

Industrial Worker

JANUARY 1998 #1608, vol. 95 no. 1

\$1.00/75 p

EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

IWW Returns to Centralia, Wash.

After months of organizing and struggle, members of the IWW attended and spoke in Centralia on Dec 13th, for the unveiling of the mural painted by artist Mike Alewitz in honor of Fellow Worker Nathan Wesley Everest. After talking with many Centralia folks about IWW history and current organizing in the Northwest, FWs Jess Grant and John Persak were among many who spoke to a crowd of over 200, bringing IWW principles and ideas back to town.

Among those who spoke were family members related to Wesley Everest and the daughter of Eugene Barnett, bringing to light many of the questions raised in the 1919 lumber camps – what was so wrong about workers organizing to improve the horrible living conditions of the day? Jess Grant from Olympia spoke about current IWW projects, including the current negotiations at Libros Sin Fronteras, organizing at Fish Tale Brewery and the Seattle Branch's current project working with IATSE organizers to better standards for stage hands. FW Grant brought laughter to the crowd when he mentioned the flag ceremony at the beginning of the dedication, remarking that perhaps the United States had finally recognized revolutionary syndicalism.

A student from Centralia also spoke, and Mike Alewitz impressed the crowd with a speech pointing out the class contradictions of militarism and reminding folks that there were still class war prisoners, mentioning the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal's frame-up in Philadelphia.

Attendance was good, as the weather held up and many workers and unionists traveled from all over the northwest. Among them was Sean Maloney, a well respected longshore retiree from Seattle who was prominent in the ILWU for many years, and first joined the IWW in 1925 in North Dakota while he was working in construction. IWW members from Olympia, Puget Sound and Portland Branches attended the event.

Although the crowd was large, few workers from Centralia were present – many were at work, or getting errands done on the day of the weekend that places are open. After an excursion to the cemetery to visit the grave of FW Wesley Everest, some Wobs wandered into a neighborhood bar on the north side of town to grab a bite to eat. There were folks with some spare time

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In This Issue...

**A Two-Card Wobbly
Making Steel & Killing Men
SaboTabby Tours Europe
Spreading the Wob Word
Are We Happy Yet?**



Mersey dockers still out...

Solidarity is not a crime!

Robert Irminger was tried Nov. 18 for his role as Oakland "picket captain" in October's "Neptune Jade" affair, and San Francisco Bay Area activists are awaiting the judge's decision as we go to press. The Hapag-Lloyd service from Thamesport toured the world unable to discharge its scab cargo in the US, Canada, Japan or Iran.

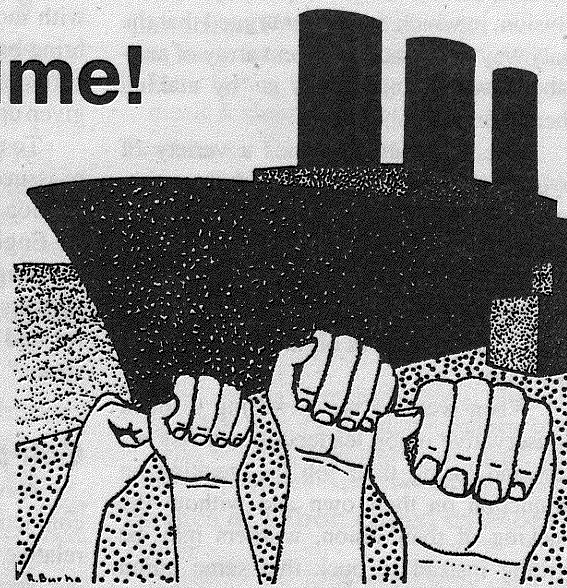
A handful of shipping companies keep the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company afloat on the sea of opprobrium through which she sails, two years after sacking the Liverpool dockers for refusing to cross a picket line.

Mersey Docks has referred to Atlantic Container Line as "the jewel in the crown" for years. Twice a week, one of five giant ACL vessels calls in Liverpool. Eastbound, the 51,000-tonne ship discharges North American container cargo and heads for Antwerp, Bremerhaven and Gothenburg. Westbound boats cross the ocean to Halifax and work their way down the US east coast.

ACL rents out space on those ships to at

least three other container services: POL-Atlantic, Mediterranean Shipping Company, and Hapag-Lloyd. Hapag-Lloyd also operates two weekly services out of Thamesport, which Mersey Docks operates as port authority (through its Medway Ports subsidiary). The "Neptune Jade" was one of 13 vessels serving the U.S. East and West coasts and the Far East until it was sold to China last month and renamed.

The prosecution argued Robert Irminger was in contempt of court for his efforts in organizing picketing of the Neptune Jade. Meanwhile, the employers association is attempting to compel Irminger, IWW delegate Rod Neves and others to name names and disclose information in a manner starkly reminiscent of the McCarthy Committee. Interrogatories served on the defendants call upon them to: "Identify all persons, associations, and organizations known to you who participated



in one or more of the demonstrations at Yusen Terminals, Berth 23, Port of Oakland ... Identify all labor organizations in which you are or have been a member or with which you are or have been in any way affiliated " and so on. Other interrogatories demand that they surrender copies of mailing lists and other detailed information for

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Activists Expropriate Food From Montreal Hotel

At lunchtime December 3, jobless workers lunched at a posh restaurant in downtown Montreal. Located in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and frequented by businessmen, the restaurant is known for its sumptuous spread. The Comite des Sans-Emplois de Montreal-centre's (Committee of the unemployed of central Montreal) lightning raid began at 12:20 p.m., after two school buses brought over 110 poor activists and demonstrators in from the city's working-class east end.

Demonstrators requisitioned platters of food to bring to the hungry; a steady stream of food-filled platters were brought out into the streets to the cheers of those outside.

Of course the managers of the restaur-

ant went ballistic, as one can imagine. One of them grabbed a young activist and shoved him to the ground, but we were too many, and we swarmed in like ants to the great surprise of the businessmen there. Most of them seemed stunned, and we hope that the action has helped put some fear into these shameless men. The atmosphere in the fancy dining room was charged, and we created a situation that very effectively dissolved the usual hierarchy and class isolation.

After 15 minutes the first sirens could be heard wailing across downtown. Police equipped in full riot gear surrounded the activists. The hotel was sealed off for at least two more hours. Police also had a public transit bus on hand if necessary. (This prac-

tice of allowing the cops to use public transit equipment for repression is disgusting. What business does a social service like public transit have with helping the cops do their dirty business?)

The police announced that everyone – both the commando that went into the restaurant to expropriate, and the people outside who were fed were under arrest for participating in a riot. For the next two hours, 30 to 40 cops proceeded to videotape the activists, search them, bind their hands with plastic cuffs and lead them into the paddy wagon. What a dramatic spectacle it made for the passers-by and all the curious onlookers in the office buildings around us. As one very ordinary unemployed office clerk told me: "This is just the beginning; it'll get a lot worse if we continue to cut and cut and cut (our social services)."

Leaflets denounced the "hypocrisy which takes over each year before the holidays" and leads to crumbs being given the poor. "We want more. We want to eat all year long and we will find ways to do so."

Police arrested 108 demonstrators, and have pressed charges against at least 40. Four activists were held in jail for several days after refusing bail conditions that would have barred them from participating in any protest demonstrations.

The action followed a Nov. 4 protest in which 400 demonstrators blockaded Complex G, a block of government buildings where the Quebec provincial government is headquartered. "Plan G" was a protest the

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World Labor Needs A Union

New blotches in the rosy scenario of an ever-booming global economy have appeared. The blotches are the economic crises of the industrializing countries of eastern Asia, the so-called Asian Tigers. When foreign investments shifted in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea, currencies and stock markets collapsed as companies went bankrupt and banks crumbled under loads of bad debts. In return for cutting their spending, the governments of these countries have been bailed out by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, with additional contributions from the U.S. and possible Japan.

The bailout provisions ensure that the corporations, banks, skyscraper builders and speculators that caused these collapses will have their losses cushioned. The workers whose participation in the boom was limited to providing the cheap labor that made it possible will face mass layoffs, hiked prices and slashed social services.

South Korean workers, the most unionized in the region, are the best able to defend themselves in the wave of firings following the bankruptcies of a number of the country's largest corporate conglomerates. More than a million South Koreans are jobless, an unemployment rate of 3 percent, high in a country without welfare. The rate is expected to double or triple this year. Concerted militancy may be able to wring some

sort of unemployment benefits from the government, although the IMF austerity terms frown on this sort of thing.

The leading industries of the eastern and southeastern Asian countries are based on exports, as the workers who make the stuff get back in wages an even smaller percentage of the price of what they make than do workers in English-speaking North America or Europe. (Extraction of surplus value, for those who like the classical jargon.) Not that Asian workers enjoy working for peanuts, but corrupt and dictatorial governments in the region wholeheartedly bust unions and unionists.

Competition from Third World factories has already been the bosses' excuse for

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INDUSTRIAL WORKER
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870



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Direct Action Gets the Goods

I much appreciated the incisive commentary on the need for direct action in the Detroit newspaper strike reprinted from the newsletter of the Action Coalition of Strikers and Supporters (ACOSS) (*Industrial Worker*, 12/97). I valued especially the conclusion, in which the author argued that the only way to defeat the current array of anti-labor law and injunctions is "by making them unenforceable."

When the author names a variety of bygone and now illegal tactics that can win individual strikes, such as mass picketing, solidarity strikes, and general strikes, however, the author overlooks one other vital and once oft-used tactic of the American worker. That tactic is on-the-job action, or sabotage.

When workers are unwilling to buck conservative union leadership and risk arrest and losing their job by breaking an injunction on their own and without the backing of their union, workers may be willing instead to buck that same union leadership by the use of sabotage on-the-job. Sabotage is anonymous and can be denied by all of the participants. Somehow production is just down, the job is just not quite getting done on time, and all management hears are denials and some anonymous messages like "scab work for scab labor."

This kind of action does not need the support of any outside union leadership. What's more, the workers on the job control the nature and extent of the action.

Readers' Soapbox

This tactic could be employed by those few hundred already brought back on the job in Detroit to demonstrate their solidarity with those still locked-out. Also, it might bring back into the fold some of the earlier participants in the strike who have since given up and crossed the line in desperation.

To quote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn in the re-issued pamphlet, "Sabotage," in her discussion of the first open use of sabotage in an English-speaking country, she writes, "Through this system of sabotage they [the workers] had won everything they had fought for and not been able to win through the strike."

— Nick Patti, X346355

Golf-playing Bosses

A recent survey confirms many IWW convictions. In it, surveyers measured the relative intelligence of the partisans of various sports. Bowlers turned out to be the brightest of sports enthusiasts, while golfers came in at the bottom.

This confirms most Wobblies' observations of our bosses and political and union leaders. It also lends new light into "The working class and employing class have nothing in common."

for the OBU,
CACanny

Anti-Racist Prisoner Faces Frame-Up In Texas

Chris Plummer is an anti-racist Anarchist activist imprisoned in Texas. After being involved with the Squatting movement on New York's Lower East Side in the late '80s and early '90s, he took to traveling the country meeting with various liberatory counter-culture groups. During this time, he and some others formed the United Anarchist Front, a group designed to carry out actions against capitalism and all oppressive institutions.

He was convicted in 1993 for his part in an action carried out on a Nazi-skinhead house in Houston, Texas. Police found Chris' fingerprints at the scene and he was arrested later that year. The action was intended to halt the American Front, an openly fascist group proud of its record of extreme violence, from spreading propaganda in local neighborhoods and schools. No one was hurt during the action, only the Nazi's hate literature was destroyed. Chris faced several charges including attempted murder. This ridiculous charge was dropped when it became clear that Chris would not be terrorized into turning in his friends. However, he was convicted for Breaking and Entering with intent to Burglarize.

Chris did not stop his organizing efforts

after being imprisoned. The Texas prison system has a well-justified reputation of being a maelstrom of hate, terror and exploitation. One of the ways that control is maintained by the prison administration is by encouraging conflict between the different races of prisoners.

Only a few groups, such as the Texas Prisoners Labor Union and just recently IWW prisoners, have even begun to break down these barriers. In this environment Chris set up a prisoner organization called Cell One, at Huntsville also home of Texas' notorious Death Row. Cell One's main project was the Texas Prisoners Anarchist Lending Library. Organizations such as Books-Through-Bars in Philadelphia, Books-To-Prisoners in Seattle plus many individuals nationwide donated books of all kinds to the library. IWW literature was prominently featured. Prison authorities and white-supremacist prison gangs alike were threatened by a library providing radical and progressive literature by and about African-Americans, Chicanos, Native Americans and poor/working-class whites to anyone who was interested.

In March of 1997 guards confiscated and then "lost" all of the books as well as many of Chris' personal possessions under the pretext of a "gang activity" investigation. Around this time, intimidation and attacks from a Nazi prisoner gang escalated into a murderous assault where Chris had his jaw and cheekbone broken and barely escaped death.

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I.W.W. DIRECTORY

IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers

IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

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

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

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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.

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General Distribution Workers IU660 and Boce-memouth IWW- Ray Carr, Flat 2, 35 Parkwood Rd., Boscombe, Dorset BH5 2BS

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

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Del.- Laure Akai P.O. Box 500, Moscow 107061

CANADA

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ONTARIO

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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 7pm; phone for location.

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

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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.

Monterey- Ray Brown, IU 330 delegate, 1240 3rd St., 93940

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 Recycling 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

Metro Atlanta GMB- PO Box 80405, Chamblee 30366. 770/556-6485 (pager)

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Honolulu Group - POB 868, Honolulu 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.

KENTUCKY

Louisville- 502/451-3459

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, del: Mike D'Amore 413/549-1143. e-mail: pviww@iww.org

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Detroit GMB- Trumbull Theatre, 4208 Trumbull 48208. 313/832-4074
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons 313/769-0695

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- PO Box 63211, 63163. 314/ 772-2470

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NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671 Del: Danny Isaacs, PO Box 023525, Brooklyn 11202; 212/252-4388.
Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.

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Tulsa Group- PO Box 3212, 74101-3212.

OREGON

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Lancaster GMB: POB 796, Lancaster 17608. nkauffman@redrose.net

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

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TENNESSEE

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

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Lucy Parsons Branch- c/o Joshua Freeze, 1309 Norwalk Apt. C, Austin 78703. 512/482-9402.

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Olympia GMB- PO Box 2775, 98507. 360/753-5919.

Puget Sound GMB- P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

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Madison GMB- c/ Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

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

Industrial Worker

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Printed by Teamsters union labor
Web: http://parsons.iww.org/~iww/

Official monthly publication of
the Industrial Workers of the
World.

ISSN 0019-8870 Periodicals
Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI &
other mailing offices.

**Postmaster: send address
changes to Industrial Worker,
103 West Michigan, Ypsilanti
MI 48197.**

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subscriptions \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)

Articles not so designated do not
represent the official position of
the IWW. Donations welcome.

Press Date: December 15, 1997

South African union blasts fascist attacks on Web shop

Our Fellow Workers at Philadelphia's Wooden Shoe have been subjected to a variety of threats from racist skinheads since reopening in November after a fire destroyed the store's old premises last February. Thugs have threatened Wooden Shoe staff, and pasted racist fliers on store windows, including one calling for death to class war prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Among the messages of solidarity received was the following:

"Dear Comrades,

"The South African Municipal Workers Union would like to add their collective voice to the outrage that Wooden Shoe, Philadelphia's radical bookstore, has been threatened by racist scum.

"We have been following the issue of Comrade Mumia's trial for quite some time. It would seem that the police and judges in your state are right wing and unjust to say the least. We now demand that this attack, and the racist propaganda plastered on your windows be thoroughly investigated and that no effort be spared in bringing these vandals to trial and meting out strict punishment to them. From the actions of police and judges involved in the Mumia case, it often seems that democracy is a joke to them.

"Yours in the struggle,
"South African Municipal Workers Union"

Lining 'em up

Portland, Oregon, Wobs have lined up the band Golden Delicious, an auspicious beginning to their campaign to line up entertainment workers there. In Georgia Wobs are trying to form a workers' temp agency. And Baltimore reports that two shop card applications are in the mail.

Ted Warmbrand sent in 16 applications from Tucson and requested more cards asap. FWs in Guelph Ontario sent in a similar number. Branch application forms are winging their way in both directions. And the Fellow Workers in Butte have lined up another bunch of IU 330s.

Chicago Wobblies are organizing a series of workshops on organizing, direct action, the general strike and other topics. Write the branch for a schedule.

On December 8th the Twin Cities (MN) GMB joined Burmese activists and environmentalists in a demonstration against Unocal, which is promoting slave labor and human rights abuses through its corporate interests in Burma (called Myanmar by the thugs who seized power there).

A Boston Branch talk by author Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz drew a full house Nov. 22.

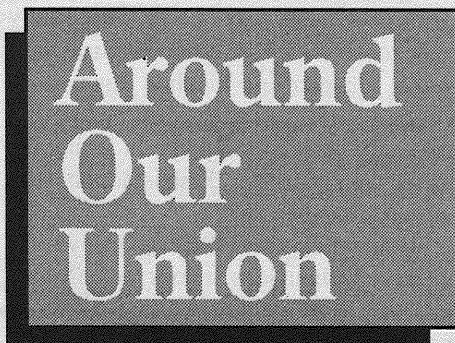
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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.



IWW Redbaited in South Carolina

The fellow workers at Harbinger Publications – an IWW IU 450 shop for the past 18 years – report that they are being redbaited by piccards with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Harbinger is a project of the Natural Guard, a not-for-profit organization working for environmental and social justice in South Carolina. The Natural Guard has been organizing a statewide Progressive Network for the past two years. The state president of the AFL-CIO, Donna DeWitt is co-chair of the Network and has worked tirelessly to get unions around the state involved.

Now papers have been filed by members of IBEW Local 1753 in Charleston seeking DeWitt's impeachment on the grounds that the Natural Guard is operated by IWW members, the IWW is a socialist organization, and IBEW bylaws preclude participating in endeavors with socialists.

To prove their point, they include a printout of our internet home page (<http://www.mindspring.com/~scpoint/point/>) showing a link to the IWW homepage. The preamble of the IWW is included to make their case we are socialists.

"We are proud to be socialists," IWW delegate Brett Bursey notes, "and were puzzled as to why union members would choose to work with capitalists."

Joe Hill Remembered

Capital District IWW paid tribute to the memory of Joe Hill Nov. 17 at Mother Earth's Cafe in Albany, N.Y. "Don't Mourn, Organize" was the event's theme, which included a discussion of the Wobbly martyr's life, some of his working-class writings, songs by local political folksinger Terri Roben and a showing of the 1979 documentary, "The Wobblies." Thirty patrons watched the 90-minute video, listening intently to veterans of early IWW struggles like the Lawrence strike.

"We were very pleased with the turnout

Organizing Das Fruit

I work in a sex shop called Forbidden Fruit. Now what most people do when I say sex shop, is start laughing, or dismiss it as not real work, and the idea of organizing? Forget about it.

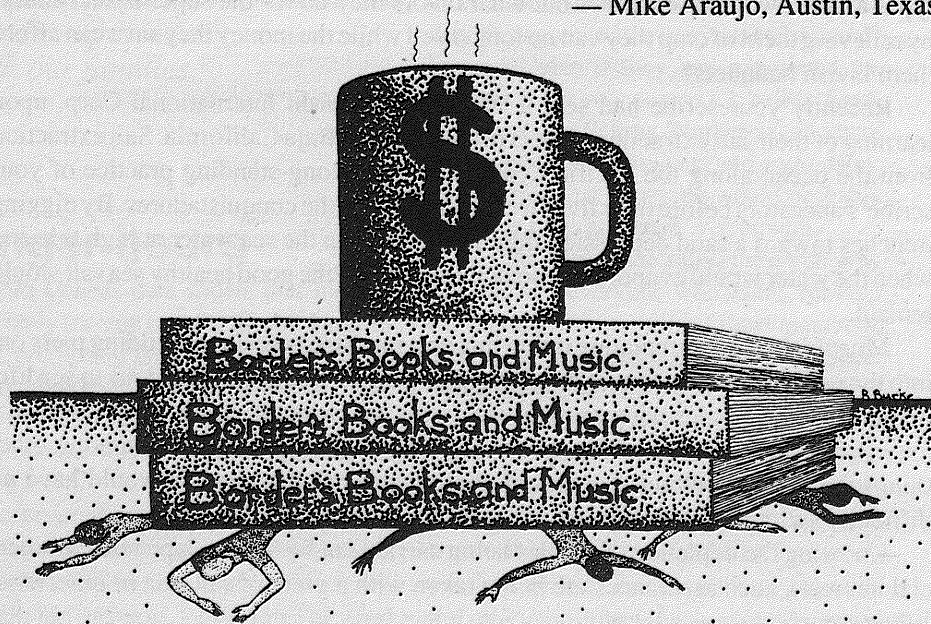
Like any other retail shop, we always get the short end of the stick. Most of the people I work with depend on the pay, and that makes it pretty serious shit. When I first started talking union with my co-workers, often the first question was "why"? We're not really that bad off, or won't it be just another boss? That's just it, why should we be fucked over? Why does it have to get worse before it gets better?

It doesn't. You got to hold onto what you got. It is worth defending! At the shop we are support workers within a huge industry, often forgotten, but we're here. Even in the GMB, there is laughter about it, but with the persistence and dedication of the people I work with, we now have the *only* IWW job branch in Texas.

No other union cares about the support workers, but the IWW is there. And as long as an organization is legitimate in its statements, like: "a union for all," the workers will be there. So on December 13, we filled out the petitions to give to the NLRB. No balloting is required, because we already have six of seven employees with red cards.

Only together can we come to enjoy the Forbidden Fruits of our labor.

— Mike Araujo, Austin, Texas



Boycott Borders

The Lawrence, Kansas, IWW picketed the grand opening of the new Borders books there Dec. 6. Borders tore down a historic building to construct their new store, running a progressive independent bookstore out of business, and receiving \$100,000 dollars of corporate welfare from the city to build an unwanted parking lot. Not to mention the unjust firing of Miriam Fried and the intimidation of union supporters around the country.

and response," delegate Greg Giorgio said. Fellow Workers thought the crowd was inspired by the testimony of old Wobblies like Jack Miller and Tom Scribner. "It helped us sell some books and pamphlets, and we received a few inquiries about membership," Giorgio added.

Club owner Richard Genest, who maintains a library of radical history for his customers, was happy to see the positive reaction. "The door's open," he said about future film and discussion nights at the Cafe. Albany area Wobs are planning a series of cultural nights for the spring.

The Borders Boycott was back on the agenda here in December. The UFCW's "National Day of Action" was bolstered by IWW efforts to get the word out about the corporate bookseller's union-busting practices and lousy wages. "We had mixed feelings about this," Giorgio explained. "The local UFCW drive at Borders has been stalled for about a year and we generally feel that the UFCW didn't spend much effort in support of those intimidated workers. But we still used this opportunity to get our boycott information distributed for the holiday shopping season."

And a new living wage proposal has surfaced in Albany County, after three years of IWW efforts. Look for news of living wage actions in future issues.

Time for the 4-Hour Day

Workers, leaders & police

Nearly 50 demonstrators, including a half-dozen Wobblies, occupied the lobby of the Wells Fargo Center in downtown Portland Nov. 4 in support of striking workers in Pueblo, Colorado. Wells Fargo is the largest lender and a major shareholder in CF&I/Oregon Steel, a company which is trying to bust the steelworkers' union. Currently 1,100 steelworkers are on strike in Pueblo, and rather than negotiate the company began advertising for permanent replacements before the strike even began.

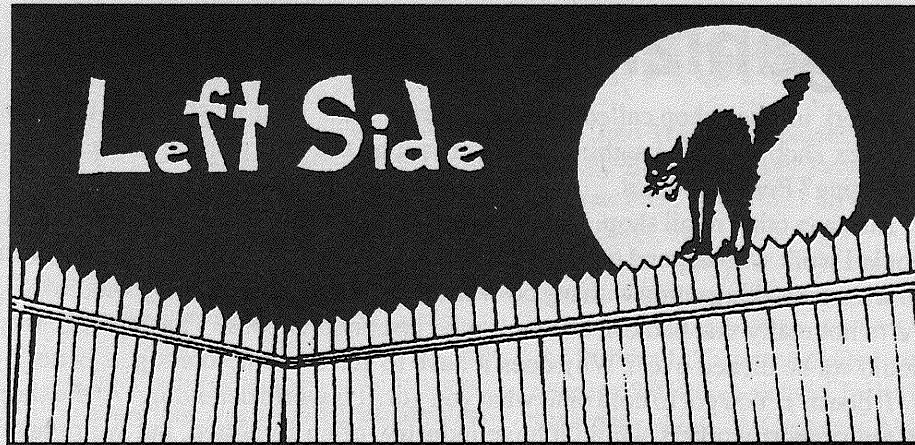
The United Steelworkers of America have brought their fight to Portland and are pursuing a strategy of shaming the corporate backers of Oregon Steel. I will not use this space to discuss the relative merits and liabilities of this strategy, but will instead discuss the role of the police in this event, and the relationship between the police and the United Steelworkers leadership.

After almost an hour, the police showed up and told us to leave or be arrested. Most of us left, but about two dozen people stayed behind to be arrested. We gathered outside to watch as police led our comrades, starting with the clergy, out to their vans and off to jail. Singing and chanting continued for a while, but the energy of the action quickly began to die down and I began to tire of watching police do the bidding of the corporations. One Fellow Worker suggested I take the bullhorn and say so.

What I said, more or less, was this: "As I'm sure, there's this group of people down here in blue uniforms, every one of them working class. They have a union. But the minute this bank calls them out here to cart us off, here they are, with no regard for their class interest."

I could have gone on, but I didn't. The point had been made, and the police cast a couple uncomfortable glances my direction. So I handed the megaphone back to the speaker before me, a middle-aged man in a

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Social service organizations in San Francisco blew the whistle this past July in exposing the fact that poor school kids in that city have been served among other things bologna sandwiches that were so moldy they looked like a Saint Patrick's Day decoration from the greenish hue that was on them. These were poor kids participating in a Summer lunch program which for many of them was the principal meal of the day.

Dr. Johnson Ojo, a health inspector for the Health Department of that fair city, upon inspecting said charges stated that the conditions were "not that bad," explaining that moldy bologna will not cause food poisoning. One can smell these social worker types a mile away! Who knows but what favors they do for the supermarket chains by relieving them of crap they can no longer sell while the money they save can afford them lavish banquets?

Recently your scribe had sent a letter to Mitsubishi International Corp. upon learning of their salt extraction project off the coast of Baja California. Salt extraction from the ocean along the Pacific Coast had been a long-standing practice of your scribe's ancestors before their lives were disrupted by the conquistadores. By digging trenches toward a sand depression they would dam up the sea water at high tide and when the water would evaporate or soak into the sand, the good healthy sea salt would remain.

Mitsubishi is contemplating doing this on a monstrous scale by building piers out into the ocean. Environmental groups say this project would be hazardous to sea life, particularly the whales whose migratory routes are close by. Yours truly received a letter from Mitsubishi assuring that everything was alright, and that among other things the piers were built far enough that whales or other sea life would have no difficulty swimming between.

Knowing the depletion of whales being carried out by the big Japanese commercial interests, such assurances are being taken with a grain of salt, sea or otherwise. When somebody puts a lot of money into a San Ignacio salt project, you can bet that ecological considerations will come out like back door relations.

According to a squib in the *Honolulu Advertiser*, it appears that some of the sky pilots are becoming concerned about what's happening to our ecology. His All Holiness Bartholomew, head of the Mother church of Greek Orthodox christianity, has declared that pollution isn't just wrong – it's a sin. He goes on to say: "For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation, for humans to degrade the integrity of the Earth by causing changes in its climate, stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands ... For humans to contaminate the Earth's waters, its land, its air and its life with poisonous substances – these are sins."

Well said, Padre; can we write you out a red card? Maybe he heard George Bernard Shaw who, when he was asked what he thought about christianity, replied: "Sounds like a good idea; people should give it a try!"

From the Things Will Get Worse Before They Get Better Department: Years ago, Frank Sinatra belted out, "I'm gonna buy a paper doll that I can call my own..." and so on, the idea being that a paper doll would not go wandering off to some other dude. A paper doll being more faithful, of course, "than a fickle-minded real live girl."

Matt McMullen, a New York-based special effects artist, has come out with "Real Dolls" and is making himself a mint. These dolls are life-sized, authentically detailed, steel-skeletoned silicon constructions selling for \$4,000 each. They come in a variety of shaped and different hair colorings, and are guaranteed not to talk back or bruise one's delicate male ego. Such is life under our capitalist system, where the phony can be passed off as preferable to the genuine.

Another ballad from the Golden Age of Mediocrity goes, "It's only a paper moon sailing over a cardboard sea, but it wouldn't be make-believe if you believe" ... in capitalism.

May you gentle readers keep your optimism sense of humor in this forthcoming year as well as you have in the preceding ones!

— C.C. Redcloud

Solidarity Appeal

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In May 1997 Chris was transferred to the Hughes Unit in Gatesville, Texas, where Chris found that racial tension and general violence was rampant. Shortly after the transfer he was put in Administrative Segregation or "lock down" for arbitrary and unclear reasons. On August 26, Chris was again attacked by prison staff, this time in retaliation for supporting another prisoner who had just been convicted of possessing a gun. The prison guards had been threatening his life, not an idle threat in the Texas prison system. After Chris had contacted outside groups and threatened legal action to expose this, guards seized and destroyed all of his property including valuable legal

material. Along with various threats to his well-being, he was told he was now being charged with conspiracy to smuggle guns into the prison – a blatant lie and frame-up.

The guards' further actions can and should be defined as torture. For days afterwards Chris had to endure repeated strip searches and cell searches. In his own words: "I have been pulled out of my cell an average of 13 times per 8-hour shift. I have not had a solid hours sleep in 3 days. They refuse to allow me to even have stamps or writing materials. And I have no doubt they will carry out some of their threats."

Since that time the situation has grown only more severe. While the prison authorities have relented somewhat in their daily harassment, both Chris' incoming and out-

Time to Fight the Bosses

The boss press is stuffed with articles boasting about how great the economy's doing, on the one hand, and lamentations about how these good times must surely come to an end, on the other. Damned little of that prosperity is trickling down to us working stiffs, of course. But perhaps its 'cause we've been too polite in letting the bosses know of our dissatisfaction with present circumstances.

While there are still far too many folks out there without jobs, it does seem that the bosses are having more and more trouble finding new slaves. Here in Boston, they've had to raise wages to the munificent sum of \$6 an hour! One student who works for the leading department store was complaining the other day that seasonal workers were being hired in for more than she was making after two years on the job. The boss laughed at her when she asked for a raise, so she quit – and had a better-paying job in just a couple of days.

Neither job paid what I'd consider a living wage. A few years back I went a year without working, 'cuz the only jobs on offer were these lousy \$6 and \$8 an hour gigs. I'm not much on etiquette myself, so I don't know if the approved response to such an offer is to spit in the boss' eye or to pitch him in the rubbish bin. But I do know that to try to buy a fine upstanding wage slave such as myself for wages like that is a deadly insult.

And the lower the wage, I find, the worse the conditions. I remember one prospective boss who went on about how he only wanted enthusiastic workers. I told

him that if he wanted enthusiasm he should hire a cheerleader; turned out he was paying minimum wage...

So why do folks work for starvation wages? I met a fellow once claimed he preferred low wages, as they forced him to put in 60-70 hours a week to pay his rent, and so kept him out of trouble. Most of us working-stiffs have a healthier attitude, I suspect. But still, too many of us lack the gumption to demand what's ours by right (the full wealth we produce) – or even to demand a big enough share to live a half-

way comfortable life.

So the next time the boss insults you by paying less than you're worth, look him in the eye and throw him out the door. Of course, it might help to organize your fellow workers into the One Big Union first ...

— Jon Bekken

Editor's Notebook



New Wobbly Publications

Our U.K. fellow workers have brought out another edition of *Bread & Roses*, which shows a fine gifting spirit with articles on the useless Labour government, attacks on rank-and-file workers, and several industrial reports. \$2 in the states from our office in Michigan, or £1 from the IWW's Edinburgh District Industrial Council, P.O. Box 12665, Edinburgh EH3 9YA.

*Union*² a new Wobbly cultural 'zine, is seeking submissions for its debut issue. They're looking for poetry, stories, art-work, and more. Send to: Red Cap Press, c/o M.E. Damron, P.O. Box 42233, Cincinnati OH 45242 by April 1.

Some Thoughts on Organizing for the IWW

If my knowledge of Memphis is accurate, I am a delegate in a politically conservative region in which there has been virtually no revolutionary agitation or discussion of IWW ideas in many years. In other words, I am like a novice gardener wanting to plant a vegetable garden in what is now a well-established grass lawn and a very thin layer of top soil. What do I have to work with? A shovel, hoe, rake, a couple of garden manuals and some seeds. Where do I begin? How do I prepare the ground? What tools do I use and what is the most efficient way of using them?

To begin, I think it might be prudent to discuss the process of literature distribution. As I understand the process of organizing, a basic first step is a general introduction of IWW ideas into the community and workplaces. Unfortunately I think we may be fudging on this first step of basic introduction and education. As a relatively new Wobbly I have had just a handful of conversations with other Wobblies. Based on these conversations, the GOB, the *Industrial Worker*, various IWW pamphlets and books,

going mail is being heavily censored. Letters to and from some of his support groups have been seized as "gang-related." Neither Chris nor the support groups were informed of this by prison staff. Still worse, Chris was paid visits from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in late October 1997 and was told they will be pressing charges for gun-smuggling. A conviction on these charges would result in 30 to 40 more years of prison.

How long can anyone endure these conditions? Chris has declared to me that he "will not do a day of [the new conviction]; if I'm convicted of this new charge I will hunger strike to the end – that's that."

We must defend Chris and halt this drawn-out, torturous injustice. Not just because Chris' life is on the line but because he

I have begun to develop a good base of knowledge. My primary concern, in regards to organizing in Memphis, is the accomplishment of base education for myself, new Wobblies, and potential recruits. As a gardener, I have to learn how to use the tools available to me and recruit some help.

Another concern or goal is a general preparation of the ground I have to work with which hasn't been tilled in many years and must first be broken up, this I view as the introduction of IWW ideas into the Memphis community as widely, thoroughly as possible.

How and where is distribution of the *Industrial Worker* most effective? IWW pamphlets and flyers? Silent Agitators?

Distribution of IWW Literature

My initial distro (short for distribution) of the *Industrial Worker*, pamphlets and flyers was haphazard, random distro to local coffee shops, a community center and punk rock shows. Is this the way others are distributing? If so I think we are not being efficient. Here are some thoughts which I

is one of those who has struggled against injustice to others. If we ignore his plight, our own struggles will be that much weaker.

Please write and call the following law enforcement and prison authorities demanding that the charges against Chris Plummer #677345 be dropped, threats and harassment stopped, and stolen property returned: Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms attn: Charles Meyer, 9009 Mountain Ridge Dr., Austin TX 78759 512/349-4545; Wayne Scott, Director TDC, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville TX 77342 409/ 295-6371

For more information, contact: Chris Plummer Support Group, P.O. Box 416591, Key West FL 33041 305/293-1186; Christopher Lee Plummer #677345 Hughes Unit Rt. 2 Box 4400, Gatesville TX 76597

— Scott Lamson, X344129

This column will discuss American labor laws, their foundations, and some ways to occasionally use the laws to our advantage when it's possible. It is often not possible. If there were ever an argument for throwing out the government all together, our labor laws make a good one. Our laws exist to protect the privileged class, and we must remember this every time we think of stepping into courts, the National Labor Relations Board, our state Departments of Labor, and any other government agency that seeks to replace the power of workers' direct action with statutes and rules. Please do write in with comments, experiences of your own and questions that I'll try to find an answer for. Write: Alexis Buss, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org.

Wobbling the Works

Payne v. Western & Atlantic R.R. Co. was only a state supreme court ruling but is still cited in case after case across the nation. Today we see employers taking advantage of this rule as they make up employee manuals like the one some Wal-Marts use which forbid employees from dating one another. Imagine – the courts upholding your boss' rule that tells you who you can fall in love with.

Many people I talk to in the course of organizing are under the mistaken impression that they are on equal legal ground when dealing with their bosses. The courts would agree, in that they've graciously given us the right to leave our employers at any time we wish. Never mind that we won't be eligible for unemployment in most states and we might lose bonus pay and other rewards we're occasionally dished out. The foundations of our law can be likened to a master and servant relationship where the servant, under the eyes of the courts, owes the master respectful subservience. The servant can indeed escape this relationship, and has the joyous alternative of starving on the streets for a while during the search for a kinder, gentler master. Again, from *Payne v. Western & Atlantic*:

"May I not forbid my family to trade with one? May I not dismiss my domestic servant for dealing, or even visiting, where I forbid? And if my domestic, why not my farm-hand, or my mechanic, or teamster? And, if one of them, why not all four? And if all four, why not a hundred or a thousand of them? The principle is not changed or affected by the number."

In other words, the courts gladly protect bosses who would fire us all at any time for

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About 74 percent of workers in the United States are employed without being in a union. These workers are legally called "employees-at-will," the defining creed of this status being the 1884 case of *Payne v. Western & Atlantic Railroad Company* 82 Tenn. 507, 518 (1884). Poor Mr. Payne, a railroad worker, wanted to buy some equipment and pleasantries for cheap from a general store near his workplace. But Atlantic R. R. had a rule that all its workers must buy from the overpriced company store. Mr. Payne snuck off to save a few bucks and when he returned was caught by management and fired. The kind Tennessee courts enforced the boss' rule with glee:

"[M]en must be left, without interference to buy and sell where they please, and to discharge or retain employees at will for good cause or for no cause, or even bad cause without thereby being guilty of an unlawful act per se." (1)

have put into practice. You could too.

There should be two kinds of literature distro, each with similar but slightly different goals. General or mass distro is the first and focused distro is the second. In either case the point is to make distro systematic rather than random. The goal of mass distro is to begin the process of education, introducing the ideas to the public at large. Mass distro might begin with small (1/4 of a legal size) front/back flyers consisting of the IWW preamble or another IWW introduction on one side with a graphic on the other side, I like the Solidarity Circle (Which states some IWW goals/ideas clearly: More wages, Abolition of Wage System, Good Pay or Bum Work...) or the Sabo Cat.

Print up 1,000 of these (4 to a sheet) and you have 4,000 small organizers. These can be left *everywhere* people are. Retail shops, fast food and what about bus stops and the buses themselves? Many city bus systems offer a monthly pass with unlimited use, get one and once or twice a week ride the buses a couple of hours, leaving these handy little organizers on the bus with an occasional *Industrial Worker* (and put a couple of them into the newspaper itself!). Saturate the various bus routes with thousands of these, each one with national/local contact numbers. Leave silent agitators at enclosed bus terminals with a copy of the *Industrial Worker* on the bench. After a couple of months put out a new "organizer" with more of the IWW philosophy and ideas for job actions. Do this continuously, always offering more details about the IWW and a workers' revolution generally.

Focused distro is aimed at specific businesses and is more intense. At such selected sites two weeks of little "organizer" distro might be followed with the application of silent agitators for a couple of weeks. This could be followed by another round of organizers and copies of the *Industrial Worker*.

If you have no responses after two or three months of focused distro lighten your intensity and move on to a different site.

Remember, you can always come back in a few months, especially if it is a retail job because of the high worker turnover rate. Other sites for distro include public laundry facilities, public health clinics, public libraries, phone booths,

In regards to retail, large bookselling chains such as Barnes & Noble are especially good because you can leave the flyers all mixed in with the books. Also, video and music stores, restaurants and coffee shops. These little organizer flyers should be kept on hand at all times. I would suggest distro during daily errands but, more importantly, once or twice a week set 3-4 hours aside for distro at specific sites.

Some Thoughts on the IW

After reading the *IW* for over a year now I feel as though I can offer my opinion. I think it is a decent/good paper with the potential to be an incredible organizing tool. First a couple of questions. How many Wobs are submitting material? Who's paper is it? What is its purpose?

Speaking for myself, this is the first time I've submitted anything. Other than letters to the editor, I've never really written for a newspaper before and I'm sure I'm not alone. But, if we are who we say we are, then many more of us should be making the attempt. Remember Fellow Workers, Direct Action Gets The Goods! This is our paper and it should reflect our lives, work experiences, organizing efforts, and our ideas. For the most part I think we have failed in this regard.

This leads me to my next point which follows logically. The paper does not fully and dynamically reflect the Industrial Workers of the World. Now don't get me wrong, I think it is important to report on what our fellow workers are doing nationally and internationally but too much of the paper is devoted to this. My hunch is that this does not reflect a lack of activity on the part of Wobblies. Rather, it reflects our not reporting in what we are doing at our jobs and in

Apologies for the absence of this column last week, the first one I've missed in the last 3 years. It was a combination of writer's block and priorities. Union ballots and the accompanying General Organization Bulletin were overdue. Subconscious perversity was possibly at work as well. A while back a Fellow Worker complaining that I hadn't accomplished something, pointed out that I always got my column done on time. Well, not always. Tell me I always do something, I guess, and I'll prove you wrong. But I usually get my column done, not on time, but at the last possible moment.

So here I am as usual early in the a.m. of the second Saturday of the month doing what was due yesterday. It looks like I'll be doing so for another year. I'm running uncontested for the position of GST for the fourth year in a row. Under constitutional rules I couldn't run again if there were three other candidates. I take the fact

from the desk of...

that there no others once again not as an indication that I am the popular Wobbly, but rather that things are generally going well for the Union and my Fellow Workers would rather focus their energies on organizing rather than bureaucratic tasks. That's assumption is supported by requests for 5 job shop applications from organizers

within the past week. Keep up the good work, Fellow Workers, and I'll keep trying to provide the support until you decide to throw the rascal out.

So what's this column about? They seem to fall into a few categories. There were a few calling for support for Mumia Abu Jamal, still needed. There have been some touting our growth. It continues.

Several columns have focused on the inadequacies of the AFL, what one of our Fellow Workers calls "the other major leading brand." This is one of those. I heard recently from a Wob about a new member who said he didn't want to join the IWW if all we were going to do was AFL-bashing. That's definitely not all we do. In fact one of our primary activities is supporting the legitimate beefs of AFL rank-and-filers against their corporate bosses on picket lines, as well as their union bosses when they're neglected or exploited by them once again. The support we give is often returned in kind by those rank-and-filers. We've gotten all too used to having the union bosses take the support and stab us in the back.

The current case in point locally is the planning for what has become an annual "state of the people" response to the Governor's "state of the state" address in January. The activity was started a few years ago by a group of progressive folks, some of whom have since become Wobblies. The UAW local which represents Michigan state employees eventually got involved. Always looking for labor support for progressive causes, they were welcomed. Labor has the bucks to provide necessary support, like busses to get people from around the state to the capitol. But we have been informed no UAW bus will be coming to pick up folks from the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area this year. Too many "radicals" could be expected from there, members of the Welfare Rights Union, the IWW and such; not the sort of support UAW wants at a rally in an election year when they plan to tout a "liberal" political candidate in opposition to the current reactionary governor. The UAW has also gained control of the speakers list. It will include only hand-picked speakers and politicians. We'll be promoting local rallies which won't be endorsing any candidates. We shall see if the UAW can turn out numbers comparable to those the "radicals" have turned out in the past.

We keep getting tagged with that radical label. Most of us accept it with pride. As the song goes, "Ya ain't been doing nothing if ya ain't been called a red."

In South Carolina presently it's some reactionary IBEW bureaucrats who are pulling that union's support for a coalition called the Natural Guard with which an IWW shop of 18 years has long been associated. The IBEW bureaucrats are pulling out supposedly because of the "radical" IWW affiliation, although in-fighting with a progressive president of the state AFL may be the real reason. The IBEW constitution has a provision, a carryover from the days of Joe McCarthy, which prohibits association of its members with "Nazism and other -isms." They have decided that the IWW is part of one of those other -isms: socialism. So if you're a proponent of an -ism, like vegetarianism or Catholicism, you aren't welcome in the IBEW according to these bureaucrats. An IBEW/Wobbly two-carder points out members of that union's hierarchy don't seem to have any problem associating themselves with capitalism. I think the reactionaries are in for a bit of a surprise. They're about to find out that the largest number of two-carders in the IWW are members of the IBEW. There's a campaign under way to let the bureaucrats know that once again they do not reflect the opinions of the rank-and-file.

I'm looking forward to the day when it is no longer necessary for the IWW to take AFL bosses to task for not representing their membership. Somehow I get the feeling it will be the day after I acquire my piece of pie in the sky.

Meanwhile, I wish you all the best for the holiday season and the upcoming year. See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

our communities. Based on the few back issues I have this is not a new problem.

To conclude, I think we can have a better paper if we'll take it upon ourselves to write (or draw) for it. We need to realize that what we are doing is important. A paper filled with the voices of Wobblies will facilitate communication and education within the IWW. Such a paper will also serve as an introduction of the IWW to other workers. Contribute and then distribute.

In Solidarity
Denny Henke x345495

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund
Jim Giddings, Greenville NH \$15

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Jim Giddings, Greenville NH	\$15
Martin Conlisk, La Grange IL	10
Dennis Henke, Memphis TN	10
Friend S. Furbee, Point Pleasant WV	5
Samuel Paniagua, San Francisco CA	5

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Why I Am A Two Card Wobbly

Have you ever had a question asked of you that at the time you are unable to answer the way you wished, for the circumstance would not allow it? Some questions have no simple answers. And that is something that is hard in this world of soundbite answers measured in mere seconds. Some questions hang with you and you answer them over and over within your mind, always hoping for the next chance you may have. The week before writing this, I was down at the Port of Tacoma on a picket line for apple workers called by the UFW and the Teamsters.

While I was walking the line a Teamster spotted my IWW pin and came up to me to ask about it. First he asked me what I did for a living, thinking maybe I was just some leftist intellectual. I told him that I was a shipyard worker. Then he asked me the question that I have been asked many times before and never have been able to answer with a few words. Why would I wish to be a member of the IWW, which is today a small organization, when there is the AFL-CIO which has opened its door to the unskilled workers that the IWW once sought to organize?

Even though I have been asked this many times by AFL-CIO members, I still have no easy answer. Most of the time I just say that the IWW seeks to organize working people in a different way than the AFL-CIO. But that answer is not good enough. So for once I wish to answer that question in a way that truly states how I feel. Why do I, as a worker who has belonged to the AFL-CIO almost as long as I have been a member of the IWW, feel the need to be a Wobbly?

I will answer that question, not through some intellectual philosophizing, but rather through the experiences of one shipyard worker. I entered the trade of marine pipefitting in 1972. Since that time I have worked shipyards from Houston to San Diego, to New Orleans to Charleston, South Carolina and up here in the northwest. Thirteen different shipyards altogether. Many of these shipyards were non-union and a number of them were union. Over the years, I have had to join three different unions: the Machinist union, the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, and the Boilermakers.

Each time that I had to change unions, even though I worked in the same trade in the same industry, I have had to withdraw from one union and pay a large initiation fee. The largest was \$1,200 for membership in UA. This meant that I would lose all that I had built up in one union, the initiation fee, money in the pension fund and my place on the worklist.

Now I am sure someone is thinking, "Why don't you just stay in one union?" The problem is threefold: 1. With the decline of the shipyard industry few workers are able to just work at one yard. You work for a while at one then you get laid off and it is on to the next job. 2. The unions gave up on organizing shipyards long ago so there are not that many that have unions. So after you are laid off you can have a long wait before your next dispatch may come. 3. Up here in the northwest, and other places, there is not just one union that covers pipefitters. The larger yards are organized into the UA and in the smaller yards the pipefitters are organized by the Boilermakers. The one thing about belonging to different AFL unions is that it has given me a good opportunity to see firsthand the differences between the AFL-CIO and the IWW. The following are some of the major differences that I see:

1. The IWW will not stop at just organizing a few of the shops in an industry as the AFL-CIO has done, leaving some workers with a union and many more without a union. Many of the workers who work non-union yards belong to a union, but because there was no work at union yards, they are forced to work at non-union yards. If their name comes up on the union worklist, they are forced into three options; they can quit the non-union job and lose whatever they have built up there, they can quit the union, or if they stay in the union they can pay large fines (in UA the fines are somewhere around \$1,000 a week). The dispatch could be for work that is short-term. For example, Todd Shipyard likes to work people just short of 90 days so that they don't get onto the seniority list, preventing benefits from kicking in. Thus taking on a dispatch can be a gamble. What I don't understand is why the unions don't use their members who are working non-union yards to organize those yards, rather than penalizing them for taking what work they can find.

2. Membership in the IWW is open to all workers and it never closes its books. The reason some unions close their books is so that a few workers will always have work and have the best jobs. The leftovers go to second-class workers. I have worked union jobs where most of the workers were not allowed to join the union. I believe that unions should benefit all workers, but the AFL-CIO has a long history of unions that benefit a few workers at the expense of all other workers.

3. The IWW organizes all workers in the same industry into the same industrial union. Thus if the IWW had these shipyards organized I would not have to quit one union and join another when I had to change jobs. Believe me, I am not out to see how many different unions I can belong to while working in the same trade in the same industry.

4. Within the IWW we have free universal transfer so that if a worker has to change industrial unions they can do so without having to pay another initiation fee. I could live half a year off what I have had to pay in initiation fees to AFL-CIO unions. Three unions working in shipyards, two other unions when I worked outside of my trade, the Teamsters and the Steel Workers. That's a hell of a lot of money I have had to pay, for unlike the IWW, AFL-CIO unions do not have low initiation fees.

5. The IWW organizes industrial unions that unite workers, whereas many AFL-CIO unions organize by trade where one job can end up having many different unions. Where this happens, these different unions can end up competing with each other and sometimes scab on each other. Back in 1984, the ship repair company I worked at went on strike. There were five unions for around 50 workers. The biggest issue of the strike was that the bosses wanted workers to show up at the ship to start work, rather than show up at the shop, which had been the way it worked for years. Though the shop was in New Orleans, the areas where the ships were covered around 250 miles of the Mississippi River.

After eight months on strike, one union gave in and signed the contract. Since the unions would not let us picket the ships, which meant we could only picket the empty shop, workers in the scab union never had to cross our picket line and thus they broke the strike. Or take the example of the air controllers strike. Had that been an industrial

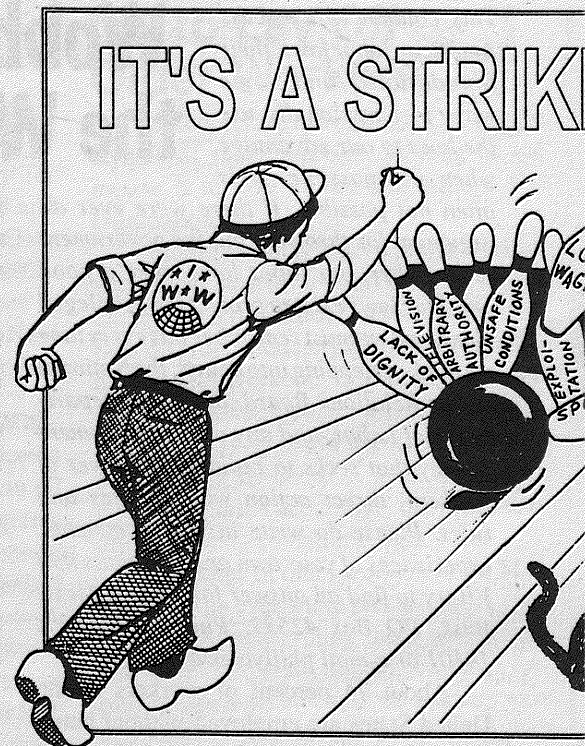
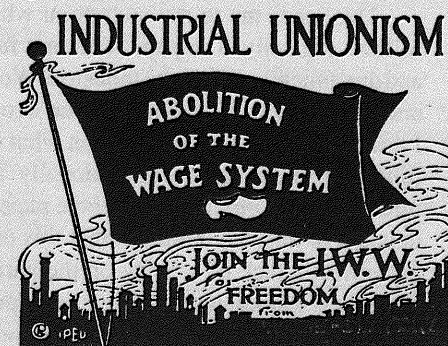
union, then the whole industry would have been on strike and there was no way they could have replaced all the workers of that industry. But being a trade union, the industry was divided and all the other workers were still working and the air controllers lost.

6. The concern of the IWW is not just how much money a worker makes. We care about health and safety, we care about hours worked, and we care about the environment. I have found little difference between non-union and union jobs when it comes to these issues. When it comes to hours worked, many unions profit from forced overtime because not only do you pay your dues but you must also pay a percentage of the money you make to the union. Thus the union makes more money when you work overtime.

As for the issues of health, safety and the environment, the unions are in bed with the bosses. A few examples of this that I have seen: when I worked at Bunker Hill Mining Company in Idaho the Steel Workers union helped the bosses in the cover-up of the lead contamination of the workers and their families. Because of that a large percentage of workers came down with kidney disease, including myself. I now must live much of the time on painkillers. Or take the pulp paper industry. One of the by-products of making that type of paper is Dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known. Dioxin is a major contaminant in the waters of the northwest. Rather than trying to do something about this, the pulp workers union resists all industrial change. And in this case, the answer to the problem would be very easy. There is a process of making clean, unbleached paper, but the industry says there is no market for it. All the union has to do is to have a public campaign to get the government to pass a law that says by some date all the paper that it buys will be unbleached paper. That alone would cause the paper mills to change their process.

7. The IWW seeks to break down all the barriers that divide workers and create an organization that all working people can join, regardless of race, sex, religion, what land a worker lives in, or anything else that may divide workers. We have no worklists that make some workers better off while other workers must fight for what work is left over. We do not promote workers of one land over the workers of another land. No buy USA First for we Wobblies. From the first day, the IWW opened its doors to all workers. But within the AFL-CIO this struggle continues to this day. Right here in Tacoma the longshoremen a few months ago lost a suit by women workers and workers of color over discrimination.

8. The IWW has a structure that is controlled by its members and it does not have a professional class of union officials. This professional class of union officials, which we call union bosses, do not have the same self-interest as does the membership of their unions. There are many good examples of this, but I'll use just one. One of the union bosses involved in the Centralia Mural Project lost a suit by members of his own union in '95 over the pension fund. You will never hear about IWW members having to sue their union, for that would mean



having to sue themselves because they control the IWW.

9. The IWW has always understood that the bosses and their government will seek to disarm the working class of its most effective weapons. For that reason, no matter what new anti-worker laws are passed the IWW will not disarm itself. The AFL-CIO has allowed the government to pass laws that limit its true force as a working-class organization, and so loses more strikes than it can win. As far as that goes the only type of strike it can win are strikes such as Boeing or UPS where they have a company that cannot move or really replace the workers. But in situations like Decatur, Ill., P-9, Phelps Dodge and so many others, the disarming of effective labor weapons has led workers to devastating defeats.

The fact remains that most strikes are won through the united solidarity of the working class. In other words, any shop that is on strike or is locked-out is declared a scab shop and union workers should supply no goods or services to that shop, and no union worker should handle any goods from that shop, nor should any union worker take up the work that the scab shop would have done if it were not on strike. If this were done, then it would not matter how many scabs that shop brought in or if that shop tried to relocate. That shop would be boycotted until it settled with its workers. Not only will the AFL-CIO not do this, but often different unions within the AFL will outright scab on each other. And if the bosses' government wants to pass anti-worker laws then a universal shut-down should take effect. In other words, if the bosses and politicians want workers to labor under anti-worker laws then they must become those workers, for we union workers would refuse to work under those conditions.

10. The AFL-CIO dooms working people to an endless condition of conflict and struggle. Not only must we fight for better wages and conditions, but we must continue to fight for the little gains we have made. Whereas the IWW seeks an end to class conflict. Not even the most conservative union bosses speak of any time when the employers and the workers will have found a common bond and the struggle of working people will end., That s because such a thing could never happen. So for the AFL-CIO to not have any kind of goal to end class conflict, it is only dooming all future working people to forever live in conflict, with hardships and little improvement of their conditions. We Wobblies are accused by bosses of all types of enjoying conflict. They are far from the truth, for we seek a final end to the conflict that has plagued the lives of working people throughout history by changing industry from the benefit of a few to the well-being of all.

It is not my purpose to condemn all AFL-CIO workers, for I have met many

LaborTalk: Are These Happy Times?

Aren't we lucky and shouldn't we be celebrating? Who would have dreamed that the unemployment rate would sink toward 4 percent? And despite what economists were predicting, such low unemployment hasn't caused inflation. Nor have interest rates risen above 3 percent, as the experts feared.

Isn't it wonderful that we're living during an economic boom instead of a recession? Who would have imagined that the stock market would make such spectacular gains?

Of course, there are problems in the Middle East and in Yugoslavia, but they don't affect our daily lives. We're not at war and there's no Soviet Union to worry about. And the crime rate, we are told, fell last year to the lowest level since 1973.

Surely, we should be rejoicing at so much good news. So why does poll after poll show that a majority of Americans are unhappy with the quality of their lives and are nervous and uncertain about their future? Various answers have been suggested.

Millions of workers are still shell-shocked about the trauma they endured during the epidemic of corporate downsizing, not only those who lost their jobs, but those who remained and worried they'd be next to be discharged. The new jobs they found generally paid far less than their former ones and they often had to settle for part-time or temporary work.

It used to be that one breadwinner was enough to feed a family. Now it takes two jobs or more for the average worker just to get by. Family life is severely strained, especially for young children, when the husband and wife both work and can't afford the expense of proper child care. For the one-third of today's labor force earning

who I have found to be hard-working, honest unionists. I think back to some of the workers I met in the Phelps Dodge and P-9 strikes who were truly an inspiration to me. I also think back to the '84 waterfront strike in New Orleans, where I saw Mississippi rednecks, inner-city Blacks, Cajuns, Greeks and a few white anarchists all standing in solidarity with each other as one fighting unit. But I have also seen sellouts, cover-ups and outright lies by the officials of the AFL-CIO. I have seen misery, hunger, injuries and death that need not be. I have seen a class misdirected and made almost impotent in its struggle to improve its conditions.

I look upon the future generations and ask myself what kind of world we giving them? I realize that at some point working people must take a direct hand in what is our struggle. For it is simple to see that the union bosses do not have the same interests as do we the working people. Thus we must start acting in our own self-interest with all our fellow workers. I do not see this happening within the AFL-CIO. That is why I am a two card Wobbly, and why I will continue to be one no matter how small or large the IWW may be.

— Arthur J. Miller, IU 320

Wobs Say No to Arms Trade

Eighty people, including 3 Wobblies, demonstrated against the worldwide arms trade Dec. 10 at the Lockheed/Sanders electronics plant in Nashua, N.H. Wobbly Dave Pike coordinated prison support for the 12 demonstrators who were arrested for civil disobedience. Alan Nairn, the reporter who broke the story of the Indonesian massacres in East Timor, spoke.

Sanders makes parts for the F-16 aircraft used by Turkey and Indonesia against their own populations. Sanders workers were reminded that the product they produce is killing people.

— Jim Giddings

\$15,000 or less, having a job is better than not having one, but it's hardly a living wage. For most workers, wages have remained virtually stagnant, and they see little hope of any significant improvement in the quality of their lives.

Naturally, they are anxious about the future. Why shouldn't they be? If they can barely get along when the economy is booming, what will happen to them if and when there is an economic downturn? What kind of security can they expect in an era of globalization, when corporate competitiveness requires slashing jobs and reducing wages to cut labor costs?

Just recently, we were given a reminder that the purge of good-paying jobs is still continuing. Eastman Kodak, the giant film company, announced that it was cutting its work force by 10,000; this is in addition to the 40,000 jobs it eliminated since 1983. Kodak, a paternalistic company based in Rochester, N.Y., had been showcased by the White House as an example of a corporation that treated its employees fairly in terms of wages, benefits and working con-

ditions. Levi-Strauss, the clothing chain, also regarded by many as a worker-friendly company, closed 11 plants in four states.

Then came the news that Fruit of the Loom, the underwear company, planned to move its sewing operations to Mexico, the Caribbean and other off-shore sites, eliminating 2,900 jobs in Kentucky and Louisiana. Previously, the company had wiped out 4,800 jobs. And Donna Karan, a New York fashion house, reported the firing of 285 employees, 15 percent of its work force, to cut its labor costs and bolster its stock prices.

While working families are deeply concerned about their continuous struggle to make ends meet, they are even more troubled about the future of their children. How will they have decent jobs and lead stable lives in a globalized economy where the dominant corporate value is profit-making? If they will have difficulty in surviving during economic good times, how will they manage if and when hard times come? And what legacy can we give them that will prepare them for the ordeals of tomorrow?

— Harry Kelber



SaboTabby in Germany

Ottawa, Ontario — Members of SaboTabby reflect on our just-completed tour in central Europe.

10,000 kilometres later, on Nov. 27 the IWW musical group SaboTabby, which now consists of Eric, Pat, Anj and Glenn, completed 30 gigs in a 60-day whirlwind tour of Germany and neighbouring countries.

SaboTabby's hillbilly, folk and Celtic sound was enthusiastically received at squats, pubs, youth clubs, halls, universities and at the anti-military festival attended by 3,000. The band members noticed that there is not much tradition in Germany of political folk music, although there is a political punk and underground music scene. Hillbilly-boogie was something new to most German ears, though they knew about "country" music and John Denver's albums were in record store windows after his demise.

The FAU/IWW Solidarity Tour was organized by members of the Frei Arbeiter Union (Free Workers Union FAU-IWA), some of whom are also IWW members. In spite of recent setbacks, including SLAPP lawsuits costing 50,000DM or more, and the unfortunate accidental death of the FAU General Secretary, the FAU fellow workers were very effective organizers and very generous hosts.

In Hamburg there were 3 Wobs/FAU at our gigs. We enjoyed some Irish tunes after the gig with a Hamburg couple who played fiddle and concertina. In Berlin we played 9-pin bowling or "skittles" at a 2-lane alley. Anj still has a scar on his head.

In Lille, France, where we played in an old maltery, the subculture was interesting. Busking was good here, as well as everywhere we went — we were never hassled about busking. The Francs we got, however did not go very far.

We noticed the difference between East German Russian-speaking and West German English-speaking people. East Berlin was more interesting than the western city, with its pre-World War II buildings with bullet holes still in the walls, and cobblestone streets everywhere. The cobblestones are very historic, having been used in many riots to punctuate people's complaints against the state. There was a sense of urban decay, but without the garbage so common in American cities.

East Berlin is being plastered and painted over rather hastily as the federal capital is moving from Bonn to Berlin. There are construction scaffolds on almost every street. We stayed in a former squat district with big city graffiti in the stairwells and outside on

Mersey dockers solidarity...

continued from page 1

every organization they are involved with.

Our fellow workers are challenging these interrogatories in court, and have no intention of surrendering such information to the bosses. The Laney College Labor Studies Club has also been sued; college officials responded by prohibiting student organizations from participating in labor protests.

Sacked Liverpool dock workers and supporters in the South Wales Support Group occupied two gantry cranes 60 feet over the Coastal Terminal on Cardiff docks Nov. 24. Coastal Container Line is 100 percent owned by Mersey Docks and links Cardiff with Dublin and Belfast five times a week. The action stopped work on the Coastal vessel "Kirsten" for six hours, until occupiers withdrew under threat of imminent arrest. The occupation followed a picket the week before which sealed off the Port of Cardiff for two hours.

In Liverpool, members of the Central Joint Committee in Support of Railway Workers Struggle, the All Japan Dock Workers' Union (Zenkowan) and the National Railway Workers' Union (Kokuro) joined picket lines in front of the Mersey Docks in early December, and met with port officials to demand that the locked-out dockers be reinstated.

The Mersey dockers remain united in their determination to win back their jobs, and block Mersey Docks' efforts to transform dock work into ill-paid, casual jobs. The lawsuits are a clear indication that the international solidarity campaign is hitting the bosses where it hurts — in their pocket-books. Dockers around the world are increasingly recognizing that "An injury to one is an injury to all," and acting accordingly. If this support continues to build, Mersey Docks will be forced to settle.

Send letters urging Laney College officials to protect faculty and students' rights to free speech, and not direct instructors to inform on their students, to: A.J. Harrison, Chancellor Peralta Community College District, 333 East 8th Street, Oakland CA 94608, and to Earnest Crutchfield, President, Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

Statements of support and contributions for legal costs for the Neptune Jade defendants can be sent to the Berkeley IWW (2022 Blake Street, Berkeley CA 94704), which also has \$5 voluntary MTW assessment stamps available to IWW members.

(based on reports from IWW members, the Laney College Labor Studies Club, and LabourNet reports by Greg Dropkin)

the streets. Squats thrived in East Berlin for about four years after the Wall came down. Now squat culture has been squeezed out by gentrification and condos. In one Berlin pub there are photos of past May Day riots, and a no-cop sign on the door. One 20-year old squat where we stayed at Grönigen (Netherlands) had 300 people and was a former hospital.

We visited the site of a Nazi concentration camp for women at Ravensbruck which was constructed in 1938 by male prison labour from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Between 1939 and 1945, 132,000 women and children, 20,000 men and 1,000 female youths were registered as prisoners in Ravensbruck. Female prison labour was deployed daily inside and outside the camp, even hired out to farms and private enterprises. We saw the heavy stone roller the prisoners were forced to roll over the ashes of the dead, the ovens, and other torture apparatus. Seeing these artifacts and knowing the deeds that were done in this place, contrasted eerily with the pristine beauty of the town's lake.

Along with this modern Nazi horror, we also visited a medieval horror at Penzlin in

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Making Steel and Killing Workers

When it comes to workplace carnage, the steel making belt in northwest Indiana may be the deadliest stretch in the United States. Union locals have logged the deaths of more than 1,000 steelworkers in Indiana's lakefront mills since men began firing up the iron ore, limestone and coal-based coke amid the sand dunes and marshes east of Chicago at the turn of the century. If this tally included supervisors, temporary workers and deaths at nonunion plants, the death toll could hit 2,000. U.S. Steel's Gary Works, the country's largest steel mill and one of the oldest, has had 502 workers killed in its 89 years of operation.

Since 1980, more than 90 steel company workers and contractors have been killed at the steel plants in northwest Indiana. 1997 was a worse than average year, with seven deaths in the first 11 months.

Faced with growing competition from low-cost producers from abroad and mini-mills in the U.S., steel companies struggle to maximize returns for their investors. As a result, the mills are running at full speed with fewer and fewer employees. U.S. Steel, for instance, has eliminated 12,000 jobs at its Gary Works over the past 20 years without any lost production.

This means maintenance is sometimes put off. Workers are regularly forced to put in overtime and switch from job to job. Companies increasingly hire lower-paid temporary contract workers, who are often unfamiliar with workplace hazards and may not be trained in procedures as thoroughly. "From time to time some of the things that should be shut down and repaired are allowed to continue, and I think a lot of times it's done with crossed fingers," said Dennis House, safety chairperson of Steelworkers Local 1014.

Sometimes the luck runs out. In mid-July, a huge pit of molten iron and slag exploded for the second time in 16 hours at the Gary Works. The blast shot our red-hot shrapnel. One chunk rocketed 175 feet and



"Get over here... You said labor and management should stand together."

smashed into the head of steelworker Gary Niles, killing him instantly.

The day before, part of a skimmer that moved the slag floating on the molten iron to a separate pit gave way, allowing iron to seep into the slag pit. Workers repaired the skimmer using hand tools and quick-setting cement, and when that repair didn't hold, used a machine to reform it. That fix didn't work either; early in the morning the slag pit erupted when more molten iron seeped in.

Over the next several hours, workers cleaned out the slag pit and operations resumed by late morning. Later in the day, the skimmer collapsed again and tons of molten iron poured into the pit. That explosion killed Niles, a 27-year veteran unloading coke from a railroad car. Union officials contend the only proper way to deal with the damaged skimmer would have been to use a more durable but slower setting cement, even though this would have meant idling the main blast furnace. U.S. Steel says it followed normal operating procedures.

After decades of deaths, Local 1014 has won in its labor contract the dedication of April 28 as an annual memorial day for workers killed on the job. At the steel and glass memorial outside the gates of Gary Works, a high school band plays and someone reads aloud the hundreds of names in the book of the steelworkers' dead. Next April, Gary Niles' name will be on the list.

U.S. death count often wrong

Officially, the rate of on-the-job deaths in the U.S. has decreased by more than 40 percent since 1988. Even by official figures, however, the death and injury rates among primary metals workers has barely changed in the last 10 years. In practice, of course, the mills are much more deadly to the workers employed in them than the federal or corporate accident figures indicate. In fact, in some mills the number of deaths is more than twice the tally recorded by regulators.

Much of the undercount is because neither OSHA nor companies count the deaths of contract workers toward a mill's total fatalities. At many mills, such as U.S. Steel's Gary Works, outside workers work side by side with company employees. But if you check the federal, state and union accident reports for the last 15 years you would find listed only the deaths of 16 company employees. The 8 deaths of contract workers are not included. Since 1983, three employees have been killed in LTV Corp.'s Harbor Works in East Chicago, but the death toll rises to 8 when you include contract workers.

OSHA also does not always log deaths investigated by state or local authorities. OSHA records show 18 deaths at Inland Steel's Each Chicago mill over the last 15 years, but Indiana state records show another 8 deaths over the same period. Similarly, the Steelworkers union has records of the deaths of 7 men at the Gary works since 1994 that are not in OSHA's database.

Centralia...

continued from page 1

shooting pool, and a news clipping on the wall of someone at a Pipe fitters picket line indicted that unions when present are a part of the local culture. There was not a large showing of the Hispanic community, indicating that the events may not have been speaking to them. Saturday night found skate boarders and other young folks downtown, but not many at the reception at the Carpenter's Hall.

Puget Sound Wobs and possibly others plan to continue to travel to the Centralia area, to continue the work of talking with workers that are interested in improving conditions on the job. The fact that many still feel that organizing is something their grandparents did earlier in the century and isn't happening on a large scale today will have to change. This can only happen if organizers change the message from unions are something that the elders talk about over cribbage and are only for skilled workers, to unions being something that is compatible with the culture of differing communities. Many organizers in the AFL/CIO unions, and even some in the IWW have not realized this, but will have to if the IWW is to be successful in small rural communities and worldwide.

And just as members of the IWW will never forget the struggles of the past like the tragedy in Centralia, many Northwest Wobs will also never forget the elements of today who have attempted to silence us and push us into the historical grave.

— John Persak, x337969

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Give to the I.W. Sustaining Fund**

Relay workers lose union drive

On November 20, Teamsters Local 116 lost an NLRB bid to represent approximately 170 employees of USA Relay, a division of Community Services for the Deaf, Inc., in Moorhead, Minnesota. They were defeated by a vote of 90-53.

Retaliation against union organizers is a strong possibility. Management had offered concessions over the last few months (including raising the starting wage by \$0.25 to \$7.00 an hour), and questioned new employees about their union loyalties. The Teamsters accumulated evidence for a number of NLRB charges during the organizing drive; these were filed on November 21.

Telerelay services allow deaf or speech-impaired people to communicate with hearing persons. The deaf caller uses a TDD device, resembling a small computer, to communicate electronically, while a communication agent relays conversation between the callers by alternately reading and typing. The job demands excellent typing and language skills, including familiarity with Deaf culture and non-standard usage of English. It has a high injury risk due to stress and repetitive motion, and almost everywhere, it does not pay a living wage.

The first relay services were set up in the early 1980s by non-profit organizations based in the Deaf community. Relays were seen as an integral part of the Deaf political movement for equal access to jobs, education and human services. This meant that being a relay operator was a "movement job" with the sort of wages and benefits one might associate with such a position.

Eventually, the telecommunications giants opened nation-wide long-distance re-

lays and began taking over local services. They have taken advantage of low wage levels to provide local service at a profit. In Minnesota, services are funded by a small surcharge on each telephone line. The state collects these funds and disperses them to the relay provider.

CSD operates USA Relay in partnership with Sprint, which provides equipment, lines and technical support. Sprint, an active union-buster, is now a relay provider or co-provider in 21 states. While Minnesota law requires its relay service to be provided through a community-based non-profit, Sprint skirts this law by means of its partnership with CSD.

Former stewards of United Relay Workers/AFSCME Local 3896, including one IWW member, assisted in the organizing drive. Until 1996, the Minnesota Relay Service was operated by Deafness Education and Advocacy Foundation (DEAF) Inc., a St. Paul non-profit. The 165 workers there voted for AFSCME representation in 1993. They lost their jobs when CSD won the Minnesota contract and moved the relay to Moorhead. Efforts to organize the Moorhead relay will continue.

— Sam Adams x345872

Sears retirees picket

Sears, Roebuck and Co. announced in September that it was cutting back on company-paid life insurance policies for 84,000 retired workers. Retirees began picketing outside Sears stores to try to rally public opinion against the company during the Christmas shopping season.

OK to Lay Off Older Workers

U.S. courts are increasingly OK'ing the layoffs of older workers, as long as the motive is to save money and not age discrimination.

"Employers may indeed prefer workers with lower salaries to workers with higher ones, even if [the burden of that] preference falls disproportionately on older, generally higher-paid workers," a California appellate judge wrote October 29, upholding the firing of a 54-year-old accountant. "Decision-making by costs ... goes to the very core of a market economy," the judge continued, getting something right.

The status of older workers in the Midwest may be even more precarious. A 1994 Court of Appeals ruling there said actions that have "disparate impact" on older employees are legal unless those workers were deliberately singled out because of their age. As Chicago labor attorney Thomas Geoghegan puts it, "It's now the public policy of the U.S. to protect civil rights except to the extent that it interferes with the priority of driving wages down."

Philly Wobs Fight Anti-Labor Quakers

Front desk workers at the Friends Center in Philadelphia continue their struggle to organize with growing support from the local progressive community and Quakers and Wobblers across the globe. On Sept. 2nd, the four part-time evening and weekend employees of the Friends Center requested voluntary recognition from their supervisor and later from the Friends Center Board of Directors. Instead of recognizing the union, the Board wrote, "As a matter of conscience and faith, we believe that no persons need an intermediary when discussing concerns, but rather should be able to 'gather in the light' to discuss them." They then hired their own intermediary, a union-busting attorney from a town two hours away, and have attempted to crush the effort by taking advantage of anti-labor laws in the halls of the National Labor Relations Board.

Since then, thousands of fliers and a number of e-mail appeals have received overwhelming support. In one letter to the Board of Directors, a young attender of the Oread Friends Meeting encouraged the Board to understand that "We should all be equal, and all be entitled to food, shelter, a safe workplace, living wages, job security, and recognition." It has been difficult for many people familiar with the good work done inside the Friends Center to reconcile the blatant union-busting that the management has decided to engage in with the principles of their religion. But still no word on a change of heart from the Board of the Directors, who have remained silent since early October and have let their attorney do all the talking.

The collective voice of the union supporters gets louder and the commitment to winning recognition grows with every passing day. To help with this effort, please write John Blanchard, Chairman of the Board, and Peter Rittenhouse, Executive Director of the Friends Center Corporation at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102 fax: 215/241-7026, e-mail fco@afsc.org. For more information call 215/724-1925 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org.

Labour Govt. slashes welfare

Britain's Labour government is going ahead with savage cutbacks in social benefits to single parents originally proposed by the Tory government. So brutal were the cuts that dozens of Labour M.P.s refused to go along. A junior Scottish Office minister resigned, saying he could not bring himself to vote for the cuts, which were an attack on some of the poorest women in society.

Canadian postal strike crushed

Striking postal workers returned to work Dec. 4 under a government back-to-work order that gave workers even less than the paltry pay hikes offered by management before the bitter two-week strike began. "I'm disgusted," one postal worker said. "I feel like I'm living in the 'fourth Reich' ... this is Nazism."

Union leaders vowed to allow Canadians to send mail for free during the Christmas period – and let corporate and government mailings get lost. "I don't know where their mail will go," Darrell Tingley, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, said of corporate mailings. "Some could end up, I suppose, going to Vancouver or Taiwan. Machines can make mistakes."

The same fate could befall government mailings, said Philippe Arbour, the union's chief negotiator. "It's not finished. They've got to realize it's not chickenshit to attack the postal workers."

Due to the heavy workload that we foresee upon our return," Tingley added, "it is safe to say that we will not have the time to check postage" on individuals' mail.

Canada Post threatened to bring criminal charges against any worker caught taking direct action.

The government imposed a 5.15 per cent wage hike over three years, less than what was originally on the bargaining table. Outstanding issues such as changes to letter carrier routes, overhauling the mail delivery system and job security will be settled by a government mediator.

At two postal stations, managers sent part-time workers home Dec. 4 claiming there was no work for them, prompting all other workers to walk out in protest.

Direct Action in Montreal...

continued from page 1

neo-liberal agenda of the government of Quebec, which continues to ignore the issues of class division, poverty and unemployment while privatizing everything they can get their hands on.

The protest successfully shut down government operations. At 9 a.m., thousands of employees who had assembled at a park across the street were told to go home and return at 1:30 p.m to attempt to enter again. But police kept a low profile, and the blockade was still in place (reinforced by busloads of protestors) in the afternoon. Employees were sent home for the day with full pay. The blockaders celebrated their victory and dispersed without arrests shortly afterwards.

(based on reports by Bernard Cooper and Direct Action Media Network)

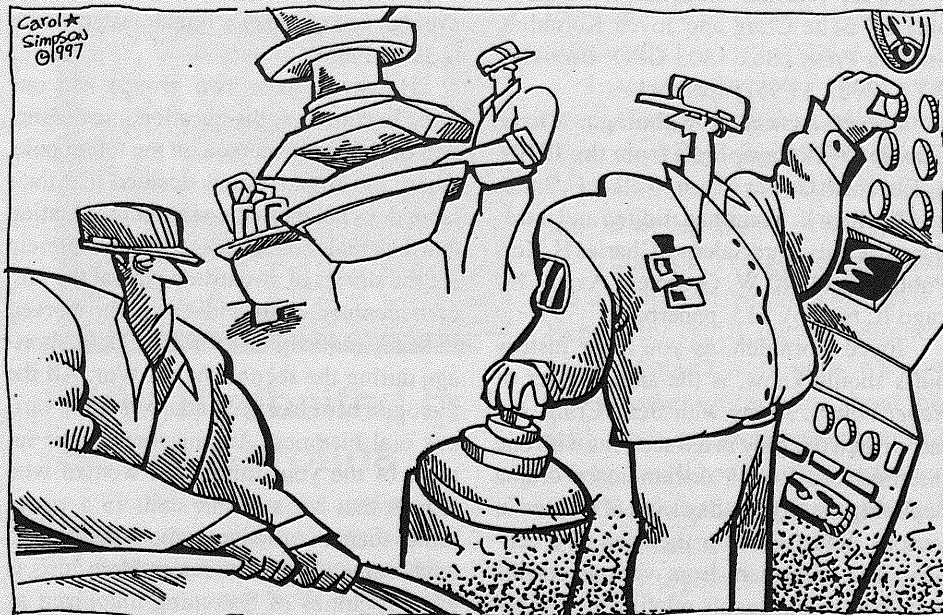
Mexican Hyundai Workers Win Union

Han Young de Mexico, which manufactures parts for Hyundai in its Tijuana factory, has agreed to recognize an independent union and sever ties with a government-aligned company union.

The agreement ends a turbulent six-month organizing drive which began during a wildcat strike for better pay. During that strike workers learned that the Han Young truck chassis plant had signed a "protection" contract with the company union, and immediately began efforts to replace it with a union under their control.

The settlement marks the first time workers have succeeded in forming an independent union in any of Mexico's 2,700 maquiladora assembly plants. It follows a consumer boycott of Hyundai autos in the United States.

Workers will receive a 30 percent pay hike. Han Young has also agreed to reinstate several workers dismissed during the lengthy dispute and pay them back wages.



"The new overtime schedule is an improvement. It allows an annual visit with our families."

Finns demand shorter hours

The Finnish syndicalist organization 'Solidaarisuus' (Solidarity-IWW) organized demonstrations for equal social justice, the 6-hour working day, and decent income Dec. 6. The demo was held at the presidential castle and about 400 hundred people showed up. Since the 6th is Finland's independence day, the protestors were able to voice their anger to a host of politicians and capitalists visiting the palace.

World Labor Needs a Union...

continued from page 1

cutting wages in the U.S. and has made the supplier of temporary workers, Manpower Inc., the largest U.S. employer. As the international money market pulls the world into a tighter squeeze, workers in the industrialized countries need to realize that our wages are tied to the wages of workers in the Third World. The lower their wages are, the lower ours will fall.

We need to take advantage of the relatively large amount of publicity generated by the current situation to demand that any further aid to Asian countries be made conditional on strengthening the ability of workers on those countries to form unions and fight for higher wages. The powers-that-be will not take kindly to such demands.

The 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that met in Vancouver, Canada, in late November was picketed by several hundred demonstrators protesting the lack of human rights in the countries at the forum, such as Indonesia, where Mughtar Pakpahan, leader of the country's only independent labor federation, is in prison charged with subversion. The demonstrators were driven back from the meeting site by police and uniformed Mounties with pepper spray and snarling dogs. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, chairperson of APEC, said that as an economic association APEC would never have human rights on its agenda.

Several years ago the IWW participated in a day of anti-IMF picketing; perhaps another such could be organized. Another target would be to demand that Sweeney's "new" AFL-CIO sever and repudiate its CIA-funded tentacles in Asia and Central America that have worked to undermine union effectiveness since World War II.

Meanwhile, the turmoil wrought in Asia by currency speculators has not deterred big corporations from crafting a "bill of rights" for themselves that would make it even easier for them to move money and manu-

Longer hours

1996 Census data shows that median U.S. family income rose for the third year in a row, prompting the Clinton Administration to rejoice that the middle class was better off after years of decline. Median family income was \$35,492 in 1996, up 1.2 % from 1995.

However, these gains in family income come from working longer hours. Workers age 25-54 worked on average 1,980 hours in 1995, compared to 1,840 in 1982. This increase of 140 hours per year, is equivalent to four additional weeks of full-time work (at 35 hours/week).

Fighting for higher pay would solve the problem much more efficiently; a 5 percent pay hike is the equivalent of two and one-half extra weeks of work.

Meanwhile, the *Boston Globe* reports that pizza delivery workers are entering the "middle class" by working 65 or more hours a week. Maybe the money lasts longer when you arrive home from work so beat that all you can do is hit the hay.

facturing from once country to another. The so-called Multilateral Agreement on Investment is being pushed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in the form of a treaty that each of the 29 member nations would sign.

In recent years, the global economy has grown by 3 to 4 percent a year; trade has grown by 6 to 8 percent; and foreign investment has grown by more than 10 percent. As Scott Nova, director of the Preamble Center think tank, pointed out, "The multinational corporations are really happy with the developments in the world of the past 20 years. They want MAI to lock these developments into place." Big business' attempt to implement the MAI treaty will offer further occasions to publicize the situation of Asian workers.

Workers and police...

continued from page 3

gray suit, who I presume to be some big shot in the Steelworkers union. And what he said to me was this: "We don't want to bother those guys (meaning the cops). We have a deal with them."

Oh, a deal! I can't express how little that comforted me. That I should be, what, *corrected* for speaking the truth because the leaders made a deal. Should the deal make me fear less for the safety of those arrested? Should the deal make me feel better about the police? about the arrests? about the fact that guns and handcuffs and jails exist and can be employed to clear bank lobbies whenever workers become a nuisance?

Or how should I feel about the leaders in this case? Should I feel better, knowing that they've taken the safety of the arrestees into account while sitting on the sidelines and making deals with the police? Should I feel more trust in their leadership [knowing that they've negotiated these arrests beforehand? I wonder also if they had negotiated the release. A hat was passed for bail or fines, but when one Fellow Worker asked about jail support, about lawyers and court dates, he was told that everyone would probably pay their fines and have it over with.

At the end of the rally, the same gray suit thanked everyone who came, thanked the unions who mobilized their members, and thanked, absurdly, the Portland Police. "They did a great job," he said. I wish I could say he sounded sarcastic. I wonder to what degree he has adopted and promoted the boss's perspective that the police are just doing a job, that the law and its enforcers are a neutral party in class politics. I wonder, too, how he sees his own role in the class war. Is he leading the fight, or is he managing the struggle? Is he promoting class conflict or is he negotiating it away? I wonder whether he genuinely feels he has more in common with the workers he represents than with the bosses who repress them.

This much I know: You can sing "Which side are you on?" all day, but it doesn't mean a thing if you can't tell who your enemies are.

— Kristian Williams

Unionist Beaten

Morgan Tsvangirai, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions was beaten unconscious in his office Dec. 11. The attack occurred two days after a successful general strike called by the union which paralysed the country. The attack came just two days after the police used tear gas to disperse a peaceful union demonstration, which was protesting at a 5% levy on workers' pay packets, and substantial increases in sales tax and fuel prices.

67 killed in Russian mine

Trapped methane gas exploded in a mine shaft 1,000 feet below the surface of the Zyryanovskaya mine in southern Siberia Dec. 3. Six workers on their way out of the mine were rescued alive, and rescue workers recovered 54 bodies – 13 miners are unaccounted for but believed to be dead.

Russian miners face deteriorating safety and working conditions under capitalism as mine owners put less money into the mines.

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SaboTabby on Tour...

continued from page 7

Eastern Germany — the building, located in the backyard of a church and medieval wall, where several hundred people were killed between 1661 and 1691 for witchcraft. The last execution at the site was only 200 years ago. Throughout Europe, 900,000 people, mostly women, were burned for witchcraft between 1300 and 1800. There are also preserved torture chambers in the basement.

Every gig was in different surroundings. We got deliberately stiffed by the organizers, the Socialist Party of Deutschland (SPD), of one gig we did at Hellersdorf.

The two-month tour "feels like a year," says Anj — so many new sights and people. SaboTabby also played our music, which is 75 percent labour songs, in France, Austria and the Netherlands.

"Humour and our approach to music as entertainment was successful in creating a feeling of international workers solidarity," says Anj, the piper of the band. "We focus on melody and entertainment. Humour enlivens the spirit, and takes the preaching edge off what you're saying. Because let's face it, once you stand up on a pulpit you're just another preacher."

One gig in Kølbn consisted of 100% miners' and workers' songs from the Wobly, Appalachian and Welsh traditions.

At times in the tour, we followed punk bands on stage, and we wondered how the audience would receive us but they thought we were hard core — "hilly-billy," that is. A gig in Gransee was in a former Socialist Party HQ building, where there's now an unemployment office, and they rent out these huge rooms. During our gig, there was also a punk band in the building trying to record but ironically they had to stop because the Jehovah's Witnesses were drowning them out singing hymns down the hall. So they came and listened to SaboTabby and invited us back to their rehearsal.

At this rehearsal we played a punk-rock version of Hill's Rebel Girrrl and We Have Fed You All 1,000 Years. FW Thomas was pumping his fist in the air and putting German words to some of our tunes. We were worried the fellow worker would get revolutionary elbow.

As FW Beckman would say, it was a very "hectical" tour indeed, often driving all day between gigs in a large Mercedes van, or squished into Thomas' vanette. We especially appreciated the friendly support of our Austrian hosts at Linz while they were having their problems with the state. We made friends on the Soli-Tour that we want to keep in touch with for a lifetime.

Most of the anarchists we met were young, but some were older anarchists. Ten gigs were played in E.Berlin and a lot of our time was spent there. The pubs were good, but the former squats were the most fun. Also in the former squats we had the most confidence about guarantees, they always paid what they said even if taking a loss on the event.

SaboTabby returned to Canada with videos and films including one about Nestor Makhno and a documentary on the FAU. Band members feel that international solidarity was benefited by our tour, and the FAU and IWW also benefit from new contacts that were made.

We returned, still full with beer, bread and cheese, having learned a bit of German. It was a hard working trip that took every ounce of energy. Most of the time we only got 4 hours sleep, and we were exhausted after gigs. The experience was "social overload" sometimes, glimpses of faces, impressions, short conversations, then salutations.

What could Canadians learn from the Germans? "We could benefit from a better way," says Eric. "To get more vocal about our opinions and beliefs. In former East

Honoring Our Past

I Just Wanted Someone to Know, a play by Bette Craig and Joyce Kornbluh. Smyrna Press (Box 1803 GPO, Brooklyn NY 11202), \$3.95, paperback.

Direct Action & Sabotage: Three Classic IWW Pamphlets from the 1910s, by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Walker C. Smith and William E. Trautman. Edited and introduced by Salvatore Salerno. Charles H. Kerr Publishers (1740 W. Greenleaf Ave., Chicago IL 60626), \$15, paperback.

Joyce Kornbluh, as you labor history buffs should know, is the anthologizer of *Rebel Voices*. Along with Bette Craig, she has written this play in ten sections with one intermission. It is a documentary drama depicting the work-a-day lives of women in various industries over the span of a century. The characters from various epochs pop up interchangeably relating their tribulations experienced as women workers. This production is quite simple to put on insofar as a minimum of props are required for its successful presentation.

At the beginning of the century there were fewer women in the general workforce, and they were for the most part young and single since married women could be supported by their husbands' income (and their labor was needed in the home), contrasted with recent decades where one income does not support a family unit any more. Where the former women workers

were in their late teens or early twenties, the average age of today's female wage slaves is 30 and more.

However, these two groups had one thing in common: the questionable distinction of being low person on the totem pole, where the employer has deemed that their labor does not merit the same compensation that their male counterparts "enjoy." Herein are the stories of sweatshop girls at the turn of the century, along with those who worked in heavy industry relieving the labor shortage during the second World War. All the dialogue here has been adapted from various oral histories. Among them is the lament of the young immigrant woman who regrets that her surname ends in a vowel rather than a consonant, where the path to advancement would be easier. Here, also, is the difficulties of becoming unionized as well as the final success of organizing in the women's trades. Herein are the plights of racial minority women, along with those who were unfamiliar with the language; interspersed in this production are some rousing songs for which unfortunately no musical notation has been provided, but one can assume that there are always songsmiths who can fill in that gap.

Reviews

Biting 'The Big One'

A review of Michael Moore's *'The Big One'*

Michael Moore, who made the ground breaking 1989 documentary *Roger and Me*, has recently offered up a continuation of that film and the work he did in his TV Nation television series.

In 'The Big One', Moore sticks to his schtick of interviewing capitalism's victims then counterpoising footage of his attempting to enter the headquarters of Corporations to interview the CEO. While watching 'The Big One' I started feeling like Homer Simpson watching TV laughing at the predictable; "that Michael, he's funny, see him thrown out of Proctor and Gambol, ha,ha,ha, out of Leaf Candies, what a riot..."

DOH! Michael Moore is a great working class humorist, probably the best the US has had in decades. But that is more of a statement on working class culture in the US since World War Two. Sure it's funny to watch Corporation PR people trying to defend indefensible, but when is self-righteous political sarcasm too much?

I came out of the screening wondering what does Moore want workers like me to

Germany, people are not afraid to stand up with a strong opinion, even though there is always going to be opposition." Eric also suggests an IWW recording label.

"I've seen heaven," comments Glenn. "It's a small flat country with a lot of cheese and chocolate, called The Netherlands."

The band members are unanimous in a big "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts to Thomas Beckman, who accompanied the last leg of the tour, and all the other friends who hosted our visit. We were quite touched by the hospitality of the Beckmans and amazed by FW Thomas' stamina who worked hard all day and took in late night gigs and late night beers for days and weeks on end.

SaboTabby is already looking ahead to a return visit to Europe in 1998, and also busy lining up local Ottawa gigs. The plans of this IU630 job shop are to write, play and record music and do the odd benefit in Toryland.

do? Moore offers no solutions except some footage of Borders Book employees celebrating winning an NLRB election. He fails to mention that only one of the stores has signed a contract, and the elections are being nullified. Is this the way forward?

In his writings, Michael Moore apparently believes that America doesn't need a third political party, it needs a second party. His line is that the Democrats and the Republicans both represent the ruling class. No surprise here, the Democrats and Republicans have always been the parties of Capital. But somehow for Moore it's a shock. Moore's prescription for the U.S. working class seems to be a Labor/Greens/New Party amalgamation and the AFL-CIO organizing the unorganized.

But Moore doesn't (or doesn't want to) put two and two together. The AFL-CIO and Corporations are the two parties of the US economy. Getting union presidents to do the right thing is like expecting the Democrats to do the right thing.

In 'Roger and Me,' former United Auto Worker's President Owen Biber says the days of sit-downs are over. Moore seems to agree. Nowhere does he argue for workers' to do things for themselves, to form a union for and by themselves. Moore thinks workers need better union presidents and Labor/Green/New Party elected officials.

The Sit-down strikes of the 1930s, which Moore sometimes mentions, were direct action unionism. This rank and file action won worker's demands. They didn't go through an election, through building a Labor Party, they didn't bother with that. And they won their demands!

It's the IWW's view that if workers don't make the union for themselves, in their everyday actions, we aren't going nowhere but down. Moore stands 180 degrees opposite to that view. It was the business unionism and political activity which Moore advocates that stifled rank-and-file unionism and led us to the disarray the working class finds itself in today.

Yes, 'The Big One' is funny, but if I'm in the mood for aimless subversive sarcasm I'd rather watch Simpson reruns.

— C.A. Canny

The word Sabotage has on occasion been a bone of contention among the ranks of the IWW, as well as having served as an excuse for bringing down further repression against our organization. The word itself is derived from Sabot, the French word for wooden shoe. Two interpretations exist for the word sabotage. One, during the industrial revolution, when the introduction of modern machinery eliminated a lot of hand labor with many being put out of work, the displaced worker would throw their sabots into the gears, disabling the machinery in the hopes of being put back to work. Knowing the labor and price of sabots in those days of economic distress, it would seem logical that those displaced workers would find something less precious to gum up the machinery with.

The second interpretation has more validity: to act like a sabot wearer, to make like a bumpkin, too hoosier up, to slow up the works by making the employer explain every move. This your reviewer has seen at his own worksites. When the packaging line was being sped up, a hole punched in one of the plastic bottles would cause the line to be shut down until the bottling and capping machine was cleaned up.

William E. Trautman of the Brewery Workers Union, who was in the founding convention of the IWW; Walker C. Smith, early editor of the *Industrial Worker* and long-time activist in the organization; and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn all wrote pamphlets on sabotage as an additional weapon to be used against the employer.

Rather than listing each author's recommendations, the overall view of sabotage as a class weapon against exploitation can pretty well sum up the views of all three. Sabotage as a weapon of class warfare does not necessarily entail the destruction of "property," especially when the class-conscious worker aspires to have stewardship over the machinery of production within the eventual future.

Like the class struggle itself, being an ongoing phenomenon whether the worker is conscious of it or not, so it is with sabotage being a long-standing weapon on the part of disgruntled workers. One of the classic strategies is "working to rule." The employer has a whole lot of rules which would be impossible to adhere to and still have an efficiently operating job site if put into effect all at once. One can surmise that such a plethora of working rules exists solely for the purpose of being a catch-all to put the screws on any individual or group of individuals who has incurred the displeasure of the boss.

On many job sites, when striking wasn't feasible, the workers have successfully gummed up the works by strictly adhering to each and every one of Bosso's rules. One could see "work to rule" being put to use by public service workers like fireman, whom the general public depends upon, by badgering the operators of important businesses with every petty rule in the book. Postal workers have effectively brought their employers down to their knees on more than one occasion ...

While the word sabotage has been hurled at militant workers since time immemorial, it is the master class itself who is far more guilty of sabotage. Adulterating consumer products is a social menace; producing unsafe equipment that has caused deaths is something no worker can be accused of; and polluting our precious environment should provide ample motivation for our class to organize so that we may be able to deliver a well-aimed sabot tin in the region of the employing class' sphincter. While these three reprinted pamphlets from a bygone age may be looked upon as historical curiosities, it is from history that one can learn lessons to apply to the present.

— Carlos Cortez

New Arrivals

The IWW Literature Department has added two new bumper stickers: "Profit is theft" and "Stop world hunger - eat the rich." \$1.25 each.

The Story of Mary Maclane & Other Writings

"No more marvelous book was ever born of a sensitive, precocious brain." Clarence Darrow

Provoked outrage and debate when first published in 1902, as the 19-year-old author revealed her utter scorn for conformity and puritanism and her passionate insistence on sexual freedom and a life of adventure and excitement. Hailed as the first "New Woman" in literature and a precursor of surrealism. After nearly a hundred years, her radical pessimism, individualist feminism and refusal to adjust to an unjust social order have retained and multiplied their force. \$15 Kerr

Direct Action & Sabotage: Three classic IWW pamphlets from the 1910s

by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Walker C. Smith, William Trautman
Challenges the prevailing stereotype of sabotage. To the IWW belongs the distinction of being the first workers' organization in the U.S. to openly discuss practices as old as class society. Viewing direct action and sabotage in the spirit of creative non-violence, Wobblies readily integrated these tactics into their struggle to build industrial unionism. Kerr \$15

Harlem Glory by Claude McKay

Written in the early '40s, but unpublished 'til now. Black life during the Great Depression and the New Deal. Acutely sensitive to the extraordinary vitality and diversity of Black culture, and drawing on its author's experiences in the IWW and the extreme Left of the socialist movement. Kerr \$12

The Flivver King: A story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair

Originally published by the UAW in 1937, Walter Reuther called this great labor novel "The best single organizational document ever written. The Flivver King helped found our union." Old-time Wobbly Fred Thompson found it "an ideal novel to hand someone who needs to be told how capitalism works and why we need unions." Kerr \$12

Cassettes, \$10 each.

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- It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids
- A World to Win. Tom Juravich
- Greenfire. Dakota Sid, Travers Clifford
- Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King
- Justice. Toshi Reagon
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Compact Disks \$15 each.

- Look to the Left. Anne Feeney
- Heartland, Anne Feeney Live

Books for Rebel Workers

One Big Union. by IWW.

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

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

The General Strike.

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

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

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

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

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

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

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

Rebel Voices.
IWW Songs sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10.

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

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

Silent Agitators

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

Labor History

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

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld. 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.

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

Haymarket Scrapbook. \$15

Workers' Culture

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

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

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IWW artist's poetic take on life today. \$4

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

Images of Labor. edited by Moe Foner
A coffee-table book alternating color art work and quotes. \$10

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

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

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

Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs.
Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, \$10.

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

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

"The Impossibilists"
Selections from the press of the Socialist Party of Canada and the One Big Union 1906-1938; \$2.50

Bumperstickers

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

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T-SHIRTS

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

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

IWW Globe Black on Red, L or XL. \$14 + \$3 s/h. P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr., Denver CO 80211

Guinea Pig Zero, a Wobbly zine for human research subjects. Sample copy \$3, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia PA 19101 bhelms@iww.org

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

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Songbook \$5. **36th Edition Little Red Songbook** \$10. c/o J. Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto ONT M6R 2L2

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IWWs start to organize in Residential Trades

Some Wobs on the West Coast have started organizing in the Residential Buildings trades. In the coming months they promise to report on their successes, failures and the lessons they draw from their experiences. The following is an overview of where they are coming from:

In an unnamed West coast city, IWWs are organizing in the residential construction industry. Due to the realities concerning our industry, at this point it is our belief that the traditional union drive might not be effective, and perhaps counter-productive.

However, we are developing a model of organizing fellow workers on the job.

We had our first Workers Council meeting the first week of December. Our goal is to build democratic structures on the job, create solidarity and class consciousness, and to engage in educational opportunities surrounding capitalism.

We aim to usurp the traditional management responsibilities by vesting this control in the hands of the workers (democratically, of course). Our Fellow Workers seem to be very responsive to such a concept, this being the first opportunity to engage in democracy on the job. And it's being brought to them by the IWW.

Our belief is: If the day-to-day management can be controlled by us, we will have a stronger voice in decisions. Particularly those involving wages, time off, etc.

The important concept here is not to impose our union on Fellow Workers, but to create an environment of democracy and solidarity on the job. If things should come to a head, we will be in a better position to sign our Fellow Workers up.

It is always important to push forward the IWW's principles, democracy and solidarity. If we aren't in a situation to reasonably pursue a union drive, it's not an excuse not to organize. Hopefully, the workers council model can be a new tool to do just that.

The Wobbly

News from IU 330-Construction Workers

Canadian Electricians Treated Like Slaves

Last month's column contained a long article on Canadian workers being brought in to Butte, MT, to break worker resistance and how IWWs created solidarity between Canadians and American workers. The following is a letter from a boomer wob electrician in Portland, OR:

The U.S. bosses have done it again. They're making complete slaves of Canadian workers.

In Portland, Oregon, the biggest local electrical contractor, titled simply EC, or Electrical Contractors, are recruiting electricians from Vancouver, BC, and working them in right here in Portland. The main problem is EC owns them.

Normally a union electrician is dispatched through a union hall to a job. When that job is finished, the worker returns to the hall for another job referral (thus the need for a hiring hall). EC, however, has used the Canadians' status and work visas to their benefit, trying to control the transfer of Canadian workers from job to job. If the Canadians don't accept the transfer they are sent back to BC, where there is little work. The Canadian workers cannot even make application at the union hall for a job.

If they quit to go home to visit their families, they will be deported, and then have to do the entire visa thing over again.

My sympathy goes out to these fellow workers as they are on the road as I am.

However, there is a need for Solidarity. Among the fellow electricians, the Canadian workers said nothing when I was laid

off and they were kept on when they transferred and I cleared through the union.

FWs in Butte, MT, tell me the Canadians are policing themselves and don't want to cause a bad name for their countrymen.

With a combination of Education and Solidarity, I believe that we can make the bosses comply with the referral procedure and remove these workers from virtual slavery.

In Solidarity, MC x342837

Work Reports:

Asheville, NC: Lots of work, steady electrical work. Big job coming up in Cherokee, NC, soon.

Boston, MA: Here in Brockton we're busy with lots of residential house framing. Lots of housing going up. But we who build the houses work 6 days a week, 10 hours a day - at least. And we don't even own the houses we build. The jobs are dog eat dog too. Prices come in so low, got to get out fast and the competition is fierce. Not much union spirit around here but that won't stop us from talking union and letting people in on the big secret: It can't get done without us.

Butte, MT: Night shift electricians wobbled the ASiMi job because Foster-Wheeler bounced their pay-checks. The wobble got lots of press in the daily paper, where the Pipefitters' Local BA was quoted as being proud of his boys not walking...

Solidarity between the trades is needed, Fellow Workers! The pipefitters' checks bounced too, next time let's get everyone out!

St. Louis: Construction boom lots of

work for all trades. Big casino job coming up this next spring. Renovation work now.

Richmond, VA: Lots of houses being built, lots of carpentry work. No union work.

On the Road?

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

On-Line:

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

IU 330 Delegates & Contacts:

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

UK- For contacts ring the IWW on 0116-266-1835

USA
 Asheville, NC: John 704-258-4879
 Boston: Mark Dupont 508-584-9881
 Butte: Dennis Georg 406-494-5837 e-mail dgeorg@aol.com
 Cape May Courthouse, NJ: Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Courthouse NJ
 Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074
 W. Michigan/N. Indiana: Patrick Klocke (Vicksburg, MI) 616-649-1214
 Portland, OR: Ian 503-650-7187 (voice mail)
 Richmond, VA: Tom Williams 804-285-3699
 Seattle/Tacoma: Mark 206-935-9012 or Paul Harris 425-271-0518
 St. Louis: Tom Madden 314-647-2093

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

Education Workers in Struggle

Ontario teachers' strike

Two years ago an ultra conservative government was elected in Ontario on the platform of "Common Sense Revolution." In the past two years this government has created crisis after crisis to destroy public unions, public health care, welfare, public transit and public education. The Conservatives have attempted under the banner of common sense to destroy the idea of common good, and to line the pockets of the rich. This voodoo economics has put a strain on all public institutions ... like public schools and hospitals. The aim of this attack is to destroy public institutions until they are so disabled that the multi-national corporations can chop them up and add them to their collections.

It is basically a war on the poor, the worker, the elderly, the youth and unions.

In November 130,000 education workers in Ontario went on work stoppage to protest a bill which would centralize all control of education in the hands of appointed officials of the government, a bill that would strip local school boards of all power, would take \$600 million away from education, would take principals and vice-principals out of our union, a bill which would not allow for any person to challenge its legislation, a bill that would allow the Minister of Education to sell any school in the province, a bill which takes local democracy away from the people.

The strike received great public support. Unfortunately, at the end of the 2nd week our five unions fell apart. The struggle continues.... the rallies continue... student support continues. The government is still trying to pass the legislation. The one thing I learned as a Wob is that The One Big

Union is not just a pie in the sky but a real weapon needed to stop the globalization of big corporations.

Every collective agreement, every collective group gives dignity to every worker and we must fight to strengthen and nurture our communities. We want bread ... but also roses!

— Rob Rennick

St. Louis teachers to strike?

AFT Local 420 has rejected the St. Louis school board's contract demands and authorized a strike by a better than 90 percent margin. Teachers are demanding 4 percent and "step movements" for teachers with seniority. Strikes are illegal in Missouri, but many teachers seem prepared to act if the school board does not come through.

County special education teachers were sickened by the district's offer of a 1 percent pay hike Dec. 10, and so were unable to make it in to work.

Wobbling the Works...

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no reason, and help them get new suckers the next day. There are some meager exceptions to the employee-at-will doctrine offered by federal and state governments. I'll get to these in-depth in future columns, but would like to mention them briefly here. These protections fit into four categories: whistle-blowers (if you call OSHA to report safety concerns), abusive discharge (such as sexual harassment), protections for concerted activity like union organizing, and a few implied contract protections which may or may not uphold rules outlined in your employee manual depending on what state you live in.

— Alexis Buss

U.S. Dept of Labor Ignores Plea from Senator's Office

A staff member for Senator Dianne Feinstein wrote to the U.S. Department of Labor to urge them to investigate conditions on the Keystone Job Corps Center, where student-employees have been terminated and disciplined as a result of organizing with the IWW. Instead of addressing the concerns, Mary Silva, National Director of the Office of Job Corps, again availed herself of a linguistic game used by Job Corps to crush the drive. In her letter dated Nov. 13 she wrote, "It is the position of the Department of Labor that Job Corps students should not be considered Federal employees and shall not be subject to the provisions at law relating to Federal employment."

Without even addressing the wrongful

firings and disciplinary actions that Keystone student-employees have suffered, or the conditions that precipitated their determination to organize, the Department of Labor continues to pretend nothing is wrong. But our effort is not going to end simply because the law and government agencies will not protect the young people on Keystone Center as they try to better their conditions. The IWW has joined together with social workers and community groups to help shine a light onto conditions at Keystone Job Corps Center and the private corporation that runs it, Management and Training Corporation.

The recruiters for the Job Corps program are not often aware of the conditions on the centers. Job Corps centers that have active input from the agencies that recruit for them tend to be of better quality, and the student-employees are more able to affect change when it is needed because there is more contact with the outside world.

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

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

I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
 I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
 I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
 Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker