

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

GM workers fight for future

As we go to press nearly all General Motors auto plants in North America are shuttered, as strikes at two parts plants in Flint, Michigan, have left GM's 29 North American assembly plants without essential parts. Although only 9,300 workers are on strike, more than 150,000 workers have been affected by the dispute.

GM is estimated to be losing \$60 million a day, but the company continues to insist that workers at the two plants give the company a free hand to eliminate their jobs, increase their workloads, and otherwise destroy union conditions. GM had \$13.6 billion in the bank when the strikes began, and GM's stock price has climbed as the company closed plant after plant.

GM made \$6.7 billion in profits last year, and gave CEO Jack Smith a 26 percent pay hike (to \$4.3 million). But the company insists that its profits are too low and its workers too well paid. Even though GM has trimmed 212,000 jobs over the last dozen years, it hopes to unleash even more carnage in the coming years. Two internal memos leaked to the press revealed plans to double the number of vehicles assembled in Mexico over the next four years and to shut down the Lordstown, Ohio, assembly plant, which employs 6,300 workers.

The present dispute began when 3,400 workers at the Flint Metal Fabricating stamping plant walked out June 5. UAW Local 659 voted to strike last January over health and safety issues, but UAW officials authorized the action only after GM re-shipped dies used to form vehicle parts to another facility.

When auto workers in Canada faced a similar situation last year, they responded by occupying GM's Oshawa, Ontario plant, disassembling and hiding the dies. GM was forced to settle quickly. In Flint rank-and-file workers blocked trucks from taking the parts out two days before the strike, but GM was able to remove them by train.

Some 5,800 workers at Delphi East, a major GM parts factory that produces fuel pumps, speedometers and other small parts, went on strike a week later.

By the end of June 26 GM assembly plants and over 100 parts plants – including independent suppliers that produce for GM – were shut down. GM's "just-in-time" production scheme, which slashed parts inven-

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General Strike In Puerto Rico

As we go to press hundreds of thousands of workers are preparing to shut down Puerto Rico July 7 to protest government plans to privatize the telephone company. Members of more than 60 unions will stop work and set up picket lines at government offices, banks, factories and shopping malls across the island.

On May 28th, the government of Puerto Rico announced the sale of the government-owned telephone company, accepting an offer by GTE in conjunction with Banco Popular, the main bank of Puerto Rico, and a group of investors. Last October 1st, after plans to sell the phone company were first announced, 100,000 workers marched through the San Juan capitol to oppose the sale. A survey in the island's main newspaper, *El Nuevo Dia*, shows 65 percent of the population opposed to the sale. The government has refused demands for a referendum on privatization.

The phone company is valued at \$2.25

billion. GTE will pay \$300 million. Banco Popular and the investors will pay another \$75 million. GTE will control the management and the Board of Directors.

The 6,000 Puerto Rican telephone workers struck June 17 as the government prepared to approve legislation authorizing the sale, which spearheads Governor Pedro Rossello's privatization program. The phone workers have been joined by workers in the electrical, sewer and other industries. The University Front, a coalition of professors, clerical employees and student organizations, has also joined the strike. Police have threatened to arrest Rafael Bernabe, president of the Puerto Rican Association of University Professors on conspiracy charges. He says he joined picket lines because an "essential part of a strike is to prevent the entrance of scabs."

Picket lines at phone company offices have been among the largest in the history of Puerto Rico. Over 400 picket lines have

been set up at every phone company site around the island. What Puerto Ricans call the People's Strike against Privatization has been marked by repeated police attacks on picket lines to clear the way for managers to enter telephone facilities. The metal-tipped clubs used by the police are illegal on the U.S. mainland. Several strikers have been hospitalized by the assaults.

Police actions have been condemned by the presidents of the Puerto Rican Civil Rights Commission and the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the latter describing police actions as "evidence that we are heading to a shameless fascism."

Several religious leaders have joined picket lines after seeing scenes of police abuse on television. They included Jorge Raschke, a leading Pentecostal preacher known for ultra-right politics. He called on the governor to hear the voice of the people and reconsider the sale.

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Kingston Day of Action fights back

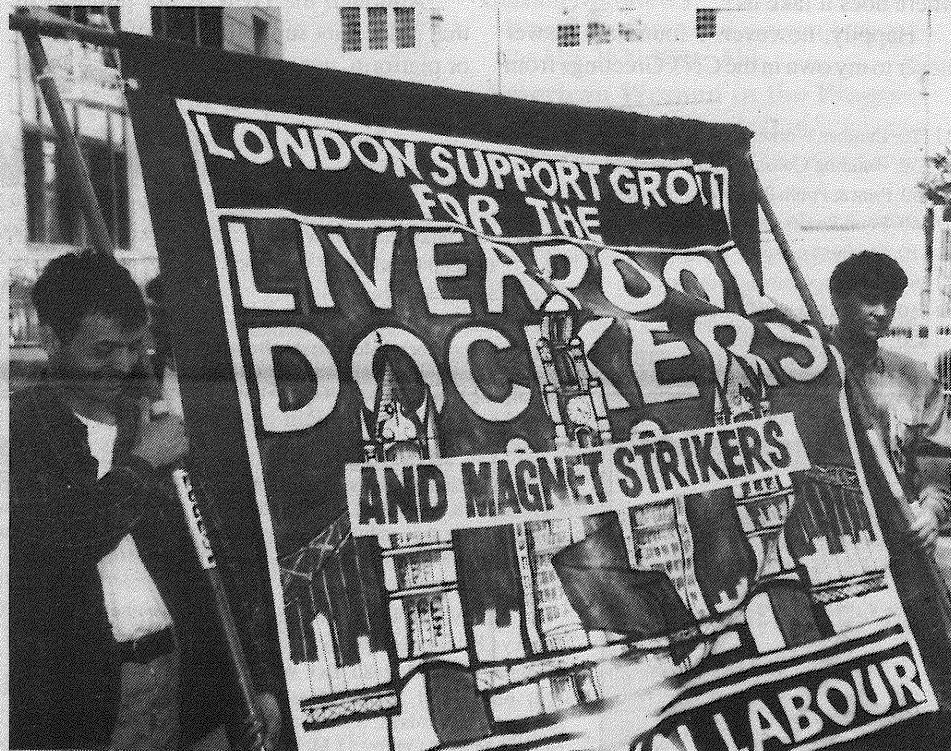
The spirit of impending backing down by the labour movement leadership cast a shroud over the Kingston Day of Action, held June 8th. Early morning actions and picket lines, however, showed that there is still wide-spread interest in a province-wide general strike.

I arrived in Kingston at about sunrise, going with members of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty to reinforce a Canadian Union of Postal Workers picket. Because of threats by Canada Post to discipline any Postal Worker from any post office site who took part in a picket of a postal station, CUPW members wore masks or balaclavas. OCAP members and supporters were easily identified. This became a difficulty when vans driven by scabs approached the picket line. While the drivers were waiting for instructions, members of CUPW and two of us from OCAP managed to take keys out of some of the vans. Police were called and only the intervention of CUPW members prevented arrests from occurring. Shiraz, who had obtained some notoriety about two years ago when he was charged with 'Intimidating the Legislature,' was briefly detained in the back of a police car until the keys he took were returned. I was whisked away by CUPW staff and ended up in the downtown core at the rally site.

Across the city, from the Kingston Transit bus barns to Alcan Aluminum, cross picketing helped shut down most of the major employers and government office sites. This strategy of having workers picket sites other than their work place has proven successful in cities from Thunderbay to Toronto in ensuring the success of the Days of Action/General Strikes.

Parallel to the pickets, at about 9:00 a.m. people from the ARA, OCAP, SAN, IWW and other grassroots activists targeted banks for actions. From blocking entrance ways to spray painting anti-bank slogans, this was the first time at a Days of Action that the banks were formally targeted. There were four arrests – three charged with assault for not leaving a bank lobby and one for five counts of mischief for spray painting the banks. Mac Scott, one of those arrested for assault, is an IWW member.

At the rally before the march people heard from a variety of speakers. Most were well received, but representatives of the



IWW members joined the Liverpool Dockers' Second March for Social Justice May 30, marching in London to protest the Labour government's continuing attacks on workers' rights. Story page 3.

USWA and the OFL were soundly booed and their speeches drowned out by calls to "Set the Date" and "Hey Samuelson, Hey Harris, We'll Shut You Down Like Paris." Mike Harris is the premier of Ontario. Wayne Samuelson is the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour. It was obvious to the leadership of the OFL, who were calling to elect an NDP government two years from now, that those participating in the Day of Action want to defeat the right wing agenda.

The march, which began at about 12 noon, wandered through the streets to Kingston to the cheers of those on the sidewalks. Most local restaurants and stores had signs supporting the Day of Action. Eggs

were tossed when the demonstration came close to banks. Parade marshals turned away from such efforts, unlike in some other cities where the parade marshals acted like police auxiliaries instead of participants in anti-government actions.

At the end rally site one labour leader was applauded – Sid Ryan of the Canadian Union of Public Employees – after he called for a province-wide general strike. Other labour leaders were again booed, while community activists were well received.

Before the rally ended, it was announced that a bail hearing for those arrested earlier in the day was to be held at 2:00 p.m. About

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In This Issue...

Wharfies surrender

Interview with fired McDonald's striker

Building international labor solidarity

Job Corps Strike



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Toronto Action for Social Change Joins IWW

When Toronto Action for Social Change appears in the news it is likely as a result of the arrest of some of its members. From the Queen's Park Plant-in to an upcoming Robin Hood Action, TASC members are best known for trying to find creative ways to point out alternatives to war, hunger and homelessness. However, such protests are only one of the projects of TASC and it is because TASC is also involved in publication and education that it was decided to join the IWW and apply for job shop status.

Structurally, being a job shop means that we have to do more work to ensure full participation of our members and do a better job of sharing the responsibilities, including providing skills training where necessary.

TASC members have crossed Ontario conducting workshops in non-violence and creative resistance since the election of the right-wing Harris government in the spring of 1995. Over time it became apparent that the arrangements had to be made more formal to ensure mutual accountability. Once anyone starts talking contracts or agreements around conditions and money, being in a union is essential. TASC's collective structure and history of radicalism made the IWW an ideal choice.

TASC is also a publisher. *The Long Arc* comes out 10-12 times/year and focuses both on TASC's activities and on non-violent actions around the world. *Resources for Radicals* is an annual annotated bibliography of print resources of value to those working for social change. These products of TASC are efforts to expand awareness of the possibilities of resistance and to assist others in acquiring the skills to make change happen.

TASC members hope that other progressive organizations in Toronto will consider joining the IWW as well. Talks have been held with staff at two organizations, but nothing serious has come about. Still, the seed is planted and Toronto, with both a good GMB and now a job shop, is likely to be a place of growth for the IWW.

New Branches

Wobblies in the Northampton area have petitioned for a General Membership Branch charter in the name of the Western Massachusetts GMB. IWW members in the Portland (OR) area have petitioned for a Public Service Workers IU 670 Industrial Union Branch charter, and have an active organizing drive on. Having lined up two working bands, Portland Wobs have also organized an Entertainment Workers IU 630 Industrial Union Branch.

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

Ghana, Africa

Our Edinburgh branch has been contacted by a group of workers in Ghana in response to articles we managed to get printed in the 100,000 circulation *Weekly Insight*. There are around a half a dozen members and copies of the constitution and the One Big Union booklet are on the way.

Chile

The British Isles Regional Organizing Committee has also received an inquiry from a fellow worker working with a survivor of the Chilean IWW, suppressed decades ago by the military. Jose Ego-Aguirre, who is in his 90s, works with the group "Hombre y Sociedad" and speaks frequently of his IWW days. He was inspired to look up some IWW literature, and is now arranging to distribute IWW literature to his fellow workers.

Comics Unite!

Portland Stand-Up Comics are organizing a union and affiliating with the IWW.

To celebrate winning a first contract at Choice's Pub, and as a step toward greater mutual aid and solidarity, the comics are presenting an all-new comedy showcase every Wednesday, featuring regulars the likes of comedy legend Dwight Slade, NRK's Gary Lucy and radical comic Bill Bradley, with musical guests including Pete Krebs of Golden Delicious and Dave Mullany from the old Bo Diddley Band.

Proceeds from the weekly shows benefit the new union and deliver a deeper standard of entertainment to people hungry for edgy grins. Laugh! Riot! Contact Bill (503/236-6948) to book a Wobbly gig at your club, college or union hall.

Soapboxing the airwaves

"Class War Radio" is currently a test-run example of what we are hoping will develop into a union-wide radio show along the lines of what the *Industrial Worker* is now in the medium of a newspaper. Hosted by members of the IWW Job Branch "Free Radio Gainesville," the first (unofficial) edition will feature interviews with illegally fired McDonald's striker Bryan Drapp as

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London March for Social Justice

More than 1,500 people joined the Second March for Social Justice May 30. The march was called by the sacked Liverpool dockers who are continuing working to keep the issues they raised in the public eye, despite having settled with their former employers.

Leading off the march were the dockers, followed by the Hillsborough Justice campaign, a few unions and even fewer political groups. There was a strong international contingent, including a Danish worker who had recently been on strike there in the dispute the government forcibly legislated the end of, and an Australian wharfie. There were about 25 members of the Belgian Workers Party, a contingent of Turkish and Kurdish socialists, and a large anarchist contingent.

Several British Wobblies members marched, joined by FWs Jon Bekken and Alexis Buss from the United States. Following the march, we retired to a local pub for refreshments and long discussions about the progress and prospects for the union.

IWW Southern Regional Meeting

The Southern Regional Conference, despite many setbacks and last-minute rearrangements turned out to be a success after all. After losing the original host of our Conference, the southern Wobs agreed to meet in the beautiful Cherokee National Forest in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee.

Wobblies came from all over the south: Miami, Atlanta, Morgantown, Richmond and Gainesville were all represented at the conference. On Friday night we all ended up in different necks of the woods. But by Saturday morning everyone had reconnected, and workshops were held on racism within the labor movement, restaurant organizing, and organizing tactics in general.

We decided to have one more conference before General Assembly and from then on to make it a twice-yearly event. In addition, we will be producing a new quarterly IWW publication focusing on Southern Wobs entitled *The Righteous Rebel* (this name is subject to change).

An email listserve for southern IWW members was created, and a phonetree was created as well. Lack of communication between branches seems to be one of the biggest problems that we identified in the south. One suggestion that made a lot of sense was that if there is an IWW member in a medium to large-sized town that has no GMB, they should still list contact info in the *Industrial Worker* directory.

On Saturday night, we sat together and discussed issues pertinent to our labor situation here in the south while Fellow Workers Tom Williams of Richmond and Joel Lewis of Miami played old Wobbly tunes in the background. Also present was yours truly, a host of "Class War Radio."

On Sunday, the weekend ended with a feeling of camaraderie and a slight despair at leaving our new-found Wobbly friends from all over the region (not to mention the beautiful forest).

— X345417 Jason Adams

1998 IWW General Assembly

The 1998 General Assembly will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA over the U.S. Labor Day weekend, September 5 - 7th. The Assembly will be held at Artichoke Backstage Theatre, 3130 SE Hawthorne.

A big Saturday night shin-dig will feature lots of Wobbly entertainment.

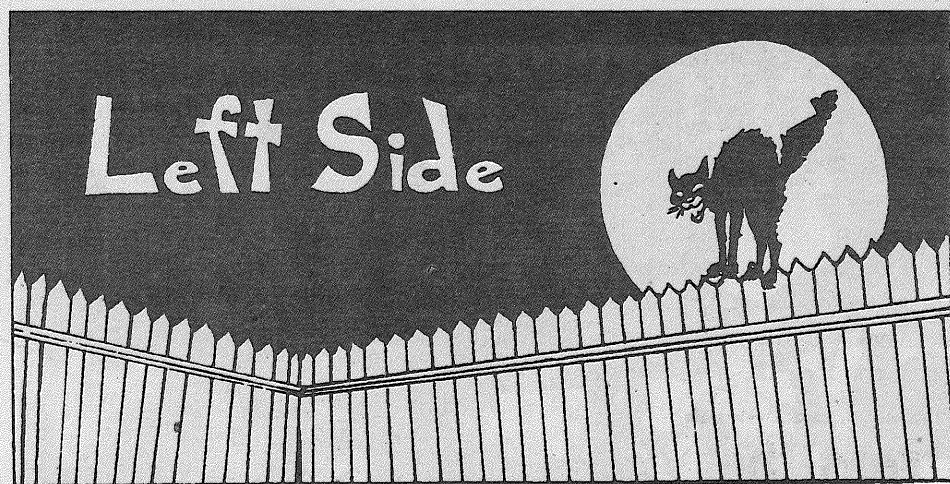
The Portland GMB has information on low-cost housing in the area. They request that Wobblies planning to attend the Assembly inform them in advance, and indicate if they will need crash space, transportation from the airport (or rail, etc.), and such. Send to Portland IWW GA, POB 15005, Portland OR 97293, or e-mail obu@teleport.com

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund GA Travel Grant

The IWW's Charlie Sato Memorial Fund is one of three funds set up to commemorate FW Charlene Sato, a founding member of the O'ahu GMB, who died of ovarian cancer, January 28, 1996, aged just 44. A sociolinguist and scholar of pidgin and creole studies, Charlie had been a full-time faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1982. She was a tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working folks all her tragically short life.

Each year, interest from the fund is used to award a grant, currently of about \$200 (U.S.), to help one or more women Wobblies attend the annual General Assembly, this year in Portland. It is hoped to be able to increase this amount gradually as the Fund's principal grows over the years. (Donations can be made via GHQ.) The first two recipients were Miriam Fried (1996) and Alexis Buss (1997), but there is no requirement that this year's grantee also be a member of the Philadelphia GMB! The application procedure is designed to involve a minimum of bureaucracy. By July 31, send a short statement (a page will do) saying who you are, what you would use the money for, and how you plan to participate in GA, to: Mike Long, 2386 Liloa Rise, Honolulu HI 96822. Two or three Wobs will evaluate the applications, and the grantee(s) will be notified by August 15, at the latest. Please include a contact phone number or email address.

SUPPORT THE WORKERS' PRESS
Contribute to the IWW Sustaining Fund



The workings of capitalism indeed work in strange but predictable ways. An insurance agent by the name of Charles Cornell was awarded \$100,000 in damages. He had been in an automobile accident and as a result suffered head injuries that his doctors said had left him with a kinder and more gentle disposition. As a result of this kinder and more gentle disposition his sales went down and his business suffered badly. Cornell claimed that his new personality had rendered him unsuitable for the insurance business and his claim was awarded by the London high court. While automobile accidents are not necessarily pleasant occurrences, one is reminded of the old saw that it is an ill wind that blows no good.

Your scribe can think of many other professions where such head injuries could be put to good use, but the best is to organize for a society where insurance agents, landlords and similar levels of life would be obsolete.

Sometime between the 1960s and 1980s God became a conservative, according to Sam Smith in the February issue of the *Progressive Review*. "Not only is God a conservative but the meanest sonofabitch in town, slapping down welfare mothers with one hand and pot smokers with the other, while simultaneously closing factories, censoring the Internet, drug testing anything that burps, and making sure rapists pay for their carelessness by giving birth to the evidence."

There's the old fundamentalist platitude that "an honest man is the noblest work of God," but the noted agnostic Robert G. Ingersol turned it around by stating that "an honest God is the noblest work of man." Among our species there are many different kinds of gods whose benevolence or malevolence depends upon the kind of society their believers live under. Your scribe in his delvings into cultural anthropology has long noticed that the nicest deities are believed in by those who live in societies that the modern capitalist world is prone to designate as "primitive." Are these societies "primitive" because they do not use electric chairs, atom bombs, or napalm?

This past month there has been a lot of hand-wringing over gunfire killings in Freedomland's public schools. Great shock and indignation has been expressed over the mass media that young kids are killing each other. But there is no reason to be shocked; It is merely another example of "chickens coming home to roost." After all, these kids are doing nothing more than imitating their elders. What can one expect of young minds growing up in a society where larger nations lay waste to the cities of other countries because the politicians of one nation happen to disagree with the politicians of another nation? What is the popular entertainment fare on the one-eyed monster or the local cinema house? If it's not the Cavalry laying waste to some Indians, it's the fair-haired detectives blowing away some urban miscreants.

In our modern capitalist culture there is a worship of violence where all of society's ills can be rectified by who can draw the fastest gun. It is a crying same when one realizes that both the large and the small screen have the capacity of putting out some quality entertainment as well as providing some first-class educational material, but live anything else under the present economic system this means of communication is being misused to the point of perversion. Think hard about it, Fellow Worker reader, it is our future generations whose minds are being perverted.

Here in Freedomland there are now over a million people currently in prison, and more prisons are being built than are schools.

Here are some pertinent statistics: White collar crime drains \$200 billion per year from the Freedomland economy, while the cost of "street crime" is less than \$5 billion... The U.S. now imprisons more than ten times as many drug offenders as it did in 1980... At the same time more than \$250 billion in drug profits go through U.S. banks while convictions for money laundering are few and far between.

"One job farmed out to prisoners is packing golf balls ... The job you want is waiting for you in prison at 29¢ an hour."

"The law punishes a man who steals the goose from the hillside but lets the greater robber loose who steals the hillside from the goose."

These are quotes taken from a roll of posters your scribe received in the mail from a group called Resistant Strains, whose speciality is producing material with a social message. One satirical poster reproduces an authentic-looking letter from the Internal Security Agency of Washington, D.C., to the president advocating incarcerating inner city youth in order to maintain competitive wages and ensure political stability. The two-page letter may be a satire, but when you look at what's actually happening in our inner cities one is tempted to wonder.

The sheaf of posters include many excellent graphic images, in many cases disturbing but to the point. This group works at a loss, but they still are compelled to spread badly needed messages. They can use donations of any size, and their posters are really worth having. To order work from them, write: Resistant Strains, 5 Winter Street, Montpelier VT 05602 (802/223-4901).

Your scribe unequivocally recommends that those who are interested send a donation for their work. They put no price on their output, and they really need it.

— C.C. Redcloud

Back in Freedomland ...

from a trip for a labor conference in Sweden, and to meet some Wobs in England and see the sights, I'm struck once again at how easily we have come to accept conditions that strike our fellow workers overseas as the height of capitalist barbarity.

Folks were astounded that bosses can fire you 'cuz they don't like your looks, appalled by the long hours we work, incredulous at the untrammelled power we allow the boss class. It's what happens when workers don't fight for their rights

Last issue I mentioned how my landlord is looking for rent hikes of 23 - 50 percent. He's still refusing to negotiate with the new tenants union, but has agreed to cut many folks' hikes to 8 - 10 percent (still way too much, but housing is scarce herabouts). That means even shaky organization is worth about \$200 a month - think how much better we could do were our class organized...

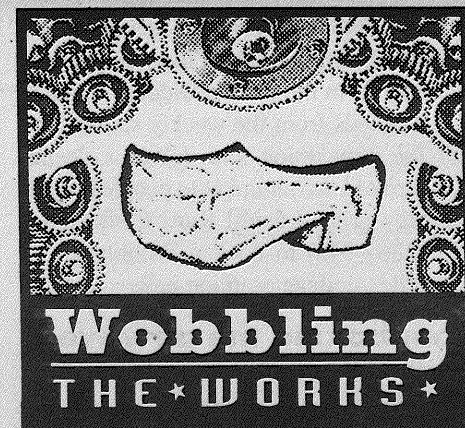
Republicans for labor?

Republican senators are blocking the appointment of James Hormel (of union-busting meatpacking fame) to be ambassador to Luxembourg - not because he screwed his workers, but because he screws other men.

Elsewhere on the Republican front, congressional candidate R. Philip Hyde (8th District) calls for "liberat[ing] the wage slaves of today" by cutting the work week. Reducing the work week would improve the quality of life, cut unemployment, and jumpstart the economy, he says. Would the AFL-CIO was so enlightened ...

Do Your Homework:

Gathering information for organizing



Over the past months, I've been asked to help find information on companies and bosses that have done their workers wrong. Indeed there are all kinds of places to look, so I'm taking the opportunity this month to share some tricks. Many of them involve use of the internet, which can usually be accessed in public libraries if you don't have your own connection.

While gathering information, I usually first look for past history of wrongdoing, especially regarding the safety of the workers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has computerized all of its safety inspection reports since 1972. You can make a search by company name at the website located at [<http://www.osha.gov/oshastas/est1.shtml>].

If there is an entry for the company you're dealing with, you'll also see the number of workers both at the site that was investigated and company-wide if there are other sites. It is important to understand the guidelines OSHA operates on, which can be found at [<http://www.osha.gov>]. Every employer is mandated by law to keep a log of work-related injuries and illnesses called the OSHA 200 Log. Any employee has the legal right to inspect and copy the log, but there is of course a risk that the employee will be identified as a troublemaker. Although OSHA offers legal protections for "whistleblowers," the enforcement of this law is another question entirely.

The bosses' airwaves

I've been on the road quite a bit in the past several weeks, which means I've heard a lot of radio. On one late-night show a caller noted money is worth less than the paper it's printed on. Paper you can write upon. But money comes pre-printed with insipid sayings and second-rate portraits. You can't eat it, can't sleep in it, can't write on it. But our economy is so mis-organized that we spend the larger part of our waking lives slaving away for these useless scraps of paper, and let the employing class deny us the necessities of life if we run short.

A few days later a NPR general manager went on the air to talk to listeners, one of whom asked a very reasonable question. Why is it that they air 40 minutes of business programming every day, and not even a single show devoted to labor issues? After all, there's a lot more folks who work for a living than parasites.

