

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

'Friends' fire Wob for doing his job

Jamie Graham, a front desk staffer and member of the IWW's contract negotiating team at Philadelphia's Friends Center, was fired April 1 after a week-long suspension. Jamie had been working at the Friends Center for over a year, and helped to organize the IWW branch on his job. He was known to building tenants and his co-workers as a conscientious worker who took his job seriously and was always ready to go the extra mile. Now, in the midst of contract negotiations, he has been fired under a dubious pretext.

On March 23rd, a woman rushed past Jamie while he was working the Friends Center front desk. One of the main tenants of the Center is Friends Center Child Care. Parents who use the child care center must either show a card issued to people authorized to pick up children or sign in with the front desk staff. This woman did neither. Jamie followed Friends Center procedure as he and other front desk staffers understood it—stop anyone who comes into the building and make sure they check in. This duty was strongly stressed in a memo the child care staff forwarded a month earlier regarding an estranged parent who had threatened to kidnap his child over a custody battle, and asking that the front desk staff keep a close eye on parents coming into child care.

Jamie was fielding a phone call and answering a request from a visitor when the woman dashed past him. After transferring the call, he pursued the woman who had made her way through the courtyard in front of the child care center. Jamie yelled to stop her, and asked her for her card. She did not respond clearly, so Jamie asked if she could come into the lobby to sign into the book or show her card.

When the woman returned she was extremely irate and began screaming at Jamie. He explained that he was simply doing his job, and that if she had questions, that she should talk to his supervisor, Peter Rittenhouse. The woman did not seem to hear this, and Jamie ended up shouting to be heard. Peter Rittenhouse arrived on the scene about this time. Jamie was relieved to see his supervisor as he had every reason, given what he had been specifically told in the course of his training and in subsequent memoranda, to believe that his course of action would be backed. After talking to the

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War on the Australian waterfront

The latest round in the campaign by international capital to destroy transport unions around the world is now underway in Australia. On April 8th, Patrick Stevedores, which has been involved in a bizarre series of underhanded operations aimed at smashing the Maritime Union of Australia, sacked their entire workforce of about 2,000 people.

Within 24 hours the MUA obtained an interim injunction to prevent Patrick from sacking their workers, taking on scab labour or disposing of any assets. However, later that day the company began unloading a ship using a non-union workforce.

The bosses shrugged off the court order, claiming it doesn't apply to them. In a devious piece of corporate jiggery-pokery, Patrick appear to have separated the section of the company that employs dock workers from the rest of their operations and say they don't employ the wharfies themselves. The companies that supposedly *do* employ the

workers are conveniently insolvent.

At press time, truckers are refusing to cross MUA picket lines. Ships en route to the scab docks have been subjected to long delays as maritime workers balk at crossing picket lines despite threats of prosecution under Australia's draconian anti-labour laws. In most cases, maritime workers have ultimately agreed to work the ships, but have worked to rule. Frustrated by the delays, shipping companies are reportedly trying to secure alternate berthings.

It's been hard to work out what's really going on in the latest assaults on the water-side workers and their union. The activities over the last few months by Patrick and their partners, the National Farmers Federation and the right-wing federal government, have been shrouded in a mist of lies—lies which have been propagated and compounded by the capitalist media. There have been lies from bosses, lies from politicians—even lies

from soldiers about the shady military operations which have taken place both here in Australia and overseas in Dubai.

One aspect that seems to have confused many people is the involvement of the National Farmers Federation in the war against the MUA. However, the NFF (some say it stands for "No Family Farms") only represents about 20 percent of Australian farmers and those are some of Australia's largest landowners. These parasites are the ones who make a profit from the misfortunes of small farmers, who are constantly struggling to avoid the loss of their farms to the banks and finance companies when they can't repay loans.

The Western Australian Farmers Federation have stated their opposition to the NFF's waterfront activities and other farmers groups have expressed concern too. Also in Western Australia, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association issued a joint state-

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Exercising Our Rights: Unionizing the YMCA

Since early March, the member services staff at the Downtown Berkeley (California) YMCA have demanded union recognition from management. Despite overwhelming support from staff, thousands of signatures from YMCA members, and a unanimous resolution of support from the Berkeley City Council, the executive administrators at the YMCA continue to reject their workers' wish for a unionized workplace.

The Young Men's Christian Association is an internationally recognized organization that provides fitness facilities and programs, residential services and community resources for all ages. Located in every part of the globe, the "Y" has come to be known as an accessible place for health and educational programs in many communities. As a non-profit providing much-needed services, its motives and structure are rarely questioned.

However workers at the Y are not unlike workers in many other industries across the country. Poor to non-existent benefits, no redress for grievances, little say in the decision-making process and low wages plague workers at the YMCA just as they do elsewhere. After much deliberation and leg-work, the Member Services staff at the Downtown Berkeley YMCA decided to do something about it.

Member Services is the front desk which handles inquiries, registration and enrollment for new and existing members. They are essentially the front line at the Y, and the central nervous system of the departments. This staff is not only responsible for helping the YMCA increase its membership roster, but also for keeping the current members informed and happy. This is not always easy to do when the staff suddenly changes or is inadequately informed, as often happens because of the high turnover rate.

Of the twenty workers who comprise the front desk, fifteen signed union authorization cards determined to unionize their department. SEIU Local 1877 was chosen to represent them, in solidarity with their brother and sister workers in the Janitorial and Residence Departments at this Y. On March 3rd, several Member Services staff joined by YMCA members and community activists interrupted a directors' meeting and presented a petition for union recognition to YMCA administrators. The directors responded 24 hours later by officially refusing to recognize the union.

Without hesitation or delay, Member Services staff and supporters began holding informational pickets in front of the YMCA. The daily presence helped spread the word

throughout the YMCA facility and the community about the Y's anti-union position. Reaction from Y members has been extremely supportive. Even lukewarm supporters are shocked to hear that the Downtown Berkeley YMCA's president/CEO and key union opponent Larry H. Bush makes over \$100,000 per year and participates in junkets (as in a recent trip to Vietnam with the likes of San Francisco mayor Willie Brown) while most of his staff languish in a low-wage, benefits-less state.

YMCA members have expressed their disgust at the Y's anti-union stand by signing their names to a pro-union petition, which totals over 2,000 signatures after only two weeks, and voicing their surprise and outrage of the Y's disrespect for its workers to directors. Some members have even canceled their memberships, refusing to support an organization which claims to

be pro-community but acts anti-labor. Brainwashed middle managers doing the bidding of the CEO have been feigning neutrality and spewing misinformation and anti-union propaganda to Y workers and members, showing the YMCA's utter lack of regard for both.

In addition to the constant informational pickets, a variety of creative and fun actions have taken place to help spread the message and pressure the YMCA to recognize the union. In keeping with the family recreational atmosphere of the Y, colorful balloons displaying "YMCA, IMAGINE THE FUTURE, UNION YES" were handed out to some 500 children during the Y's weekly Friday Family Night and Saturday morning kid's programs one weekend. Children were only too happy to accept the free balloons and, to the dismay of managers,

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Paycheck "Protection" Bill a Bosses' Racket

An interesting article caught my eye in today's (March 27) New York "Crimes." It seems that a number of business types are pushing legislation in several states, so-called "paycheck protection" bills hoping to put a crimp into the business unions' political "clout" by requiring that the bureaucrats get a member's permission before they can spend his/her dues money on political campaigns or candidates.

The business proponents of this type of legislation, of course, claim to only have the workers' best interests in mind. They claim that these are "workers' rights" initiatives and that they are upholding the principle that a union should not spend a worker's compulsory dues payments for political activities that the member does not support.

The rank hypocrisy of this is obvious to anyone with a lick of sense. Since when are bosses concerned with the rights of workers? Since when are politicians concerned with giving any citizen a veto power over how their tax monies are spent? The U.S. spends billions of dollars a year in the military, the police, prisons, not to mention paying outrageous salaries to the lawmakers - all things I vehemently oppose - yet I've never been asked if this is how I want the money stolen from me by the IRS spent. And what about the millions of dollars corporations spend on candidates and campaigns, like the campaign to get Proposition 229 passed in California (that's the "paycheck protection" referendum there)? Do the CEOs who make these decisions ask every stockholder for permission before they turn over the booty? I doubt it.

Readers' Soapbox

While capitalists are the main ones pushing this type of legislation for obvious reasons, they have found quite a few scissorbills to back them up. Not that these workers are necessarily wrong in opposing the bureaucrats' unauthorized use of their dues money for political purposes that they don't support, but they are crawling into bed with the enemy to do it. That's why they're called scissorbills (they cut off their nose to spite their face). I would bet that most of the workers who support this type of legislation support conservative politicians and causes, and that if the union bureaucrats were supporting those things with their dues it would be okay.

The labor fakirs are understandably horrified that if the legislation passes they would have to actually ask their members' permission before they can spend their dues money on politricks. On the one hand they claim that federal legislation is already in place that allows union members to withhold that part of their union dues that's spend on political action. Of course, given the dues check-off it must be a bureaucratic hassle to have that happen, even when the union informs them that they can do it.

Another argument being used by the unions (through their inevitable political consultants) is that at union meetings workers are overwhelmingly opposed to this legislation. Assuming, I suppose, that this

means that in opposing the legislation they are giving a blank check to the leaders to continue to spend their dues money however they see fit. Could be, but one does not have to support the proposition that the piecards should be able to do what they want with union dues in order to see an attack on labor when it's staring you right in the face.

It seems to me that two principles at stake here. On the one hand, it is quite true that union members should have the absolute right to collectively determine how their dues money is spent. Business union leaders violate this right most egregiously when they spend money on politicians.

On the other hand, there is the principle of union autonomy: the state and employers should not be able to tell unions how to run their affairs. Of course, the state has been regulating the labor movement from the beginning, but most forcefully since the passage of the NLRA and Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin laws. This has both guaranteed the ascendancy of bureaucratic business unions and at the same time hog-tied the rank and file.

But this has got to end if we're ever going to have a true, revolutionary, labor movement in this country. Passing more legislation to supposedly guarantee union members' rights is not going to do it. Neither is continuing to allow the labor fakirs to play politics with members' dues money.

Only a rank-and-file revolt within the business unions, or a mass defection in the direction of revolutionary industrial unionism, will do that.

"No politics in the union" is the way the IWW deals with political matters. Members who believe that politicians and legislation do more good than harm are free to pursue their political beliefs; same for those members who feel that government is for the birds. But the IWW as an organization does not endorse legislation or candidates. It does not allow any member, when speaking on behalf of the IWW, to do it either. Our executive board does not have the authority to donate union funds to their favorite candidates and our General Secretary-Treasurer is not authorized to offer to grease some politician's palms in exchange for "favorable legislation."

We do this for a very good reason: we don't want to get sidetracked in arguing amongst ourselves over political scraps from our main task: organizing the working class to fight the capitalist class at the point of production.

We also do not allow a dues check-off. Because we do not want the boss to be our treasurer and we want the rank and file to have personal contact with the union on a regular basis. Then if the organization is not using the dues money as desired (which is easily detectable through regular rank-and-file audit of the books), the member can refuse to pay and bring the matter up in an open union meeting.

In other words, in a member-run union,
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Industrial Worker

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IU 620: Education Workers
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IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers
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IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate;
GOC= Organizing Committee.

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Hunger Mountain workers go IWW

After enduring unreasonable working conditions and management's outrageous misconduct for more than a year, many workers at the Hunger Mountain Food Co-op in Montpelier, Vermont, have had enough.

A group of workers initiated an IWW union organizing drive in March. As of April 1, 18 workers (out of a bargaining unit of 51) had signed IWW union authorization cards. Organizers hope to avoid a National Labor Relations Board election, and have been told by management that a union would be recognized voluntarily if a majority of employees request it. But management is doing its best to discourage union support by spreading disinformation and harassing union organizers.

To understand the causes of worker dissatisfaction at the Hunger Mountain co-op, we need to go back to May 1996. It was then that the co-op moved from its long-time home in a cozy but cramped storefront into a much larger, brand new, upscale building. The move required \$1.7 million in financing and, of course, a greatly expanded workforce.

As an organization, the co-op wasn't prepared for the move. Most managers came from the old store, where they had only dealt with a relatively small staff and sales volume. "Management is in way over their heads," says union organizer Bob Heald. "They don't have the skills, experience or temperament to handle this. Unfortunately, it's the front-line workers who suffer the most because of this."

The first major indication of this came in January of 1997. The co-op was feeling squeezed by its million-dollar-plus debt and decided to cut labor costs. Several workers were fired. Management said these were layoffs, but few people accept that. The workers in question had all criticized management at a staff meeting. Within a week of that meeting, those employees were abruptly dismissed without warning and their positions were soon filled with workers who were presumably more "cooperative."

The firings led to a sharp decline in morale and a rapid rise in distrust of management. Some workers quit in protest soon after. Many more followed in disgust in the months to come. Low pay, inadequate hours, abusive supervisors and other causes brought more resignations. The co-op finished 1997 with an employee turnover rate that approached a mind-boggling 100 percent.

The resulting short staffing and speed-ups, combined with insufficient training and an unsafe workplace, have led to an alarming injury rate. This unsafe environment and management's mishandling of worker compensation claims have been major cata-

lysts for the organizing effort. While many workers felt that management seemed more concerned with insurance premiums than injuries, one case in particular stands out.

A formerly enthusiastic employee who became critical of management following the firings suffered an injury that resulted in a worker's comp claim. The employee was angered at management's lack of support and the insurance company's stonewalling. However, he was truly shocked to learn that the co-op's personnel manager told the insurance company that the worker had another job, suggesting that it was the source of his injury. This attempt to sabotage the comp claim was not only a complete fabrication and highly illegal, but also clearly shows how employees are treated simply as labor costs rather than human beings.

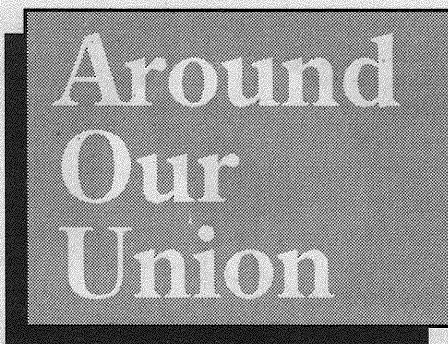
The final straw that launched the union drive is a prime example of the problems at the co-op. Several long-term employees in one department complained to their manager about his failure to uphold his responsibilities, disrespectful treatment of workers, discriminatory scheduling practices and unfair withholding of raises. The employees received a completely inadequate response. That's when it was decided that a union was necessary to defend the workers' rights. The same employees, now acting with support from workers in other departments, demanded a meeting with the store manager (who recently received a 22 percent raise over two years while most employees survive on six-something an hour). They made it clear that their demands were not to be dismissed. Suddenly, significant changes became quite possible, though certain core issues remain unaddressed.

Management hopes to appease workers with token concessions while avoiding any meaningful change. Their propaganda mill is churning out disinformation and union supporters are harassed while hostility toward the union is rewarded. This has only served to show organizers that the bosses fear solidarity and that direction action, taken collectively, gets the goods.

Backers of the union are exploring creative tactics to find the appropriate strategy for organizing at a co-op. Significant community support already exists. This struggle promises to be long and difficult, but organizers remain committed to their goals.

As Bob Heald says, "We're going to continue this effort until all employees have a safe workplace, a livable wage, are treated with respect, and have an adequate vehicle for voicing concerns and addressing grievances. The best way to do that is through a union and the best union for us is the IWW."

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Repeal the Criminal Syndicalism statute

Olympia (Washington) Wobblies have launched a campaign to repeal RCW 9.05, the criminal syndicalism statute passed in 1917 as part of efforts to crush the IWW and recently used to convict six environmentalists for a non-violent protest against the shipment of raw laws to Japan. Several organizations have endorsed the campaign, which kicks off with a noon-time May Day rally on the steps of the state Supreme Court in Olympia. Peel-off decals bearing "seditious emblems" (such as IWW stickers) will be distributed at the rally for those who wish to participate in a symbolic act of mass civil disobedience. (Wearing such emblems is in violation of the law, as is the state's Dept. of General Administration for issuing a demonstration permit.)

A forum on "Anarchy & Sabotage" will be held May 1 at 8 p.m. at Evergreen State College, Lecture Hall 5. Speakers include the IWW's Arthur Miller, Rainforest Action Network President Randy Hayes, Seattle black activist Greg Jackson and civil rights attorney Stu Sugarman.

Wal-Mart needs union

Hey there Wobblies! I'm Mick, and Wal-Mart is my target. I was the victim of an unfair labor practice at the Wal-Mart where I work. In my breakroom on my time, I had a sign stating "Fear Not! Unionize. Ask Me Why" and IWW material below the sign.

The store manager repeatedly ordered me to remove the sign and union materials. I told him he was on my time, what I was doing was legal, and that I was willing to go over labor law and Wal-Mart corporate policy with him. Even though I had done my homework, the manager refused to listen to what I had to say. Since I filed a National Labor Relations Board charge he has admitted that he was wrong and I've been in the breakroom with my IWW stuff again. However he lied to the NLRB, claiming I was distributing animal rights material, and got two cowardly "associates" to back him up.

This smokescreen attempt to duck my unfair labor practice charge only reinforces my determination to organize Wal-Mart. Anyone out there care to help? Find your nearest Wal-Mart, get one of the many throw-away jobs available, and organize from within. Let's take on the big Wal-Mart money-making machine of meager wages. And check out www.Walmartsucks.com where the story continues.

Albany Coffee-In targets Applebee's union-busting

Applebee's hostile attitude toward unions was obvious in a March 21 action by the IWW Capital District Group. The "coffee in" came just as the noon hour crowd was rapidly filling seats at the Applebee's restaurant in the Albany shopping mall, Colonie Center. Five Wobblies snagged a corner table and ordered little more than tea and coffee refills.

"Oh, we could sure use a union," one waitstaff person said, "but don't let the boss see that," referring to a front-page *IW* story about the IWW drive in Louisiana and Applebee's union-busting tactics. We encouraged waiters and waitresses to take union literature. As the activity increased at our lively corner nook, the manager caught on to the Wobbly menace and ordered us to

Zinn in IWW benefit

Historian Howard Zinn will speak on "Lessons of the Great Labor Struggles" Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. in an IWW benefit at Boston's Arlington Street Church (Arlington & Boylston Streets). Admission is \$7 regular, \$4 low-income.

Branch members will also participate in a week-end of May Day activities beginning with a May Day rally at 4:30 at Cambridge's Central Square organized by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center.

Jericho '98 Action

Wobblies from across the Atlantic seaboard joined some 3,000 demonstrators in Washington, D.C., March 27, demanding freedom for the many activists held in U.S. prisons for their political activities or views.

Beautiful 10-foot wide murals of political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and AIM member Leonard Peltier floated over the crowd, amidst a sea of flags and banners. People thronged the street to observe, learn and show support to the marchers.

Dennis Banks from the American Indian Movement and the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee reminded the crowd that "America has an ugly history detaining people." Banks reminded the crowd of Leonard Peltier, perhaps the world's most famous political prisoner - framed for the murder of a FBI agent and imprisoned for 23 years despite a mountain of evidence supporting his innocence. Dennis Banks concluded by saying that if America frees its political prisoners, then it will free us all.

At work in Greensboro

Wobblies in Greensboro, NC, have been pretty busy of late. A few weeks back we held a potluck dinner and about 20 folks showed up for an informal "meet the IWW/ what the hell is the IWW anyway?" deal. Things are moving ahead on production of the IU640 jobzine, *The Silver Platter*.

We've hosted movies the last two months and plan to continue to do so every month. In February we showed 'Harlan County, USA' and 25 folks came out. We moved some literature and a good time was had by all. In March 30 people showed for 'Incident at Oglala.'

Vancouver, B.C.

Local Wobblies helped organize a March 19 stop on the "Battleground Detroit" tour. A locked-out worker talked about his recent radicalization. Growing up, he fought in Vietnam and returned to get his piece of the American dream.

Then came Gannett and Knight-Ridder, and he began to understand that the forces of Globalization don't care who or what you are. There is no such thing as "those people," the trouble makers; he and his fellow workers were physically assaulted, impoverished because they fought for what was right.

Among those in the audience was a truck driver for a subsidiary of Conrad Black's press empire. He had seen a poster for the talk stuck on a *Vancouver Sun* vending box and wanted to find out what this was all about. Now he understands why his wages had dropped by 50% in the past three years, why his working conditions worsen daily, and why things seemed strained at work.

stop passing out papers. The visibly angered manager muttered that the materials "might be offensive" to some workers. A security guard arrived a few minutes later and huddled with the manager while FW Greg Giorgio stamped red cards and read aloud a letter to the corporates at Applebee's.

The Albany "coffee in" cost the restaurant a bit, considering our 90-minute stay. The Applebee's worker who waited on our table received a \$30 gratuity. With more visits like these, maybe the workers at Applebee's will want to know more about those coffee-drinkin' IWWs.

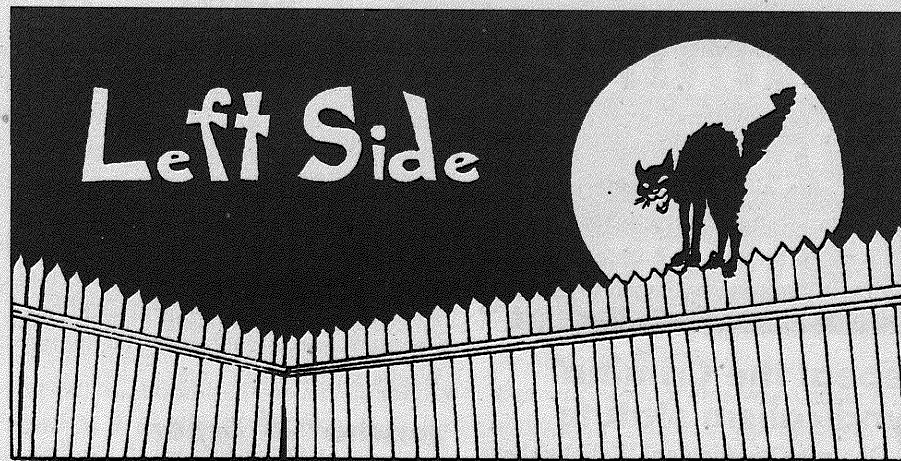
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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.



Juan Carlos Gomez, a Cuban pro boxer, was in a German town training for his next fight. While relaxing in a pool hall he was racially insulted by a pair of skinheads. He punched one of them in the face and both of them exited forthwith. A few days later the two skinheads had rallied themselves some reinforcements and with their much larger group accosted Gomez in front of his hotel, resuming their racial insults. Again Gomez punched one of them in the face, but this time the entire entourage of skinheads found it to their convenience to disappear. Some people just don't have the courage of their convictions.

Recently the Ku Klux Klan announced they were going to hold a rally in Cicero, Illinois, but they were eventually dissuaded by the good city fathers. It seems when they made their announcement, a flurry of other announcements from other groups indicated that they would also attend the rally. Among them the Jewish Defense League, some black militant groups, and also a delegation of Mexicans from a nearby municipality along with mariachis, not to mention the various left-wing groups. Cicero also happens to be two-thirds Mexican, all of which promised to make for a very interesting rally.

There promised to be more Klan opponents attending, far in excess of the numbers of the Cicero police force and whatever reinforcements they could muster from the nearby Chicago police force, making it a bit difficult to "keep the peace." Your scribe happens to be highly suspicious that those in high places did not relish the coming together of so many multitudes, not so much out of fear of violence, but that so many diverse groups who were there for one specific purpose might find out they might have other interests in common. The Roman emperors of old used to gather their proles in Coliseums for bread and circuses, but the modern-day Roman emperors have become more sophisticated than their colleagues of old to have too many proles in one place. That is why everybody is encouraged to have their own gas-guzzler, and that homes should have more than one television set. Consumerism ain't no accident!

Speaking of consumerism, Fellow Worker Wife, who recently has attained senior citizenship, received this cheerful little note: "As of January 1st, 1998 your MAXIMUM Social Security funeral benefit is \$255 ... According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average cost of a funeral in Illinois in 1997 was \$5,625.34. This could leave your family and loved ones with THOUSANDS TO PAY ..." (capitalization in original). The return address was a post office box in Plano, Texas.

How many of us old dudes are going to be sucked in by that?

Ever notice how these pitchmen and advertising in general plays on our fears? The latest boob tube squib shows a dude driving along in his car, being signalled by a young woman driver who rolls down her window saying, "Excuse me Sir, could you tell me" ... and the voice-over says, "Are you being called Sir now? Maybe it's the car you are driving!" Outside of the realization that time is getting shorter, your scribe sees no disgrace whatever in being old, but that seems to be one of the pitches. If you don't use the right toothpaste or wear the right brand of shoes, the women will look the other way, heaven forbid.

Once I tried shouting, "Hey dude, if you don't have an *Industrial Worker* sticking out of your pocket, the ladies won't look at you!" but I'm afraid the *Industrial Worker* appeals to a higher level of intelligence.

Keep the baby, Faith!

— C.C. Redcloud



Solidarity with the migrant workers.

Solidaridad para con los trabajadores migratorios.

X347632

Union Scabbing

The bosses understand the power of solidarity. That's why they've outlawed "secondary boycotts" here in Freedomland, and in much of the rest of the world as well. Maritime workers in Australia know what's right. The first ship to be worked by Patrick scabs entered port with banners on its sides proclaiming solidarity with the locked-out wharfies. It had sat in the harbor for hours until tugboat workers succumbed to threats of legal action under Australia's draconian anti-labor laws.

If maritime and other workers stuck by their fellow workers on the docks and refused to touch ships or cargo handled by scabs, the bosses would be faced with a stark choice: do the work themselves or capitulate. And there aren't enough of the parasites to do the work themselves.

That's why the bosses insist that we scab upon ourselves. *The Boston Globe*, for example, has just negotiated a contract with its mailers (represented by the Teamsters) allowing the paper to replace full-time workers with part-timers who will make half the current hourly rate. But that piece of class treason is a mere fillip to the main dish — a "key provision ... new no-strike, no-sympathy-strike language that the *Globe* has negotiated with its other unions."

So every union at that newspaper (and there are several) has agreed to scab on fellow unionists in the event of a strike. Those who claim that the IWW critique of craft unionism's separate-and-fall unionism is obsolete haven't been paying attention. And in a world where unionists are prepared to scab on each other in their own workplaces, is it any wonder that we don't stand together across national borders?

Editor's Notebook



Anyone for One Big Union?

We Don't Need Bosses

Elsewhere this issue I print an appeal by Iranian workers for their boss to step aside so they can run the works themselves. The March-April *Solidarity* reports that Ann Arbor autoworkers were able to cut their workweek in half (they were putting in 12-hour days, six and seven days a week) while increasing production once the bosses let workers reorganize the job. Unfortunately, the bosses are still in overall control — who knows what improvements might otherwise be possible.

Bosses Want to Bargain

The U.S. Occupational Health & Safety Administration has ruled that employers must not only provide toilet facilities, but must make them available to their workers. "Toilets that employees are not allowed to use for extended periods cannot be said to be 'available'" to them.

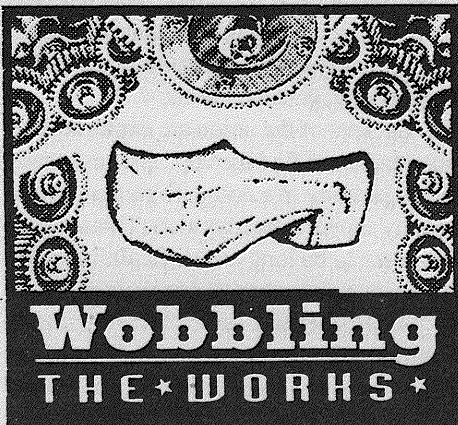
The bosses are whining that the issue is best left to collective bargaining. Maybe it is, but when was the last time you heard your boss offer to bargain about anything?

They like bargain-basement workers, of course, with the result that most workers in a recent survey said that while the economy as a whole is doing great, they personally are just getting by — or in many cases are sinking deep into debt. In this booming economy, companies are laying off thousands of workers every day.

Every time another of our fellow workers hits the streets the Dow Jones goes up another point. Wouldn't it be better to lay-off the bosses?

— Jon Bekken

Throw the (Other) Bums Out



workers, workers will take action to stop the scam.

A likely place to end up is the National Labor Relations Board. At the NLRB, workers can file charges against their bosses and against unions. It is illegal for a union to retaliate against a member for filing a charge against the union or the boss, even if internal union processes have not been exhausted, and even if the charge is found to not have merit (NLRB v. Auto Workers Local 212, 111 LRRM 2529, 1982 & NLRB v. Marine & Shipbuilding Workers, 68 LRRM 2257, 1968.)

I have described the often futile experience of filing NLRB charges against the boss in previous columns. The NLRB does not have the power to issue punitive damages against wrong-doers, instead they seek to restore the status quo.

In the case of unions not doing right by the rank-and-file membership, the NLRB will order the union to properly represent its members. But what does that mean? If the problem in representation originates in a union not pursuing grievances for matters outlined in a contract, the Board can order the union to do it.

That's about where it ends. But often the problem with the union has a deeper foundation: an inherently undemocratic structure. It sounds like some bizzaro-world version of unionism to Wobblies, but quite a lot of union members are not able to elect stewards, business reps, or higher up officials, vote on dues increases or be fully informed about contract negotiations. When this is the problem, workers can try to get rid of their union and replace it with another.

I've been asked to write a column on decertification drives for a while. And now I write it, reluctantly, because the stakes are very high since you can easily end up with no union at all. This means you become an

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Readers' Soapbox

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legislation such as that under consideration would be worse than useless.

Whether or not this latest "paycheck protection" hoax becomes law should be of no concern to rebel workers. We know that the only real protection for our paychecks is direct action. This has always been the case, and always will be.

Mike Hargis, X328826

The IWW Is Syndicalist

Fellow Workers,

I disagree with FW Devine – the IWW is a syndicalist organization in the ordinary meaning of the term. If you read the last paragraph of the Preamble to the IWW Constitution, it clearly says that the goal of the IWW is to organize industrially, to take over the means of production, and for workers to run industry themselves. There is nary a word about electing a working class government first, or building a labor party, or the "working class needs two legs," etc. as a necessary precondition. This is the same position as that of the SAC in Sweden, the CNT in Spain, the USI in Italy, and other syndicalist organizations around the world.

Historically the IWW has drawn support from workers who belonged to the Socialist Party and the Socialist Labor Party, as well as anarchist workers. There has never been any serious attempt to drive workers away from the IWW who belong to political parties (although the IWW has had to deal with sectarian attacks on it from the likes of the Communist Party, and other elitist vanguard outfits). That is true of the SAC and CNT as well, even though the latter calls itself "anarcho-syndicalist."

Rather than dwell on ideological nit-picking over the exact differences between the IWW and the CNT or SAC, I think we should concentrate on how they are similar. Maybe that way we could learn from each other. Wobblies shouldn't try to copy everything the other syndicalists do, because they have their own faults, just like the IWW. But we should at least improve our communications, and try to help each other, since there is more in common between the IWW and other syndicalists, than between the IWW and the business unions.

For the OBU,
Jeff Stein

The Republican Terror

In 1994 the Republicans declared Revolution. On July 13, 1995, two billion dollar multinational corporations (Gannett and Knight-Ridder) hired the Michigan state and local governments under a Republican governor to wage armed warfare against the American people. Strikers have been beaten, imprisoned and terrorized by police and Detroit News and Free Press goons.

"In December Detroit city cops threatened me for arrest for distributing leaflets in front of the Detroit Free Press office denouncing the violations of workers' rights. The "Free Press" called the cops to enforce their corporate tyranny.

"When I was arrested in 1995 by Sterling Heights cops on the Gannett payroll even though I had followed all their orders; the city attorney refused to present written laws to support the charges. The judge refused to allow a counter-complaint for kidnapping. Apparently the cops prefer to make up the "law" as they go. Rescinding the code

of written law is a 929-year step backward in the emancipation of mankind.

"These scabs and storm troopers in the service of billion dollar corporations spending millions of dollars to buy the politicians and government, and wage armed war against the people. No Contract, No Justice.

"I propose a \$800 million fine against both Gannett and Knight-Ridder, with the mopmney to be used to support a free press and free elections.

"Remember Detroit: Establish constitutional democracy, free speech, free press, free elections, actions by just people to government of, by and for the people."

Don Hackett Jr.

National Writers Union

I find FW Patti's statement that the National Writers Union "refuses to do much else to improve the abysmal rates and worsening terms that publishers continually impose on writers and other media workers" is simply not correct.

The NWU puts out its Guide to Freelance Rates and Standard Practice as well as its Standard Journalism Contract to give writers ammunition when negotiating with editors. The union also publishes information on what rates magazines really pay when pressed, as opposed to what editors' boiler plate says. The union maintains an agents data base that helps enormously when choosing an agent. A newly created national job hot line helps freelance writers find work. The NWU was one of the plaintiffs in the suit against the *N.Y. Times* for unpaid electronic re-use of writers' work. The list of NWU actions on behalf of writers is a long one, and it continues to grow with the years.

These are not the actions FW Patti would prefer, but they should not be sold short either.

Parenthetically, I also maintain a dual card with IU 450 and the NWU.

John Gorman, X337533

Wage-slavery

We get less than we make. Not only does this make us poorer than we should be; it also takes power away from us, for wealth is always power.

Like all systems of class oppression, the wages system involves a compensating laborers, who as a class produce all the goods and services, less than the product of their labor is worth after it is sold in the market. This axiom is as true for the system of chattel slavery, where there is no compensation beyond basic subsistence, to peasants in bondage to the lord of the manor. It is also true for wage-slaves, whose pay as a class is never equal to the product of their labor. In each system of class rule, the producers do not control or own their product. They also do not get to decide what they will produce. They are relatively powerless. In each system, the producers get less than they make. The labor of human beings becomes transmogrified. For example, the goods and services produced by the wage-slaves are presented to them as so many commodities for sale to individual consumers. Depending on what workers can sell their skills for, they can enjoy at least a part of the wealth they produce. Chattel slaves and peasants have even less a chance to enjoy what they have created.

Democracy has come a long way since the slaves of 5th Century B.C. Athens, Greece served their democratically organized masters. It is now the case that wage-slaves can vote for which politician can get the most money from corporate political action committees. To further democratize society, Wobblies think that workers need to organize as a class to get rid of the current system, where we get less than we make, and progress towards a system where we own, control and decide the direction of the wealth created by our collective labor.

X334260

LAST WEEK THERE WAS A MEETING of the executive board of the South East Michigan Coalition On Health and Safety (SEMCOHS) to plan an event for Worker Memorial Day, April 28th. A Wobbly speaker was suggested. One board member representing an AFL union objected saying that all the IWW ever did was trash the AFL. Another board member came to our defense. Obviously not all AFL members view us negatively.

While trashing the AFL is far from all we do, it does happen with some regularity. We'd love to be able to embrace all representatives of other unions as sisters and brothers. It's not as if we wish to find cause for criticism. But reps of too many AFL unions keep throwing us examples of how they've sold out their memberships to the bosses.

The latest example to cross my desk is a letter to the Brotherhood (sic – Sisters either need not apply or aren't going to get any recognition if they do.) of Railway Carmen (sic) Division, Transportation Communications International Union, Bellvue Lodge 6546 of New Washington, Ohio, Local Chairman (sic) Darrell LaVenia. This letter would leave another former railroad union official and IWW supporter turning over in his grave: a working class hero named Eugene V. Debs. Nobody is ever going to accuse Darrell LaVenia of being a working class hero.

"Brothers (sic), Recently some of our members have received ... information regarding the Industrial Workers of the World. This is a radical organization that ... advocates disruption in the workplace to force employers to accede to employee demands..." Gasp! Radical! That usually means advocating worker democracy and resisting sellout policies of labor bureaucrats. I confess. In that sense we're definitely radical. No disruption in the workplace, Darrell? You think employers are going to give workers justice out of the kindness of their hearts? Think again, Darrell.

"The material being distributed is in violation of the Federal Railway Labor Act and therefore against the law." How's that Darrell? Leave 'em guessing. "Since some of the material suggests acts of 'sabotage' it is also at odds with the Interstate Commerce Act." Suggests? Sounds like a pretty subjective interpretation on your part, Darrell. The only act of "sabotage" I've heard any Wobblies "suggest" recently is the conscious withdrawal of our labor, without which nothing moves.

"The individual or individuals passing out this information are obviously too scared to pass the information along in person and therefore resort to anonymous ... distribution. This in itself should give you an idea of the caliber of the people we are dealing with as well as the worth of the information being distributed."

Let me tell you a little story about the caliber of the people we are dealing with here. Good ol' Darrell called me a while back, pretended to be someone interested in associating with the IWW, refused to give his name or phone number, supposedly out of concern that it might get back to the company. Trusting soul that I was, I gave contact info for someone in his area who had also expressed interest in what we have to say. Thanks to Darrell that policy has been changed. Next person who calls and won't give me name or phone number will be told: "Sorry Fellow Worker, in that case I can't hook you up. Blame a slime ball named Darrell LaVenia who pretends to be a pro-labor but is in fact a rat for the bosses."

"This Lodge and its officers (read Darrell's brown noses) do not condone, support or in anyway agree with the contents of these materials and mail-outs ... Disruptive action on the part of our membership is not encouraged or tolerated." Hmmm, in my union the membership rules, Darrell, not union bosses. My sympathies to your membership.

Now catch this: "As local chairman, I have passed on all the information I have received to local management for their consideration." (emphasis added) Now why would any member of your union be concerned about passing out information in person? No need for railroad cops and company spies. Darrell will do that work for the boss. You're a traitor to your class, Darrell. You're a traitor to your membership.

"This is a very serious issue that ... could have consequences for you and your livelihoods... Participation in these types of activities could lead to the permanent loss of your job." A little intimidation there, Darrell? Surely you, an elected official of the membership, wouldn't have anything to do with putting a member's job in jeopardy by, say, passing on all the information you have received to local management for their consideration, now would you Darrell?

"If you receive any of this type of information in the mail, leave it unopened and forward it to me. The same should be done with information that may be found laying around at work." You don't trust your membership to think for themselves, Darrell?

"Should any of you have any questions regarding this letter or have any information that you would like to pass along concerning these matters, please feel free to contact me." Darrell can be contacted at the Lodge: 419/492-2483, 503 W. Mansfield, New Washington OH 44854. I suspect some of our readers will have some comments to make "concerning these matters."

"As Local Chairman...it is my duty, and the duty of all Lodge officers, to protect the membership from the actions of one or two misguided individuals. We will cooperate fully with our employer to stop these individuals in their attempt to undermine our craft." (emphasis added). You've forgotten who you're supposed to represent, Darrell. It isn't your buddies in the company. It's the workers!, your "brothers" in the lodge. One or two misguided individuals: A letter you mentioned titled "labor trouble" wasn't sent by anyone who has contact with the IWW to my knowledge. You have a lot more workers mad about your two-tiered wage system, contracting out which is costing union jobs, class collaboration and other sell-out policies than you imagine, Darrell. And undermining your craft is hardly the goal, Darrell. It's helping the workers protect themselves from labor traitors like you.

See you on the picket line, Darrell. The IWW will be walking on the side with the workers. I wonder which side you'll be on.

— Fred Chase, IWW General Secretary-Treasurer

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

James Woodruff, Harrisburg PA	\$20
Jerry Krueger, St. Paul MN	10
Peter Kalberer, Albuquerque NM	25
David Van Deusen, West Nyack NY	10
Leon Maclean, Phoenix AZ	5
Mike Madore, Boston MA	10

Many thanks for your generous support

Unionizing the YMCA...

continued from page 1

carry them into the YMCA, with its bold message and subverted slogan ("Imagine the Future" is the YMCA's current youth support campaign slogan).

An aerobics union march and rally was staged in front of the YMCA one evening, drawing attention and participation from workers, members and pedestrians. The heart-pumping workout for workers' rights was a noisy celebration complete with union chants and the Village People's "YMCA" — and culminated in a march and presence at a Berkeley Labor Commission meeting. There a discussion on a proposed city resolution to denounce the YMCA's anti-union position ended with the Commission's unanimous approval and support of the Y's workers.

Two weeks later, on March 31, YMCA staff, community members, fellow union activists from SEIU Local 535 and the Berkeley IWW, and YMCA members attended a Berkeley City Council meeting seeking a resolution of support on behalf of the union. Several YMCA staff persons spoke urging the City Council to support the drive. The meeting ended with a unanimous resolution of support from the Berkeley City Council, despite a series of anti-union letters and meetings promoted by YMCA management in their attempt to persuade City Council members to join their minority opposition.

With a lot of spirit and a lot of nervous anticipation of a feared rainstorm, a "Member Support Appreciation Day" was held on a thankfully sunny afternoon in front of the YMCA. Unlike the Y's similarly themed "Member Appreciation Day," delicious food and drink were handed out to YMCA members to thank them for backing the workers' campaign. From the wonderful turnout, it seems the members appreciated the home-made cupcakes and brownies and sincerity of the workers.

Segueing from the event, several Member Services staff and others walked to the Board of Managers' meeting. Comprised of prominent YMCA directors, these busy folks generously freed up three minutes of their hour and a half agenda to entertain speeches urging union recognition by Member Services worker Sarah Gudbrandsen and Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington. The Board of Managers presented a united silent front and refrained from asking any questions.

Behind the fun and festivity used to inform YMCA and community members as well as embarrass the Y, very serious issues are at stake. Most workers in all YMCA departments are part time. Some of these workers are students, many are not. All are working without benefits. A few workers have serious illnesses that require expensive treatment and doctor supervision. Many workers have children and grandchildren and need a job with a flexible schedule. As part-time workers these people do not get medical benefits — an appalling fact when one stops to think that the YMCA is a health facility and vigorously promotes healthy living as key to the YMCA's purpose.

The sacrifices employees are made to endure at the YMCA are also clear in the low wages. After working for a year, a staff person in Member Services can get a *maximum* raise of 30 cents an hour. Most workers will get less than that; one worker has been there over 20 years and still gets only just above minimum wage. CEO Larry Bush has written workers that the highest-paid hourly workers at the YMCA are personal trainers, fitness instructors and massage therapists. One look at their meager paychecks will show that they make far below industry averages.

While the YMCA insists that it is not anti-union, a recent Member Services staff



meeting with CEO Larry Bush proved otherwise. While staff members argued on behalf of the union and made three different compromise offers, Mr. Bush still refused to acknowledge the union.

An offer was made to use the National Labor Relations Board if the Y would promise not to drag out the election; they refused. He would neither look at our union authorization cards nor agree to a community union election, whereby workers would vote in front of the YMCA with prominent, impartial community members monitoring. Mr. Bush made it very clear that he is opposed to the union, and suggested that regardless of what the Berkeley Labor Commission or City Council said, regardless of all of our member petition signatures, and certainly regardless of what the staff said, he still would not recognize the union. "We have stated our position," said Mr. Bush; "at this time we are not recognizing the union, and don't have any plans of doing so."

The YMCA has taken a stand against union organizing which is becoming standard for non-profit groups. The claim seems to be that non-profit organizations serve a higher purpose than for-profit businesses, therefore workers should be expected to make sacrifices in pay and benefits for the good of the organization. However, these same sacrifices are not expected of the CEO or of the administrative body in general, as in the case of the YMCA, Larry Bush and his directors.

Furthermore, the hierarchical structure of the YMCA and most other non-profits, mirrors exactly that found in for-profit businesses. There is little attempt or discussion to increase democracy and eradicate differences in power and pay. Unions in the non-profit sector are just as necessary and beneficial as they are in the for-profit sector. Just ask nurses, public school teachers or sanitation workers.

— Malini Cadambi and Jason Justice

Mexican rail strike ends

Railroad workers in Sonora returned to work in March, ending a remarkable strike that shut down the Pacific North line for over two weeks, paralyzing freight and passenger movements throughout much of western and northern Mexico. The strike succeeded in saving some jobs and keeping some workers under the existing contract.

The strike, which first began as a wildcat and then became an official strike by the national union, saved some jobs, but many problems remain and sporadic outbursts of resistance continue among workers and retirees. Retired railroad workers seized the company headquarters in Guadalajara, Jalisco, March 11 and 12, and workers on the Chihuahua-Pacific railway, engaged in wildcat strikes at about the same time.

European road blockades

Transport unionists from around the world have denounced European Union moves which would prevent unions from blockading roads in industrial disputes.

A proposed European Council regulation to make the free movement of goods the first priority throughout the European Union would allow the EEC to instruct member states to remove obstacles to trade. The proposal is a reaction to the highly effective strikes carried out by French transport workers in the past couple of years, in which road blockades featured very prominently.

Unions plan a day of action later in the year when road transport workers' unions worldwide will stage actions in support of their long-standing campaign for shorter working hours. Road blockades which held up traffic on the French/German, German/Polish and Belgian/Luxembourg borders were mounted in 1997 and unions are discussing similar actions this year.

Independent union in Iran

The Independent Trade Union of Iran was organized May 1, 1997, but remains illegal under labor laws outlawing all labor organizations not under the control of the government. However, it has organized several strikes in various cities and maintains a steady campaign of agitation for better working conditions, labor rights, and against unemployment. This the first time in since the former Shah seized power that an independent workers' organization has existed in Iran.

The following is excerpted from a leaflet issued Jan. 22 by ITUI activists at Kafseh Melli (National Shoes), protesting the decision of the main shareholder to close the factory after workers won a strike there. The boss, one Mr Iravani, said the factory is unprofitable. The Kafseh Melli workers were joined by workers from other factories under the same ownership, in insisting "that they can, without any difficulty, manage the factory and organise production for the benefit of the workers."

"The Independent Trade Union of Iran declares that in case Mr Iravani is not capable of managing the factory, the workers will themselves do this. The workers themselves are better and more able than the unworthy managers ... The workers themselves can easily manage the factories and increase production without any problems or bosses."

Union Bosses

Joseph and Louis Mandarini own MJM Asbestos Abatement Inc. and are top officials of Boston Laborers' Local 22, which represents MJM (and other) workers. The two are now under indictment for failing to pay \$120,000 into their employees' health and pension benefits funds.



Trabajadores de Immokalee gracias, su victoria sobre la esclavitud y sus continuas acciones de lucha nos llena de honor y orgullo a todos. ARRIBA [V.T. Lee]

War on the waterfront

continued from page 1

ment with the MUA warning the NFF against a proposed scab dock in Fremantle. And wharfies are quick to point out that if the NFF has \$10 million to put into financing a scab waterfront business then they should have spent it on supporting farmers who have been struggling to survive in recent serious droughts. Waterfront workers have been among the first people to put their hands in their pockets to help those farmers.

A complicated plot

It has been a weird and complicated plot to follow, but this, as far as I can tell, is what's led up to the current dispute.

A leaked memo dated March 10th of last year, shows that the Government was meeting with both major stevedoring employers that month, canvassing the possibility of dismissing the whole waterfront workforce. Among other things, the memo said: "Stevedores would need to activate well-prepared strategies to dismiss their workforce and replace them with another, quickly, in a way that limited the prospect, for example, of the commission ordering reinstatement."

In September last year a new stevedoring company in Cairns, North Queensland, tried to replace MUA members with scab labour. Rapid international support organized by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) defeated this attempt at union bashing. The Australian federal government admitted to backing the scheme.

The action in Cairns involved a supply

ship from Freeport in West Papua, an operation which has caused massive environmental destruction and dispossession of indigenous people. It probably wasn't a coincidence, as that is the sort of company the MUA has consistently stood up against in support of the environment and human rights.

Then in December the MUA received a tip-off about a group of currently-serving Australian soldiers being flown to Dubai to train in cargo handling operations. This was obviously a government-backed plan to train military strike-breakers. However, action by the ITF and MUA led to the government of the United Arab Emirates cancelling the visas of the trainees and suspending the training scheme.

In January, after the head of the National Farmers Federation denied they were planning it, the NFF set up a company called Producers and Consumers Stevedores. They leased part of a terminal in Melbourne from Patrick to operate with their own non-union labour force. This began an industrial dispute in Melbourne which recently spread to Brisbane and Sydney and has led up to the sackings of Patrick's workforce.

On February the 15th, Special Air Services (elite military unit) shock troopers were ordered onto the ship Australian Enterprise, off Fremantle in Western Australia for what was described as an "anti-terrorist exercise." During this "exercise" a seafarer and MUA member was injured when he was thrown to the floor in a choke hold and had an automatic weapon pointed at his head.

Left unions meet

Left union currents from several of Western Europe's largest unions will meet in Paris May 30 to discuss efforts to mobilize for shorter working hours. The meeting is a follow-up to a February meeting in Rome called by the "Alternativa Sindical" current in Italy's CGIL confederation. Other participants came from the Sector Critico in Spain's CC.OO federation, Germany's IG Metal, and France's CGT.

The aim of the meeting was to coordinate left currents within the major trade unions, in the face of a neo-liberal offensive across Western Europe. Participants agreed on the necessity to struggle for the reduction of the working week to 35 hours, with a final objective of 30 hours/week and to continue coordination efforts.

Sweatshop U.

Kenia Rodríguez works in a huge factory complex in a free-trade zone near Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, that turns out baseball caps with the logos of major American universities, including Harvard, Notre Dame, Georgetown, U.C.L.A. and the University of North Carolina.

The caps sell for about \$20 each in the United States. The universities, through licensing agreements, make about \$1.50 per cap. Apparel companies like Champion and Starter, which market the caps, make a bundle from them. So do retailers. When all the parasites finish pocketing their shares, very little is left for the workers who actually make the caps.

Workers are paid only about 8 cents for each \$20 cap they make. Rodríguez is paid about \$40 a week after overtime, about half what she needs to meet basic expenses.

Bolivian army faces strike

The Bolivian government has called out the army to break a week-long general strike. Some 3,000 coca growers have been blocking roads since the Bolivian Central Workers union (COB) declared a general strike Apr. 1 to demand higher wages, and four have been killed by the army and police.

Labour Govt. cashes out from Mersey Docks

Now that the Mersey dockers have capitulated, the Labour government has sold its 14% shareholding in Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, touching off a stock run that raised the value of Mersey's directors by nearly £200,000.

The only losers from the deal appear to be the 500 dockers sacked in September 1995 for refusing to cross a picket line. They waged an international campaign against the company for over two years, only settling in January this year. Shop stewards had hoped that the new Labour government would use its stake in the company to push for their reinstatement. However, Labour remained neutral on the matter.

Koreans choose militancy

Korea's independent labor movement has elected Lee Kap-yong, former head of the mighty association of unions representing workers of Hyundai Group companies, as president of the newly legalized Korean Congress of Trade Unions.

In a post-election interview, Lee said, "I consider the tripartite agreement by representatives of government, labor and management to share the pains of economic difficulties as good as broken because it is only workers who are forced to bear the brunt of the ongoing crisis." Lee pledged to organize industrial actions to fight lay-offs, and to work toward a general strike to restore worker rights list in the last year.

What the *#?!: Mickey Mouse Unionism

A multi-union organizing campaign has launched a newsletter *What the *#?!: Backstage in Orlando's Fantasy World*. Distributed to workers at Universal Studios, Disney World, Sea World and Wet 'N Wild, the paper exposes corporate welfare and other Disney secrets and lambastes working conditions. You can find it on the web at www.what-the.org

And don't forget the IWW's site at www.iww.org

Support Actions

Victorian unions have endorsed a mass strike around the 6th of May, which the Trades Council of Victoria expects will bring industries to a near halt.

The Queensland Trades and Labour Council has ruled out secondary boycott action at the moment, as they're afraid of the harsh labour laws this government has introduced which can completely destroy a union for taking such action. However, a meeting of forty unions representing 300,000 Queensland members voted to provide financial aid to the sacked workers.

The ITF has called on ship owners to divert their cargoes from Australian ports operated by Patrick Stevedores and have warned that owners who ignore their call may face industrial trouble as a result. However, the ITF was almost immediately served with a temporary injunction against solidarity actions by the British courts (where it is headquartered). It had been negotiating with two shipping companies, Contship and the Mediterranean Shipping Company, to persuade them not to use Patrick's facilities in Australia, and had secured a tentative agreement with Mediterranean before the injunction was issued. The ITF said it would obey the injunction while challenging it-

in court, but suggested the injunction might provoke affiliated unions to take stronger industrial action on their own initiative.

Japanese dock workers have included support for the MUA in their spring offensive after a mass meeting on the 8th of April. They will strike for 48 hours. The All-Japan Seamen's Union has donated one million yen (US\$770,000) to the MUA to assist the families of the sacked wharfies.

Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union on the west coast of the USA were arrested April 8th during protests in support of the MUA. Some 50 picketers demonstrated outside the Australian consulate building in San Francisco, including officials from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Sailors Union of the Pacific. When consular officials refused to meet with them, ILWU President Brian McWilliams and other ILWU and SUP officials were arrested for blockading the door of the consulate.

The biggest trade union in the Netherlands has called on the shipping line P&O Nedlloyd not to use Patrick Stevedores.

Up-to-date news of the dispute can be found on the Maritime Union of Australia's home page: <http://mua.tcp.net.au>

— Will Kemp

May Day Greetings from Sweden

With these few lines the Central Organisation of Sweden's Workers, the SAC, sends 1st May greetings of solidarity to the IWW and its members both in the US and elsewhere around the world.

We syndicalists are always at loggerheads with the capitalists but there is one fundamental issue where there reigns total agreement, namely that those who control the means of production, its wealth and profits also wield the decisive power in society. There starts and ends all agreement.

Our ideological theory is proved again and again when we see that international capitalism decides upon the unfair distribution of this wealth, the appropriate term for this is of course full scale theft or massive organised crime.

It may well be that we enter a post-industrial era but the fight for fair distribution of wealth, for the right and the responsibility for every individual to actively partake in the affairs of society is still the same. Neither should we let ourselves be confused by terminology like information society. There is still production, distribution and consumption of goods and services where some get a lot, others get nothing and very a very few make decisions affecting the lives of the greater majority.

The struggle goes on between, on the one hand, criminal capitalism which can never satisfy the material and spiritual needs of the population and on the other hand the workers efforts to change society where production for need and not for profit is always in focus and where everyone is afforded the opportunity to participate in the decisionmaking processes.

Both the SAC and the IWW share the same visions of a better society where individual freedom is combined with communal or collective responsibility. Together with other libertarian socialist workers organisations we work to be a source of resistance to the reigning capitalist hegemony carrying with us the seeds for a new society.

Capitalism is approaching dictatorial and despotic proportions as time goes on, cloaked in terms of free market liberalism, flexibility and deregulation. Meanwhile the little control the parliamentary form of democracy has over society's financial in-

stitutions and policies is freely and permanently handed over to the economic powers. Things are getting worse, more and more are being pushed to the wall. But as Joe Hill might have put it in less tragic circumstances: "Don't moan, Organise!"

Now as the century comes to a close it is appropriate to draw up a balance sheet over the successes and failures of the labour movement in general and specifically of the syndicalist and libertarian socialist stream. With the final and, hopefully, the total collapse of authoritarian communism and the blatant failure of reformist social democracy the time is ripe for a broad reawakening of the libertarian socialist ideals and methods held by, amongst others, the IWW and the SAC. Even from the very early days there has been impulses back and forth over the Atlantic with Swedish emigrants who were active wobblers in the US and also how those who returned to Sweden injected new energy into the SAC.

It is with some pride that we can say that relations between the SAC and the IWW have always been based upon mutual respect and trust. This is a tradition we shall always uphold.

We look forward to meeting with delegates from the IWW at our coming congress and equally look forward to more intensive and extensive co-operation in the near future.

Long live international solidarity
The SAC, Sweden
through
Kieran Casey, International secretary
(The SAC, formed in 1910, is a syndicalist workers organisation organising all wage-earners. We call for an end to wage slavery, the workers take-over and subsequent management of production and for the creation of society based on principles of federalism, direct democracy and individual freedom. The SAC has about 10,000 members)





The Wobbly



News from IU 330-Construction Workers

Letter from the UK:

After more years than I care to remember working as a scaffolder I was fortunate to obtain employment as an instructor with an organization training young workers in the art of scaffolding practices. The amount of young workers coming here for training is amazing when you consider the pitiful wage they are paid. After initial training the drop out rate from the course is roughly 80%. The majority realizing that a better way of earning their slave wage may be possible on terra-firma and in better conditions that can be found on site, up to your armpits in shit and mud and living in crap conditions provided by the bosses.

On most sites here in the UK organized labour in the construction industry is practically nil and this is the reason for the low wages and the increasing rise in death and injury prevalent throughout the industry.

Fortunately we do have an organization here that is run by rank-and-file trade unionists called the "Construction Safety Campaign" and they take on board and assist any worker and family struggling to gain compensation for deaths and injuries received while working in the industry. The campaign is at the moment calling for a complete ban on asbestos, much to the annoyance of the bosses and the Canadian authori-

ties from where most of the asbestos in use in the UK comes...

Yours in Solidarity,
John F.

Portland IU330 Branch Takes on Coordination

Ian reports:

Portland IU330 Branch just got some communication infrastructure together for Building Construction Wobs. This includes a POBox (IWW IU330, POB 33674, Portland, Or 97292) and a toll free phone line (1-888-790-8809).

So now all you road weary 330's have a number to call with your reports or pisses and moans. Something happen on the job? Report it! You aren't getting your GOB or Industrial Worker? We see to it that you get it. Behind on your dues? We got delegates.

We intend to act as a clearing house for information, literature distribution and whatever else comes up. (maybe even organizing!) We are currently developing IU330 literature, but sure could use some help in this department. So call with ideas or what-not.

Locally most of the electricians are moving out as the wait on the books is about comparable to the line at the Department of Motor Vehicles on a Saturday.

On the Road?

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

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

IU 330 Delegates:

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

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

USA

Asheville, NC: John 704-258-4879

Boston: Mark Dupont 508-584-9881

Butte: Dennis Georg 406-494-5837 e-mail hotstick14@aol.com

Cape May Courthouse, NJ: Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Courthouse, NJ

Detroit: Jason 313-832-4074

Denver: Bob Madsen 303-823-6091

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

Monterey, CA: Ray Brown, 1240 3rd St. 93940

Portland, OR: Steve 503-408-8809

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 IU330 Hot-line tollfree at

888-790-8809 and leave a message. We'll call you back! Or mail to POB 33674, Portland, Oregon 97292, USA. E-mail to obu@teleport.com

U.S. to ban salting?

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill which would allow bosses to refuse to hire union activists by a 2-vote margin. President Clinton has said he would veto the bill if it reaches his desk, saying it undermines basic worker rights to organize and could lead to discrimination against union members.

Unions have increasingly turned to "salting" - encouraging union workers to hire onto non-union jobs in order to organize them from within - in response to the enormous hurdles imposed on union organizing under U.S. anti-labor law. Under existing law, an estimated 10,000 workers are fired every year in retaliation for their union efforts.

Chrysler workers wildcat

About 1,400 workers wildcatted at the start of an afternoon shift April 3 after three UAW local officials were disciplined in connection with a brief work stoppage two weeks earlier over Chrysler's contracting-out of their work. The Sterling Heights, Michigan, plant employs 2,800 people on two shifts.

UAW Local 1700 President Larry Patterson and skilled-trades committeeman Herman Harris were fired April 9 for "leading an unauthorized work stoppage," and another 14 union members were given suspensions ranging from 10 to 30 days.

Genetic Screening, Gene Harvesting, and Fertility

Biotechnology Threatens Working People

"Sorry, Mr. Smith, we can't offer you the job."

"What's the problem? You need workers and I have the experience."

"Yeah. But our genetic screening showed that you're susceptible to several types of cancer."

"That has nothing to do with this job."

"It has everything to do with insurance premiums. The insurance company would classify you as 'high risk.' Management just doesn't want to pay the extra premiums. We hope you have better luck elsewhere."

"How am I supposed to have better luck when companies are all using the same genetic screening test?"

"I'm very sorry, Mr. Smith. I feel your pain. It's just company policy."

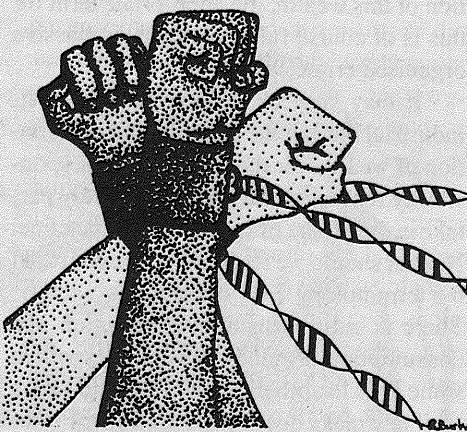
There's something wrong with this conversation. Why is it unlikely to happen? It's not because corporations won't use genetic screening. Researchers are giving more and more information to insurance companies about who could catch what disease. Nor is this conversation an unlikely event because companies are too moral to use genetic information when hiring. The reason that you will probably never hear that you are being passed over because of genetic screening is that corporations fear lawsuits if they tell you the truth. A much more likely scenario is Mr. Personnel manager telling Mr. Smith that the genetic test had nothing to do with his not getting the job.

As researchers furiously seek to uncover genetic codes which show predisposition to various diseases, public relations scam artists prepare news clips assuring us that it's to improve our health care. Supposedly, by knowing who is susceptible to what, medical researchers will be able to prescribe preventive care.

But will preventive care serve everyone equally? Or will its benefits go to the elite while the rest of us hear a different story? "Sorry, that type of treatment is not covered

by this HMO." "Sorry, but your insurance policy is being canceled." "Sorry, but we will not be able to hire you."

As issues of genetic screening make the news in the next few years, they will be accompanied by politicians bemoaning ge-



netic discrimination and swearing that they will enact legislation to prevent bias based on genetic tests. Such laws will probably be as effective as those that ban sexism and racism in hiring. (Don't hold your breath waiting for jails to be filled with employers who break the law.)

Genetic discrimination will affect more than a tiny percentage who contract rare diseases. For example, sickle cell trait is found in 10.0% of African-Americans, though only 0.2% contract the disease. Since many, many more working people carry genes for diseases than will actually contract them, a very large number can be victims of discrimination.

Biotechnology includes the intertwined issues of genetic screening, genetic engineering, worldwide trade in human genetic material, patenting of seeds and other life forms, and the monopolization of food production. Just as the biotech industry claims that genetic screening holds miracle cures, they promise great wonders will come from

research on cloning and fertilization.

"Good morning Ms. Jones. You have a healthy litter of six. If all of you pose for some pictures, the diaper company will give you this, the baby food company will give you that, and the University of Biobusiness will give the entire litter four years of free indoctrination. Now smile for the camera as we explain how each zygote was spliced with a gene carrying the respect-for-authority trait."

In the context of disastrous overpopulation and millions of children in the world roaming streets because they have no family, the orgy of TV coverage of human litter births is one of the more obscene spectacles on the tube. We can only wonder why they are so desperate for us to believe that having six fertility drug babies at a time is somehow good. Is artificial fertilization merely to ensure that childless white couples can be spared the pain of adopting a brown child, the agony of adopting a yellow child, or the utter horror of adopting a (gasp!) black child? Or is the transparent racism of those who fund fertilization research surpassed by even more sinister motivations? Do they fantasize a brave new world where men with genetic traits judged to be positive for the work force are selected to impregnate women chosen to be breeding machines for capital?

But the greatest threat posed by biotechnology is to indigenous peoples whose cultures evolved long before there was an owning class and laboring class.

Today, when capitalist culture has infested every corner of the globe, native cultures are being destroyed at one of the most rapid rates in history. The medical industry wants this extermination slowed for a bit. It has figured out that some indigenous peoples have genetic structures which cause resistance to certain diseases. Does this make them dedicated to preserving native peoples so that their genes will always

be available for extraction?

Not exactly. Marching in line with corporations who fund them, medical researchers have figured out how to extract genetic material from native peoples and preserve it long after the donors have departed. Thus was born the Human Genome Diversity Project. It loudly proclaims the great medical benefits it will reap for mankind by "harvesting" genes from peoples across the globe before they mysteriously disappear or blend into surrounding genetic structures.

Of course, once genetic material is freeze dried, big business will no longer have any need for its donors. The Human Genome Diversity Project lays the foundation for the final extermination of indigenous peoples who have managed to survive to the end of the twentieth century.

Many believe that the threat of biotechnology is not due to some inherently evil nature of genetic knowledge, but because knowledge gained to serve corporate greed is inevitably used as a weapon against any who stand in the way of corporate expansion. In a different world, we might welcome information on gene structure and disease prediction (though it is difficult to imagine how this information can possibly be more beneficial than simply giving people food, shelter and medical care).

Environmentalists from across the US will be getting together July 17 - 19 for the "First Grassroots Gathering on Biodevastation: Genetic Engineering." Hosted by the Gateway Green Alliance, Pure Food Campaign and the Edmonds Institute, the gathering will be in St. Louis, home of Monsanto, the most powerful single player in the US biotechnology industry. The first group to become a cosponsor was the St. Louis branch of the IWW. If you want to find out more about the Gathering on Genetic Engineering, call the Gateway Greens at 314-727-8554 or send an e-mail to fitzdon@aol.com See you in St. Louis.

— Don Fitz

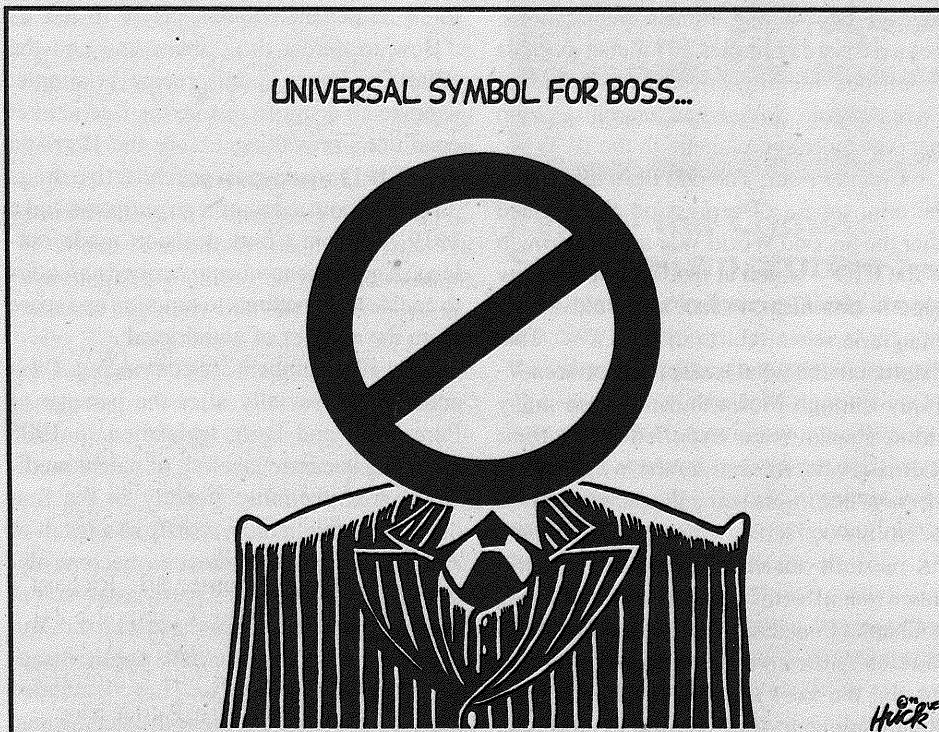
Union-Busting 'Friends'...

continued from page 1

parent, Peter Rittenhouse talked to Jamie, telling him that he would deal with the matter. Jamie believed that the unfortunate incident was settled when he went home at the end of his shift.

On March 25th, when Jamie was next scheduled to work, he was met by Alexis Buss, an IWW organizer. Rittenhouse had called her about what happened Monday evening, and had also called the other front desk staffers asking if they were available to replace Jamie that night. Jamie was bewildered by this as he had the impression that everything had been settled. When Jamie came into his boss' office, he was told that the parent had complained and that Friends Center Child Care was upset. Consequently Jamie was to be suspended with pay, pending an "investigation." Jamie asked if the parent wanted an apology and offered to talk to her to clear up any bad feelings. Rittenhouse was not enthusiastic about this course of action, but Jamie wrote an apology for raising his voice anyway and offered it as good-faith gesture to resolve the misunderstanding.

Jamie's suspension was discussed at the scheduling meeting of the front desk staff on March 29th. The group was upset by the suspension and their boss' failure to back front desk staff when they tried to fulfill their duties, and unanimously decided that the suspension was unreasonable and refused to alter their schedule to accommodate it. Peter Rittenhouse retaliated against the front desk staffers by issuing a memo which changed long-established working conditions - including informing them he was now going to make their schedule, instead of them scheduling themselves. The union disputes his right to do this, and has made



the bosses aware that any change in working conditions must be negotiated.

Jamie Graham met with Rittenhouse again March 20th, accompanied by Alexis and Susan Phillips, another front desk staffer. Jamie expressed disbelief that he was being suspended, and Rittenhouse said that he was considering termination. During this meeting Rittenhouse said the front desk staff were not "security," but rather "greeters," even though their job description clearly states that they are "responsible for reception desk as well as security of the complex." The title "greeters" had never been a part of the vocabulary of their job description, and it was definitely not the attitude the

Friends Center Corporation had when dealing with homeless persons using the bathroom, nor was this the policy when the memorandum urged workers to stop everyone coming in for child care. When Susan asked if he had discussed the incident with other persons who worked the front desk to give the incident context, Rittenhouse said that wasn't necessary. Jamie offered to try the Quaker process of conflict mediation. Rittenhouse refused to explore any other option than termination, and fired Jamie two days later.

Jamie has never been informed by Rittenhouse of any other failing in his job performance before the 25th of March. In

fact, Jamie has received praise on several occasions during over a year of faithful and reliable service to the Friends Center. His kind and concerned manner has won him praise from tenants, co-workers, visitors and even Rittenhouse himself.

The union delegation asked for all information from the "investigation." Rittenhouse refused to do so and only released the complaint and his own entry into Jamie's personnel file. After this meeting, the weekday front desk receptionist, one of the custodians and a staff member in child care contacted Mr. Rittenhouse to urge that Jamie Graham not be fired.

But Jamie was fired anyway. Fired without any other disciplinary options considered. Fired without any previous record of wrongdoing. Fired for doing his job. And union members can't help but think that the Friends Center has taken one of its last opportunities to fire a pro-union employee before a grievance procedure is negotiated.

Tenants of the Friends Center, concerned members of the progressive community, and members of the IWW have beseeched the Friends Center Corporation to take advantage of the wealth of conflict mediation skills available inside of their very building, instead of unilaterally cutting off the livelihood of a worker so many people care about. At press time, the Friends Center has not yet agreed to reconsider their firing; in fact their attorney responded to organizer Alexis Buss that, "The Friends Center will not reinstate Jamie Graham." Members of the union are now considering their options (the front desk staff continue to refuse to work Jamie's shifts), and are heartened to see support for conflict mediation grow from people who use the Friends Center building.

Wobblers and other concerned people can help reinstate Jamie Graham by calling Peter Rittenhouse, executive director of the Friends Center at 215/724-7191 and John Blanchard, Friends Center Board of Directors chair at 215/241-7098. For updates on the situation, call 215/724-1925 or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org.

Demand labor programs

The Union Producers and Programmers Network (UPPNET) is calling on unionists to demand a national weekly TV show on PBS and a weekly radio program on NPR. From Pittsburgh to Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles, PBS/NPR affiliates refuse to air programs that focus on labor, while airing hours of business shows every week.

"Millions of our tax dollars are provided to PBS and NPR to make sure that we have public broadcasting," UPPNET notes, "yet these networks also refuse to have any regular national labor programming. At the same time, the management continue to support further commercialization as well as ads and moves toward privatization of the entire public broadcasting network."

UPPNET suggests letters to local PBS and NPR outlets protesting their networks' refusal to program labor shows, and is organizing rallies at stations around the country on Labor Day to demand a voice.

For information or to become involved in the campaign, visit www.mtn.org/jsee/uppnet.html or email jsee@csom.umn.edu

Throwing the (other) bums out...

continued from page 4

instant employee-at-will, who can be fired at any time for any or no reason, with no say in work rule changes, benefit policies, etc. Sometimes workers feel they have nothing to lose, and that their "union" conditions so closely resemble having no union that they only thing they have to lose is paying dues.

Decertification petitions must be filed with the NLRB in a window period which begins 90 days and ends 60 days before the collective bargaining agreement expires (120 to 90 days in the health care industry). But if the contract is longer than 3 years in duration, the union can be decertified at any time. Unions can also be decertified if there is no contract after one year of certification.

Another interesting note is that if workers want to replace one AFL-CIO union with another AFL-CIO union, they may be in for a surprise. In order to preserve the fiefdoms in its domain, the AFL-CIO constitution forbids member unions from taking the place of another member union for two years after a decert election has been held. If a decertification went through and workers ended up with no union, the law

says that one full calendar year must pass before another election can be held. But the AFL-CIO doubles that time, so business unions instead scratch each other's backs, pretend like everybody is doing a bang-up job, and pose no threat to each other.

Workers must gather signatures from at least 30 percent of the bargaining unit either on a petition or on cards which state they no longer wish to be represented by the union. At this point, an election will be held which have two choices: union or no union. To have another union on the ballot, authorization cards must be signed for that union by 10 percent or more of the unit. But if the challenging union wishes to make an argument to change the structure of the bargaining unit, it must collect cards from at least 30 percent of the current unit.

Workers can not simply petition to replace one union with another - the NLRB insists on putting "no union" on the ballot. I find it very telling that American law does not allow workers to simply change unions, and that trying to bring in another union means the boss gets a free opportunity to harass workers. It is unlawful for the boss to materially support or give any aid to a decertification committee, but the boss may campaign whole-heartedly against the union with captive meetings, letters, the whole gamut. It is unlawful for a union to levy fines against members for participating in decerts (NLRB v. Molders Local 125, 77 LRRM 2067, 1971) but not unlawful to expel members for participating in decerts, so long as the worker's employment at their workplace is not attacked by the union (United Steelworkers of America/Tawas Tube Products, Inc., 58 LRRM 1331, 1965)

Trying to replace a bad union with a better union cannot begin with the filing of a decert petition. Just as workers must learn to act like a union before a certification election in order to win, workers who have been accustomed to business unionism must

learn to effectively stand together to better their conditions in spite of bad representation. It's a tough road, since not only will the boss resist, but the union might also take notice of their own top-heavy authority being challenged from the shop floor and try to make it difficult on the workers. But it is well worth the trip, because a victory means getting power into the hands of you and your co-workers, instead of having official-types far removed from your workplace calling the shots.

The IWW is structured so that regular workers learn to run the affairs of their union, and can turn to the rest of the union for help whenever they need it. If more unions were run by the rank and file, I bet we'd be hard-pressed to find decertification petitions in the NLRB's dockets. Sadly, it is not uncommon now, but as long as there are workers ready to stand up to bad bosses and bad unions, there is hope.

— Alexis Buss

Wobbling the Works aims to help workers use their meager protections under U.S. labor law to make it safer to organize and undertake direct action for better conditions. If there is an issue you would like to see addressed, write FW Buss at PO Box 42531, Philadelphia PA 19101, or email phillyiww@iww.org

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Images of Radicalism

Paul Buhle and Edmund Sullivan, eds., **Images of American Radicalism**. Christopher Publishing House, 552 pages, \$60, hardcover.

Readers may wonder how a \$60 book is being reviewed in a working-class periodical, knowing damn well what with buying the groceries, paying the utilities and the landlord, those working-stiffs who can fork over half a C-note for a book are few and far between. It is one of the ironies of the system we live under that material of cultural quality is priced out of the hands of those who can benefit by it, while we are fed crap via the boob tube and the video cassette stores. Most of those who can afford sixty smackers for a book happen to already be in positions where they will not let ideas get in the way of upward mobility, and the system continues to remain secure.

However, this is a book that cannot be ignored by readers of this paper, and with the hope that this worthy tome will find its way into the public library system we should urge our uninitiated friends and relatives to give it a look.

The editors of this book have done a magnificent job of presenting an important facet of history that is totally ignored by the conventional channels of communication. Wherein are the visual artifacts of those who dedicated their lives in the hopes of bringing about a better human society in which to live. Ranging from cartoons, comic strips, posters, badges, campaign buttons and what have you, all are the production of over a century of world-savers. From the mid-19th Century, utopian communities up through the growing pains of the union movement to the anti-Viet Nam war protests with the last thing entitled *Toward the Future*.

All the ideologies are represented here, from the various socialisms and communisms, anarchists, Wobblies, minority rights struggles, feminism and ecology. The chapter headings give an idea of the scope of this book. Chapter One, *Green Dreamers*, deals with the utopian movements of the past century. Chapter Two, *Class and Culture*, deals with the early strikes and embryonic birth pains of the union movement.

The *Golden Age of Radicalism* tells of the beginnings of American socialism, the Wobblies, Farmer-Labor movements, Hobohemia and immigrants and racial minorities. Besides a dozen pages dealing with the Wobblies, the IWW keeps popping up through the rest of the book, particularly in the immigrant struggles within the union movement. Here will be found the artwork of some of our esteemed cartoonists of the past like Ralph Chaplin, Ernst Riebe, Taisto Luoma, Bill Henkelman, along with four

examples by your reviewer., not to mention the unnamed artist featured on the front page of one of our Finnish publications. Prominent are examples of Yiddish journals of various ideological stripes, including *Freie Arbeiter Stimme*, an anarchist group that was quite sympathetic to the IWW.

Chapter Four, *The Old Left*, deals with the atmosphere of repression that ensued after the Second World War and the growth of the CIO – which at that time was a new hope in unionism, in fact some old-timers thought it was a rebirth of the IWW. This chapter covers what transpired between V-J Day through McCarthyism, when many union locals were expelled from their internationals, as well as the witch hunts, the most notorious being the persecution of the Hollywood screenwriters who had turned out patriotic material during the recently ended war effort. The politics of race leads in Chapter Five, *Past, Present and Future*. In addition to the civil rights movement, here are also the early protests against the Cold War, leading to the tumultuous anti-Viet Nam War movement of the sixties and seventies.

True to the old Wobbly axiom, "An injury to one is a concern of all," movements for liberations and for a better world cannot be isolated within one geographical area. An awareness of struggle in other countries cannot be ignored and consequently there arose support movements for the struggles in places like Central America and South Africa to mention but two. The last two sub-chapters, *Rethinking the Radical Past* and *Toward the Future*, conclude this book with an undeniable note of optimism.

Outstanding anti-war figures like A.J. Muste, Dorothy Day and David Dellinger share mention with the likes of Abbie Hoffman and the Beat poets. Many labor leaders and activists, too numerous to mention, are prominent. The 552 pages include 52 in color, with just enough explication to place each item within its context. There are a few minor inaccuracies which can be inevitable in such an ambitious project, but those are well compensated by the overall scope of this book.

If you are fortunate enough to be able to spend the sixty smackers, go to it. The price is but the equivalent of three bottles of decent bourbon or a couple of cases of lager. It is doubtful that this will be found in most bookstores so you will have to hunt for it. Put a bug on the bottom of your local librarian to stock this book. If you belong to a social club or a decent union local, this can be a collective contribution. But whatever you do, give this book a peek.

— Carlos Cortez

The Drug War

Robert Dowd, **The Enemy Is Us**. The Hefty Press, \$12.95 paper.

In his subtitle, the author, a retired air force lieutenant colonel, offers to tell us: "How to defeat drug abuse and end the 'War On Drugs.'" His recipe is simple: legalize all drugs to restore the free market conditions prevailing before the Harrison Act of 1914 made most psychoactive drugs illegal without a doctor's prescription and a 1919 Supreme Court decision made out-laws of physicians who prescribed narcotics to enable their patients to function and spare them the agonies of withdrawal.

Dowd's numbers are convincing. Drug addiction, especially after the passage of Pure Food and Drug legislation in 1906 requiring accurate labeling of patent medicines, was declining steadily in the first decades of this century, partly as a result of Americans' unwillingness to become dependent on any drug and partly as a result of growing opprobrium for those who did. But to the reformers of the day, public disapproval was not enough. They demanded legislative action, starting with edicts against opium trafficking in the newly conquered Philippines and culminating in the Noble Experiment of Prohibition, enacted in 1919.

Yet as Dowd points out, decades of law enforcement efforts against drugs, here and abroad, have accomplished virtually nothing. The number of drug addicts in the United States, allowing for increases in population, is three times what it was in 1914, when the first drug prohibition was enacted. Allowing for inflation, cocaine is now cheaper than it was when it was legal. The promise of a Drug Free America by 1995 in 1986's "get tough" legislation has turned into a pathetic joke, while supply side suppression has been a total failure. As Dowd notes, "The U.S.A. is no closer to eliminating the supplies of heroin, cocaine, or hashish than it was 10 years ago, or 20 years ago, or 75 years ago." In the meantime, the casualties in the Drug War continues to mount at the rate of 10,000 a year.

As the colonel sees it, there is only one thing to do. Just as Americans repealed alcohol prohibition in 1933, not because they thought alcohol wasn't bad, but because they had come to see that the effects of Prohibition on society were worse, they must also repeal drug prohibition, not because drugs are not bad but because the effects of drug prohibition are worse. Half measures like Medical Marijuana will not suffice because they do not address the worst evil connected with drugs: the crime arising from the unbridled operation of a totally illegal market that encourages the worst human passions and thrives on greed and violence. Going from the worst human

passions and thrives on greed and violence. Going from the abstract to the concrete, Dowd depicts the horrifying effects of drug money on poor communities where "the amoral relationship between juveniles and drug dealers is one of the most destructive social situations ever experienced by the American nation"; a relationship that would end overnight, he predicts, if drug prohibition were repealed.

While Dowd is arguing from libertarian principles, his latent puritanism leads him to undermine his own thesis. Statements like

Reviews

"The government should not intervene unless the individual's actions injure someone else or place that person in harm's way" provide aid and comfort to prohibitionists who claim they are merely trying to prevent exactly that harm. If it is legitimate to focus "our efforts ... on persuading or *coercing* (italics mine) that individual not to be a {drug} user," state power is needed, and prohibition is an obvious way to exert it.

While Dowd insists that drug use should not be a crime, he also suggests that "incorrigible drug addicts ... be removed from society and placed in disciplinary camps until rehabilitated." May we ask why? Is just being an "incorrigible drug addict" a crime in the colonel's America? If "the personal and social consequences of recreational drug use are such that no responsible person would defend the practice," who not simply ban it and reimpose prohibition for alcohol as well?

To great effect, Dowd cites the one successful anti-drug campaign as his model: that being waged against tobacco, which has achieved a reduction in adult smoking from 67 percent to 25 percent without sending any smokers to jail. Yet he cannot resist returning to his postulate that "Government at any level should not arbitrarily intervene in a person's life unless the individual's actions are harmful ... to the welfare of the community." A whole truckload of prohibition could be driven through this loophole to justify persecution of smokers whose second-hand smoke is a clear menace to the "community" of nonsmokers. Are we to open disciplinary camps for these "incorrigible drug addicts" too?

In the final chapters, the colonel is optimistic that his prescription will soon be adopted and baffled by the hysteria that prevails in this area. He does not see, however, that the War on Drugs is a Holy War, a Crusade Against Evil, the "last best hope" for authoritarians of every stripe of making America into the docile and joyless state they dream of.

On a broader level, we may also inquire why the author, like most of the combatants in this struggle, has not asked himself why so many of our fellow Americans are in such pain that they are medicating themselves with so many substances, legal and illegal. Until this question is seriously posed and honestly answered, we can expect our drug problem to grow steadily worse, no matter what drug policy measures are enacted or repealed.

— John Gorman

Higher education or job training?

Most colleges seem to be based on the principle that the purpose of education is to train workers for society. Why do you think arts and music are always cut first in the budget cuts.... then libraries? What the educational institutions are willing to sacrifice in budget cuts works its way down to what capitalism is least willing to give up.

Let me suggest that the student struggle for an *education* is the struggle of the education workers in the institution. Teachers should be able to teach (I come from the knowledge for knowledge's sake school of thought) and not merely train workers. Students should be able to learn not solely basics, but what they find interesting and where their creative and intuitive nature may lead them.

If we are serious about taking things over, then the education system must become a worker self-managed system with neither students being pawns of teachers,

not teachers employees of student, and certainly no one under the influence of the capitalist who would lash us into serfdom.

To illustrate what I'm talking about, UPS is expanding their hub here in Louisville, KY, adding another 6,000-plus what they call good-paying jobs. They'll work your ass off for 8 bucks an hour breaking your neck as a package handler on a fast and furious sorting line. But as part of the deal, the local colleges are opening up a campus nearby and adjusting class schedules so "education will not interfere with students working the overnight shifts at UPS."

If you think the education system is accountable to students (as it should be, along with being accountable to other education workers) or even the notion that they are accountable to the "taxpayer" you're dreaming.

It is vital to building the One Big Union that especially on the university level, the

common interests of students and other educational workers be organized and solid. Start envisioning how schools really should function, and you'll see an Industrial Union. X331532

Union-busting costs

\$1.8 million, give or take. That's how much the University of California has spent on attorney fees over the last three years to thwart union-organizing efforts by the system's 9,000-odd teaching assistants. That's at least \$200 per teaching assistant, paid out to high-priced lawyers to make sure the university's lowest-paid workers stay that way.

Last year, after teaching assistants held quickie strikes on five UC campuses, the state legislature barred the university from spending money on outside attorneys for union busting, but Governor Wilson vetoed the measure.

Seizing the Airwaves

Seizing the Airwaves: A Free Radio Handbook, edited by Wobblies Ron Sakolsky and Stephen Dunifer, has just been published by AK Press. The book chronicles the explosion of unlicensed micro-broadcasters in the United States, and shows how activists are turning to free radio in an effort to break through corporate control of the airwaves and other means of communication. Wobblies have been extremely active in this movement, and six of the contributors (including this paper's editor) are present or former IWW members.

New Arrivals

Queen of Bohemia: the Life of Louise Bryant by Mary Dearborn

Known to many as the wife of the radical journalist John Reed, Bryant was a pioneering foreign correspondent in her own right, a fervent crusader for social causes, and an unabashed champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50

The Home Front and Beyond: American Women in the 1940s by Susan Hartmann

The 1940s held "the seeds of change which worked a deeper transformation in women's consciousness, aspirations, and opportunities a generation or so later." "Packed with new data about women in military service, the work force, and domestic life." \$6.50

Race Rebels: Culture, Politics and the Black Working Class by Robin D. G. Kelley

Kelley's lucid interpretation of the way black working class culture has shaped everyday life and politics makes this indispensable reading for anyone who wishes to understand twentieth-century America. \$13.50

Reconstructing Babylon: Essays on Women and Technology

Maintaining that women must resist the biomedical and reproductive technologies that increasingly encumber their lives, the authors offer a series of toughly argued analyses of reproductive, health, and environmental issues facing women. \$7

Olga

Seven years a heroine of the workers' cause, Olga Benario was to spend seven more its martyr, before being brutally murdered in Ravensbruck in 1942 \$8

Rediscovering Forgotten Radicals: British Women Writers 1889-1939

Reintroduces the work of writers and activists whose texts, and often whose very lives, were passionately engaged in the major political issues of their times but who have been displaced from both the historical and literary record. \$7

Reds or Rackets? : The making of radical and conservative unions on the waterfront. by Howard Kimeldorf \$10

Bloody Dawn: Christiana Riot and Racial Violence in the Antebellum North by Thomas Slaughter
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The Resistance: 10 years of pop culture that shook the world by Armond White

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

Books for Rebel Workers

One Big Union. by IWW.

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

The General Strike.

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

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

by Staughton Lynd.

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

IWW Organizing Manual (2nd Ed)

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

Bread & Roses, \$2

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

A New Union Vision

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

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition)

103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

Fellow Workers, Remember!

At least 1,300 Wobblies were locked up under 'espionage' and 'criminal syndicalism' frame-ups between 1917 and 1920; this collection documents their plight and IWW efforts to fight the persecution. \$5

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Workers' Culture

Juice is Stranger than Friction.

by T-Bone Slim.

Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected for the first time. \$10

Canadian IWW Songbook

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

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid.

by Carlos Cortez.

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

The Iron Heel by Jack London

Initially banned in many parts of America, the story of a war between capitalist oligarchy and a socialist underground \$6

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

Walter Reuther called this labor novel "the best single organizational document ever written." \$12

Harlem Glory by Claude McKay

Black life during the Depression and New Deal, drawing on the author's experiences in the IWW and socialist movement. \$12

Images of Labor. compiled by John Gorman

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

Education for Struggle: American Labor Colleges of the 1920s & 1930s by Richard J. Attelbaugh

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

Schooling for "Good Rebels": Socialist Education for Children in the United States, 1900-1920 by Kenneth Teitelbaum

Explores the weekend schools American socialists organized to teach children about social justice. \$20 (published at \$44.95)

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

An innovative revolutionary magazine that showcased artwork by Robert Minor, Art Young and Pablo Picasso to name a few. 150 illustrations, \$10

Food Not Bombs.

Veggie recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

Break Their Haughty Power.

by Eugene Nelson.

Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend. 28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and

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Labor History

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

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Edited by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

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

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

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.

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

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

Working the Waterfront.

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

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Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragoza Vargas.

Compelling history of the struggles of Mexican workers who migrated to the Midwest between the First World War and the Great Depression. \$15

More of the Shame...

Borders won't negotiate, UFCW waffles

UFCW-represented workers at Borders at the World Trade Center have become the third store (out of four which have voted in a union) to approve a collective bargaining agreement. Like the UFCW contracts in Des Moines and Chicago, the World Trade Center Borders agreement contains no pay raise. It was narrowly approved 19 in favor, 14 against, on the heels of a previous contract vote in February defeated 47-4.

Meanwhile, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Philadelphia), workers have moved to decertify UFCW Local 1776. Chris Iwane, a negotiating committee member, helped to organize the decert.

"After the events surrounding the third rejection of our contract," Iwane explains, "I became convinced that personal and political concerns of UFCW Local 1776 were taking precedence over the needs and wishes of the bargaining unit employees at the Bryn Mawr Borders. In that one week I saw activity initiated by our negotiator which saddened and angered me. In short, he tried to force an unpopular contract on us and his tactics included giving false information, locking negotiating committee members out of the union hall ... and creating an atmosphere of intimidation to scare employees into approving the contract.

"I helped organize the campaign to decertify Local 1776 as our representative for purposes of collective bargaining. The petition was delivered to the NLRB on March 13 and, as of this writing, is on hold pending the resolution of the ULP charge filed by the Local against Borders."

The contract that Local 1776 put to a vote was defeated 4 votes "no," 1 vote "abstain." Did the Borders suddenly only have five workers? No, UFCW officials unilaterally decided to limit the voting to "union members only" against the wishes of many shopfloor workers. Workers were told that they had to apply for membership in order to vote, or be locked out of the union hall (the locking of the door was ordered by local president Wendell Young himself.)

Local 1776, which was certified as the representative of the Bryn Mawr Borders workers on March 11, 1997, waited a full year to the day to file their first unfair labor practice charge against Borders for not negotiating in good faith. Business unions will often file a negotiating in bad faith charge a year later to prevent decertification. The

UFCW's unfair labor practice charge says that Borders "interfered with, restrained and coerced employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7 of the Act." The UFCW filed another similar charge on April 1st.

IW readers will remember that the UFCW's biggest public attack on Borders came in the form of a "Campaign for Neutrality" asking Borders to be neutral when dealing with the union. This effort, deemed ineffective by workers and union officials alike, was abandoned in February.

I attacked the neutrality campaign when it was first waged, and must again reiterate what a wasted opportunity it was to invest thousands of hours and dollars into toothless proclamations the bosses were sure to ignore. Workers' morale and livelihood were under serious attack by Borders. Now a decertification drive is on, initiated by people

Borders Group charged with illegal practices

The American Booksellers Association and 26 independent bookstores have filed an anti-trust lawsuit against Borders Group Inc., its affiliates Borders and Walden Book Co., and Barnes & Noble. The suit alleges that these national chain stores are using their clout with publishers to obtain secret and illegal deals and preferential treatment.

These illegal deals include special, larger discounts on books than are available to independent booksellers, special payments from publishers to cover the chains' advertising expenditures, threatening large returns in order to obtain extra discounts, and other illegal practices.

"The chain stores are getting special deals and discounts from the publishers," ABA executive director Avin Mark Domnitz says. "These discounts are unavailable to the independent book stores no matter how many books they buy."

The lawsuit charges that Borders and Barnes & Noble have set out to drive independent stores out of business, and exact special discounts and payments from publishers to enable them to expand operations that otherwise would be unprofitable. For example, the suit charges that Borders now routinely deducts an extra 3 percent discount off publishers' discount schedules and persuades publishers to simply write off part of their unpaid charges.

who are pro-union. Hopefully an opportunity to do good by the workers at Borders will surface, and they will not forever be poisoned to the idea of organizing.

On April 10, an interesting rewrite of history appeared in the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Ironically, the reporter, Rose DeWolf, wrote the article, "Movie doesn't go by the book: Outcome at area Borders stores not quite as Moore showed it," to fill in the gaps left in Michael Moore's recent movie release "The Big One." (Miriam Fried and I were edited out of the American version, but appeared in the version made for British audiences.) But the reporter repeats easily identifiable falsehoods by Ed Chew, head of organizing for Local 1776.

The most hilarious was his account of the UFCW's legal work on Miriam's case. The article reads, "Chew says the FCWU (sic) helped Fried win a claim for unemployment compensation and sue to get her job back. But, he added, 'she later called to say she was dropping the suit. She didn't want to go back.'" I wish this shameful lie was the truth, but Miriam not only lost her unemployment claim, but she also decided to tell the UFCW that she no longer wanted them to be the charging party on her unfair labor practice claim, and that the IWW would be a more appropriate choice.

What's more, Chew and DeWolf perpetuate the odd notion that a lot of American workers have — which is that they have these things called "rights" and that when

they are fired for a wrong reason or no reason, they can "sue." The fact is without unions we have few rights, and we can't sue for unjust firings. For legal justice we end up at the NLRB, which has extremely conservative standards for determining what constitutes a retaliatory firing, and even more conservative remedies for the wrong done to workers.

That's why the IWW believes in direct action and running our union from the shop floor. Hopefully one day business unions will learn the trick, too, and decertifications will no longer be necessary.

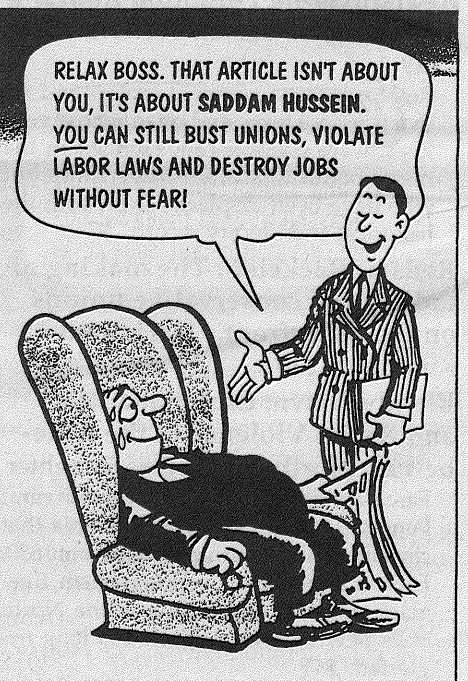
— Alexis Buss

U.S. bosses in looting rampage, study says

The average chief executive officer at America's biggest companies got a 38 percent raise last year while the typical worker received only 2.9 percent. "Executive compensation is out of control," says AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka. "While CEOs get multimillion dollar sweetheart deals, working families suffer downsizings and layoffs."

International Business Machines Corp. CEO Louis Gerstner made \$148 million in compensation and stock options in 1997, or 5,785 times the average worker's salary.

The AFL-CIO has a PayWatch website at www.paywatch.org where people can view its report and compare CEO salaries with their own.



The Working Class and the Employing Class Have Nothing in Common

"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common," the IWW Preamble says. That's the basis of our approach to labor relations and unionism. Let's look at this statement for a second.

It doesn't mean that workers and bosses are a different species, that they don't breathe the same polluted air and drink the same water, though the air and water in a working class neighborhood are a damn site filthier than they are up on the hill. It means that the two classes, which first of all do exist, are in opposition, by their very nature.

What's good for the bosses — cheap labor maximumly controlled and passive — is bad for the workers. What's good for the workers — maximum control over the job, job conditions, objectives and methods, and maximum compensation for out precious time — is death to the bosses, and they will fight it tooth and nail. It's nothing personal, no more than a lion hates a gazelle, it's just a natural, impersonal, economic enmity that can't be gotten around nor safely ignored. It's the principle that rules our lives, capitalist and prole alike.

If a boss gets too chummy with the

workers and tries to be their pal, his/her business will suffer. If the worker gets too palsy with the boss, s/he'll be even more easily exploited and betrayed. Natural enemies, on the impersonal plane of economics. You can belong to the same church and even drink at the same bar, but you can't look out for each others' interests for long without endangering your own. This is pretty simple and obvious to any working stiff that pays attention to daily life. Smart bosses never forget it. It's not esoteric at all, it's pragmatic and common good sense.

What it implies in terms of unionism is very radical, ie: oriented toward the root causes and cures. It implies class solidarity. All workers have the same interests as well as the same class enemy. It implies union democracy. We're in it together and only real rank-and-file control can guide the union steadily and reliably. The only ones we can trust are ourselves, and a union we don't control directly is a very real danger to our interests.

It implies militancy, because it illuminates a situation of ongoing class war (not really too strong a term if you look at the

destruction that results) that must be won to come to an end. We have to fight tooth and nail to defend our interests and our safety.

It's war, fellow workers, and ugly as that is, we're stuck with it and can only go

forward by organizing right and fighting the good fight. The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. It's the obvious common sense truth, and we can't afford to ignore it.

Think it over — Join the IWW...

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

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

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

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*