

# Industrial Worker

JUNE/JULY 1998 #1613, vol. 95 no. 6

\$1.00/75 p

EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## Pickets turn back scab Aussie cargo

As we go to press, Los Angeles longshoremen are in the tenth day of refusing to cross picket lines to unload the Columbus Canada, loaded by Patrick Stevedore scabs in Australia. A picket line of more than 1,000 labor and community activists met the ship May 9, and ILWU Local 13 and 63 longshore workers refused to cross the line at Matson's terminal. The ship retreated to the harbor, and was met with renewed picketing each time it tried to sneak back into port.

Although there were reports that the ship might attempt to unload its scab cargo elsewhere, the Blue Star Line, which owns the ship, evidently realized that it would meet pickets wherever it went. So instead it is seeking a court order to compel ILWU members to unload the scabby cargo.

The ship was the first Patrick scab-loaded ship to arrive on the West Coast of North America. The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents stevedoring companies and shipping conglomerates on the West Coast tried to force longshoremen to work the ship. As a result, Matson gates were locked and no cargo moved by trucks in or out of the terminal until the ship left the dock. Demonstrators chanting "We support the MUA; No scab cargo in L.A." and "MUA here to stay; No scab cargo in L.A." effectively shut operations down.

Four other scab-loaded ships are due to arrive in the U.S. as we go to press, and are sure to receive a warm welcome from Wobblies and other labor activists up and down the coast.

In Osaka, hundreds of Japanese unionists protested the Australian Endeavour to protest the use of scabs labour to work the ship in Australia. The Papua New Guinea Maritime Workers Industrial Union in Port Moresby placed 24 hour bans on two ships which were handled by Patrick scabs.

The CGM Gauguin was diverted from Bombay after dockers unions there warned the vessel would not be worked. Manohar Kotwal of the Transport and Dockworkers' Union said members intended "to show the respect of the Indian dockworkers for the spirit and courage of the Australian wharfies and their union." The vessel was worked by Indonesian dockers under protest who said the ship was badly stowed and unsafe.

Twenty-three ships loaded by Patrick scabs between April 7 and May 4 all face

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## Danish workers fight international capital...

# Three 6s: Danish general strike

The general strike is no longer a slogan, it is a reality. For eleven days, 500,000 Danish workers paralyzed the economy. Virtually the entire private sector went on strike, and public sector workers were beginning to heed calls for a total shutdown. All of this in a country where unions are centralized, and where union demands have been subordinated to the political interests of the social democratic party. Indeed, only when Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmusen, a social democrat, brought the force of state power to bear did the strike end.

Denmark, like the other Scandinavian countries (Sweden and Norway), has prided itself on having developed one of the most advanced welfare states in the world. During the heyday of the welfare state, twenty to

thirty years ago, the Danes enjoyed full employment, high wages, socialized medicine and a graduated income tax that leveled some of the enormous inequalities generated by a capitalist economy. The recent years have seen Denmark trapped in a downward cycle, one that we know all too well in the United States. Multinational corporations have changed the rules of the game by shifting many of their investments into the Third World. In Denmark, unemployment has zoomed upward, real wages have fallen, and income differentials are growing wider. The welfare state is being whittled away, while corporate profits balloon.

This spring the central trade union federation entered into another round of bargaining with the federation of large employ-

ers. As usual, leading union officials contended that they would stand firm, and would extract a contract containing significant gains. As usual, they came back empty-handed, full of regrets but insisting that they had won the best deal possible. The ritual seemed to be proceeding along routine paths, but this time, for the first time since 1956, the rank and file rebelled. The proposed contract was rejected with a 55% No vote.

In the months preceding the contract negotiations, union militants had fashioned a bold program of demands, a program that captured the imagination of the Danish people. The Program of Sixes demanded a sixth week of paid vacation, a 6% pay increase and a six hour day. (Danish workers have already won five weeks of paid vaca-

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## Rebellion of the Lumpen Professoriate:

# UMass part-time faculty organize

It's no secret that a major aspect of the current assault against the global working class is the conversion of well-paid, full-time, long-term work with substantial medical and retirement benefits into low-paid part-time, temporary work with paltry benefits or none at all. For two decades now, in the name of the so called "free market," capitalists have tried to turn the clock back to the early nineteenth century before workers were able to reap the limited but nonetheless genuine fruits of unionization and social spending.

This is especially evident in the case of the most oppressed workers who have been made to suffer through every engineer's disaster from workfare to INS harassment. But until recently no one could anticipate just how deeply the free market assault would advance into traditionally privileged wage-earning strata. Two examples: Since the late 1980s, tens of thousands of middle managers have lost their jobs in a wave of corporate mergers and consequent restructuring. Roughly over the same time period, the computer industry has shifted a substantial percentage of software engineers from stable, long-term salaried employment to precarious, short-term consulting work.

Nowhere has erosion in the conditions of professional and intellectual employment been more pronounced, however, than among college and university teachers. The process takes many forms: growing course loads, increases in maximum class size, merit pay tied to "productivity," attacks on tenure, substitution of top-down management for faculty governance, and so on.

But perhaps the most dramatic expression of the degradation of academic labor is the swelling number of adjunct, or part time, faculty. In the United States, there are more than 400,000 adjunct faculty members, 43% of the total professorial work force. In order to cut costs in an era of state-mandated austerity, public colleges and universities in particular have reduced the number of full-time faculty positions at a time when the undergraduate population has expanded to unprecedented proportions. In their quest



*UMass. Boston part-timers and supporters picket the administration building*

for cheap credit hours, administrators have cultivated an underclass of poorly paid and insecure teachers.

The vast majority of adjunct faculty members are paid on a course by course basis with no guarantee of employment beyond the current term. Since they tend to teach the labor-intensive core and introductory courses that full-time faculty members avoid, their classes demand an enormous commitment of time and effort. Earning an average of around \$2,500 per course, most adjuncts are forced to teach at two or three campuses in order to make ends meet. In fact, the inordinate amount of time they spend commuting from job to job has earned them the nickname "freeway flyers."

Treated like temps, though often teaching year after year at the same institutions, they are rarely given the opportunity to participate in the academic life of their campuses by, for example, voting at department meetings or delivering university-wide lectures. Deprived of basic resources, many adjuncts share claustrophobic group offices or have no office space at all, while few are eligible for university research grants or similar sources of financial support. Few enjoy medical or retirement benefits. For such reasons, the adjunct faculty has acquired another nickname, this one with considerable historical resonance: it has been called the new "lumpen professoriate."

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INDUSTRIAL WORKER  
103 West Michigan Avenue  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870



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## Combined Issue

This issue is a combined June-July number. Regular monthly publication will resume with our next issue, which will go to press July 6th.



## In This Issue...

**Fighting the Klan**

**McDonald's Workers Strike for Dignity**

**May Day, May Day**

**St. Catherine's Day of Action Hits Austerity**

\$1.75 pence UK



Address correction requested



## Eight arrested in Manchester anti-sweatshop action

On April 18, about 35 union and faith-based activists went to the Mall of New Hampshire and handed out leaflets detailing sweatshop abuses by contractors to Nike, Disney, J.C. Penney and other multinationals that sell goods, such as shoes, shirts, toys and caps, in the mall. The leaflets also opposed "free trade" schemes, such as that being hammered out in Chile that weekend, which give big business new "rights," take away workers' rights, and destroy the environment for greed.

Judging by the reaction of the mall manager, the leafletters hit a raw nerve. Eight people were arrested and were arraigned on Criminal Trespass charges.

The arrestees intend to take twin messages to court: The New Hampshire and U.S. constitutions guarantee freedom of speech. No big business corporation has the right to decide when a place is public and when it is private. The urgency of getting the anti-sweatshop message to the consumers at the Mall is such that it is especially important that it be heard now.

The existence of jobs with inadequate wages, intolerable working conditions (and obscenely huge profits for the owners) hurts workers in Indonesia, Nicaragua, Haiti, China, and around the world. North American consumption patterns perpetuate these conditions. These conditions in turn hurt U.S. workers in their pocketbooks by dragging down wages and employment conditions here. Consumers and workers need to keep pressure on the multinational corporations; we need to take control of the world back from big business.

Mall owners had earlier refused permission for the leafletting, claiming that the Mall is private property, and not a place where free speech is allowed. Reporters were not permitted to photograph the event, another breach of free speech rights.

Before the action, participants held a rally at a nearby church where, in addition to learning about sweatshop conditions in Nike, J.C. Penney and Disney plants, they sang songs. Among the songs was the following

### Mayday march in Brisbane

Four Lismore Wobblies went to Brisbane for the Mayday march in a bus organised by members of the wharfies support group. There were more than seven thousand people on the march and the front arrived at Albert park, its destination, quite a while before the back left the starting point! We marched with an excellent banner, which we borrowed from the fellow workers in Sydney, and it was apparently the first time the IWW had marched in Brisbane since 1919.

## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

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

## Around Our Union

one with new words by Arnie Alpert (one of the Mall Eight). He'd like to see it circulated and used by activists wherever it seems appropriate:

### We Don't Want No Sweatshops

(to the tune of the traditional song "Mamma don't allow no guitar playing round here")

We don't want no sweatshop companies here

We don't want no sweatshop companies here

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We don't want no sweatshop companies here

We don't want no forced overtime here (or China)

We don't want no forced overtime here

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We don't want no forced overtime here

We don't want starvation wages here (or Haiti) [repeats]

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We don't want starvation wages here

We don't want no exploitation here (or Nicaragua) [repeats]

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We don't want no exploitation here

We don't want no toxic workplace here (or Indonesia) [repeats]

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We don't want no toxic workplace here

We want a living wage for workers everywhere [repeats]

We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We want a living wage for workers everywhere

We want human rights for workers now

We want human rights for workers now

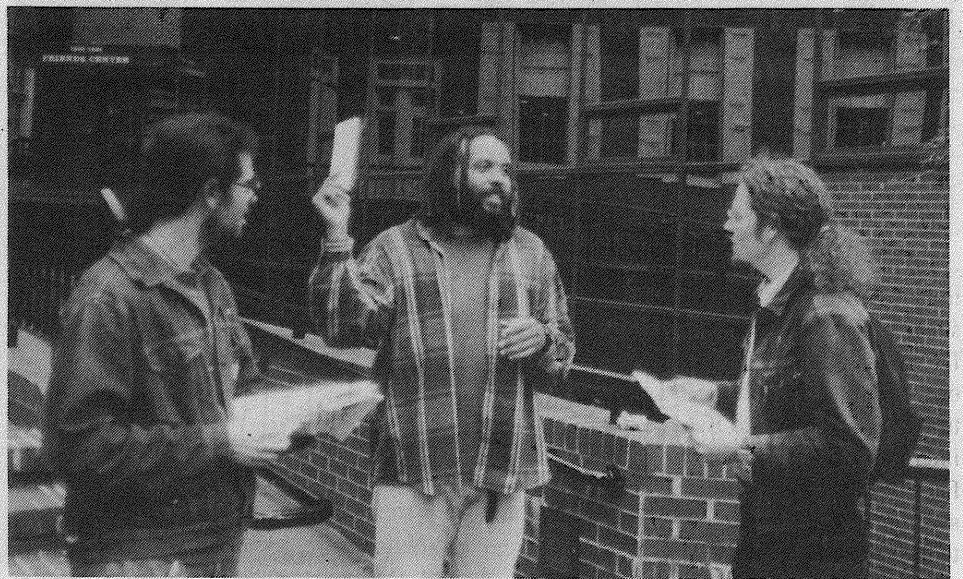
We're taking our message to the Mall

We want the shoppers to hear our call

We want human rights for workers now

— Jim Giddings (one of the Mall Eight)

jjgidding@mv.mv.com



Wobblies have been leafletting the Friends Center in Philadelphia to call attention to management's union-busting. Mattie O'Boyle (left) and Jamie Graham (right) speak with Mario Hardy, a worker from the CCCO, which rents from the Friends Center. photo: Alexis Buss

### Applebee's rains terror on Metairie workers

In the wake of the union defeat in Metairie, Louisiana, Applebee's managers have unleashed a reign of terror against union supporters. One union supporter has been fired for getting sick. Another had police called on him after he objected to a manager screaming at him and poking his gold manager's name tag in the fellow workers' face.

The National Labor Relation Board is investigating several Unfair Labor Practice charges stemming from Applebee's illegal efforts to crush the union, though many of the Wobs on the job have now moved on.

### Webfoot Wobs gaining

We're getting ready for the General Assembly. Got a real nice hall for it, in a good walking neighborhood that's crawling with restaurants, taverns and coffee shops. Hope a lot of fellow workers can make it. We'll have some fun. As much as possible, we'd like to hear from you if you're planning to attend, so we can organize ourselves. Write, call or email the branch. Let us know what you need, when you'll arrive, how many, and anything else you'd like to tell us.

IWW activity hereabouts is taking a pretty healthy turn, moving away from the GMB and toward industrial organizing on the job. The GMB is gaining more clarity as to its role in all this, which is primarily propaganda and education, advice and support, and keeping a presence and solidity to the union amidst the necessarily uneven ebb and flow of job organizing.

IU330 (construction) Branch is getting itself organized. Regular meetings, 1-800 number, propaganda, and a t-shirt in the works. Networking and communication. Some job action and organization. Looks good. There's some IU330 action in the Seattle area as well.

IU630 (Entertainment Workers) is plugging right along. Starting to organize stand-up comics as well as musicians. We've got a regular every Wednesday show starting up, an IWW show and fund raiser and dues-paying thing. We've got one shop card and a second in the works for working bands — Golden Delicious and Kil Kare.

IU 670 (Public Service) is the real local hot spot. We've got six of the more committed long-time GMB Wobs in that industry, and have lined up another dozen or so in the last month, amounting to a small drive in that industry. It's a real threatened job category what with all the safety net cuts and privatization and reorganization stuff going on. Anyhow, we're getting signatures together for an IU670 Branch application and meeting regularly with this bunch.

X344468

**Organize On The Job  
Where You Are Robbed**

### Capital District fight for living wage

Capital District (NY) IWW has seen a membership increase this year, and branch status is in reach for the near future. Albany-area Wobs continue their work on several fronts in solidarity with the working class.

Capital District Wobs are rethinking their role, delegate Greg Giorgio says. While the group has been very active in local minimum wage and living wage campaigns for several years, recent developments make their role less clear.

Much of the IWW's work on the local living wage campaign is through a larger coalition, now being coordinated through a Citizen Action office. Wobblies are not pleased with recent scrutiny over their desire to demonstrate to try to generate more public support for the campaign which calls for County-contracted services to be paid at an \$8.55 per hour minimum, with some health care considerations.

"We're not asking for much," FW Bob Doran said. "It's a straightforward, low-impact piece of legislation." But not much grassroots support has been created since the introduction of the wage bill in the state legislature many months ago.

Coalition coordinators, paid staffers from the Citizen Action office, are afraid the IWW will create ill will with local politicians who have all but ignored the proposal. It seems to be a basic difference in philosophy. "We want to organize the class around this issue," FW Barbara Sands said.

"We have agreed to disagree" for now, FW Giorgio explained. Citizen Action is still gathering endorsements and funding for the campaign. Some fear that the IWW will frighten away mainstream unions that have not backed the local effort thus far.

Capital District Wobs picketed Albany County's legislative offices on May Day in support of the living wage proposal and passed out over 600 leaflets in a day-long sidewalk vigil. "We see little substitute for this kind of visibility," Giorgio said.

Following the May 1st action, the IWW invited other volunteers from the Capital District Solidarity Committee to join them for a May Day tribute to Irish freedom fighter and IWW member James Connolly. Connolly settled in nearby Troy, NY, in the early parts of this century and organized in the shirtmaking factories. A passage from "Workshop Talks" was read at the foot of a monument to the Irish socialist and then FWs and comrades retired to the local brewpub for eats, drink and revelry for the Workers' Holiday.

A Northeast Regional IWW Conference takes place August 14 - 16 near Lake George NY. The two-night stay at the campsite is \$30. Call Barbara Sands (518/459-2110) if you haven't reserved your spot.



After a century and a decade, the Haymarket anarchists seem to be getting some official recognition. They were railroaded by the kangaroo court in Chicago and sentenced to be hung because the local judiciary were looking for some handy scapegoats for the Chicago police riots of 1886. During that year the labor struggles were culminating in the movement for the eight-hour workday.

Many workers attended a rally held at Haymarket Square in Chicago to protest the persecution of striking workers by the police department May 4. The police attacked the crowd toward the end of the rally and some person or persons threw a bomb. To this day no one knows who – whether it was a misguided worker or an agent provocateur working with the police force. The police opened fire on the assemblage, mowing down some of their fellow cops in the crossfire.

A group of labor functionaries, mostly German anarchist militants, were brought to trial on the grounds that their organizing and agitating culminated in the melee at which members of the police force were killed. No mention was made of the workers who died from police bullets. The kangaroo court trial ended up with five being sentenced to hang, and the others given long prison terms. One of those sentenced to hang, Louis Lingg, blew himself up in his own cell to cheat the hangman.

Six years later a monument was erected at the burial plot by the Pioneer Aid & Support Society from donations collected from all over the earth. The deed to the monument was passed over to the Illinois Labor History Society upon the passing of the last surviving member of the Pioneer Aid Society.

This past year the Haymarket monument was declared an historic landmark by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. On May 3rd, a special ceremony was held under the auspices of the Illinois Labor History Society at which a crowd of some three hundred was in attendance despite the cold day and overcast sky with the threat of rain.

It was quite a bash, with live music and all. As most of the martyrs were German, there were selections by members of the Combined German American Chorus of Chicago accompanied by a brass band. There were short speeches by various union piccards from around Chicago and the country. There was even a benediction by a "pro-labor" Monsignor, and there were no rumblings from beneath the monument so apparently the comrades were not too upset. The highlight of the day was a speech by Dr. Paul Avrich, a labor history prof and author of *The Haymarket Tragedy*.

Your humble scribe gave a reading of "Where Are the Voices?" an epic poem which appeared in the pages of this stalwart little rag over forty years ago and unfortunately is still topical. An accordion player and his family gave a rendition of "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night," the tune of which was played several times by the brass band. The program ended with the crowd singing the first verse and chorus of "Solidarity Forever."

A few fellow workers were there with placards reminding the assembled that the comrades beneath the monument were red-hot unionists, far removed from the respectable business union functionaries of today. Of course, the Stalinists were there too with their literature table, in front of all places, the tomb of Emma Goldman! Perhaps Emma's cantankerous ghost will endow them with a healthy infestation of wood ticks.

Some of those in attendance were a bit PO'd that a government agency had taken over the graves of comrades of bygone years, and yours truly can understand those feelings. The grave as well as the cemetery it is in has been falling into disrepair and I don't mind seeing some of our withholding taxes being diverted towards the upkeep of a labor monument, even though there is a danger that such might culminate in the crowning insult of respectability. As long as there are those of us around to remind our uninitiated fellow workers, the true nature of the men who are beneath that monument and their message is very much to be listened to in this day and age.

Venturing from the sublime to the ridiculous, Fellow Worker Wife and I attended a matinee movie. Following the recommendation of our nieces, we went to see *Lost In Space*. True, the visual effects were quite remarkable, but otherwise it was another cops 'n' robbers/Wild West horse opera/bang bang done up in space traveler style. Such is a well-worn formula that we in Freedomland have been spoon-fed ever since the invention of cinema.

Within this formula there is the ever-present factor of paranoia where the good guys are defending themselves against treacherous redskins, sneaky greasers, slanty-eyed commies or repulsive aliens from outer space. Think it over, Fellow Worker readers, and give a thought to what we are being conditioned for. Like we have only Big Brother to rely upon?

Also interesting were the previews of coming "attractions." One would think that the Freedomland public is in love with disaster movies, judging from all the disaster

movies being hurled at us. Are we being conditioned for something inevitable?

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

— C.C. Redcloud

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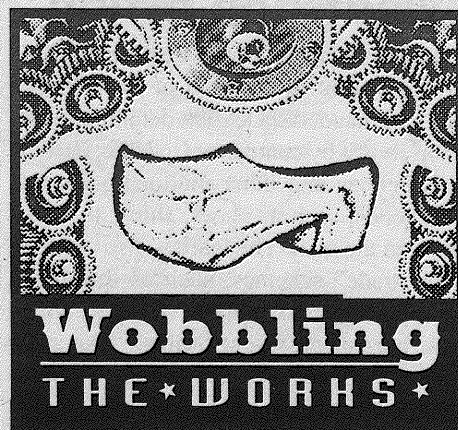
## Direct Action Gets the Goods

Two weeks ago, I was in the National Labor Relations Board office browsing through the dockets, which must be available for immediate public inspection as dictated by the Freedom of Information Act. I try to take regular trips to check them out, in order to keep abreast of the various and sundry conflicts and claims in my area.

People coming into the NLRB's office just for curiosity's sake are pretty rare. Law firms send in couriers to go through the dockets every day and write down a list of all unfair labor practice charges and petitions. This is important to understand if you ever decide to go to the NLRB: a complete copy of your charge will be set out for the public to inspect.

The "public," most often, are private interests. Anti-union law firms use the information in the dockets to solicit your boss for his business, telling exaggerated stories of poor bosses done wrong by the no-goodnicks at the NLRB and how they ought to get protection from their firm. Your boss will most likely get a solicitation from a law firm the same day or even before the NLRB sends them their first form letter and a copy of your charge. The NLRB even includes a standard disclaimer in their first letter to your boss to assure them that "no organization or person seeking your business has any 'inside knowledge' or favored relationship."

When I was working in a print shop with a past history of labor/management trouble, the amount of junk mail coming to our address from law firms advertising afternoon anti-union seminars for \$300 or more



was astounding. Law firms have partner consulting firms which supply bosses with cookie-cutter posters, fliers, videotapes and anti-union form letters to employees. They also advertise expensive books (Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler & Krupman of Borders fame has a re-hash of their 1972 title out now: *Winning NLRB Elections: Avoiding Unionization Through Preventative Employee Relations Programs* for \$75).

These consulting firms, once they have your boss as their client, make it their job to destroy the worker's immediate chances of getting a fair shake on an unfair labor practice, or to bring in a union and negotiate for better conditions. They take it a step further and help your boss keep the job "union-free" for the future, too.

I'm writing this column as a cautionary note to people who want to use the NLRB to settle a dispute with their boss. Once you file a charge, rest assured your boss will get a lawyer. That lawyer will probably be cho-

### Have You Recovered Yet?

A few days ago, as I was starting production on this issue, I opened my front door to pick up a daily emblazoned with the headline, "Jobless rate drops to 28-year low." "For workers the news was unambiguously positive," the reporter exulted. Unemployment rates were down across the board, hourly earnings were up, etc. (However, as reported elsewhere this issue, inflation-adjusted average weekly wages fell in April for the second month in a row.)

I closed the door to notice a piece of paper on the floor. It turned out to be from the landlord, telling me my rent would be going up 23 percent. (I got off easy, most tenants in my building were hit with 38 percent rent hikes, and a few will see their rent go up by more than 50 percent.) Meanwhile, my employer tells me my pay is going up 2 percent next year – and another 1 percent if the budget holds up.

That would leave me \$145 a month in the hole on the rent hike alone. My fellow tenants responded by forming a tenants union and demanding negotiations. Thus far my co-workers have not followed suit. But I don't know how much more of this economic recovery business we can stand...

### A Model For Us All

We should take a lesson from the bosses. While our wages continue to stagnate, they are getting a bigger piece of the pie. The U.S.'s 20 top-paid executives raked in \$1.29 billion last year. One Sanford Weill led the pack with nearly \$230 million in wages and bonuses. Ray Irani of Occidental Petroleum and Richard Scrushy of Healthsouth each took home more than \$100 million last year. That works out to about \$800 a minute, assuming they work full-time. (Don't count on that, though; in my experience the more you work the less you're paid.)

Meanwhile, Flint, Michigan, is paying General Motors \$107 million to build a new engine plant there – \$153,000 for each of the 700 jobs it will "create." But "create" isn't really the right word. The high tech engine plant will replace a 3,100-worker plant that

GM is closing there. So really GM is being paid \$107 million to lay off 2,400 workers. Ain't free enterprise great?

### Look For the Union Label

Sitting in my mail pile is the Winter '98 edition of the *Sanders Scoop*, part of a pitch for campaign contributions sent out by the

'socialist' congressman from Vermont. Bernie Sanders says he wants a higher minimum wage, national health care, to tax the rich, and to

stop government hand-outs to the corporations. Demonstrating his social consciousness, the mailing proudly proclaims that it was printed on recycled paper. But the only union label to be found is in the masthead of a press clipping.

He's not alone. Sitting higher up in the same pile is a paper calling on its front page for "One big democratic union of all workers" and "a workers' political party with a single demand – The workplaces to the Workers!" But the union label is nowhere to be found...

When even the "socialists" have forgotten about us working stiffies, it's surely time for us to organize in our own behalf to wrest what is ours by right from the boss class.

### Needed: Real Unions

I was at a meeting with rank-and-file members of several AFL "unions" the other day, learning about union meetings an hour or more from where they live and work, a shop steward who is literally in bed with one of the bosses, contracts that allow the boss to suspend workers without any grievance rights, and such. The workers don't trust the union, we were told – and with a track record like that there's no reason they should.

But they were interested in getting their fellow workers together to try to do something to improve the conditions. That's the union, right there; you and your fellow workers coming together to win better conditions. Our can't count on officials to act for you – We are the union, and if we don't fight for ourselves no one will.

— Jon Bekken

**Editor's  
Notebook**



sen from a pool of the likes of the above, and you and your co-workers are going have to fight that much harder. And what you win might be so puny you'll look back after a year and ask yourself if it was worth it.

If you are going to the NLRB because you've been fired in retaliation for union organizing or concerted activity, you don't have much to lose. You might want to consider first securing your unemployment compensation if you're entitled to it, and then filing with the NLRB. If you don't have unemployment under your belt before you file at the NLRB, the boss might be more inclined to fight it if there is a pending unfair labor practice claim.

Always keep your charges brief. You'll have time later on to give a detailed explanation of events to an agent at the Labor Board. It makes me cringe when I see charges that read "On May 1st, my boss said I had better shut up about the union or else I'd lose my job, and my co-workers Joe and Frank saw him do it." The boss' next easy step is to try to get Joe and Frank to call you a liar. Don't give him the head start.

If you want to go to the NLRB because you and your co-workers have just started standing together to demand better conditions and your boss is retaliating, you must first understand a few things. The NLRB can at best, restore the status quo at a workplace. For instance, if the boss took away your morning coffee and donuts because you and your co-workers asked for a raise, the NLRB can tell the boss to give back the coffee and donuts. The NLRB will not ask your boss to add in an espresso machine, and will certainly not order your boss to give

you a raise.

The Board also takes a long time to hear cases, let alone resolve them. Going to the NLRB can be the kiss of death for fledgling campaigns, since people often get wrapped up in how their unfair labor practice charge is coming along instead of how the solidarity on the shopfloor is developing. If there is a direct action way of resolving the problem, try it first. It might not ever occur to your boss to enlist the help of a lawyer when a group of workers knock on his door and say, "Put the coffee back and give us that raise or we're walking. And stop it with the Creamora already, too." The problem might be able to be resolved right at that moment, and you've just made your union stronger by standing together.

"Industrial Peace Through Law" is the Orwellian slogan on certificates which hang in the office of my local National Labor Relations Board. I always make it a point to wear my IWW button which reads "Direct action gets the goods" when I visit there. A few Board agents will occasionally comment on it, from a perspective that direct action is a historic relic which was legislated out of existence with the passage of the Wagner Act in 1935. But the Board agents get quiet pretty quickly when I ask, "OK, what kind of goods do we workers get by having an Unfair Labor Practice charge sit on your desk for five months?" When a union is about getting bread and roses, too, status quo will never be enough. The legal rights we have now cannot confine our vision of the world we want to create. Think big, fellow workers.

— Alexis Buss

## May Day rally to repeal Washington's Anarchy & Sabotage statute

"I don't jive with 9.05!" was one of several chants that echoed through the lobby of Washington's General Administration Building on May Day, as a hundred demonstrators demanded the repeal of the state's Anarchy and Sabotage statute. "9.05" refers to the code number of that statute, which was used last year to convict six protesters for their role in a banner-hanging at the Port of Longview. The Olympia rally, organized on the steps of the Supreme Court by a statewide coalition of environmental and social justice groups, ended with a march to the State Patrol's office in the GA building, where protesters flaunted the law by violating its provisions against "the display of seditious emblems."

The protest was prompted by last summer's felony convictions of the Super Rubin Seven. These Rainforest Action Network (RAN) activists boarded the Super Rubin at Longview in the early morning hours of October 29, 1996, hung a 70-foot banner off the side of the ship, and locked onto the loading cranes. Their goal was to educate the public about the environmental and economic impact of raw log exports and to highlight Mitsubishi's role in rainforest destruction. Expecting the usual trespass charges, they were shocked to find out that Cowlitz County prosecutors have a policy of charging logging protesters as felons under the Anarchy & Sabotage statute.

That policy began in 1989 when four Earth First!ers did a similar action at the same port. Although those charges were eventually plea-bargained down to misdemeanors, the precedent had been set. Greenpeace demonstrators, when threatened with similar charges in 1991, ended their protest early. The 1996 convictions of the RAN activists marks the first instance when these charges were successfully prosecuted. Their case is on appeal, but rather than wait, perhaps in vain, for justice from the Appellate Court, the Coalition to Repeal the Anarchy and Sabotage Statute (CRASS) is actively working to have the law repealed.

Three of the Super Rubin Seven attended the May Day rally in Olympia, as did Randy Hayes, the founder of RAN. Their felony convictions are not isolated events. As corporations and their friends in government find themselves under increasing attack from environmentalists, they are resorting to stronger measures to fight back against those who question their profits, power and policies. Defenders of Enola Hill, near Mt. Hood, Oregon, for instance, were sentenced to six months in federal prison for their part in logging protests there. These aggressive prosecutions are intended to scare activists away from direct action. In the case of the Super Rubin Seven, however, this tactic is backfiring, as more people step forward to protest the charges and call for repeal of the law.

The Port of Longview exports more raw logs than any other facility on the North American continent. Though prosecutors claim they were only interested in finding a charge "that matched the crime," their political motivations are hard to miss. Port officials concede that they lobbied prosecutors for stiff charges, largely out of concern for the port's reputation as a safe haven for timber interests. In a community where the lumber trust remains the largest single economic player, companies like Weyerhaeuser and Longview Fiber don't need to lobby for tough enforcement. Everyone knows who runs the town.

The campaign to repeal the law got a boost from State Senator Adam Kline, who has agreed to sponsor repeal legislation next session. The American Civil Liberties Union has said they'll support the repeal bill. In addition to RAN, the IWW General Defense Committee was one of the founding groups in the repeal coalition, and was responsible for organizing the rally. The GDC was founded in the nineteen teens to support Wobblies being sent to prison for crimes like this one, and the GDC has continued its work over the decades doing legal support

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## Class consciousness can combat racism

*This was delivered to an alternate peace rally when the Klan was in Ann Arbor May 9th. I wasn't there to read it myself. I was expressing my opposition to the Klan where they were.*

The Klan does most of its organizing among poor white males who are frustrated by their economic situation, who can't understand why their hard work isn't respected and doesn't pay well enough to cover their living expenses.

A Klan demagogue comes along and tells them their enemy is immigrants who will do their jobs for less, poor blacks on welfare, women who refuse to be excluded from the workforce, etc. I'm sympathetic to the economic frustration felt by potential Klan recruits. But their anger is misdirected.

They are being exploited by corporations which delight in promoting competition between different nationalities, races, and the genders in their search for the cheapest labor available. Their enemy is not the immigrant who also can only get a job for less than a living wage. Their enemy is not the person who is trying to survive on deteriorating welfare benefits because there is no way to balance parenting responsibilities with enough work to provide a living wage. Their enemy is not the

woman who has entered the workforce because she is the sole breadwinner in the family or because it now takes two paychecks to cover the necessities which one check purchased fifty years ago.

The enemy is the ruling class. If these poor white males can recognize that, we will welcome them into the IWW where we'll struggle together in equality: male/female, gay/straight, black/white, native/immigrant to improve the economic situation of all.

If they can't recognize that their economic oppression gives them more in common with working people of other races, nationalities and gender than it does with the bosses who share nothing more than the birth accidents of being white and male, they're fools. If they take that foolishness a step further and put on the Klan robes, a symbol of oppression for all elements of the working class, they are also traitors to their class. That's a foolishness which must not be tolerated.

Those of us in the working class need to be organizing within the pool of potential Klan recruits. We need to be showing them that their best interests are not in following the demagogues who mislead them for their own purposes, demagogues often funded by people from the ruling class who profit from the competition for jobs within a divided working class. In order to organize among them, we need to show them respect, obviously not for their racism, but for their human potential.

The best way to perpetuate racism is by depicting the racist as white trash or trailer trash. I am not a religious person; but I've always liked the statement that god didn't make any trash. A person who engages in racist actions needs to be stopped. People with racist opinions need to be debated. But they aren't going to listen to anyone who describes them as, or treats them like, trash.

The best way to combat racism for those of us in the working class is to help the racists to identify the real source of their problems and the solution. If we can unite them in a class organization open to and respecting of all races, then there's hope that they'll see how much they have in common with their Fellow Workers. Working class people of every race want adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education for themselves and their families. They all want to be respected. The message needs to be that we respect you and your struggle for survival. Show us the same respect and we can struggle together to make a decent life for all of us.

But join the Klan or any other hate group and you've stepped beyond the pale. You've let yourselves be used to create division rather than class solidarity. You must be stopped.

**T**HE IWW HAS been a fully integrated and anti-racist organization since its beginning in 1905. We've been fighting the Klan at least since the early 1920s. We have pictures of the Klan parading past an IWW office then to intimidate us for our opposition to their racism. It didn't work. We're still here, growing once again, and still fighting the Klan.

I attend and will continue to attend every rally of the Klan or any other hate group in this area. I won't be there to throw rocks but to let them know that their hatred will not be tolerated. I am not convinced that message is conveyed by having a feel good rally six blocks from where the Klan is spewing its hatred. If you're serious about combating racism, sometimes that means taking some risks. It means taking a stand for what you believe even when that means you might be gassed by the police as Dr. King and his supporters were in Selma Alabama. The Klan is composed of cowards who hide behind sheets, dark of night, and phalanxes of police. To ignore them is to embolden them and their closet supporters. In the initial planning stages this rally was intended to make sure that the violence of 1996 did not occur again in 1998. It was intended to demonstrate that those throwing rocks, police indiscriminately gassing a crowd, and Klan hatred are not acceptable in this community.

I'm hoping that the Klan will never again decide to parade their pointy hats and

### Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Vincent Lee, Tampa FL	\$6.00
Obo Help, San Francisco CA	20.00
Donald Hackett, Jr., Inkster MI	35.00
Andrew Snyder, Sarasota FL	16.30
Dennis Henke, Memphis TN	5.00
McArthur Gunter, Camp Springs MD	18.18

racist robes in Ann Arbor. But if they do, I hope the people of this community will next time finally realize that the only effective way to combat both racism and violence is to show up same time same place.

— Fred Chase  
IWW General Secretary-Treasurer

## Danish workers demand 'Three 6s'

*continued from page 1*

tion.) Winning these demands would not only have put a significant dent in the unemployment rate, and in the bloated profits of the corporate bigwigs, but it also would have pointed the way forward to a different kind of society, one that placed a premium on the quality of life, rather than forever increasing the supply of consumer goods.

The package negotiated by the top union bureaucrats included an additional day of paid vacation, Christmas Eve, a holiday already taken by many workers. With the resounding rejection of this sham victory, the strike was on. Needless to say, the official union structure provided little in the way of leadership. A national network of shop stewards filled the vacuum, calling out new shops and issuing permits for the provision of essential goods to those in dire need. Still, even the stewards retreated from the initial program of sixes, limiting the demands to a sixth week of vacation and increased employer contributions to pension plans.

After ten days, with the strike widening and industry at a total standstill, bargaining had reached an impasse. At this point, business executives began to openly threaten that they would transfer all of their investments to other countries unless the strike was immediately terminated. During the first days of the strike, the government had remained aloof from the conflict. The social democrats sought to avoid taking a position, one that was bound to antagonize their working-class base, in the hope that they could thus continue to convince a majority of Danes to accept a further integration into the European Community. On May 28, Denmark will conduct a referendum on a more unified Europe, and the polls show the vote will be close.

With the strike at a stalemate, the social democratic government decided they had to either move quickly to end the strike or confront the consequences of massive capital flight. On May 6, Prime Minister Rasmussen announced that he would present legislation the following day bringing the strike to an immediate halt. Everyone would be back on the job the following Monday, or else. By an overwhelming vote, with only the left-wing parties voting no, the legislation was passed and the strike was over.

Under the emergency legislation workers received two extra days of vacation, one of them being Christmas Eve. In addition, parents of children under fourteen could

take three extra child care days, although these days would be compensated at a substantially lower scale than the standard pay rate. These gains fell far short of the strike demands, even as diluted during the strike. Furthermore, the limited gains were balanced by significant losses as employers were authorized to reduce their payments to company based pension plans.

In presenting this strike-breaking legislation, Rasmussen insisted that the final cost of the package was equivalent to the deal that had been rejected by the workers when the strike first began. In both cases, the estimated cost came to 4.5% a year. Threatened with the entire weight of capitalist society, with the state mobilizing to crush the strike, the shop stewards council was unwilling to organize wildcat walkouts to protest the agreement, and thus the strike came to an end.

The Danish people have waged an impressive struggle against the corporate onslaught, one that can provide us with important guidelines for the future. Most of the industrial confrontations of recent years have been defensive sieges, with one sector of the workforce singled out for attack. The Danes have set a refreshing precedent. They did not just fight to hold on to what they had already won, they presented a radical program pointing to the future. We should do the same.

The Danish strike was also noteworthy because it involved such a wide range of industries and workplaces. For years, Wobblies have been emphasizing the need for working people to stand together, to fight the corporate conglomerates across industry lines, and to do so with militant strikes that shut down key sectors of the economy. The Danish action fell short of a general strike, but it came awfully close.

The Danish experience demonstrates once again the utter failure of the union bureaucrats and their political allies to defend the interests of working people. The situation here in the United States is not all that different than that in Denmark. A reliance on the informal links between the AFL-CIO bureaucracy and the Clinton White House is a policy that can only fail. While the shop stewards council began to pose an alternative to the social democratic mainstream, they were ultimately unprepared to present a sharply defined alternative to the policy of conciliation and capitulation. In part, this reflected the strong influence of former members of the Danish Communist

Party within the stewards council.

With all of its promising features, the Danish strike also presents us with challenging questions that need to be further discussed. In the IWW, we frequently argue that only a mobilized and militant workforce can successfully counter the corporate attacks.

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*The Program of Sixes demanded a sixth week of paid vacation, a 6% pay increase and a six hour day... These demands... pointed the way forward to a different kind of society, one that placed a premium on the quality of life, rather than forever increasing the supply of consumer goods.*

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
 Yet the Danes did just that, and they were still able to achieve only marginal gains. The globally integrated economy, with the ready mobility of capital at its core, has brought with it a drastic narrowing of the limits of reform. There is no way to reform this system, not even by militant industrial action. Only by definitively breaking with the world economy will it be possible to transcend the power of the corporate giants. The choice is clear, either the total transformation of the market economy, and the construction of a new society based on cooperation, equality and workers control, or accept a continuing downward slide in the living standards and quality of life of most of the world's population.

This leads to a final point. A general strike has often been posited as the final prelude to a new society, the final step in the revolutionary transformation of the capitalist market economy. Once the corporations and their minions see that people will no longer work for the crumbs being offered, the system will collapse and a new world will be born. Well, the Danes went a long way along this projected scenario, but the system failed to collapse. Indeed, once the corporations threatened to leave, the state immediately mobilized its forces for a direct assault on the strike. This may not be a message we wish to hear, but it has to be said anyway. A revolutionary transformation of society can not be achieved solely at the point of production. The power of the state has to be confronted and overcome. To do otherwise is to court disaster.

— Eric Chester

# DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS HERE AND ABROAD



### Friendly Pages

One of Coca Cola's major advertising agencies, McCann-Erickson, has sent a memo to magazines to help them in their job of providing a positive environment for Coke ads. Christine Maggiore, their print media buyer, advises publishers on how they can place the company's ads in locations "consistent with each brand's marketing strategy/positioning." And what is the best kind of magazine content on neighboring pages? "We believe that positive and upbeat editorial provides a compatible environment in which to communicate the brand's message."

She goes on to list subjects Coca-Cola considers to be "inappropriate." As expected, articles discussing politics, environmental issues, "sex related issues" and drugs head the list. But there are also some surprising categories to be axed. Not only do articles on health and food fail the test, but the whole category of hard news takes a dive.

American Newspeak

## McDonald's workers strike for dignity

After a five-day strike that started Easter Sunday with six workers on the picket line and spread to 20 workers before McDonald's agreed to workers' demands, Macedonia, Ohio, McDonald's workers are seeking representation by Teamsters local 416 to secure better conditions for the long haul. If they succeed, it would become the first unionized McDonald's in the United States since the early 1970s, when a store in Mason City, Iowa, had a union for four years.

McDonald's has not hesitated to violate workers' rights to prevent workers from organizing. When workers tried to organize an outlet in East Lansing, Mich., in the early 1970s, the company closed the restaurant, bought property down the street and built a new store there. None of the workers who had signed union cards were hired at the new location. And McDonald's closed a restaurant in Montréal a few months ago rather than recognize a union.

The Macedonia strike began with a conversation by two young workers outraged



by supervisors' inconsiderate treatment. The two, both freshmen at a local college, knew they were poorly paid and arbitrarily scheduled. But worst of all, their bosses treated them like slaves. A few days before a manager grabbed 66-year-old Margaretha DeLollis by the arm and scolded her so severely for leaving spare trash bags in the dining area, rather than going to the back of the restaurant to get them every 15 minutes,

that she walked out in tears.

The two asked to meet with the boss, but were snubbed. So they quietly approached their fellow workers the next day, letting them know they were going on strike the next day and lining up support. They bought poster board and spend the night making signs. And at 6 a.m., instead of reporting for work they reported for picket duty.

The restaurant opened a few hours late,

but McDonald's was able to keep it open thereafter with managers working the grills, non-strikers, and workers shipped in from other area restaurants. But many customers honored the picket line, a Teamsters driver refused to cross the picket line to deliver hamburger buns, and the strikers quickly drew national attention.

McDonald's refused to allow union representatives to attend negotiations, but did agree to several demands — including a 35-hour week, a week's paid vacation, 40¢ raises in starting pay to \$6.50 an hour, and classes on how to deal with people for supervisors — on the fifth day of the strike.

In the weeks since the April 16th settlement, workers have learned the advantages of solidarity, but also have come to recognize that they need organization to deal with a host of day-to-day issues, many caused by management efforts to speed up production in order to boost profit margins. Meanwhile, other McDonald's workers around the globe might do well to emulate the example of their fellow workers in Macedonia, Ohio.

# Wharfies still under attack...

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industrial action. The shipping companies involved include Columbus, Mediterranean Shipping, the CGM Group, ANL and Coral Sea Shipping.

Australian wharfies slowly returned to work at several Patrick docks after the Australian High Court ordered that MUA members be returned to their jobs. Their return was slowed by disputes over the continuing presence of company goons on the docks, efforts to blacklist some 25 wharfies, and Patrick's refusal to honor union conditions. The company has said it plans to close its Adelaide, Newcastle and Tasmanian operations and turn these over to a new non-union operator.

The court gave Patrick wide powers over who to employ and under what conditions. Company officials have said they wish to lay off 700 or more of the 1,500 workers who were returned to their jobs.

While Patrick maneuvers to eliminate their jobs and their union, workers are clearing up a backlog of thousands of containers. In many ports wharfies find themselves working without pay, as the operating companies set up by Patrick to employ them were stripped of assets before the lock-out began.

P&O Ports, Patrick stevedores only significant rival on the waterfront, has seized on the situation to seek to reduce its 1,300 workforce by 450 and undermine union working rules. Many of the laid-off workers would be replaced by cheaper non-union contract workers.

Patrick's efforts to operate its facilities during the lock-out were blocked by massive picket lines and the refusal of other maritime workers to work with scabs. The Maritime Union of Australia initially tried to contain the struggle within the limits of Australia's draconian anti-union legislation, but the wharfies and their supporters refused to go along. Picket lines of thousands of people, in some instances, completely

closed roads leading to Patrick's docks. When MUA members were barred from picketing, other union members replaced them on the lines. In Fremantle, 700 police were driven from the docks by 1,500 workers determined to re-establish their picket line. Similar actions took place across the country.

## Support the Australian Wharfies!

On the 7th of April, 1998, the Patrick Stevedore Co. fired over 2,000 Australian Longshore "wharfies." This is another major step in international capitalism's attack on all working people's standards of living.

Using the defeat of the Liverpool dockers to break longshore and other maritime unions everywhere, international corporations are attacking dockers unions in Brazil, Holland, Japan and now Australia. To the corporations and their governments, these attacks are important to boost and maintain the profits they make. To workers everywhere, the attack on the dockers means the beginning of another round of attacks on all of us. If the well organized and often militant dockers unions are broken, it will be easier to impose austerity measures on the rest of the working class.

We must make it stop! We can make it stop in Australia!

The Wharfies have wide support in Australia. In the case of the Liverpool Dockers, the cowardice of the trade unions led to defeat. But the workers of Australia haven't been defeated. In Melbourne over 100,000 people marched in support of the longshore workers. In many port cities, community groups are aiding local longshore pickets.

And solidarity is coming elsewhere. In Japan the national dockworkers federation is refusing to unload Australian cargo. In Los Angeles, longshore workers and 400 community supporters have stopped the unloading of the scab ship Columbus Canada. Support groups are sprouting up along the west coast of the US.

The IWW is calling for international actions of solidarity with the Australian Wharfies. We are asking:

- 1) Longshore workers: refuse to unload, or go slow unloading, Australian scab cargo.
- 2) Create support groups to work in conjunction with local dockers unions to prevent unloading of scab loaded ships.
- 3) Support groups to promote a boycott of all Australian products.
- 4) Protests in front of Australian embassies and consulates.

An Injury to One is An Injury to All!

General Executive Board, Industrial Workers of the World

## Selling jobs to the bosses

A bitter dispute between workers at Mademoiselle Knitwear and the union that "represents" them – the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) – has drawn attention to a long-standing practice under which that union permits employers to buy their way out of union contracts and ship workers' jobs overseas.

Nearly 780 workers at Mademoiselle's Brooklyn plant have sued UNITE, claiming it betrayed them last year by accepting a \$750,000 settlement of a \$30 million claim the union had filed against the Liz Claiborne company for transferring production from their plant to lower-waged suppliers in Britain, Australia and Asia. In exchange for abandoning the claim, which had already been upheld by one arbitrator, workers charge, Claiborne agreed to pay the union some \$13 million.

UNITE contracts require that companies use only unionized subcontractors. Firms that violate that requirement are required to pay damages based on the volume of non-union work. Over the years, this has evolved into a system whereby companies routinely violate their obligations to use union workers and make payments to the union which total nearly \$10 million a year.

The union relies on these payments – every dollar of which represents lost jobs – to finance its lobbying, administrative and organizing costs. Companies like Claiborne make the payments because they are cheaper – much cheaper – than actually hiring union workers. And as more and more workers' jobs are sold off, UNITE finds it is forced to cut the price it charges for putting its members out on the street.

UNITE's new contract with Claiborne

Over 100,000 people marched May 6 in Melbourne in support of the Maritime Union of Australia and against the Federal Government's anti-union Industrial Relations laws.

Even Derek Corrigan, the brother of Patrick Stevedores boss Chris Corrigan, supported the wharfies, telling a May Day

rally that the Federal Government's attack on the maritime union was an attack on the Australian way of life. "Our way of living, our lifestyle that we hold so dear in this country is being challenged," he said. "That's the challenge this is the mechanism by which they've introduced to do it and what you've seen is the first cab off the rank almost, in the case of my brother, who's prepared to use any means to get his way."

After years of retrenchments, Australia's other major stevedore firm was already working at capacity, so the dispute quickly disrupted the country's vital sea transport routes. Cargo stranded included rotting consignments of meat exports and imports of vital manufacturing supplies.

When Toyota announced it was laying off its entire Melbourne workforce (2,500) because of the picketing, the car workers not only endorsed the wharfies but said they wanted them to continue their blockade. Many joined the picket lines themselves.

The government was thus forced to back down in the face of strong industrial action, abandoning plans to crush the union that had been in the works for more than a year. However, the government and Patrick immediately set about attacking the union through more gradual, low-key means.

In the long term, the government and the employers seem determined to break the union. The Australian wharfies have shown their determination to hold onto their jobs and their union. The difficult task will be to survive the long process of whittling away at the union which is sure to follow. New disputes seem sure to flare up, and international solidarity is as urgent as ever to put the employers on notice that maritime workers around the world stand in solidarity with their Australian fellow workers.

## Restaurant Workers IU640 launches Florida drive

Gainesville Wobs have distributed nearly 500 restaurant worker surveys in the area, as the first step in a campaign to establish an industry-wide standard in the Gainesville area of at least \$7.00 per hour and one free meal per shift among other things. They are also preparing a pamphlet for free distribution to restaurant workers entitled "The Easter Weekend McDonald's Strike of 1998 ... (And How They Won)."

They are on the verge of establishing a job branch at one local eatery, which they hope to use as a beachhead to demonstrate that it is possible to win improved conditions.

## Anarchy & Sabotage

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for all manner of class-war prisoners.

The corporate media's coverage of the rally was predictably pathetic. The *Daily Olympian*, a Gannett paper, ran a color photo on the front page of their May 2nd issue, but managed to garble the rally's message beyond all recognition. The Patrol's refusal to book us was characterized as a failure, even though that had been the whole point of turning ourselves in. Their inaction was fully anticipated by us and was intended to prove that the law is unenforceable, thus bolstering our argument for repeal. The *Olympian* chose to make it sound like we were disappointed to not get arrested, rather than exultant, proving again the importance of alternative publications.

CRASS will continue its work to repeal Washington's Anarchy and Sabotage statute, though few members of the coalition harbor illusions about the efficacy of political action. The goal of the campaign is to educate people about the Super Rubin case and other attacks on activists, as much as it is to repeal the law. To find out more, visit the website at [Http://members.aol.com/olywobs/Index.html](http://members.aol.com/olywobs/Index.html), or write P.O. Box 2775, Olympia WA 98507.

— Jess Grant

## MAI Defeated?

The *Financial Times* reports that "a horde of vigilantes" have at least temporarily derailed efforts to adopt the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), a treaty designed to guarantee the free flow of corporations and money around the world. The treaty is opposed by unions, environmentalists, human rights groups and others who have used the Internet to coordinate grassroots opposition and publicize their criticisms of the pact.

Unnerved by the campaign, OECD ministers have interrupted the negotiations for six months in an effort to rally support for the proposed agreement.

## Wal-Mart convicted of union-busting

The Supreme Court of Canada has rejected Wal-Mart's appeal of an Ontario Labor Relations Board ruling on a 1996 union drive in Windsor, Ontario, that resulted in the first union at a Wal-Mart store in North America.

The board ruled that store management engaged in unfair labor practices during the union drive including veiled threat to close the store if the union succeeded. As a result, the board granted the United Steelworkers certification, ruling that Wal-Mart's conduct made a fair election impossible.

## U.S. Wages Fall

U.S. workers' average weekly earnings, after adjusting for inflation and seasonal factors, fell 0.8% in April, according to the U.S. Labor Department. The April drop followed a 0.2% fall in March.

# Rebellion of the Lumpen Professoriate:...

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Like workers from Paris to Seoul, Toronto to Mexico City, adjuncts have not been inclined to stand still for superexploitation. They have begun to fight back at places like NYU, CUNY, the New School for Social Research, the University of California, and the State of Washington community college system. One of these struggles is being waged in Boston.

Over the past year, part-time faculty members at the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts have been engaging in an energetic battle to improve their working lives. UMass Boston is an urban commuter school with roughly 12,000 students, the majority from working-class families. Although 350 part-timers teach at UMB, approximately 40% of the entire faculty, only 115 are represented by the Faculty Staff Union (FSU), a National Education Association affiliate.

The remaining 235 part-timers are stranded outside the union, making \$700 less per course than union base pay and lacking even the minimal job security that FSU part-timers enjoy (available courses must be offered to union part-timers in accordance with departmental priority lists before going outside the bargaining unit). Unionized part-time faculty have two representatives on the FSU's 10-person Executive Committee, and one on the nine-person team that bargains the contract.

In spite of such representation, however, the FSU has given short shrift to part-timer interests. By mobilizing independently in 1986, part-timers did manage to pressure the union to win a \$1,000 per course increase in their base pay, bringing the rate from \$2,000 to \$3,000. But the union has neither achieved nor seriously sought health and pension benefits, improved job security, or admission to the bargaining unit of the 235 members of the part-time faculty currently excluded from representation. Since the faculty contract is being renegotiated this year, part-timers have seized the moment to pressure the FSU to seek major advancements in these areas.

## Independent Organization

Because the union has been largely indifferent to the interests of part-time faculty members, it has been necessary for the latter to establish an autonomous organization, the Part Time Faculty Committee.

With 15 members—both union and non-union—drawn from several university departments, the Committee meets regularly, sometimes as often as twice a week, to formulate demands, frame strategy and coordinate actions. However, the group would have little strength or legitimacy were it cut off from the rest of the part-time faculty. And this presents a problem. It is notoriously difficult to weld part-timers into a real community. Since they do not participate in such university-wide venues as the Faculty Council or Curriculum Committee, they tend to be isolated in their departments. In addition, since they need to teach at more than one campus, their schedules make it difficult for them to meet in groups, even at the departmental level. Yet activists at UMass have done a reasonably good job overcoming these barriers to community. The Part Time Faculty Committee sends email messages regularly to nearly one hundred part-timers, a method of communication it supplements with interdepartmental mail as well as the phone and postal systems. In addition, it has begun to establish an informal shop steward structure, with representatives in most of the large departments. Finally, by means of questionnaires as well as general meetings held at different times and days of the week, it has managed to bring perhaps half of the part-time faculty into the process

of determining a negotiating agenda.

UMass part-timers want the job security that would come from one and two year contracts. They also want easier admission to the bargaining unit for non-unit part-timers. Their formal negotiating proposal incorporates both of these demands. But the core of the proposal concerns the issue that



the rank and file feels most strongly about: the need for health and pension benefits. It is easy to see why they give priority to this issue. Several part-timers receive health care under the welfare system. Some go to the doctor only in the most extreme emergencies. None can look forward to a pension or even a Social Security check. (The state gets around paying into Social Security by setting up a "retirement plan" with no employer contribution, nothing more than an enforced savings program.) Health care and retirement acquire added importance in light of the fact that the average UMB part-timer is in his or her fifties.

The part-timers' strategy for pursuing health and pension benefits hinges on a provision of Massachusetts law. State employees who work half time (in most cases 20 hours per week) or better receive health and pension benefits from the state.

The UMass Boston administration has prevented part-time faculty members from receiving these benefits by arbitrarily defining them as less than half time, 0.4 time to be exact. The definition is especially ludicrous since the typical part-timer teaches two courses per semester compared with the three courses taught by members of the full-time faculty. In addition, like their full-time colleagues, part-timers normally have substantial student contact outside of class, engage in research, and even serve on departmental committees. The core of the part-timers' negotiating proposal is their demand that the administration redefine them as half-time workers, assuring them health and pension benefits in the process. The redefinition would also involve a 25 percent wage increase since it would bring part-timers from .4 to .5 time.

Of course, it is one thing to frame a proposal and another to get the union to support it. This has required internal agitation as well as considerable external pressure. For almost a year, the part-timer representatives on the FSU Executive Committee and the negotiating team have asserted themselves at meetings, letting the union leadership know they cannot abandon the part-time faculty without courting real trouble.

But part-timers have also gone over the heads of the FSU leadership and appealed directly to the full-time faculty. With the help of an especially enthusiastic tenured supporter, they circulated a petition among the full-time faculty in support of health and pension benefits. Though the acting union

president refused to sign the petition and discouraged other full-timers from signing it, it eventually gathered 170 signatures. A similar petition circulated among students and staff gathered another 2,000 signatures. The petitions, along with posters, flyers and sympathetic coverage in the student newspaper, created enough pressure to force the FSU Executive Committee to vote to support the part-timers' negotiating proposal, going so far as to give it priority at the negotiating table.

The initial resistance of the union leaders to the part-time faculty agenda is an example of the general conservatism of mainstream unions. Their role is to negotiate over the details of workers' subordination to their bosses, not to challenge that subordination at its roots. Moreover, in order to perform this function, they must be taken seriously by the bosses, which means that they must guarantee a more or less docile workforce, at least for the duration of the contract. The last thing they want is an insurgent group in their ranks, since this strikes at their credibility.

## Overcoming Corporatism

But these are not the only factors behind FSU resistance to part-timer demands. College and university teachers constitute one of the most stratified work forces in modern capitalist society. Divided between professor, assistant professor, associate professor, and lecturer, tenured and nontenured, tenure track and nontenure track, full and part time, the faculty is organized into castes making it difficult for it to act concertedly.

The faculty union at UMass, but at nearly all other unionized campuses as well, primarily represents the interests of the upper castes. In the working class movement, there is a name for this: corporatism. The only solution to the problems it creates is the ethic of solidarity, which is, in fact, its polar opposite: the willingness to give priority to the interests of the least well-off segments of the work force. The strategy of part-time faculty activists with respect to the FSU has been precisely to affirm the ethic of solidarity against the corporatist tendency to favor those who are already relatively privileged.

Such a strategy, however, has no chance of succeeding if it remains narrowly focused on internal union affairs. Appeals must also be made to students as well as other parts of the workforce.

The most advanced such appeal in the case of the struggle at UMB was a mass

picket that galvanized a substantial part of the university community. On a beautiful spring day, 200 people—part-time faculty, full-time faculty, students and staff—picketed the Quinn Administration Building in the largest and most spirited labor action that UMB had seen in 20 years.

A delegation from the picket line carried the 2,000 signature petition to the office of Chancellor Sherry Penney. Penney's refusal to meet with them was recorded on video tape, which is now being edited under the title "Sherry and Me," after Michael Moore's "Roger and Me," a film that follows the radical satirist's repeatedly frustrated attempts to interview the president of General Motors.

In addition to shoring up general community support, the mass picket had two important effects. First, it put further pressure on the FSU to support the part-timers' demands. Even the acting president who had refused to sign the faculty petition felt it necessary to join the picket line. Second, it began to serve notice on the administration that business as usual would be suspended as long as health and pension benefits continued to be withheld from the part-time faculty. As a result, the university's negotiators made a formal statement at the next bargaining session signaling realization that they would have to make some concession to part-timer demands.

The part-time faculty at UMass Boston still has a long way to go. It will almost certainly have to organize more mass pickets and related events before the balance of power shifts sufficiently for it to win at bargaining table. Also, UMB part-timers know that their current efforts are merely one battle in a war that is far from over. The assault on workers in academia, and everywhere else for that matter, won't let up any time soon. But neither will their efforts to beat back that assault. Beyond such defensive struggles lies an offensive one, an attack against the conditions of exploitation and command that make all gains for workers precarious under capitalism. We look forward to the day that battle is joined. But for now, let's say with our Mayan comrades in Chiapas:

¡Ya Basta! Enough is enough!

Anyone one who wants more information about the struggle at UMass or other adjunct faculty campaigns is welcome to contact the author at 617/287-6350 or gzabel@mediaone.net.

— Gary Zabel

“I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status ... and to secure their influence in the political field.”

—Albert Einstein, on why he joined the Princeton faculty union

## TAs win right to bargain

The California Public Employment Relations Board has ruled that readers, tutors and teaching associates at UC San Diego are employees and upheld their collective bargaining rights. The University of California's denial of collective bargaining rights resulted in 25 days of strikes on 5 UC campuses during the 1996-97 school year. The University has spent 14 years in court fighting against union recognition.

The PERB rejected both of the university's major lines of argument. Contrary to University arguments, the Board found that the educational objectives of students employed as teaching associates, readers and tutors are subordinate to the vital services they perform for the university in their jobs. The Board also rejected arguments that union representation would disrupt "the pursuit of excellence at the University."

## Union attacked in Pakistan

Police demolished the Lahore offices of the All Pakistan Trade Union Federation April 16, beating workers and arresting the APTUF General Secretary, Deputy Secretary Mohn Ilyas and five other union activists. The Federation comprises more than 150 unions, and is fighting the government's austerity and privatization programs.

Send letters demanding the release of all union officials, reconstruction of the union office, and compensation to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister House, Islamabad-Pakistan, Fax: 92-51-9207464 primeminister@pak.gov.pk, and Labor Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, Block D, Pak. Sectt, Islamabad, Fax: 92-51-9203043. Letters of solidarity to Gulzar Ahmed Choudary, General Secretary, APTUF, C/o Long Man PVT Limited 14-N Gulberg ii, Lahore 54660 Pakistan, Fax: 92-42-7597397



# St. Catherines Day Of Action

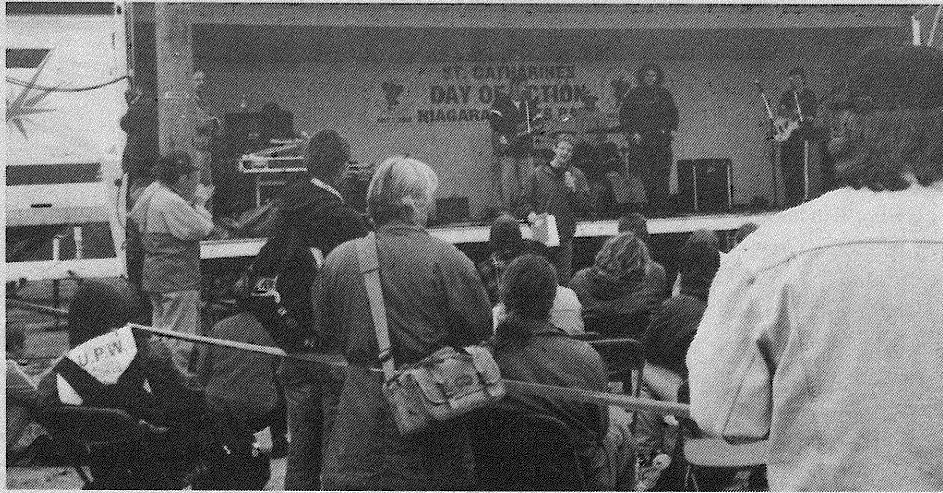
You can learn a lesson about media bias by examining the way the mainstream Canadian media dealt with the city wide general strike and rally that occurred in St. Catherines, Ontario, May 1st. Papers from *The Toronto Star* to *The Globe and Mail* ran articles about May Day protests around the world and a separate piece on a protest held in St. Catherines. Canadian media still is reluctant to link opposition to the right-wing Harris government to opposition to capital – something the mainstream media has in common with mainstream labour leaders.

I spent May Day in St. Catherines with members and supporters of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. Two buses supplied by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers left downtown Toronto at 3:30 a.m. and got us into St. Catherines in time to reinforce the picket lines at the two Canada Post sorting plants.

Sunrise is a quiet time to be on a picket line. The police cars are resting across the street. The supervisor's car stops a little way down the block. New pickets and those who'd been there since midnight huddle in small groups. A few birds sing with louder and louder voices as the morning gets brighter.

From 6:30 to 10:30 the busload I was with stayed on the CUPW picket line. Not many came to work. Most who did went over to the supervisor's car and then went away. A few tried to show their courage by walking towards the door. No one got in. No mail moved in or out of the sorting station that day.

At 10:30 we went to the staging area when people from the Canadian Auto Workers asked us if we'd go the G.M. plant. The G.M. plant is one of the largest factory complexes in Canada and had been successfully shut down for two shifts. With the Days of Action rally close to beginning and



Students seized control of a stage and sound system for an impromptu teach-in.

those who'd been on the picket line at G.M. wearing out, reinforcements were being asked for. We had no problems agreeing to this and went to spend more time on the picket line.

The G.M. experience was one of the quietest days I've spent on a picket line. For most of the time we were there no one even tried to enter. However, things began to change about 2:30. Individually or in pairs, people started appearing and tried to come into the plant. Most were unsuccessful. Three got in, out of a group of five, who used bolt cutters to cut a chain that had been holding a little-used gate shut. A small group arrived in time to prevent the other two scabs from entering. Another got in who seemed to be a jogger. He ran by the picket line on the other side of the street, then made a dash to the fence between two blockaded gates and rolled under the fence. The only other one to get in had a pass from the organizers of the Day of Action! It was stated, by one of the few autoworkers on the G.M. picket line that afternoon, that if we hadn't been present for the afternoon shift change, G.M. could have gotten enough scabs together to

get the line running.

There were other events happening across St. Catherines while we were on the G.M. picket line. At 12:00 noon, several hundred people gathered outside the St. Catherine's *Standard* – a newspaper trying to force concessions on its staff a la Detroit. At one o'clock a rally of some 9,000 people formally began. They marched their way through the streets of St. Catherines before ending with a final rally and a number of speeches, including locked-out Detroit newspaper worker Carol O'Neal.

Not all of the action was labour centred. Among the most spirited was a group of student and youth activists. When organizers of the Day of Action gave a sound stage to musicians to practice, drowning out a student teach-in, a group of students seized the stage and shared the microphones with the musicians. This was a degree of spontaneity that the organizers had problems coping with.

In St. Catherines organized labour pushed hard for the election of an alternative to Harris in the next election, not for radical action in the here and now. There

was a distinct lack of optimism this time, unlike after the Toronto Days of Action or even at the beginning of the second week of the Ontario's Teacher's Strike last fall. For many labour and community organizers, electing an alternative to Harris in the next election is the important goal. Defeating the corporate agenda isn't on their list of immediate priorities.

On June 8th there will be another Day of Action, this time in Kingston, Ontario. There are plans for an October province-wide one-day general strike called by the Ontario Federation of Labour. It is likely that the fall strike will be called off, however, if the OFL is convinced it might hurt the chances at the ballot box of the New Democratic Party.

## Reclaim the Streets

Hundreds of protesters took over one of Toronto's main streets May 16th, in an attempt to reclaim the city center for people and call for a world free from exploitation. Puppets, children drawing chalk pictures on the street, lots of drumming and dancing in the intersection made this event, from about 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. one of the most liberating experiences I have had in a period of activism stretching back to 1969.

However, police officers were going through the crowd with knives, cutting streams and bursting balloons, pushing people out of the way, and threatening to arrest people who interfered with them.

Four people were arrested as the police presence became more confrontational, two on unlawful assembly charges and two on charges of assault on police (police claim that these "assaults" took place after the protesters had been placed under arrest and handcuffed). One of the assault charges has since been reduced to unlawful assembly.

I and the other demonstrator charged with assembly were released the same day, but prohibited from returning to the area of the demonstration or communicating with other arrestees before trial.

— Brian Burch

## Students lead uprising in Indonesia

Students are widely credited with beginning the latest uprising in Indonesia, which by mid-May included tens of thousands of people successfully pressuring many stores and banks to provide goods and money for free.

On May 12, police murdered at least six students at Trisakti University. Two days later, some military marines joined some students in opposition to police. By then, 10,000 troops occupied Jakarta, Indonesia's largest city.

## Need A Goon Squad? Go to the Labor Board

Say you're an employer in Mexico and needs a goon to knock some sense into disgruntled workers who want higher pay or dissident union members who want to choose their own union or elect their union officers, where would you go to find some reliable thugs?

No problem. Just go down to the Federal Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, the labor board in Mexico City. Police recently found at least 100 goons offering their services to attorneys, union officials, politicians and employers.

While the professional arm-twisters and leg-breakers usually engage in threats, intimidation, beating and the occasional political kidnapping, they can also be hired to perform murders, reportedly for about 30,000 pesos (a little less than \$4,000). No doubt some work cheaper.

In the recent past women attorneys representing democratic and independent unions have been beaten by some of the goons right in the labor board building. Over the years these goon squads have been used to beat, kidnap and murder union dissidents, such as those from the Ford Cuautitlan plan. As their regular presence at the labor board indicates, these hooligans and assassins form an integral part of the Mexican labor relations system.

Students in Australia quickly took solidarity action. On May 11, students at the University of Melbourne shouted down Australia's Foreign Minister and threw red ink on his car to protest Australia's financial aid of Indonesia's government.

Economic austerity – especially inflation of consumer prices – is imposed on Indonesia by the International Monetary Fund and enforced by Indonesia's military. Ninety-five percent of Indonesia's debt is actually owed by 50 bosses, yet the hundreds of millions of working people in Indonesia pay this debt with lower wages, higher prices, and a military dictatorship.

The IMF refuses to connect its \$40 billion financial "assistance" with human rights, while the US Army spent \$3.5 million over the past five years to train the Indonesian military to violate human rights.

The student national coalition SMID (Solidaritas Mahasiswa untuk Demokrasi Indonesia), struggles against "commercialisation of education," "militarism on campus" and for "independent, democratic student organisations," academic freedom, and "a free student press that is uncensored and uncontrolled by campus bureaucrats."

## Union<sup>2</sup>

is an independent 'zine devoted to Wobbly culture. The pilot issue features labor poetry, short articles on May Day and Joe Hill, and some historical curiosities. Copies are \$2 from M. Damron, POB 42233, Cincinnati OH 45242

## May Day Roundup

Turkish "Robocop" riot police encased in armor attacked a 70,000-strong May Day rally in Istanbul with batons and water cannon, injuring scores of protesters and arresting more than 100. In South Korea, riot police fired tear gas at thousands of workers to halt a planned May Day march. Workers responded to the attack by throwing rocks and charging police lines with lead pipes.

May Day celebrations are spreading across the United States. Ten years ago, May Day celebrations were held in only a handful of cities. This year, many featured competing celebrations. In Riverside, California, a union representing county workers called the first May Day demonstration there in 50 years. In Chicago hundreds attended a ceremony at the Haymarket Monument, one of several events held over the May Day weekend. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, the mayor spoke at a rally sponsored by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center and several unions including the IWW, describing May Day as a holiday for "the International Workers of the World." (see page 10 for a round-up of IWW activities)

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## Workers Memorial Day

The South East Michigan Coalition On Safety and Health (SEMCOSH) sponsored a demonstration in Detroit for Workers Memorial Day. A dozen Wobs from Detroit and Huron Valley Branches were among the 250 participants from about 20 different unions. We marched from the SEMCOSH offices with drums, coffins and a giant puppet of Michigan's Governor Engler, who has gutted worker compensation and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

We stopped at the state office building to leave a wreath in memory of the 167 Michigan workers who died on the job in 1997. Then we proceeded a few blocks to the Detroit Free Press Building (still 1400 workers locked out after three years of struggle.) There a loud sound system blasted toward the newspaper building. A dozen speakers, including one representing the IWW, told tales of workers dead or crippled for life because employers failed to provide adequate safety equipment. The message was "If it isn't safe, refuse to do it. You came to work, not to die."

After the demonstration we headed back to the SEMCOSH building for beer, a light meal, and great discussions with workers who are challenging both the bosses and their unions in shop floor struggles.

Minneapolis Wobs rather hastily organized a small march down Nicollet Mall (one of the main commercial drags) to promote Workers Memorial Day. While the numbers were somewhat modest, a local radio station aired an interview discussing IWW efforts.

## Wobblies Mark May Day

Wobblies in the UK were involved in a variety of activities over the May Day weekend. In Newcastle, North East England, Fellow worker Devine and Tyneside-based Wobblies were active in the local May Day Rally and celebrations. An IWW stall was set up and numerous contacts were made. Over fifty pounds was raised by literature sales.

In the south FWs Kevin Brandstatter and Bill Runacre set up a stall at TUC May Day festival, which was completely devoid of politics, but featured many well known and not so well known bands.

Business on the stall started slowly but gathered pace until at the end of the day £127 worth of literature and tee shirts had been sold. All too often people came to the stall and said "The IWW. I thought you had died out long ago..."

— Kevin Brandstatter

## Picnic in Austin, Texas

The IWW sponsored a picnic for unionists and like-minded folks, drawing 100 people over the course of the afternoon. Last year, one of the local bus unions came out in force, shutting down their system for the afternoon. This year the company was prepared and went around threatening to fire people who went. So there weren't as many bus drivers as last year, but a good number still came. Lots of other folks also attended, including members of the proto-union of university staff (non-faculty employees), Earth First'ers, and sundry others.

## San Francisco Bay Area

May Day in San Francisco was a Blast! We began the day with a commemoration of two strikers shot by police in the 1934 General Strike, and FW Robert Irminger talked about the Neptune Jade and the Australian Dockers Strike.

We then proceeded along Mission Street to the Yuerba Buena Museum of Modern Art where Art & Revolution, Reshaping SF, and others did a sketch about "work, the silent plague," featuring a "Norton the First" character followed by a Comite Emiliano Zapata presentation on the situation in Chiapas and Mexico. We then proceeded to Market Street and converged on UN Plaza, where Food Not Bombs discussed their ongoing struggles with the SFPD.

After that we continued on towards the Mission District of San Francisco and Dolores Park. At Dolores Park we had a giant Maypole set up and a history of *The Blast*, the anarchist journal published by Emma Goldman & Alexander Berkman at the turn of the century. The Art & Revolution folks did a wonderful sketch depicting the history and tying in the capitalist media's distortion of the situation in the Haymarket Affair, World War I, and Sacco & Vanzetti with the current situation in Chiapas and



Iraq.

The day concluded with a giant party in the park, with lots of Wobblies and IWW literature on hand.

In Eureka, in the heart of the timberlands, a 90-year-old retired Wobbly lumber worker, migrant agricultural worker and gandy dancer spoke at our new Eureka group's first public meeting, and re-upped to boot.

## St. Louis UFW benefit

On Friday, May 1st, the St. Louis IWW GMB celebrated the International Workers' Holiday by putting on a benefit for the Strawberry Workers of California, United Farm Workers.

The evening opened up with Carl Fichtenbaum playing some good hearty folk music on an acoustic six-string guitar. Following Carl, FW Rice spoke about the Anarchist Haymarket martyrs, the origin of May Day, the struggle of the Strawberry Workers, and the importance of solidarity within the new epoch of the Labor Movement.

FW Rice then introduced Virginia Ness, a local representative of the UFW Strawberry Workers, and Ginger Harris, a great granddaughter of Adolph Fischer, one of the aforementioned Haymarket martyrs.

Afterwards, poets Jim Igoe, Cindy Fehmel, Tom Smith, and others spoke on issues concerning working people and the animosity felt towards capitalism.

A spontaneous speech by FW Ed Fitz was sparked by an article he found in an old issue of the Post Dispatch (from 1914!) concerning then-local Wobblies and an attempt by local authorities to break up an IWW meeting with "sprinkling carts," or fire trucks.

The evening closed with the crowd singing Solidarity Forever, with piano music played by April Heyde.

In all, we raised \$282 for the Strawberry Workers. The St. Louis IWW GMB would like to thank all who showed, all who performed, and Killer Shrews Productions for providing sound labor donated.

!Solidaridad Siempre!

— X345050

## Tampa Bay GMB

On Sunday May 3, Wobblies from all over Florida converged on long-time IWW member Ted Lee's Tampa home for a barbeque, radical history tour of Tampa, and GMB organizing meeting. They report that they are well on the way to getting a new branch off the ground.

We also visited the former location of

*El Obrero Industrial* (Spanish language version of the *Industrial Worker* published weekly in the early 1900s) on 7th Avenue in the Ybor City neighborhood of Tampa. We relived the past a bit by handing out Mayday flyers to passersby.

In other Florida IWW news, the Gainesville GMB is currently working on organizing a daycare at the University of Florida. Organizing is underway in Miami and Tallhasee as well.

## Boston, Mass.

Boston Wobblies joined a May Day rally and celebration sponsored by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center, which included a march to a Foot Locker store (a major Nike vendor) and a feast and cultural celebration in a Central Square church. Wobs also joined a May 3 picnic, breaking out the songbooks, and sponsored a May 5 talk by Howard Zinn on the Lessons of the Great Labor Struggles which drew 120 people.

## L.A. Wobs on the line

Los Angeles Wobblies joined picket lines on the Los Angeles waterfront against scab cargo, holding the line against the international attack on longshore workers' unions.

## Language Commission Report

The first request has been made to the IWW Archive at Wayne State University in Detroit for copies of non-English pamphlets and other material. The list of items requested is too long to place here, but suffice it to say that we will soon have our hands on pamphlets in Spanish, Italian, French, German, Swedish, Finnish, Polish, Russian, Czech, Slovenian and Hungarian.

By the time this reaches the press, the Lucy Parsons GMB in Austin should have them. Once we have them, we'll compile a list of available material for publication in the G.O.B. Keep in mind, much of these writings are quite old and may not be well suited for general distribution without substantial updating. If folks out there have access to archives, libraries or other institutions with IWW publications in other languages, please contact the Lucy Parsons GMB in Austin with a list of the material.

Second, a project to create a database of multilingual wobs has been initiated. Thus far, the languages we have knowledge of include: Spanish, Italian, French, Esperanto, German, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Welsh, Arabic, Hebrew, Tahitian, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Signed English (SEE2). With most of these, there is at least

one person who speaks the language well. If there are Wobs who have not yet contacted us in Austin with your language knowledge, please let us know what you know.

Several other projects are in the queue, but not yet underway. The most ambitious is a regular Spanish-language IWW publication. We have a number of resources to put into this project, but we lack some.

It would require several people who could regularly write pieces in Spanish and/or translate pieces from the *IW*. It would also require someone with a good knowledge of Spanish who would undertake a smaller version of Jon Bekken's job as *IW* editor, since at least initially the Spanish paper would probably not be as large. Ultimately, this position would probably need to be elected, but a dedicated volunteer would do to begin with.

## And Elsewhere...

Other projects include translations of our major documents (preamble, constitution, OBU, red card) into other languages where we are organizing. Some material has been put into Spanish, Italian, French, Soumi (Finnish), but not all, and other languages are needed as well.

— Joshua Freeze  
P.O.Box 254, Austin TX 78767

**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

**Canadian IWW Songbook**

41 songs with music & chords. \$5.

**Rebel Voices.**

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

**We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.**

Utah Phillips sings Wobbly songs. Tape \$10.

**Baseball caps \$9**

Black globe on red cap, adjustable sizing.

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**Fire Your Boss!** \$1.

**Black Cat/Direct Action,** \$1.

**IWW Globe** circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

**Greeting Cards**

The cat knocking over the xmas tree \$5/ dozen. Also a Christmas card designed by Joe Hill, 4 color, glossy cover, \$10/ dozen. Merry Commodity Fetishism (tree crashes tv screen) \$5/ dozen.

**Posters by Carlos Cortez**

Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher, Joe Hill or Mother Jones. \$25

**Bumperstickers**

Nine bumperstickers, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Profit is Theft, Nothing Works Without Clerks, Stop World Hunger - Eat the Rich, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

**Silent Agitators**

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

**Books for Rebel Workers**

**Radical Thought**

**Direct Action & Sabotage**

Three classic IWW pamphlets by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Walker C. Smith and Wm. Trautman, showing how these age-old practices can be integrated into the struggle for industrial freedom. \$15

**The Case of Leonard Peltier**

by Arthur J Miller & Pio Celestino. An introduction to Peltier's frame-up for his political activities. \$3

**Fields, Factories & Workshops** by Peter Kropotkin.

A classic vision of how we could redirect production to meet human needs, with a new introduction by Yaacov Oved. \$7.50

**The Muckrakers** by Louis Filler

Their vivid exposes of political corruption, industrial brutality, and social injustice sparked a surge of reform. \$10

**The Story of Mary Maclane**

A vigorous early feminist attack on conformity and puritanism. \$15

**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..." \$6.50

**Rank and File or Broad Left: Democracy vs Bureaucracy**

A short history of the Building Worker Group; analysis of a militant labor struggle in the U.K. in 1996. \$2.50

**War Against the Greens: the "Wise-Use" Movement, the New Right, and Anti-Environmental Violence** by David Helvarg \$15

**Rebels Against War: The American Peace Movement, 1933-1983** by Lawrence S. Wittner \$10

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

**Death Blossoms** by Abu-Jamal  
More death row writings by America's most famous political prisoner. \$12

**A Little Working Class Sense** by Gilbert Mers

A veteran labor activist calls on workers to once again take up the struggle against capitalism. \$3

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A comic book in lurid color. \$2.95

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All the dirt and alienation of technomonad-"paradise," \$6.

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**The Political Economy of Participatory Economics.** by Michael Albert & Robyn Hahnel.

A nuts-and-bolts approach to a participa-

tory, egalitarian economy. \$8.

**Opposing NAFTA, International Opposition to NAFTA.** Jason Justice, \$1

**Classrooms First! The 1996 Oakland Teachers' Strike.** J. Justice. \$2

**Solidarity Unionism.**

by Staughton Lynd.

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

**From the Ground Up, Essays on Grassroots & Workplace Democracy.** by George Benello \$6.

**The Racist Mind: Portraits of American Neo-Nazis and Klansmen** by Raphael Ezekiel \$10

**Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico.** by Dan LaBotz.

Rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

**Stonewall** by Martin Duberman, \$15.

**The Movement and the Sixties, Protest in America from Greensboro to Wounded Knee.** Terry Anderson. \$15

**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. \$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

**Working the Waterfront.**

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Hardcover: \$20

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

**Homestead: The Glory & Tragedy of an American Steel Town** by William Serrin

Chronicles the 1892 strike, the boom times, and the city's slow death in the 1970s and

'80s. pub'd at \$25 our price \$12

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## Anti-labor law

The International Association of Machinists has condemned the U.S. Railway Labor Act as "anti-worker," noting that the law's many restrictions on strikes and other industrial action give companies little incentive to negotiate. The Railway Labor Act was fought for in the 1920s by rail unions that believed the government would act as an impartial mediator. The reality has proved very different.

At Northwest Airlines, mechanics, pilots and flight attendants have been working under old contracts for nearly two years while Northwest rakes in huge profits, but can not legally strike for months. Desperate workers have taken to praying for a new contract on airport runways.

While that prayer has not been answered so far, God has kept the planes from flying. Northwest claims workers are engaging in direct action, causing a wave of flight delays and cancellations. The IAM says the delays result from supervisors harassing workers, forcing workers to double-check their work to guard against possible discipline.

Northwest is demanding longer shifts, and concessions for workers assigned to work in a planned low-fare division. The unions are trying to recover from concessions in pay and working conditions given up in recent contracts.

Workers are divided into three major unions, representing flight attendants, ground crews and reservation agents, and pilots. The three have agreed to honor each other's picket lines in the event of a strike.

## Wobs Down Under

*Direct Action*, the Australian IWW paper, recently issued #9 of the current series, and the first to be printed (rather than photocopied), featuring the wharfies dispute.

The student newspaper from Southern Cross University in Lismore recently ran a full-page article on the IWW, alongside a couple of page on the wharfies dispute, in which IWW members have been quite active on the picket lines.

# The IWW Constitution: An Introduction

This is the first in a series of articles (based upon a series that originally ran in 1990) offering an overview of the IWW Constitution. While the IWW Preamble offers a concise statement of Wobbly philosophy — explaining the reasons why the Industrial Workers of the World was organized and the goal towards which we are working — the Constitution spells out the structure and workings of the organization.

Although free of the legalese that makes many constitutions all but unintelligible, many find the IWW Constitution either boring or somewhat confusing. The confusion, I believe, largely stems from the fact that our Constitution does double duty. It not only spells out the agreements we have made among ourselves as to how we will run our organization today, but it also sets forth a framework for the future — outlining how One Big Union of the working class can be organized and run.

The Constitution is explicitly a forward-looking document, anticipating the day when the IWW will once again be composed of functioning industrial unions and looking forward to the day when (for the first time in our history) the IWW will have a major presence in every industry. But this can result in some confusion, as the IWW today is somewhat smaller than it needs to be to fit comfortably into this structure.

The IWW's democratic character only adds to the potential for confusion. The Constitution is intentionally made easily amendable (though only by referendum vote of the entire membership) in order to ensure that the organization remains firmly under

# The Case of the 8-Hour Murder

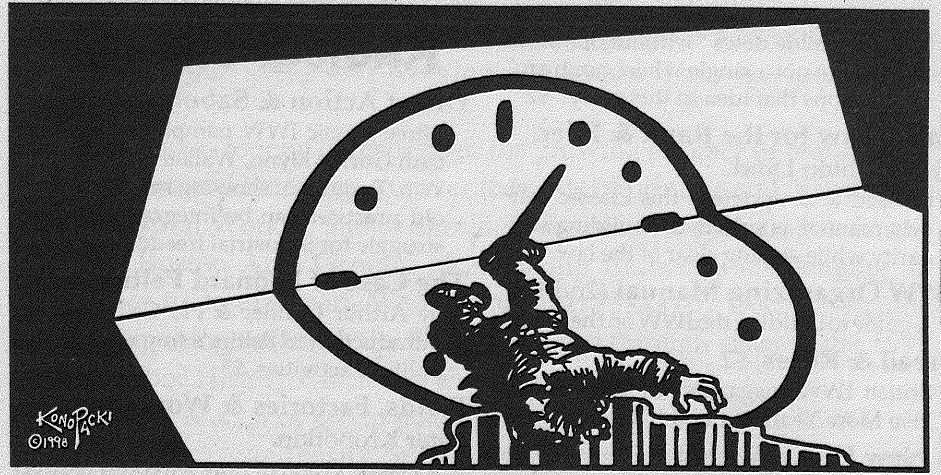
by Sam Slade  
Noir News Service

I've been working on this case for the last 20-plus years. Word on the street was that the 8-hour-day died back in the early 70's. I was hired to find out. No one wanted to believe it, we all grew up figuring it would live forever.

Not all of us really worked the 8-hour-day, of course. The farm fields are still filled with weathered hulks of humanity forced to bust their butts for what seems like an eternity. For them the 8-hour day never died because it was never born to begin with.

Some of us were lucky enough to win an eight hour day. We could even raise a family on it. But that was years ago. Personal income's been falling ever since that B-movie actor stole our hearts, and the White House.

The phone rang. It split my head like a rusty knife, cutting through the gin fog that I fell asleep in. The clock said 4 a.m. The phone



said it was the cops. They'd found what I was looking for. When I got there, the body was smeared on the floor. It was dressed in what looked like a pile of dirty laundry. Its head was mashed like a potato and blood, black as crank case oil, flowed from it like an Exxon slick.

The coroner's boys said it had been bludgeoned by chronic unemployment, beaten by part-time

jobs, and flattened by working two, maybe three jobs just to make ends meet. The ends never met.

The 8-hour-day is dead. Some still struggle to revive it. They refuse to be locked up in a prison of sweat just to fatten some boss with a dollar sign for a face. Thankfully, my work day is over. I've got a date with a girl named gin.

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## U.S. OKs boss-financed Hoffa bid

It is illegal to steal money from the union treasury to finance union officials' election campaigns, and so the U.S. government ousted Teamsters president Ron Carey, barred him from seeking re-election, and is seeking his expulsion from the union.

It's also illegal to take money from the bosses, but the government decided to let James P. Hoffa run for Teamsters president anyway. His campaign will have to pay \$43,000 in fines for improprieties in the last campaign and his chief spokesman is barred from participating in the new election.

Hoffa was fined \$16,767 for accepting \$167,675 of in-kind services from Richard Leebove, an employer, and barred from

doing business with Leebove or his firm, RL Communications. While Leebove was "volunteering" his services as Hoffa's spokesman, he was raking in hundreds of thousands of dollars from Teamsters locals controlled by the Hoffa forces.

Hoffa was also fined for intentionally concealing and not reporting contributions and for laundering payments to a convicted felon working on Hoffa's campaign through his wife.

The Hoffa forces have lost control of several large Teamsters locals in the last year, as working Teamsters become increasingly disenchanted with the old guard's stand-pat, do-nothing "unionism."

## Boycott America West

After four years of on-and-off negotiations, America West's 2,100 flight attendants picketed at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix and burned copies of a contract they rejected last year outside company headquarters. And they've warned of intermittent strikes if their demands for better pay and benefits aren't met.

The nation's ninth-largest airline racked up \$75 million in profits last year, and predicts this year will be even better. But flight attendants haven't seen a pay hike since 1995. America West flight attendants rank last among large airlines in pay. Beginning flight attendants are paid \$12,852 annually. Salaries are so low their children qualify for subsidized school lunches.

the control of the membership. Amendments do not always fit as smoothly as might be wished into the main body of the Constitution, but major defects are soon spotted and can easily be remedied. Some criticize such democracy as inefficient, but our membership has always insisted on making its own decisions and running its own organization.

In this series I will discuss the major elements of the IWW Constitution — the union's structure, who is eligible to membership, how the organization is governed, and how the IWW guarantees that membership control is not infringed.

### One Big Union

The Industrial Workers of the World is so named because we organize all workers, regardless of nationality, gender, religion or other such extraneous factors, along industrial lines into One Big Union of the working class. This organization is realized through Job Branches, Industrial Union Branches, Industrial Union District Councils and/or General Membership Branches, and Industrial Unions.

The Job Branch is composed of the Wobblies on the job. The IWW Constitution provides that wherever there are five or more IWW members on a job, they shall organize a Job Branch to further the organization of their fellow workers on the job, carry out job actions where appropriate, negotiate with employers, etc. The Job Branch decides all matters involving that particular job. Thus, it is the members who decide how an organizing drive is to be

conducted and who carry it out (though they can call on other IWW bodies for assistance), it is the members who decide upon industrial action, and it is the members who sit down and negotiate with the boss (though again, they can seek assistance if they choose).

In the IWW, all workers on the same job belong to the same union. Most U.S. unions to this day organize workers by trade or craft. A "well-organized" hospital, for example, might have a union representing the doctors, another representing the interns, a third representing the technicians and pharmacists, and a fourth representing nurses. Other unions still would represent the jani-

tors, maintenance workers, cooks, electricians, and all the other workers needed to keep the hospital going.

Not so in the IWW. All these workers are in the same industry, and are therefore organized into the same industrial union of Health Care Workers (IU 610). Similarly, all workers on the same job are in the same Job Branch, though on larger jobs they might well choose to organize shop committees to address specific issues. Thus the entire workforce is welded together into One Big Union to fight the bosses with our combined strength. This, experience has shown, is the most effective way to win our industrial struggles.

*Next Issue: Industrial Unions*

## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

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

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