The GM said they booked working folks on their talk shows from time to time, and seemed to think that was more than enough. The FCC agrees, and has stepped up its war on micro-broadcasters (in most of the country the only way us working stiffs can hope to get on the air) to keep it that way...

Praying for the goods

After their prayers for a new contract left Northwest planes grounded, machinists won a new contract. Pilots kept flying, and so their bargaining still hasn't gotten off the ground...

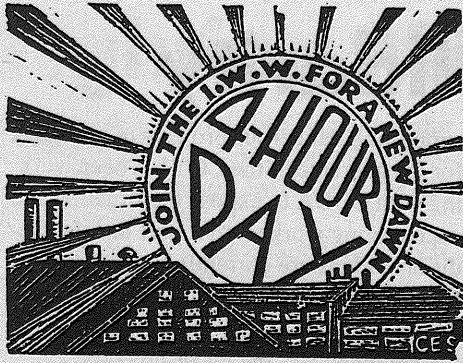
— Jon Bekken

Looking for past history of labor trouble at a is a little more difficult to uncover. The place to find charges against bosses is usually the National Labor Relations Board, but the NLRB does not publish all of its decisions, and the records of initial charges are very cumbersome to comb through because they are not indexed. The NLRB does maintain a website [www.nlrb.gov] with a partial index of decisions. Law libraries will have a monthly reporter issued by the NLRB, which again, only contains some decisions.

I make a point to go to my local NLRB office once a month to comb through the dockets and take notes on places that workers are making a lot of complaints against. The NLRB only prosecutes about 45 percent of the charges filed, so there are a lot of stories out there that will never make it online or into a case book. You can find out the organizing history of a company by contacting the NLRB, which maintains a database of all elections (including decertifications) from the 1960s until the present.

And those pesky lawyers! You can look up lawyers (you'll need the law firm name) in a national legal directory published by Martindale-Hubbell. The most interesting thing you'll find is a listing of publications that these lawyers have published. Often you'll find that the publications are "how-to's" for bosses on crushing union drives. This will help you inoculate your co-workers for the boss' poison rhetoric.

To find financial information on the company, you need to determine if it is publicly traded, privately owned, or a subsidiary of a larger company which could be either private or public. This is often common knowledge on the shop floor, but if it isn't, you can often go to a public library and do a search for information in the business press. When searching for financial information on a company, you can turn to a lot of different places. If the company is publicly traded you'll have the easiest time. Many stock brokerage firms can provide you with a financial profile, but you'll need



Fighting for time

Eight workers are suing Albertson's supermarkets for cheating them of overtime pay by requiring off-the-clock work before and after shifts and during breaks. When a storm destroyed Albertson's store in Bremerton, Washington, where Debra Chard worked she called it divine justice. She was glad to get away from managers who made her work long hours with no break. "They'd say, 'Don't expect to have a job if you don't get it done,'" she said.

The *New York Times* says Albertson's is unusual in the number of lawsuits it is facing, but that many companies face complaints about the amount of time expected from them. In lawsuit after lawsuit, corporations have been accused of not paying overtime even as they make employees work beyond their shifts, and of keeping 'managers' who spend most of their shifts in nonsupervisory roles from receiving overtime pay to which they are entitled.

From 1993 through 1997, the Department of Labor recovered some \$450 million for nearly 900,000 workers. During the same period, more than 61,000 civil suits were filed in Federal courts charging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Many other suits were filed in state courts.

Violations tend to be concentrated in the retail, construction and garment industries. Many employers expect workers to complete specific tasks in a shift, without considering the amount of time required, but refuse to pay for any "extra" time.

More than 4,000 workers have filed wage claims against Albertson's, which operates 865 grocery and drug stores in the West, Midwest and South. In California and Washington alone, the UFCW union, which represents workers at about a third of the company's stores, estimates that Albertson's owes workers \$189 million.

to pretend you're a potential investor. They will generally give you an annual report, which will also list salaries for the top officers of the corporation. Some of this information can be found online. Dun & Bradstreet, a credit reporting service, has a website [<http://www.dnb.com>] and for about \$20 you can get a business report on any company they list. Yahoo maintains a page with business related information including Securities and Exchange information at [<http://biz.yahoo.com>]. There is also a searchable archive of electronic copies of major SEC filings, which started around 1994 at [<http://www.edgar.stern.nyu.edu/EDGAR.html>].

Private companies, where stock is held by fewer than 500 people (usually much less, like a family), do not have to file with the SEC. They do have to file with the state, and you can search at the KnowX Web site for corporate records. This is free during off-peak hours [<http://www.knowx.com>]. Some states do not have information available online (DE, FL, HI, MT, NJ) but if you call the Secretary of State's office they should be able to help you - ask for the company's annual report.

Unfortunately it can be very difficult to discern how much the officers of private companies take-home in pay, as there is no obligation to provide the information. You can often find out how much their companies are worth by visiting the county tax assessor's office in the county that headquarters or residences are in, which can tell

— Farewell, Fellow Worker —

Fellow Worker Dan Wilson, X341849, captain and founding member of the Sea Dive collective died of lung cancer June 5. His ashes will be scattered from the Sea Dive.

Puerto Rican general strike

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The strike has been accompanied by some acts of sabotage. 25% of phone company lines are out of service, affecting 345,000 clients.

Pickets have extended to branches of Banco Popular. The Teachers Federation has withdrawn its account of \$100 million from Banco Popular, the teachers Association another \$55 million.

The telephone company has filed an NLRB complaint claiming that the strike violates a no-strike clause in the contract and goes beyond the bounds of collective bargaining by trying to prevent the sale. A court injunction ordering the unions to give management personnel free access to phone company buildings is being ignored by CAOS, the broad coalition of organizations supporting the strike.

A National Strike was approved unanimously in an assembly of the 55-organizations-strong Broad Committee of Trade Union, Civic, Religious and Cultural Organizations (CAOS) in the strike's eleventh day. The strike was called for July 7th, to be of two days duration. There are indications that the strike will be extended if the actions fail to persuade the Puerto Rican government to rescind the privatization vote.

Some cracks are appearing in the governing party's unity. Former representative Ismael Fernandez published a column addressed to the Governor titled: "We are Losing Pedro." He took the governor to task for pretending to ignore the situation and said the governor had forgotten one of his favorite sayings, that the people speak and he obeys. "To eat grapes while the people burn is not the best example of a democratic government."

Solidarity protests have taken place in New York at the Banco Popular office there. More are planned in New York and at GTE offices in San Francisco.

(This report is excerpted from daily reports of Jose Fortuno for a-infos which can be found on the web at <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/9169/>)

you the land in the county owned by the company and the officers in the company. If there are lots of properties listed, it is probably worthwhile to visit neighboring counties as well.

Information will tend to lead you to other information, and there are many more places to look for the tentacles of companies than I have space to elaborate on here. But always be mindful about the purpose of gathering information. You might need to address a rumor that a company is about to make massive changes in working conditions. This would normally come right before or after a company becomes public or gets sold, so financial information can begin to indicate that. In the course of a drive, you might want to compare a CEO's salary to a worker's hourly wage, or you might like to look at how financially vulnerable the company is so that if you call a strike you'll have a picture of how long the boss can hold out.

There are a million possibilities for making any drive stronger with facts about a company since so many bosses are simply gussied-up crooks, so happy searching!

— Alexis Buss

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

EXCITING TIMES in Puerto Rico with a growing national strike in its 16th day as I write this. A general strike has been called for July 7th. It has been interesting to watch the development. Telephone workers 6,000 strong went out two weeks ago in reaction to the pro-statehood government's plans to privatize the phone company. General Telephone and Electric is the international corporation which will buy 50% plus 1 share control of the company for an investment amounting to 13% of the value. While the phone workers were probably thinking primarily in terms of saving their jobs, such a giveaway has to strike hard at Puerto Rican dignity as they watch another resource stolen from them by another U.S.-based corporation. The strong reaction of the Puerto Rican people has gone far beyond those whose jobs are threatened.

from the desk of...

6,000 electrical utility workers joined in the strike within days. They know they're likely to be the next victims. With the division of unions under capitalist laws, any time one union strikes in solidarity with another, something special is happening.

Then came 5,000 water utility workers. OK, it's still personal interest. They know they too could be privatized down the line. Then the Teamsters. Now you get communications, power, water and transportation workers out on strike together and a society isn't likely to function very smoothly.

On the U.S. mainland we regularly see strikes defeated because of a lack of solidarity from one union to the next and because labor leaders decide to honor court injunctions against picketing which effectively eviscerate the struggles. Lack of solidarity was a primary factor in the loss at Staley in Illinois. Honoring court injunctions has been key in the lack of success for the newspaper workers in Detroit. But in Puerto Rico we are seeing what solidarity can do. We are also seeing that defiance of injunctions is the common sense approach to major labor struggles. While the governor has threatened to arrest the picketers who are blocking ingress and egress of phone company management, when the numbers of picketers are in the tens of thousands, it's a little hard to find jail space for all of them. So far the union officials have refused to order the workers to comply with the injunction. May they continue to show the spine so often lacking among union leaders here in the U.S.

A broad coalition labor unions, student and professorial activists, religious organizations, and social organizations going by the ya-gotta-love-it acronym of CAOS has now widened the struggle with a call for a general strike on July 7th. The failure of U.S. unions to join in such coalitions here, supporting demands of community groups in exchange for their support of labor demands, is a key factor in the ability of the capitalists to divide and conquer.

Another lesson of the Puerto Rican struggle is that violence is not necessary if you have the numbers, although a little selective sabotage can't hurt. Hundreds of thousands of phones are out of service on the island. Hundreds of automated teller machines of the Banco Popular, a major financier of the sale, are out of order while those of other banks don't seem to be experiencing similar problems. Some of the mechanical failures are due to the absence from work of skilled workers to repair normal breakdowns. Some of it is no doubt due to the availability of skilled workers to deconstruct what they have constructed.

While some workers have defended themselves from police attacks, the violence has come from the police who have beaten and maced picketers. The governor who claims to be the servant of the people condones police violence and refuses to call a national referendum on privatization although polls show that 65% of the people are opposed to giving another of the island's resources away to the capitalists. But there are cracks appearing even among his base of supporters. It will be interesting to see if he survives his defiance of the will of the people.

NO DOUBT national pride is entering into the refusal of the populace to roll over in the face of another affront to their dignity. The 100th anniversary of U.S. occupation of the island is on July 25th. There will be a major demonstration of those opposed to the continuing colonial status of Puerto Rico in Washington D.C. on that day. A contingent of Wobblies is planning to attend to express their solidarity with the inspirational example of the resistance of the Puerto Rican people to another blow to self determination.

It will be fascinating to watch further events unfold. Similar general strikes in Guatemala and Brazil in recent years have prevented privatization of phone companies. I wish the Puerto Rican people the very best in their current efforts. I hope we will learn from their tactics. We'll do what we can to express our solidarity here in the belly of the beast. Readers might want to give GTE a call and tell them what they think of the corporation's planned ripoff of the Puerto Rican people. Join in demonstrations planned against GTE in San Francisco, Banco Popular in New York, and the July 25th demonstration in DC. And put that Wobbly creativity to

work on figuring out ways in your local area that you can help make GTE realize that they aren't just dealing with the outrage of the Puerto Rican people, that the strikers on the island have the support of workers throughout the world.

The concept that the world is our picketline arose in the support of the Liverpool docker strike. International support has been pouring in for the Puerto Rican general strike. See you on that world-wide picket line.

— Fred Chase

General Secretary-Treasurer

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Charles Sontag, Milwaukee WI	\$5.00
Tom Johnson & Barbara Briggs, Newmarket NH	15.00
Michael Long, Honolulu HI	20.00
McArthur Gunter, Camp Springs MD	18.93
Paul Peloquin, Brooklyn NY	5.00

Charlene (Charlie) Sato Memorial Fund

Mike Long, Honolulu HI	\$200.00
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Building world labor solidarity

ing being organized in Rome this October to coordinate a campaign for shorter hours.

Several delegates reported that their unions were growing as workers looked for a fighting alternative. Corto Ravenna of the CNT reported that their union has grown from a few hundred members to nearly 4,000 in the last five years. In addition to building its presence on the job, the CNT is also supporting struggles by unemployed and undocumented ("paperless") workers. The CNT pointed to its strike against the transnational COMATEC as an example of the need for greater international solidarity.

Floréal Cuadrado of the correcteurs (which represents typesetters and proofreaders) reported that their section insists on maintaining its political independence. The correcteurs are currently battling employers' demands for "flexibility," and trying to develop stronger ties with other European unions in the papermaking and printing sectors in order to more effectively counter the restructuring taking place throughout the continent.

José Maria Olaizolas of the Spanish CGT said their union was growing continuously even as other Spanish unions are in decline. The CGT is fighting increased overtime, "flexibility," and privatization.

