitude."

The theatrical savvy and experience of the author and his helpers are evident throughout the pages that follow as they encourage those who feel they have no talent for the arts to become involved in airing their grievances and those of their neighbors. Successful actions are recalled and described in enough detail to hearten even the most stage frightened. It does any worker's heart good to hear some stories of victory, rather than the endless chronicles of defeat that fill so many "revolutionary" publications.

Some of the efforts are one or two man shows lasting as little as 60 seconds, with the IWW "I've been robbed!" street action coming in for special mention. Others are extravaganzas requiring a cast, if not of thousands, at least of scores. None, however, fail to keep a sense of humor. All look like they'd be fun to watch and even more fun to produce. As a journalist, I especially appreciated the advice on staging media hoaxes.

The idea that 10 percent of our population now controls 70 percent of the nation's wealth is disturbing enough, when depicted as a "human sculpture" on stage. But the skit becomes truly subversive when it shows that in 1976 they controlled "only" 50 percent. In other words, what we have today is not some eternal situation decreed by an immutable and inscrutable economic Fate, but the result of public policies that have been changed for the worse and can be changed again for the better.

But this cookbook is more than a collection of recipes for getting public attention. The economic and political analysis of Chapter Six is short and concise enough to clear up the mystifications that keep people paralyzed. In the chapter on The American Palate, the author is willing to be concrete in suggesting what can be done after the per-

formance. Some of the advice, like "Fit your message to the audience," is obvious. But the command to "Honor the complexities of class" is one that is seldom uttered, but one any progressive would do well to heed.

Nothing in the *Activist Cookbook* is likely to make anyone rich. But it can still be read for fun and political profit by any leftist whose funny bone has not gone out to lunch.

—John Gorman

Reviews

Phillips & Ross: Loafer's Glory

Loafer's Glory U. Utah Phillips and Mark Ross. Red House Records compact disk (POB 4044, St. Paul MN 55104, RHR CD 103), \$15.

Our two Wobbly bards, Utah Phillips and Mark Ross, have come out with another excellent recording. Since Utah can no longer manipulate the guitar with his erstwhile facility, Mark does the playing for him, but Utah's voice remains in good fettle and his talent as a raconteur has not diminished one bit. All the words and most of the music are by Utah Phillips, though the music on "Look For Me in Butte" is by Mark Ross. With a couple of exceptions, the poems and stories are by Utah too.

The predominant theme on this disc is the life of the hobo and other vagabonds, those whom by lack of certain employment skills or whose employment skills may be seasonal are compelled to wander from location to location in order to make a semblance of a living. In the face of automation coupled with the flight of jobs, such manner of employment is becoming scarce.

However there is considerable ironic humor to be found among these songs. While it may be argued by some "folkloric" purists that these songs were composed by a living and known singer, and so would not qualify as authentic "folk," such an evaluation is off the track as no music, no matter if the innovator has long been forgotten, ever came out of thin air.

Utah is so well acquainted with the trials and tribulations of an itinerant laborer that his songs and anecdotes ring true. In "Look for me in Butte," the hobo sings of not being able to find work elsewhere, so he might as well go hungry in familiar surroundings.

"I spend my whole life makin' somebody rich;

"I busted my ass for that son of a bitch;

"And he left me to die like a dog in the ditch

"And told me I'm all used up..." is a song well known to Utah Phillips' fans, and also complements the thematic material of the rest of the songs on this disc.

A very poignant song is "Walking Through Your Town in the Snow," the lament of another worker who is all used up and has no place to go. For those who may think that hoboing days are over and have been relegated to the distant past, this is a grim reminder that although modern technology may have altered the life style of the vagabond worker, the conditions brought about by the present economic system still create a vast army of desperate drifters.

There may be those complacent ones whom this record may disturb, but this is still an item worth having in one's music library.

— Carlos Cortez

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Labor rising from the ashes?

The July-August issue of *Monthly Review* (\$7, 122 West 27th Street, New York 10001) is a special issue, "Rising from the ashes? Labor in the age of 'global' capitalism." Doug Henwood points out that most people continue to be forced into wage slavery to live; editor Ellen Wood calls for political struggles at the national level to constrain global corporations; Peter Meskins argues that the "new" working class is much more like the "old working class than is commonly recognized; Fernando Gapasin and Michael Yates contrast the AFL-CIO's rhetoric about organizing the unorganized to the relatively modest gains made to date, and argue that effective organizing must be linked to a broader social vision; Kim Moody discusses the complexities of the ferment in the U.S. labor movement, and the difficult intersection between reform from above and below; Michael Goldfield discusses the continuing problem of racism, which must be confronted if labor hopes to effectively confront the bosses; Richard Roman and Edur Velasco Arregui discuss the workers movement in Mexico; Hochul Sonn discuss the resurgence of South Korean labor; Daniel Singer revisits France's winter of discontent, suggesting that now that workers have rejected the notion that there is no choice but to submit they have opened the door to considering what sort of society they would like to build; and Sam Gindin concludes the 160-page issue by reflecting on socialist politics, internationalism and the struggle against austerity in Canada.

The authors attribute more importance than many Wobblies might prefer to political parties and traditional union bureaucracies, but offer thoughtful and informative reflections on the situation facing the labor movement in an age when the bosses trumpet their ability to cross borders and trample workers underfoot at will.

Juice is Stranger than Friction.

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

Canadian IWW Songbook

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

A Little Working Class Sense

Veteran labor activist Gilbert Mers calls on workers to once again take up the struggle against capitalism. \$3

Education for Struggle: American Labor Colleges of the 1920s & 1930s

by Richard J. Attelbaugh
The IWW's Work People's College in Minnesota, Brockwood in New York, and Commonwealth College in Arkansas. \$20

Art for the Masses: A Radical Magazine and its Graphics, 1911-1917

by Rebecca Zurier
The Masses showcased artwork by Robert Minor, Art Young and Pablo Picasso to name a few. 150 illustrations, \$10

Books for Rebel Workers

One Big Union.

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

The General Strike.

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

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

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

IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Ed)

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

Bread & Roses, \$2

British IWW magazine #1 Lead story: Five More Years of Hard Labour?

Red November Black November: Culture and Community in the Industrial Workers of the World

by Salvatore Salerno.
Examines the interactions between the IWW and anarcho-syndicalism, with more attention than usual to the IWW's foreign-language papers. \$21.95

A New Union Vision

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

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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. Edited 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 River Ran Red: Homestead 1892, ed. D.P. Demarest Jr. & F. Weingartner

Anthology of period texts & artwork tell the story of the lockout at the Homestead Steel Works. \$22 (published at \$49.95).

Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Hunnicutt \$15

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.

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Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

A short history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strikes through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

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.

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Compelling account of a resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath, \$15.

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Walking the Line in Detroit

The Detroit newspaper strike is officially over. All that's left for the 1,800 locked-out workers is to reclaim their jobs after a favorable National Labor Relations Board ruling. What the newspapers workers had the opportunity to win on the picket line must now be won by lawyers in the court room. It may be a long wait. The newspapers have vowed to appeal the labor board's decision. The legal wrangling may take years.

The demonstration on July 21 was a display of solidarity that was too little, too late. Injunctions against picketing at the point of production, newspaper plants, favored big business over big labor, and the AFL-CIO leadership caved under the pressure. Many workers are left with lingering doubts about union leadership during the strike. This was clearly evident in the pre-demonstration picket at one newspaper plant.

The night before the AFL-CIO sanctioned rally, 150 pickets held their own demonstration by blocking the fortress-like gates at the newspapers' riverfront printing plant in downtown Detroit. Guards positioned on the roof videotaped the crowd of Teamsters, postal workers, Wobblies and other unionists. One Teamster yelled out to the guard, "Get a good picture! Show it with the other 1,000 hours you got of me!"

One muscular Teamster, arms covered with tattoos, removed his shirt and flexed his muscles to proudly display a large tattoo on his back with the words "Teamsters Forever" encircling the union's logo on his back.

The pickets, predominantly Teamsters, blocked the path of a Free-Press tractor trailer attempting to enter the gate. The driver was forced to leave amid cries of "Scab!"

Two Teamsters positioned at the gate taunted the guards.

"Wait 'til you come out into the real world. Anyone could do a scab job," Matt Latzo, a Teamster from Baltimore, said to a guard. "Look at his yellow teeth, You got no dental insurance because you've got no union."

Lato has been to Detroit three times, mostly on his own dime, in the past two years to show support for the strikers. "This struggle is bigger than this job," Lato said. "What we're fighting for is the right for unions to have good jobs. We're fighting the influence of corporate America. They can buy police," Lato said pointing to the guards, "They're dressed like the SS, if that doesn't send a shiver down your spine."

Lato said that without his interest in the fate of his fellow Teamsters in Detroit, his 5,000-member local in Baltimore wouldn't know or care about their plight. Lato's comment points to a divide within organized labor between the AFL-CIO's leadership and its militant rank-and-file members.

This divide is particularly evident in the Teamsters union after last year's election for union president. The election pitted re-

Knight-Ridder Out to Bust California Unions

In Monterey, California, Knight-Ridder has announced that it will fire all staff members by September 4. (Knight-Ridder obtained the paper and one in San Luis Obispo in a swap with the Scripps chain, and takes possession on the 4th.) Staffers were told that they can reapply for their jobs, but that not all will be kept on.

The three unions involved - San Jose Newspaper Guild, Monterey Bay Area Typographical Union and San Francisco Web Pressmen and Prepress Workers - have voted unanimously to authorize a strike.



form-minded Ron Carey against Jimmy Hoffa, Jr, son of the notorious former Teamsters president and a name associated with corruption and ties to organized crime.

"The Hoffas [supporters] have used people as pawns," Lato said. According to Lato the strike has caused divisions within the union. These differences have been used to fuel the left-over strife between Carey and Hoffa supporters. "[The divisions] make Carey look bad. It makes us all look bad. We got fucked by politics. The Hoffas tried to get control of the strike fund," Lato said.

"When we walked out we didn't even have a strike fund. That was Jimmy Hoffa, Jr.," said Rick Torres, a former truck driver for the *Free-Press*. Torres said that Carey eventually established a much-needed strike fund.

While the Teamsters' leadership got its union in order, the burden of the strike fell upon rank-and-filers on the picket line.

"We've buried [union] brothers... It's amazing, people just keep on going." Three strikers have died during the strike, reportedly from the stress and anxiety caused by the two year struggle.

Detroit Teamsters also faced the loss of their medical insurance during the strike.

Torres worked with his union to ensure a fellow Teamster on strike sick with cancer received medication. "He said, 'You know, Rick, I would rather die than to cross and be a scab. If I'm gonna die I'm gonna die with dignity. I'm not gonna die like a coward.'"

Despite the shared feeling of solidarity with his fellow workers, Torres, a Teamster for 16 years, is angry about the way the strike has been handled.

"What we need to do is oust these leaders like [AFL-CIO President] John Sweeney and [AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer] Rich Trumka who talk tough but have no fortitude when it comes to action. It's not enough to have the power to make a change, you have to have the guts to make a change," Torres said.

Torres is upset that the AFL-CIO's leadership has not taken a tougher stance. "The AFL is shit. When they come to town all they do is sit and pray," Torres said about the union-sponsored prayer vigils that favored sanctimonious action over direct action.

Both Sweeney and Trumka were elected on the promise of changing the direction of the moribund AFL-CIO, pledging to make it a more active, even militant, force in organized labor. Both have manned the Detroit picket lines in the past and been arrested for their participation in the strike.

Both Lato and Torres have participated in sit-down protests that have blocked Detroit's streets during rush hour in an attempt to bring public awareness of the strike. Both said that what was needed to win the strike was direct action.

"We've gotten nothing but criticism from our leaders, our so-called leaders, Torres said. "These [protests] are the things that need need to be done. We have to make

everyone uncomfortable, whether they agree with you or don't agree with you. You have to make everybody throw up their hands and say, 'Hey, enough of this shit. Let's put an end to [the strike].'"

Torres said that as the strike wore on it was difficult to keep the pressure on the newspapers and the strikers' issues in the public's mind.

"When trucks come in and out of the plant and you got assholes like these guys [security guards] photographing people and following people to their homes and nobody does anything about it and the public doesn't see it, then it's business as usual. People will say 'Is there a strike? I didn't know there was a strike. Is that still going on?' That's what happened. We have to make everyone uncomfortable. If we have to do expressway shutdowns, then so be it."

According to Torres, the AFL-CIO backed down in the face of legal threats against picketing the plants. The newspapers were granted injunctions against the unions after a particularly tense showdown at the Sterling Heights plant in 1995. Torres said that the injunctions favored the newspapers and hurt the strike.

"You can not win a strike by letting them get their product out. You can not them work business as usual. You have to stop production by whatever means it takes. You have to take siege at the plant and make them prisoners in the plant. And if that means that they have to go through hundreds of you or thousands of you, then so be it, because the legal system is not in our arena," he said.

For Torres the Detroit newspaper strike demonstrates that organized labor is hampered by years of legislation that has made it tougher for unions to strike. "The politicians and the labor laws have made unions so weak and have made our rights so weak that companies can drag strikes out for years and years. It hurts us because in a strike time is never on your side."

"What we have to do is break whatever laws, whatever injunctions there are, paper

the walls with the injunctions, come out to the plants and mass and stop production. That's a way of bringing things to a political boiling point. The politicians are gonna have to get involved because they can no longer ignore it."

Organized labor's strength, in Detroit and around the world, Torres said, is in the solidarity of its members and it is this strength that can win strikes, labor laws be damned.

"The only way people in this country are going to win a struggle is by massing all the workers around the country. If we have a labor issue in Michigan or if we have a labor issue in California, wherever, our strength is unionism - our strength is in our numbers. That's what we have. We don't have the money these corporations have. We don't have billions of dollars in our war chest, they do, and they're connected. A newspaper, a radio station, a t.v. station, an auto plant, they're connected and they work hand in hand. What we need to do is to take the resources that we have, which are the millions of billions of people all around the world, and mass in force."

A demonstration of strength and unity is what Torres means when he talks about a "political boiling point."

"Politicians will have to wake up and say 'Wait a minute. My God, what's going on over there? There's hundreds and thousands of people massing in the streets, hundreds of thousands of people laying down in the streets, getting arrested, fighting hand to hand.' Whatever it takes: That's what's going to win struggles in this country. That's the only thing. Our numbers is our power."

Whatever the final outcome in Detroit the strike itself has been a learning experience for many. Torres said the Detroit newspaper strike is part of a much larger picture and that its bitter lessons can be implemented on a larger scale.

"It's not just this strike. This is one battle in a global war. Just because we go back to work here doesn't mean anything. We have to take the lessons from here and take them to help other people out. It's a blue print that can be taken all around the country, all around the world. What we're doing here is a blue print."

Whether the AFL-CIO's leaders will turn this blue print into a battle plan and allow workers to engage in direct action to win a decisive victory in the next strike is a question that will be answered in the future.

— Aaron Rothenburger

Shake hands with your boss and look wise...

The July 22 *Wall Street Journal* has a revealing piece on what are considered the "top-valued qualities" of wage-slaves by their employers. What was valued most by the 500 chief executives surveyed by the Goodrich & Sherwood Associates? Integrity, said 3%. Hard work, said 5%. Sense of humor, said 6%. Loyalty, said 86%.

— X334260

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