

# Industrial Worker

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

## Portland IWW Strikes Again! Workers Strike at the Mallory Hotel

PORTLAND, OR. On Wednesday, October 20th, eleven workers at the Mallory Hotel staged a sit-down strike in the lobby to demand workplace improvements. The demands were simple, (1) an end to unjust and arbitrary firings, (2) the establishment of a grievance procedure that includes employee representation, (3) amnesty for workers participating in and supporting the action.

Initially, when the demands were presented to Victor Santangelo, director of food and beverages, workers were told there would be no discussion or consideration of the demands. Victor then called in the owner, Albert Gentner.

When Albert arrived he was given a copy of the demands. Albert told the workers that there were no unjust and arbitrary firings at the Mallory Hotel, and that workers had no idea what they were talking about. When fellow worker Lil' Pete asked Albert to read the other demands, Albert told him to sit down. When Lil' Pete refused to comply, Albert fired him, stating that the reason Lil' Pete was fired was due to the fact that he would not sit down when told.

Albert went on to reiterate his belief that there were no unjust and arbitrary firings in his hotel. Frustrated, Albert left the workers sitting in the lobby to contact someone to run the front desk, as there was no one to answer the phones, check people in, etc. Victor was also doing his part in shutting down the dining room and banquet facilities due to the lack of workers to prepare food.

When Victor finished evacuating the dining room, he informed workers that they should leave the lobby or be charged with criminal trespass, as the police had been called. When the police arrived, they were genuinely stumped on what to do with the workers. It was made clear to the officers that this was a labor dispute. Since the police do not know labor law, only criminal, they stayed only as mediators in the dispute that continued between management and workers for a couple of hours.

*continued on page 6*



### In This Issue:

Youth Learn to Organize

Chatanooga 3 Update

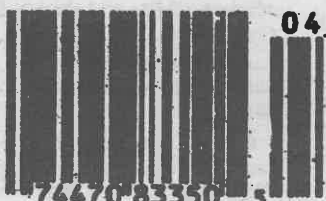
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## Corporations: The Lapdogs of Capital



**"If found: please return to WTO Headquarters..."**

*(For information on events in Seattle, see page 8)*

## Waterfront Wobs Stand Strong in Louisville, KY

Wobblies have traditionally been strong on the waterfronts and, as the twentieth century threatens to repeat itself, we're back on the waterfront again!

At JeffBoat, the United States' largest inland shipyard located on the banks of the Ohio River in Southern Indiana, conditions are terrible for workers. Safety is a constant problem and wages are at least three dollars per hour lower than at northern shipyards. Not only do the workers have a tough-fisted company to deal with; we are in continual struggle with our union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and one of its largest and most corrupt locals, Local 89 in Louisville, Kentucky. Union officials, who are paid from \$95,000 to \$150,000 a year, have been known to flip coins over workers' jobs. Recently the Local's president has fired several of his business agents for opposing him. One of the business agents returned to work and broke the jaw of his replacement in September.

Since May 1999, Fellow Worker Tom Coffman, a rigger in the yard, and myself, FW Terry Nikolai Tapp, a welder, have been spreading the word about the IWW and the idea of One Big Union. Now changes are really beginning to happen.

I began talking to other workers about our problems and the fact that our "union" has left us jonesing in the cold.

With the help of two other workers, I formed a "Workers' Council" and we called for a meeting in Port Fulton Park behind the shipyard. As the news of the Workers' Council meeting spread, stories began to circulate about company men forming a line to stop us, snipers hiding in the trees, cameras on us and so forth. Well, it was tense, but we met and none of this happened. It was a bluff. We discussed our problems and de-

ecided to meet every other Monday, to mirror the Company's Monday "safety meetings" (which are bullshit).

We also began to publish a newsletter called the "River Worker." It comes out every two weeks in conjunction with the Workers' Council meetings.

The idea of the IWW has taken awhile to get across to other workers since the ruling class has spent half a century trying to crush it out of existence. Twice I have had to stick my neck out and show what we mean when we say, "An injury to one is an injury to all".

We work with thick welding cables, dragging them over the gunnel and cargo of the barge and when it rains, those generally ragged high voltage cables become a serious safety risk for us as we're standing on sheet steel. Well, the foremen have been ordering us to keep working in the rain. Five weeks ago, I was working the side hole of the barge when it began to rain. The guys all went to the breakroom except four or so of us who were stuck in the holes and unaware of the rain. The foremen came to the

*continued on page 10*

## Wobblies Influence Local Bus Drivers Make Contract Gains

by Joshua Freeze ATU 1549 Recording Secretary

AUSTIN, TX—After a long preparation for a fight, bus drivers and mechanics in Austin, TX won much of what they were demanding without a strike. On October 14, the members of Amalgamated Transit Union, local 1549 (boasting three red card holders of the six local officers) ratified a two year contract with ATC/Vancom.

ATU 1549 runs the shuttle bus operation for the University of Texas at Austin, a campus of more than 50,000 students with a bus system of almost 200 drivers and twenty maintenance workers.

The union won through a campaign of both internal and external organization. The militants of the local, influenced by Wobbly ideals, stood firm and refused to back down to either the company or the union bureaucrats. By organizing within the local, the members took control of negotiations and achieved a contract that gained most of what they wanted, in spite of bad labor laws, threats from the company and pushing from the top of their own union.

Beginning a year ago, they held two surveys of the membership to determine which issues most concerned drivers. Texas is a "right-to-work" state, which means workers can choose whether they join the union, but the union is legally required to represent

*continued on page 9*

## Joe Hill House Bombed! SAC Member Assassinated by Fascists

Björn Söderberg, a long time revolutionary syndicalist and member of the Sveriges Arbetares Centralorganisation (SAC) was murdered by fascists on October 12th. Söderberg was shot six times outside his apartment in the Stockholm suburb of Satra. One shot went directly through his head.

The union activist, in his forties, had recently played a crucial role in exposing a leading fascist, Robert Vesterlund, at his workplace. This past summer Söderberg worked at the warehouse of Svanstroms in southern Stockholm. Vesterlund also worked there and was elected shop steward.

When Björn made Vesterlund's nazi sympathies known to the press, the local union decided to expel Vesterlund who left the union voluntarily before he could be expelled.

The same day Vesterlund's nazism was made public a copy of Björn's passport photo was obtained by Info 14, a nazi magazine which Vesterlund publishes.

*continued on page 13*

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The following editorial statement is a product of not only active collective members, but vocal general membership and recommendations from the board as well. It is a living document and we welcome members' involvement in its growth and evolution:

## Submissions will be prioritized as follows:

- 1) Articles about specific IWW organizing campaigns. Submissions by members who are not regular contributors will be considered at the top of this category.
- 2) News regarding related labor activities by other workers.
- 3) Other news regarding activities of workers that will be of interest and relevance to the goals of the membership of the IWW.
- 4) Factual accounts will *always* be considered for publication before opinion pieces.

## Unacceptable subject matter:

- 1) *The use of personal attacks against individual members of the union, branches or ROCs, or the constitutional democratic processes of the union.*
- 2) *Any copy which endorses physical violence against human beings.*
- 3) *Copy which employs the use of stereotypes to describe a person or group of people; (for example: ageist, homophobic, racist, sexist, etc.)*

## Logistics:

- 1) *Absolutely* no more than 2,000 words for an article. No minimum. A good average size is 500 to 800 words.
- 4) All copy is subject to editing for length only. No content changes.
- 5) Copy may be submitted as a hardcopy, on a Macintosh 3.5 disk or via email. All disk submissions should be as "text" files. Our temporary email address is: [iww@provide.net](mailto:iww@provide.net), all submissions via email should have "for industrial worker" under the subject heading.
- 6) Advertisements: Advertisements will be taken as long as they do not contradict the basic IWW principles. Call GHQ at 734-483-3546 for rates and details.

**The Industrial Worker is now, for the time being, a bi-monthly publication. The next deadline for submission will be the second weekend of January. Please be prompt with your submissions. The earlier the better, that way we can alert you to editing changes, etc.**

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## Industrial Worker

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Job Branch= 5 or more members in work-  
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IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate; GOC=  
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IW,  
Each issue gets better. I hope you have  
enough money to keep up the good work in  
the near future.  
Mario Hey

Dear Fellow Workers

As an EF! supporter, I was deeply con-  
cerned about John Persak's message in the  
September-October issue. During my so-  
journ with Redwood Summer folks in 1990  
I found myself rubbing elbows with  
Wobblies and other solid radicals. I be-  
lieved the livelihood of loggers should have  
been more thoroughly addressed. But here  
was Judi Bari, a carpenter, herself, a worker  
dependent on the lumber industry. And  
now, tree sitters' prolonged court cases and  
heavy fines have continued to claim my  
sympathies.

But I am troubled by a larger issue. While  
I do my earnest best to live by radical  
principles on all fronts, I'm often troubled  
and confused by the myopic one-sided stance  
of fine groups devoting their energies to a  
single issue only.

Environmental activists are not alone in  
this shortcoming. The peace movement,

with minor exceptions, is blind to economic  
reconversion. Civil libertarians pay no heed  
to the very real problem of crime in the  
streets which convenes many of us behind  
locked doors at night. And so on.

We simply MUST raise our sights to  
multi-faceted problems to balance our per-  
spective.

Dorice McDaniels  
X333140

Notes from the Rhode Island Red & Black

It's been a while since I have last written  
to my fellow workers, my beloved barricade  
building brethren (Sistren). In fact, the last  
time I wrote was during the ill-fated forbid-  
den fruit drive in Austin Texas. I send my  
love to all my striking cowpokes.

Now to the reason I am writing to y'all is  
it's November. This is the season that we  
wobblies and our families turn our thoughts  
to the martyred dead of the class war. It is in  
that spirit that I write this note to you.

We as a Union hold in our minds the  
immediate gains that we are to achieve in  
the work place, meaningful gains that are  
not somewhere out there but just around our  
time clock, our watercooler, our kitchens,

# I.W.W. DIRECTORY

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our scaffolds. Not pie in the sky, but a pork chop to be had right now.

These things we hold in our minds, but what about our hearts? What is in there, fellow worker. I don't know about you, but I know what I hold in my heart. My heart is beholden to my father who, damaged by work, died in a lonely nursing home. Right now, I know there are millions of men just like him. Right there in my heart is my grandmother with her thirteen kids alone, because Granddad had to follow the cod and its market. In my heart is my daughter. I weep about the thought of her looking for work or begging for benefits and rights that already belong to her. I am willing to wager that in your hearts, you have similar people. Not ideas. People.

Sentimental. Damn Skippy it is. Our union is people. Nothing more. Nothing less. Our history is the history of people. The history of a class. Our past with real (not larger than life) Joe Hill. Real Frank Little. Real mothers, daughters, sons, fathers and friends. It's a sentimental story.

Our hearts must be our guide and our mind, the chart maker. We are not 'empowered'; We Are, and we have rights and reasons for our passion.

When we endlessly revise our constitution, can any worker read it? I don't know. Have you read it? Does it help bring us closer to the one big strike? When we cast

charges against one another, does it make the cooperative commonwealth of workers real?

Not only do I love my union, I am in love with all the fellow workers out there. That is what it's about; Solidarity: an emotion not based on pragmatism but on the love of the common people, something we all affirmed to when we took a leap of faith and joined the smallest yet toughest union around. I ask you to remember that feeling.

Yours in Love and Solidarity,  
Mike Araujo  
(Rode Island Red & Black)  
x345885

Fellow Workers,

In a letter last issue (IW Sept/Oct 1999), FW Steve Kellerman made a few claims about the journal Labor Notes as well as AFL-CIO unions that are simply not true.

He claims "Labor Notes is sponsored by the International Socialist (IS)." This is not true on a variety of levels. First, Labor Notes is independent and not sponsored by any organization. Labor Notes was founded by members of IS, but it was independent from the beginning. Second, IS does not exist any more. In 1986, they and two other socialist organization came to the realization that sectarian squabbling was not a very useful tactic in the overthrow of capitalism, and these organizations merged to form Solidar-

own way.

Melbourne 620 members continue to meet as an Education sector group. We are planning a half day educational for early December, where a number of friends of the IWW will join us in a detailed discussion of the current state of play across the sector, and what these means for our industrial work. We are also beginning work on a regular 620 newsletter, to be launched with the 2000 academic year.

visit melbourne education workers website at:  
<http://www.iww.org.au/melbourne/iu620/>

melbourne/iu620/

Steve W (personal capacity) x350 221

## Finland

Finnish mainstream media published news today that workers at the Sovetski pulp mill have successfully fought back the invasion of Russian special forces, and forced them to retreat after 14 hours of armed fighting,

ity, a very unusual action in a scene where newer organizations are almost always founded by a split.

Although there is some overlap between Solidarity and Labor Notes, Solidarity neither controls nor funds it. In addition, Solidarity is explicitly neither Leninist nor democratic-centralist, and IS did not describe itself in those terms. Both could certainly trace many of their primary ideas to Marx, but then, so can the IWW.

Additionally, FW Kellerman claims, "this federation [the AFL-CIO] and its constituent unions are absolutely committed to the defense of the capitalist system." Certainly there are unions in the AFL-CIO that are explicitly pro-capitalist, but there are also ones that demonstrate themselves to be quite the opposite. One example is the ILWU. How FW Kellerman can dismiss Harry Bridges as "the same crap" as his predecessors is simply astounding.

Clearly the AFL-CIO is not the answer to our prayers, but to spend so much energy slamming them is a waste of our time and a disservice to committed radicals who are working in those unions. The AFL-CIO or its member unions are our enemy when they disrupt or otherwise interfere with our organizing, or with the self-organizing activity of the working class. The same would go for Solidarity or any other left organization. But the fact is, we have many likely allies in some unions and in some socialist organiza-

including sieges by the invaders and hostage taking by both parties October 14 afternoon. No casualties reported.

Thus the planned direct action by Tampere countersummit organisers will not be realised.

Uraa!

Antti Rautiainen.

(for more on the Sovetski Occupation please see article on page—)

## Upstate NY GMB

Upstate NY Wobs on the March

The Upstate NY Regional GMB of the IWW marched in the first annual "Labor Alive" parade in Albany, N.Y. on September 25th, sporting a new banner and flanked by a pesky sabo' cat.

Labor Alive was a joint effort of three local labor councils and dozens of nearby unions. Joe Battaglino, President of the Schenectady Area Labor Council, served as parade chair. "Labor is coming together like never before," Battaglino told a Troy N.Y. audience a week prior to the event.

Upstate NY IWWs public face was pure Wobbly. An eight foot red and black banner showed the way, calling for "One

tions. If we go around criticizing their organizations for vague and unsubstantiated or fabricated reasons, these folks will simply dismiss us, and rightly so.

The IWW is not a pure organization with the perfect, most correct political line. Our ideology is not the only conceivable revolutionary idea, and we gain nothing by pretending that it is, other than a perception that we are irrelevant.

I ask that all IWW members throw aside their own sectarianism, and to allow for the possibility that there may be other groups in the labor movement that have something to offer the working class and that maybe we could even learn something from the successes they have had.

love and struggle

Joshua Freeze, x345498

Austin, TX - USA

Dear membership,

In active response to FW Persak's Letter (Sept/Oct IW) I offer this: I agree we DO need to organize within the timber industry. I invite all Wobs to join in a "listening tour" of upstate Michigan to visit homes of timber workers with Heartwood. We are organizing timber workers to find alternatives to an industry that is near extinction and is fundamental to the extinction of us all. Send messages to: forestsforever62@yahoo.com.

Solidarity, FW Marie Mason

Big Union, Job or No Job." Then the sabo' tabby float, a creatively adorned pickup truck, provided some spirited nose-thumbing at the bosses. FW Pete Tsaffaras supplied the vehicle and some of its decorations, including a huge, menacing black cat. Longtime Wobblies Rochelle Semel and Paul Poulos created four colorful murals that covered the float with IWW themes. "Not the IWW!", a trembling boss stereotype begs in one of the frames.

Some proceeds from the parade will go toward the memorial site for Kate Mullaney in Troy, N.Y. With help from the Upstate IWW, Mullaney's grave is now marked by a large Celtic Cross. Local efforts have recognized the 19th Century organizing of this young Irish immigrant, who boldly solidified the ranks of collar and laundry workers in Troy, against all probabilities, in 1864. When FW Utah Phillips visited the grave last spring while touring the area, he thought Kate's leadership in the job action that produced the first women's union in the country was quite a feat. He quipped, "wasn't Kate Mullaney the one who said 'we don't iron while the strike is hot?'" That phrase now appears on the gravestone!

-Sourdough Slim

## Melbourne, Australia

The Melbourne IWW Education Group  
Some Personal Reflections

By the middle of 1999 there were 10 members of the Melbourne GMB covered by IU620. Half were university students; like many students today, a number also held part time or casual wage jobs. Of the rest, two members were university academic staff, two worked in libraries, one was a secondary school student, and one was at TAFE.

On the basis of these numbers, it was decided to establish a separate Industrial Union branch. For a number of reasons, however - in large part, the real difficulties of meeting across the metropolitan sprawl that is our city - we have since decided to let the 620 branch charter lie on the table at present, and to concentrate on further consolidating the local GMB before going our



## 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.



Members of the Upstate New York Regional GMB of the IWW marching in the Labor Active parade in Albany, NY while IWW truck with Saby-cat follows behind. IWW Marchers-left to right-Greg Giorgio, Bob Doran, Rochelle Semel, Kim lane and Nick Patti. In truck, Barbara Sands and Pete Tsaffaras.



## ¡Andalé Sabo Gatitos! Estudiantes UNAM Luchar con Fuerza y Solidaridad

El once de Febrero, 1999, el Rector Francisco Barnés de Castro de la Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) propuso la realización de la Reglamentación General de Pagos, intentando subir las cuotas para estudiantes y cobrar para otros servicios como del laboratorio, para materiales, etc. El cuerpo estudiantil y la facultad rechazaron esa táctica que empezaría la destrucción de la educación gratis (garantizada en la constitución de México) y decidieron salir en huelga. Con el apoyo de grupos sindicalistas y otros movimientos populares los huelgistas exigen el derecho de acceso a la universidad gratis, y también que sean involucrados en el proceso de la gobernación de la institución, y un parte de su futura. El gobierno Mexicano no perdió tiempo en usar todo su fuerza para acabar con esa insumisión: la manipulación de los medios de comunicación, la represión policiaca, secuestros, y violencia solicitada por el estado. Sin poder ni acercar una resolución de la crisis, y ya viendo la posibilidad de huelga general entre todas las universidades de México, Barnés ha estado forzado renunciar su puesto.

(Consejo General de Huelga por internet: [www.geocities.com/Baja/Mesa/9813](http://www.geocities.com/Baja/Mesa/9813))

## Prison Laborers and Industrial Workers Unite!

Industrial Workers and Prison Laborers must unite! A silent war is being waged. Industrial workers all across America are being forced to give up well paying jobs to cheap prison laborers, while prison laborers are being exploited and used as slaves for hire. Prisons do not adhere to any of this country's labor laws, such as the laws regarding minimum wage, workers' compensation, collective bargaining, job safety, etc.

As Paul Wright of the Prison Legal News put it, "[p]oliticians want to exploit prison labor; capitalists want to get rich off it; and some prisoners will sell out their interests for a few bucks, but no one wants the citizenry at large to be aware of it." Industrial workers, wake up, your jobs could be next!

Currently, there are more than 1.8 million people in prison and jails across this country (US), and there are millions more on probation and parole. There is simply a never ending supply of prison slave laborers.

Recently, the Federal Prison Industries (F.P.I.), a self supporting branch of the U.S. Department of Justice, decided to take aim at the U.S. service industries. If you provide a service like data entry, packaging, sorting, or telemarketing, don't be surprised if your wages start to decline or you find yourself out of work. F.P.I. already has first bids on all federal contracts for goods and has already taken thousands of jobs from the industrial works. Across the U.S., individual states are slowly following the U.S. Department of Justice lead and are contracting out their prisoners' labor. Some states are doing so aggressively by offering incentives to businesses who employ prison labor.

It is true that prisoners are in need of money, skills and work ethic. Yet, prison labor jobs do not allow prisoners to meet their real world debts such as child support arrearages and credit debts. The money is being confiscated for the cost of housing and feeding prisoners.

Furthermore, some prisoners are being forced into these jobs. If a prisoner does not accept the third world wage and unreasonable burdens placed on them; they can be forced to stay longer in prison by being denied parole or early release.

For the most part, prison laborers want to join forces with the industrial workers. We are no different than the working class; our crime is that we got caught. Ninety eight percent of us will be released sooner or later. However, the system is designed to keep workers apart.

We can sit back and become a victim of a corrupt government, or we can join together and fight this corrupt machine. The only ones who can do anything about these problems are "We the People." If we leave it up to the government, we will all be slaves. Compliance is acceptance.

Currently, an effort is underway to start a National Prisoners Labor Rights Association (N.P.L.R.A.), which would support the efforts of prisoner labor unions across the U.S. and which would be modelled after the Missouri Prisoners Labor Union (MPLU). Prison laborers are asking the Industrial Workers to support this effort anyway they can.

There are other ways you can help. Organize! Contact your state and federal representatives and demand prisoners be given minimum wage for their labor, the right to vote, and that prisoner made goods be sold only in the U.S. Demand education, not incarceration.

Danielle Knoo

### "\$2.50 SHORT"

**I'm standing looking into the frozen food cabinet. I want that pie, corn and asparagus. The kids will love it.**

**But I'm \$2.50 short. I've counted three times, and I'm counting it again. But I'm still \$2.50 short.**

**It's like I'm in a foreign country, as happy shoppers bustle past. Filling baskets and trolleys with anything they want. Anything they want.**

**Like a foreign country, I can't communicate. I can't relate. Because you only relate to this society when you consume.**

**It wouldn't matter so much, alone. I'd just pull the belt tighter. But when you're \$2.50 short for the family dinner, it's different. It's different.**

Wal Larkin '99

## Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!! UNAM Students Fight Against Incredible Odds

On February 11, 1999 the Rector Francisco Barnés de Castro of the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) proposed the enactment of what is known as the General Regulation of Payments, planning to increase tuition for students at Mexico City's university, as well as impose a slew of other fees for materials, laboratory use etc. The UNAM student body and faculty rejected this attempt to dismantle free higher education (guaranteed by the Mexican Constitution) and chose instead to go on strike. With the support of numerous labor organizations and grass roots movements the strikers demanded continued access to free higher education, as well as the involvement of the student body in determining the structure and future of the university as an institution. The Mexican government responded to this with all the means at its disposal: media manipulation, police repression, kidnapping, state sanctioned violence. Having waited for some seven months without making any headway towards a resolution to the crisis, facing the possibility of a general strike throughout universities of the country, Barnés has been forced to step down.



## Two Wobblies Encounter the UAW

Hey there S/FWs!

There are quite a few of my Sister/Fellow workers in the Motor Transport Industry (of course, they could be IU530ers, but let's just call 'em truck drivers for now) on strike this month. Before I get started I just wanted to tip my hat to them. They are, among others, Truckers in Quebec, Canada; truckers in India; and the Overnite company in the US. Keep kicking ass fellow workers and, here in the US, whenever I see an Overnite on the road I give 'em a scare.

Also, keep an eye out for a new Wobbly Motor Transport Job Shop coming your way soon.

**Norfolk, VA is scary enough.**

Norfolk, VA was scary enough after SW Knoche and I had searched all over for the damn Ford Plant. Our search had taken us from incredibly unhelpful person to creepy naval security guard and from there to an amazing array of outright idiots. Finally we tracked down the plant.

Cradled in the filthiest part of town was the entrance, and at the end of that, a little guard shack (you get to know these places pretty well after two days of driving). We figured we were home free.

"I can't believe we finally found you," I said excitedly and with a smile.

"You sure did," remarked security with one of the most unremarkable displays of emotion I had ever encountered. "And there's a problem."

"Oh," I said.

Seemed as if they didn't allow foreign-made vehicles on the plant grounds. Oh well, I thought, I can respect that...I guess.

We tried to call someone and have them come outside to get the freight 'cause I knew they needed it. No one would though, or at least she couldn't track anyone down. "Go ahead around," she said, "I can't reach anybody."

Bridget and I drove around back in a state of glee. We were finally going to be able to finish with this work and get down to surviving the experience (i.e. "enjoying life").

Like I've said before, "If only we could have been that lucky..."

As we backed up the ramp to unload, we saw two things:

The first we wanted to see, that was the hi-lo driver who was exiting the building to take our freight.

The second was awful strange, an irate worker barreled down the ramp;

"What the hell you think you're doing?!" he yelled. "Get that piece of SHIT out of here! Get moving asshole!" (blah blah, he went on and on). The other worker explained calmly that we would have to leave with the truck because it was foreign (I do admit that it was difficult to hear him over the other worker's shouts, though).

We got back in and rounded the far corner of the plant. I was getting pissed. Both Bridget and I were slowly getting pissed thinking

about all the work we'd done already for the Union.

The woman at security said, "OK, see you all!" far more enthusiastic than before.

"Well, actually," I said, "we're not going anywhere until this freight is gone."

"What!," she said.

After she made a couple calls, Bridget and I spoke for a minute. We said something like, "Well, I guess almost getting beat up and tear gassed by cops during the Detroit Newspaper Strike just isn't enough to get treated with a little fucking respect by our union brothers, eh?" She made some comment about how her non-union friend made more money than she did. We lacked the ability to see what this had to do with solidarity. But she did help us out.

We rounded the corner. As we did so, I was still pissed. Bridget said, "Shit man, make them come to you."

"Are you gonna back me up on this?"

"Sure," she said. So here's what happened.

I parked the truck about 30 meters from the hi-lo. The worker jumped out and screamed, "Move that f\*\*\*ing truck over here!" I said, "Hey man, you all have treated me with zero respect since I got here. You come here!" He said, "Man, you drive your ass over here or you can leave!" I said, "OK," and began to swing the truck around. He said, "You won't have a job tomorrow!" I said, "Actually, I will. I don't

have to deal with this kind of disrespect. Especially from a fellow worker!"

At this point Bridget noticed the Scab Newspaper box on plant property. She pointed it out. "What the hell, man! You all have a damn scab paper on your plant property! Why don't you do something that will actually change something and get rid of those f\*\*\*ing boxes?!"

Security came by at this point.

I told security that all I was looking for was a little respect. He told us that he couldn't let the other worker leave plant property with plant equipment. I decided that the only way to talk sanely with the other worker was to get out of my vehicle and go speak with him.

I walked over as the other worker glared at me deep.

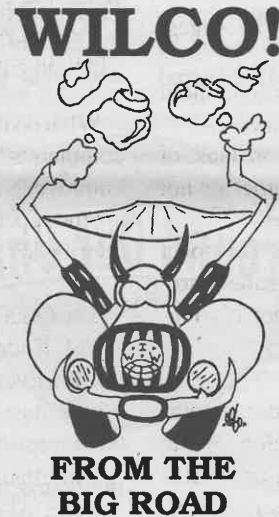
"Look man," I said, "all I want is for you to admit that we have more in common than you have with Ford. Can't you see that the "No Foreign Vehicles" clause of your contract has more to do with dividing workers than with saving your goddamn job? Look, let's just agree that as members of the working class we gotta stick together, right? Otherwise we got nothing."

He looked my way and I, his. It took awhile but, we both grinned. We shook.

I said, "Alright, let's unload this son of a bitch!"

He did. And SW Bridget and I finally got to party. Not that I can recommend anywhere to do that in Norfolk, VA.

Solidarity, Gator

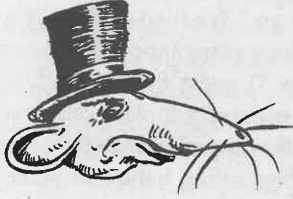




# One More Dirty Rat

## Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge

A new death warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal was signed by Pennsylvania Governor Ridge on October 13, 1999 after Abu-Jamal's last appeal was rejected. The execution was to take place on December 2, 1999. Federal Judge William Yohn then granted the defense a stay of execution on October 26, 1999 in response to a petition on the writ of habeas corpus by Abu-Jamal's attorneys. The defense attorneys and the State will submit memorandum on the writ of habeas corpus by March 2, 2000, and the judge will then rule on whether there will be an evidentiary hearing and ultimately on whether Abu-Jamal should be executed. We, the Workers of the World must make it clear that we will NOT let Mumia go the way of Sacco & Vanzetti, and all our other martyrs. We will not allow the state to murder our brothers and sisters who fight for freedom and justice!



## Organizing Tips from SW Judy

By: Judy Olsen

As union organizers, our main job is to help workers work through their fear. The secondary part of our job is to ensure that workers have mentors, also known as backup.

When workers ask us for help in unionizing their work site, the first thing we need to do is interview them to find out why they want a union, and we look for a common theme:

- \*Low wages?
- \*Asshole supervisor?
- \*Lack of respect?

Knowing the common theme will help us decide whether or not it will be worth our time, energy and money to organize them.

Examples:

- \*If their ONLY complaint is low wages, don't waste your time.
- \*If their ONLY complaint is an asshole supervisor, don't waste your time.
- \*If their ONLY complaint is lack of respect, agree to research whether or not it's feasible to organize them.
- \*If they complain about lack of respect and low wages or an asshole supervisor, agree to research whether or not it's feasible to organize them.

In other words, if workers don't complain about lack of respect, then don't waste your time. To research whether or not it is feasible, we must ask ourselves questions such as:

1. Do we know the industry?
2. If the workers want a contract, can we get a good one?
3. Do we have the resources to counteract the employer's viciousness?
4. Do we have access to the work site?
5. Is the employer vulnerable?

If we can answer yes to all of the pertinent questions, then we let the workers know that we will help them organize their work site.

Experienced union organizers agree that a successful organizing drive requires only three things:

1. Inoculation
2. Inoculation
3. Inoculation

This sounds cool, but what the hell is inoculation?

1. Take time to build solid relationships with the workers.
2. Earn their trust.
3. Tap into their sense of anger and

hopefulness (Yes, hopeFULness.)

4. Thoroughly educate workers about all aspects of organizing and their employers' probable and/or possible reactions to an organizing drive.

Now the workers must decide on one of three ways to gain union recognition from their employer.

1. Sign recognition cards (or even a petition) and ask the employer to recognize the IWW as their bargaining agent.
2. File for an election with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) for an election.
3. Perform direct action.\*

These three ways are listed in order of what to try first. If #1 doesn't work, then try #2. If that doesn't work, then try #3.

\*Direct action is recommended ONLY when the employer can be severely ruined.

What do the workers want? What are their complaints? What are their shifts? How many employees are there? How many and who are the supervisors? Who are the employers' attorneys?

The Organizing Committee must be made up of leaders who are able to influence others. Everyone on the Organizing Committee must commit to a huge fight and must be in it for the long haul. But, don't call it a "committee." Instead, ask each worker who appears to be a leader, "Will you be a contact for your group?" This puts the workers in charge of their own campaign and the contacts will function as a committee.

Test the workers to see if they are committed: Give out assignments with a specific date to finish, then follow up.

Make sure the "contacts" know what to expect from their employer when the employer finds out about the organizing drive.

In captive-audience meetings, workers need to believe they are the IWW. When they hear their employer talking bad shit about the IWW, the workers will take it personally.

Many employers practice "positive" union busting. Their most effective message is "Give us a chance." If we have been doing our jobs right as organizers, the workers will think, "This is great, the employer is listening. Now let's see how much power we have!"

More tips next time..

(Much of the information in this piece has been compiled from the Seattle Organizing Weekend hosted by the Seattle GMB of the IWW.)

## I REMEMBER THE HUNGER

I remember sitting outside the plaza. The shopping centre. Meeting a lack. Waiting for people to make junk of junk food. Throw it away. I was hungry.