Bob Ritchie of the Liverpool Port Shop Stewards summed up the Mersey dockers' struggle, stressing the importance of international solidarity in sustaining their fight for two and a half years. The dockers have established a co-op to try to re-establish union jobs in the Liverpool port. Several dockers have begun work on the Liverpool waterfront, pulling in higher wages than were paid before the lock-out because few of the MDHC scabs have the necessary skills to handle cargo efficiently. Several dockers are undergoing retraining in computer programming and other industries. The co-op plans to establish enterprises paying union wages for a 32-hour week, with all workers receiving the same pay rate whether they are working on the docks or doing janitorial work. Ritchie said the stew-

ards hope to put all the locked-out dockers back to work, and eventually begin recruiting among Liverpool's many unemployed.

Evaldas Balciunas of the Lithuanian Education Workers Union reported that living standards are collapsing. Although many workers want to fight, there is no union tradition and most unions are dominated by political parties and so unable to represent workers' interests. Guy Cheverton of the Hull & District Trades Council reported that several local councils provide a practical venue for solidarity action, despite the Trades Union Congress. Despite declining membership, the Hull council retains a strong commitment to building international ties.

In addition to discussing the need for building stronger communication and solidarity ties, delegates heard presentations on the Clean Clothes Campaign, the Doñana struggle, and the Syndicalist Youth Federation. The SUF was founded a couple of years ago by students and other young workers looking to revitalize the syndicalist movement. The number of local groups has doubled (to 32, with 500 members) in the last year, and circulation of the SUF paper *Direkt Aktion* is up.

The Clean Clothes Campaign is exposing working conditions in the garment industry, and trying to bring pressure on retailers to insist on minimum standards from their suppliers.

A comrade from the Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Defensa Ambiental reported on an environmental catastrophe in Doñana. More than 5 million cubic meters of toxic sludge were dumped into the Guadiamar River April 25 when a reservoir burst at the Aznalcóllar Mines, owned by the Swedish transnational Boliden. In addition to poisoning a nature reserve and destroying the local fishing industry, residents and clean-up workers are being poisoned by toxic dust from dried-out sludge. Boliden dumps toxic wastes at the pit head, where they gradually leach into the environment in the best of times. While the CC.OO. and UGT unions signed a collaboration pact,

supporting dangerous projects in exchange for job guarantees, the CGT has been working with CODA to expose the situation and encouraging workers to report unsafe conditions. Plans are currently being arranged for an international day of action against Boliden, as part of ongoing efforts to make the company pay the clean-up costs.

Solidarity Network

The international meeting was dominated by discussion of a proposal by the Hull Council to establish an Internet-based communication network linking alternative unions and facilitating international solidarity efforts and a related proposal by SAC's International Secretary to establish an email news service. While there was agreement on the need for improved communication, there were differences about how best to proceed. Some delegates argued that the original Hull proposal seemed to lead towards creating a new international organization, something most were not prepared to do. Other debates centered on the need to build union organization on the job to create the basis for effective solidarity action.

Delegates ultimately decided to organize a web-based communication network open to syndicalist and alternative unions and rank-and-file organizations seeking to inform workers around the world of their activities and struggles, and seeking solidarity actions to support those struggles.

The CNT and CGT-correcteurs announced that they are organizing workshops and celebrations kicking off May 1, 2000, and there was also brief discussion of efforts to coordinate the already strong syndicalist presence in demonstrations against unemployment and austerity being imposed under the guise of European unification.

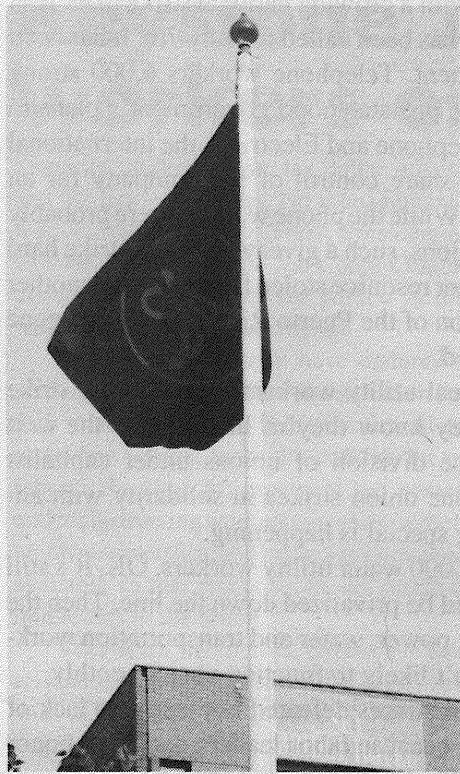
Swedish Syndicalism

The SAC Congress met for a week in a hall lined with colorful union banners. Delegates debated scores of resolutions forwarded by SAC locals which had been organized into thematic blocks (SAC finances, principles & strategy, education and agitation, SAC structure, and international relations), as well as electing national officers to serve for the next four years, when the SAC will hold its next Congress.

The Congress opened with reports from SAC officials and greetings from international delegates. Bob Ritchie conveyed greetings from the Liverpool dockers and thanked SAC for its strong support for their struggle. IWW General Executive Board member Alexis Buss reported on the IWW's recent growth, and called for building stronger ties among revolutionary unions to more effectively resist the transnational corporations' global attacks on working people. After hours, SAC delegates talked with international guests about conditions in their country, and joined in singing labor and other songs until well after midnight.

In recent years SAC has been working to strengthen its industrial sections, and is in the process of reviving its education union. These sections are organizing propaganda and industrial actions on the job. (Under Swedish law, unions can represent their members even in workplaces where another union has majority status; the SAC has had substantial success in workplaces where the dominant LO union has signed particularly bad agreements.)

Other debates addressed the SAC's publications program, bringing expenses into line dues income, and clarifying and reorganizing the responsibilities of SAC's chief officers. The SAC publishes a weekly news magazine, *Arbetaren* (The Worker - formerly a daily newspaper), and a monthly membership magazine focusing on SAC activities and debates.



Delegates from revolutionary unions in Europe and the U.S. decided to launch a web site to facilitate communication between revolutionary unions and rank-and-file groups needing practical solidarity in the struggle against the employing class. The site is scheduled to go on-line in September, and may be supplemented by an email list, fax network or other methods to reach unions where Internet access is difficult.

The decision was taken at a conference hosted June 5 - 7 by the Swedish Workers Central Organization (SAC) in conjunction with its 26th Congress in Malmö. The SAC is a syndicalist union founded in 1910 with which the IWW has long enjoyed fraternal relations. It presently has some 9,000 dues-paying members. For many years the SAC has made international solidarity a high priority, sending delegations to visit unions in other parts of the world (particularly in Third World countries) and supporting several international labor conferences.

June's conference, organized around the theme "Communication and Cooperation," was attended by delegates from the IWW, CGT (Spain), Liverpool Port Shop Stewards, Lithuanian Education Workers Union (LSOPS), Correcteurs section of the French CGT, French National Confederation of Labor (CNT), Hull and District Trades Council (UK), Syndicalist Alliance (UK), Anarcho-Syndicalistische Werking (a new Flemish-language syndicalist group in Belgium), *Libertarian Labor Review*, Syndicalist Youth Federation (SUF - Sweden), SAC, Clean Clothes Campaign (an anti-sweatshop campaign in Sweden), and CODA - an organization working with the CGT to combat an environmental disaster (caused by the Swedish firm Boliden) in Doñana, Spain. A letter was also received from the ARCA in Italy, inviting delegates to a meet-



SAC delegates listen to members debate editorial policy for the union's newsmagazine.

Australian wharfies surrender

Members of the Maritime Union of Australia have settled a bitter dispute that broke out April 7 when Patrick Stevedores locked out its entire union workforce.

Patrick agreed to pay union legal costs and remove its scabs from the ports in exchange for the union dropping legal actions, surrendering half the Patrick workers' jobs (628 through "voluntary redundancies"), and allowing 200 maintenance, cleaning and other jobs on the docks to be contracted out. In addition, the MUA has agreed to speed-ups and work rule changes that will dramatically cut workers' overtime payments.

Meanwhile, newly released documents prove that Prime Minister John Howard personally endorsed an "interventionist" government role in smashing the MUA, authorised federal funding, and was involved in shaping the attack at every stage.

Defence Minister Ian McLachlan has

also admitted that military premises were used to recruit active duty soldiers for training in Dubai to serve as industrial mercenaries on the waterfront.

Both Patrick and the MUA are claiming victory. While the MUA has preserved its existence, it has paid a heavy price in jobs and working conditions. Patrick spent some \$100 million (Australian) to break the union; it may take decades to recoup the losses.

The Maritime Union has warned the country's biggest stevedore, P&O Ports, against seeking to copy the deal with Patrick in negotiations that begin this month. The union said it would make some concessions to maintain "competitiveness, but it's not going to be the same sort of arrangement."

P&O seems likely to demand even deeper concessions than those granted to Patrick, and the union will be hard-pressed to resist. As a result, the MUA may well be

"here to stay," as mass picket lines chanted across Australia and around the world, but it will be a tamer, smaller union.

There seems little doubt that the union could have avoided the entire battle if it had been willing to make these kind of drastic concessions before the lockout.

Even as the MUA was signing the settlement, hundreds of tons of scab-loaded cargo, including up to 60 containers of meat and dairy products worth millions, were being returned to Australia to be reloaded by union labor after mass pickets in Los Angeles, California, met the vessel and closed access to the dock. Much of the cargo was rotting and will have to be thrown out.

The Columbus Canada had been stranded off the coast for more than two weeks, until the International Longshore and Warehouse Union struck a deal to unload the unstruck cargo.

Fighting MAI: Operation SalAMI

In May activists in Quebec staged a major civil disobedience action against the Multi-lateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), Operation SalAMI.

The name is a pun of sorts. In French, the MAI is called l'AMI, ami also means friend, sal means bad or dirty. So salami is a sausage, a friend who's no good, or the dirty little MAI.

The campaign began in the first hours of May 1 with a midnight party in front of the Montreal Stock Exchange. A hundred people joined in the festivities, of "L'Ami nuit" (another pun: MAI at night, midnight, the MAI does harm). The soirée began with midnight mass celebrated by Father Norman (Nawrocki of Rhythm Activism). After praying for revolution, there was some impromptu theater, then everyone jammed, danced and ate salami. At 2am, the revelers retired to a community centre.

The next three weeks were spent giving civil disobedience workshops across Quebec. These workshops have been given to almost a thousand activists since September 1997, part of an effort to develop a permanent base of knowledgeable activists.

Then came the heart of the campaign — shutting down the Conférence de Montréal on Globalized Economies. Notable attendants at this biannual gathering of the world's elite included the president of Romania and delegations from six East European countries; Donald Jonston, OECD Secretary-General and chief overseer of the MAI negotiations; Jacques Delors, president of the European Union 1985-95; Gordon Thiessen, head of the Bank of Canada; New York Governor George Pataki and 2,000 other government and business fatcats.

While the conference was not strictly speaking about the MAI, delegates certainly intended to discuss the meat of the treaty, especially as this was their first mass meeting since the treaty signing was postponed April 28th. Activists chose it as their best chance to think about globalization and act locally.

People also pointed to the fundamentally undemocratic of both the MAI negotiations and the Conférence de Montréal. Many felt that the MAI would never have reached the first draft stage if the world's elites had allowed any sort of democratic input. At the



conference, a lack of democracy ensured by the attendance fee of over \$1,000. Worse, the Quebec government decided that the conference fee qualified under provisions that require Quebec companies to spend 1% of their profits on job training — one more way for the bosses to rip off the workers.

The night before the action 150 activists gathered in a Montreal community centre for a logistics meeting. Early the next morning they awoke together and, after a hearty FNB-style breakfast, they went to work.

The action began at 7 am as activists gathered in Dorchester Square, a block from the Sheraton Hotel hosting the conference.

At 8 am activists began a nonviolent blockade of the hotel. At the meeting the night before organizers said, "A salami, it comes in slices. We won't be making it easy for the police to arrest everyone at the same time." And that is how it went, with 75 in the initial blockade, and another fifty in reserve. It was a few hours before the arrests began, but once they did there was always another slice to fill the gap in the blockade.

Meanwhile, the party had begun across the street with 500 people in the support demo — not bad for so early in the morning. Towering above everyone was the Profit Prophet, a 14-foot puppet from the Work in Progress Circus, who also entertained with

drums and theater. Food Not Bombs was there to keep people from starving. Many people said afterwards that it was the most energetic, fun demo they had ever been at.

But some must have wondered when the contingent of 80 nuns arrived — had the Church come to put a damper on the festivities? But no, a closer inspection of the nun's irreligious attitudes and the occasional broad shouldered, bearded nun gave it away. As did the 6-inch-wide pink medallions hanging from their necks saying "No to poverty, chastity and obedience. Yes to respect." These were labour activists, the nuns of the Confédération des Syndicats Nationale.

Many Conference delegates had slept in the hotel, but another 500 fatcats were gathering outside, herded into Dorchester Square by the police. Many of them were outraged, some just perplexed that people didn't seem to understand that they had a right to go into the conference and plan our futures for us. Regardless, they had to wait.

And wait they did. The police started arresting people around 10:15 in the morning. But activists kept plugging the gaps and it wasn't until two in the afternoon that the remaining activists felt they were too thin on the ground and lifted their blockade. The 99 arrests had taken their toll.

Conference organizers tried their best

Russian workers fighting back

Many angry workers in Russia have recently taken to mass action.

The last couple of years have seen periodic outbursts of labour unrest, including some radical actions; in a number of enterprises the directors have been taken hostage in attempts to force payment of wages and there have been incidents of retribution, mostly things like burning down managers' new luxury houses. This May saw a very impressive show on the part of coal miners and scholars who blocked railways in many key areas of the country for up to 10 days.

Increasingly workers are acting on their own initiative; the union federation tried to look like they were leading the strike but was actually trying to get the workers to end it, to bow down to the government. As usual, promises are made but not kept. Many workers ended their strikes, but in Orenburg they stayed out for 50 days before suspending their strike in early June. Three weeks after the main strike wave finished, workers were back on the rails in Kemerovo and Anzhero-Sudzhensk, back on strike in Chelyabinsk.

A little background on the situation. Part of the problem is the government's inability (or rather unwillingness) to pay public sector enterprises. The miners are caught up in a domino system of bad debts between the national and regional govern-

ments, state industries and utilities. They often are not paid for months on end. The same is true for workers in many industries.

The government insists that its share of the wage debt is minimal. It blames rising production costs, directors, middlemen and regional politicians. While it's true that dozens of people are responsible for these outrageous delays and thefts, workers blame the system in general and hold the government responsible. They are calling for the resignation of the government, a demand supported by half the Duma and many regional leaders who are trying to impeach Yeltsin and replace the government.

But the miners face other problems which cannot easily be remedied by a change of government. Many of the mines are not "profitable." These troubles started during the Soviet era, when old mines were kept running long after they were determined not to be "cost effective." The government has been reluctant to close mines for fear of protest, but at the same time is under incredible pressure from the IMF to close down unprofitable mines and stop subsidizing the industry. All subsidies are supposed to stop by the year 2000.

In mid-1993 the government began perestroika at the mines, halting production at 37 mines which weren't profitable and

since 1996 has cut subsidies by 40 percent. 88 percent of the Russia's coal comes from 120 of the country's 260 mines. Over 100 mines are in danger of being shut down.

The World Bank estimates that roughly half of Russia's 470,000 miners will have to find other work over the next decade and has offered an \$800 million loan to cover closure costs. The last \$200 million is not to be released until half of the mines in Russia are privately owned. The closure plan is supposed to be backed by training and job creation programmes, but so far nothing is being done to retrain these workers and their regions are falling into deeper and deeper economic depression.

It is unclear how accurate this picture really is. One only has to recall miners at one "unprofitable" mine in Great Britain who some years ago took over and turned business around. Coal remains a cornerstone of Russia's energy sector. Roughly half of Russia's electricity is produced in coal-fired power stations. Many industries count on coal to survive. Russia's total reserves are estimated at three trillion tons. But the economic planners of the world are planning on a reduction in Russian heavy industry which would lower much of the domestic demand for coal. However, they expect

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spin, saying the demo hadn't bothered them a bit. But insiders tell us otherwise. This conference of the world's elite was completely shut down for six hours by grassroots activists. It also changed their discourse, as every speaker except Michael Portillo (Thatcher's finance minister) got up and said they now believed that the rich had a problem with the growing gap between rich and poor, and that something needed to be done before what had happened outside the hotel became something more serious.

The campaign wrapped up with a final demo two days later, dubbed "Bye-Bye Conférence de Montréal!" Commented Philippe Duhamel, one of the organizers, "We intend to make it politically impossible for this sort of undemocratic event to be held in Montreal. So we're saying bye-bye."

The action received extensive coverage in the French media, and extensive misrepresentation in the English press.

Opération SalAMI follows on the heels of two other civil disobedience actions: le Plan G and the Commando Bouffe. Plan G was called to protest government cutbacks and the neoliberal agenda of the governing Parti Québécois and the Quebec establishment. On Nov. 3rd, 1997, 400 activists got up at 4:30 am to surround Complexe G, the buildings which house the most important government ministries. Another thousand people showed up for a support demo.

The government said Plan G cost them \$600,000. For the activists, not a single arrest. It was a euphoric occasion, cementing the idea that large-scale mass actions are possible. And 4,000 workers got a paid holiday.

Thirty days later, the Commando Bouffe (food commando) arrived at one of Montreal's poshest hotels, The Queen Elizabeth. Twenty militants walked into the restaurant while the rich were taking their lunch, grabbed plates of food from the buffet, and carried them outside. By the time they reached the sidewalk two busloads of hungry demonstrators had arrived (the majority of whom were genuinely poor). The food was given away to the enjoyment of all.

The police stepped in to make the largest single-day arrest in Canadian history: 108 people, including an innocent Japanese tourist passing by. It also began a new discourse on poverty in Quebec with a media poll a month later showing that 30% of the public supported what the activists had done.

Why this sudden change in Quebec activism?

Partly it's the result of the abandonment of social democracy by the Parti Québécois, official party of the sovereigntist movement. The separatist movement began in the 1960s, when national independence was seen as a necessary precursor to a socialist society. Since losing the last referendum in October 1995, the PQ has wholeheartedly embraced the neoliberal agenda, essentially allowing its social policy to be dictated by Wall Street financiers, the same bankers expected to finance separation. This has left a broad sector of the Quebec left looking for a new way of doing things.

The second factor is a general sentiment that traditional demos have lost their impact. Mass media has learned to spin marches and placard waving demos to minimize their impact. In all three demos mentioned above, the Quebec media responded first with astonishment, then with a genuine search to understand what was going on. These three actions have succeeded in creating a public discourse in a way that others have not. And now everyone is trying to think of a new action that would be even more dramatic.

Finally, these actions were organized on the principle that no more boring demos should be organized, ever. They have been organized around a culture of celebration, the idea that making revolution should be fun and not an addition to our oppression.

— Patrick Borden

Keystone Job Corps workers on strike

"Stop the student abuse, tax dollar misuse and the lies - No scabs, No management" was the sign that Renay Toter, a residential advisor at the Keystone Job Corps Center, displayed in her car as she parked in the Keystone employee parking lot.

Workers at Keystone have endured a year of management abuse in retaliation for their union activities. Renay was told to move her vehicle from the parking lot or remove the sign. Management has posted notices instructing workers to withdraw their union membership, and made a fax machine available so that workers can fax resignation letters to the union.

Vocational instructors, counselors and residential advisors at Keystone organized with SEIU Local 668 in June of 1997 and began negotiating a contract. But Management and Training Corporation (MTC), the private company which manages the federally funded Job Corps site in Drums, Pennsylvania, has refused to negotiate in good faith, using slimy tactics to undermine the union's strength. There are currently 14 unresolved unfair labor practice charges pending with the National Labor Relations Board. MTC unilaterally changed the workers' health care plan and employee handbooks without negotiating with the union, has changed working rules like the dress code, and refuses to include discipline rules in the contract. More than 90% of Keystone workers have never even seen management's disciplinary policies in their entirety.

An unfair labor practice strike was declared June 2, and about a hundred workers walked off the job. There have been no negotiations since that time, and MTC's negotiators returned to corporate headquarters in Ogden, Utah. During the first week of the strike Keystone was worked by other staff from the center. Secretaries worked the dormitories and finance staff worked the

Kingston ...

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100 people marched to the court house. The courtroom was full to overflowing. The person charged with mischief was released on \$1,000 surety bail. The others were held overnight and were eventually released on surety bail as well.

Mike Harris and his conservatives were elected three years ago. Since that time there have been massive public mobilizations not seen in Ontario involving numbers usually associated with celebrating sporting events. Images of police officers clubbing striking civil servants, allegations of government cover-up of the killing of a native involved in a protest in support of land claims, students occupying banks, day care workers going out on a one day province-wide strike to oppose cuts and anti-hunger activists targeting corporate donors to the Conservative party are now a part of the history of Ontario. More powerful in some ways has been the community/labour coalitions that have held one- or two-day citywide general strikes and community protests in opposition to the entire neo-conservative/neo-liberal agenda.

Alas, what was supposed to be the final citywide day of action prior to a Fall province-wide general strike, the Kingston Day of Action, is going to be the last one. The bureaucrats from the Ontario Federation of Labour are working hard to avoid a province-wide general strike. The Ontario Coalition for Social Justice is still trying to promote some coordinated action or series of actions for the fall, but without the support of organized labour these actions will have far less impact.

— Brian Burch

classrooms. As the strike pressed on, MTC began bringing in replacement workers on loan from other Job Corps sites. The union asserts that not only should MTC come to the table and negotiate in good faith instead of spreading staff at other Job Corps centers thinner than it already is, but that bringing in scabs from other centers is an illegal use of Job Partnership Training Act funds. They are pursuing the matter with Department of Labor Chief Alexis Herman.

Wobblies are not surprised by this kind of behavior from MTC. Last year, after the IWW was contacted by student employees at the Keystone Center, MTC officials, with the cooperation of the Department of Labor, fired six students in retaliation for their desire to make conditions at their workplace better. Management routinely confiscated union materials and threatened young people in an attempt to crush the drive and the students' resolve to win their rights.

In the meantime, workers are standing strong on the picket line, and enjoying favorable press coverage and community support. To urge MTC to return to the table and negotiate in good faith, call corporate headquarters at 304-344-1788 and the Keystone Center at 1-800-864-0496.

— Alexis Buss

Disney strike spreading

Restaurant workers at Disneyland Paris joined striking technicians and parade performers June 30 as the strike that began with a walkout by the performers six days earlier.

Workers struck during the height of the tourist season to protest miserable wages. Disney management was refusing to negotiate with unions at press time.

Wonder Bread racism

Fifteen black workers in a San Francisco Wonder Bread plant are suing because managers told racist jokes and ordered black workers not to talk together out of fear they might form a gang.

GM strike ...

continued from page 1

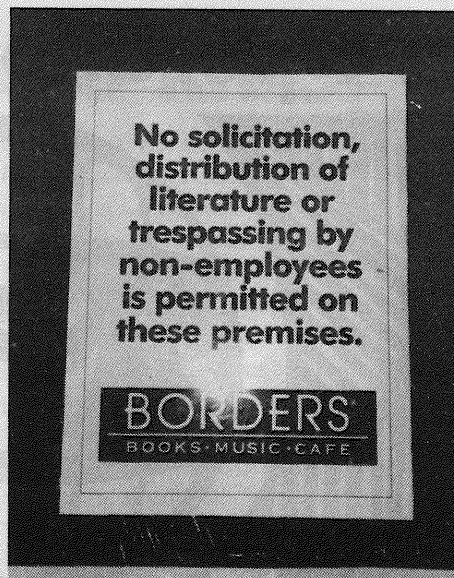
tories, has left the company vulnerable to strikes and other job actions by parts plants and transport workers.

Workers agreed to concessions several years ago in exchange for promises to invest \$300 million in the stamping plant, but instead GM is seeking to cut 2,500 jobs at the plant. "In 1995, we gave them everything they wanted," said 12-year GM worker Jeff Barat. "And they didn't know how to manage it."

As the bosses rake in their record profits, GM workers are fighting to hang on to their jobs. The shut-down is blocking model change-overs and threatens to delay introduction of two new pick-up trucks (GM's most profitable segment). Thus, GM is under substantial pressure to settle. But the UAW has undermined their position by agreeing to "partnership" programs which gave Ford and Chrysler many of the concessions GM is demanding, and through decades of give-backs that have seen tens of thousands of jobs moved to non-union firms.

Early in the strike, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that General Motors did not have to honor promises of continued health care benefits it made to 84,000 workers. Showing no more regard for retirees than for its current workers, GM slashed the benefits in 1989.

The June 10 *Wall Street Journal* worried that the GM strike might be the first in a wave of strikes, as workers begin looking for their share of the purportedly booming economy. Let's hope they're right.



Boycott Borders

ILWU members picketed a San Francisco Borders July 2 to protest the corporate book-sellers' efforts to drive independent bookstores out of business. ILWU Local 6 represents workers at Stacey's books.

Across the country, members of several groups in Burlington, Vermont, came together June 27 and 28 to pass out literature in front of the new Borders Books store on the Church St. Marketplace during its Grand Opening Celebration.

The main purpose of the picket was to expose Borders' union-busting record. A local Wob passed out Boycott Borders literature and explained the situation to patrons. The information was well received by customers and workers alike, though a few workers claimed that Borders' stock options plan meant that workers would some day own the company (nearly all the stock options go to a handful of top managers). We learned that Burlington Borders is paying \$6 an hour, 25¢ less than is paid in most Borders stores.

Other Burlingtonians were there to encourage people to support the local economy, and passed out bookmarks which detailed their thoughts on this. The Church St. Marketplace is seeing its independent and locally owned stores close up as stores like Borders, Filenes (May Co.), Colorado, and Canada's answer to The Gap move in. The Progressive Party-run City Council begs them to come while telling us that we need to "plug the leaks" in the local economy by keeping businesses locally owned.

Borders called the police, trying to have us evicted from the public sidewalk. Initially police responded by informing us that we would be arrested once the music started if we refused to leave. We insisted that it was legal to leaflet, and told the officer that if he wouldn't protect our constitutional rights, then he would have to arrest us. When he came back, he gave us two pieces of paper which showed that we had the legal right to do everything we said we could. The managers stopped hassling us after that.

We hope to get the Burlington Coalition for a Livable Wage involved in the future, as well as members of other unions. In the meantime we are keeping our ears open for any rumblings of discontent from inside.

Dominican Dockers strike against privatization

Cargo carriers and port workers struck for one day June 24 against privatization along with community protesters outraged at insufficient electrical power. The workers and community organizations successfully blockaded several highways despite police violence.

B.C. fishers threaten to blockade US navy testing

Fishery workers in British Columbia are threatening to blockade a U.S. torpedo testing range in Canadian waters to protest new quotas on fishing. Thousands face unemployment due to state mismanagement and over-fishing by factory boats.

Free Peltier

Some 400 people gathered on the Ellipse in front of the White House June 27 to demand that the government release Leonard Peltier, an American Indian Movement activist who has been imprisoned for 22 years for a crime that the FBI admits he didn't commit. Peltier was denied parole again in early May, at which time the FBI admitted that it has no hard evidence linking him to the deaths of two FBI agents. The FBI agent who shot and killed an AIM activist that same day has never been arrested.

The demonstration took place in an area full of tourists visiting the White House. Speakers included Steve Robideau, Pam Africa, Ramsey Clark and many others.

Leonard Peltier is suffering from excruciating pain in his jaw, making it impossible for him to chew food, but authorities are refusing to allow him to travel to the Mayo Clinic, which has agreed to treat him. The Clinton administration has been "considering" a clemency petition for the last five years. Letters demanding freedom for Peltier should be sent to: US Pardon Attorney Roger C Adams, 500 First Street N.W. Suite 400, Ref: Leonard Peltier #89637-132, Washington D.C. 20530.

Private prisons go global

The British Prison Service shortlisted U.S.-based Correctional Services Corporation in a bid to build yet another prison in England. More prisons follow increasing state repression against migrant workers. Nine such prisoners in England's largest immigration detention center, Group 4's Campsfield House, were cleared of riot charges in June after video evidence revealed guard brutality. In California, all prisons are expected to be full by 2000 and the state has already contracted private corporations to build new jails. In Texas, at least one county is competing with private prisons for the lucrative contract of jailing detained immigrants.

U.S. rights violations

The United States has a higher incarceration rate than China, is increasing its use of the death penalty, and refuses to ratify and/or implement various international laws on human rights. Yet U.S. President Clinton visited China recently and criticized the Chinese state's human rights record.

"[Clinton] has signed into law more violations of human rights than any recent president," said Leonard Weinglass, lawyer for class war prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The U.S. single-handedly rejected the rights to housing and food at United Nations-sponsored conferences in 1996 and never ratified the international covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. "We are witnessing a rising tide of domestic human rights abuses," said Joy Butts of the Economic Human Rights Campaign Documentation Project.

Lykes strikers win

540 Plant City, Florida, meatpackers won a six-week strike against Smithfield/Lykes May 22, winning a 25 cent raise over two years and improved health benefits. Pre-strike wages started at \$5.75 and went up to \$11.55 an hour. Workers say anagers have been trying to force out older workers, to replace them with lower-paid workers more willing to keep up with ever-faster production lines.

Although Lykes tried to maintain production with scabs, only 13 strikers crossed the line and many workers recruited through newspaper ads and temp agencies refused to cross the picket line once they learned a strike was on. The scabs who did cross couldn't do the work. Sam's Club returned ten million pounds of scab-made hot dogs.

Police kept a close eye on the picket line, escorting scabs across the line, while ignoring their assaults on pickets.

Hyundai workers on strike

Workers at Han Young, a plant which manufactures truck chassis under contract for Hyundai in Tijuana, Mexico, have been on strike since May 22, after management refused to recognize their independent union or negotiate a new contract. (Workers have voted to replace a government-affiliated company union in three separate elections Oct. 6, Dec. 16 and May 29. The Labor Board has refused to certify the results.)

Despite the fact that nearly the entire work force is on strike, management and the local Labor Board have declared the strike "non-existent." More than 100 members of Tijuana's "Special Forces" team went to the factory June 3, where they tore down the red-and-black banners which traditionally mark a strike in Mexico and burned them in the middle of the street. Police then opened the factory doors, and ushered in a group of scabs. Mexican law prohibits anyone from removing strike flags or entering a struck business until the dispute is settled.

Three representatives from the union traveled to Mexico City in late June to counter press reports portraying them as "professional destabilizers" in the pay of U.S. unions out to destroy the Mexican economy. The delegation of Han Young workers spoke before the leadership bodies of the UNT (Union Nacional de Trabajadores, the new federation that arose out of the split within the government-run CTM), the Intersindical 10 de Mayo, and the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME). Each pledged their support for the

strikers and participated in a press conference attended by representatives of all the major media. However, none published stories on the dispute.

Several of the 40 scabs recruited to break the strike have quit work, after three work stoppages by the scabs failed to improve conditions. Production at the factory has dropped to about one chassis per day, compared with 20 with the real workforce.

IWW members have joined other labor and human rights activists across the United States in solidarity actions targeting Hyundai and the Mexican government. In Portland, Oregon, Wobblies joined a June 13 picketline at the docks in support of Han Young workers. Dockers refused to cross the line, preventing a cargo of Hyundai/Han Young tractor parts from being unloaded.

In an international day of action June 16, more than 150 people gathered in front of the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco to protest the Mexican government's attacks on Han Young workers. For more than an hour, the protesters picketed and chanted slogans making the connection between NAFTA's corporate agenda and the resulting death-squad violence in Chiapas and union-busting in Tijuana. Slogans chanted by the spirited picketers included "No More Massacres! No More Sweatshops! No More NAFTAs!" and "Let Justice Be Done, For the Workers at Han Young!"

In New York activists picketed the Mexican consulate, passing out 700 fliers in English and Spanish to rush-hour crowds

and gathering signatures on a letter to Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo calling on his government to respect labor rights.

Wobblies joined a picketline at the Mexican Consulate in Boston's Back Bay, protesting the denial of union rights and government complicity in recent massacres in Chiapas. When a delegation met with the consul he claimed to be completely unfamiliar with the situation in Tijuana, but indicated that the government was planning military action to crush the Zapatistas.

Demonstrations also took place in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and across Brazil, where the largest union federation issued a statement supporting the Han Young workers.

On June 17, 25 autoworkers converged on a suburban Toronto Hyundai dealership to support the Han Young workers. The 4:30 p.m. protest in a busy area disrupted operation of the car dealership and traffic in the area. Protesters carried placards saying "Han Young - No Way!" and "Hyundai - Guilty of Union Busting in Mexico."

Following the protest, the workers delivered a letter to the President of Hyundai Canada, M.H. Yuan, demanding that Han Young recognize the union negotiate a fair and equitable collective agreement. The workers promised further actions if their demands were not met.

Soapboxing the airwaves

continued from page 3

well as interviews obtained from the Southern Regional Conference attendees. It will be available on the radio4all website at: <http://www.radio4all.org> or by sending \$5.00 to Gainesville IWW, c/o CMC 1021 W. University Ave., Gainesville FL 32601.

This project is largely due to the fact that over the past few months an informal network of IWW members involved in community radio (micropowered or not) has arisen. It is accessible over the internet at the IWW Radio Network website - <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~dhenke/iwwrad.htm>

Here you will find a list of wobs from Australia to San Francisco that are currently involved and are willing to contribute to the project. The idea is that if enough of us can get access to internet audio capabilities, we could have one central host/coordinator in, say, Baltimore editing the show together. Meanwhile, people could upload their various contributions from around the world to the radio4all website or taped contributions could also be sent by mail so that we could all contribute. So if you have the initiative as well as the time, dedication and technology, get in touch with us at: 352/336-0367 (ringfingers@yahoo.com) or denny_henke@umemphis.campus.mci.net

Radio Mutiny Busted

Radio Mutiny, West Philadelphia's pirate radio station, was raided by the Federal Communications Commission on Monday, June 22. FCC enforcement head Richard Lee burst into the WPPR studio with six armed U.S. marshals and confiscated all of Radio Mutiny's broadcasting equipment. Observers were interested to note that Lee made use of the transmitter to announce the FCC's moment of triumph to WPPR listen-

Mexican unions support U.S. apple workers' rights

The National Union of Workers (UNT), Authentic Labor Front (FAT), and Independent Metal Workers Union (STIMAHCS) have filed a complaint under the "side agreements" to the North American Free Trade Agreement against the U.S. government for failing to enforce labor laws which should protect workers in the apple orchards and packing plants in the state of Washington.

The Mexican union federations charge massive violations of labor law during January 1998 union organizing drives there, and that the U.S. government failed to protect workers' rights. They also charge that the U.S. government fails to enforce minimum wage and health care standards, undercutting Mexican labor standards.

This complaint represents a new stage in reciprocal support between Canadian, Mexican and U.S. labor unions. The Teamsters recently joined a similar case, together with the United Electrical workers and other Canadian and U.S. unions, in support of the ITAPSA-Echlin workers in Mexico, similarly alleging that the Mexican government had violated Mexican workers' rights to free association.

— Mexican Labor News and Analysis

ers, thus becoming a radio pirate himself.

Despite a recent period of months of threats and harassment from the FCC, the tiny WPPR valiantly kept broadcasting its mix of community news, music, arts talk, and activist takes on a variety of issues, including labor. Programming included shows hosted by Wobbly DJs.

Last summer, the Philadelphia GMB took Radio Mutiny on the road to Drums, Penn., for a broadcast to the embattled student employees at the Keystone Job Corps Center there, where IWW organizers were fighting for their rights. In April, Radio Mutiny hosted a successful microbroadcasters conference which brought radio pirates from all over the country to Philadelphia to share tips.

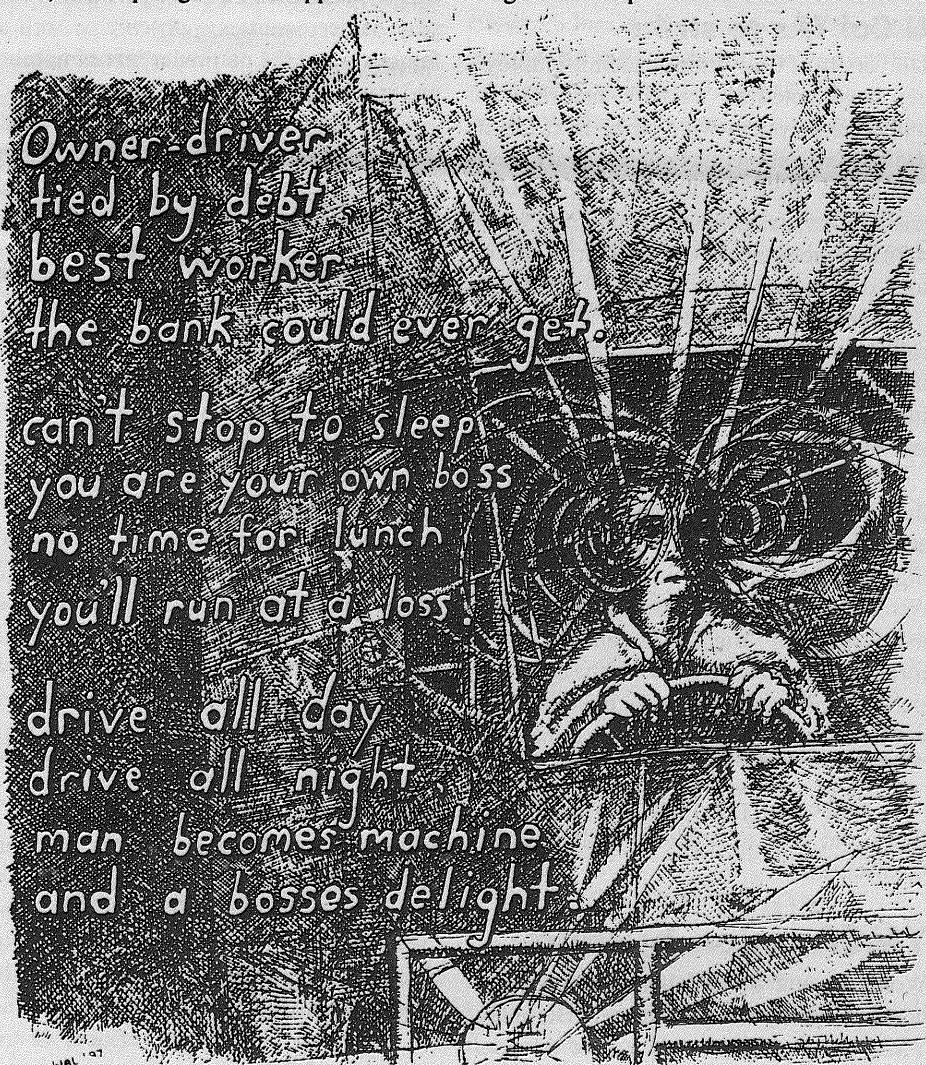
According to federal regulations, radio stations must be licensed by the government in order to operate. Radio Mutiny operators point to the high cost of such licensing, the fact that the government refuses to license low-power operations, and corporate domination of the air waves, and claim that in operating the small West Philadelphia station they are merely exercising the right to free speech.

WPPR operators are currently hatching plans to make sure Radio Mutiny will rise again.

— Miriam Fried

Free Radio Berkeley closed

Free Radio Berkeley has been shut down by the Federal Communications Commission, which won a federal injunction on the basis of a legal technicality. Free Radio Berkeley was operating 24 hours a day with 100 volunteer community members on an unused frequency. In the wake of the ruling, federal officials have attacked microbroadcasters across the country, working to re-establish the corporations' unchallenged control over the airwaves.



Owner-driver
tied by debt
best worker
the bank could ever get.

can't stop to sleep
you are your own boss
no time for lunch
you'll run at a loss!

drive all day
drive all night
man becomes machine
and a bosses delight.

UK lorry drivers take direct action

In a protest inspired by lorry drivers in France, UK drivers took direct action to protest high diesel prices 8 June, and caused serious tailbacks on Britain's roads. The truckers were responsible for chaos on the M6 motorway in the West Midlands where they blocked two carriageways of one of the busiest motorways in Western Europe.

In a coordinated action, a convoy of lorries travelled from Kent through the West End before coming to a halt on busy Park Lane causing traffic chaos en route.

Over 250 lorries were involved and on the motorways affected speeds were reduced to 30 miles per hour as lorries crawled along in a motorised demonstration.

The lorry drivers' action is in protest at the level of duty imposed on diesel in Brit-

ain. Truckers say cheaper diesel on the continent helps foreign competitors capture their business. Tax on diesel went up 5.5p (8 cents) in the last budget, making the average cost of filling up a heavy goods vehicle in Britain £650 (\$1000). In France the price is about £450 and in Luxembourg, £350.

The Road Haulage industry has not been affected by coordinated action like this since a national lorry drivers strike in 1977. Since that time direct employment in the industry has fallen dramatically and there has been an enormous rise in the level of owner operation. Drivers are forced to find sufficient money to buy a rig and are then forced to hunt for work. The risks of working in the industry rest entirely with the truckers rather than the large firms.

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McDonald's fires Ohio strikers

Two young McDonald's workers who led the country's first strike against the restaurant chain and tried to unionize the store have been fired after coming to work with the words "go union" and "union" painted on their faces. The Teamsters local which had agreed to organize the Macedonia, Ohio, McDonald's withdrew its petition for union recognition shortly afterwards.

The following remarks are excerpted from a June 20 interview by IWW delegate Jason Adams with Bryan Drapp, one of the fired workers. Although McDonald's agreed to a 35 hour work week with no cut in pay, one week paid vacation, and human relations training for managers to settle the strike, workers returned to find managers determined to crush their solidarity.

JMA: Could you give a basic overview of how this happened, and where you are at today?

Bryan Drapp: Basically it happened because an old woman got harassed. [Manager] Jerry Guffi grabbed her arm and pulled her to the side, told her she was lazy. He told me to go do her job. I wouldn't do it because I don't think anybody should be treated like that. They wouldn't talk to us so we decided to strike. So Easter Sunday instead of reporting to work we reported to the picket line. We had about 15-20 workers the first day. The picket line was up about five days and then the Teamsters got involved. ...

Basically we reached an agreement with McDonald's, which is something I felt we

shouldn't have done. We should have held out but everyone was getting restless. They needed the money and everything. But McDonald's didn't stick to even one of our demands, so we filed for unionization. It was very hard because McDonald's hired 35 new employees at the store and they had a bunch of executives from corporate sent in just to stop the union. ...

What kind of advice would you offer to other restaurant workers thinking about organizing in your footsteps?

I would say go for it. Hold out until it is official because McDonald's tried to say that our contract wasn't a contract it was only an "action plan" and they only had to "try" to meet our demands, they didn't have to actually do it. Which is ridiculous.

If you want to make a difference you have to have a good following. You have to explain how good it will be once the union gets in. You have to let people know: "This isn't just for our store, it's for all the stores"

Other McDonald's workers have been calling and wanting to organize. And since we didn't unionize it doesn't look good. But now another store, because me and Jamal were fired, they want to unionize! They have authorization cards and are signing them right now. So I just hope another store will unionize. We went through all this stuff, hopefully it's not for nothing.

I heard about a McDonald's in Canada that a high school girl was able to get the whole shop to go union, have

you heard of that?

Yeah, they shut that one down. They do not want unions! In Macedonia they flew 95 corporates in here to bust our union. I think they hired them just to get me and Jamal [Nickens] out of there. Once they got us out they had a celebration for all the managers where they went out to dinner. It's sick...

So did the corporates they flew in come after you guys?

They put them all in the store to make sure nobody was talking about it. They talked bad about the union. They get a misconception, all these new workers they think the union is a bad thing because that's all they hear.

Is there anything else you want to say to people out there?

I just want to say, if you're treated bad at work, whether it is McDonald's, Burger King, or any restaurant worker - just stand up for yourself. Go talk to the unions. You don't necessarily have to strike, that can be a last resort. Or talk to Jamal and I and we'll come and support you. ... I don't have a job right now so I have a lot of free time on my hands!

How can people support you and carry on the work that you have started?

Well, the best way would be to have an international boycott of McDonald's because they fired us for trying to unionize. And it will help support Jamal and I and help us to feel that there is still a chance to unionize a McDonald's restaurant.

U Cal TAs to strike

University of California academic employees have voted by an 87% landslide to authorize a system-wide strike next fall if the administration does not recognize their unions and begin collective bargaining with teaching assistants, readers and tutors. Some 4,221 members of the United Auto Workers took part in the vote.

The union conducted a series of short rolling strikes last year to try to bring administrators to the table and end 14 years of litigation to secure union recognition, but administrators have so far refused to budge.

"The administration has announced that they will break the law in order to keep academic student employees from exercising our rights," said David Kamper of the Association of Graduate Employees (UAW) in Los Angeles. "But the University of California works because we do. If the administration continues to refuse to recognize us, we'll have to show them what that means."

men, all the local provincial politicians, and figure out how to organize their lives by themselves.

— Akai

YMCA union-busting

Wobblies and other labor activists have been picketing the downtown Berkeley YMCA since June 16, when three workers were fired for protesting management harassment of IWW member Jason Justice. FW Justice was ordered to write up the termination papers, and quit instead.

SEIU recently lost a representation election, and Y managers are now trying to get rid of union supporters.

Army attacks workers

Over 10,000 workers including members of the Indonesian Prosperity Labour Union were attacked by 25,000 troops in Jakarta June 24. The new president had promised everybody the freedom to demonstrate "wherever and whenever they want."

"The army has said they will kill us if we try and march on the House of Representatives," union spokeswoman Anti Sulaiman said. "But we will continue with our street rallies every day until Habibie steps down."

Big Trouble

Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets off a Struggle for Soul of America by J. Anthony Lukas. Simon & Schuster, \$32.50, 875 pages.

I've heard that when this book came out a year ago, reviewers accused Lukas of not sticking to his story; if so, they misunderstood what story he's telling. The assassination of former Idaho governor Frank Steuener in December 1905; the framing of IWW founders Bill Haywood, Charles Moyer and George Pettibone; and Haywood's trial are not the story, but the lens through which he tells the story. What Lukas

Book Review

portrays is the whole tapestry of class relations and political and economic conditions in the turn-of-the-century United States.

His literary model seems to be Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian most famous for his account of the Persian War. Like the Greek, Lukas will mention a new character in the tale, then go back half a century or more to discuss that lifetime, the family, the conditions in the old country that encouraged emigration, the current state of a particular ethnic group in the eastern cities and the western frontier, then return to what the reviewers call his story.

One of the theories of history is that the course of human affairs is shaped by Great Men. Lukas modifies that, of course, but does seem to think that things happened the way they did because of the particular interplay of personalities - obscure as well as famous - and the particular mix of nobility and meanness within each individual.

The story is not about the IWW, which had been founded only about six months before the murder and was still fledgling two years later during the trial. Haywood and colleagues are mostly portrayed as leaders of the Western Federation of Miners. Nor are they heroes to Lukas, who, apparently in an attempt for balance, cites very weak evidence to intimate that the labor leaders did indeed pay confessed killer Harry Orchard to assassinate Steuener.

If there is a central figure, it is surely James McParland, the Pinkerton detective who had become famous early in his career for infiltrating and betraying the Molly McGuire, and who Lukas describes as trying to regain equal renown at the end of his career. He is not a Great Man in this narrative. He kidnaps, manipulates witnesses, hides evidence, bribes freely, lies as a mat-

Automated Education

Administrators at the University of California at Los Angeles are testing computer software designed to grade essay exams. The InQuizit program matches phrases in student exams to a model answer.

The program is part of UCLA's "Instructional Enhancement Initiative," in which faculty are required to create computer web sites for every course. Some sites have syllabi and assignments, others include the full text of course lectures. UCLA has formed a for-profit subsidiary to sell online courses. Students voted against the scheme, and faculty were not consulted.

Administrators are stepping up their assault against education workers. Having saved millions by replacing full-time faculty with part-timers working for a fraction of the pay, they are now looking to replace the teachers who remain with computers.

Once faculty put their course material online, administrators hope to hire cheaper workers to administer the pre-packaged courses. Full-time faculty at York University won a Spring 1997 strike against such a scheme. But at least one part-timer was required to put her courses on video and the Internet or lose her job. She was then hired to teach the now-automated course at a fraction of her former pay. The New School in New York has hired out-of-work teachers to design online courses, to be offered across the country without any teachers whatever.

Wherever students have been given a choice they have voted against automated education. But the market dictates otherwise, as the money is sorely needed for more administrators. (For more, see David Noble's article, "Digital Diploma Mills," in the February 1998 *Monthly Review*.)

Russian workers fight back...

continued from page 7

exports to grow from 21 to 35 million tons over the next two years and are building a coal loading port on the Gulf of Finland to deal with this. So we can see that the plan is to turn Russia into an exporter of raw materials and to further undermine national industry, a process which has been underway for nearly a decade and has set off a chain reaction throughout the Russian economy leading to the mass impoverishment of large parts of the working population.

At the beginning of June 200 "miners" from Vorkuta came to the Kremlin to protest. Many of us independent labour activists were rather cynical as it turned out that they hadn't sent many rank-and-file workers to the capital, but rather union bosses and bureaucrats. These folks fear nothing more than the real politicization of the unions and thus tried to keep real workers and radical elements away. Some people were arrested for trying to agitate the miners and a few people eventually split off from the main mass of bureaucrats.

However, workers from other parts of Russia who are much more radical-minded

came to Moscow and set up camps near the miners. There we found the Strike Committee from ZIM in Samara, workers from Kuzbass who had taken their director hostage, workers from many different industries from Chelyabinsk, Togliatti and elsewhere. The Kuzbass workers said that they were now prepared to fight until the end; they asked what difference it made if they were shot down at home or here in Moscow. They have nothing to lose.

Scientists joined the workers at one time but there has been little support from other workers in Moscow, where the average worker has a much higher standard of living than in the rest of the country.

The real battles will happen not in Moscow but in the regions where there is a more desperate situation and, due to large industrial centers, a stronger sense of workplace solidarity. It's still unclear what can happen; workers have tolerated an enormous amount of abuse and it often seems that they won't do anything. The union leadership tries to discourage direct action as much as possible. But what workers need to do is to kick out all their managers, all the middle-

Mandela turns on unions

South African President Nelson Mandela has thrown down the gauntlet to the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Communist Party, telling them to toe the line and keep their mouths shut or leave the governing coalition. COSATU, in particular, has been increasingly critical of the government's economic policies, which call for privatization of state industries, reduced labor rights, and mass lay-offs.

Over 300,000 education workers are threatening to strike against the ironically titled Growth, Employment And Redistribution strategy which cut spending on education by over 6 percent. Two-thirds of all classrooms lack textbooks. Unionists condemn "the obsession with down-sizing government services, regardless of South Africa's social needs."

Mandela castigated COSATU for its public attacks on his government's policy. "If Cosatu and the SACP ... not only attack what we consider a fundamental policy of the organisation, but ridicule it, you must be prepared to take full responsibility for your actions. That type of behaviour makes me even more determined not to listen to you."

New Arrivals

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. Second edition. \$24

International Industrial Unionism by Arthur J. Miller

This new pamphlet examines the ways the employing class attempts to divide us as a class and calls for One Big Union solidarity. \$3.50

Communiques of the EZLN

An anthology of communiques from 1996. "All those who work the land ... we invite to stand on our side." \$3.

Zapatistas in their own words

A 24-page pamphlet. \$3.

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

by Salvatore Salerno.

Examines the interaction between the IWW and anarcho-syndicalism, with particular attention to the IWW's foreign-language papers. Back in stock \$21.95

ter of course, and generally disregards all law and decency to garner fame and fortune for himself.

The prosecution's claim that the assassination was in retaliation for military action against striking miners in northern Idaho some years before gives Lukas an opening to recount the early mining, the takeover by eastern money, the rise of the labor movement, and the labor wars then in full flare across the west. It also allows him to illuminate race relations within the US military from the Civil War through the Spanish American War; we learn for example that Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders did not storm San Juan Hill at all, but the 24th Regiment, one of the few remaining African-American units, which for decades had been relegated to Indian hunting to keep them away from frightened white citizens.

A major theme throughout is the reporting of events, and that leads to the collusion between reports and editors on the one hand and politicians and corporate heads on the other, each seeking to slant the news and editorials to their own interests. Lukas compares the accounts by the mainstream papers of the eastern cities with their regional bias, the local newspapers with their small-town partisan loyalties, and the social and labor papers each with their own ideological approach the affairs as well as heritage of internal feuds and schisms. Here too it's the personalities that drive events.

The book is long, but I never found it tiresome; indeed there were nights when I longed for pub closing so I could go home and read some more (and I was drinking not working). As I recognized its wide range of sources and perspectives, I realized that this work exemplifies the kind of effort Howard Zinn was trying to inspire historians to undertake when he produced his outline of US history. I recommend it highly.

— Gwion X345445

Books for Rebel Workers

One Big Union. by IWW.

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

The General Strike.

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

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

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

A New Union Vision

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

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th ed.)

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

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology edited by Joyce Kornbluh

A collection of stories, poems, songs and cartoons from the English-language Wobblie press. Just reissued. \$26

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

Baseball caps \$9

Black globe on red cap, adjustable sizing.

IWW Buttons

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.

Posters by Carlos Cortez

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

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson.

Edited by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections from a veteran Wobblie who bridged the generations. \$10

Silent Agitators

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

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.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wildcat, says 'Direct Action!' above the graphic. Black on white shirt. (M, L, XL) \$12 each, San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

Film Workers (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button:

Don't Whine - Organize Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

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

Guinea Pig Zero, a Wobbly zine for

human research subjects. Sample copy \$3, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia PA 19101 bhelms@iww.org

3" IWW Button (Red & Black, "Labor is Entitled to All It Creates") \$2. Twin Cities IWW, Don Kurth, 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield MN 55423-3025.

OUTSIDE U.S.

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

British Isles - Songbook (36th Edition) £4 post-paid; a selection of literature is available from IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB.

Workers' Culture

Juice is Stranger than Friction.

by T-Bone Slim.

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

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Posters by Carlos Cortez

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

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by Carlos Cortez.

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

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Showcased artwork by Robert Minor, Art Young and Pablo Picasso to name a few. 150 illustrations, \$10

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

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

How black working-class culture has shaped everyday life. \$13.50

The Resistance: 10 years of pop culture that shook the world by Armond White

America's only nationally recognized Black film critic on pop music, videos and film reflecting a new consciousness about race, history, and sexuality. \$12

Break Their Haughty Power.

by Eugene Nelson.

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

Cassettes, \$10 each.

Heartland, Anne Feeney Live includes "War on the Workers"

Rebel Voices. IWW songs sung by Wobs.

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. IWW songs sung by Utah Phillips

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

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Greenfire. Dakota Sid, Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Compact Disks \$15 each.

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

Heartland, Anne Feeney Live

Video Documentary

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

Labor History

Bloody Dawn by Thomas Slaughter
Fascinating story of violent events in rural Pennsylvania that challenged the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. \$15

Rediscovering Forgotten Radicals: British Women Writers 1889-1939

Reintroduces the work of writers who have been displaced from both the historical and literary record. \$7

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Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragoza Vargas. \$15

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edited by Staughton Lynd
Includes Wob Mike Kozura's account of coal miners seizing the mines to operate them themselves. \$21.95

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran Wobblie reviews labor history and offers his vision for building a new, radical, labor movement. \$5

Sacco and Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background. by Paul Avrich. \$15.

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A pioneering foreign correspondent, a fervent crusader for social causes, and a champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50

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Foreword by M. LeSeur, \$15

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by Peter Rachleff. P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. pub'd \$12, now \$5

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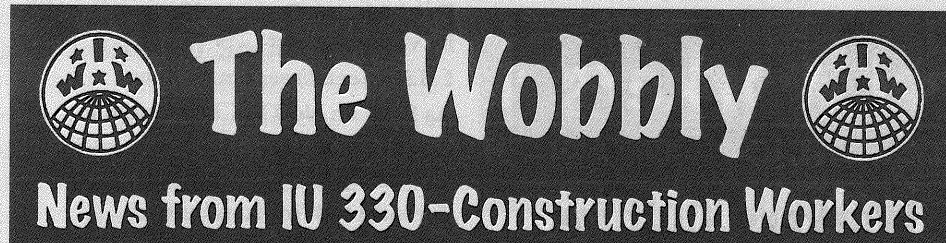
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The Wobbly

News from IU 330-Construction Workers

Welcome Back

Fellow Workers,

Sorry we missed you last issue, but *The Wobbly* just didn't get done. Hopefully that will be the last time 330 Wobs will do without the news and views of their fellow workers in the building industry.

The 330 Wobs in Butte, Montana had a big (200 folks) benefit picnic with the proceeds split between the IWW and an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) rank-and-file group. Lots of meat and beer was consumed and around \$850 was raised.

But it wouldn't be a good Wobbly event if it didn't get under the skin of the bosses and their friends in the business unions. Prior to the picnic, signs were put up informing workers of the upcoming event. On those signs were a Wobbly globe and a IBEW bug (seeing that the organizers and participants were dues-paying electricians).

Well, the bosses at Foster-Wheeler (a local firm that has developed a distaste for the IWW over the last year of so - see back issues of the *IW*) were horrified at the prospect that the IBEW was affiliating with the

IWW. The boss got on the direct line to IBEW Headquarters in Washington, DC, and started begging for mercy.

The union president assured them that business (unionism) as usual would prevail and called the Butte IBEW local to put an end to IBEW members using their own bug to promote their own functions. Such respect for the rank and file! Well, Washington, DC, is a long ways from Butte, Montana, and the event went on as scheduled.

Portland 330s want to start a quarterly newsletter to use as an organizing tool. We need contributions, so send them to us! Humor, poetry or what ever else flows from the hearts and minds of construction workers is what we need.

The General Assembly in Portland is moving ahead. 330 Wobs will have an event of sorts, probably a barbecue and bottles of beer. Call the toll free line listed below if you are coming and need a place to stay.

Portland 330 also has 330 bugs for your wind-shield/screen for sale (cheep). We also have black-cat hard hat stickers with "Direct Action gets the goods". Send a \$1 for each to the Portland address below.

On the Road?

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

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

IU 330 Delegates & Contacts:

IWW Delegates can sign up new members and take dues.

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

USA

Asheville, NC: John 704-258-4879

Boston: Mark Dupont 508-584-9881

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

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

Detroit: Bernard Labowitch 313-0875-6407

Denver: Bob Madsen 303-823-6091

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

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

Portland, OR: Steve 503-408-8809

Richmond, VA: Tom Williams 804-285-3699

Seattle/Tacoma: Mark 206-935-9012 or Paul Harris 425-271-0518

St. Louis: Tom Madden 314-647-2093

Got news for 330s? Want to be a contact? Call the IU330 Hot-line at 888-790-8809 and leave a message. We'll call you back! Or mail to POB 33674, Portland, OR 97292, USA. E-mail to obu@teleport.com

Shutting it down

More than 30,000 construction workers protested New York City's use of a nonunion contractor June 30, in a vigorous rally and march that paralyzed traffic in midtown Manhattan. Eighteen police officers were injured when they attacked the demonstration, and 38 workers were arrested. One protester was hospitalized in serious but stable condition after being kicked in the head by a police horse.

The action began at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority at 44th Street and Madison Avenue, bringing traffic to a standstill for blocks around during the morning rush hour. Afterward, thousands of workers marched across town toward the nonunion construction site.

Several hundred construction sites were closed by workers who walked off the job to join the protest. The demonstrators gathered to pressure the MTA to end its contract with Roy Kay Inc., which was awarded a \$32.6 million contract to build a new transit command center.

Roy Kay has run up numerous safety violations in the last few years, and is being investigated for submitting false documents and rupturing a gas line at Rutgers University last year, causing the evacuation of more than 100 students. The firm received two serious federal safety citations last November for failing to protect workers from a cave-in during excavation work at Rutgers.

The IWW Constitution: Industrial Unions

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

The IWW's Industrial Unions unite all workers in the same broadly defined industry. The Industrial Union is envisioned in the Constitution as the basic building block of the international organization. At one time, the secretaries of the various IUs (together with a secretary representing IWW members without a functioning Industrial Union administration) served as the General Executive Board, though the organization long ago abandoned that system in favor of direct referendum vote of the entire membership for all general officers.

At present there are no functioning IU administrations, though IWW membership in several industries has reached the point where members are working to reorganize the Industrial Unions to once again bring together all members working in the same industry to discuss common problems and to support each other in their struggles. Already, informal coordinating structures are in place among construction, printing and education workers with an eye towards re-establishing Industrial Union administrations in the near future.

The Industrial Unions are grouped into Industrial Departments, uniting IUs dealing with Agriculture, Mining, Construction, Manufacture, Transportation and Communication, and Public Service. The intent here (and the IWW has not had functioning Industrial Departments since the Western Federation of Miners withdrew) is to bring together unions in allied industries. In transportation, for example, railways, bus lines, trucking firms, air lines and ships all provide alternate methods of transportation. If workers in these various industries act together they can wield enormous power, both in their own behalf and in the behalf of the entire working class. The Industrial Depart-

ment is less an administrative body than a coordinating one, serving as a mechanism by which workers likely to face common problems and common enemies can remain in regular communication and establish a common policy where appropriate.

Increasingly, one company may operate in many seemingly unrelated industries. The company that sells Morton Salt, for example, also builds nuclear missiles. International Telephone & Telegraph not only manufactures and operates communications equipment, it also makes bread and pastries and operates hotels. In such situations, it may prove advisable to also organize councils uniting all who work for the same employer. The IWW Constitution explicitly provides for such coordinating bodies.



Industrial Union Branches

In well-organized cities there should be several Job Branches bringing together workers at the workplaces where the IWW has succeeded in establishing an industrial presence (whether or not a majority has been secured). Each Job Branch is affiliated to the appropriate Industrial Union and to the union as a whole through the IWW's One Big Union structure.

In addition to these industrial and international structures, there is also an ongoing need for local coordination - both between the various job branches working in the same industry, and between workers in the various industries.

The Industrial Union Branch brings workers in the same industry (from the various Job Branches, as well as those work-

ing in shops where the IWW has not yet organized a branch) together on a local basis. The Job Branches retain full control over questions applying solely to their workplace, while the IU Branch (which collects the half of monthly IWW dues retained by local branches for organizing and other union expenses) coordinates local organizing efforts, sets local standards for working hours and conditions, assists job branches in their industrial struggles and organizing efforts, etc. Industrial Union Branches are particularly valuable in industries with high turnover, enabling the union to maintain a stable industrial presence on a local level even as individual Job Branches ebb and flow.

In a well-organized city there should be several Industrial Union Branches - one for each industry where the IWW has an established presence. Printing & Publishing House Workers IU 450, for example, might encompass Job Branches at a local newspaper, several job printers, a publishing house, and free-standing design shops. While each Job Branch would have specific concerns best decided by those workers immediately concerned, there would also be several issues of common concern.

Printers, for example, would need to be kept apprised of conditions at publishing

and design operations in order to avoid handling work produced by scabs or under substandard conditions. Many workers might move from job to job, and thus need to be aware of prevailing conditions at other shops in the area. Job Branches will need to know the current union status of anyone hiring on. Workers in the various printing shops will want to be kept informed of new equipment being brought in by employers, and will need to adopt a common policy toward it. They will need to keep track of all chemicals being used, and of proper procedures for handling these, in order to prevent the bosses from poisoning them on the job. (Similar health and safety concerns will arise with printing presses, binding equipment, keyboarding operations, etc.) They will want to work together to organize any unorganized shops in the area, to prevent these from being used to drive down wages and working conditions. And there are many other areas of possible cooperation, ranging from educational programs to train workers in using new technologies to researching ownership and profitability of local employers to other areas of mutual concern.

next issue:

The Industrial District Council

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

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

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

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

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

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker