

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

IWW recognized by Friends Center

On December 19, the IWW won union recognition in a card-count at Philadelphia's Friends Center. The Friends Center, a Quaker-managed building which houses the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker Meeting House and a number of local progressive groups, was approached in September by four part-time workers who asked for voluntary union recognition. Management refused, and the workers took the struggle up in the halls of the National Labor Relations Board.

The Friends Center management stubbornly insisted that the only appropriate bargaining unit included all of its eight employees. Rather than go to litigation over an appropriate bargaining unit, the union accepted a compromise extending the bargaining unit to eight workers under the condition that management would give the IWW voluntary recognition if five workers signed authorization cards.

Even though the IWW has won recognition, management is still clinging to its worn-out anti-union lingo in an attempt to

continued on page 3

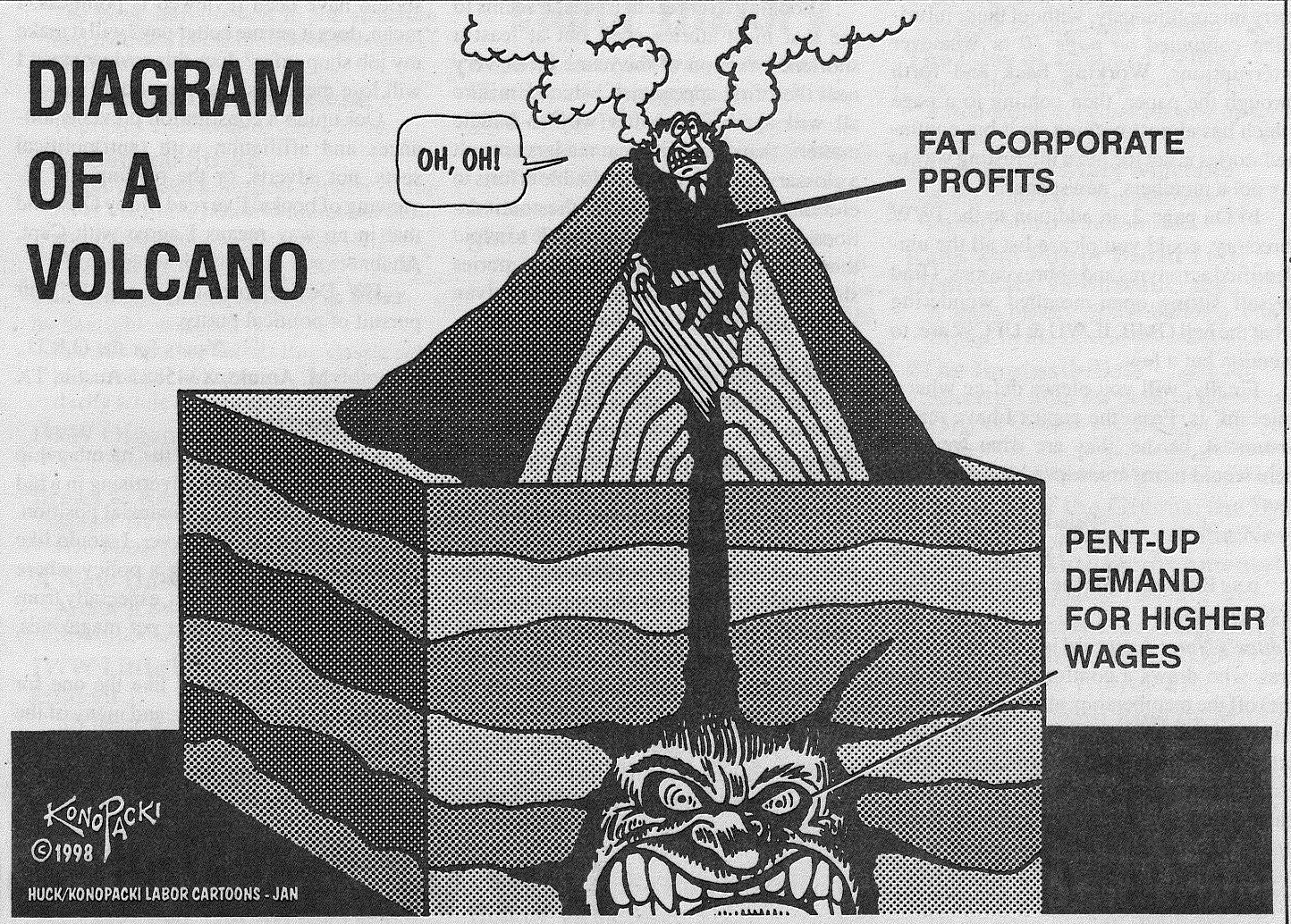
Libros Sin Fronteras Threatens Workers

IWW members at Libros Sin Fronteras – an Olympia, Washington, distributor of Spanish-language books – report numerous incidents of petty harassment as the boss slows negotiations for a first contract to a snail's pace. Although the IWW won a NLRB election to represent Libros workers Sept. 2, and quickly presented the boss with contract proposals, boss Michael Shapiro has thus far refused to put any proposals on the table addressing wages, benefits or a grievance procedure. The demands his hired gun – John Loyal of the Washington Employers Association – has presented in other areas are far from acceptable.

Several workers have quit since the IWW was recognized, unwilling to tolerate the lousy conditions any longer. But Shapiro has refused to replace them, even though highly qualified bilingual workers have applied. (He is apparently afraid that any worker with half a brain would promptly join the union, bolstering our strength on the shop floor.) The work once done by seven workers (almost all full-time) is now being

continued on page 3

DIAGRAM OF A VOLCANO



We Can No Longer Afford the Bosses

In Ecuador, workers are marching against hunger a year after general strikes forced the government to stand down. In South Korea, economic "reforms" threaten to throw hundreds of thousand of workers onto the streets. In Russia workers go months without pay, while their bosses ride in chauffeured limousines and enjoy all the luxuries of their class.

Australian shipping interests have hired current and former soldiers to form a gang of mercenary longshore scabs to break the wharfies. (The wanna-be scabs are on the

run just now, having been driven out of the port of Dubai by the threat of international labor solidarity.) The Australian government is looking to the United States as an example of how to restructure industrial relations to ensure that workers are kept in submission and forced to accept rock-bottom wages. (Growing numbers of full-time workers don't even earn enough to keep a roof over their heads.)

Boss rule is expensive – and getting more costly every day. Millions of our fellow workers around the world are jobless.

Millions more aren't paid enough to afford the necessities of life. Those fortunate enough to have work live under the constant threat of firings or other abuse from the bosses.

Meanwhile, the bosses despoil the environment in which we live, destroy our communities with their development and shut-down schemes, and raid the public treasury of resources desperately needed to educate our children, provide health care to our sick, house our homeless, and bring more beauty into our lives.

continued on page 4

Stop Discrimination at Bunge Foods

Wobblies joined a Jan. 19 protest at the Bunge Foods Plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, called by the Black Workers Organizing Project and other local organizations, as well as several ex-Bunge workers.

Bunge Foods is based in St. Louis, Missouri, with plants in several states. Its edible fuel oils division in Chattanooga makes consumer and restaurant cooking oils under several trade names. The Chattanooga plant has created an extremely hostile work environment for Black workers, which have included the drawing of knives on Black workers, and even an attempted stabbing of one worker. When these Black workers defended themselves or reported the matter to management, they were fired in racially discriminatory disciplinary hearings. In two cases, these incidents took place in front of management, who refused to take action against the white workers.

In June 1995, a Black worker named Larry Ballanger was assaulted by a white racist, Ted Cushen, who a few weeks earlier had called him a "nigger." Cushen brandished work shears in a threatening manner, and then tried to stab Ballanger, who defended himself and was able to wrestle the weapon away. But although Cushen was the aggressor, Ballanger was given company disciplinary action in the "fight" and was fired. After filing a union grievance, a pro-

cess which lasted several months, he was re-hired in 1996.

The racist management of the company made him a "marked man," however, and harassed him for months until he was fired again in March 1997. This time they used their financial muscle to defeat the union grievance process, and in December 1997 Larry was permanently fired with no benefits. The "right to work" laws of Tennessee ensure that he cannot demand full union rights like in most states to protect his job.

Shortly after Larry was fired, another Black worker, Tony DeVon, was assaulted by a knife-wielding white employee, and like Larry he was also framed-up and fired in a similar fashion by management for

"fighting." When he complained to supervisors about the brandishing of the knife, one supervisor smirked that he "didn't see anything," even though the whole thing happened right in front of him. As incredible as Ballanger's and Devon's cases are, however, it appears that over the years a number of other Black workers have been unjustly disciplined or terminated if they dared to stand up to management in anyway. This company engages in unfair labor practice on a routine basis, and we must make them stop their illegal conduct and ensure justice for our brothers and sisters who have been victimized. These fellow workers should not have to endure such racism and

continued on page 9



In This Issue...

The Shorter Working Week: No Time to Lose

Land of the Free?

The Trials of A Journeyman Wireman

Fighting the Klan



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Some Suggestions

As a newly joined Wobbly, and having read my fifth consecutive *Industrial Worker* from cover to cover (as all members should), may I offer the following suggestions:

a) Could you please let each article carry on continuously, without these infuriating *continued on page 10* or whatever interruptions. Working back and forth through the paper, then coming to a page which has almost nothing on it but continued stories is not the most interesting way to lay out a members' newspaper.

b) On page 2, in addition to the IWW directory, could you please list all the unidentified acronyms and abbreviations. I find myself sitting open-mouthed wondering what the hell GMB, ILWU & UFCW are, to mention but a few.

Finally, will you please define what a 'piecard' is. From the copies I have read I assume it, he/she, they are what we over here would term 'arsewipes,' but am I correct?

Pete Elliott, X343266
Tyne & Wear, UK

p.s.: Please print in the next issue to find if others agree.

Editor's Note: A piecard is a union bureaucrat, who draws a comfortable living (his pie) off the membership, all the while promising pie in the sky, someday. GMB (General Membership Branch) is included in the list of abbreviations that heads the directory each issue. The other two are U.S.-based unions, the International Longshore & Ware-

Readers' Soapbox

house Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Looking over recent issues, it seems to me that most stories spell out at least a shortened version of the name on or very near their first appearance, which I'm sure all will agree is a better way to handle matters than requiring that readers consult a glossary each issue (I'll redouble efforts to eliminate exceptions). As for the continuations, it is unfortunately impossible to avoid them without arbitrarily chopping stories short to fit the space available on any given page - something I am unwilling to do.

Red Herring

I have just received the Dec. 97 *I.W.* and was troubled by a letter I read. FW Devine seems to be concerned about anarchists and that ideology being a de facto ideology of the IWW. I think that this is a red herring; our union is a union not a party, if it were a party we could have a party line and prevent organizations that are sympathetic but with distasteful politics. I too was against advertising in the *I.W.*, but here it is and I think FW Bekken is doing one hell of a job of holding it together.

Nit-picking about ad content (or the FW-SW silliness) is silly and has no real bearing on the growth of the union, but has

the potential to seriously hinder growth. Arguing whether such and such a book should have been reviewed is pointless. I mean, does it get me better pay? will it make my job shop safer? does this review mean I will lose members? I tend to doubt it.

Our union's constitution prevents alliances and affiliation with (anti)political sects, not adverts, or the reading and reviewing of books. I've read *Moby Dick* and that in no way means I agree with Capt. Ahab.

FW Devine, please put paid to your pursuit of political purity.

Yours for the O.B.U.,
M. Araujo, X345885 Austin, TX

No Advertising

I too was aware that the membership voted last year to widen advertising in a bid to help the union's poor financial position. This was a mistake. However, I would like to put the case for having a policy where there are no advertisements, especially from members advertising their pet magazines, causes and interest groups.

I believe that adverts like the one for *Libertarian Labor Review* and many of the traditional May and November 'greeting ads' are invariably in conflict with the union's constitutional position in their ad-

vocacy of organisations and isms. The IWW constitution, in case anyone needs reminding, forbids the IWW from making any direct or indirect alliances with anti-political sects or political parties. So who is doing the advertising?

It is my opinion that this has been ignored by many members (particularly in the USA) in recent years, and this has seen the IWW allied to or fusing itself with Earth First!, Anarchist Black Cross and other anti-political sects at various times at a local level. If there is no self-discipline regarding this matter then things are going to get out of hand. Incidentally, if all adverts are not welcome who decides which ones are? You (the editor), I take it!

For Industrial Unionism,
Derek Devine, Edinburgh

Editor's Note: I believe this discussion is better carried out in the IWW's internal bulletin, and hope it can be moved there. However, I am unaware of any IWW branch having ever fused with the Anarchist Black Cross - an action which would be in clear violation of the IWW Constitution. Nor is it at all accurate to characterize Earth First! as an anti-political sect. It is rather a direct action-based environmental grouping which, like the IWW, includes people of widely differing political ideas. In my view neither organization would be well-served by fusing, but there is certainly no constitutional bar to IWW branches working with Earth First! on issues of joint concern.

more letters page 4

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

IWW Regional Organising Committee, P.O. Box 78, Bellingen NSW 2454. For contacts throughout Australia contact this address or phone Del. Ray Elbourne (02) 9529-8825

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney- PO Box 241, Surry Hills 2010

TASMANIA

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

BRITISH ISLES

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

ENGLAND

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

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

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh District Industrial Council- Box 12665, Edinburgh EH3 9YA

RUSSIA

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

CANADA

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

Guelph GMB- 21 Nottingham St. #4, N1H 3M6

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922. bh295@freenet.carleton.ca

Toronto- Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

GERMANY

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

WEST AFRICA

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

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. For location: 213/368-4604 or 735-8648. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.

Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.

San Diego Group- PO Box 907, 92112.

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)

HAWAII

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

Honolulu Group - POB 868, Honaunau 96726.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 773/549-5045. 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: pviiww@iww.org

MICHIGAN

Huron Valley GMB- 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
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- Don Kurth, 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield 55423-3025. 612/869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB- PO Box 63211, 63163. 314/ 772-2470

MONTANA

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

NEW JERSEY

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

NEW YORK

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

IU450 Coordinator- Nicholas Patti, 180 Washington Ave. #304, Albany 12210. 518/426-0528. pattin@sage.edu

Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/385-6681.

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.

IU670 Socialist Party Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

NORTH CAROLINA

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

Greensboro- Dave Coker, del., 205 Westover Terrace 27403. 910/574-2905 davecoker@usa.net

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa Group- PO Box 3212, 74101-3212.

OREGON

Eugene GMB - c/o Rick George, 1840 W.

10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org

Portland GMB and Building Construction Workers IU 330 Branch- POB 15005, 97293-5005. email: mmiller@orednet.org 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018. 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128 len.flank@node99.com

Lancaster GMB: POB 796, Lancaster 17608. 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

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop- Merl Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201.

TENNESSEE

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

TEXAS

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

Houston Group- c/o Lisa Coe, 14448 Hempstead Hwy. Box #716 77040.

Rio Grande- Del.: Erik Carlos Toren, 1018 S 12th Ave., Edinburgh 78539-5606 210/381-6786

UTAH

Salt Lake City GMB- PO Box 520514, 84152. 801/296-7196 slcgm@iww.org

VERMONT

Montpelier- Bob Heald, del., PO Box 1285 05601. 802/229-1719

VIRGINIA

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

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

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

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

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.

Madison GMB- c/ Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

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

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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General Executive Board:
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Press Date: January 12, 1998

Asheville Wobs fight fascists

On Oct. 18, 29 Klan members and a handful of their supporters arrived in Asheville, North Carolina, for what they assumed would be a simple parade and recruiting rally. Both the Klan and their police escorts were overwhelmed to find over 1,000 angry protesters. All were determined to let the Klan and their sympathizers know that they are no longer welcome in Asheville.

With less than a week and a half to prepare a counter-demonstration, the Asheville General Membership Branch kicked into high gear to get the word out that the Klan would meet mass resistance. Despite the NAACP's national policy of staying away from Klan rallies, the local chapter voted to attend, boosting organizing efforts. Wobblies from Greensboro and Atlanta, along with black revolutionaries, Earth Firsters and anarchists from across the Southeast formed a highly visible, militant presence at the demo. Although the local bourgeoisie, press and police urged people not to attend, the people of Asheville decided it was high time to show the fascists the power of cross-racial working class solidarity.

Soon after the Klan started their march, they were pressed in from all sides and forced to break into a quick jog. The chant of "Nazis go home!" was deafening. Eggs began to fly and protesters broke the KKK's ranks, tearing rebel flags from their hands and burning them in the street. Only one arrest was made when a local anarchist stole the pointed hood from a Nazi's head. Several unarrests were made as the police lost control of the militant crowd. After reaching the rally point, police reinforcements attempted to protect the Klan from further humiliation. Despite the presence of plain clothes cops, riot police, police snipers and a machine-gun toting SWAT team, the crowd's militancy only increased as bricks began to fly into the Klan's ranks.

This was not your usual demo in the South. Hundreds of African-American youths were yelling at the Klan, "Come on over, we'll take you!" Radical fairies held a kiss-in and the church group who were yelling at the Klan stood side by side with them. Everyone smiled at each other, passed the megaphone around, and raised their fists in unity. Groups that usually don't talk were cheering each other on. After a two-hour shout down, the Klan left under the protection of riot police. For once it was nice to see the Klan afraid to be caught in a Southern town after dark.

In the South, the Klan is not simply a bunch of wacko rednecks. They have many members and supporters in city and state

Around Our Union

government, the judicial system, the police force, and the press. Klan members are simply the most visible portions of a vast racist machinery. The willingness and ability of Southern workers to militantly confront them in public pushes the agenda of their more politically powerful supporters further into the dustbin of Southern history.

However, the Klan is scheduled to return on May 2nd of this year – that's right, the day after May Day. In a recent interview with the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Robert Moore ("Exalted Cyclops of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan") threatened to make Asheville "another Greensboro" upon their return. He is referring to a 1979 clash in Greensboro, N.C., that left five people dead from gunfire. The Klan's history shows that they should be taken seriously. Still, the city government is going to allow them to march in our community.

In my opinion, however, their threats are not a reason to retreat. The Klan always threatens violence when they are resisted. This fear is how they exert their power. To submit to their threats is to hand them victory. The mood of the people of Asheville, and especially the black community, is such that a counter-demonstration is going to happen with or without an organized radical presence. However, the larger the number of radical organizers who take part, the more safe and constructive this counter-demo will be. We urge all anti-fascists to join the people of Asheville and the Southeast on this day to show the Klan and their ruling class backers that their reign of terror is over.

For more info contact the Asheville GMB at 704/258-4879.

— Appalachian John

Wobs Down Under

Australian Wobs have brought out the 8th issue of *Direct Action*, featuring reports on the government's efforts to break the Australian dockworkers union by training soldiers to serve as a mobile scab force. The scheme collapsed, at least for now, when international solidarity led the Port of Dubai to withdraw its facilities for training.

Boycott Borders

Twin Cities (Minnesota) Wobblies leafletted the Uptown Borders Christmas Eve, reminding shoppers of Borders' vicious anti-union history and encouraging workers to join the One Big Union.

In Lawrence, Kansas, the windows of the new Borders mysteriously sprouted stickers lamenting the corporate bookseller's anti-labor and anti-people ways.

Meanwhile, reports that Borders discriminates against black shoppers have been buzzing on the internet. Angie Moore says Borders' Pentagon City store called her bank to verify her balance before allowing her to write a check for books, even though other (white) customers were allowed to write checks without incident. When she protested this discriminatory treatment, Borders refused to return her check.

Libros Sin Fronteras...

continued from page 1

handled by two exhausted full-timers and two part-timers. Not surprisingly, the work is backing up and customers are getting mighty restive. Rather than hire new workers, the boss is talking about bringing in temps.

IWW delegate Jess Grant has been ordered to take down Dilbert cartoons posted in his workstation, as Boss Shapiro found them offensive. But Shapiro continues trying to portray himself as a progressive in the community, even as he browbeats and intimidates his workers on the job.

Needless to say, this situation can not continue much longer. Shapiro seems determined to run Libros Sin Fronteras into the ground in his determination to crush the union. Perhaps he'll step back from the brink before it's too late.

Election Results

Tim Acott, Monica Berini, Alexis Buss, Liam Flynn, Steve Kellerman, Morgan Miller and Bob Rivera were elected to serve on the 1998 General Executive Board. Robert Rush will serve as first alternate. Fred Chase was re-elected General Secretary-Treasurer. The General Assembly will be held Labor Day weekend in Portland, OR.

Constitutional Amendments aimed at clarifying the IWW's international dues and Regional Organizing Committee structures were approved; one to eliminate markings on dues stamps indicating the rate paid was defeated. The General Assembly is now charged with electing an audit committee to review the union's books. Other referenda carried to restructure the General Defense Committee, deposit local union materials in the IWW's depository, and further reduce the union's financial reserve in order to meet operating expenses.

Northwest Regional Meeting

The Olympia, Washington, GMB will host the IWW's Spring Regional Gathering March 20-22. Housing and childcare will be provided for out-of-town Wobs (please let the Branch know in advance of your needs: PO Box 2775, Olympia WA 98507, 360/956-3706).

May Day Greetings

It has for some years been tradition to run greeting ads in honor of International Workers Day in the May *IW*. Greeting Ads must be received by April 10th. Cost is \$10 for a 1 inch tall ad (1 column wide); \$35 for 4 inches by 4 7/8 inches (2 columns); or \$80 for a quarter page. We can set it up from your message, or you can send it in camera-ready. These rates for non-commercial ads only—enquire for commercial rates (limited adverts can also run in other issues).

We can also provide extra copies at normal bundle rates (10 cents per to members and branches towards postage; 60 cents per to non-members).



Eddie Abrams and daughter Danielle visiting Wobble-In in upstate New York – where friends and visitors are greeted with the IWW's message: "Labor Creates All ... All Belongs to Labor."

Ballpark workers need fighting union

Until 1991, concession stand workers at the Alameda-Oakland Coliseum worked under a union contract, with most receiving a living wage and benefits. But the seeds of the current disaster were already in place, with a two-tiered wage system where new hires received lower wages and shorter hours. As wages fell, the bosses began having trouble getting workers to sign on, so with the connivance of officials of Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union Local 2850, they began subcontracting the work – first to restaurant chains, then to local vendors, and now to nonprofit groups using volunteer workers.

As union workers are displaced by minimum wage and no-wage workers, the remaining union workers have trouble getting hours and wages have been slashed by as much as 43 percent for some workers (though a handful of high-seniority workers have escaped pay cuts). Many union workers must put in three or four years before they become eligible for benefits.

Rather than fighting against the contracting-out, HERE 2850 officials have defended the practice and refused to process grievances. Wobblies in the shop are trying to make contact with workers at other ballparks to share information, and to organize to bring a real union to the ballfields. Write: IWW Hotel, Restaurant & Building Service Workers Industrial Union #640, 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley CA 94704.

UnFriendly...

continued from page 1

weaken our support. In a Dec. 23 memo the Friends Center Corporation describes the union, the International [sic] Workers of the World, as a "third party." The front desk workers at the Friends Center have time and time again explained the Wobbly view on what a union is – we're not about high-paid bureaucrats who steal workers' power away by keeping them in the dark. Our union finds its strength on the shop floor.

Since the Friends Center continues its anti-union rhetoric, we will certainly remain guarded as we go into negotiations. You can encourage the Friends Center to negotiate in good faith by writing to Peter Rittenhouse, Executive Director, Friends Center Corporation, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102.

Chicago Series on Basics of Revolutionary Unionism

A series of meetings on revolutionary unionism hosted by the Chicago GMB began Jan. 28 with "Working Class or Middle Class: Which Are You?" Future programs include: Feb. 25 "Class War or Class Peace?" March 25 "Revolutionary Unionism vs Business Unionism." April 29 "What is Direct Action: On and Off the Job?" May 27 "What is the General Strike?" June 24 "Boss Rule or Workers' Self-Management." All programs begin at 7 p.m. at the Autonomous Zone, 2012 West Chicago Ave.

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.



With the current technology, it takes over two tons of ore to extract enough gold to manufacture a wedding ring that only weighs a few ounces. So what happened to the more than two tons minus the couple ounces of gold? In all likelihood it gets flushed down some river or stream that enters the food chain of the creatures that live along there, including creatures of our own species. Aside from providing an excuse for living in sin, it is an extremely impractical waste of our natural resources.

No doubt among those two tons of ore can be found other metals that can be put to industrial use, but the chemicals and acids that have been used in the extraction process play their deleterious impact on the environment, vindicating the Aboriginal exhortation to "Leave it in the ground."

It is encouraging to note that other organized labor functionaries, aside from the IWW, are taking a stand against the large corporations that seek to ravage the environment for the sake of their own immediate profit. Your scribe has received a newsletter published by the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin (PO Box 55372, Madison 53705). This coalition includes rank & file members from the United Auto Workers, Steel Workers, communication workers, teachers (AFT, MTI), operating engineers, bus drivers, state employees, printers (GCIU) as well as our local Wobblies, along with local American Indian Nations and environmental groups. This coalition is taking on big conglomerates such as Exxon and like rapers of the environment.

This past November the State Assembly Environment Committee passed the controversial Mining Moratorium Bill despite its chairman's attempt to push through an amendment favorable to the mining company interests. The coalition is exhorting all Wisconsinites to urge their local polities to support this bill, saying it is common-sense legislation that asks mining companies to make sure their technology works before trying it out on Wisconsin's Northwoods.

The Crabdon Mining Company, a subsidiary of Exxon, proposes to pump approximately a million gallons of waste water daily from its mine located in Northern Wisconsin and transport this water containing toxic elements through a 38-mile pipeline to the Wisconsin River. By using a mixing element of hydroelectric turbines at Hat Rapids Dam they would be able to dump more pollutants at a faster rate. The company says the Wisconsin River pipeline is the least expensive way to get rid of their wastes. It is far less expensive than cleaning up their wastes to the standards necessary for dumping into the Wolf River, which has state-designated Outstanding Resource Water status.

The pipeline would divert massive amounts of water from the Wolf River watershed, entailing serious risks. The Wolf River could be devastated by any drop in water levels or contamination from Exxon's mine. Such diversion would cause lower water levels in surrounding lakes, rivers and streams, and dry up local wells.

This, of course, is nothing new for Exxon. In 1996, a federal judge disclosed that Exxon Corporation, its chairman and lawyers had been part of an astonishing ruse in attempt to manipulate a jury that had nevertheless awarded \$5 billion in damages to the victims of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound Bay, Alaska.

The health risks associated with metallic sulfide mining are dangerous and long-term. The chemistry of milled tailings (what's left over after target minerals are removed) contains elements that can be extremely toxic, such as lead, arsenic, sulfur, zinc, uranium, cadmium, copper, cobalt, and that have you. The toxicity of these elements is usually measured in parts per billion, and even in very small amounts can change or destroy sensitive and balanced life functions.

The native Indian bands who still have their land base in Northern Wisconsin are quite concerned, as such can ruin their long-standing livelihood and culture. The rest of the state, whose appeal to sports fishermen and the tourism industry that capitalized on the natural beauty of the state, is likewise concerned. People are beginning to realize that "free enterprise" is only free for a small portion of their numbers.

Capitalism just plain ain't healthy for the greater majority of us, nor for the other creatures who share this planet with us. Because we have failed in our mission to organize ourselves, there are those who have become well organized to take advantage of the rest of us.

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Bob Heald, Montpelier VT	\$50
David Koven, Vallejo CA	10
Lyle R. Neptun, Anza CA	15
Ray Brown, Monterey CA	20
Sara Kaplan, Seattle WA	5
Richard Gordon, Memphis TN	15

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Draftees of the World Unite!
You have nothing to lose but your generals!

— C.C. Redcloud

SUPPORT THE WORKERS' PRESS
Contribute to the IW Sustaining Fund

Bosses Too Expensive...

continued from page 1

When times were good perhaps we could afford to support this class of idlers. But in these times of economic crisis and austerity, surely it is time to dump the bosses off our backs and let them earn an honest living, for a change.

Lay the Boss off – It makes more sense.

It's Our Planet, Not Theirs

Poking out of the towering pile of mail on my desk is the December edition of the AFL-CIO's *maritime newsletter* conveying the sorry news that the AFL's maritime trades department has signed onto Republican efforts to gut the Endangered Species Act. As the law stands, they complain, bosses are prevented from logging, construction, dredging and other activities when these would threaten rare plant and animal species. This, of course, costs jobs – and so the picards want the law amended to require the feds to rely on cost-benefit analyses when deciding whether to let projects go forward that would mean extinction for protected species.

Jobs. That's the cry we hear when the bosses run into opposition to their latest planet-wrecking schemes. All they want to do is provide jobs for the clamoring wage-slaves. Of course, their concern for jobs suddenly disappears when taxing their profits in order to pay for cleaning up the social and environmental messes they've created, is suggested ...

It's a sad day when workers find themselves paying union dues to support boss propaganda of this sort. Fortunately, as FW Cortez notes to the left, many unions take a more enlightened attitude.

Readers' Soapbox State Murder

Michael Shawn Barnes, the teenage boy that the State of Alabama had planned to kill in their electric chair, has had his case thrown out of court, and his life will be spared. A great thanks goes out to all who helped. This is a victory, but we should remain vigilant for more such cases as the ruling class continues its efforts to maximize control and legitimate capital punishment in the eyes of the public.

On the downside, here in the State of Texas – the Hang 'em High state – the executor of 'lawn order' have decided to recommence executing women. Karla Faye Tucker is scheduled to be killed at the Huntsville Walls Unit in late January.

One can only speculate as to why, after a more than 100 year hiatus, Texas should wish to resume executing women. Perhaps they are trying to mystify us into believing that their justice is doled out in an equalitarian fashion, and that all people are equal under the eyes of the law.

But what about the ruling class rogues and their minions who maintain the barbaric capitalist social system and who are responsible for atrocities next to which the acts of a serial killer would pale by comparison?

It is clear that there is one law for them and one law for us. Capital punishment is hypocrisy, no matter how they try to promote it. If capital punishment were truly applied equally across class lines, you could bet that the moneyed "Powers That Be" would have it abolished.

Karla Faye Tucker is, after years of imprisonment, said to be "rehabilitated" by the prisoncrats, and not considered a threat to society. This is much more than can be said of many of our rulers.

Texas Governor George Bush Jr. (who has 36 executions credited to his name in 1997) will be the one who allows Karla's execution to occur. He has the power to stop it. Bloody Bush, like his papa before him, has his crooked eye on the presidency. If he gets it he will likely continue his bloody trail

Can Bosses Survive?

Of course, if the bosses keep up their bossy ways they may find themselves on the endangered species list. Reports of fed-up workers killing their bosses are once again crossing my desk. On Dec. 19, a Milwaukee postal worker fed-up with a supervisor's harassment shot the supervisor in the eye also killing a co-worker. Union and NAACP officials said the post office was a powderkeg waiting to explode. The worker had requested a transfer to escape the harassment, but postal managers brushed him off.

The day before, an Orange County, Calif., CalTrans worker shot and

killed the supervisor who had framed and fired him with an AK-47 assault rifle, also killing three former co-workers in the crossfire before police shot him to death.

It is of course impossible to condone this approach to the boss problem. Innocent workers get killed, it's messy, and the big bosses are invariably far removed from the work site and so escape unscathed. Worse yet, it's ineffective. Killing bosses, as one long-time Wob likes to point out, is like stomping on cockroaches. You may get some short-term emotional satisfaction, but it doesn't solve the problem. If you want to get rid of cockroaches, you have to eliminate the conditions in which they breed. Otherwise they just keep coming at you...

Let's get organized in One Big Union and deal with this boss problem once and for all. And who knows – once we rid them of their power and get them working alongside the rest of us, they may develop into decent human beings.

— Jon Bekken

with oil wars and the usual forms of imiseration his ilk promulgate, and for which the working class will foot the bill.

You can express yourself to George Bush Jr., Texas Governors Office, State Capitol Room 25.1, PO Box 12428, Austin TX 78711

— Kevin Glover, X344247

Free Speech for Workers

The Brian Higgins Defence Campaign and I thank the IWW locals in the USA and Canada for all the messages and donations in support of our stand in defence of Freedom of Speech, which is so severely under attack by the High Court action being taken against me by the full-time UCATT Official Dominic Hehir.

Freedom of Speech is surely the most important cornerstone of free trade unionism, and this attack shows just how bad things have got here in the UK. It also illustrates just how low some trade union full-time officials are prepared to stoop to preserve their very privileged lifestyles and sweetheart relationships with the bosses, and that in this process some are even prepared to put us in legal chains or even jail.

However, with your support and that of the many other workers' organisations supporting the BHDC and the courage this inspires, I will continue to defend and exercise the Right to Freedom of Speech. Neither I nor the BHDC, Northampton UCATT or the Rank and File Building Worker Group will allow ourselves to be silenced by the UCATT Bureaucracy or Hehir's High Court action or the bosses backing them.

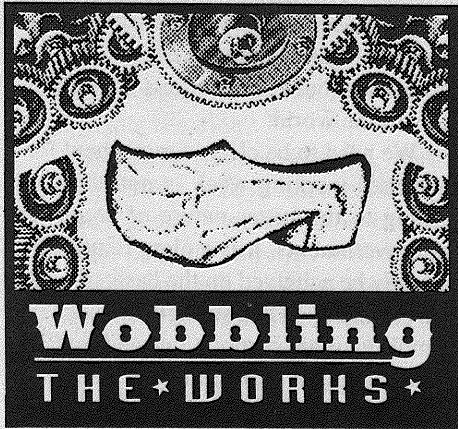
Your support and internationalism proves categorically, as you wrote in *The Wobbly*, "An Injury to One is An Injury to All." We send you greetings with another pillar of international working-class solidarity. "Your Struggle is Our Struggle – Our Struggle is Yours."

Brian Higgins
Secretary, Northampton UCATT
Building Worker Group
2 Bitten Court
Lumbertubs, Northampton UK

Editor's Notebook



Concerted activities for union & non-union workers



Wobbling the Works is a new column designed to help workers understand their rights and use the meager protections that U.S. laws give us to the fullest extent possible. But here's a warning: even if you meet the requirements for being covered by the protections our laws allow, the remedies involved are little more than a slap on the wrist to your boss. Laws alone can never replace the power of direct action, but can occasionally be used to make it safer for you to organize for better conditions. If there is an issue you would like to see addressed in Wobbling the Works, please write Alexis Buss, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia PA 19101 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org

In the course of organizing, there's an important distinction to keep in mind when we discuss what rights individual workers have in union and non-union workplaces. Sometimes workers will argue against forming a union by saying, "I can stand up for myself and deal with my boss one on one." And certainly they should be able to without fear of retaliation, but extremely conservative interpretations of the law have left non-union workers who act upon individual initiative out in the cold. Section 7 of the Labor Management Relations Act guarantees American workers the right to engage in "concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection," which basically boils down to mean that workers can get together and organize to better their conditions.

Two similar cases are *NLRB v. City Disposal Systems Inc.* 465 US 822 (1984) and *Prill v. NLRB* 474 US 948 (1985). Both cases involve unsafe trucks being assigned to a pool of truck drivers. In each case, individual drivers reported and complained about their working conditions to management. And in each case a worker was fired. But in only one case did the Supreme Court decide that the boss had done something

Farewell, Fellow Worker

Abraham (Abe) Bluestein
Nov. 1, 1909, to Dec. 3, 1997

Abe Bluestein was born in Philadelphia on November 1, 1909; the son of immigrants who helped organize the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. He attended the Modern School of Stelton, New Jersey, whose precept was centered on "living life" rather than learning by rote. At 21 he met his life-long love and partner, Selma Cohen. Together they journeyed to Spain in 1937, where Abe made radio broadcasts for the anarchist movement, stationed for the most part in Barcelona and Catalonia. He later translated Augustin Souchy's description of the peasant collectives in Aragon, *With the Peasants of Aragon*, into English.

Abe became active in the Jewish labor movement and worked as a reporter for the *Jewish Daily Forward* and other papers. He subsequently became executive director of the union-affiliated Sidney Hillman Health Center and the United Housing Foundations, which provided New York unionists with affordable apartments.

unfair. The difference is that one worker had a union and the other didn't.

James Brown, a truck driver working for City Disposal, refused to drive an unsafe truck. He went into management's office alone, and told his boss that he wasn't going to help him put profits before "the safety of the men." The Supreme Court ruled that individual activity for safety concerns was considered "concerted" because there was a collective bargaining agreement in place. In the court's opinion, the worker, James Brown, "did not stand alone" but rather brought "to bear on his employer the power and resolve of all his fellow employees." Brown and his fellow workers had previously decided that they would all stand together and work for better and safer conditions — they made a union. By the Court's logic, Brown was enforcing this decision in his individual act.

In *Prill v. NLRB*, Kenneth Prill, who worked for a trucking company called Meyers Industries, had no union contract. But he too cared about workplace safety and complained about a truck that had bad brakes and steering. So had another worker a few days prior. Management did not have the truck adequately repaired and Prill got in an accident. He phoned his boss who told him to have a mechanic look at the truck and to get the truck back home quickly.

Prill decided on his own to have the Tennessee Public Service Commission inspect the vehicle, and they put it out of service due to bad trailer brakes. Prill drove the cab home, and Meyers Industries sold the trailer for scrap. Prill was fired upon his return to work for refusing to drive the truck with the trailer attached that had been declared unsafe. The National Labor Relations Board ruled that Prill was not engaged in concerted activity and was therefore unprotected by Section 7. The Supreme Court agreed with the NLRB's ruling. Prill's action certainly benefitted his co-workers, and his complaints to management about safety were in the interest of every worker at the workplace. But because there was no formalized contract, the NLRB and the Supreme Court didn't understand Prill's individual interest to be the same as the interests of all his co-workers.

The NLRB ruled that protected concerted activity involves a speaker and a listener, and that conduct must be "engaged in with or on the authority of other employees and not solely by and on behalf of the employee himself." You shouldn't be able to be fired for telling your boss that you don't want to work in unsafe conditions but the NLRB won't protect you if you act alone. If you are ever inclined to refuse unsafe work, or complain about workplace conditions, make sure to talk it up with some of your co-workers first. And while you're at it, you might want to mention that there's always room in the One Big Union for some new members.

— Alexis Buss

Direct Action for Freelance Writers?

One of the AFL-CIO affiliated writers' unions says that strikes and other direct action tactics don't apply to freelance writers. Are they right? There must be a way for these workers to exercise their rights and get "the goods." Or are these novelists, poets and journalists relegated to limited options at the behest of the ever greedy media, stuck with what they are offered like many public employees?

First, there are some reasons to believe that the craft unions have a point. Editors

A week ago I found myself in handcuffs once again, this time for a faulty tail pipe. Well OK, there were some extenuating circumstances. Last May I was driving home from work, thoughts on union issues rather than my speedometer. I got pulled over for speeding. The cop did me a favor and wrote me up for 5 mph over, rather than 15. I appreciated that until I got the fine in the mail — \$100. Not having a hundred to spare, I promptly filed the ticket in the pile of junk mail on my dining room table.

My exhaust manifold went out a couple months ago. I could have lived perfectly well with the mild roar; but it was against the law. Not wishing to face yet another ticket and knowing if I got one I'd have to get the exhaust fixed then anyway, I robbed Peter to pay Paul and scraped together the \$289 to get it fixed. When I went to pick up the car the mechanic informed me he had discovered a small hole in the

catalytic converter after he had installed the manifold; so I still had a minor rumble coming from beneath my car. He assured me it wasn't loud enough for me to be stopped by the police...until a few weeks later when it vibrated loose another pipe in the exhaust system. Not having the money for another repair, I rumbled along for the next two months, obeying all traffic laws and doing my best to avoid police cars.

from the desk of...