Mum in the gutter in tears years ago because we were hungry and cryin'.

'We're hungry mum.' Wailed my older brother Sean. 'We're hungry.' I couldn't speak but I remember the hunger.

THE END Copyright phil doyle '96

This will be my last "From the Desk of..." It soon will no longer be my desk, not that it ever was. It always belonged to the Union. I just occupied it for a while. It was just a place where I piled the mountain of communications from the membership for the last 5 years. I've already been off the payroll for a couple months now, having moved on to waged work for the Ann Arbor Tenants Union. When I go into General Headquarters now on weekends and an occasional evening to carry out my General Secretary/Treasurer chores for the remaining few weeks of my term, I only manage to sit at that desk when the current staff is not around to occupy it.

I won't be going far. I'll still be plugging away for the One Big Union every chance I get. If GHQ remains in Ypsilanti, one issue on the sizeable ballot which came in today's mail, then I'll be around to volunteer for the General Administration, stuffing envelopes, photocopying, whatever's needed. If GHQ moves, I'll focus my spare time on local organizing and more involvement with the Industrial Worker Collective. So no more "From the Desk of..."s, but I'll still be working on proofreading, helping with the mailing, etc. I'll probably still be contributing an occasional article or book review as well. Whether the membership decides to move GHQ or not, I'll still be available in

person in Ypsi or by phone and email to Philly to help the next GST maneuver through the mine field the office can sometimes be. Once this Wobbly stuff gets in your blood, it's hard to turn back. And I'm running for next year's General Executive Board. So if the membership decides I still have something to contribute, you may still have Fred to kick around a while longer.

What a long strange trip it's been. I gather that only one or two other GSTs have served more terms. Nobody else was silly enough to want the office during my first 4 annual administrations. We've had some pretty significant successes over the recent years.

Membership has more than doubled, as has the number of branches. We've strengthened our international presence with the establishment of Regional Organizing Committees in Australia, the British Isles, Poland, Italy, Finland, and South Africa. We've stood up to pretty big corporations: Borders and Applebee's. While we didn't manage to establish shops in either, they aren't likely to forget us or the trouble Wobs caused and continue to cause them soon. We've continued our good work in support of class war prisoners, Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu Jamal being only the most visible.

Wobs in the San Francisco Bay area and elsewhere have taken our visibility on the internet from zip to huge. The Industrial Worker continues to be the printed voice of revolutionary unionism. There were very few periods in these years when we weren't engaged in some serious organizing drive. Right now it's drives at a bookstore in San Jose, a hotel and gas stations in Portland, a ship construction facility in Louisville. It's a good time to be a Wobbly.

Some damned good Wobs have fallen along the way these past five years, including Charlene Charlie Sato of O'ahu, Michael Kozura of the Huron Valley Branch, Bob Tibbs Sr. from St. Louis, just a week ago Ted Harley of Ypsilanti. We've mourned their passing, honored their memory, and carried on their struggle.

We've had our internal conflicts. But we seem to have made some significant progress in learning not to let them tear us apart. Members don't seem as quick to take irreconcilable sides as they have in some periods of our long history. Accountability is demanded, but the number of Wobs who don't know the difference between demanding accountability and demanding a hanging seems to be diminishing.

It's probably been the most stressful period of my life, walking into the office every day and wondering what the crisis du jour would be. But it's certainly been one of the most rewarding periods of my life, getting to share the excitement of new members in having discovered us, hearing regularly of the enthusiasm, creativity and commitment of our organizers in the field, providing service to some true working class heroes.

And now it's time to move on, making room for those younger and more energetic. Being a Wobbly requires a hard head, a rack for a variety of hats from organizer, negotiator, steward, propagandist and shit worker to officer on the branch as well as the general administration level. I've worn 'em all over the last 21 years, some more than once. They're all tasks I've been proud to carry out for the finest working class organization I've ever belonged to or even heard of. I'll continue to be proud to wear whichever one will best advance the One Big Union at any given point in time for the next 21 years or however many I have left.

Oh yeah, there's one other hat Wobblies often find themselves wearing: that of a picket on some one or another line to promote the working class in the class struggle. Some of the lines have been ours. Some have been those of workers in other unions where we walked for the workers, not for their union bosses. We've won a lot of respect from fellow workers in other unions for that activity. I've worn out more than a few pair of shoes while wearing the picketer's hat. I suspect a few more pair will wind up with holes in them before I'm done.

Thanks for the memories, thanks for the help, the kind words and gestures from so many of you. Thanks for being the working class heroes so many of you are.

See you on the next picket line.

fred chase

<b>IW Sustaining Fund</b>			
Bob Heald	Montpelier, VT	\$25	
<b>IWW Fighting Fund</b>			
Bob Heald	Montpelier, VT	\$50	
Jennie Cederval & Family	Willoughby, OH	\$200	
<i>in memory of Eugene Nelson</i>			
Gary Cox	Northglenn, CO	\$50	



## Mallory Hotel Strike

continued from page 1

Because Albert would not speak to workers directly, FW Bill Bradley represented the workers as the dispute wore on. Albert made it clear to Bill and the officers present that he considered the workers sitting in the lobby to be former employees. Albert claimed that, because workers had abandoned their positions, they had all voluntarily quit. Bill presented this to the workers who responded by making it clear to management that no one was quitting. Soon, Albert got very tired of the workers in his lobby, lost his temper, and told workers that they were all fired for participating in this concerted action, a clear violation of labor law. All eleven workers then walked out of the lobby together, with the understanding that every worker would return the following day to collect their final paycheck and personnel file.

When the workers returned the next day they were given the requested paperwork. Also, five workers who were not on shift at the time of the strike were offered their jobs back. This action made it clear that Albert Gentner had indeed fired the workers for being on strike and further strengthened their claim in front of the National Labor Relations Board. However, because all eleven were not given the same offer, the workers immediately issued a strike notification based on unfair labor practices.

Please write or call the Mallory Hotel at 729 SW 15th Ave, Portland, OR 97205, (800) 228-8657.

Also, send any donations to the Mallory Hotel workers strike and hardship fund c/o Portland GMB, PO Box 15005, Portland, OR 97293-5005. Do what you can to let Albert Gentner know that this kind of criminal management activity will not be tolerated and support your fellow workers.

—Mallory Hotel Job Branch Visit our website for further information <http://www.malloryhotel.org>

## First-Hand Account from the Mallory Strike

Friday, November 12th. 55 people showed up at the Mallory around 4:30pm to support the striking hotel workers. General chanting and song singing ensued as the rain was falling heartily on us. Two workers began to address the crowd as we watched the mounted police arrive.

Several minutes later the crowd was urged inside to let management know that we wouldn't stand for it and we wouldn't go away until they agreed to negotiate. 40 people rushed through the doors and occupied the lobby. All of us had a noisemaker of some kind.

The front desk staff told our management liason that the owner was not there and that they didn't know who was in charge. They were informed they had five minutes to find someone who was in charge. During this time I watched the switchboard light up with complaining customers wanting to know what the racket was and frantic desk workers trying to explain it. My, oh my, it was some racket. You know that you're really loud when people in the protest group ask you to tone it down. Guess we'll have to hand out earplugs next time. Grin.

Next thing I saw was the owner coming out of the dining room to speak to the crowd. As our liason approached the boss, FW Kristian got up on a bench and announced "the one, the man, the owner of the Mallory hotel is standing right there. All he has to do to make this all go away is to agree to negotiate with the workers." Amid raucous cheering he stated that he couldn't, his hands were tied, and it was in the hands of the NLRB. FW Ian said "You know that's not true, and I know that's not true." FW Ian

then proceeded to iterate that this would end up costing tens of thousands of dollars if it was dragged out. Also that, "I want to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with my family, not down here at the hotel. Please don't make me bring my family down here Albert. Let's just settle this."

Albert and his scissorbill then departed the scene to the upstairs offices to await the arrival of the police.

Well, the police were there and in force, they hadn't entered the building yet to ask us

overstated the situation or there would not have been so many cops. At least we scared him, personally, I was wondering if we were going to have to defend ourselves.

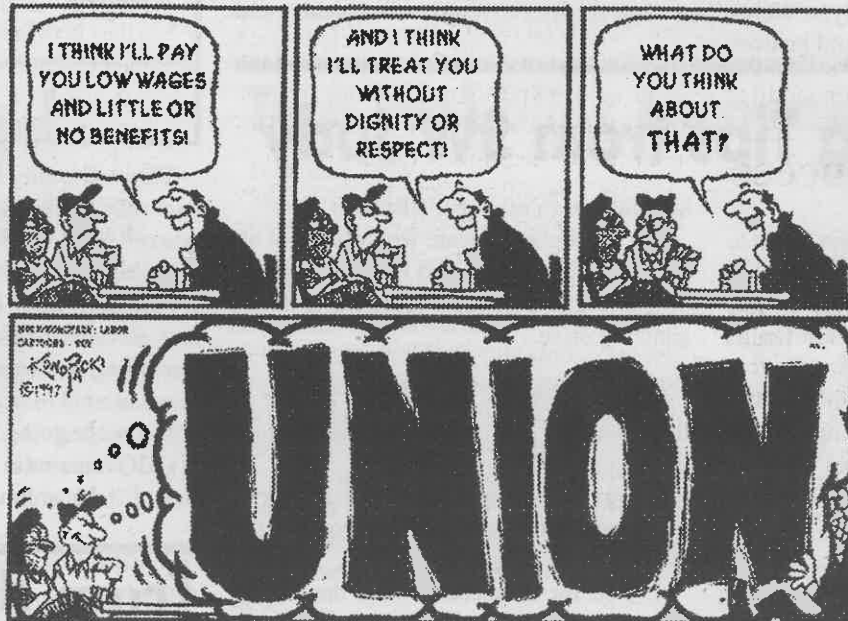
FW Kristian took the bullhorn and said "looks like the bully boys are here, guess it must be time to go." We filed out slowly to make sure we were extra annoying. I heard the seargent say "I guess they're ready to leave," and he genuinely looked very confused by this. He was probably told that we were in the lobby eating babies or something.

Outside and together again we regrouped directly in front of the main doors so that FW Ian could give a goodbye address. As I looked around, we were surrounded by police officers. FW Lil' Pete asked the officers "would our union brothers like to join us in song?" It was worth a good laugh. The officers began to advance stating "it's all over, it's time to go now, move along," while we began to sing solidarity forever. I distinctly heard Kristian over the bullhorn say "Nobody is going anywhere and you're not

needed here," in response to the officers order to disperse. People milled around for a bit even though there were wagons waiting to cart us off. After some prodding we were able to get everyone out of there and no one got arrested or beaten up that night. I guess it's a good sign that people didn't want to leave the action.

All in all it was very exciting and we got the whole scene on video tape. When the strike is over we'll edit all of our footage and make a tape we can share with the Wobs at large. You guys are gonna love watching this one. Thanks for everyones support and until next time-

Solid, —Mallory workers



to leave though. Outside the strike committee was watching as the entire mounted force and 10-15 squad cars arrived. All in all we drew at least 20-25 police officers to the scene, including two wagons. The mounted cops were harrassing the outside group by pinning them against the wall with their horses. Meanwhile, we had been inside fully thirty minutes before we saw a cop. When they came they made a grand entrance. 12 officers charged up the stairs with truncheons in hand ready to kick our butts. Bill, police negotiator, approached them and started to buy us some time. We figure that we scared the boss so bad that when he called the police he must have drastically

## Quebec's Union Officials and the Parti Québécois Two Organizations, One Bed: Workers Get Screwed

Nurses in Quebec engaged in an illegal strike throughout the month of June. They were fighting for better working conditions and a well deserved pay raise. Unions there are controlled by the Parti Québécois government. The nurses were stabbed in the back by their union. When the nurses voted down the government proposals for a 5% pay raise over 5 years and a small reinvestment in the hospitals, the strike began. After weeks of negotiation with the government, the union tried to pass the same propositions that their members had refused a month earlier and then attempted to stop the strike, even though the members refused again.

All major unions in Quebec collaborate with the government. The unions put forward weak demands and undermine calls for strikes. When there is a strike, the union will play along with the workers for a time. But judging by the nurses' strike the union leaders stand by the government when circumstances allow.

The present social climate in Quebec is tense. Union leaders are working to control and calm the situation. In most cases the union leaders are betraying the mandates on which they were elected. The P.Q. has made major cuts in human services in recent years. The people suffer while union leaders pros-

per from their association with Parti Québécois.

The P.Q. not only has a presence in the unions. It is influential in nearly all Quebec community groups including The Women's Federation of Quebec. These groups issue statements suggesting that everyone understands that social service cuts are necessary and appropriate to pay the deficit. The Womens Federation of Quebec even signed papers which stated that the rightful place of women, women on welfare inferred, was to be cleaning up after people.

The Quebec federation of students keeps saying that it's all right to cut support for libraries and negotiate policies which have a negative impact on students. They were willing to negotiate an agreement not to strike, supposedly in exchange for a freeze on fees. But the negotiations let stand the "taxe chec," a policy which let stand penalties of potentially more than \$400 for a single failed course. If the penalties aren't paid, the students can't take further classes. As a result many minimum wage worker/students can be excluded from future access to higher education because of a single failed class. This law is a direct result of the Quebec Federation of Students negotiations.

## Exercise In Grief

The pages of history  
Have come unglued  
The train is uncoupled  
and the children are scattered  
Seeds on dry ground

I  
Two jew boys and a nigger  
Seed spilled in Mississippi dirt  
Watered with their blood  
Bitter harvest reaped long ago  
Can we honor the bones?

II  
In Israel the sons of the pious  
Torture the daughters of  
revolutionaries  
Destroy the homes of their  
cousins  
Natives of the land

III  
In Detroit a gentle black mayor  
Sells the schools for corporate  
gains

Angry young men no longer  
proud as panthers  
Scratch for droppings of the  
beast  
Scratch and crawl 'til  
The only sun is yellow bars  
Burning distance on sore eyes

IV  
The young whites?  
Some few still march  
But not the cool ones, nor them  
They f another ring in their nose  
Another needle in their arms  
Their lives leak out, empty  
smoke

V  
The pages of history  
Have come unglued  
The train is uncoupled  
And the children are scattered  
Seeds on dry ground.

1999 Barbara Pliskow

When the three young civil rights workers Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman, were reported missing in Mississippi, the sheriff said, "What's all the fuss, two jew boys and a nigger." One of those boys, Micky Schwerner, was from my C.O.R.E. chapter.

The background photo is from a police arrest in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.



## Thoughts on Dishwashing & Unionism

By: Scrubdog

I work in a fine dining restaurant in Pennsylvania. The boss is a cheap operator, as so many are. The establishment has a pretty standard set-up in the kitchen and a standard set of roaches to go with it.

I've quietly tried to organize with the other dishwashers, but there's little interest. It seems that a big hindrance to organizing in this industry is the class collusion and just plain brown-nosing. This is particularly bad when it's a family owned business. Such is the case where I work. All isn't bad however. Some direct action concerning conditions has been successful.

Many dishwashers come and go. A combination of alcoholism and burnout affect

many in this position. I know that a lot of workers like to party and have a good time. I don't want to preach and say that they shouldn't. I do, however, think that organizers in high stress industries need to recognize substance abuse as a union issue. If a worker is having a problem with addiction, we should talk to him/her about it and try to get them into treatment. I think solidarity in the immediate sense has to play more of a role in this area.

Of course the appalling lack of benefits and shitty wages contribute to many dishwashers just quitting and moving on. This and the general lack of respect for the work they do; feeds a good deal of alienation felt by those in this position. Often they are even disregarded by other kitchen workers. This is a rift that needs to be closed.

So far, I've only worked in restaurants, so I can't speak to conditions in larger institutions, such as hotels. I do know that, all too often, being hired as a dishwasher also means being a prep cook, janitor, stockperson and any other job for which you won't be adequately compensated! As I already mentioned, there's always room for some direct action. Though in a small or medium sized establishment this can be difficult. It is not like a factory job where you can be more anonymous.

Despite the difficulties, I do think dishwashers, as well as restaurant workers in general are capable of organizing; even at small job sites. If any work was made for the kind of unionism that the IWW represents, it's the work done in the food service industry. First, before workers can organize industrially, they need to feel industrial solidarity and for that they need to communicate.

This brings me to an idea that I have had for awhile: a portable, north american restaurant workers' zine. Such a publication would principally serve to promote the IU640 and the aims of the IWW. But it would be open to all food service workers who wish to express their concerns and experiences.

Contents could include tips on direct action, job experiences, humor, anything workers feel helps them build solidarity and network together. It could come out as often as is feasible. Branches and individuals could purchase it copy-ready, then reproduce and distribute as often as desired.

I don't see this project as the be-all and end-all of organizing. I do see it as a tool, furthering those efforts, as well as breaking down the isolation felt by many food service workers. This could be a significant step in the creation of industrial networks, the skeletal beginnings of industrial unionism in a very exploitive sector of the economy.

## City of Toronto Targets the Poor

by Jeffery Shantz

It was another hot summer in Toronto for the members of our class who take to the roadways, squeegees in hand, to try at sustaining themselves in this miserable wreck of a system. The city's hyper-business mayor (this clown owns a chain of appliance stores, "Bad Boy," whose mascot is someone in prison) has renewed his declaration of class war on squeegees (whom he labels as 'thugs').

With much fanfare (and plenty of snarling, spitting, growling, and gnashing of teeth) the City Council recently launched a so-called Community Action Policing program (they call it CAP but we know it's just plain CRAP) backed by \$2 million of public funds. (The things the bosses can find money for. Despite their complaints about being cash-strapped, the boss governments are never short when it comes to war against our class.) Following the model of Guiliani's rampage in New York City, the money is being spent to pay cops overtime to harass, intimidate and threaten poor people in targeted areas of the city. Along with their efforts to drive squeegees out of the city, the cops have been busy chasing homeless people out of so-called "public parks."

Poverty's okay, just do it in your own home! Cops claim that they're not trying to rid the city of squeegees, just trying to keep people from stepping into the roadway. So far, however, there's been little demonizing rhetoric or physical harassment related to the jaywalking scourge. The cops promise to keep up their campaign until into the Fall. After that they hope Mother Nature will put in the overtime for them. As the Inspector in charge of the operation stated: "The best crime-fighting tool we have is minus-30 in February" (Globe and Mail, July 26 A10). Given that several homeless people have frozen to death on the streets of Toronto the past two winters it would appear that capital punishment is being practiced in Canada after all; but only if your crime is poverty.

There's more to come though. Lastman wants the provincial government to change the Highway Act to make squeegeeing itself illegal. The Ontario Crime Commissioner (charged with overseeing crime policy for the entire province) has already declared in an interview with the state broadcaster (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) that squeegees are the province's top concern (this in

a province where several hundred workers die from work-related accidents every year). Provincial Premier and right-wing ideologue, Mike Harris promises to push the criminalization through when the legislature returns in the Fall.

Of course, a crackdown has been in effect for some time now. Cops regularly ticket squeegees for anything they want, be it trespassing, loitering or littering.

The CRAP is touted as "all of the forces' best and latest thinking on community-based policing" (Globe and Mail, July 26 A10).

Of course, none of this is new at all. These are the same tactics the bosses have hit us with for centuries (they called them "poor laws" in 17th Century England). The names change but the intentions remain the same. Along with programs like workfare and the reduction or elimination of social services, criminalization is about driving the poor, unemployed and homeless into wage slavery or death. Serve capital or go away!

In case the point is missed the "soft cops" (social workers, etc.) have launched a "Squeegee Work Youth Mobilization" program to teach squeegees to get jobs repairing bikes (\$250,000 from City Council and \$395,000 from the federal government). De-

spite the great career prospects for budding bike repairers, the Commissioner of Community and Social Services admits the program faces some obstacles; the challenge is this is a group of kids that does not fit into the system. They are very wary of any kind of authority-police, schools and even social agencies" (Globe and Mail, July 27 A9, emphasis added). Geez, the nerve of some peoples' kids.

It's not happening without a fight, however. Anyone who took part in last summer's Active Resistance (AR) anarchist gathering in Toronto will recall that the climax was a march and demonstration of over 10,000 people. The "Hands off Street Youth" march was jointly organized by AR and the Ontario Coalition Against poverty (tireless local activists). Wobs were part of that effort and will certainly need to lend a hand to this year's efforts to support street people against the repressive tactics of Council and cops-the real thugs in Toronto. OCAP has already gotten things going with a several hundred strong occupation of Allen Gardens Park, an early target in the CRAP where cops have been clearing homeless people out. As OCAP put it in their communique from the occupation: "Let the City be on notice that it is our right to secure a safe place to sleep, eat and live that won't be interfered with" (August 7, 1999).

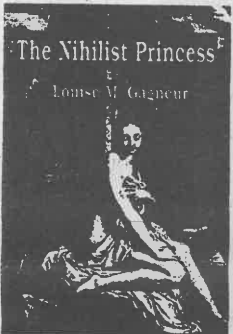
### The Nihilist Princess

a novel by

Louis M. Gagneur

Reintroducing best-selling 19th century radical feminist author Louise M. Gagneur! In *The Nihilist Princess* she fictionalizes events taking place in the nihilist movement in Russia, which sought to free people from the Czar, the aristocracy, and the capitalists. Wanda Kryloff, the daughter of a cruel aristocrat, becomes a nihilist heroine. This early feminist novel will excite anyone interested in the history of literature, feminism, or radical politics.

\$12.00 quality paperback



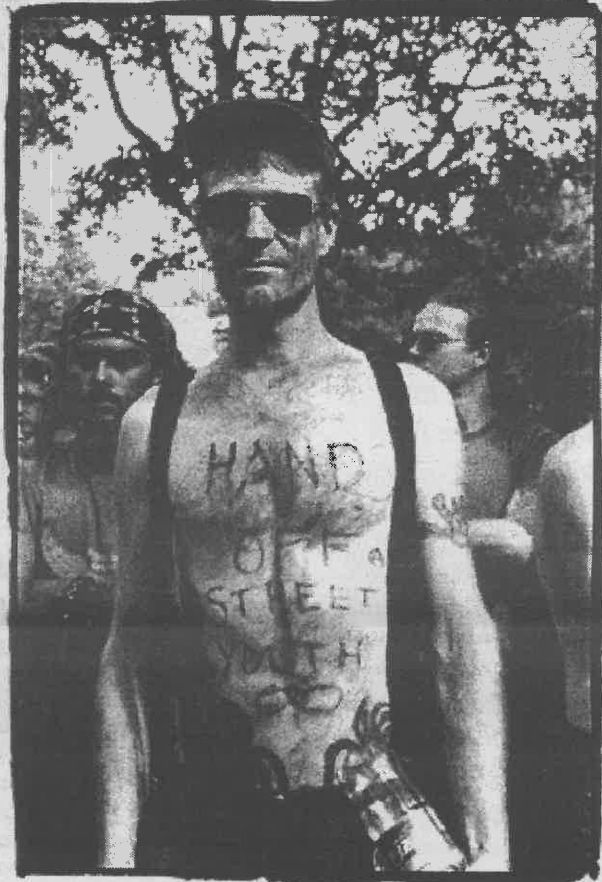
### Anarchist Farm

Jane Doe

"What could be more charming than a bunch of wild animals monkeywrenching logging equipment and domestic critters overthrowing their farm? ...It's goofy, it's funny and it's damn smart."

--- *Earth First! Journal*  
\$10.00 quality paperback

III Publishing books are available at radical bookstores. For a complete list see [www.iiipublishing.com](http://www.iiipublishing.com) or ask for a catalog. To order direct, send a check or money order including \$2.00 P&H to III Publishing, P.O. Box 1581, Gualala, CA 95445



Marchers at the "Hands Off Street Youth" March in Toronto, 1998

## In November We Remember

# Joe Hill

Wrongfully executed by the state of Utah on November 19, 1915

We urge you to work for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, now in his last phase of appeals.

Learn a few Joe Hill songs, Wobbly lore, and more from the CD release of a live concert by Utah Phillips, "Making Speech Free" \$12 / 5 or more \$6 each

Commemorate about labor's struggles! IWW Labor History Calendar \$9 / 5 or more \$5.50 each



Checks payable to: Philadelphia IWW  
Send orders to: Philadelphia IWW  
Post Office Box 42777  
Philadelphia, PA 19101



**Schedule of Events****Nov. 20-28**

Direct Action Network  
Convergence to make large scale street theater and puppets, to prepare for Nonviolent Direct Action (civil disobedience, etc.) and to build community. The IWW is a cosponsor of this network.

**Thursday, November 18th**

**7pm.** Rank-and-File Labor Mobilization Committee meeting @ Teamsters Local 174 hall at Fifth (5th) and Denny downtown Seattle.

**Friday, November 26th**

**6:30pm.** Workers and Students for a Walkout Meeting @ Roma Espresso at 42nd and University Ave. NE in the University district.

**Sunday, November 28th**

**11am to 3pm.** IWW/WTO Coordination @ Puget Sound IWW Office at 5215 Ballard NW in the Ballard neighborhood.

**7pm.** Benefit for the IWW @ the Jewelbox Theatre at 2320 2nd Ave. (located in the rear of the Rendezvous). Come for the fun, stay for the beer!

**9pm.** Concert & play at Museum of History and Industry, bring your Red Card and get in free. Featuring numerous photographs from the Seattle General Strike of 1919 as well as films about resistance to globalization around the world—including footage of a General Strike in a town in Florida in 1996.

**Monday, November 29th**

**5pm.** WTO Dignitaries' Dinner at the Kingdome.

# WELCOME TO SEATTLE! (ALSO KNOWN AS...)



## Guidelines in Regards to Actions

1. The IWW will not engage in the destruction of personal property.
2. The IWW will not engage in activities designed or intended to provoke a violent response from law enforcement or their counterparts in the private sector.
3. The IWW may engage in self-defense only in the event of direct physical assault on our membership, or when possible and prudent, our allies within the working class.
4. Membership will respect the differing levels of activism (i.e. don't throw bricks at cops from behind a group of pacifists).
5. Membership failing to uphold and respect the guidelines established above cannot expect, and may not receive, continued support beyond bail.

*(The resolution committee (NW regional meeting) has issued the previous guidelines in regards to the parameters the IWW will supports in regards to actions carried out at or around the WTO meeting the end of November).*

**Tuesday, November 30th**

**7am.** Meet at Seattle Central Community College @ Broadway & Pine on Capitol Hill. This will also be the leaving point for those wishing to march downtown with the Direct Action Network for civil disobedience.

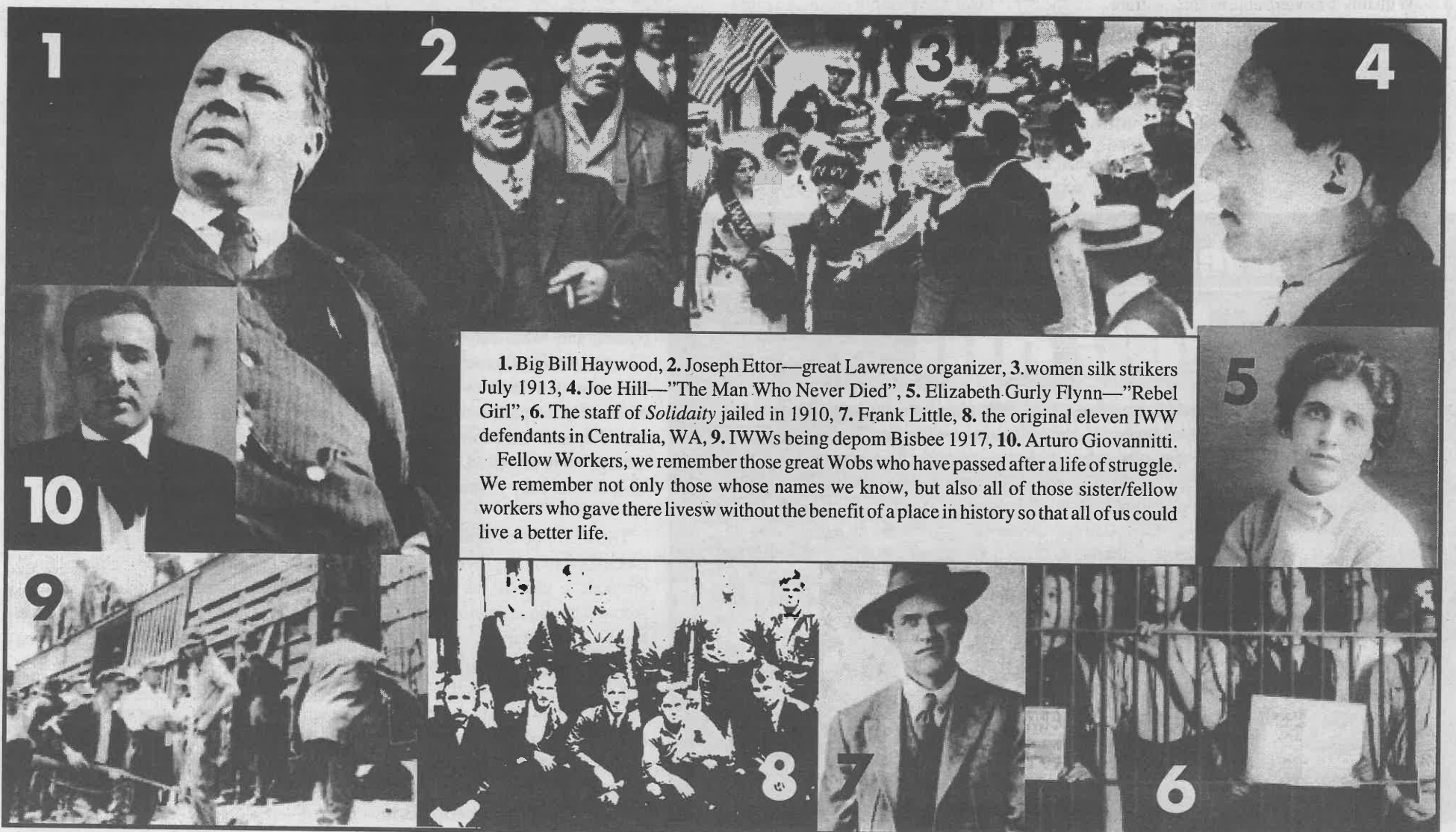
**9am.** Clinton welcomes the 3,000 WTO dignitaries from around the world at the Paramount Theatre.

**11:30am.** Wobs round-up at the north side of the large fountain at Seattle Center.

**11:45am.** March with rank-and-file AFL-CIO members, other IWWs and non-union workers in our own specifically ANTI-WTO contingent. Bring banners from home if you can. March will go from Memorial Stadium/Seattle Center to the Washington Convention Center where the WTO is meeting to destroy our world.

**1pm to 4pm.** More direct action, street theater, marching, yelling, creativity, milling, etc.

**5pm.** March from downtown to the Old Colman School in the Central District with African-American Heritage Museum supporters. Help demand it be turned over to the African American Heritage Museum, which occupied it illegally for 8 years—the longest act of civil disobedience in American History (according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer). Bring the issues of globalization, gentrification and capitalism home to the community of Seattle with this important, Seattle IWW endorsed action. The school is located above the I-90 tunnel on 25th & S. Massachusetts Sts.



1. Big Bill Haywood, 2. Joseph Ettor—great Lawrence organizer, 3. women silk strikers July 1913, 4. Joe Hill—"The Man Who Never Died", 5. Elizabeth Gurly Flynn—"Rebel Girl", 6. The staff of *Solidarity* jailed in 1910, 7. Frank Little, 8. the original eleven IWW defendants in Centralia, WA, 9. IWWs being depom Bisbee 1917, 10. Arturo Giovannitti.

Fellow Workers, we remember those great Wobs who have passed after a life of struggle. We remember not only those whose names we know, but also all of those sister/fellow workers who gave there livesw without the benefit of a place in history so that all of us could live a better life.



## Austin, TX Bus Drivers Gain Concessions

them either way. Leading up to negotiations, the rank and file hit the streets with membership forms. In the space of three or four months, the union rolls grew from around 40% of the workers to over 60%. The rank-and-file action took the shop by storm, proving that the union is the membership, not the leaders.

This turning of decision-making power and responsibility was effective. When the negotiating committee came back with the company's "best and final offer" on September 24, the membership voted it down unanimously and 91% of the membership voted to authorize a strike, notable since the local hasn't had a strike since 1976, and very few of the current workers were driving shuttles then.

### Turn Up the Heat

On October 6, the union held a press conference that turned into a demonstration: Over a hundred drivers, students, Wobblies and other union activists attended. The other ATU local representing city bus drivers made it clear their drivers would never drive the shuttle routes. Before the press conference, ATC supervisors were out interrogating and threatening workers, causing a wave of fear, but after the demonstration, it vanished.

The union researched Capital Metro, the city transit authority to whom the university

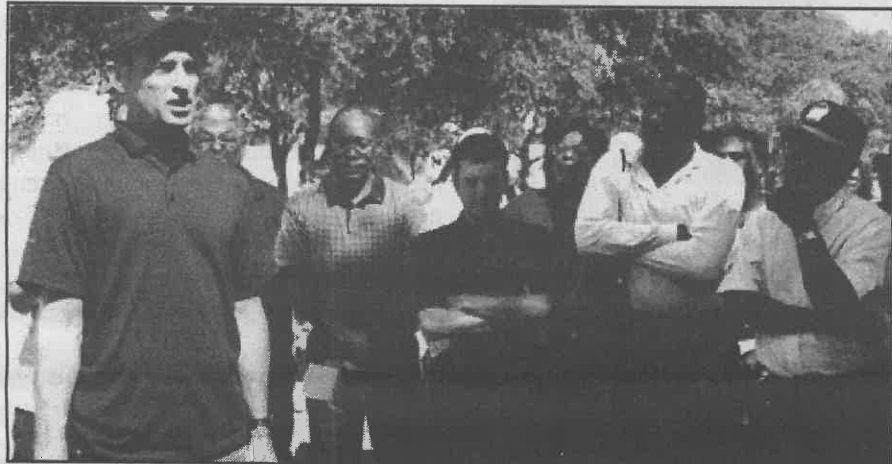
ance premiums for drivers' families. It will require only two years to pay 100% of the drivers' individual premium instead of five. Four more paid days off per year were added to the seven they had before and wages will rise 4% annually across the board.

Improvements were also made in the accident discipline procedure, attendance bonus, guarantee of safe work and the arbitration procedure, which has been sped up to prevent the company from creating endless delays as their predecessor did.

Finally, the union held the line on the length of the contract. From early on the company was demanding a five year contract, but now the union can come back in two years and kick the company around again.

### Concessions

The union membership did agree to some concessions. Prior to the new agreement, drivers had 35 unpaid days off per year whenever they wanted. This is unheard of in the transit industry outside of local 1549's contract. The new contract reduces the number of absences to 20. The contract also significantly increases the work requirement for "alternate status." Previously, when a driver chose this status, they only had to work one shift per UT semester. Now he or she must be available for work ten days of their choosing per semester. On the positive



University of Texas bus drivers in Austin, as a result of rank and file solidarity, gained concessions from the bosses. Photo by Paul Sherr

contracts for the service. Metro has been slammed over the last few years for corruption and inefficiency, and the union was able to turn that to its advantage, showing how these failings contributed to the current labor dispute.

With this they were able to demonstrate to the students that not only could the workers get what they wanted with no increase in university fees, but that Metro was also providing students with inferior equipment, and charging more for it. The UT student newspaper ran an editorial in support of the union's demands and published several letters supportive of the workers. The publicity campaign generated masses of calls to UT, Metro and ATC. The students rallied behind the drivers, letting the UT administration, Capital Metro and ATC know they had a wild dog to fight.

The company brought in supervisors from other operations around the country to act as scabs. They avoided sending drivers because ATU 1549 had contacted ATU locals in other cities, and these locals agreed to send their strongest union members. If asked by ATC to drive routes in Austin, those scabs would become pickets. Additionally, to counter their threat of supervisors, the other locals were putting pressure on their local transit authorities to force ATC to get them to do their job back home.

Because of the union's strength and the community support, the company lost the upper hand and never regained it.

### Gains

They finally snapped. On the night of October 8, the company tentatively agreed to a proposal that contained the most important items to the workers. For the first time ever, the company will pay part of the insur-

side, the new contract deletes the requirement of two years' seniority for alternate status.

### IWW influence

The Wobbly contribution to the conflict was significant. The IWW members within the ATU local's leadership ensured a rank-and-file focus throughout the process, making sure the contract reflected the workers' demands. Furthermore, there was an appreciation of the importance of labor solidarity. The building of support within the community served by the system was central. Support for ATU 1549 from other ATU locals both locally and nationally put 1549 firmly in control of the conflict.

The local told their international how they were going to run their campaign, and stuck to their guns in the face of a conservative international union whose preamble calls for "conciliation and arbitration in the settlement of all differences between labor and capital." The local stood firm and refused to back down to either the company or the union bureaucrats.

Because of the IWW involvement, the union has recreated the sense of ownership by the rank and file. At the meeting when the contract was ratified, there was a clear desire to keep the pressure on the company and an understanding that a contract without an active membership is worthless. Many members who had never run for office, and in fact had not been in the union a year ago, were nominated and accepted for various offices and committees, including that of President/Business Agent and Chief Steward.

The local is in fine shape to maintain the new contract and to begin planning to ensure an even bigger victory next time.

# General Strike Watch

## General Strike: Dominican Republic

Army troops patrolled streets, stores closed, public transport ground to a halt and more than 1,000 people were under arrest October 12 as Dominican labor unions staged a nationwide general strike to protest a 20% increase in fuel prices and an increase in the exchange rate commission that will make imports more expensive.

Apolinar Toribio, a teacher and leader of the Collective of Popular Organizations, one of the groups that called the strike, was dragged from his house before dawn and shot twice at close range, according to local authorities investigating the case.

In Santo Domingo, the capital, SWAT police and soldiers in jeeps patrolled streets lined with boarded-up shops. Most workers and students stayed home to avoid trouble, though civil servants were ordered to report to work.

Dozens of labor and activist groups called the indefinite general strike to protest gas price hikes of between 15 percent and 25 percent imposed by President Leonel Fernandez's government on the previous Friday.

Fernandez said the increases were needed to help pay the Caribbean country's \$4 billion foreign debt, but they struck a blow to Dominicans whose average income is only \$5,000 a year.

As with previous strikes, police and army troops conducted sweeps throughout the nation, arresting hundreds of street activists to prevent demonstrations and violence. The Popular Organizations Collective, — Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares, Choferiles y Sindicales—the umbrella labor group which called the strike, and other community groups said that more than 1,000 people had been jailed.

Police refused to say how many were in custody.

The leftist opposition Dominican Revolu-

tionary Party also protested the arrests, saying several of its officials in the countryside had been detained.

"What we're trying to prevent is that the strike is accompanied by violence, which usually occurs. That's the reason for the increased patrols and detentions of some popular and labor leaders," said Interior Secretary Norge Botello.

The government estimates that each day the strike lasts will cost the economy 663 million pesos (\$42 million) in lost sales and earnings.

Officials deployed some 600 government-owned buses to try to make up for the absence of private buses and transport vans. Most businesses were closed.

Under the price hikes, regular-grade gasoline rose from 22 pesos (\$1.46) to 27.90 pesos (\$1.75) per gallon. Premium gasoline rose from 27.9 pesos (\$1.75) to 32.50 pesos (\$2.05) per gallon.

## General Strike: Burkina Faso

A country-wide general strike in the western African country of Burkina Faso opened on Aug. 18. The strike, backed by the seven main union federations and three independent unions, called for the rehiring of labor activists fired after a general strike in June as well as a series of economic demands.

Reuters reported that banks, tax offices, health centers and telecommunications were hit by the strike.

Unions have been in the front of mass anti-government demonstrations against the regime of President Blaise Compaore. Compaore took power in 1987 in a coup against the revolutionary government of Thomas Sankara. He has been a tool for the International Monetary Fund and French imperialism since then, privatizing the small industry that exists in the mostly-agricultural country and imposing harsh austerity measures.

# Workers Occupy Berlin Plant

Some 170 workers have been occupying the ALCATEL plant site in Berlin since the middle of September because the giant French electrical and electronics multinational is planning to close its cable factory there. The German metalworkers' union, IG Metall, categorically denies ALCATEL arguments stating that the factory is losing money.

Because of the rapid de-industrialization of Berlin, the ALCATEL move creates great concern in Berlin and the workers' protests are being supported by the general public, the media, churches, all political parties and the city government.

IG Metall is contacting French unions organizing ALCATEL, and the German Social Democrats intend to contact the governing French Socialist Party, pointing to the recent decision taken by French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to prevent the closure of a Michelin tire factory in southern France.





# Louisville, KY Shipyard Workers Kick Company Butt

*continued from page 1*

breakroom en mass and ordered the guys out. Everyone obeyed but one guy, **\*\*Johnny\*\***, who remained seated. The foremen told him to get out of the yard and report to employee relations in the morning: he was suspended. I climbed out of the hole just as the rain was dying down. I went to the locker room to get another pair of gloves and I see **\*\*Johnny\*\*** changing clothes. We talk about the situation and about standing up for our rights as workers.

Well, two weeks pass, **\*\*Johnny\*\*** is still on suspension and it begins to rain once more. I had been talking to several guys about sticking together and how we are the union and we don't have to wait for the unoin rep or the stewards to help us out with a grievance. Everyone stands there in the rain looking at the grey sky. **\*\*Fred Chase\*\***, a welder in the cargo hull, turns to me and says, "You been doing a lot of talking. Well, it's raining now, what you gonna do?" What can I do? I put down my tools, climb the cargo stairs, stand on the platform for a moment so that other guys in other barges will see me, and then I walk to the breakroom and have a seat. All the other guys in our part of the yard do the same.

About ten minutes later, a foreman kicks the door open, orders us to get to work, then leaves. We sit. Fifteen minutes later the same foreman's back. He hurls his fat ass through the door and starts shouting while he walks to the front of the breakroom. Nobody moves. Now, of all the guys there at that moment, I am the only one on probation; so I am the weak link. The foreman knows this and he walks up to me. He stands beside me yelling: "Didn't you fucking hear me?! I said get to work!" I let him yell then I tell him—gently—that I'll do just what he says, AS SOON AS THE RAIN STOPS. He stands there silently for what seemed like several minutes, then leaves. After another fifteen minutes or so, the rain has stopped and he returns asking if we will now get to work. I get up and head back to the barge. **\*\*Fred Chase\*\***, who I think will join the IWW, tells me he liked the fact that I'll back up my words.

And after this incident:

I was on top of a barge welding about eleven o'clock when I see that **\*\*Johnny\*\*** is being escorted through the yard by armed guards. **\*\*Johnny\*\***, who's been on suspension for FIVE WEEKS now

for refusing to work in unsafe conditions, was being fired; and the guards were "helping" him get his things out of a gang box (a metal box near the river you get for storage if you're lucky). I turned to Lopp, the steelfitter with whom I work, and pointed out what was going on. He said that it was interesting they had armed guards with him since it may be likely that someone would do violence to a foreman or company man but that there's no sticking together in the guys anymore and no one's going to start

of their nature for a second. **\*\*Johnny\*\*** is cleaning out his box and I tap him on the shoulder. I tell him I am sorry to see him go, and I loudly say I am sorry to see that he seems to be in this alone because he is not. Everyone is frightened, we've got families to feed and we're scared to lose what little we have. He thanked me and talked for a minute. I said to him that it's not always gonna be this way. In fact, it's just changed.

Well, last week, our alternate steward found me after lunch. He was out of breath

The "lightening grievance" sat and gathered dust, until five weeks or so ago when the Wobs in the yard formed the "Workers' Council." The "lightening grievance" was discussed in the three "RiverWorker" newsletters (typed and edited by a Wob) put out so far. NLRA 5 and 207 and Supreme Court interpretations of OSHA regulations were listed in the RiverWorker but the emphasis was on direct action and solidarity. The newsletter encouraged shipyard workers to aggressively inquire of their stewards and company managers about the need to resolve this dispute, and fucking resolve it now.

Last week it rained and there was lightning across the sky. As the first drops of rain hit, guys began tapping one another on the shoulder and saying, "Hey, we sticking together on this?" (This worker specifically mentioned the interesting phrase; "An injury to one is an injury to all.") We did stick together and the work stopped until the storms had passed (with a few small exceptions).

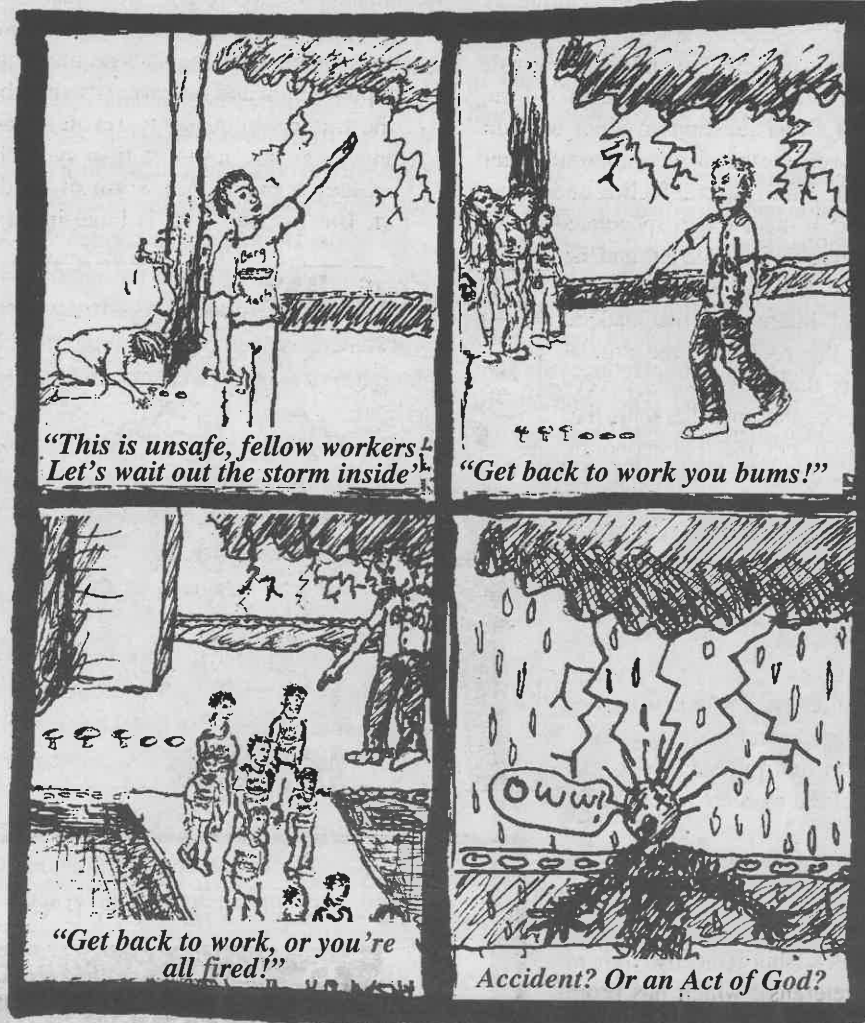
Today the Company called the workers involved in the grievance in and agreed to their demands. Work will stop when lightning is present. This is now a yard-wide rule. It is the first concession to workers' demands the company has given in two decades (yeah, I'm thinking it too; shriek a little for me, Ronnie R. if you remember how).

It's really nice to see some power moving back into the hands of the workers. It's also really nice that a number of workers stopped me in the parking lot last week and wanted to talk about how to get the IUB 320 together NOW. It's gonna be real nice to see how this latest "RiverWorker" hits, since it contains the tax records for our Hoffa-led local.

We could sure use the salts on this campaign. JeffBoat gets paid by the U.S. government \$2,500 per person it trains. You can use these skills later cause whatever it is you are doing presently, you probably hate it or suck at it. This way you'll be able to find a job at all the other shipyards and drydocks along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers that are presently not unionized.

By the way, we can accomodate workers who are interested in salting. No rent for a month. You take care of food.

Good luck, Terry Nikolai Tapp



comic by SW Alie

anything to help one guy. I look around and, all over the yard on the tops/gunnels of the barges, guys are watching **\*\*Johnny\*\***. All those guys, who the bosses are frightened of, themselves too frightened to make a move for fear they'll do it alone.

I put my welding whip and rods down, take off my hood and gloves and walk down the steps leading off the side of the barge. I walk past the security guards who just give me some badpuppy stare like they're aware

with excitement. Turns out our "Workers' Council," the independent group that's been meeting after shift and talking IWW, scored majorly. This July several workers in the shipyard filed a grievance against their foreman. The sonofabitch ordered them to work while lightning was cracking overhead. They also said they wanted an apology from the foreman for cussing them a new asshole when they protested that their lives were in danger and they didn't want to die working.

## Organizing is Infectious at DeAnza College as Bookstore Workers Join Together

By Adam Welch

At DeAnza College, community college of 30,000 near San Jose, CA, campus bookstore workers along with other student workers have joined the IWW. Starting with a small meeting of three bookstore workers in May of 99, a group of workers has emerged determined to organize a union that will represent student-workers on campus.

The main issues are low pay and no raises, racial discrimination especially toward international students, and unfair layoff, hiring and firing practices. Most students at DeAnza are struggling to pay their way through community college and the campus wages of \$6.50 an hour will just cover the costs of classes and books.

Many student-workers are also international students who pay 10 times the tuition costs of residents and their visas limit them to working only on campus. In the campus bookstore international students, who make up more than two-thirds of the student-workers, are rarely kept as permanent workers and are passed up for promotion to supervisor positions.

Plans to go public with the unionization effort and petition for an Education Workers Branch are on the way. Shop floor orga-

nizing has already made some small victories of gaining lifting belts for book stockers, extending breaks, and agitating against unfair layoffs and firings. The organizing effort has already gained important allies on campus such as members the Student Government, campus club Students For Justice, the largest and most active club on campus, which some campus workers are members of, and faculty and staff members at DeAnza.

Also at issue is the June lay-off of two active union members, Vijaya Potnuru and Adam Welch. On the workday previous to being laid-off, both had agitated for a walk-out of a store-wide meeting with the bookstore Director in protest of the unjust firing of two workers in the computer department and layoff of two other long-time and well liked merchandisers. Although the walkout was called off at the last minute, during the meeting the management complained about people who were 'spreading rumors,' 'talking behind other people's back,' and 'creating a bad work environment.' It was very obvious that management was referring to workers who had spoken out against their unfair and discriminatory firings and layoffs to their co-workers. Both had also recently asked for a raise.

The management claimed that they were cutting back the workforce because the end of the summer quarter rush period. One worker's position was replaced by a summer temporary worker. Although some of the workers have since gained their jobs back, the bookstore management illegally refused to rehire one of the laid-off union members for the Fall rush period.

The organizing drive has linked up with the East Bay branch until it becomes an official Education Workers Branch and is working with campus club Students For Justice to setup an organizing fund. We need funds to buy food for meetings, create flyers and literature, picket signs and potential legal costs.

You can donate funds to:

### ❖ Michael D. Brown

Passed away on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the age of 59. He served as General Secretary Treasurer for the I.W.W. at the headquarters in Chicago in the 1970's, but eventually moved back to San Francisco to work in the Sign Display & Allied Crafts Union. Michael continued to offer his guidance and insight to his co-workers in an effort to create fairer work practices and safer work environments. He has left a great impression on those who knew him and his family misses him dearly.



# Finnish Wobs: A Visit to Sovetski Pulp and Paper Company

Two militants of IWW ROC of Finland visited Sovetski pulp and paper complex, occupied by the workers on monday the 30th of august 1999. Due to various problems our report has not been distributed before.

The first impression about the plant was that it was HUGE. Pipes and halls as far as the eye can see. The Sovetski mill is clearly equal in size with the biggest Finnish plants. After seeing the place, it is no doubt that workers can run industrial systems of any size.

We had made a date with some Russian anarcho-syndicalists in Vyborg, but for some unknown reasons they never showed up. We decided to go to the plant, even though there was the risk that no-one could speak English, because such chances are rare in your life. If we couldn't communicate, we would just say "Harasho" and go away.

We had no problems getting into the office building of the plant. During the day there is regularly dozens of armed guards from the Sovetski village in the plant, two were hanging around outside the building and let us in.

Some 2000 workers were present, of which hundreds were office staff, one capable of speaking English. We felt quite stupid while waiting several hours for "leaders" of the trade union to come. They were busy, perhaps negotiating in Vyborg. If we had been able to speak Russian, we would have been able to discuss with rank and file workers and villagers, now we just had to hang in the building. But time was not completely wasted, we got lots of press clips from the archives, and spoke with the office clerk who spoke English. One of the most encouraging experiences in the plant was how "normal" all the people there were. The clerk was more interested about studying opportunities in Finland than union militancy, but still had been in the plant during the previous attack in July. It seemed that when pushed enough, anyone may become a militant. The clerk had a job in a successful business in Saint Petersburg, but came back to work in the plant because she had to take care of her grandparents in the village.

The fact that people are doing the occupation not because "revolutionary consciousness," but because otherwise they would lose their income also influences the way it's done. And that's the problem. I guess the way the plant is ruled is quite the same as before the occupation. We got the impression that the executive director, appointed by workers' election in March 1999, is actually doing all the appointments in the office and holds quite a lot of power. In the contrary, MPST-AIT comrades who visited the plant around the 18th of October got the impression that the power of the executive director is quite limited to daily business, and actual political decisions are made by a crew of union leaders.

We finally had only a chaotic half hour to talk with union leaders because our visas would not be valid after the following midnight, and we had to hurry back to Finland. As a result, many important questions remained unanswered. When asked, union leaders told us that general assemblies are held "when necessary." For example, during the night after the attack of the gunmen in the July. However, MPST comrades told us that when they were discussing assemblies and direct democracy, union leaders didn't seem to really understand what that was about. Most of the workers seem to not be very interested in having control over

daily plant affairs, they just want to keep their jobs. This is very natural, but sad as well.

Another unclear point is involvement of the parties in the process. Some news has informed that a general union of Leningrad, which has about one million members, somehow stabbed the back of the occupation. Anyway, at least many separate unions are strongly supporting it. The second biggest Russian communist party, the disgusting Stalinist RKRP, ("Party of proletarian dictatorship," 1-2% of votes), is very often involved in occupations and probably in this one too, but we saw no evidence of it during our visit. Other questions to which we didn't get answers are the current economic viability of the plant, general feeling and amount of hope in the village, speculated interest difference between leaders and the workers and speculated election political interest of the leaders. About the economy, the crucial point is that Sovetski is a very unique occupation in the sense that it really has chances of economic survival within the capitalist system (if they are able to get financing, which is the biggest problem now). The plant was reformed in Gorbachev's era and everything was shiny and ultra-modern...nothing like everything else in the rest of Russia. I am very sure that it is really "competitive," at least if corporate plans to sack most of the workers is realized.

Plant has a defense deal with (probably) a Stalinist controlled organization of war veterans in Saint-Petersburg (mostly Afghanistan veterans), which has promised to send 400 armed men to the plant in case of an attack, it also takes care of security on the weekends.

Many things remain unknown, but both MPST-AIT and IWW Finland think that some kind of support and maintaining of contacts is necessary with the occupation. Unfortunately, in Finland people are few and it is unclear how enthusiastic they are for this project, people have been organizing counter-events during the EU presidency with 120% of their energy.

What everyone can do is to contact the plant and inform that their groups and organizations support the plant and are ready to respond to appeals any time. Not many foreign organizations have yet contacted the plant. For example, until very recently Finnish moderate unions hadn't contacted them at all. It would be nice if you informed them that you got the information from IWW Finland (Solidarisuus), because in discussion with unionists we had many ideas about what to do, but due to lack of energy and time almost nothing has been done. People in the plant were also enthusiastic to hear about union activities, experiences and strategies abroad. MPST-AIT is maybe organizing some fundraising later in the case that it is sure that usage of the money is decided by direct democracy. MPST has so many experiences with corrupted union leaders stealing their money. So

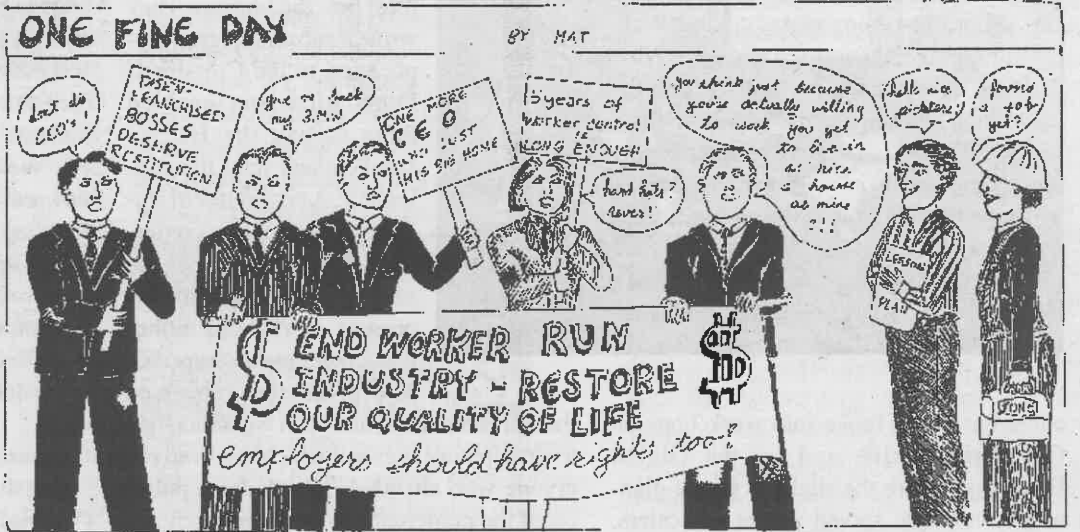
stay connected.

Of course, the plant desperately needs business contacts and financing, but I guess that most revolutionaries have no interest nor ability to work with that. And it would also give a wrong signal how we organize.

To begin, IWW Finland bought enough paper to print one edition of their paper. The Mill is producing standard A4 of 70 g/square meter and 120 g/square meter. Unfortunately I haven't got prices just now, they are something like 3 euros/500. Competitive, but there is a logistics problem, and plant production and turnover is so big that all the trading of paper to revolutionary organizations has not more than symbolic value, and is maybe not worth of all the effort. But in case there is huge interest,

contact us. At least I can say that often the Taiga Zone paper is more ecological than imported normal recycled, because forest recycles itself (WUP is of course more ecological), but there is the problem with the old forests.

Antti Rautiainen  
antti@polly.phys.msu.su  
And as always, here is some addresses to have contacts and to send appeals and protests:  
Contact of the pulp mill:  
Vyborb pulp and paper complex  
188918 Russia Leningradskaja oblast  
Byborskaja raion, p. Sovetskij, Savodskaja street 2  
tel/fax: +7-812-115 28 45  
tel: +7-812 78-2 19 17/reception  
+7-812 78-72 701/sales department  
+7-812 78-72 721/supply department



IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

## BJÖRN SÖDERBERG

SWEDISH SYNDICALIST

*Murdered by fascists October 12, 1999*

Söderberg, a long-time activist within the Swedish syndicalist union, Sveriges Arbetares Centralorganisation (SAC), was shot three times outside of his apartment in the Stockholm suburb of Sättra.

He had recently played a crucial role in exposing a well-known fascist at his workplace. The fascist had been elected shop steward by the Commercial Employees Union, the business union representing most workers where Söderberg worked. After Vesterlund was exposed he was removed from his post in the union. Three fascists have been arrested for the murder.

On October 23, the fascists bombed Joe Hill's birthplace in Gävle, which now houses SAC offices, and a small museum commemorating IWW songwriter Joe Hill.

The *Anarcho-Syndicalist Review* extends our solidarity to our Swedish fellow workers in this difficult time.

"Does an excellent job of ferreting out grassroots workers' struggles around the world... Articles range from reports on unionism in specific areas to book reviews to historical looks at anarcho-syndicalism." — Factsheet Five

ASR #27 featuring articles on IWW history, a debate on Chomsky's anarchism, news of the international syndicalist movement, and more.

Sample issue \$4, 1-year subscription (four issues) \$15  
Anarcho-Syndicalist Review PO Box 2824, Champaign IL 61825



## Younger Generation Learns About Unions and Organizing

International labor solidarity is cropping up in new places these days. Chicago area middle and high school students planned an anti-sweatshop conference that took place on October 9 at Emerson Middle School in Oak Park, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Yannick Lenne from Batay Ouvray, a union in Haiti that organizes sweatshops and Therese Denestant, a worker at a Disney contractor who was fired for her pro-union activities were the featured speakers. Students heard first-hand reports about the horrendous conditions in the garment factories of Haiti. The

lowing the talk on sweatshops, students at Naperville North High School organized their classmates, the members of school athletic teams, the coaches, and their principal to support them in urging the school board to cancel its exclusive contract with Nike. Oak Park-River Forest students leafleted stores selling sweatshop goods, both in their own neighborhood and in downtown Chicago.

Representatives from a middle school and several high schools contacted by the Labor Rights Task Force began meeting last spring to talk about putting on a conference. They formed a new organization, Students Against Sweatshops (SASS), which continued to meet over the summer. They wrote a successful grant application to the Crossroads Foundation that enabled them to pay the Haitian speakers and fund the conference. A committee of students planned the conference. They decided to research and cooperatively present workshops rather than invite outside "experts."

The presenters rehearsed their presentations, and each workshop had a participatory segment which involved everyone who attended. The students publicized the conference to other high schools and colleges around the Chicago area, using fliers, phone calls, and email. About 40 middle school, high school, college students, and non-student adults attended the conference. An adult conference participant commented, "The students were incredible. It was exciting to see the future union and anti-sweatshop leaders in the making."

SASS is continuing to meet and plan future projects. The high school students want to bring sweatshop education into grade schools, and the students are discussing holding the conference again in a different geographical area as a way of attracting additional students. They will be leafleting stores that carry clothing made in sweatshops on the busiest shopping day of the year, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Hannah Frisch



conference then broke into workshops on Organizing Skills and on the Global Economy, where the students on the planning committee served as the presenters. During lunch, musician and former IWW GST Kathleen Taylor sang union songs. A teacher who was present said that he was glad his principal left before a skit in which a young man who had pledged never to wear a garment made in a sweatshop took off first his Nike hat, tossed it into the eager audience, then his Gap jacket, then his Phillips-Van Heusen shirt, then his Levis, but was left standing proudly in his clearly labeled union-made boxer shorts.

During the previous year, the Labor Rights Task Force of the Chicago Nicaragua Solidarity Committee had spoken about sweatshops at ten different high schools and small suburban colleges in an effort to expand the student anti-sweatshop movement out beyond elite colleges and universities. Fol-

## Help Prison Organizing—MPLU Needs You!

In a recent communique received from President Jerome White Bey of the Missouri Prisoners Labor Union states that he is in desperate need of supplies so that he can respond to all the mail he is receiving. Recently Jerome was transferred to another prison and lost the majority of his property. He also has been told by the Department of Corrections he has until 12-7-99 to send all of his personal property and legal files out of the institution. This illegal action is being taken in direct response to the continual efforts to propagate the MPLU and call attention to the transgressions committed by the State of Missouri. If material aid is not forthcoming immediately not only will the current organizing drive be halted, but the D.O.C. will be triumphant in silencing one of the most important voices to be heard from the gulag in a very long time.

Donations of cash and stamps should be mailed to the National Communications Office Attn: Michael Lee P.O. Box 22774 Seattle, Wa 98122-0774 or given to Mike in person. He will forward immediately.

You can write Jerome personally at Jerome White Bey, 37479 Potosi Correctional Center (1A-11) Rt. 2 Box 2222, Mineral Point, MO 63660

DO NOT SEND STAMPS OR CASH WITHOUT THE PROPER PAPER WORK

WHICH IS AVAILABLE FROM JEROME.

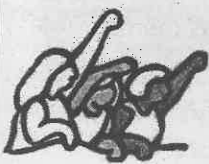
Posted by National communications Office Missouri Prisoners Labor union Attn: Michael Lee P.O. box 22774 Seattle, Wa 98122-0774

### For Sister Workers—Order NOW!

A quarterly publication produced by IWW

women. Send stories, poems, histories, jokes, letters and title suggestions. Send check or money order for: 1 issue for \$5 and 4 issues for \$15 to Sister Worker,

136 S. Pine Ave., Albany, NY 12208, USA.



## Daewoo Workers in Spain: 5 Months On Strike

Dear comrades,

We have received information about the struggle of the Daewoo workers in Vitoria (Spain). They have been out on strike since July 19, 1999 in a bitter struggle against casualisation and for decent wages and conditions. A 2000 strong demonstration has taken place in Vitoria with workers from the factory and others showing solidarity. This is quite an important dispute in Spain where a third of all jobs are now on casual basis. After two months on strike the workers are beginning to feel the pressure of the lack of money. The shop stewards committee has issued an appeal for donations and solidarity messages to be sent to the striking workers. In the first days they have already collected 5000 from trade union branches in the province and more is coming. They have also gotten a solidarity message from the 160,000 member Korean Metal Workers Federation. The Students Union has called a students' strike in the province for October 7th. We enclose the appeal from the shop stewards committee which has been sent to 500 shop stewards committees all over Spain. Please spread the news as widely as possible.

Comradely,  
La Red Obrera  
laredobrer@socappeal.easynet.co.uk

Comrades,  
The shop stewards committee of Daewoo (Vitoria) wants to make an appeal for solidarity and help in order to maintain our trade union struggle.

We are fighting to improve our wages, which are currently not enough at about 100,000 ptas a month (400 pounds). To put

an end to casualisation (45% of the workforce has short term contracts). The improvement of health and safety conditions, productivity requirements, etc. in order to level them out with the general conditions in the domestic appliances sector.

The company, despite making huge profits does not want to talk to us. We have been on strike since July 19 and it is increasingly clear that we need financial help from other workers. Many of us have families and some have to travel daily from Ayala and Miranda de Ebro in order to participate in the picket line. This is already quite costly when we are working, even more so now that we are on strike. In order to avoid the company defeating us for lack of funds we have established a hardship fund. We are also calling a number of demonstrations in support of our struggle to force the company to satisfy our demands.

This dispute is not only ours. Daewoo is a flagship company for a new kind of company based on low wages, using temporary work agencies, casualisation, a very strict disciplinary regime, and the negation of our social rights. That is the case in an increasing number of other companies. That is why a victory for us on wages, conditions, casualisation, will also be a victory for workers all over the country.

To achieve these aims we need your support, sending solidarity faxes and emails, organising workplace collections, collecting funds. For information and contact send messages to:

pedro.abellan@clientes.euskaltel.es  
Comradely,  
Shop Stewards Committee Daewoo Vitoria

## Vancouver, BC: ILWU Lockout Continues Government Continues to Threaten Intervention

The ILWU Lockout in Vancouver, BC continues. Although there has been much speculation, as well as pressure, coming from the business community, the federal government has not yet intervened.

"I want this issue resolved by us. That's what we have been trying to do for 13 months." Union spokesman Tom Dufresne agreed. "There's no need for Ottawa to get involved," he said, suggesting his members are ready to work if the employers lift the lockout.

Federal Labour Minister Claudette Bradshaw and Transport Minister David Collenette have said they would rather that both sides settle the dispute themselves without federal intervention. Emily Thomas, a spokeswoman for Bradshaw, refused to comment on how long the federal government will allow the dispute to continue. "I don't want to speculate on when that position would be," she said from Ottawa. She also flatly rejected a suggestion the labour department is wary about setting some kind of precedent. "Our concern is getting the best collective agreement for both parties," she said.

There is another issue involved, too. Earlier this year, legislation was enacted that forces longshoremen to continue moving grain during a strike or lockout. The legislation prompted concerns among some observers about discrimination along commodity lines and the suggestion by employers' groups that continued grain shipments might essentially subsidize extended disputes.

"It means the rest of the port can shut down but the grain continues to move," said Mark Thompson, a professor of industrial relations at the University of British Columbia. "The political pressure to intervene is diminished quite a bit." Thompson also said

Ottawa might be wary about the longterm costs of imposing a settlement. "I assume [the federal Liberals] believe that if the dispute goes to a conclusion without their intervention, the prospects for future peace are enhanced," he said. "If you have back-to-work legislation now, you're laying the groundwork for another back-to-work law in the future."

There has been little sign of progress in the situation. Neither side is moving toward talks.

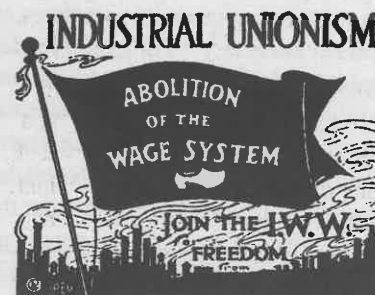
### THE KEY ISSUES

**CONTRACTING OUT:** Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 500 are opposed to the use of non-union labour to test sulphur at the Pacific Coast Terminal dock in suburban Port Moody.

**CONTRACT VOTE:** The B.C. Maritime Employers Association is angered about the union's refusal to put a final offer to a vote. The union says the deal is too similar to one members have already rejected.

**UNCERTAINTY:** Management says it has locked out workers in a bid to ensure stability in the industry.

**WAGES:** Not a major problem, says union president Tom Dufresne noting: "We're close. It could be resolved if we were sitting at the table."





# Björn Söderberg of the SAC Assassinated by Fascists

*continued on page 1*

Four weeks later Björn Söderberg was assassinated. Three fascists with ties to Vesterlund have been arrested for the crime. Vesterlund was involved, though never questioned by police, in a car bombing earlier this year. He began his nazi career in the youth organization of the fascist parliamentary party Sverigedemokraterna (the Swedish Democrats) and recently joined the violent nazi group Ariska Broderskapet (Aryan Brotherhood).

Björn's union, the SAC, says the assassination must be seen in a context of increased nazi violence, both in Sweden and internationally. In Sweden this includes the assassination of two police officers in Malexander last May and a car bomb attack against an anti-fascist journalist and his eight year old son in Nacka in June. Everything, says an SAC statement, points towards a group of criminal fascists who are well organized and who don't hesitate in executing violent deeds against those who oppose them. The assassination is not only an act of violence aimed at SAC or the workers movement, but one aimed at democracy's core ideal, that of civil courage.

On October 23 memorial demonstrations were held across Sweden. Nearly forty thousand people showed their sorrow and anger in twenty different towns. This was the largest anti-nazi demonstration in Sweden since the Second World War.

Early in the morning of the 23rd a bomb exploded in the SAC Industrial Secretariat offices in the



*In November We Remember: Björn Söderberg*

town of Gavle (Gevalia) in an obvious attempt to frighten people away from the demonstrations. The offices are located in the birthplace and childhood home of Joe Hill (Joel Haaglund). Nevertheless, two thousand participated in the demonstration in Gavle. Later another bomb was exploded at the home of progressive singer Micke Wiehe.

In Stockholm the demonstration attracted fifteen thousand participants from the SAC and the mainstream social democratic unions LO, TCO and SACO, who crowded together to listen to speakers from SAC and three other unions. An anarcho-feminist choir sang songs of struggle and a representative of the Network Against Racism also spoke. Red and black flags and libertarian banners dominated the podium. In Goteborg (Gothenberg) seven thousand gathered. One thousand demonstrated in the southern town of Malmo while smaller demonstrations were held throughout the country.

November 5th, the night of Söderberg's funeral union brothers and sisters gathered at La Mano, a monument in honor of Swedes who died fighting fascists during the Spanish Civil War. The ceremony was held after sunset, with flags and torches, a speech, the reading of a poem and lighting of lanterns. An elderly couple approached obviously interested in what was going on. They looked at the gathered mourners, at the monument

and back again. The woman, in her 80s, stepped into the middle of the circle asking if this was a celebration and did those gathered know La Mano is an anti-fascist monument. There was a moment of complete silence. Then one union brother (broder) told her they were gathered to honor Björn and that he was a friend and fellow worker assassinated by nazis.

The woman explained that her brother had been killed by Spanish fascists in the mid-30s and that each year on his birthday they came to La Mano to light a candle in his honor.

An SAC member says, A lot of ordinary Swedes have finally realized what 'our' nazis are really about. As long as they killed gays and lesbians and immigrants, many people dismissed their activities as misguided acts of 'drunken youth.' Now, with a grassroots union activist killed in his home for just speaking up against the nazis organizing on the shop floor it has suddenly come close to home. We had joint demon-

strations with the social democratic unions for the first time since 1910." More ominously, he adds, "In the wake of the terror many copy cats have tried to step up their activities in various local communities. So we've had to step up our guard and fight them down."

Some Wobblies have expressed a desire to help raise funds for reconstruction of the SAC office/Joe Hill House in Gavle. Kurt Svensson of

Brand magazine notes that money is already being raised, there is insurance and due to the office's location in an historical district the city is likely to pitch in on the costs. Svensson writes, "The best thing that you can do is to continue to struggle where you are at!"

Söderberg's murder also reminds many Wobblies of the assassination attempts on IWW/EF! organizer Judi Bari, and for those of us at the IW Collective in Detroit it is also a reminder of the RICO (so-called Racketeering in Criminal Organizations) lawsuit brought against our sisters and brothers who organized around the Detroit Newspaper Strike. We do, it seems, simple acts of quiet courage. Limited by the resources of our communities of solidarity, our actions have little effect on the balance of power, but they scare the shit out of the opposition which often retaliates with violence, legal and illegal. Paranoia damages our movement. Awareness and solidarity building are our best defense.

The SAC has established the Björn Söderberg Memorial Fund to make annual awards to workers who show courage in their workplaces. Contributions can be sent to SAC, Box 6507, 113 83 Stockholm, Sweden.

And as Brand's Svensson says, "Struggle where you are."

Martin St. John

## Some News in Brief

### Strikes Becoming More Frequent In South Africa

Strikes in South Africa for the year to date surged to their highest level since 1994, largely due to disruptions in the public service, a report released yesterday by Andrew Levy & Associates shows. It estimated 2.5 million days were lost during the first nine months of the year, compared with 1.85 million for the same period last year. There have been discrepancies over strike statistics. The labour department has estimated that 3.8 million days were lost to strikes last year and a study commissioned by the International Labour Organisation estimated a loss of 3 million days in the same period. She said the wage survey revealed that the hard-fought gains achieved by unions over the years no longer appeared to be as easily realised. Economic conditions had made it imperative for employers to tighten their belts. The decline in wage gains by unions is reflected in the survey of total employment and earnings released by Statistics SA this week. It found that total gross salaries and wages paid to employees in the second quarter of the year rose by 5% on the previous year.

### 5,000 Fishermen On Strike In South Africa

Some 5,000 fishermen have gone on strike in demand of higher wages, closing down processing factories and leaving exporters unable to meet orders. The Cape Argus said the strike, which began on Saturday, has brought the pelagic fish processing industry on the country's west coast to a near halt. The strike is the result of a wage dispute that has been dragging on since July. Fishermen are demanding a 10.5% wage increase, while the industry is offering 7.5%.

### South Africa Textile Strike/Sit-In

The National Clothing and Textile Workers' Union of South Africa yesterday accused a West Bank company of illegally locking out its members after they staged a sit-in Friday October 15. The workers engaged in the sit-in after the company wanted to pay them outside its premises. At the same time, the union and the company were currently in a wage dispute. NCTWUSA organiser De Beer Gqoboda said the union was demanding a minimum weekly wage of R270 while the company was offering an 8 percent increase for workers who were currently earning R130 or less and a 5 percent increase across the board for others. "An employee who stays in Mdantsane uses R75 a week on transport", he argued. A manager who did not want to identify himself said the company was "losing money with these people ..."

### Australian Coalminers Strike Over \$15,000 Pay Cut

Miners at one of Rio Tinto's large Hunter Valley collieries began a three-day strike

October 14 in response to a new company offensive that cuts pay and conditions by up to \$15,000 a year. Rio Tinto's decision to formally terminate the enterprise wage deal of 178 Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFEMU) workers at the Howick coalmine will see miners' annual income drop to the bare legal minimum. Reverting to the basic award is an unusual and aggressive tactic. However, Rio Tinto's initiative was available to all employers under the Howard Government's Workplace Relations Act to cut existing conditions as the starting point during negotiations for a new agreement. The strike at the colliery follows more than 12 months of unsuccessful negotiations at the mine and runs in tandem with similar disputes at Rio Tinto's Hunter Valley No1 and Mount Thorley mines. The average salary of Howick miners will fall from about \$85,000 to \$70,000.

### Hong Kong Aircraft Engineers On Strike

Up to 3,000 Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company (Haeco) workers or 90 percent of the engineers went on strike on Wednesday October 20, threatening flight delays as they put on pressure in a pay dispute. "Of course there will be flight delays. We will not stop our action until the management responds to our requests," Haeco Employee Union spokesman Li Ho-leung said. The union served notice to the company earlier last month that it planned industrial action over what it saw as a move to cut wages by up to 30 percent. Haeco, which employs more than 4,400 staff in total, handles 75 per cent of the aircraft maintenance work at Chek Lap Kok including servicing planes for Cathay Pacific Airways.

### Doctors Strike for Pay Increases in Czech Republic

Doctors' trade unions have called a one-day strike on October 6th in protest of low wages. Striking doctors are expected to protest outside the government building where the Cabinet meets for its regular Wednesday sessions. Health minister Ivan David on Nov. 2 confirmed that the health sector's problems would be on the agenda of today's Cabinet session, promising that a number of ailing hospitals would receive government aid by the end of November. However he made it clear that the 22 million crowns which is to be distributed among heavily indebted Czech hospitals must be used to settle their outstanding debts. We are not prepared to finance higher wages and bonuses, the minister warned. A number of Czech medical centres are on the brink of bankruptcy, a situation that has become life-threatening to patients in some areas of the country.

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# Canadian Starbucks Workers Participate in "UNStrike"

We are 120 members of the Canadian Auto Workers Local 3000. We work at 12 unionized Starbucks stores: 11 in Vancouver and 1 in Westbank, British Columbia. Our 12 unionized stores are the only unionized units out of Starbucks' some 2,200 stores worldwide. Our economic impact within the Starbucks empire is obviously limited. But with your help our public relations impact can be significant. We are truly in a David and Goliath battle for the hearts and minds of the public in our dispute with the worlds' largest coffee retailer. That's why we are UnStriking at this time. The issues on the bargaining table are very basic: fair wages, earned sick leave, scheduling of work and training procedures.

## What the heck is an UnStrike?

By now most of you are asking 'what the heck is an UnStrike?'

Well...while legally meeting the definition of a strike under provincial labour law, unlike a traditional strike, in an UnStrike we continue to work, get paid and provide service to our customers, but with a difference. In order to draw attention to our dispute we are refusing to adhere to the Starbucks dress code. Instead we are wearing what we please, including one member who served customers wearing a dressing gown and bedroom slippers, others with brilliantly coloured hair, tattoos and more. And 'wearing what we please' includes our 'Warbucks Coffee' buttons and t-shirts. The shirt backs bear red lettering that reads "I didn't have any sick leave so I phoned in dead. Now my boss wants a Coroners' Certificate before I come back to work." We think a little humour goes a long way.

As well we are handing out leaflets to the public, in the stores and on the streets, similar in tone to this letter, with an addressed and postage paid tear-off addressed to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz which says:

Dear Mr. Schultz: I am writing to let you know that I support the members of CAW Local 3000 in their UnStrike against Starbucks Coffee Corporation to achieve a renewed collective agreement inclusive of fair wages and earned sick leave. Your corporate success depends on your employees. Please show you care.

Sincerely,

We achieved our historic first collective in July 1997 and made some significant gains in the areas of seniority as a key factor in scheduling of hours of work and vacations, language to maximize the length of shifts through the work week, anti-harassment language, a grievance-arbitration procedure and across the board wage increases

that totaled \$1.00 over the life of the agreement. Starbucks' response after our historic agreement was to extend the monetary gains to all non-union stores in Canada to undermine employee interest in unionizing - 'all the gain without the pain.' or so Starbucks would have people believe.

Starbucks is again resisting union gains at the bargaining table this time round as we bargain our second collective agreement. They want to avoid having to give improvements to non-union stores 1) because they don't want to have to pay, and 2) they don't want to give the union additional credibility in the eyes of non-union Baristas. They fear

\$1,000 per month. We need a living wage not "nickels and dimes"!

Salaried managers have a comprehensive sick leave plan. Hourly employees have no paid sick leave at all. When we get sick, even for a day, we are scrambling to buy groceries and make the month's rent. Most of us are economically compelled to work when we are sick. In saying NO to earned sick leave Starbucks is really saying to us 'Hey! Get sick on your own time 'partner!' Some 'partnership.' We need earned sick leave proportional to hours worked - the more hours worked, the more sick leave earned.

## Elevating the Service Sector

The nature of work has changed dramatically over the last several decades. As we approach the new millennium there are relatively fewer jobs in the resource, manufacturing and construction sectors and relatively more jobs in the service sectors. The reasons are varied: advanced technology, exploitation of cheap off-shore labour, free trade and more. With some exceptions, service sector jobs generally pay lower wages, provides fewer benefits and generates lower tax revenues than is the case in the more traditional sectors of our economy. This directly impacts service sector workers. It also indirectly impacts the whole of our society.

As more of our population is employed in the service sectors we need to consciously and systematically elevate both the earning power and social status of service sector workers. If we fail to do this we will erode the collective purchasing power which drives our economy. We will undermine our collective capacity to provide the high quality jobs. We will reduce our capacity to ensure our environment is protected and restored. In the end we will all lose. It may sound simple, but it is true: good jobs are critical to a healthy society.

Our fight for a living wage and earned sick pay is a small but nevertheless important part of the struggle to elevate the service sector and strengthen our society. We hope you agree.

## Send Starbucks A Message

Please take some time to Send Starbucks A Message:

Log on to the CAW National Union web site at [www.caw.ca](http://www.caw.ca) and check out the Starbucks UnStrike prompt which will allow you send an email to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz. You can Send Starbucks' CEO Howard Schultz A Message anytime at [hschultz@starbucks.com](mailto:hschultz@starbucks.com). Please copy your message to Christian Codrington, Starbucks' Manager of Partner Relations for Western Canada at [ccodrind@starbucks.com](mailto:ccodrind@starbucks.com) and copy or send a message of support to Starbucks workers at [cawbc1@caw.ca](mailto:cawbc1@caw.ca).

Howard Schultz, President and CEO, Starbucks Coffee Corporation, 2401 Utah Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., 98124 tel: (206) 447-1575 fax: (206) 447-3432, email: [hschultz@starbucks.com](mailto:hschultz@starbucks.com)

Christian Codrington, Manager Partner Relations - Western Canada, Starbucks Vancouver Offices, 200 - 128 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1K6 tel: (604) 708-9233 fax: (604) 708-2216, email: [ccodrind@starbucks.com](mailto:ccodrind@starbucks.com)

**Due to the fear of other locations organizing, the Starbucks Empire refuses fair wages & earned sick leave.**  
*"I didn't have any sick leave so I phoned in dead. Now my boss wants a Coroners' Certificate before I come back to work."*  
 (text from an employee's "Warbucks Coffee" t-shirt).

that if they do more Baristas will see the sense in building a stronger base of strength to bargain against Starbucks. In effect we are having to bargain for all Starbucks Baristas, union and non-union alike, on the strength of our 12 units. It's a tough struggle but one we feel is worth fighting, but we need your help.

## A Living Wage Not "Nickels and Dimes"

Starbucks has offered "nickels and dimes" in wages - less than the rate of inflation. Despite Starbucks' carefully constructed public image of 'the-small-L-liberal-enlightened-employer', what we see at the bargaining table is a heavy-dose of good old fashioned corporate arrogance and greed. Our income is far from 'enlightened' or 'liberal.' Most of us work part-time, average around \$8.60 per hour and take home less than \$800 per month. Even our highest paid members, Shift Supervisors, take home about

## Phenomenal Revenues-Phenomenal Growth

Starbucks may be offering us just "nickels and dimes" but their 'bottom line' is quite another story. This Spring Starbucks raised prices on blended beverages as much as 25%. For the 3 months ending June 27th net revenues increased 27% to \$424 million (\$US) in just 13 weeks, over the same period last year. Through 1999, on average, a new Starbucks store opened every 16 hours of every day of every week to bring the world wide total to about 2,200 stores. Starbucks is poised to earn well in excess of \$1 billion in revenues this year. Virtually all of Starbucks' phenomenal growth has been financed out of phenomenal revenues.

The hard work of hourly Baristas, both union and non-union, have helped make Starbucks the tremendous financial success story that it is. Hourly employees deserve genuine respect and to share in that success.

## Farewell Fellow Worker

Fellow Worker Ted Harley died Friday, November 5, 1999 of heart failure. He was in his early 60s. He walked into the GHQ storefront in

Ypsilanti, MI some years ago and joined on the spot. He was the secretary of the

Huron Valley GMB and an IU 630 member. Ted filled the world with his quick humor like the music he played.

Anyone wishing to make tax deductible donations in his name may do so to:

Resist, 259 Elm Street, Suite 201,  
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or to the Humane Society in Adrian, MI where they do not euthanize animals at:

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## The Harsh Logic of the Commodity Economy: Child and Adolescent Labor

by Len Bracken

No form of labor cries out to be abolished louder than child labor. When I think of *Live with Regis and Cathy Lee!* host Cathy Lee offering her son up to the commodity-celebrity machinery of the movie industry or of the multitudes of childhoods destroyed by manual labor, such as the kids employed in the sewing factories that make celebrity clothing lines for people like Cathy Lee, child labor appears as the weakest link in our work-based world.

The harsh logic of the commodity economy is displayed from pitiless angles by child labor—Cathy Lee's son Cody working in the spectacle and the half-hidden spectacle of 250 million children worldwide working long hours in slavish conditions. We live in a seemingly inescapable commodity economy, but certain aspects or stages of life must immediately be sheltered from this inhospitable ecosystem. Reasonable people should be able to deal with circumstances whereby children suffer so much from the poverty that afflicts five-sixths of humanity. But no, we can't even

cut the startling U.S. child poverty rate of 20 percent, as the worst among highly developed countries. I would think that everyone with either a head or a heart understands why children must be sheltered and nurtured. And in a world that is 1) awash in commodities, and 2) teaming with unemployed adults, how can caring for children mean transforming them into commodities through wage slavery?

The commodity economy owes much of its development to the exploitation of children and adolescents, both as workers and consumers, and this is its most shameful aspect. The legitimacy of child labor is now questioned by more people than nineteenth century novelists like Dickens and Zola, although not Uncle Sam. The United States is the exception to the United Nations' 1990 ratification of the 1973 International Labor Organization convention on child labor.

Of course Washington and the states are not alone in sanctioning abusive labor. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, children work long hours, primarily in agriculture and as domestic servants. But even in what are thought of as socially developed countries, children work at apprenticeships and at jobs that have nothing to do with their planned careers. The United States ranks highest among highly developed countries in the percentage of sixteen to nineteen year-olds active in the labor force, primarily in the retail sector. Fifty percent of all working fifteen- to seventeen-year-olds work retail jobs, 25 percent work service sector jobs, and 8 percent work agriculture jobs. Grocery store clerk, nursing home attendant, farm worker—a recent report (see sidebar) says that these are dangerous jobs with high rates of fatal injuries.

In the United States, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 governs child labor, and the Employment Standards Administration of the Department of Labor administers this antiquated law. The law restricts the number of hours youth under sixteen can work, and it restricts youth under eighteen from working in some hazardous occupations. The states have their own standards; certain states actually allow youth under eighteen to work fifty hours per week during the school year in the agricultural sector. Given their concern for youth, legislators should know that doctors and social scientists have conceded an amazing point: excessive work causes crime, "substance abuse and minor deviance, insufficient sleep and exercise,

and limited time spent with families."

A multilevel campaign to further restrict adolescent labor and abolish child labor could focus on the outdated laws and the ambiguous jurisdiction. Parents and employers who work children like little beasts should be persuaded, gently at first, but by force if necessary, not to commodify children. And kids themselves, with their innate spirit of play still intact, might make a fierce mockery of the American jobs that wise elders foist on each succeeding generation.

This assault on work is well under way, and a movie like *Office Space* reflects the potential, both for humor and material damage, in actions that have the luster of wicked office pranks. The best humor is always humor that enlightens the boss, although I should add that graveyard humor (the best gift is a dead boss) might be overly effective and shock rather than seduce people made

**"The legitimacy of child labor is now questioned by more people than nineteenth century novelists like Dickens and Zola, although not Uncle Sam."**

of pastry, namely, the masses. The tactics that I'm hinting at here may seem absurd, but the circumstances that give rise to history are sometimes absurd, and if the moment is real, it is more rational that it first appears.

Management calls theft and other activities undertaken by bad workers counterproductivity, a phenomenon that cost the United States' businesses approximately sixty billion dollars (according to a recent Reid Company report mentioned in *Claustrophobia*), this figure is projected to increase 15 percent per year. What role do kids play in so-called counterproductivity actions? The *Talk of the Nation* radio show on how to protect youth at work, revealed that most young people either commit crimes or break workplace rules within their first year on the job. And in its guidebooks, management has registered its complaints about Generation X—the next wave of younger brothers and sisters is even worse.

The natural short-term strategy in a country that works longer and has higher productivity than other highly developed countries is to be bad workers and fight abusive work with propaganda and direct action. Reports from India and elsewhere suggest that these tactics have been effective where traditional union representation habitually conspires with management. If these actions open up enough fronts, the world could develop a large-scale psychological war, something like the Cold War—a war aimed at the morale of bosses who must eventually give up their roles, a war that quickly wins over the population to the abolition of child labor and limitation of adolescent labor.

As inept at it as I am, I try to cultivate a little Rabelaisian humor that first enlightens my boss, by letting on that I pay my debts with ransom from my last boss, and then wins him over and liberates the bad worker in him by throwing his work schedule into the river of time. The broad strategic goals that I advocate are a ten-hour work week and the universal cancellation of debt—the only candidate I've been able to find to support these positions is nobody, but nobody puts them right on top of the list of things nobody will do for you. My short-term goal, however, is to entice bosses to give up and put more effort into laziness (to prepare for the coming inaction). For more strategic considerations see the final chapter of *The Arch Conspirator* (Adventures Unlimited, 1999): what was once a ghost-written masters thesis, is now "The Zerowork Theory of Revolution including a General Theory of Civil War."

## Former IWW to be Tried in "Disruption" Case Don't Forget the Chattanooga 3!

There are many issues which occupy our attention each day, but let us keep in mind the Chattanooga 3, the three African-American activists savagely arrested by Tennessee police last May during a demonstration against police brutality. Needless to say, the three demonstrators, Lorenzo Komboa Ervin (former IWW), Damon McGhee, and Mikhail Musa Muhammad, all had their first amendment rights violated by this act and the Tennessee ACLU is currently considering representing the three on that basis only.

In the meantime, the wheels of "justice" roll on and the Chattanooga 3 are scheduled to go on trial in Chattanooga this January 2000. At issue in this trial is the state's so-called "disruption law," which, in effect, is a lockup of any significant political dissent.

Most all states have such laws. According to JoNina Abron, chair of the Committee to Defend the Chattanooga 3, "If Lorenzo, Damon, and Mikhail are convicted, a dangerous legal precedent might be set that could be used by those states that have not yet enforced their disruption laws." Indeed, this case could have critical repercussions for all workers and worker-activists across the United

States.

The Committee is planning an anti-trial demonstration as well as a police brutality conference to coincide with the upcoming trial. Further information about the demonstration and conference can be obtained from either JoNina Abron (<abron@wmich.edu>) or Lorenzo Ervin (<komboa@rocketmail.com>).

Presently, Lorenzo, Damon, and Mikhail, need the support of fellow/sister workers in the following areas: (1) e-mail letters advocating dismissal of the trial to the mayor of Chattanooga (<mayor@mail.chattanooga.gov>), (2) help in securing individuals knowledgeable about civil liberties issues who may offer (pro bono) legal advice and possibly testify as expert witnesses, and (3)

contributions for the legal defense fund. In addition to the above e-mail addresses, you may also call or write the Committee at the following: Committee to Defend the Chattanooga 3, 2014 Citico Ave., Chattanooga, TN, 37404, (423) 622-7614.

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All." So, please continue to support and defend the Chattanooga 3!

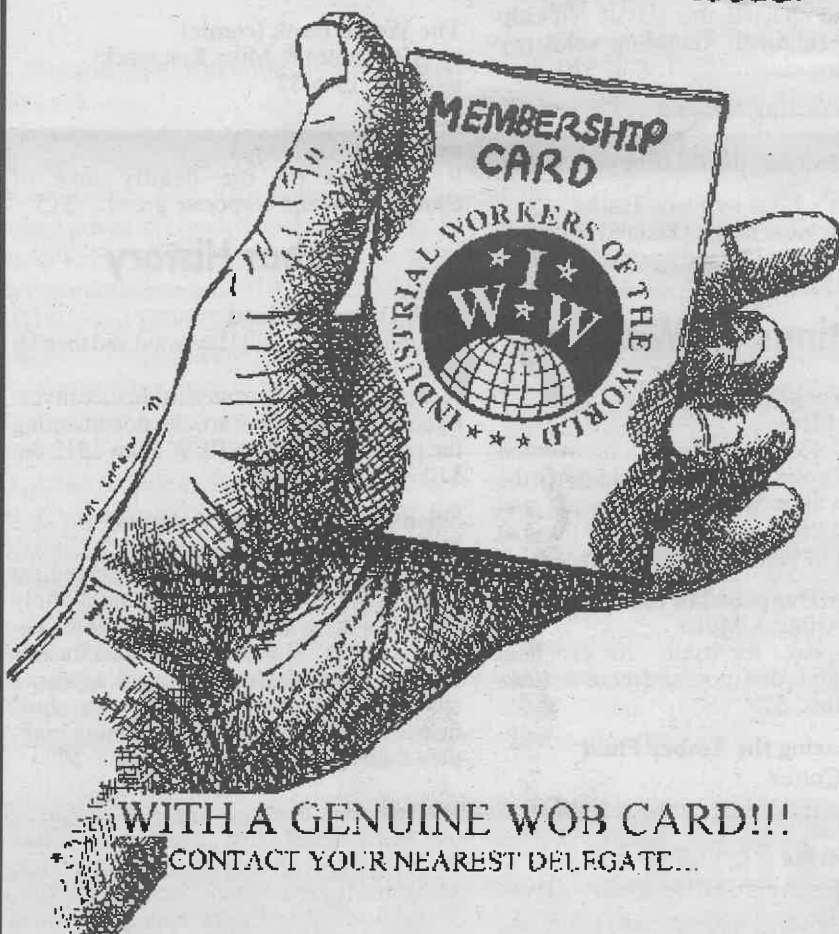
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WORRY YOUR BOSS  
AND SCARE HELL OUT OF YOUR OTHER UNION



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**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: \$6 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$12 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$18. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$12.00

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

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