Then last Saturday as I sat at a red light a cop car drove by, did a u-turn, and turned on the flashing lights. They ran a check and to my surprise discovered that my license had been suspended for not having paid that previous traffic ticket. After the handcuffs and a few irrelevant questions — "Are you in possession of marijuana?" (guess I should get my hair cut) "No sir." "Do you smoke marijuana?" "Not in the last 30 years." "That's what I like to hear." — they finally decided "You seem like a decent guy" (I coulda told them that) and let me go to face another \$75 fine and another \$185 repair. Thank goodness for family willing to borrow money to bail me out of another jam. And thank goodness the cops didn't notice that my legally required car insurance had also expired. I wonder if John Sweeney has problems like these.

The night before this episode I had been reading an exchange on the internet in which a public defender claimed she had never encountered a defendant who had engaged in a crime out of economic necessity. And I'm thinking "I'm a criminal: expired insurance, defective muffler (didn't even know about the suspended license then) out of economic necessity." In capitalist society poverty is a crime. And the poor do what's necessary to get by. It's a class thing.

The term "class" seems to be popping up more and more in recent days, gaining a new credence in the U.S. where the media has tried to convince us over the last 40 years that we're all "middle class." I remember a sociological survey I took as a freshman in college where I had to try to pinpoint my class. We weren't dirt poor; so I decided I was lower-middle. I suspect that put me in a distinct minority among the others filling out the survey. Middle anything has never seemed very attractive to me. Luke warm is middle. Boring is middle. I'm working class and proud of it.

This morning there was a review of the Titanic film on the radio. Haven't seen it yet, but in seeing previous depictions of the sinking of the ship, I was struck by the class division between the poor immigrants in steerage and the rich passengers in first class. Not surprisingly, more of the poor were sacrificed when there weren't enough lifeboats available for all passengers. The reviewer suggested that the film took a working class perspective and that because it had done so well at the box office, we may be in for another round of Frank Capra type films in the coming years. He took it a step further to suggest that with the direction of the economy, the direction of that film may prove to be a reflection of a reality with a heightened awareness of class in the future as well. Got a feeling he's right. Working folks are getting tired and angry. The pendulum is swinging. Stay tuned.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase,
General Secretary-Treasurer

and publishers at most publications can easily justify the elimination of your work. They can just sell a little more advertising and refuse to answer your calls. And like the scab who will work for paltry wages to steal the job of a steel worker or truck driver, some scissorbill scribe is always waiting in line for a chance at the "honor" of having their name in print. (An arrogant editor actually told me this a few years ago and I laughed at her and told her to find another stooge to write her article.)

Maybe it's idealistic to believe that writers working independently of one another could ever join together in numbers enough to make the publishing bosses take them seriously.

But what if by their sense of solidarity writers undertook organized campaigns of monkey wrenching their editors with copy missing large passages, or with a file disk composed of absolute gibberish? How about illegible hard copy or blank pages? A huge work slowdown by freelance writers could be utilized as it might be in any other production industry.

The watchwords "An injury to one is an

injury to all" could take on new significance if freelancers acted as if the axiom were true to their situations. Organized industrially, writers could sign their bylines en masse "Joe Hill" or "Elizabeth G. Flynn." The publishing world would feel their foundations begin to crumble and niggling contractual junk like pitiful kill fees and multiple revisions would quickly disappear.

Well-timed query blitzes to specific publications by phone, main and e-mail could wreak havoc with production schedules when authors acted in the interest of their class.

These methods are largely theoretical, since we haven't seen them applied to this industry. It's a sure thing they would *not* work without solidarity among the ranks and executed in a manner timely to a chosen grievance. And it's a certainty that a direct action campaign by "guilds" or writers' craft unions will not be seen any time soon. The time has come for freelancers and other writers to come together and organize with IU 450 of the IWW.

What do you think?

— X341883

At the start of your daily employment shift, the dreadful thought of spending the next six, seven, eight hours or more in the workplace spreads over your mind like a dark cloud. If it is a Monday, then maybe you have five or six days before a day off. Think about it, and it is frustrating to realise how much time you spend either in employment, on the way to it, or getting ready for it. Time is so important and most of us spend about three quarters of it trying to get enough money to survive when there is, or should be, so much more to life.

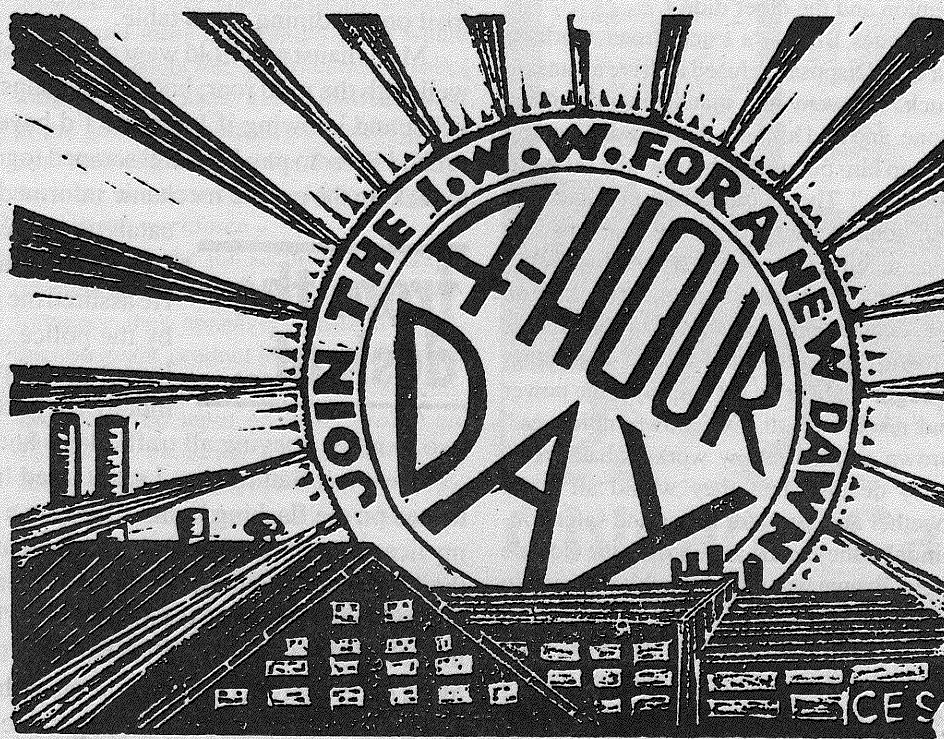
Twenty to thirty years ago various sociologists were telling us things were going to be so different. We were heading, they forecast, to the "post-industrial society" where the problem would be how to occupy all that leisure time which could be brought about by automation and the move to a service economy. Many workers, of course, do have more leisure time – the problem is, being unemployed they do not have enough money to make use of it.

In any sane society, automation would have led to a vast reduction in the time we need to spend earning enough to live on. However, those who forecast the leisure society were living in the dream world of utopian capitalism. They failed to analyse who owned and controlled the new technology. Today it does take less time to produce the goods and services people need to live, but workers are not employed to produce useful items or services but profits for their employers, the ones who own and control the new technology and whose benefit it is used for.

So in place of this dream world of more leisure time for the majority what has our new age done for most of us who have to sell ourselves for a wage or salary to survive?

In October 1995 the Labour Research Dept. reported severe setbacks in the move to a shorter working week. Few workers, only 11% of those covered in the report, had

The Shorter Working Week No Time To Lose



seen a reduction in hours with no reduction in pay. Some had seen a cut in hours and pay. For the majority (65%) there had been no changes in basic or contractual hours in the last two years. The introduction of flexible working had led to longer working hours for some and insecure part-time hours for others. More people were working outside of the traditional working week and day.

In many cases, whilst there have been no change in basic or contractual hours, a combination of paid and unpaid overtime during the week and paid overtime at weekends had greatly increased, by 40% in manufacturing and transport and two-thirds in banking. In some areas contracts for new

starters specify compulsory overtime. At Thorn lighting new contracts specify a 'reasonable' amount of overtime and at Stagecoach in Swindon a third of the workforce were contracted to work 45 hours. Wincanton Air Products in Sunderland had drivers in charge of 38 ton trucks being asked to work up to 15 hours per day. At P&O Roadtanks drivers working on petrol deliveries for supermarkets work a six day rolling week, there are no premia for Saturdays or Sundays, and workers are encouraged to work 15 hour days when needed. Drivers are reported as suffering from stress and tiredness and their home life suffers. The divorce rate is high and heart attacks among workers aged around 50 are increasing.

What happened to the campaign for the shorter working week? The 35-hour week has become a reality for a relatively small number of workers, whilst many others are working well over 40 hours.

We should not be surprised that trade unionism has failed to mount a sustained, coordinated and organised campaign for a reduction in the working week. The nature of trade unionism, with numerous organisations competing for members in the same industry, creates division rather than solidarity. What is normally at stake in this competition for members is the interests of the institution rather than the interests of those they claim to represent. Their will to organise any campaign which is directly opposed to the interests of employers is sadly lacking. Trade unions are leadership-based organisations which fail to involve and motivate their members in any cam-

paigns, let alone organising them democratically.

Finally, another vital ingredient – internationalism – is something, in trade unions, to be talked about at conferences. In reality, it goes only as far as meetings and conferences between union leaders from various countries, rather than any serious attempt to forge links between workers in different parts of the world.

We need to be clear, a movement for a shortened working week is not about appealing to the better nature of employers and governments. It is a class issue which can only be achieved on the basis of industrial organization and strength to match that of multinational corporations and multinational capitalism in general. Like many other issues facing the working class today, this issue calls out for a different type of industrial organisation to that of trade unionism.

Industrial unionism, because it brings together all the workers in one industry irrespective of the job they do, has the capacity to coordinate a campaign for a reduction of hours. Such a campaign needs industrial coordination to prevent workers in separate companies being played off against each other. However, industrial unionism alone is insufficient. Solidarity is needed not only between workers in the same industry, but also between industries and on a worldwide scale. This type of organisation is what members of the Industrial Workers of the World term as One Big Union – an organisation capable of uniting workers across the various boundaries that create false divisions.

The above is only the bare bones of what is needed for a meaningful campaign for a shorter working week to be set in motion. The women and men across several countries who are trying to build up the OBU are not interested in sectarianism. We recognise that there are other industrial working class organisations around the world with similar aims and objectives to our own. Cooperation is needed nationally and internationally between all workers who are trying to organize independently. What has to be recognised is that leaders of mainstream labour organisations throughout the world are increasingly becoming merely another layer of bosses.

The issue of working hours is an issue for today. It is clearly insanity for many men and women to be working 40 to 50 hours per week whilst many others are unemployed. This situation applies on a worldwide scale. We have to discuss methods of organisation to win control of our time as a prelude to gaining control over our lives.

— Ray Carr

The above is excerpted from the Winter 1997/98 issue of Bread & Roses, the IWW's British Isles magazine. Subscriptions are £6 from EDIC (IWW), PO Box 12665, Edinburgh EH3 9YA.

Echoes from Australia

December was a funny month. Summer here, of course, and time and past time to pull out the pansies and put in the petunias in the hospital gardens where I work. But the pansies were late in flowering and putting on a fairly good show and I just could not bring myself to do it. I trust I shall have more resolve when it comes time to deal with the bourgeoisie – aesthetically they have a lot less going for them.

It is a long time since the IWW in Australia has been able to conduct a systematic anti-militarist campaign amongst the workers here. Apart from the dramas of the Great War, in my home state of Western Australia, it was during the first half of World War II that fellow workers Arthur Jeffery and Pat Kearney got six months apiece. Essentially they were so rewarded for telling the proles that victory of one side or another in that conflict would amount only to a change in masters so long as wage slavery lasted. So it is good to see that the ideas they spread are still doing the rounds and influencing people in areas that would have surprised them no end.

At least it is difficult to see why else 29 serving soldiers decided to make a change of career and get honest jobs for themselves. Even to the extent of training as wharf labourers in far-away Dubai. Presumably to avoid embarrassment from the praise their stand might generate if they trained somewhere closer to home.

It is gratifying also that – unlike the cases of Jeffery and Kearney – this time the government and military establishment was quite supportive. Going to the extent of arranging leave for the men while they mapped these radical changes to their career structures. Who could maintain that humanity makes no progress?

Further, the position of the men is still more praiseworthy when you consider that, with the changes some people are planning, the lot of wharfies is expected to get tougher, the toil harder and the rewards less. All sorts of bitterness and negativity can be expected to result from this with general murmuring about "Melbourne" and "April."

Unfortunately, the typical bloody mindedness of the trade unions and their international connections scuttled the scheme. (Sometimes one feels almost hopeful.) Mike Wells, a director of the company responsible for the training scheme, is determined the men will get their chance to earn an honest crust – but at a new and secret location. Industrial Relations Minister Peter Reith, however, came to the conclusion that, "As a strategy, actually employing people who are currently serving members ... was not a bright idea." So my guess is, "ex" soldiers will be the next recruits.

But in any case, the people concerned felt quite bitter. Cheated even "that their democratic rights as Australians to learn a skill and work has been taken away from them." Should this paper fall into the hands of any of the men concerned: Don't worry boys. We have a scheme to share the work of the world and the goodies that it creates so that everybody gets enough of both. Get involved in the move for industrial unionism and workplace democracy and you too will be able to hold your head up and look the world right in the eye and see a day when armies, militarists, politicians and scabs are no more.

Amen

The fellow workers from down under propose to write on developments there in a regular column, of which this is the first.

72 unionists fired in El Salvador

On January 2, CTE, the Salvadoran Telecommunications Company (formerly ANTEL), fired 72 leaders of the four ANTEL unions. The firings were announced just after the union leaders began to solicit recognition of a single industry-wide union in telecommunications, ATANTEL. Union leaders charge that the government and management of the privatized ANTEL want to turn destroy the unions before turning the company over to a global telecom giant. The entire process of privatization is slated for completion in the first half of this year.

CTE claims that the 72 workers were fired for poor performance and for carrying out union activities instead of their jobs. CTE President Juan Jose Daboub said their union activism might discourage potential investors while CTE's General Manager, Carlos Medina, stated, "These people threat-

ened the process of privatization."

The fired leaders and their unions have denounced the firings as violating their constitutional right to organize and the labor contract CTE signed with its employees on December 29. They are calling for solidarity to denounce this violation of their rights and insist upon the workers' reinstatement.

Please call and fax demanding that the 72 unionists be reinstated: Dr. Armando Calderón Sol, President of the Republic of El Salvador, Tel: 503/271-1555; Fax: 503/281-0018

Copies to Dr. Juan Jos Daboub, President of CTE, Fax: 503/281-0017 Please send copies of all messages to ASTTEL Fax: 503/270-8056 or e-mail: asttel@netcomsa.com

Direct Action Gets The Goods

Front-Line Construction Chronicles

Let's Build IU330!

The following article was FAXed to the IWW's offices anonymously. We think it's a pretty good description of the hassles of working in the Building Trades. What we wished it discussed more was: How do we get out of this situation?

Organization, fellow workers, that's what we need! We need to talk to each other and work together. Please use this column as a tool for building a strong IWW organization in the Building Trades. Contact the Wobs listed in this column, write in, become a contact...

"Our glorious troops continue to advance without losing a foot of ground."

E.H. — FWTBT

Here it is the day after Christmas, looking at what might be my final stack of W-4 forms. 1997 sure has been one year of interesting experiences for this 17-year Journeyman Wireman from the Midwest.

The year opened up with me cashing my last check from a contractor that treated me very well for 8 months. When I got a Christmas gift (imagine that!) I knew my employment wasn't much longer. It was a vacuum cleaner, and that I didn't do enough of.

I did a Show at the major exhibition center and made a ton of money for one long weekend. I then went on Unemployment for 6 weeks.

The month of March was filled with a job outside of my home local. I was driving 70 miles each way through heavy traffic, but the job was OK. The foreman played it real straight, but the factory had a nice cafeteria and conditions were tolerable. We all got laid off when the job was over and went back to the Hall, as is righteous.

April put me back on the dole, and I kept looking for work in the surrounding metropolitan area.

In May, the long-awaited economic resurgence kicked in and I was offered a job from my home referral system. When friends heard I went to XYZ Electric, to a man they uttered a cry of disbelief. Their rotten reputation was based on many stories of disrespect of the Journeyman Wireman. I proceeded to enjoy 5 months of good work, with good people (for the most part) with oodles of overtime. But I quit after two weeks of several transfers. Job conditions fell each time, it grew intolerable, and I had to leave.

There was a lot of work in our jurisdiction by September and I quickly took a call with a contractor in a defense plant. It turned it into a short call when it became obvious they were looking for someone particular and it wasn't me. So I was laid off and went back to the Hall.

When I went to a sister local to sign their referral book, I was offered a job in a small

factory 10 minutes from my house. What Luck! It's not good to get your hopes up too quickly in this business. This ended after a week and a half when I was introduced to the new guy standing there in his company coat and hat. The foreman told me, "This is the guy that is going to replace you." I got it, call the Hall to get someone to run the 3 inch heavywall 30 foot up and when he puts the last bushing on the last pipe, lay him off and bring in a company toady for the rabbit and trim. There were my own local "brothers."

I went back to that some local the very same afternoon and they handed me another job just a little further down the road. The contractor is one who refuses to employ me

fucking Christmas, asshole. Let's enjoy the holiday!

So even though I knew I was getting my money, I still gave the man a solid day's work for it and left the job with me severance and check and headed off once again to my Mother Local to register for Monday morning. The odds are not very good to see many calls between a Thursday Christmas and Thursday New Years Day, but we still must eat. And that do you know, my Hall is closed this Friday.

Union officials are like policemen; when you don't want them around they are nosing into your business, and when you need one the most you can't find one.



The Wobbly



News from IU 330-Construction Workers

in my jurisdiction, but I gave them one more chance. The initial job was easy — an 8-story new office building. I must have proved I was capable because they sent me to the overtime job after two weeks. A second shift opened up and I was on it. Everything was going well until one lunch period when I argued with the foreman over religion and the merits of AA. I knew my goose was cooked, but managed a few more tense weeks before I got caught up in a one-man lay-off.

I went back to my home local and picked up a job, or thought I did. When I appeared on the jobsite with my referral, ready to work, I was informed by the foreman that this particular company was not going to employ me because 11 years ago I worked 2 weeks and quit upon being transferred to the other end of the county. This is standard practice in our union, this 'right to refusal' for the contractor. So I lost a day's pay. I went back to my Agent and he informed me that since I didn't sign a tax form he could do nothing for me. I told him I was going back to the suburbs and he said "Go ahead."

Again, back in the hall with a severance, exiting with a job. A short call of 10-hour days to get done by Thanksgiving. It was a good week, working beyond another week. After five days the local men realized I didn't come from Mars and turned out to be decent sorts. The foreman was fair, and I don't say that very often.

Cruising into the first week of December I didn't want to get stuck at Christmas dinner without a job. The relatives sometimes don't necessitated the owner's son to call me on Christmas Day at 2 in the afternoon to inform me that the next day would be my last and they would be hiring a lineman Monday to do the work. He said he didn't want to do that and I honestly believe that to be true.

So picture this Christmas scene, if you will. The shower has been running continuously, the family is getting into their finest for a Christmas feast at Grandma's house. She is sure to shower the kids more than she should. The excitement, the expectation of the day, the anxiousness in the eyes of the young ones' eyes. To Grandma's house, Let's go we have to be there by 3. Don't worry, it's only 2, what's that — the phone. Hi, what's that, tomorrow is going to be my last day, OK, no hard feelings... Hey, honey, I don't have a job anymore. My union decided to take it away from me. Merry

Boycott Borders has new website

The Boycott Borders Website has been relocated to the IWW's Boston internet server. It can be found at: <http://parsons.iww.org/~borders> The site includes information on Borders' anti-union activities, sample leaflets, picketing reports, organizing news, and Borders' internal union-busting manual. Updates and comments should be sent to: borders@parsons.iww.org

The online *Industrial Worker* now has a search engine so you can more easily find what you're looking for from the issues already online (Oct95, Nov95, Dec95, Jan96, Feb96, Mar96, Mar97, Sep97, Oct97 and Dec97): <http://parsons.iww.org/~iw/search.html>

LaborNet's StrikePage is now back online after a long hiatus. It can be found at <http://www.labor.net.org/strike/> They ask that notice of strikes (including contact information and notice when they end) be sent to strikes@usa.net

"Sazziest labor site"

And *Newsday* had this to say about union websites: "Some labor sites, ironically, seem merely to reinforce the image of unionists as archaic holdovers from an earlier era: The ugly, ungainly AFL-CIO web site (www.aflcio.org/) seems to have grabbed all of its graphics from cheap clip-art collections. And it seems more than a little ironic that the snazziest labor site I've seen yet was put online by the remnants of the once-mighty, now almost-completely forgotten, Industrial Workers of the World (www.iww.org/)—featuring a spinning IWW logo alongside some posters from the good old days back before World War 1." They even got our name right.

UK Website for temporary and isolated workers

With industry demanding more high-tech temporary workers and the growth of teleworking in the UK to 4 percent of total employment, a new website, dedicated to the concerns of isolated workers worldwide has been launched.

Critical Path — at <http://www.criticalpath.co.uk> — addresses the problems of remote, part-time, freelance or self-employed workers as information technology allows the free movement of work across transnational boundaries.

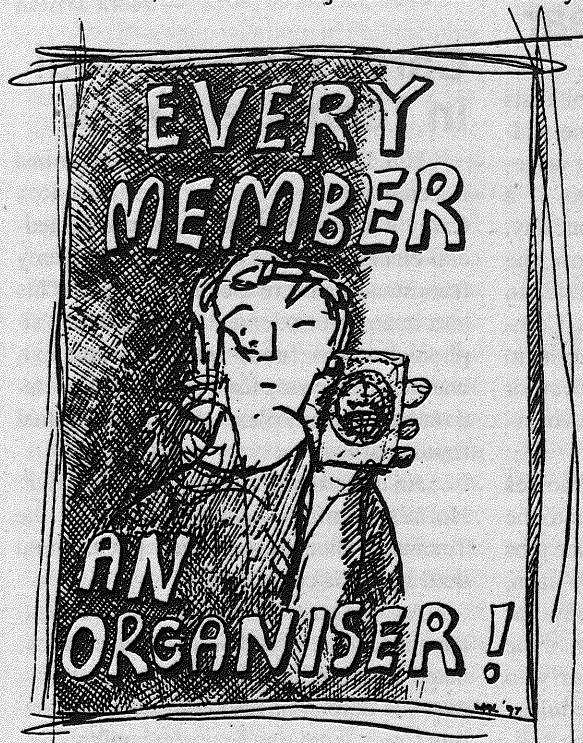
Unionists and workers worldwide are writing for Critical Path, with articles ranging from analyses of the impact of micro-computers on the workplace to introductions to contract law and bargaining strategies.

Critical Path is currently collating examples of the worst practice freelance contracts in a move towards establishing a best practice model contract for digital highway workers which will be published on the Internet for free use by all.

Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074
W. Michigan/N. Indiana: Patrick Klocke (Vicksburg MI) 616-649-1214
Monterey, CA: Ray Brown, 1240 3rd St. 93940
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 OR 97293, USA. E-mail to obu@teleport.com

Needed: One Big Union



In the Land of the Free

With only two years left before the start of the new millenium, it might be a good idea to examine the current status of American workers as they face their uncertain future.

Millions of workers who labor for private companies or public institutions are subject to regimented control by employers or their supervisors from the minute they step into their workplace until the end of their shift, and even after. Employers dictate their starting hour, lunch period and quitting time; the work they do and how fast and under what conditions they must do it; how much and when they get paid. If they're not under a union contract (and only one in six workers are), the employer determines the size of their vacations and when they can take them, usually at the company's convenience. Bonuses, merit increases, pensions and other benefits depend on the employer's benevolence.

Employers generally have a rule book which describes a code of dress and behavior for their workforce. They unilaterally decide on the penalties for lateness, absences and other violations of company rules, with insubordination for whatever reason high on their lists. Management's decisions on worker grievances usually depend on what's best for the company, and there is no provision for appeal.

In many industries, including auto, rubber and steel, workers toil a 12-hour day, some under psychologically harmful rotating shifts, although the 8-hour workday has been the law of the land for 60 years. Even in many union shops, mandatory overtime work is required; workers who refuse the compulsory extra work for health or family reasons can be fired.



— Harry Kelber

In most workplaces, workers are treated as human tools that are required to meet production goals. They are under constant pressure to lower labor costs by working harder and more efficiently. Even where employers adopt the "team" concept, soliciting workers' ideas and initiatives, their prime goal is to increase productivity that can result in greater profits. Increased productivity can be used for additional reductions in the workforce.

Although the job security of workers depends on a company's competitive performance, they are never consulted on production goals, product innovation, marketing strategies and company investments. They have no input on how profits are distributed, including the salaries of top management, even though the profits would be non-existent without the know-how and productivity of their employees.

The most obvious example of employer domination over his workers is his power to fire them at any time for whatever reason, without having to justify why he is taking away their livelihood. In recent years, major companies have discharged tens of thousands of employees by the arbitrary action of their board of directors, and their decisions have rarely, if ever, been challenged. Some unions have tried to soften the blow but without much tangible success. No wonder that millions of workers live in a constant state of insecurity and anxiety, not knowing when they may become the latest victims of a downsizing operation, no matter how productive and loyal they may have been to the company or public institution.

The principal challenge for the labor movement is to transform the lord-serf relationship in the workplace, so that workers, either directly or through their chosen representatives, share [why share? ed.] power at all levels of a company's operations. If workers are made to feel, truly, that it is *their* company or public institution, they obviously will have an incentive to work smarter and better.

Winning wage increases and improvements in benefits and working conditions are important, but even such gains are difficult to achieve under current labor-management relations. The most effective organizing strategy for unions is to dramatize and inspire workers' struggles for such critical intangibles as dignity, justice, fairness and respect.

Workers seize Kimberly-Clark plant

French workers have occupied a factory belonging to US-based paper products multinational Kimberly-Clark, in a bid to prevent closure of the plant.

The occupation followed a Jan. 6 emergency meeting of the Kimberly-Clark European Works Council in London where management told union representatives of "restructuring" measures concerning plants in the UK (Sealand), the Czech Republic (Litovel) and France (Saint-Cyr en Val), as part of efforts to slash 5,000 workers around the world and double its profits.

The French plant was slated for a complete shutdown, with the loss of 177 jobs. Workers responded by occupying the plant.

For the Saint-Cyr en Val site, near Orleans, management said there would be a complete shutdown, with the loss of 177 jobs. This is the plant that has now been occupied by the workforce.

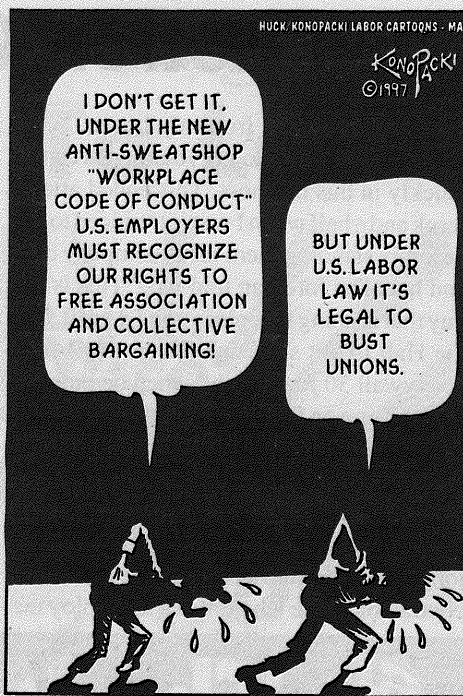
The French workers' occupation of the site is their way of "visibly signalling to you their disagreement with a measure dictated by American financiers," writes FCE-CFDT National Secretary Jacques Caltot in a letter

to the company's European director. "At a time of mounting unemployment ... it is simply impossible to allow implementation of a decision that would leave 177 wage-earners jobless. This prospect is all the more intolerable in a plant that was set up with the assistance of major financial aid packages."

Ecuador unions march against hunger

Ecuador's biggest trade union federation staged a March Against Hunger across the country Jan. 8 and announced a general strike for February 5. The United Workers' Front (FUT) labor federation, grouping half a million workers from the Andean nation's main unions, staged protests in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.

The Feb. 5 strike is scheduled to mark the first anniversary of the ouster of former President Abdala Bucaram, whom the union helped to get fired in the wake of mass protest at his unpopular economic "reforms." The government claims the unions are making a "sport" out of striking.



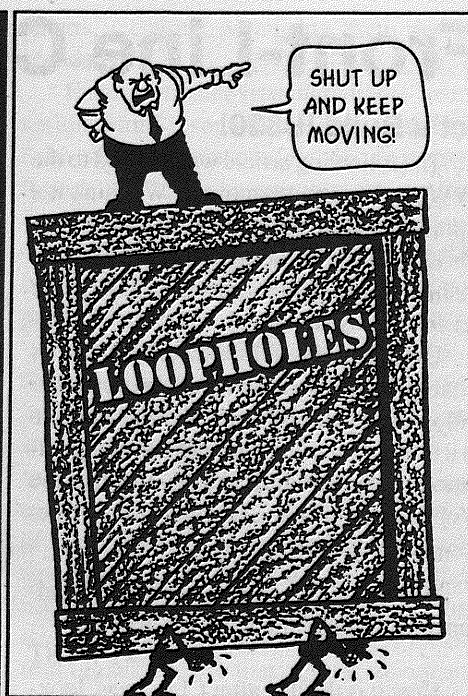
Chicago Cabbies Strike

Thousands of Chicago cab drivers stayed home in a one-day strike December 9th to protest city attacks on their ability to earn a living. It is estimated that 90 percent of all drivers struck. Was it a union strike? Nope, we ain't got one. Was it organized by anyone? Not that I can see. Seems like folks just got fed up! It's about time.

I am a long-time cab driver - 23 years. I have tried more than once to build an organization of solidarity among drivers that will give us strength. Each time it has fizzled out. But a strike did happen spontaneously on Dec. 9th, I guess because of outright fear.

Seems that our illustrious city of Chicago, in its infinite wisdom, has decided to put 1,000 more cabs on the street. Why? Because they say the neighborhoods are not being served. By putting more cabs on the street they force us to leave the 'bizness' areas where we can make a decent income, and go to neighborhoods where nobody is 'ridin' except the stickup man. These city council knuckleheads say that if we do not drive in the areas the city assigns us we will be liable for a \$750 fine. Maybe the city is trying to make us poor and dead at the same time.

As drivers, we think it is curious that at the same time that this city demands that we work the hoods, they are slashing funding for public transportation and taking buses and trains out of those very neighborhoods! And what about those 1,000 new cabs? Could it be that the city makes money off those cabs? You bet they do - taxes, renewal fees, and the transfer fees for the sale of a cab to the tune of 25 percent. Yep, they are



making big dough off us, and fooling the public at the same time. But what else is new. The purpose of government is to defend the rights of the privileged and screw the working class. This is one working class, Chicago cab drivers, that perhaps is beginning to wake up.

The city council passed its proposal of repression Dec. 10th. Scores of cab drivers raised a ruckus in the city council chambers and many of us were threatened with arrest, but we kept on hollering at the aldermen because we were up against the wall. We had no other choice. The proposal was passed 44 votes to one nay - one long alderwoman had the guts to get up and say 'do not make cab drivers responsible for your transportation cuts.' As drivers we came storming out that city hall angry and determined.

So what's going to go down? Over the next year, unless drivers get organized in strength, we will see our business greatly decline. We will be forced to work in neighborhoods that are unsafe and where we can not make a buck. We will continue to be the victims of a city grievance procedure that has been historically unfair and now has the ability to fine us \$750 whenever they feel like it. And there is a lot of other stuff in their new ordinance. It will hurt us unless we fight back.

Can we get organized? Can we build a democratic union? Can we demand and get respect from the city, and at the same time serve the people of Chicago?

Many of us want to do so.

Maybe now will finally be the time.

— Bill Burns

California bosses to have happier (cheaper) new year

Get ready; get set; go!

As of January 1, California capitalists don't have to worry about paying time-and-a-half to their 8 million non-exempt wage-slaves anymore. A few weeks ago, if a wage-slave worked over 8 hours in one day, she had to be paid time and a half. Now, she doesn't. What the State giveth; the State can taketh away. The Industrial Welfare Commission decided by a one vote margin to rescind the 8 hour/overtime rule. Governor Wilson vetoed legislation designed to overturn his Commission's decision.

The action is expected to save the bosses a cool \$1 billion in 1998 by cutting into the pay of workers, mostly those in service jobs - custodians, clericals and the like. Wilson, a consummate capitalist political toady, has said that he believes that the revision of the law is good for workers and bosses who need more "flexibility" in their schedules.

Do you really think that they'd be pull-

ing this stuff if you all were ready to: Abolish wage-slavery and organize One Big Democratic Classwide Union?

— Flora Tristan

Carey loses appeal in Teamsters race

U.S. District Judge David Edelstein has rejected former Teamster President Ron Carey's appeal, seeking to overturn a federal election officer's decision to bar Carey from standing for re-election because of his part in an embezzlement scheme which siphoned union funds into his campaign war chest. Three top Carey campaign operatives have already pleaded guilty to criminal fraud charges.

An investigation into rival James P. Hoffa's financing is underway, and the Teamsters election has been put on hold until it can be completed.

As we go to press, the government-appointed review board - an employer-dominated body which has extensive authority over the union - is also considering expelling Carey from the Teamsters union.

Mersey dockers still out

Some 500 Liverpool dockers continue fighting the Mersey Docks & Harbour Co. for reinstatement after the company locked them out more than two years ago for honoring a picketline put up by MDHC dockers fired for refusing unpaid overtime. "The world's longest picketline" continues to grow as dockers around the world take action against ships carrying MDHC's scabby cargo.

MDHC has seized on the occasion to casualize the Liverpool docks, relying on untrained temporary workers who work irregular hours for low pay in appallingly dangerous conditions. No negotiations are taking place, and stepped-up industrial action and solidarity is essential if the dockers are not to be starved into submission.

Solidarity Not A Crime

In Oakland Robert Irminger has been found guilty of Contempt of Court for picketing the Neptune Jade in solidarity with the Mersey dockers, but the judge found the violation to be "de minimus," i.e. minimal, and sentenced FW Irminger to \$100 fine and two days of community service. A successful anti-SLAPP motion against the Pacific Maritime Association and Yusen Terminals has blocked efforts by the bosses to force IWW delegate Rod Neves and others to disclose names or other internal union information.

Meanwhile, employers are stepping up their attacks against the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, with the PMA abandoning arbitration in favor of multimillion-dollar lawsuits whenever the ILWU engages in what employers believe are illegal work stoppages.

Shipowners and terminal operators lose as much as \$50,000 a day when a modern container vessel is idled by a job action. Rather than meet workers' demands or accept the costs of their intransigence, they prefer to turn to the bosses courts in an attempt to make solidarity so expensive that the ILWU will instead capitulate.

The PMA filed an unfair labor charge with the National Labor Relations Board after dockworkers in Southern California struck for four days in solidarity with port pilots who were on strike. The pilots are also affiliated with the ILWU. The dockworkers returned to work in the face of a Taft-Hartley injunction, and the pilots strike was settled only after 137 days on strike. (Ironically, the strike caused extensive delays when scabs were unable to move the ships on times without a squawk from the PMA, which was backing efforts to break the pilots' union.)

The PMA also filed a federal court suit against the ILWU locals, seeking damages in excess of \$3 million.

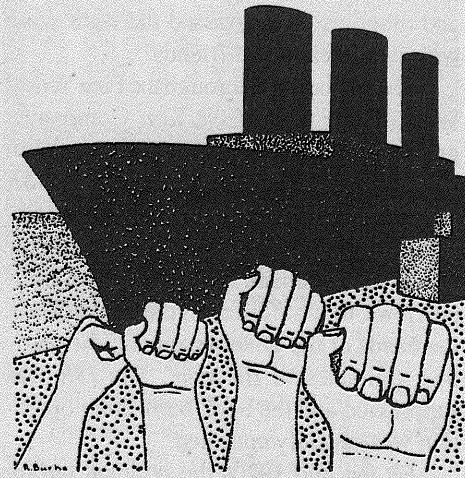
The PMA is appealing a court decision that denied employers damages for a 1995 coastwide strike that ensued after two union members were disciplined in Seattle.

Now, in addition to going after the ILWU locals in Northern California for the Neptune Jade actions, the PMA is seeking damages from individual picketers, including members of groups that have no affiliation with the waterfront or the ILWU.

"We're getting sued every time we turn around," said an ILWU official in Southern California.

Thus far, international solidarity ac-

tions have been sporadic - hitting shippers working the Liverpool port with delays, but allowing most of their ships to continue business as usual. Far more determined action is necessary to win this dispute.



British labor singer Billy Bragg has written a new song commemorating the struggle of the Mersey dockers:

"The World's Longest Picket Line"

Five hundred men sacked for refusing
to ever cross a picket line
When their workmates said
"Come help us comrades"
They never crossed a picket line
You must never cross a picket line

Two years gone by but still they
never ever cross a picket line
With their wives and children
they stand together
They never cross a picket line
We must never cross a picket line

Look away, look away, look away out
west to San Francisco

Look away, look away, look away down
south to Sydney Harbour

For the dockers have organised
The world's longest picket line

They say that this is an illegal strike
Never cross a picket line
'cause striking workers have no rights
Never cross a picket line
You must never cross a picket line

Now I wanna live in a brand new Britain
Never cross a picket line

Where the rights of workers are en-
shrined and written

Never cross a picket line
You must never cross a picket line

Look away, look away, look away out
west to San Diego

Look away, look away, look away out
east to the port of Rotterdam

For the dockers have organised
The world's longest picket line

For the dockers have organised
The world's longest picket line

The Tories are gone but there's no im-
provement

Never cross a picket line

Now where is the strength of the Labour
Movement?

Never cross a picket line
You must never cross a picket line

Look away, look away, look away down
south to Auckland city

Look away, look away, look away out
west to old Vancouver

For the dockers have organised
The world's longest picket line

manager, at 423/821-3511. Let Henry and the rest of Bunge's management know these workers are not alone, and that you detest their racist treatment of Black workers.

For more information or to join the campaign e-mail lervin@mindspring.com or contact the Atlanta IWW branch.

Injury To One An Injury To All

Mexican workers get 60¢/day raise

A wage raise equivalent to the price of a litre of milk was this year's holiday gift for Mexican workers, whose meagre earnings today are 73.4 percent lower than 10 years ago - and 1,000 percent less than U.S. incomes. The 14 percent rise in the minimum wage was described as "criminal" by a Roman Catholic Church archbishop and a "mockery" by unions.

As of Jan. 1, the minimum daily wage rose from the equivalent of \$2.80 to \$3.40. Sixty cents barely covers the price of a litre of milk, half a bottle of cooking oil or 1.8 kgs of corn tortillas.

While the government pats itself on the back for the performance of the economy - which grew seven percent this year, one of the highest growth rates seen in decades - and urges Mexicans to patiently wait for the recovery to be felt in their pocketbooks, wages continue to decline.

The average hourly wage in Mexico is \$1.50. A National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) report indicates that while the minimum salary covered 94 percent of basic consumer needs 10 years ago, it is barely enough to buy 25 percent today.

Hyundai Violates Union Deal

A Mexican Hyundai supplier is refusing to honor its commitment to recognize the independent union representing workers at Han Young de Mexico's Tijuana factory (see articles in December and January IWWs). Instead, management is trying to impose the government-controlled CTM union on workers.

Despite two elections, Han Young management refuses to recognize the STIMAHCS union. Under Mexican law, when a union certification election results in the replacement of one union by another, the new union inherits the previous contract. Han Young has refused to transfer the contract, or to begin negotiations for a new one.

Han Young produces exclusively for Hyundai Precision America, which manufactures tractor trailers for the Korean conglomerate Hyundai.

Han Young workers who had been illegally fired for union activity were reinstated without incident Jan. 5 and received their full back pay. However, the federal government appears to be siding with management in its effort to oust the union.

The Support Committee for Maquiladora Workers asks that faxes be sent to Manager Pablo Kang, Han Young de Mexico, Tijuana at 011-526-680-4481 demanding that Han Young recognize STIMAHCS and sign the contract.

Bengladesh unionists killed

Workers marched in Dhaka City Dec. 30 to protest an attack the day before by gun-toting management goons on workers of Readymade Garment & Tailoring. Six workers were killed in the attack on the union office, and some 300 seriously injured. 50,000 workers in the Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Federation are fighting for the restoration of 1987 wage levels, company housing, and contracts.

Workers Protest Austerity Measures

More than 30,000 workers, marched Dec. 11 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to protest the government's economic policies and to defend their jobs. The protest was called by the CUT union federation and held in the San Bernardo industrial zone where most of the automotive factories are located.

Workers from the Volkswagen, Ford, Toyota and Mercedes-Benz factories rallied to protest a series of austerity measures and the Central Bank's decision to bring interest rates up to an annual 40%. The measures have led to a sharp drop in automobile sales.

While the CUT blames the government for the economic crisis, it has offered to accept reduced wages for three months if employers guarantee job stability for a year. However, the CUT has criticized Union Force, a center-right labor organization, for its agreements with factory owners to reduce salaries, currently \$340 a month, by 10%.

Union Force has agreed to cuts in pay and hours for workers at some 500 auto parts suppliers in exchange for a promise that workers can keep their jobs until May 31. While the pact theoretically covers the entire auto parts sector, many individual companies are not honoring it.

The agreement was made just days after auto workers rejected similar proposals from Volkswagen and Ford. Volkswagen Brazil proposed that its workers accept a 20% reduction in salaries and hours. Ford Brazil announced a 33% cut in production and proposed early retirement for 1,200 "surplus" workers. Unemployment in the Sao Paulo metropolitan area has reached a record 16.5 percent.

Thugs break Mexican union bid

U.S., Canadian and Mexican union and human rights groups have charged the Connecticut-based Echlin Inc. multinational with using armed thugs to stop a union drive.

The Teamsters, Canadian Auto Workers, United Steelworkers of America and Mexico's Authentic Labor Front, among others, filed a complaint with the U.S. National Administrative Office, created under the North American Free Trade Agreement to hear complaints on labor issues.

Echlin, of Branford, Connecticut, manufactures auto replacement parts and operates a factory run by its subsidiary ITAPSA near Mexico City.

On the eve of the Sept. 9 union election, workers at the plant were held prisoner overnight in the factory by 170 company-hired thugs carrying guns and steel pipes.

Workers, who were organizing to fight for improved protection from asbestos and toxic chemical exposure, were threatened with violence if they voted for the union. One worker was beaten while the election was underway.

Mexican law requires workers to declare their vote for union representation in front of management. As a result of the intimidation, the union was defeated.

Racism at Bunge Food...

continued from page 1

harrassment because of this corrupt company's management.

We call upon everyone to become part of this fight. We are asking supporters to phone management from all over the country, to: Mack Henry, Chattanooga plant

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Charles H Kerr: Socialist Publisher

"We Called Each Other Comrade": Charles H. Kerr & Company, Radical Publishers by Allen Ruff. University of Illinois Press, 1997. \$19.95, 312 pages

For a century, the publishing house of Charles H. Kerr & Company has been a fixture on the left, publishing works of topical, theoretical, and historical interest as well as socialist classics by Marx, Engels, Liebknecht and others. For those like the current reviewer who wondered where the company came from and who Charles H. Kerr was, Allen Ruff's book is a welcome addition to the literature.

Charles Kerr was born in Georgia in 1860 to Northerners who lived in the South working openly as teachers and secretly as abolitionists. When the Civil War broke out later that year, the Kerrs escaped to the North by way of the underground railroad. Kerr subsequently grew up in Wisconsin in a family actively involved in the Unitarian Church. It was this involvement which led to his moving to Chicago upon his graduation from the University of Wisconsin.

Chicago in the 1880s was the mid-Western center of the Unitarian movement which at the time was in great ferment over the necessity of coming to terms with the new Darwinian theory as well as the continuing antinomian thrust which had been moving Unitarianism away from orthodox Christianity since the early 19th Century. Kerr quickly became a member of the inner circle of Unitarian activists and in 1886 he founded Charles H. Kerr and Company, a publishing house devoted to printing and distributing Unitarian tracts and books.

This article was written two years ago, when FW Flagler died, but went unpublished by the papers it was sent to. The author recently re-established contact with the IWW, and we are pleased to publish these recollections.)

The news of Franz Flagler's death in July 1995 brought back powerful memories of my youth. I first encountered Franz in the late 1930s at an anarchist Vanguard Group party in lower Manhattan. I was immediately attracted by Franz's sardonic good humor and radical syndicalism. Franz influenced my decision to become a member of the IWW. The IWW's romantic history and my need to feel affiliated with a more militant syndicalist union caused me to join even though I knew the IWW had no real power. However, I could take their vision of radical unionism as an ideal to advocate in my craft union. I was a Railway Fireman at the time, and a militant rank-and-filer in the Brotherhood of Railway Firemen & Engineers local to which I belonged. My efforts had little effect on my fellow members, who were afraid of challenging the policies of the centralized leadership. During my free time I'd hang out with Franz (if he wasn't at sea) at the IWW hall, Marine Transport Workers IU 510, located on Front Street in lower Manhattan.

Franz was born in Austria in 1912. He arrived in the United States in 1925 when he was 13 years old. By the early 1930s he started shipping out as a deckhand in the merchant marine. From 1936 to 1938, the U.S. government, under pressure from the shipowners, tried to break the burgeoning Seaman's Unions by creating non-union government hiring halls to replace the union dispatch halls, hoping thus to break the unions' control over shipping. The result was often pitched battles between union workers and the horse-mounted New York City and Jersey City cops, who acted like Cossacks in their efforts to break up union demonstrations against the shipowners' attempts to replace union workers with scabs. Franz and his fellow seamen and IWW

During the next decade Kerr moved progressively away from religious interests and towards secular social commitment and his publishing venture moved with him. Observing the oppression of workers and the riot of ostentation of the wealthy on display in the Chicago of the 1880s, Kerr became a socialist. Along with his associate Algie M. Simons, Kerr established the *International Socialist Review*, a monthly magazine intended to educate a core of intellectuals who would then indoctrinate the mass of workers with socialism. More importantly the Kerr company began to publish the works of American socialists such as Ernest Untermann, Joseph Dietzgen and Louis Boudin and to translate and print European socialist writings from such authors as Marx, Engels, Labriola, Kautsky, Pouget and Vanderwelde which had previously been unavailable in America. The availability of these works was one of the primary foundation stones for the building of the vital socialist movement of the first two decades of the 20th Century.

By 1908, Kerr had become a partisan of the Socialist Party left wing while Simons was moving decisively to the right. Kerr removed Simons as editor of the *International Socialist Review* and replaced him with Mary Marcy. The Kerr house and the *ISR* then became the semi-official organs of the SP left. The *ISR* was transformed into a popular magazine designed to appeal to a left-wing working class readership and opened its columns to Bill Haywood, Gene Debs, Ralph Chaplin and other revolutionaries. The Kerr operation boosted the IWW, social revolution, and direct action. This

brought it into sharp conflict with the Socialist Party right which saw its opportunity in sucking up to the AF of L and running respectable candidates for political office while it purged the party's ranks of IWWs and other reds who advocated revolution and otherwise embarrassed the right wing with its pro-capitalist friends.

The period 1908 through the First World War was the time of the Kerr Company's greatest influence and productivity. With the coming of the War, Kerr and the *ISR* attempted to organize a principled opposition to the slaughter and continued to call for an end to capitalism. Like others with similar views, they suffered severe repression at the hands of the government and the patriotic vigilantes of the time. The *ISR* was suppressed and the book publishing operation was severely curtailed.

By the mid 1920s the political terrain had changed considerably, Mary Marcy was gone, and the now-aging Charles Kerr was ready to retire. He passed control of the company to John Keracher and his comrades of the Proletarian Party who persevered through the 1970s when the Company passed on to Fred Thompson, Virgil Vogel, Irving Abrams, and their associates. Today, under Penelope and Franklin Rosemont, Charles H. Kerr and Company continues to publish words of interest to militants of the left libertarian persuasion and to distribute socialist classics.

Financial considerations always played a major role in the workings of the Kerr Company. Kerr was determined to keep his publications available to working people at affordable prices and to avoid being in debt

to capitalist interests (banks) or well-heeled socialists who could then dictate policy and moderate the house's commitment to revolution. This necessitated Kerr coming up with original means of raising funds and resulted in the Company and its associates being constantly strapped.

The book is interesting and well-written but is uneven, concentrating largely on the

Book Reviews

period 1908-1918. It also left this reader wishing for more information about the personalities and activities of the people involved, particularly Kerr and Marcy. But for those of us who treasure the three volumes of *Capital* by Marx, *The Anti-Duhring* by Engels, and the other beautifully printed and bound Kerr volumes on our shelves, Ruff has done a great service.

One last note — what idiot came up with the book's cover design which features a hammer & sickle, the symbol of the Soviet "workers and peasants' power," a device not even invented until after Charles H. Kerr and Company's greatest period was past?

— Steve Kellerman

Staughton Lynd Reflects

Living Inside Our Hope: A steadfast radical's thoughts on rebuilding the movement by Staughton Lynd. Cornell University Press, 1997. 281 pages, \$14.95, paper.

Staughton Lynd has been active in the civil rights, anti-war and labor movements for some 40 years, during which time he has also made his mark as a historian and people's lawyer. This book brings together essays written over 25 years for labor conferences, law reviews and other fora. And it serves both to chronicle a remarkable life (not as a

Remembering Franz Flagler

fellow workers Nick the Greek and Cock-eyed Noonan were leading activists in those strikes. Franz enlisted the help of many of the young anarchists with whom he was now associated. After the strikes were settled he helped some of them get permits from the Sailors Union of the Pacific to ship out.

Before World War II, Franz had worked as a helmsman on the ships, but with the increased shipping brought about by U.S. support of Britain Franz decided to get his Third Mate's Certificate and transfer his craft union membership to the Masters, Mates & Pilots, from which he eventually retired.

Although Franz was never an apologist for the capitalist hegemony over life in the western world, he felt that Hitler and Nazism must be stopped by any means available. As early as 1935, Franz and a number of other comrades boarded the German passenger liner, *The Bremen*, and tore down the Nazi flag she flew at her stern. By this time he had married Augusta Fleigler, a radical woman poet who had spent much of her young life in one of the Kibbutz in what is now known as Israel. Gussie raised their two children because Franz was away at sea so much of the time. Their close-knit marriage ended only with her untimely death from leukemia in 1971.

After WW II broke out Franz continued to go to sea in the convoys that were carrying war materials to Europe. IN 1943 he was third mate on the *Israel Putnam*, one of five ships in a convoy of fifty that survived German U-Boat attacks to reach Murmansk in Arctic Russia. (This was the famous "Lost Convoy" of the Humphrey Bogart film.)

Franz never cut a heroic figure; he was too good humored and gentle to fit the image. But he participated in some heroic acts. Immediately after the war in Europe ended, Franz was approached by some mili-

tant Zionists who asked Franz if he would captain a ship they had purchased and sail it to Italy where refugees from the Nazi death camps were being detained because none of the western countries would permit them entry. The plan was to pick the refugees up and smuggle them into what was still British Palestine.

Franz dropped out of sight for over a month, and it wasn't until he got back to the States that we got the story. When Franz took control of the vessel, he discovered that he was the only member of the crew who had ever been to sea before. His tales of mass sea sickness as the ship ran into rough weather, and his need to run from post to post to keep the ship underway, although fraught with difficulty seemed in his telling more like an old Mack Sennett silent comedy than a serious tale of woe.

After they finally reached Italy and picked up a ship load of refugees, they set out for Palestine, hoping to sneak through the British blockade. By this time his crew was better seasoned. They were spotted by a British warship as they approached North Africa and ordered to heave to for boarding. The entire crew, including Franz, hid their identification papers and mingled with the passengers. Now everyone aboard the ship was a refugee. The Brits took the ship in tow and when they made port in Palestine, everyone aboard was sent inland to a concentration camp. The group of young Zionists who had been his crew arranged to have Franz smuggled out of camp the next day.

Unlike many of the New York anarchists who had supported the war effort, Franz continued to participate with the group who had started the anarchist anti-war paper, *Why?* (later to change its name to *Resistance*). He would write notes from the warfront, dealing with the union movement and the ongoing efforts of the ship owners to break the unions. He used the *nom de plume*

"Leadline." The relationship continued until the *Why?* group finally ceased after four of us departed for San Francisco. Alas,

this separation had the effect of allowing us to see Franz only very infrequently. I remember a memorable visit early in the late 1950s, when his ship made port in San Francisco. Franz called then his ship docked and came up for dinner. Also dining with us that night was another old comrade, Abe Winokeur. Audrey had made a great pot of chicken soup for dinner, and when Franz arrived he plumped down a bottle of whiskey that he had obtained from the ship's stores. Franz was never much of a drinker, but Abe's eyes lit up. Dinner that night consisted of copious quantities of chicken soup and whiskey. It was a warm, comradely, memorable dinner for us all as we share memories of past times together.

After the war Franz continued to write articles dealing with labor problems for *Resistance*, *The Match*, the English paper *Freedom* and the Jewish anarchist paper *Fraye Arbeiter Shtime*, on whose board he served during its last period of existence.

Franz's death can be attributed to the very forces he so vehemently opposed all of his life. In this country, what passes for the health care system is a corporate structure. For the most part, health care providers are owned by corporations who know little or nothing about health care and place profit first, above human well-being. Franz had been in hospital for hip surgery. As soon as possible, they moved him to a convalescent hospital to recover.

Although Franz was in his early eighties, he was still in good health. But shortly after his admission to the convalescent hospital, Franz choked to death while eating. After delivering his meal, no one came back to make sure everything was going well for him. This lack of professionalism and simple human concern caused Franz to die a terrible, painful death. He was a good friend to all who knew him, and a joy to be with.

— David Koven, 9/01/95

memoir, but in the forms of reflections on various struggles in which he has participated) and to outline Staughton's vision on how to build a truly democratic - that is, socialist - society.

Lynd never lost his faith in socialism, but he is critical of the authoritarian tendencies that dominate much of the left (indeed, his telling last chapter documents the similarities between Lenin and the social-democratic Webbs in their view of workers as a passive force to be molded and led by intellectuals such as themselves). Lynd prefers to work with people in their struggles - always insisting on the principles of democracy and human solidarity.

From there Lynd proceeds to offer his reflections on his father, on Freedom Summer, his experiences as an oral historian, his long engagement with the Quaker tradition, the New Left, E.P. Thompson, downsizing, and the fight to save Youngstown's steel industry when the corporations decided they could make bigger profits elsewhere. Other chapters argue for incorporating communal rights (solidarity, the right to share in the earth's bounty, etc.) in the pantheon of inalienable rights, reexamine the history of efforts to organize the steel industry in the early 1930s (before Lewis took charge), and labor's response to the internationalization of capital.

That chapter looks back to the IWW: "I think the Wobblies were right. I suggest that the One Big Union, based in local shopfloor committees and local committees of workers from all trades, spontaneously created and re-created by a horizontal process in which workers reach out to their counterparts in other places and other countries, is the organizational form required for effective response to the power of multinational corporations." (p. 198) He fleshes out this argument with examples of what he terms "solidarity unionism" (something that should be, but tragically is not, a redundancy).

This a scholarly book, but nonetheless engagingly written. Throughout his life Lynd sought to integrate his scholarly and activist concerns, and succeeded to an impressive extent. *Living Inside Our Hope* shows him at his best, drawing on his long experience in the struggle to build a better world and sharing his vision of a radical movement committed to workers' self-emancipation and working alongside our fellow workers - nurturing the "decentralized organizational forms based on solidarity which ... explode from within the working class in moments of crisis." (p. 231)

— Jon Bekken

We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930s

edited by Staughton Lynd and including a chapter by our own Michael Kozura on Pennsylvania coal miners' seizing of the means of production to operate them themselves. U Illinois, \$21.95, paper

Silent Agitators

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

Books for Rebel Workers

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by Staughton Lynd.

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

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Labor History

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

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

Miners & Medicine - West Virginia Memories. Claude Frazier

An intimate recounting of medical problems and daily life in the coalfields in the early part of the century. Hardcover, \$10

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The Revolution Within The Revolution, Workers' Control in Rural Portugal. by Nancy Barneo.

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Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. \$10.

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

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Workers' Guide to Organizing

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

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

Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History by Noel Ignatiev. \$7. P & L Printing, 2298 Clay St., Denver CO 80211

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

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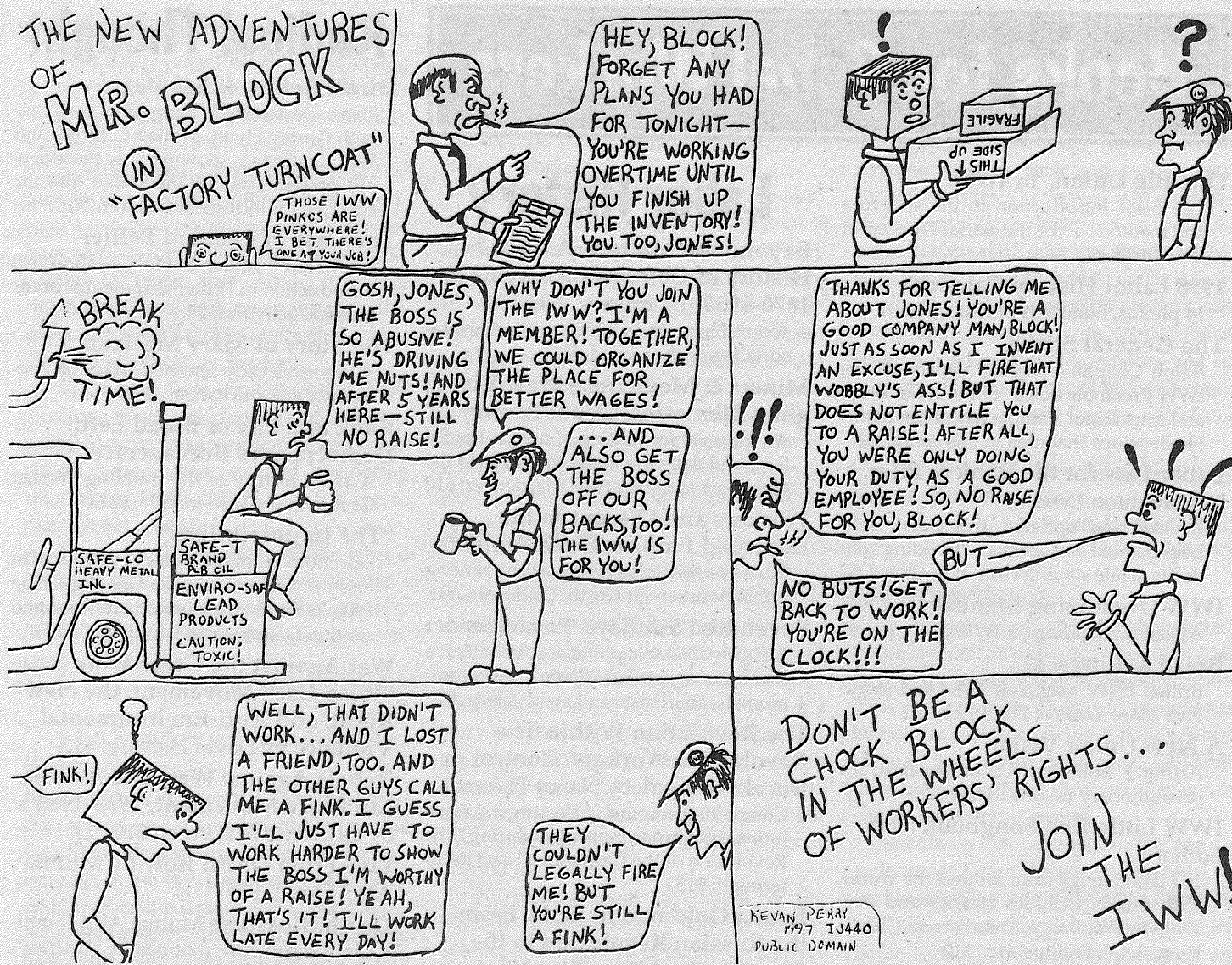
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America: All work, low pay

The Sydney *Morning Herald* ran an article Dec. 28 headlined: "AMERICA All work, low pay." The lead notes that politicians see our "deregulated, no-union, zero-employment economy" as a model for Australian economic policy. Reporter Adele Horin travelled America, finding an army of worn-out, exploited working poor.

Her story opens with a South Carolina single mother who's never made more than \$7 an hour. "Getting a job is easy," she says. "It's getting the pay you want that's hard."

The economy is booming and unemployment is at a record low, Horin reports. "But having a job in the US does not mean having a living wage."

"America has put its underclass to work. Virtually everyone not incarcerated ... can get a job. But the workers are exhausted. They are suffering from too much work - 12-hour shifts, seven-day weeks, 60-hour weeks. Compulsory overtime is common. Mothers drag infants on a succession of early-morning buses for the sake of a minimum-wage job. ... American families have suffered falling or stagnant incomes - and declining hourly wages - for more than 20 years. That's the underside of the US economic miracle - an army of worn-out, exploited working poor and an embattled middle class puzzled at the gap between their living standards and the enviable unemployment rate."

Homeless shelters are filled with the working poor, the jails are packed, and workers fear for their jobs. "On average, Americans work about a month longer per year than they used to 20 years ago. But the typical family is still worse off than its counterpart in 1979. As well, fewer workers in the 1990s are covered by health insurance and aged pension plans."

About a third of full-time workers earn poverty-level wages, and low-paid jobs are the country's fastest growing occupations.

"About 75 percent of American families are caught in an Alice-in-Wonderland world, working enormous hours but not getting anywhere," noted Barry Bluestone.

"In a sprawling car parts factory outside Raleigh, North Carolina, I meet some of the conscripts to the 70-hour week - the tired workers I have ever encountered. Many are required to work bizarre shifts - 3am to 3pm, for example. Here they are not clamouring for overtime - they are too frightened to refuse." The plant is a union shop. She spoke with one worker, Ron, who has put in 60- to 70-hour weeks for almost three years and clears only \$450. He had worked for the past three weeks without a single day off. "There's no choice," he explained. "I do it because the company says we have to."

"It occurs to me that 130 years ago Ron's forebears were slaves, and under slavery everyone had a job, too."

Broken Windows at the N.L.R.B.?

The headlines read something like this: Coast Guard announces a zero tolerance drug policy to lower drug traffic; New York City addresses broken windows and reduces street crime. Does the National Labor Relations Board have a zero tolerance policy for the small infractions of labor law, whose unpunished perpetrators go on to commit larger crimes?

The broken windows theory of crime was born in the '60s by Philip Zimbardo, a psychologist at Stanford University. In an experiment he parked a car on the street in Palo Alto, California, where it rested undisturbed for a week. Then he smashed in one of the windows. In a few hours the car was stripped, trashed, and overturned.

The idea was elaborated by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in the March, 1982 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. The article observed: "If a window in a building is broken and left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken." The idea being if minor disregard for the law is tolerated, then more blatant acts are sure to follow. In other words if you let perpetrators get away with small stuff they'll assume that nobody cares and will try to get away with bigger things.

In 1993 William Bratton, a long time admirer of Kelling and Wilson's ideas, was appointed police commissioner of New York City. Using 38,000 officers recently added to the police force and a new computer system to quickly track and respond to crime, Bratton implemented a crack down on minor crime. Crime around Grand Central Station reportedly dropped by 45%, more in other areas. The broken windows theory has been accepted by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Illegal firings during union organizing campaigns have increased from 8 percent in the late 1960s to over 33 percent at present. Has the NLRB heard about this? Have budget cuts left them so understaffed that they can't address these issues, even if they were so inclined? A study on plant closings and labor rights by Kate Bronfenbrenner of Cornell University, published in Sept. 1996, found that in over 50 percent of union organizing campaigns the company threatened to close or move the business. "Over 80 percent of the campaigns where threats oc-

curred also involved aggressive legal and illegal employer behavior such as discharges for union activity, electronic surveillance, illegal unilateral changes in wages or benefits, bribes, promises of improvement, and promotion of union activists out of the unit." These actions are clearly violations of the Wagner Act; the NLRB does little or nothing about it.

The NLRB is turning a blind eye to numerous violations of labor law, both large and small. In a business-run society the government will never prosecute business for violations of labor law as aggressively as it prosecutes the poor for jumping subway turnstiles or panhandling. You'll be working in a drafty place a long time waiting for a government agency to fix those broken windows. Direct action and solidarity are the tools to fix the broken windows at work, not the NLRB.

— Tom Johnson

Loafer's Glory

"Loafer's Glory - Hobo Jungle of the Mind," a new one-hour weekly radio program by U. Utah Phillips, is broadcast live Sunday mornings at 11, on KVMR-FM, a community radio station in Nevada City, CA, where Utah has lived for the past several years. It is recorded to DAT and shipped off to Pacifica and uploaded to its satellite.

The show is available free to non-profit radio stations. The shows are full of Utah's stories of the labor movement, his humor, his songs (some live, some recorded by him and others), and field recordings he has made over the past 30 years of folk musician/activists.

Utah will not allow any government or corporate funding for this project. Eventually, the show aims for live national broadcast. For information, or to get the show for your local station, contact Steve Baker, sbaker@oro.net, 530/265-5470.

General Defense Committee

The Seattle General Defence Committee (Ad Hoc) has temporary GDC Cards, Applications and Quarterly report forms. If you are interested in starting a GDC local, please contact Mark Johnson at mark@emmamia.com or 5280 44th SW, Seattle WA 98136 for supplies.

The NLRB Graveyard

On July 19 nearly three-fourths of DeMenno/Kerdoon Corp.'s workers in Compton, California, signed a petition for union recognition. But boss Bruce DeMenno insisted on a National Labor Relations Board election, and succeeded in crushing OCAW through a mix of discipline and suspensions of union activists, bribes to union supporters, and by firing two union activists just days before the NLRB election.

This intimidation and bribery managed to overturn the union's solid majority. The IWW opposed the NLRB when it was first proposed in the 1930s. We were right.

Criminal Syndicalism

In 1921 IWW member Mike Hennessey was convicted of violating Washington's "Anarchy and Sabotage" statutes. His crime? Belonging to the IWW, an organization the state charged was formed to unlawfully "advocate, advise and teach crime, sedition, violence, intimidation and injury as a means of effecting industrial, economic, social and political change." In the 1990s this same law has been used against environmental activists protesting the export of raw logs (and the mill jobs associated with them) to Japan. Washington Wobblies are campaigning to repeal the law.

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.
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