

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

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Wobs Join FLOC Against Mt. Olive

Don't Spend a Nickel on Mt. Olive Pickles!
Don't Spend a Buck on Pickles that Suck!

On March 17, members of the Xicano Development Center, Detroit General Membership Branch of the IWW, and the Detroit Industrial Worker Collective "got on the bus" to go to Toledo, Ohio. The bus was one of 10 traveling from various cities to support the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in its campaign against Mt. Olive, joining them in a rally at the Kroger Co. in Toledo (FLOC's hometown). FLOC is demanding that Kroger, and other grocery stores, remove Mt. Olive pickles from their shelves and participate in a national boycott of the evil grower's goods.

The bus's first stop was at a union hall in Toledo, where we were met by several more busloads of labor activists and high school students. A festival atmosphere, complete with live musical entertainment, filled the hall. Bright banners and pennants were everywhere as people cheered their

support and encouragement for the courageous migrant workers who had defied threats against them and their families by the company in order to go public with their story.

FLOC president, Baldimar Velasquez spoke, pointing out the great risks that were involved for the farmworkers to organize. "Many of those workers are terrified of the growers. Undocumented workers are more easily exploitable. They (the growers) control them through threats of reporting them to the immigration authorities."

The rally then boarded the busses again to travel to the picket at Kroger. Hundreds of protesters chanted, picketed and displayed banners. For two hours, Kroger shoppers were treated to songs and leaflets, while some of the high school kids went inside and stood in the checkout lines talking to cashiers about the boycott and asking for their union's solidarity. The protest ended with a promise to return soon.

FLOC represents approximately 7,000 workers on 100 cucumber and tomato farms

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Worldwide Labor Organizations Join Fight For Mumia

"The history of labor in this country is splattered by the blood of trade unionists who were beaten, shot and crushed to the earth for striking against capital."

Mumia Abu-Jamal

"It is imperative that we defend those who face reprisal for activity that we advocate," journalist Gerald Sanders reminds us. Wobblies have filled jails before to defend the right to freedom of speech. We need to join with other workers who are calling for a stop-work on April 24th. West Coast Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) will hold stop work meetings in all ports on

Saturday, April 24th to demand a stop to the execution of, and freedom for Mumia. The ILWU will participate in the march in San Francisco and call on longshore workers in Philadelphia to join in the march there. Saturday is normally a

heavy overtime work day on the docks, but there will be no work this day on the West Coast by some 28 locals, from San Diego to Bellingham, Washington. The ILWU has a long history of solidarity with numerous struggles, including shipping boycotts and stop work actions. Longshore workers on the West Coast have recently supported 500 fired Liverpool dockers with stop work actions and by honoring picket lines protesting the scab-loaded Neptune Jade. The Liverpool dockers, still active even after the defeat of their struggle, have joined the call

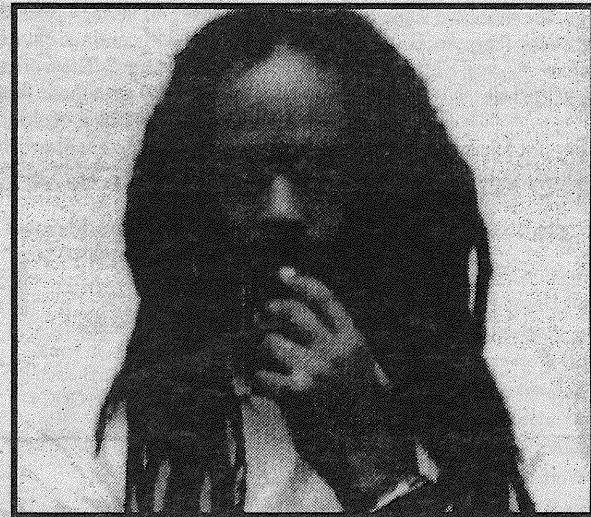
for world-wide actions in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Teachers in the Union of Education Workers of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (SEPE/RJ), voted overwhelmingly to stop work for one hour on Friday, April 23rd, to meet to demand freedom for Mumia. The SEPE/RJ is moving forward with its plans to mobilize the union's 150,000 members for the work stoppage.

Alexander Zharikov, General Secretary of the world Federations of Trade Unions, has stated that, "The WFTU fully supports the call for national and international actions on April 24th, 1999 around the two

central demands: 1). Stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal and 2). Demand a fair trial now! The WFTU will mobilize its affiliates and associates in this campaign..."

For his own part, Mumia remains a staunch ally of the working class. Even though threatened with imminent



Mumia Abu-Jamal

execution, he refused to be interviewed for national television by strike-breakers for ABC's "20/20" program, during the recent NABET/CWA strike. He was also a supporter of the West Coast longshore Neptune Jade struggle.

The real strength of the movement has always been mutual aid and support. It is the most powerful tool we have to obtain the release of this political prisoner. The working class has the power to stop the attacks of international capital on the fundamental

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Support Grows For Community Radio

Support continues to grow for the Federal Communications Commissioner's plan for re-legalizing community radio (MM Docket 99-25), which FCC commissioners voted 4-1 to release on January 28, 1999. A Public Comment period is now underway, ending June 1, (July 1 for "Reply-Comments"). The plan would create a new service of Low Power FM stations of two tiers, up to 1,000 and 100 watts respectively.

Community (or Pirate) radio has been an extremely powerful element of releasing information in many cities in the United States. Wobblies have been involved in Jacksonville, Baltimore, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Minneapolis as well as others. In many countries, Low Power FM radio is the only way to release information that is not strictly State controlled. After the revolution in Romania, for example, the station in Bucharest was surreptitiously moved from building to building to avoid both the old Securitate forces and the newly formed government (both of whom took issue with their programming). In Budapest, Hungary as well, Radio Tilos ("Forbidden Radio") was under attack and even invited two Wobblies to speak, in English, about worker's power, the danger of blind government compliance and stories about working conditions in the

US. In Serbia, the now infamous B92, shut-down after the NATO bombing campaign began, broadcast views contra to State Policy.

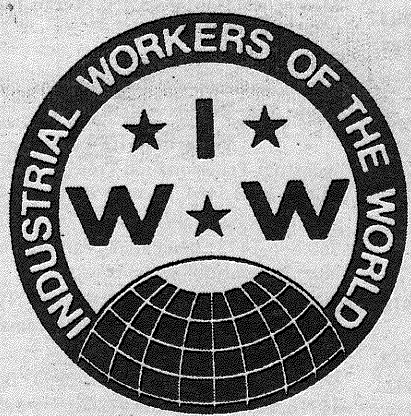
This has the potential for being a vital tool for workers and other radicals to spread the word on strikes, gatherings, discussions, etc. etc. The value is impossibly huge.

Considering the value of this service, surprisingly Vice President Gore has voiced his support. The March 15, 1999 edition of *Electronic Media* quoted a White House source as saying, "The Vice President is supportive of what Chairman Kennard (FCC) is trying to do (with Low Power)."

The Reverend Jesse Jackson continues his support, saying recently, "It is critical that our policy makers continue to provide new opportunities for community-based radio broadcasting."

As we maneuver ourselves into the 21st Century, the influence of Big Business upon our media, particularly of record companies upon the diversity of music the normal American has access to, is based upon a policy of corporate greed and manipulating public opinion. Low Power FM would do a lot to alleviate this monotone, this unending blanding of the airwaves. In the past decade

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the G8 Convention

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Fellow Workers,
 "Workfare is unfair," protests Acorn, mouth-piece of people in Los Angeles County assigned to dead-end jobs for (often) below-minimum wage. These unfortunates often find themselves working alongside city and county employees who receive vacation with pay, health benefits and wages that are two or three times the wage of workfare people. Nor are they being trained for "regular" jobs. When openings occur workfare folks are passed over. Their experience as "reliefers" doesn't count. Acorn demands equal pay for equal work, plus benefits accorded the "regulars" on the job.

Acorn's brochure relates impressive accomplishments in other cities in the areas of housing, jobs, financial reform and voting registration.

"Get out of your armchair. Get out and vote!" Acorn prompts its members. "That's the only way you'll change the economic system."

Oh yes, where have I heard this rallying cry before? This writer received her initial radical education on welfare during the Great Depression. Then, as now, we were going to perform miracles at the ballot box. Then, as now, workers with "regular" jobs feared the competition of WPA workers. It was an unwritten law in government circles, don't tread on the toes of private industry. Our "experience" digging ditches the old-fashioned way with pick and shovel or plying needle and thread never helped us enter the mainstream of industry.

The more we change, the more we remain the same. When will workers learn to pool their efforts in One Big Union

Dorice McDaniels, X333140

To the IW,

I see some people are not happy with the IW. As a person who has edited a publication, I under-

Readers' Soapbox

stand how no publication can please all the people all the time. I just hope that folks give these new folks time to grow into their job. As for what the IW covers, that has more to do with what members of this organization send them than anything else. With all due respect, if there are issues you think the IW should cover then get off your duff and write about those things. As for pictures and artwork, this is one of the hardest problems that a publication has. The answer to that problem is for folks to take a direct action and produce these things for the IW. Are there no artists in the IWW anymore? You would not be able to tell by the amount of original art work in the IW.

On the issue of so-called non-labor articles, I could debate that issue from the standpoint that I do believe that environmentalism, bigotry, the homeless soon and so on are labor issues. It is true that the focus of the IWW should be the organization of work, but the working class does not live on their jobs alone, and many of these issues do have job related connections. If we were just some nickel and dime union, then maybe there could be an argument for existing in isolation. But we are a revolutionary organization which has one of its goals forming a new society. Will this new society also wish to exclude so-called non-labor issues? If so then does that mean that our new society will continue environmental destruction so on and so on? There are some that may say that we will deal with those things after the revolution. But the Wobblies of old and many Wobblies today know better, for they understand that we must be forming our new society at the same time that we are struggling against the old one.

Rather than working people sitting back and

allowing others to deal with the important issues, I believe that working people should be directly involved in them. For an example, environmentalism—that issue has a great impact on working people. Suit and tie and New Age environmentalists tend to not give a damn about working people and more often than not the solutions they come up with have working people making most of the sacrifices rather than those that are really to blame for the problems: the employers. A good example of this is in logging country. The employers come in and seize all the wealth they can and then leave the workers with the economic and environmental mess. So, rather than say this is not a labor issue, I believe that working people should be at the forefront of the environmental movement.

There is another reality that we should not lose sight of, and that is when we do organize, we will need the active solidarity of others. And solidarity is a two way street. So extending solidarity to others is helping to build a solidarity movement that someday we may need to call upon for help. It also helps to develop the skills we will come to need.

If you still don't understand this let me point something else out. Many in the AFL-CIO do see the connectons. One of the struggles that I was told by some in the IWW that was not a working class issue, that being the struggle at Big Mountain, I use to do food/supply runs for. The largest single contributors were members of the UAW. Among other contributors were striking members of the P-9. Canadian unions have passed more resolutions in support of Leonard Peltier than has the IWW. And many of those unions have ac-

tively supported indigenous struggles in Canada.
 Arthur J. Miller

Letter to the Industrial Worker,

Thank you for printing the article about the struggle to block the reroute of Highway 55 here in Minneapolis. All we need is another highway...I did want to mention, however, that the photo used with the article should have been credited to Tom Taylor, who has been running a wonderful website that chronicles the occupation. I recommend that people check it out. Here is the address: http://members.aol.com/noreroute/Highway_55_occupation.html

He also put our GMB's pamphlet: "People's Power: Militant Unions and the Minnehaha Free State" online. The address for that page: <http://members.aol.com/noreroute/wobblies.htm>

Thank You.—John Slade x345647

Fellow Workers,

Please cancel my Industrial Worker bundle. Having devoted the last 21 years to building the IWW, I cannot in good conscience distribute a newspaper that misrepresents our union's positions, ignores our organizing efforts and betrays our legacy.

Given that you claim to have several locked-out Detroit newspaper workers involved in producing the paper, I am particularly stounded at your decision to ignore the CWA-affiliated Typographical Union's decision to break ranks with the other newspaper workers and selling their members' jobs in exchange for modest cash payments, insurance coverage and a "me too" clause. Meanwhile, the publishers are out to decertify the CWA-affiliated Newspaper Guild, continue refusing to take back hundreds of locked-out workers and have staopped negotiations with the other five unions. (They did sign a new contract with the 6 AFL unions that scabbed throughout the dis-

- IU 120: Lumber Workers
- IU 330: Building Construction Workers
- IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
- IU 460: Food Processing Workers
- IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
- IU 560: Communications Workers
- IU 610: Health Service Workers
- IU 620: Education Workers
- IU 630: Entertainment Workers
- IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
- IU 660: General Distribution Workers
- IU 670: Public Service Workers

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; GMB=General Membership Branch; IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate; GOC=Organizing Committee.

AUSTRALIA

IWW Regional Organising Committee—P.O. Box 152, Birdwood, SA 5234. roc@iww.org.au <http://www.au.iww.org/australia>

NEW SOUTH WALES

Bellingen—PO Box 78, NSW 2454.
 Sydney—PO Box 241, Surry Hills, NSW 2010.

QUEENSLAND

Del—Will Kemp, PO Box 5734, West End, Qld 4101, brisbane@iww.org.au

TASMANIA

Del—Bill Bartlett, 27 Emma St, Bracknell, Tas 7250. billbartlett@vision.net.au

VICTORIA

Melbourne GMB—PO Box 145, Moreland 3058, Vic, melbourne@iww.org.au. Delegates: Margaret Creagh, margaret@iww.org.au; Zelda Da: zd@xchange.anarki.net; Ben Debney: ben@iww.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Del—Mike Payne, Quininnup WA 6258.

BRITISH ISLES

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

ENGLAND

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

Pioneer Co-operative Retail Society Job Branch and General Distribution Workers IU 660—GDWU, PO Box 3469, Bournemouth BH5 2ZD.

SCOTLAND

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

CANADA

ALBERTA

Edmonton GMB—PO Box 1075, phone: 403/988-3022.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Victoria GMB—P.O. Box 8283, V8W 3R9
 pager: 250/360-9803. vicwob@hotmail.com

MANITOBA

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

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB—388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922. bh295@freenet.carleton.ca
 Toronto GMB—del: Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm.

IU 670 Toronto Action for Social Change—P.O. Box 73620, 509 St. Clair Ave. West, M6C 1C0. 416/651-5800. burch@web.net

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

GERMANY

Hamburg IWW—c/o Zentrum, Thadenstrasse 118, D-22 767 Hamburg.

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

ITALIA

Delegato Andrea Benetton—Via Molino 1, 21047 Saronno (VA). Tel. ++39-02-96709372. andbene@tin.it

POLAND

IWW Polska—PO BOX 47, 04-520 Warszawa 106

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Desert Tortoise GMB—c/o Feral Press, P.O. Box 1212, Tucson 85702.

CALIFORNIA

Humboldt County IWW Group—PO Box 3503, Eureka 95502. 707/441-3819.

Los Angeles GMB—Meets first Sunday each month. P.O. Box 716024, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Mendocino County—Bill Meyers, del., PO Box 1581, Gualala 95445.

Monterey—Ray Brown, IU 330 delegate, 1231 4th St., 93940. 831/333-9803.

Santa Cruz GMB—PO Box 534, 95061. phone: 831/427-5566.

San Francisco GMB—PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. office: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp) #216-2, S.F. 94103. 415/863-WOBS. staff@iww.org

San Francisco Bay Ports Marine Transport Workers IU 510 Branch—PO Box 194163, Ricon Hill Station, SF 94114-4163.

East Bay GMB and IU 670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Branch: 2022 Blake St., Berkeley 94704, 510/845-0540. Meets Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop—1921 Ashby, Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

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GEORGIA

Metro Atlanta GMB—PO Box 80405, Chamblee 30366. 404/746-7956

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB—wilcox@hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB—1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 773/549-5045. Meets 2nd Friday 7 pm (call for location).

KANSAS

Lawrence GMB—PO Box 176, 66044.

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Louisville—502/451-3459

LOUISIANA

Restaurant Workers IU 640—PO Box 7927, Metairie 70010. apple@iww.org

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB—Del. Rafi Bey, P.O. Box 18637, 21216-0637. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620—PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

Pioneer Valley GMB—PO Box 154, Northampton 01061. del: Mike D'Amore 413/549-1143. e-mail: pviww@iww.org

MICHIGAN

Huron Valley GMB—103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548

Detroit GMB—PO Box 44558, 48232-9995. 313/891-7895

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB—c/o Laverne Capan, 1522 N. 8th Ave. E., 55805-1115.

Minneapolis—St. Paul GMB—1708 E. 26th St., 55404. Dels. Sam Adams 612/724-9158, Andy Gifford 870-9168, Don Kurth 869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB—PO Box 63211, 63163. Del: Tim Dunn, 314/645-4317.

MONTANA

Butte—Mark Ross, PO Box 233, 59703. 406/782-4465. IU 330 Del: Dennis George, dengeo@montana.com

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque—Del: Peter Kalbeier, 2300 Central Ave. S.E. Box 122, 87106. 505/924-2137, peterkal@ix.netcom.com

NEW YORK

Upstate New York Regional GMB—POB 74, Altamont 12009. 518/861-5627.

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

NYC GMB—Del: R. Singer, P.O. Box 752, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024
 Long Island GMB, POB 7152, Garden City 11530, liiww@aao.net 516/741-0661 516/834-9745 (LI 'Strike Watch').

IU 670 Socialist Party Nat'l Office Job Shop: Socialist Party USA, 339 LaFayette St., New York, NY 10012, (212) 982-4586.

Rochelle Semel, Del., RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick, NY 13328. (607) 293-6489.
 Rochester—Del: Ric Garren, 716/385-6681.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro—Dave Coker, del., POB 10093, 27404. 910/574-2905 davecoker@usa.net

OHIO

Cincinnati—Mark Damron, del., PO Box 42233, 45242.

OREGON

Eugene GMB—c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org

Portland Building Construction Workers IU 330 Branch—POB 33674, 97292.

Portland GMB—POB 15005, 97293-5005. email: mmiller@orednet.org 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB—c/o Trish D'Amore, 655 N. Irving St., Allentown 18103-2063. 610/434-0218

Lancaster GMB: PO Box 796, 17608. lancaster@jones.iww.org <http://jones.iww.org/lancaster/>

Philadelphia GMB—4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. phillyiww@iww.org Meets third Sundays, 4:00pm, at A Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave. Del: Alexis Buss 215/724-1925

RHODE ISLAND

Providence—M. Araujo, delegate, 68 Dexter St. 02909

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop—Meril Truesdale, del., P.O. Box 8325, Columbia 29202-8325.

TENNESSEE

Mother Jones GMB—c/o Dennis Henke, 787 Ellsworth, Memphis 38111 901/458-9907.

TEXAS

Lucy Parsons GMB—c/o Joshua Freeze, 3202 Cherrywood Rd., Austin 78722. 512/477-2957. devries@mail.utexas.edu

VERMONT

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

VIRGINIA

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

WASHINGTON

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

Olympia GMB—PO Box 2775, 98507. 360/866-1473. blacknred@earthlink.net <http://home.earthlink.net/blacknred/>

Puget Sound GMB—5215 Ballard, NW, Seattle, WA 98115. (206) 706-6250. email: iwwjmp@speakeasy.org

General Defense Committee—P.O. Box 16716, Seattle WA 98116 (206) 935-2756

WISCONSIN

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

Madison GMB—c/ Lakeside Del: Jerry Chernow
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WYOMING

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

Industrial Worker

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Industrial Workers of the World
 103 West Michigan Avenue
 Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 USA
 734/483-3548 ghq@iww.org

General Secretary-Treasurer:
 Fred Chase

General Executive Board:
 Monica Berini, Dennis Georg,
 Robert Helms, Morgan Miller,
 John Persak, Penny Pixler,
 Bob Rivera

Articles should be submitted to:

Industrial Worker
 3570 W. Vernor
 Detroit, MI 48216 USA
ghq@iww.org

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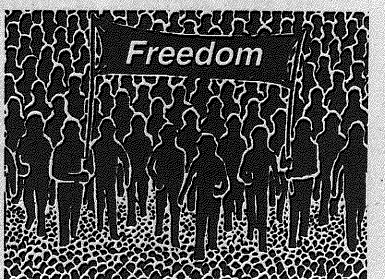
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On the War in Yugoslavia

by John Persak

The conflict in Yugoslavia, recently escalated by the involvement of the Western powers of NATO, has indeed caused great concern among IWW members and the broader "left" in general. It is remarkable that in this particular situation, a "party line" of leftist activists has not been achieved, much less within the ranks of our union. A tradition of the IWW has not been to oppose war necessarily, but rather certain kinds of war. Members of the IWW were imprisoned for opposing World War I, as were many anarchists and socialists of all stripes. In the 1930's, the Industrial Worker was in support of a united front against Franco in Spain in the 1930's, led by the rank and file of organizations such as the CNT and FAI. Enshrined in our preamble is the statement, "There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions...and the employing class have all the good things in life." It is clear that the IWW is not opposed to all wars. The question is, what kind of wars do we oppose? Many leftist activists have desperately tried to find a simple way to oppose the NATO airstrikes. In the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and even in the small scale interventions in the US, the line has always been clear; these wars were waged for the interests of capital, and perpetuated it through the creation of wartime economies domestically. Pretty basic stuff, and easy enough to understand. The conflict in Yugoslavia, whether you are opposed to NATO intervention or not, has called into question the cookie-cutter analysis that we often hear from the left, and forces us to reexamine a key question. Whose side are we on? And it is a far more complex answer than oil, drugs, or United Fruit.

The IWW, as a union striving to unite the working class on a worldwide basis, needs to ask these hard questions. It is not enough for us to merely take the easy way out, and just oppose the NATO airstrikes on moral grounds. Even the right wing can do that, with its obsession with national identity. The main questions, is there a popular resistance to Serb aggression?, is it organized?, and who is it? Is it based at the point of production? And if not, how could such a movement be built, to build a unity with workers who are the victims on all sides of the battles? And most important, what would the role of the IWW be in supporting such a movement? In order to find the answers to these questions, we have to first admit that the IWW is not opposed to war, in so far as workers defending themselves against any form of despotism.

Many might suggest that the IWW as an organization should produce an official statement that we are opposed to NATO airstrikes. There are plenty of reasons to oppose NATO based on repercussions, such as civilian deaths and the possibility of arousing the Russian army to defend their Serbian brothers. This would be a mistake for two reasons; we would appear to be aligning ourselves with the far right (the same politicians who stood by as Hitler rose to power), and we would be hypocrites, in the fact that the IWW is doing absolutely nothing organizationally to make contact with working class organizations in the region, where we could act based on the needs of those most directly affected. Our job is to organize with our fellow workers in our class, and not to wash our hands of an issue by passing a resolution or showing up to a demonstration at a Federal building somewhere.

Many organizations that call themselves "left", notably those with a fetish worship of left dictators, engage in the kind of thing that we ought to avoid. Many position statements and resolutions are written and passed, while making no attempt whatsoever to consult with those they claim to be in solidarity with. It is the same stance that NATO has taken, in fact. The Clinton administration, has come out on record in saying that NATO will not aid the KLA with arms, to defend themselves against the onslaught of the Serb army. Yet the White House claims to be acting in solidarity with those being "ethnically cleansed". The similarity between the knee jerk approach of certain "peace and justice organizations", and that of the U.S. government is remarkable.

We would be right in opposing NATO, based on the fact that it is a rogue army that is not controlled by the citizens of the respective countries and that it is under control of Western capital. Further, NATO is even operating outside of the United Nations, and is therefore not even acting under the authority of the UN charter in regards to peaceful intervention and human rights. In spite of all of this, some have argued that NATO intervention in the absence of a united front controlled by workers, may be the lesser of two evils; the other evil being, allowing a ruthless fascist to continue to exist, and build relationships with similar elements in Europe and elsewhere. It is a lose - lose situation, where blood will be spilled either way.

The right wing is opposed to the intervention, in that they are more closely aligned with the likes of Milosevic, and fear that a rise of sympathy in Russia will sweep the pro-Capitalist West Yeltsin from power, which would destabilize western investment in the former Soviet Union. The left is opposed for moral reasons, and on the assumption that NATO intervention will merely escalate the conflict; they may indeed have a point. But for the IWW to oppose NATO, we would have to first demonstrate that we are also opposing the atrocities that are being perpetrated by the Serb army, as they are two heads from the same monster.

The IWW could prove it's worth in this struggle, by working with comrades and fellow workers in the adjoining nations, to build a working class resistance, that would oppose the powers of NATO, Milosevic, and other elements that would just as soon kill a worker, lest see them organize into a union. But such an alliance would have to be based on the direct needs of those workers under siege, and this would mean we would have to establish direct communication. Fortunately, the newly created body in the IWW, the International Solidarity Commission, is empowered to handle such matters, as are IWW members in Europe. And, there are other unions that have a similar vision as the IWW that may be willing to help facilitate communication.

However it is done, the IWW as an organization needs to be clear in its position though its actions, as resolutions printed on paper make horrible bullet shields.

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.

Readers' Soapbox (cont.)

pute, though.)

This kind of to-hell-with-your-fellow workers, scabby business unionism is precisely the reason the IWW was organized. Yet two issues have gone to press since the typographers broke solidarity, and there hasn't been a peep of protest in our paper.

Nor have you published news of IWW organizing campaigns, the coastwide longshore strike

demanding freedom for class war prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, or anything else indicating even the slightest familiarity with Wobbly principles.

Whether through incompetence or infatuation with the labor fakers, the vandalism you are inflicting upon our newspaper and our union's legacy is a disgrace. I urge all Wobblies to make known their disgust and outrage and to demand corrective action.

Yours for the One Big Union,
Jon Bekken, x31117

Community Radio Update

continued from page 1

in the US, the consolidation of media has been extremely detrimental. Molly Ivins reported in a recent column there have been, "...more than a dozen telecommunications mergers worth more than \$295 billion...More will come. The law that was supposed to increase competition just made the monopolies larger. When you let an industry write the law deregulating itself...the result is not likely to be a festival for consumers."

In Michigan, the struggle for community radio has been led by the Michigan Music is World Class Campaign, a loose coalition of musicians and music-related businesses. The group is a non-hierarchical, volunteer (dis)organization concerned about diminishing democracy, cultural homogenization and local economics as more and more of the media falls into fewer and fewer hands. Of direct concern to the group is the practical elimination of local music on the public airwaves as a result of unprecedented consolidation in the broadcast industry—about 45% of all commercial stations have been sold in the past two years!

While the broadcast industry relies on an army of paid, full-time lobbyists with offices in Washington and relatively unlimited resources, the Michigan Music Campaign is fighting back with sheer willpower—and the support of the community. When gathering 3,200 constituent letters on the subject recently, the Campaign found virtually 99% support for community radio on the street. Although certainly not dominating the David vs. Goliath battle, the Campaign has kicked up enough of a fuss to earn the focus of a recent sympathetic article in the Wall Street Journal!

For information on community radio and the national campaign to build support for community radio, or on the FCC Public Comment period, please write to:

Michigan Music is World Class Campaign
c/o Jam Rag, PO Box 20076, Ferndale, MI 48220
jamrag@usnmail.com

IU 450: RSI—An Epidemic in the Workplace

"This nation cannot afford to wait any longer to address the serious issue of work-related musculoskeletal disorders. Too many workers and their families are suffering."

-Charles Jeffers (3/4/99) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Health and Safety

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders, or repetitive strain injuries (RSI), often called repetitive motion injuries, have grown to epidemic proportions in the U.S. According to OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 650,000 American workers suffered an RSI last year. Know that OSHA, whose workplace investigators are so few it would take them over 30 years to investigate the number of claims currently on file, can't even begin to approach the actual workplace repetitive motion problem with their current estimate. An epidemic? More like a war!

RSI can literally be a pain in the neck, or arm, shoulder, etc. Simply, these maladies are caused by performing a task or series of tasks, in combination with awkward body postures and poorly placed or designed machinery, which eventually injures muscles and other connective tissues, causing nerve damage in many cases. Carpal tunnel syndrome and related problems of modern keyboard operators, programmers and other jobs of data entry and retrieval are probably the most commonly cited. However, modern practices in many industries, largely under speed-up conditions, in non-union workplaces, create an atmosphere ripe for the continued proliferation of RSI's.

By no means is the repetitive motion problem a new one, per se. Dr. Bernadino Ramazzini reported as early as 1717, problems referred to as "diseases of clerks and scribes" resulting from "continuous sitting, repeated use of the hand, and strain of the mind", according to The Repetitive Strain

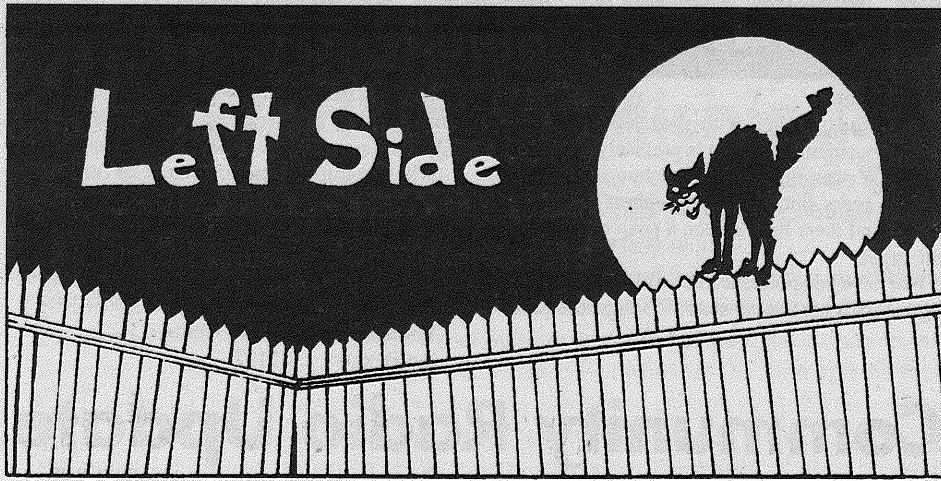
Injury Sourcebook, (Lowell House, Los Angeles, written by Sandra Peddie, with Craig Roseberg, M.D.) Even "milkmaids and shoemakers" were listed as victims of like problems in an 1840's British Medical Journal. So RSI appears to be systemic of the industrial age, now an epidemic in the for-profit system's current phase.

This helpful book goes on to point out that in 1980, one in ten U.S. workers spent most of their workday at a computer terminal. Today that figure has reached over five in ten. Increasingly productive technology in the workplace "has enabled all kinds of workers to work faster and produce more. Most managers (have) heralded these changes as a boon to production, but the human cost is beginning to offset those gains."

RSIs can happen to anyone. The injury spectrum cuts across gender, age, race, income and occupation considerations. We need to change our thinking about job duties in order to begin to address RSIs directly. Tasks resulting in injuries must be thought of and measured, not in hours, but in weeks and months. While young people are less likely to sustain RSIs, the Bureau of Labor statistics reports increasing numbers of youngsters, age 14-24, as the new wave of repetitive motion injured workers.

How do RSIs actually occur? In the simplest of terms, a repetitive function, applied with enough force, via awkward body postures or positions induce stress factors that lead to breakdowns of various musculoskeletal systems and/or connective tissues; the result is pain and loss of function. The Repetitive Strain Injury Sourcebook paints the picture as it is most often seen "Most people with RSI are stricken in the prime of their lives, at a time when they are typically unprepared to confront the kind of upheaval brought by being forced out of

continued on page 10



A professor at de Paul University in Chicago has been trying to set up the mechanics of establishing an International criminal court. A court that would not just prosecute lone individuals but entire governments accused of such deprecations as genocide and ethnic cleansing. There were delegates and educators from around the World attending his meeting who enthusiastically supported his proposal. He and his idea have received worldwide publicity as well but did not receive much publicity in Freedomland.

The Freedomland media gave him and his proposal very little publicity, even though the government has been throwing up roadblocks to any such treaty and remains one of the biggest obstacles to the creation of such a court. Cherif Bassiouni, the prof who promotes this idea, nevertheless feels quite optimistic.

Says he, "In the fifty years since the second World War there have been two hundred and fifty conflicts that have produced 170 million casualties, and yet the record of the World community in dealing with these conflicts has not been a record of accountability and the pursuit of justice or redress for the victims. State-sponsored atrocities are routinely forgiven as the price of restoring peace."

There is no society in the World that would reward a criminal for stopping the commission of a crime!

After the second World War with its holocaust in Europe, there was a big cry on the part of the World's statesmen of "Never again!" but in the meantime nothing was done about the millions of humans who were slaughtered in Cambodia, Liberia, El Salvador, Uganda, Chile, Bangladesh, Bosnia or Kosovo.

People who were shocked by the disclosure of the little-known fact that amnesty in Panama for Haitian military dictator by imprisoned former honcho Manuel Noriega at the behest of the administration of Willie Drippy Drawers, himself. The reader will remember that Noriega was formerly the big drug pusher for the CIA.

While your scribe admires the aspiration and motivation of Cherif Bassiouni, his cynical nature cannot hold much hope for the establishment of any such international court, certainly not under our present economic system and society. Any society or system run from the top down is never going to represent anybody but those few who happen to be on top. Certainly not those of us whose lot it is to be on the bottom.

Getting back to my favorite subject, I cannot help but think if our society was run by the workers who produce the goods for this Planet. It would mean also that any international court would be run by workers, only then would there be any need for any world crimes court?

Being aware that greed is a facet of human nature, there would have to be some sort of riding herd over those who would wish to reinstall the old order, but the best insurance against that will be a well educated population who would be able recognize any such unsocial tendencies in their fellow humans and would collectively work to rehabilitate them. Our educational system would no longer glorify those individuals who happen to have more than their equitable share of the wealth or have control over vast numbers of us. Don't wait for our present educational system to teach us that. It is something that we have to do ourselves.

Over the past decades there has been a plethora of "do it yourself" books that seek to relieve us of any overstuffed pockets. There has been no manual on how to build your own economic system. That is something our class will have to work out for ourselves!

Bassiouni's proposal has as yet to be accepted by the United Nations. Among the seven countries that voted against it were Israel, China, Iraq and Freedomland. Birds of a feather flock together.

C.C. Redcloud

Get 'Em Sabo Kitty!!

Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB)

The BBB have brought a flurry of pies-in-flight from California to New Hampshire. Freedom-loving people have reached the conclusion that PIE IS JUSTICE!—no matter how you slice it. May their efforts encrust those who would shun the fruits of truthfulness. Some victims include:

- Homophobic San Francisco Reverend Fred Phelps
- University of Wisconsin Geneticist Neil First
- Minnesota Governor Jesse "The Body" Ventura
(whoops! hit his bodyguard!)
- Sierra Club Ronnie Charlie Raines
- Procter & Gamble Bigwig John Pepper

A word for criminals against freedom and life: CAVEAT PIE!



We would like to apologize for the missing "Around Our Union" section in the paper. It will be back and "in effect" in the next issue. A late-arriving article from FW John Persak, (GEB Member) on the IWW's stance on the Yugoslavia War was relevant and we decided to run it.

We have received many letters asking, "How does the IWW feel about the NATO bombing?" or "What is your position on ethnic cleansing in Kosova?" There is no doubt that the latest U.S. act of aggression toward a smaller nation will have devastating effects for that region and lasting consequences for the rest of the world.

War is always for the benefit of the bosses. In war, workers are used as gamepieces for the bosses in a complex monopoly game where real estate and both human and non-human populations are bought, sold and traded. Workers pitted against workers, teenagers with guns shooting teenagers with guns for the sake of capital gain and increased market share.

It is terrifying how easily our "leaders" can elicit a massive, knee-jerk response for or against anything they choose. The "two-minute hate" is a national pastime. People who did not know where Kosova was last year are willing to send their sons to die to control it this week. And do they really know what will be gained by killing and who they will really be killing?

We have received communiques from activists in Serbia. These people are being bombed just as long and hard as any Serbian soldier who was ordered to shoot another human being. The bombs have already destroyed homes and other non-military sites. One Serb anti-authoritarian wrote that despite his years of fighting the Milosevic government and its policies, he is waiting at home "for the bomb with his name on it."

It is simplistic to describe a situation as complex as that in the Balkans as a good guys - bad guys scenario. Watching State-controlled media, and the BBC offers no clear alternative to CNN this time, and the

feeling of being abandoned in a muck of lies and questions is overwhelming. The first casualty of war is the truth after all. The US has never intervened in a situation of genocide or "ethnic cleansing" for that reason alone. One needs only to examine the present administration's reaction to Rwanda, East Timor, Haiti or Tibet. Using the plight of these people (Ethnic Albanians), although a tragic abuse of human rights, seems obviously more a ploy to inflame a nationalistic and bloodthirsty American public than a rationale for destroying a country and its people.

Other possible reasons for the attack are more subtle and far-reaching: the G7's power (or G8, with Russia's recent inclusion), the strength of the EU, oil pipelines, valuable mining interests, excuses for US military budget increases, increased surveillance of the domestic population for "terrorism", "spheres of influence" for the super-powers, or even the desire Clinton has not to go down in history for impeachment proceedings alone.

Editor's Notebook

We do not pretend to know the exact reasons for the conflict or to know the designs of madmen. What we do know, and would like to reiterate, is that this is a situation of workers hating, murdering, raping and killing other workers. Both sides controlled by a blind allegiance to a coalition of monstrous leaders who have the interests of no one but themselves in mind.

Workers of the World Unite! You Have Nothing to Lose but Your Leaders!

Also, members of the IW Collective will be going to Philadelphia for the International Day of Protest to FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL. If you can't make it to Philadelphia or San Francisco, make sure to do something wherever you are. If you can, honor the call to STOP ALL WORK. We CAN bring the machine to a halt.

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

"It is time for us to realize that we are being murdered by inches, and we ought to let the world know about it. But most important to understand is this: We are our own executioners because we are not organized to protect ourselves against the greed of the robber masters." IWW flyer aimed at garment workers, Los Angeles, c.1934.



The exploitation of immigrant labor is a time-honored custom in the United States, well illustrated by the sweatshop system. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, men, women and whole families labored continuously to sew and finish clothing for subcontractors who resold to major manufacturers. Enterprising contractors would rent or build tenement buildings in which families worked twelve or more hours daily producing goods. They were paid piece rates at such a low level that entire families worked to pay the rent and eke out a poverty wage.

Others worked away from home in damp, unheated rooms toiling twelve to fourteen hour shifts. "I am a stranger to my own children," remarked one garment worker. Working at the whims of their bosses, "sweaters" endured sporadic employment, low wages, harassment and outright danger. In 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City caught fire. Locked or missing exits led to the deaths of 146 persons.

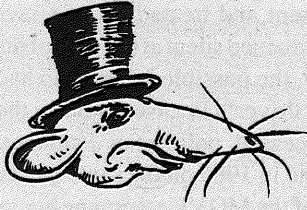
Union organizing in the garment industry broke the back of the sweatshop system, but in recent years they have made a comeback. Sweatshops are again flourishing in New York City. Major retailers such as Wal-Mart have bought clothing from sweatshops where mainly Chinese immigrants worked 80 hour weeks for starvation wages. Many were afraid to complain for fear of the INS. Third World exploitation is also widespread. One recent scam lured Filipino immigrants to Saipan, an American possession, with the promise of good work sewing clothing. Instead they found 12-hour workdays under near prison conditions. All this so the "Made in the USA" label could be added to the clothes. This photograph shows the interior of a sweatshop in 1912. It was taken by pioneering social photographer Lewis Hine.

Tom Featherstone—Walter P. Reuther Library

Two More Dirty Rats

Presidents William Clinton & Slobodan Milosevic

For jointly creating a situation, along with NATO leaders, that pits Workers against Workers. Both of these creeps appear on international television again and again, their tongues gone numb with an endless stream of lies and deceit with which they encourage hatred, disrespect, xenophobia and nationalism to meet their own selfish ends. Both of these monsters give us a new barometer with which to measure infamy and shame, willing to slaughter thousands, if not tens of thousands, as a testament to corporate greed.



Workers of the World Unite! You Have Nothing to Lose but Your Leaders!

Strikes Part IV: Can You Win?

When deciding whether or not to go on strike, workers who want to ensure victory need to carefully analyze their situation so that they can use every possible advantage they are presented with. As Wobblies, we have a vision of a world without bosses, one where workers are organized to manage production to meet all of our needs, not for the profit of a greedy few.

Obviously, if we are to ever realize this vision, we must have a very sophisticated understanding of the industries we work in now. Knowledge of how our workplaces function helps us to understand our masters' vulnerabilities in the here and now, as we fight to raise up the quality of our day-to-day lives.

This column will be more questions than answers, but hopefully you and your fellow workers can use these questions to help you decide when and how to strike.

Some questions to consider about your industry in planning a strike are:

What other pressures is the industry facing? Perhaps there are forces, in addition to labor pressure, that

your industry is having to contend with. Are meeting government safety and health regulations a problem? Are activist groups unhappy with your boss and his pals? Sometimes it is possible to time a strike or other job action so that these pressures are all on at once. When possible, making common cause with community and activist groups will strengthen everyone.

Is a "run-away" shop possible in this industry? "Run-away" shops, ones that up and leave when the boss gets too uppity, can be a problem if it only takes a little money to pack up the place and stick it somewhere else where workers are less accustomed to getting a fair shake. How much of a capital investment is in your workplace? Have other companies in the same industry all gone elsewhere? Is your industry generally unionized?

Is the production or service in your industry a continuous process? Some industrial bosses feel that only through continuous production or offering 24-7 service can they turn a buck. Work stoppages in these industries are especially costly, since the pressure from their clients will be felt almost immediately, and the risk of losing clients is high.

Is your industry capital or labor intensive? If your industry is capital intensive, often one where the investment in technology is vastly greater than the labor cost, your boss might be more eager to settle a dispute quickly than to lose production time. But, it is sometimes the case that companies in these industries can operate during a

strike or other work interruption because of the small amount of workers involved.

The particular workplace that is being struck also needs to be understood: Is it a sole proprietorship, partnership, or public or private corporation? Who are the principle players in the business? What is the company's labor relations history? If there have been past strikes, has the union had to contend with injunctions? Did the boss commit any unfair labor practices in the past? What suppliers or service providers does your company deal with? Will the workers in those companies lend support to your action by not crossing a picket line?

Who does your boss primarily do business with? Will they be sympathetic to your plight? Will their workers? Is it possible to organize a consumer boycott?

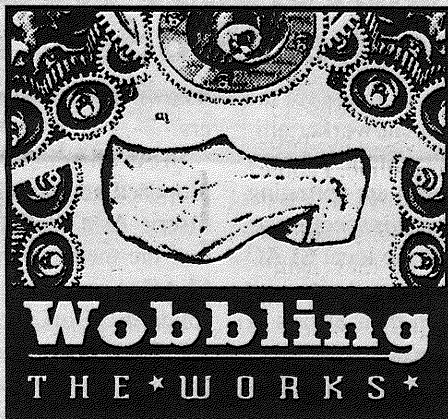
It is important to try to calculate how long both the union and the boss can withstand a strike. On the union side, a realistic idea of how long individuals can go without full pay is important. Try to get commitments from groups to contribute to a strike fund, and see what kind of

other fundraising possibilities exist. It is often possible to cooperate with other groups to provide food, transportation, and other essentials. Take a sober look at how long you and your co-workers can stay out.

On the boss' side, once you have determined how financially vulnerable the company is, you can roughly calculate the cost of a strike and predict the economic pressure that your boss will be under. These costs can include: loss of profit, legal counsel, security guards, cost of holding on to raw materials which would otherwise be turned into a finished product, cost of holding on to inventory which would otherwise be sold, management time devoted to doing strikers' work, customer loss, hiring and training scabs, leases on machinery sitting idle, overtime paid to workers in other plants, and so on.

Along with group cohesiveness and a well-organized solidarity network, a practical understanding of what we are up against when we challenge the bosses head-on is vital to the success of every strike, and to building a new society within the shell of the old.

Alexis Buss
Wobbling the Works is a column designed to inform workers about laws, the limitations and dangers of relying on the legal system to gain better conditions or protect our rights, and how best to use the protections we have. If you would like to see a particular topic addressed, write to: Alexis Buss, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or email phillyiww@iww.org.



It's an overcast and gloomy day. The news reports say it's overcast in Serbia too. I'm glad for that. It will reduce the number of NATO bombing sorties over Serbia today.

A sticky situation, Serbia. Milosevic continues his "ethnic cleansing" against the Kosovar Albanians. Estimates are that there are 500,000 refugees so far. There are rumors of mass executions. People have been burned out of their homes.

It's one of the major tragedies in the world in recent times, one of... There's also Iraq, the plight of the Kurds in Turkey, not so long ago Rwanda, Colombia, Tibet, Indonesia, ad nauseam. NATO, dominated by the U.S., has only gotten involved in one of those. Its humanitarianism is selective. We can't be everywhere, they say. So they don't go where their allies are responsible for the atrocities, only where it makes the most sense in economic terms. Keep Europe stable. It's good for business. If economic interests can be cloaked behind "humanitarianism," so much the better. If there's some "collateral damage" in the process, so it goes.

It seems to me The U.S./NATO adds to European instability by making the Russians nervous. Yeltsin needs us, is the response. He won't do anything. May be right, although the number of miscalculations in regard to Serbia to date are a bit staggering. And then Yeltsin could be replaced by Russian nationalists if he abandons the Serbs. The guys waiting in the wings always seem to be considered more dangerous. It's the reason given for not trying to exterminate Saddam. It was mentioned by a panel of former U.S. military and government officials on t.v. the other night as a reason for not taking out Milosevic. Makes me wonder who's waiting in the wings behind Clinton, Blair, et. al.

from the desk of...

But we had to do something, they tell us. What to do, what to do. NATO claims it's attempts at negotiations were futile. Others claim that there were no serious negotiations but rather that NATO presented an ultimatum and when Milosevic said no they started bombing rather than coming back with an alternative in pursuit of a compromise. I've done a little negotiating. If you want a solution, you present proposals, not ultimatums. You listen to the other side's objections and you try to come up with alternative solutions until you reach an agreement. From what I've heard and read, Milosevic agreed to most of the ultimatum laid down by NATO. He balked at having NATO troops occupy Kosovo. I wonder if an alternative Clinton now seems to be hinting at, an international force rather than a NATO force, might have been acceptable. Sure would have been nice if that could have been proposed in negotiations rather than just hinted at after weeks of bombing and consequently accelerated ethnic cleansing.

Instead, NATO bombed. The U.S. is kinda quick to resort to bombs. It has bombed 4 nations in the past few months: Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, and now Serbia. Say hello to the new diplomacy.

Why did we have to do something? - for humanitarian reasons. It was interesting to read the other day that when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia in WW II, he said he was doing it for humanitarian reasons. Never trust a politician bearing humanitarian reasons. How does U.S. government humanitarianism enter into the Iraq situation where sanctions are responsible for the deaths of 5,000 children per month, 1.5 million victims overall since the Gulf War? Are bombs tools of humanitarianism in Iraq, Serbia, or anywhere else? They haven't accomplished the claimed objective of stopping ethnic cleansing in Serbia. The bombing led to its acceleration, far beyond anything NATO was ready for, creating a humanitarian disaster for the refugees. Interesting to watch the Macedonians preventing thousands of Kosovar Albanians from entering. They didn't want a change in the balance of the population which might make Macedonia as unstable as Serbia. Interesting to see the U.S. offering asylum for refugees, not in the U.S. but in Guantanamo so they wouldn't be on U.S. ground and thus eligible to apply for permanent asylum. Humanitarianism is nice as long as it isn't in your own back yard I guess. No telling if the refugee fiasco could have been prevented with some serious negotiations. Too bad NATO wasn't willing to try.

NATO seems to have picked the wrong something to do, in the process violating both the NATO and U.N. Charters to which all NATO nations are parties. Seems kinda hypocritical to hold Milosevic to international law when the NATO allies, particularly the U.S., ignore their own international agreements with casual abandon.

Analysts are saying that NATO expected Milosevic to buckle under threats of bombing. He didn't. Then they say that NATO expected he would capitulate after a few days of bombing. He didn't. They say NATO expected the bombing to turn the Serbs against Milosevic. It hasn't. There is opposition to Milosevic within Serbia from people who want a democratic government. But that opposition has been a major casualty as the bombed Serbs rally 'round the flag.

Now there's talk of using ground troops. A little "escalation" anyone? It's a term from the Vietnam era. I keep thinking of the lyric which got Pete Seeger censored on the "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" in the '60s: "We're waist deep in the Big Muddy, and the big fool says to push on." Something like 70% of people polled in the U.S. support the deployment of ground troops. Everybody loves a parade. When asked how they feel if that means 10, 50, 100, 1000 U.S. soldiers dead, their enthusiasm drops at each level down to 29% support if 1000 were to die. Cleaning up after a parade is no fun. The analysts project it will take 200,000 NATO troops to deal with 40,000 Serbian troops in mountainous terrain, and that U.S. casualties will be around 1,000. I haven't heard what numbers they expect for other NATO nations or for the Serbs, including the Kosovars. I have to wonder if their projections may be conservative. But "I didn't inhale" and "I didn't have sex with that woman." Clinton has promised "no ground troops". Guess I'm just being a nervous Nellie.

What would my solution be? For the short range, serious negotiations, as serious as negotiations among a pack of liars can be. Long range my little dream comes into play. The people of the NATO nations and of Serbia stop swallowing the nationalistic propaganda which encourages them to be enemies. They realize that the real enemy is the bosses and politicians of the involved nations. They stop engaging in the wars which make the rich richer and the poor dead. They realize that ethnic differences are just one more tool used by the bosses to keep us from uniting, that the only war which makes sense for working people is class war. It's a nice dream. If enough working people start dreaming it, some day it could become a reality.

Meanwhile I'll be writing, arguing, demonstrating to oppose the bombing and the use of ground troops.

See you on the anti-NATO, anti-Milosevic picket line.

fred chase

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Michael Wiseheart	New Albany, IN	\$15
David Koven	Vallejo, CA	\$10
McArthur Gunter	Camp Springs, MD	\$19.17

IWW Fighting Fund

Ken S.T. Thomas	Gresham, OR	\$3.00
Peter Kalberer	Albuquerque, NM	\$42.60
Clement Joseph	New York, NY	\$8.00
James Clinton	Long Island, NY	\$19.00

Poland Regional Organizing Committee Solidarity Fund

Larry Szwarczinski	Detroit, MI	\$10.00
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Labor & Mumia

continued from page 1

rights of labor with coordinated actions. So, strike a blow for our class, don't work for them, march for Mumia. They can count us in the streets and realize that the political price will be too high to execute this innocent man.

Mumia—A Brief History

Mumia Abu-Jamal, an award winning journalist, has been on death row since 1982. Sentenced to death in connection with the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner, Mumia has continued (despite his incarceration and the threat on his life) to speak out against the injustice inherent in capital and the government. Mumia's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, will file his case before the U.S. Supreme Court on April 22, 1999.

It is unlikely, however, that the current Court or the Clinton administration will grant a new trial. When all legal appeals have been exhausted, Mumia could be executed within a year - unless we build a powerful movement to demand his release.

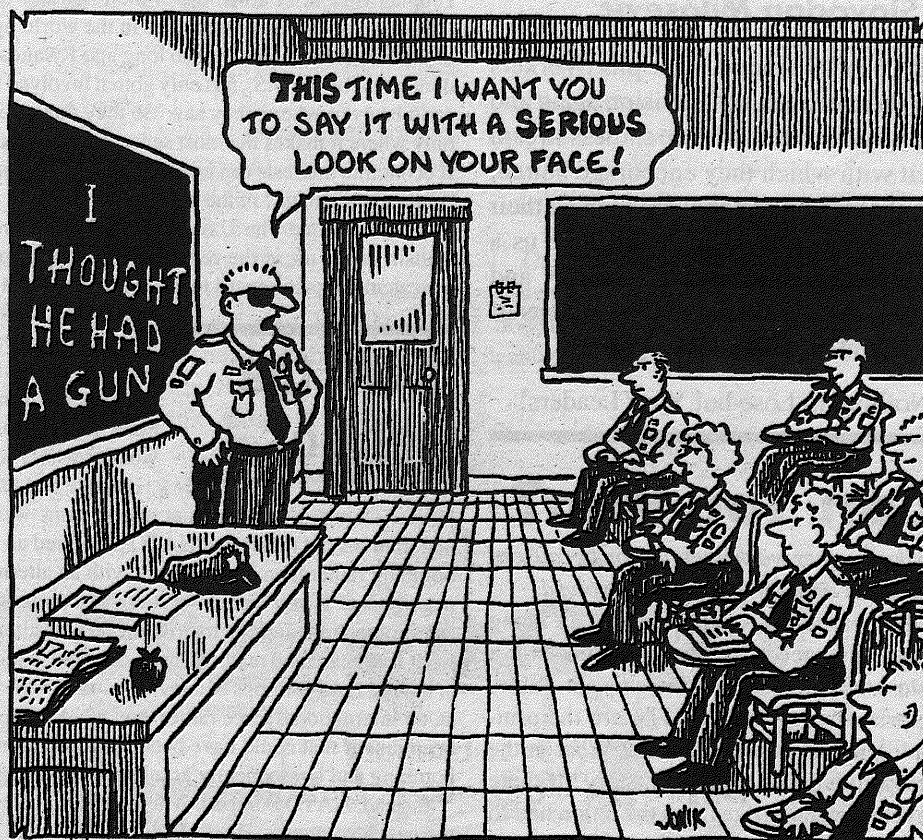
Given the facts surrounding the original trial, it would seem obvious that Mumia was framed. Mumia was denied his constitutional right to defend himself, with the court going so far as to remove him from the courtroom. The court-appointed attorney admitted to the judge that he was unpre-

pared to represent Mumia. Judge Sabo was known as a "hanging judge", and had sentenced twice as many people to death as any other sitting judge (before being forced to

whether the bullet found in the dead policeman (.44 caliber, according to the medical examiner) could have been fired from Mumia's gun (.38 caliber). The three key

recanted her original false testimony, she was arrested on the witness stand. There were five witnesses who saw the real killer flee the scene as Mumia lay shot on the ground but, due to prosecutorial and police misconduct, all but one failed to testify. Even the "confession" that Mumia supposedly made was only reported two months after the fact. An emergency room doctor who was present and treated Mumia says that Mumia remained silent at the time of his arrest. Finally, the possible killer, who had borrowed the driver's license found in the pocket of deceased policeman Faulkner, was found dead in 1985 on the same day as the bombing of the MOVE commune house (which killed eleven MOVE members, including five children). All of these facts would certainly lead a reasonable person to expect a retrial or a release of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

But "facts", even phony ones, were not what placed Mumia on death row. Philadelphia Mayor and former Police Commissioner, Frank Rizzo, at a 1978 news conference following the death of a policeman, vowed to hold the "new breed of journalist" like Jamal responsible. The FBI's COINTELPRO "anti-terrorist" program of the '70's targeted the Black Panthers and other black militants for frame-ups and assassinations. Police recognized Mumia, wounded at the crime scene, where they beat him. The following sham trial and subsequent rejected appeals have more to do with prejudice and furthering the interests of the State than the dispassionate carrying out of "justice". Marie Mason



comic contributed by John Jonik

retire). No ballistics expert or pathologist was hired to investigate the "evidence" presented by the prosecution, based on the excuse that the State had insufficient funds. It was therefore impossible to determine

witnesses for the prosecution - Veronica Jones, Cynthia White, and Robert Chobert - had all cut deals with the State to obtain special exemptions from criminal charges that they were facing. Later, when Jones

Steelworkers Slap the State With Lawsuit

Backing up a policy and partnership of the Steelworkers coalition with Wobblies and others on the West Coast, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) held a news conference April 7 in its San Francisco office to announce a lawsuit against the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection challenging the Sustained Yield Plan the Department approved as part of the recently completed Headwaters Forest deal. The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, calls for the Department to rescind its March 1, 1999, approval of the Sustained Yield Plan. The lawsuit will not undo the March 1 sale of the Headwaters and other old-growth groves to the federal government and the State of California.

"In our lawsuit, the Steelworkers contend that the Sustained Yield Plan authorizes unsustainably high harvests of old growth timber and fails to consider long-range economic impacts of these unsustainably high harvests," stated John Youngdahl (USWA Staff) at the press conference. "Furthermore, the Steelworkers believe that the Plan's blatant disregard for future jobs and sustainable economic growth violates the California Forest Practice Act's requirement of creating sustained production of high-quality

timber while also looking out for regional economic vitality and future employment."

One of the speakers at the press conference was Don Kegley, a petitioner in the lawsuit and a Steelworker who testified in the Fall of 1998 at a public hearing in Eureka, California on the Sustained Yield Plan. "The ability to harvest timber for the long-term is directly connected to the ability to sustain jobs for the long-term," stated Mr. Kegley. "It is only logical that we stand up for the environment, as the environment is the source of many of our jobs."

In addressing the critical link between labor and the environment, Mr. Kegley said, "Forests are the source of our building materials, our paper, our furniture, our firewood—they are also the source of our water, our fish, our climatic stability and our clean air. Without the forest, our culture will crumble and worse, our planet will die. And there are no jobs on a dead planet."

Attorneys for the petitioners are Fred Altshuler, Christopher Pederson and Kathleen Morris from the San Francisco law firm of Altshuler, Berzon, Nussbaum, Berzon & Rubin.

FW Steve x344543

Stanford University: Wobbly Praises Worker/Student Alliance

A spectre is haunting the campuses of the USA, the spectre of a student/worker alliance. All over the country Student Labor Action Committees (SLAC) are springing up. At Stanford University, this spectre was fleshed out recently when the local SLAC called a demonstration in support of dining hall workers on campus in their efforts to have some input into proposed scheduling changes being implemented by management.

Dining room workers at Stanford are represented by the Service Employees Industrial Union (SEIU). These workers have been recognized as a bargaining unit and have negotiated a contract with the employer, Stanford University, a contract which includes a clause on the necessity of consulting dining room workers on any schedule changes which management might want to implement.

In December of 1998, management decided that implementing schedule changes could solve two of their basic goals: 1) they could save money on staffing costs, and 2) they could then apply that money to improve the quality of food being served in the dorms.

Consultation with the dining room staff was supposed to occur; but in January the scheduling changes were presented to the staff as a done deal. The workers balked at the proposed changes. Many of them would have to upset long standing child care arrangements, arrangements which are hard to make, as any working parent knows, and arrangements which are costly, both in terms of money and free-time which it takes to make them. Workers made their complaints known to the local SEIU. Word got out to students, and the SLAC swung into action.

SLAC consulted with the workers and their union reps about what role students could play in solidarity with the dining room workers. It was decided to try to rally as many students as possible in a public demonstration in support to pressure management into complying with the terms of

its own negotiated contract with the workers.

SLAC distributed information about the proposed actions via their electronic mail listserv. As a Wobbly worker on campus, I saw the messages and got in contact with SLAC to see how I could help out with the solidarity effort.

In February, leaflets and petitions in support of the dining room workers were circulated by SLAC members and their Wobbly supporter at the various chow houses on campus. Using my lunch hour, I stood in a slight, misty rain and passed out leaflets announcing a rally to be held in White Plaza, a central location on the University campus, the following day.

At the rally, I stood in front of White Plaza with about 50 students and an SEIU steward. The SEIU steward and SLAC participants addressed the gathering crowd, telling them why the rally was taking place; the concerns of the dining room workers and of the proposed public demonstration which was to follow.

After about 15 minutes of speeches the worker/student alliance started its march across campus. Marching through dining halls as both diners and workers joined in the chants and high-fived the marchers. The electricity of solidarity was in the air.

Later that day SLAC members met with management and presented their concerns. The action had been a success. SLAC had achieved its goal of putting public pressure on Stanford University, and the workers had won public recognition for their concerns about scheduling changes.

FW Mike Ballard

School of the Americas: The Ultimate Union Buster!

The U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), located at Ft. Benning, Georgia, is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers. In its 50 year history, the SOA has trained 60,000 Latin American troops in commando tactics, military intelligence, psychological operations and sniper fire. These soldiers are taught to make war against their own people.

SOA graduates target grassroots leaders for assassination, torture, rape and intimidation—especially religious workers, student organizers and local union leaders. The School's unstated mission is to silence leaders who organize for the rights of working people and the poor.

American tax dollars train Latin American union busters at the SOA. We know that an attack on workers anywhere is an attack on the rights of workers everywhere. We must speak out and join in solidarity with those trying to close this anti-union, anti-human, institution.

For more information on what you can do locally, please contact:

SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017 • 202.234.3440 • www.soaw.org



Detroit Newspaper Lock-Out & Union Scabbing—Episode I

SOLIDARITY FOREVER FOR THE STRIKING DETROIT NEWSPAPER WORKERS — OR IS IT FUCKED UP - LOCKED OUT

FOUR YEARS -STILL- AS PLAQUE ON MOLARS

SISTERS and Brothers fighting for their livelihood were tossed into the ring with the Heavyweight tag team Champions of: NO WAY USA TODAY GANNETT and KNIGHT RIDDER NOT THE FREE PRESS.

This true story is being honest with what was and is going down!!! by a fired participant who is a FW and has been on the line from the first hour and in all confrontations and assignments forever to the day.

HERE IN DETROIT, WHERE UNIONS ARE BEING HELD BY THE THROAT WITH THEIR OWN HANDS, (AND SO THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES), "SOLIDARITY FOREVER" WAS NEVER CONSIDERED AS A VIABLE/LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE ENDEAVOR BECAUSE UNIONS WERE NOT UNIONS AND SO BACK TO THE BASICS. What better example is there but the Detroit newspaper STRIKE.

Eleven, yes eleven, separate unions for 2,400 workers and all vying for their own autonomy. All having different dates on their contracts and different terms by which workers are treated or shall I say, "dealt with." Everything from hours to breaks to vacations to perks. What we have here is an accident ready to happen! The leaders never thought to pull together, not

FLOC Contra Mt. Olive

continued from page 1

in the midwest which contract with such companies as Heinz and Campbell Soup. They have collected the signatures of some 2,100 farmworkers from the area around Mt. Olive's 68-acre headquarters authorizing FLOC to bargain on their behalf.

Mt. Olive, located in North Carolina, is one of the larger packers and pickle processors in the U.S. Major food processors like Mt. Olive dictate the terms of annual contracts with farmers long before the crop is planted. They tell farmers how much they will be paid on delivery. Based on that price, workers are hired to harvest the crop. If workers are to be paid more, the processors like Mt. Olive must pay more for the produce.

Conditions for workers picking cucumbers for Mt. Olive are incredibly harsh. Many farmworkers are putting in 12-hour days, six or seven days a week during the

even on having dates considered—never thought it wise to be schooled at Labor Study College or make sure their members get information of any labor sort be it historical, law, activism, political or even show interest into joining/building coalitions.

I'm trying to be as concise as possible after FOUR YEARS - OK! The strike started with no benefits for Teamsters! None! Because Michigan was home of Hoffa and he was against strike benefits being increased by Carey because dues would need to be upped by dimes (20)! After five unions said they signed NO STRIKE clause contracts, since they were but a handful—98 total workers—but the mechanical end. They always continued to SCAB—(SIGNING AGAIN in '98 even before the unconditional offer)—the SIX remaining unions picked a date, July 13th-Friday, which was only significant because it is before the newspaper big weekend edition.

But—three little things—the unions and companies both issued constant propaganda that bargaining was close, so workers were duped, even saying the REPLACEMENT

WORKERS BEING HOUSED BY THE BOSSES was a rouse, and saying THERE WAS NO NEED TO OBTAIN COALITIONS from Community Leaders as was done in the past (for example—Mayor Coleman YOUNG ordered his administration to hire journalists, etc. matching picket duty). Next, it was in the middle of summer where the paper has a normal lull and workers are on vacation so no big leverage against

the boss (i.e. picket-line) was necessary; but to the Leadership it meant being nice to the members (now we question what this word "nice" means to THEM). And finally, all sisters and brothers were NOT told to empty the commuters of stories set by journalists for the whole weekend and for

all other means of production—paper rolls in place by pressman—stories laid out by printers—TRUCK SCHEDULES printed—customer delivery printed and prepared (let alone being deleted). So there you have the SIX UNION LEADERS enjoying their full paycheck, and still do, and saying they will stand together and talk together—NOT! They okayed certain workers to go to other places of employment but of course it was union and of course they could leave the



picket-line!!

Today we have 98 fired sisters and brothers in an NLRB court case and two of the SIX unions signing a 10-year contract giving fired sisters and brothers the option to take a buy out if eligible but ONLY if they sign waiving their rights in any court case. But it was voted on democratically—majority wins--NOT!

The pressman and journalists that remain out are either fired or refused to walk back to 6-8% increases in pay without having to sign anew. And as known there are but 15—all journalists—who would not return and refused on a SOLIDARITY basis (one dear heart who refused because they offered her her secretary's job after winning two national awards!) The poor Teamsters (Two separate teamster unions #372 & #2040) are now stuck between two unions who spat on solidarity and on union sisters/brothers, and two unions who are called back by the International's agreement of an UNCONDITIONAL OFFER and enjoying raises while others suffer.

The Unconditional Offer was imposed because the LOCAL LEADERSHIP would not suffer consequences of disregarding Injunctions and putting their butts in jail for UNION RESPECT. And that my Fellow Workers is true, up to date. 3yrs & 9mo account.

FW 345915
BOYCOTT USA TODAY!—DETROIT NEWS!—DETROIT FREE PRESS!
Also Obtain CHAIN GANG—One Newspaper Versus Gannett Empire
by Richard McCord
(more from this FW in upcoming issues)

growing season. No minimum wage standards are enforced. Pay is low and the housing provided is squalid and unsafe. Inadequate water and toilet facilities are standard issue. Exposure to toxic pesticides in concentrations far above what is deemed safe is common. This is devastating to adults, but especially dangerous for children, whose immune systems are not yet mature and cannot protect their bodies from the effects of the chemicals.

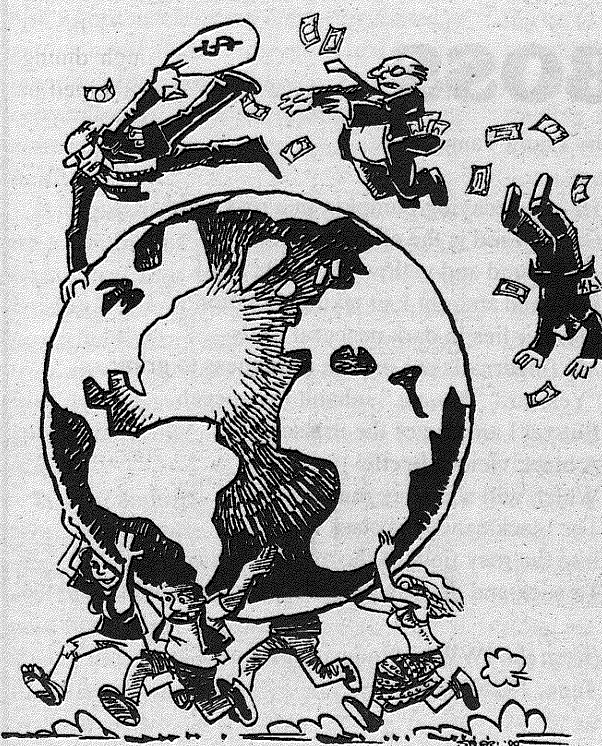
In light of these conditions, FLOC has, in the words of FLOC president Baldemar Velasquez, "declared war on the spirit of bondage that pervades North Carolina" and has organized a national boycott of all of Mt. Olive products until the company bargains a contract to rectify the conditions that farmworkers currently must work under.

Lumpkin Prole



comic contributed by K. Matt

- May 1, 1886:** General Strike for 8-hour day in Chicago & other cities.
- May 1, 1891:** Army fires on peaceful march, 9 killed 35 wounded. Fourmies, France.
- May 1, 1986:** 1.5 million join South African general strike.
- May 1, 1999: ???**
As U. Utah Phillips has said, "May 1st is the real Labor Day...if you've got any sense."



International Protest of G8 Summit Meeting

The Group of Eight consists of the world's 8 largest industrial economies, the US, France, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Canada, and the most recent addition, Russia. The G8 meets annually to promote economic globalization and internal economic policy. The G8 functions under the guise that its aims are beneficial to all peoples of the world. For those that recognize this as the facade it is, June 18 will be a day of international protest to condemn what is actually an annual assault on the environment, poor people and Third World countries. Throughout the world, people will be staging protests by building blockades, striking, shutting down and occupying financial districts, and holding street parties, all with the message that the international community will not tolerate this anymore. This is a call for cooperation and the coordination of people with different philosophies and organizations to create a new community; one that benefits all, and not just the few who are in control of the world's resources. Hundreds of cities are planning acts of protest to take place on the first day of the summit which is to be held in Cologne, Germany. This day of action follows on the success of demonstrations last year in which protests occurred in more than 20 different countries including activists, unemployed persons and peasants. For more information; check out the web page at www.gn.apc.org/june18.

8,000 Canadian Nurses Defy Court Order

WHAT INTEGRITY. WHAT CHUTZPAH! In the true Wobbly spirit SASKATCHAWAN Nurses remained on the picket line shouting "HELL NO WE WON'T GO !!!" And they where joined on that picket line in SOLIDARITY by student nurses.!! YES!

Rosalee Longmore, the president of the Nurses Union, who was issued the court workorder remarked "It's unfortunate it has come to this.....and if fines are made the union will remain on the picket line until an agreement is signed." Patient overload and constant changes in work rules and a fair day's wage were the issues the government bosses refused to properly address. If the workers take a notion-but a sharing of life's glories: Bread and Roses! SOLIDARITY!

ILO Threatens Maternity Protection Convention

Maternity Protection for women in paid employment is a fundamental right. Without maternity protection both women, and their children, suffer.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is an agency of the United Nations. The ILO establishes conventions which set international standards on labor issues. In 1952 it adopted the Maternity Protection Convention (MPC). The current convention gives women the right to:

- Maternity leave without losing their job;
- Cash benefits whilst on maternity leave;
- Medical benefits associated with pre-natal care, childbirth and post-natal care;

- Paid nursing breaks when women return to work.

The MPC has set a standard for working women around the world. Whilst not every country has ratified the convention, it has significant status as the international consensus on maternity protection.

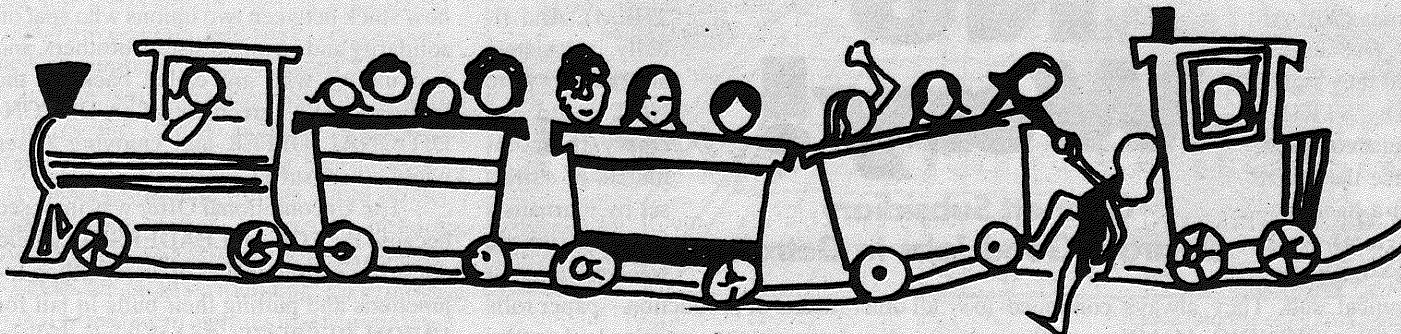
The ILO is in the process of reviewing the Maternity Protection Convention. The ILO released recommendations for changes to the MPC in early February 1999. These recommendations weaken, instead of strengthen, the convention. They are:

- Removal of the right to nursing breaks;
- Weakening of the compulsory six weeks

leave after the birth of a child;

- Watering down the obligation to pay women on maternity leave a minimum two thirds of their salary;
- Watering down of the obligation to provide adequate health care.

The only significant improvement to the convention would be an extension to protection from dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy.



Australia: Keystroke Cops Strike Again

Unions are campaigning against the introduction of the spread of real time monitoring of workers' keystroke rates in the financial sector.

The Finance Sector Union says the method of surveillance is spreading across the industry, placing undue stress on workers and undermining teamwork. The union has already challenged the practice in the National Australian Bank, where a new computer system monitoring keystrokes without consultation with staff was introduced last year. The system of monitoring, an extension of the Taylorist principles of time-and-motion management, sets arbitrary performance levels and then gives management a detailed analysis of each workers' output.

Workers in NAB raised concerns about the impact of the levels on team spirit, self esteem, quality of work and their health. Workers have also stated that the style of monitoring is "dehumanizing and makes no reference to the quality of work done."

While the workers in NAB have managed to negotiate realistic output levels with the help of the FSU, the spread of the IPOD computer system means it won't be the last workplace to face the keystroke cops.

Australia: Miners Reject Anti-Union "Deal"

On March 25, by a 2 to 1 vote, Australian miners turned down an anti-union package offered by Rio Tinto, the world's largest mining corporation.

The miners' international, the ICEM, immediately urged Rio Tinto to open talks on a worldwide agreement to protect union rights and other human rights in the company's operations everywhere.

Rio Tinto has been trying to deunionize the workforce at its Hunter Valley No. 1 coal mine in Australia, but workers voted 2 to 1 against the proposed non-union agreement. The votes were cast in a secret ballot conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

The bitter long-running dispute will now go to arbitration, where the workers will be represented by the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

At the global level, the CFMEU is affiliated to the 20-million-strong International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), which has rallied worldwide support for workers who are challenging Rio Tinto's anti-union stance in various countries.

The Australian federal government, on the other hand, has consistently sided with

the company (surprise surprise). Throughout the long drawn out Hunter Valley dispute, the administration of Prime Minister John Howard has given its full support to Rio Tinto in opposing the CFMEU's attempts to have the matter arbitrated.

CFMEU Mining and Energy Division General President Tony Maher described the result of the ballot as "a victory for the principal of collective bargaining through the union" and an enormous setback for Rio Tinto's deunionization campaign.

"The Hunter Valley No. 1 mineworkers have been subjected to a war of attrition by Rio Tinto in an attempt to beat them out of the union after the initial attempt to bribe them out had failed," Maher declared. "Rio Tinto have used every anti-union law the Howard government armed them with to break the union. The workers have endured mass sackings and victimization of union activists. Almost every local union representative was sacked at Hunter Valley by Rio Tinto in December last year.

"Today's (March 26, 1999) AEC announcement that the workers have stuck with the union is testament to their courage and to their lack of trust in Rio Tinto," Maher said.

Iran: Strikes, Marches, Building Takeovers

The Islamic Republic has enforced an unprecedented destitution on workers in Iran. Workers have been pushed to the depths of poverty; and the physical being and emotional existence of workers' families is on the brink of destruction.

Non-payment of workers' wages has become a general phenomenon. Even Mahjoob, Secretary of the Islamic Republic's Workers' House, admits that nearly 400 factories with 400,000 workers have not been able to pay the workers' wages, and the wages of another 400,000 has been halved. The textile industry is almost at a standstill. The building industry is in the same state. Thousands of workers have been made redundant, and tens of thousands of workers at cement factories and related industries are under the same threat. Many local government employees face late payments, and the government itself has announced teachers and some of the pensioners have not been paid. Workers' protests are taking place everyday. These struggles encompass strikes within a factory as well as marches and occupation of governmental buildings plus pickets in the streets.

The determining of the minimum wage by the Islamic Republic is in fact a means of reducing wages in real terms. The regime increased the minimum wage by only 18% in 1998, when the rate of inflation was 60%. At a time when the poverty line, based on the 1997 statistics and according to the definition of the Central Bank of Iran, is at 113,000 Tomans per month, the Islamic Republic set the minimum wage at 30,000 Tomans. According to the Department of Social Security, almost 60% of workers covered by the Labor Code live under the poverty line. This year's rate of inflation, according to the Central Bank, is announced to be 52%, but the real rate of inflation is well above 200%. However, this is not the whole picture. Of the whole population of 10 million workers in Iran, only 2.4 million are covered by the Labor Code, and the rest are not even covered by the so-called minimum wage.

In Iran there is no right to strike or organize. Workers' protests face oppression all the time. Arrest and execution of workers and activists, military invasion of work places to break strike actions, threatening and sacking of workers are well-recognized methods of the Iranian regime. The truth is that the civil republic of Mr. Khatami means nothing to workers and large masses of people but destitution and rightlessness that has been made "civil."

WAITRESS

by Laura Tanne

It's funny—
I can't seem to remember anything
Except 50-cent checks and customers
Who give a smile
On the silver plattie of their belly-full good nature.
I can't seem to remember anything
Except omelettes and torrents of sweat and dish washers—
They keep sprawling all over the place
Greasing my thoughts,
Clogging them with ugliness.
God! I'm tired.
My feet have a spinster's grudge
Against the laughing gold of my young hair.
God! I wish I could remember
Where I once saw a nest of honey-sweet eggs
In a tree where a strong wind blew.



comic contributed by SW K. Matt

BOSS

by Laura Tanne

He is a decaying pumpkin in a rosy field.
Of redwood is the elegant office
And round and yellow his senile head.
Prim and straight I sit taking dictation.
My hair lies in dark peaceful folds,
My fingernails cut in pink foreignness to grime.
"Yes, sir." "No, sir." inhabit my speech.
But yet I am one of the masses
A black vicious beetle
Which will someday inject
The black cancer of class war
Into the rosy field of the office
To suck and destroy the essence of decrepit pumpkins.

(from the IWW's "Industrial Pioneer"
June, 1925)

Romania: Thousands Denounce Government "Programs"

Bucharest—Thousands of workers denouncing government austerity measures marched through Romanian cities and threatened to stage a general strike in April unless their demands were met.

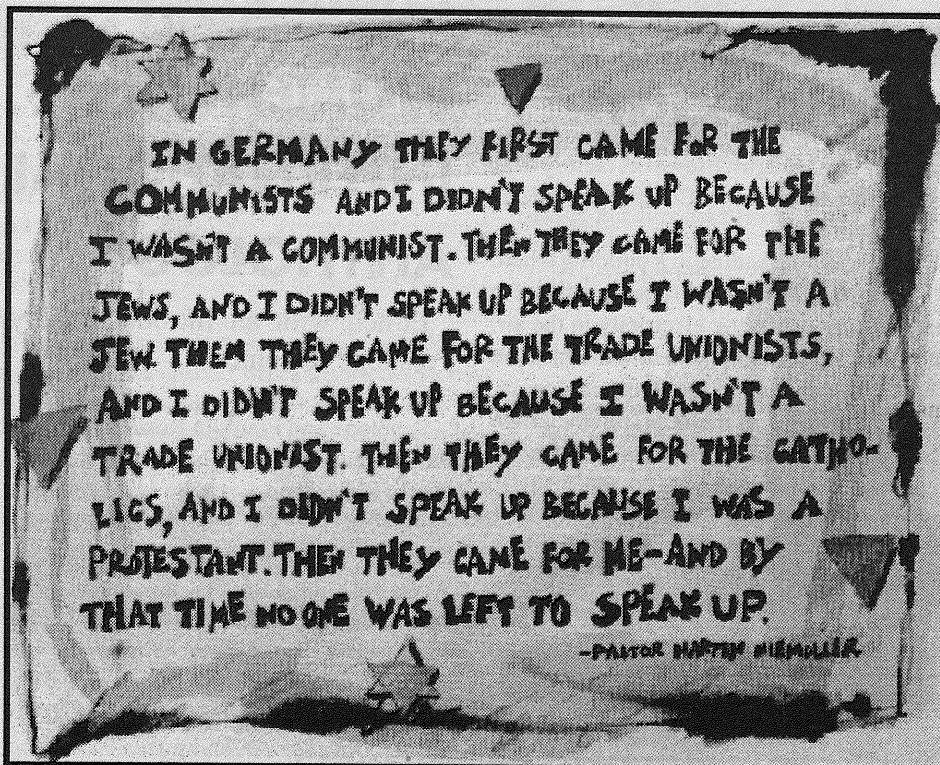
"We are tired of hearing promises for 10 years," Pavel Todoran of the CNSLR trade union grouping told 10,000 protesters who poured into a square outside government headquarters along with a cavalcade of cars and horsedrawn carts. "All we have seen is mass polarization, with 90 percent of the people in the country going hungry."

The protesters, representing Romania's four largest trade union groupings, have presented a long list of demands to government officials during talks this weeks. These include indexation of wages, new labor legislation, an end to redundancies, lower utility prices for consumers and a grace period for companies unable to pay their debts.

The numbers of demonstrators fell short of the hundreds of thousands of people predicted by trade union activists, but the demonstrations were easily the largest peaceful protest against the central government since it came to power in 1996 promising reform and prosperity. Coal miners who staged two violent marches on Bucharest earlier in 1999 declined to take part as they have concluded a separate agreement with authorities.

The prospect of more protests can only put additional pressure on the government as it struggles to put together a reform program acceptable to Western financial institutions. The government and World Bank announced an agreement to introduce faster restructuring and change to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in credits. Agreement with the Bank, subject to approval by its board, is vital to secure International Monetary Fund credits, an agreement with workers is both not vital to secure these credits, as well as contrary to the Bank's programs.

Crowds several thousand strong also staged protests in Sibiu in the central Transylvanian region; in Baia Mare, a mining region near Ukraine; in Arad, on the Hungarian border; the southern city of Craiova; and the Constanta Black Sea port.



Israel: General Strike!

GENERAL STRIKE ONLY ROAD TO DIGNITY

What better start date for a GENERAL STRIKE than the greatest religious holiday in Israel—PASSOVER—MOSES ORGANIZES / LEADS PEOPLE ON GENERAL STRIKE—TAKES POSSESSION OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, ABOLISHES WAGE SYSTEM, AND LIVES IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH AND WITH THE PALESTINIANS!!!!

Public sector workers - all 400 THOUSAND members of the Israeli Trades Union Federation—HISTADRUT—began their ACTION and were immediately joined by civilian employees of defense industries and University (Tel-Aviv) Administrative workers. Work to rule was practiced by schoolteachers and bank workers. Nurses also walked out leaving only emergencies at hospitals as clinics were shut. SOLIDARITY FOREVER!!!

University management wants to implement—"FITNESS TEST"—read in what you may. It's all true and as this IWW sees it: it is a warning that the Palestinians Home Demolitions by the Israeli Gov. will shift to the University so the workers will have to be in good shape to RUN out of the buildings!! Oh what wonder do governments possess to control poor and middle-class.

The Histadrut collective bargaining agreement had expired last September and the Treasury refused pay increases knowing inflation was at 8.6% in 1998 (who else

could know but the T-men) and yet still made very intelligent comments such as, "real wages have kept up" or, "The country can't be run by the Histadrut," or, "the strike is political" or, "the workers are putting a gun to the public," or, "we need to keep to the budget," blah blah blah (unk Hebrew).

VICTORY. The General STRIKE took its toll after the "turd" day and the Labour Court refused to issue injunctions to return to work and the finance minister agreed to retro wage increases for part of '97, all of '98 and into '99, and to talk again at the end of October. Also a joint committee will be set up for integration of civil service workers currently employed through employment agencies!! YES!!

Note that a new workers' party is contesting for parliamentary (Knesset) seats in the MAY 17 GENERAL ELECTION, and that Histadrut chief Amir Peretz is trying for one. YES, RICH governments need as many different voices as there are minorities to fully diversify and give into moral actions for the GENERAL PEOPLE. A Palestinian, Azmi Bishara running for Prime Minister, also adds to beauty of diversity that is paramount to government for the people and by the people. Will he at least obtain a cabinet seat? Palestinians can show the world a united ISRAEL and without AraFAT! And believe it or not, this leads to SOLIDARITY!!!

Lucy P.

Guatemala: Unionist Assassinated

According to the Confederación de Unidad Sindical de Guatemala (CUSG), fellow worker Angel Pineda was brutally murdered on 8 March at approximately 17:30 in the village of San Jorge, in the municipality of Zacapa. He strongly opposed the violation of labor rights and had spoken out against the corruption of the former Mayor of Zacapa, who has had to resign. Regrettably, the order to arrest the former Mayor, Mr. Carlos Roberto Vargas y Vargas, has been blocked by the Public Ministry and the Court of First Instance of Zacapa. Following is a letter written by Bill Jordan, General Secretary of ICFTU, sent to the Government of Guatemala.

"The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) which represents 124 million workers organized in 213 national trade unions in 143 countries and territories, including Guatemala, is deeply concerned over the assassination of brother Angel Pineda who was brutally murdered on Monday, March 8 at approximately 17:30 in the village of San Jorge, in the municipality of Zacapa.

According to our Guatemalan affiliate the CUSG, brother Angel Pineda was a strong opponent of labor rights violations and had spoken out against the corruption involving the construction of a building to house a market for the sale of staple goods, during the administration of Mayor Carlos Roberto Vargas y Vargas, who has since had to resign. This crime is yet another in a list of assassinations. Brothers Hugo Rolando Duarte Cordón, José Alfredo Chacón Ramírez and Robinson Manolo Morales Canales have all been murdered, yet the Government has not shown the slightest interest in investigating these cases.

The ICFTU is deeply concerned at the unacceptable and irresponsible attitude of your Government towards the lives of its own citizens. We share the concerns of the CUSG regarding the anti-union campaign being waged in your country, with the consent of the Government. We urge you to order a thorough investigation to bring to justice those responsible for these appalling crimes, which are an offense to the people of Guatemala. The ICFTU also urges your

Government to take a clear and a responsible stand, we wish to inform you that this case will be presented to the ILO Committee on the Freedom of Association, as a supplement to the complaint brought against Guatemala for violation of Convention 87 on the Freedom of Association and protection of the Right to Organize, ratified by your government."

Bill Jordan—General Secretary.

International "SuperUnion" Wins Support

An international super-union representing more than 15 million information workers worldwide won support from delegates at the FIET Congress in Sydney, Australia.

FIET (The International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees) is one of four bodies who would emerge to form the Union Network International (UNI) in 2000.

The UNI would be the world's largest collective organization, bringing together all workers in the emerging Information Economy. It would be positioned to be a key voice in the ongoing debate about globalization.

The other three proposed partners in the merger are the Communications International, the International Graphical Federation and the Media and Entertainment International. All bodies must ratify the UNI proposal by the end of October, a formal joining would then be planned for next January. FIET General Secretary Phillip Jennings said the UNI would play a role in coordinating the activities of unions representing information workers around the globe.

While the Australian process of trade union amalgamations have met with mixed success as workplaces have fragmented, the argument for large international bodies is more compelling. With global capital increasingly mobile and diverse, workers' representation can not be constrained by national borders or industry classifications.

Egypt: Workers Arrested For Protesting "No- Strike" Law

Egyptian authorities have arrested three members of the opposition Tagammu Party and charged them with threatening national security by calling for defiance of a proposed labor law. The proposed law bans the right to strike, gives employers greater powers to dismiss employees and reduces workers' vacation time and maternal leave for working mothers.

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) said Mohammed Hassan Ouf, Yehia Fekry Amin and Wael Mohammed Tawfik were arrested after the party held a seminar on a draft labor law designed to unify legislation between the private and public sectors.

It said the three were blindfolded through-out a two-hour interrogation session.

State prosecutors accused them of harming national interests.



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Fireworks Explosion Kills Five Workers in Michigan

Five people were killed in an explosion and fire that tore through a fireworks factory near Osseo, Michigan on March 29. Independence Professional Fireworks Company is the site of a blast on December 11, 1998 which killed seven workers.

The explosion which occurred at 8:30am left only one wall standing in a building where fireworks were assembled. In early April the Associated Press was reporting that the explosions could have been caused by something as simple as static electricity in the air. Sergeant Ken Hersh of the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division told the Jackson Citizen-Patriot that the opening of a door may have been enough to ignite the explosion.

Independence is one of the largest producers of fireworks in the U.S., producing an estimated 1.3 million fireworks shells a year. Independence makes all of its products by hand, using materials like nitrates, sulfur, charcoal and black powder.

Fireworks producers often use low-paid workers who accept the risk because they lack other opportunities. In Mexico City last October at least ten workers were killed in a fireworks factory explosion. This January seventeen workers were killed in a fireworks factory in China.

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RSI Workplace Epidemic

continued from page 3

work." Now, if that's not testimony enough to justify workplace organizing around this problem, just shake hands with your boss and look wise, mate.

This reporter can tell you that my experience with the nasty phenomenon of RSI was as the book said. In perfect health, at age 42, I woke up one morning with a throbbing right arm and numbness in the fingers and parts of my right hand. Thinking at first that a muscle pull had simply put too much pressure on my shoulder, I took some pain relievers and went to work. By the next morning, my arm had become so painful that the slightest movement in my upper body sent shooting pains so severe through my arm and hand that I was getting dizzy. A chiropractic visit seemed to quell some of the initial pain, but then it came back with a vengeance. Further examinations by my chiropractor and other doctors suggested some sort of pinched nerve, probably in the neck, that was wreaking havoc with the radial nerve in my right arm. The physical discomforts for several weeks were life changing. Sleep became almost impossible. Mental anguish came from the lousy insurance coverage though one of the HMOs available at my job. I was relegated to ineffective physical therapy because a clinical diagnosis of my injury was not possible without the managed care provider's authorization of an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan. When I eventually did get the OK for the MRI, after eight weeks, a snooty orthopedic surgeon calmly informed me "you have a herniated disc in your neck." My chiropractor told me this two months earlier!

I have made my living for over 23 years as a radio and television announcer, reporting horseracing information for a municipal "public benefit" corporation which funnels off track wagering revenues back into local governments. In this so called "public sector" job, the economic climate has become increasingly like corporate conditions elsewhere. I have experienced a threefold work speed-up, increasing risk factors for RSIs. In this particular case, a badly designed workspace, coupled with the fast pace of keeping up with five or more racetracks at a time, added to my overuse of force to press a series of buttons and switches placed me

into that growing figure of 650,000 RSI workers. After ten weeks of recuperation, I came back to a job that has only changed in one significant way - the switches have been rearranged so I don't have to reach so far for them. It's better than before, but not great.

While prevention of RSIs is certainly the answer, the nuts and bolts of that work are hard to piece together for the big fix. Prevention, many believe, is largely rooted in better ergonomic designs for equipment and working areas. These supposedly safer devices (like good posture chairs) may be no better than their predecessors, and often act as a diversion from the real issues. The concerns in the workplace should be focused on length of time performing repetitive tasks, forced or frequent overtime, speed-up (particularly at shift's end), electronic surveillance, quotas, and other incentives to work faster. Shifting work loads, adjusting schedules, and other methods of easing the strain of repetitive motion problems must be employed, not just pretty, cosmetic trinkets.

If you have a headache that won't go away, dull feeling arms or hands, or pain in same, see a doctor right away! Intermittent tingling in the fingers or other extremities is a warning sign of carpal tunnel syndrome or other painful, debilitating conditions. Don't let the medical system give you the run-around, either. Scream bloody murder if you don't get what you want. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease! And pay attention to what your body is telling you.

A consciousness and problem solving approach to RSIs probably didn't surface until Australian unions began addressing the illness about 15 years ago. Experiences with RSI have shown some U.S. unions that legislation and workplace regulations never go far enough, especially in terms of rules that will prevent the injuries in the first place.

Writers, printers and publishing industry workers are as vulnerable as any group of workers, and in the case of carpal tunnel syndrome- even more likely to suffer an RSI. Collective direct action, history has taught us, is the way to "get the goods." IU 450 of the IWW should know this and develop strategies for a safer, less painful workplace.

Greg Giorgio

SURREALIST WOMEN: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY

Edited with an Introduction by: Penelope Rosemont

Penelope and Franklin Rosemont earned the respect of Fred Thompson, the self-taught IWW historian, who entrusted them with the Kerr Press. In Chicago in the sixties. They injected some of the old-timer Wobs with the surrealist revolution, great art and humor. Some may still remember The Rebel Worker, a mimeographed monthly put out by the Chicago Branch from 1964 to 1967 that combined IWW history, old and new, and surrealist writing. Presently, the Rosemonts edit, publish and market radical history via the Kerr Press.

Late last year the University of Texas Press, Austin, published **SURREALIST WOMEN: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY**, edited and with introductions by Penelope Rosemont. Divided into six historical periods—the aftermath of World War I; the depression, the Spanish Civil War and the rise of the totalitarian state; World War II, the Cold War; the turbulent Sixties, and the path to the 21st Century. A representative selection of readings follows each introduction.

For this review I focused on the writings of radical women—anarchists, marxists, Trotskyists, Pan Africans, feminists and ecofeminists. Leonora Carrington, a well-known favorite, suffered a nervous breakdown when her companion, Max Ernst, was taken to a concentration camp in 1937. In "Down Bellow" she describes her confinement in an asylum in Spain. Emerging later as a feminist, she says, "And the only one to give me absolute permission is myself. Conscious, deliberate permission to allow miracle."

Mary Low, with her companion Juan Brea, took part in the Spanish Civil War and then went to Cuba, Brea's birthplace, to participate in the revolution which overthrew

Batista. Leaving Cuba in the 1960's, she eventually took up residence in the U.S.

Nancy Cunard, an upper class English woman, was splendidly anti-racist. A friend of Marcus Garvey, she compiled a massive Negro Anthology in 1934 which was dedicated to her lover, Harry Crowder, an American Jazz musician.

Suzanne Cesaire and her husband, Aimee, welcomed Andre Breton to Martinique in 1941. Her analysis of black intergration into white culture in perceptive.

During World War II, Paris became an unsafe place. The surrealists fled. Andre Breton was in New York, closely watched

Book Review

by the FBI and the movement continued in safe havens like Sao Paulo, Brazil and Martinique.

Women surrealists were artists, photographers, film-makers, poets, writers and critics; they were students, professionals or found their own way into the movement by other means. The movement was worldwide—Eastern Europe, especially Czechoslovakia where surrealists survived underground, and in Mexico, Egypt, Iraq, Argentina, Cuba, Canada, Japan and Algiers.

Penelope and Franklin were part of the surrealist movement in Paris in the early sixties. The book catches Penny's enthusiasm and long friendship with many of the women in the anthology. It is representative and respective of women's work. Rosemont has included herself as well as every other woman who participated in the movement.

Read the book as a long-term project. Catch up on the well-known women—Claude Cahun, Nelly Kaplan, Joyce Mansour, Meret Oppenheim, Valentine Penrose, Gisele Prassinis and Kay Sage; then delve into others such as Haifa Zangana from Iraq, Jayne Cortez, Rikki Ducornet, Sara Metcalf and Penelope Rosemont herself.

Sure, there's a wealth of material. At \$24.95 the paperback edition is available from Kerr Press in Chicago or your local bookstore.

It's a lifetime buy.

Ruth Sheridan
Anchorage, AK

In The Cubicle—by John H. Furnish

Unwieldy standard business protocol
Chokes my mind with tedious methodology
Numbs my brain with corporate psychology
Makes me antihierarchal to a fault

I'm suffocating in my arid cubicle
Radiated dry by cathode rays
Shrinking to a raisin in this way
A mundane life that's making me so irritable

Through the window I can see the blue
Brilliant-lit by sunlight past the edge
Blocked like by a marble graveyard ledge
And here I sit to marvel and to rue

Working here will make my stomach toss
Grinding through a workload for the boss

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Books for Rebel Workers

IWW History

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

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

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917 by Rob Hanson.
What was the IWW doing that so threatened the establishment of Bisbee, Arizona that it forced them to take such drastic measures to try to bring the union to a halt? Hanson brings the events alive with this easy to read booklet. \$2.00.

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Edited by Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer.
A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed but interesting reading. \$11.

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

One Big Union. by IWW.
The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2.00.

Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy in the Heyday of the Wobblies by Eugene Nelson.
A fictionalized biography of the many varied trials and tribulations of IWW member Joe Murphy between 1919 and 1924. \$12.

The General Strike.
Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2.00

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer
by Staughton Lynd.
Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$10.

IWW Organizing Manual
(2nd Edition)
A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5.

A New Union Vision
Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2.

IWW Little Red Songbook
(36th Ed.)
103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10.

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. Edited by Joyce Kornbluh
A collection of stories, poems, songs and cartoons from the English-language Wobbly press. Just reissued. \$26.

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

Juice is Stranger Than Friction
by T-Bone Slim.
Edited by Franklin Rosemont. Selected writings from a working stiff, hobo and irreconcilable revolutionary; utterly unqualified in any literary respectability. \$9.

Memoirs of a Wobbly
by Henry E. McGuckin.
This lively narrative by an old-time Wobbly is unlike any other book on the IWW. Although "Mac" knew many of the best known Wobs of his day, his purpose here is not to discuss prominent personalities or world famous events, but to tell of the tens of thousands of militant rank & filers who, in the 1910's, made the IWW one of the grandest labor unions the world has ever seen. \$5.

A Little Working Class Sense
by Gilbert Mers.
In a series of essays that are long overdue this working class Wobbly breaks down the class issue in a way that is simple and concise. Highly recommended for those at the bottom of the capitalist system. \$2.

1923 IWW Songbook
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Rebel Voices
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Black Cat/Direct Action. \$1.
IWW Globe—circled by the motto "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red. \$1.50.

Posters by Carlos Cortez
Lucy Parson, Ben Fletcher, Joe Hill or Mother Jones. \$25.

Labor History

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher
A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank & file initiative. \$22.

Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the 20th Century by Dorothy Cobble. \$7.50.

The New Class War: Reagan's Attack on the Welfare State and Its Consequences by F. Piven & R. Cloward. \$4.25.

Homestead: The Glory & Tragedy of an American Steel Town
by William Serrin.
Chronicles the 1892 strike, the boom times and the city's slow death in the 1970's and 80's. pub'd at \$25. Our price \$12.

The Rise of Public Woman
by Glenna Mathews.
Woman's power and woman's place in the U.S. 1630-1970. \$12.

American Women in the Progressive Era
by Dorothy & Carl Schneider.
Change, challenge and the struggle for women's rights. \$10.

Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragosa Vargas.
Compelling history of the struggles of Mexican workers who migrated to the Midwest between the First World War and the Great Depression. \$15.

We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930's by Staughton Lynd.
Workers were taking charge of our own destiny before the State and labor fakers intervened. Includes Wob Mike Kozura's account of coal miners seizing the mines to operate them themselves. \$21.95.

Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Hunnicutt. \$15.

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning by Sam Dolgoff.
A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militancy and offers his vision of building a new, radical, rank & file labor movement. \$5.

Sacco & Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background by Paul Avrich.
Hardcover, 265 pages. \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. Edited by Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15.

The Revolution Within the Revolution: Workers' Control in Rural Portugal by Nancy Barneo.
A resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath. \$15.

Work and Labor by Judy Gail.
An eclectic narrative weaving together stories and songs to create a kid-friendly history of work. \$25.

Queen of Bohemia: The Life of Louise Bryant by Mary Dearborn.
A pioneering foreign correspondent, a fervent crusader for social causes, and a champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50.

Emma Goldman in Exile: The Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler. \$14.

Autobiography of Mother Jones.
Foreword by M. LeSeur. Intro by Clarence Darrow. Tribute by Debs. Afterword by Fred Thompson. \$15.

A Generation of Boomers: Patterns of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th Century America by Shelton Stromquist. \$10.

A People Betrayed—November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$16.

American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor by Daniel Nelson.
An in-depth look at the rubber workers struggles, victories and contributions to the birth of the modern American labor movement. \$9.

The Case for Leonard Peltier
A must read for anyone desiring to understand the modern American Indian Movement. \$3.

Classroom's First by Jason Justice.
A good overview of the Oakland teachers' strike and their bold stand against the establishment. \$2.

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism by George G. Suggs, Jr.
By far the best book available on the great hard-rock miners' labor strikes during 1903 and 1904. \$4.

The Fight Against Shutdowns: Youngstown's Steel Mill Closings by Staughton Lynd.
This book honestly puts forward the facts on a day to day and crisis by crisis basis. It lays out what can happen to a community and the interplay of forces that impact our real lives. \$10.

The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair.
Two stories unfold at the same time: those of Henry Ford and of Ford worker Abner Shutt. A telling account of the realities and discrepancies of life in Ford-America, told as only Upton Sinclair could. \$7.

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland by Peter Rachleff.
This account P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community based unionism. This is the story of the Hormel strike and what it means to the future of the labor movement. \$5.

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico Today by Dan LaBotz.
Using scores of interviews with Mexican rank & file workers, labor officials, women's organizations, lawyers and human rights' activists, LaBotz illustrates the precarious position of workers in the Mexican economy in the 1990's. \$12.

Roll The Union On: A Pictorial History of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union by H. L. Mitchell.
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Around the middle of March I was told to pick up a load in suburban Michigan and hustle it down I-94 to Chicago. This was a rush job and nothing unusual, except for the fact that the time was going on 2pm and I had already been hustling since 5am, hauling some sort of integral piece of the machine to Cleveland. This, for me, is one of my problems with hauling: the knowledge that every crate, every rack, every pallet that makes it to its destination is destined to keep this monster on track. For some this fact may instil them with a sense of pride. The problem for me is that most of these machines are so sinister, manufacturing a part of a whole, the main aim of which is to keep each one of us *exactly* where we are at this moment in time.

Anyway, I quickly calculated it in my mind and realized that, without any hitches, I'd have dropped this freight somewhere in Chicago at about 8pm. A 15 hour day. Wholely illegal, but not only would I have a day off tomorrow, but my log book was blank due to the closed scab houses on the route to and from Cleveland. I accepted the job.

Didn't take long for the fun to begin. Picking up from Distel Tool & Engine in Warren, MI was nothing short of a party. I waited in the shipping area, the scent of steel shavings and pound of stamping dies as the machines pounded out parts for GM, for some sort of information. The "man in charge" approached 45 minutes later with a crane in tow and two pallets of steel stamped with the form of car doors.

I looked at my paperwork. "Only supposed to be one of those according to this," I said.

"Oh hell," the man replied while looking over the papers, "our shipping office person goes on vacation and management has been screwing this stuff up all week." He looked exhausted as if he had been catching hell from irate truck driver's for management's inability to correctly file an alert for hours, even days, weeks, who knows. All I'm saying is he looked tired and pissed, overworked and underpaid.

"I understand what you're saying," I said as we measured the pallets of steel, "but you're not going to want to hear this either. This stuff won't fit on my truck at all. I'm gonna have to get a larger vehicle."

While we waited for the word to come down the ranks from above, we talked about Distel and trucking and work in general. When the conversation turned to unions and the IWW he looked at me sideways and strange.

"You hauling this stuff to Tool & Engine in Chicago?" he asked.

"I don't know, you tell me," I replied.

I was driving across town to switch out vehicles. The truck was too small and management didn't want to pay the extra to ship twice. Understandable. I didn't want to drive it twice either.

Two things were bothering me though. One, how badly built and hackneyed the pallets that were holding 2,000 pounds of steel each were (they seemed strained and ready to crumble), and two, the man's reaction to my talk of unions and contracts and the way he seemed agitated by the fact I was hauling to Tool & Engine.

Must just be a non-union shop, I thought, *nothing unusual*.

I had just crossed the Illinois line when my boss called, again.

"Man, where you at," he wasn't exactly yelling. "They've been calling me asking where you're at!"

"Jesus!," I was yelling, "it's a five hour drive to Chicago with no traffic! I left at 4 o'clock, it's 8," I looked at the clock, "45 now. Tell them I'm entering the city now. What do these people expect!"

"That's what I told them," he replied.

"Just call me when you're clear."

I had every intention.

I found W 18th Street without too much problem. As I turned onto the street, the side of the truck was hit by a small volley of snowballs. I was confused, but I figured it was just some neighborhood kids. I pulled onto the drive for the plant and pulled over to the side. Almost immediately two men came striding out of the security office. They looked strangely nervous, turning their heads and searching the road.

"You here looking for Tool & Engine?" they asked, their voices shaky and quiet. I nodded. "Let's see your paperwork." I handed it over.

"O.K.," one of them said, handing back my bills, "here's what we want you to do. When you drive around back and to the left you'll see three doors. We are going to the back and opening the third door. When you get back there just driveright inside. Do not stop. We'll be there in 3 minutes."

They left and I sat there, engine running, trying to figure out what was going on. I was tired as I put the truck in second and began creeping down the drive. About 30 yards later I saw it.

The signs announcing the strike were everywhere. On poles, stapled to the makeshift shacks that had been erected, affixed to oil cans which had obviously been used to house the fires that kept the strikers warm when they were out on the line. I figured that the plant was closed for the day and was not expecting any more deliveries so the strikers had gone home.

I wasn't tired at all as I switched gears into reverse, rolled to a stop in front of the security office and put on the air brakes. I climbed down and walked towards the door. Inside were a few guards lounging in office chairs.

"Excuse me man," I said questioningly, "I was just wondering, is this plant on strike?"

He paused and looked me up and down. "Well yeah, but there's no strikers out there."

"That's not really what concerns me, sir," and I was already out the door, up in the truck and rolling slowly backwards when they poured out of the office and began running in my direction.

"Oh shit!," I stepped on the gas and jerked backwards, out onto the street and away from the entrance. They had had their radios out and were gesturing excitedly as I drove away.

Six or seven blocks later I pulled over

onto a side street.

"This place is on strike!," I exclaimed into the phone, "I am not delivering to this place!"

My boss was pissed. "Come on!," he said. "Look, I'm calling the shipper and asking them what they want done. This is crazy!"

Surprisingly, he called back ten minutes later. The shipper understood and they had a new address for me to deliver to.

"All I have to say is, if this address is the same place I am still not delivering it."

"Supposedly it's just around the corner. Just check it out."

I did. The street name was the name of the drive I had just backed out of. The gaggle of security was still there, gesturing frantically, pointing, leaping up and down and yelling.

I smiled as I drove away.

"Look man," I was on the phone again, "you tell them that they cannot sleaze me around like this. I have two options. Either I take this stuff to a separate broker out by the airport so that this place will be charged twice for it, or I'm taking it back to Detroit. You've got fifteen minutes."

To tell you the truth I was surprised I still had a job at all and listening to myself make these demands was strange. They call back in twenty minutes with an address out by the airport to take it to.

As I turned a corner into Airport Park I was counting my options. I figured at this point I had involved another individual that I

could talk to about the situation, convince them to take a stand or figure out some other way to halt the unending flow of stuff into the scab plant.

The worker at the dock was pissed.

"Hey man, can you believe this shit," he

said. "They are making me do this and told me that I could lose my job if I don't. They already woke me up to meet you here!"

I counted my blessings that he seemed more pissed off at his boss than at me for bringing this freight his way. "Shit, I'm sorry man, I just can't deliver to a place on strike. Here, let me help you offload this crap."

We began the process of offloading together. He drove his hi-lo onto the truck and attempted to pick up the first skid. It disintegrated in a splinter of wood and screws.

"Jesus Christ!," he exclaimed and angled in differently. The result was the same, more splintering as the freight slid sideways. 2,000 pounds of steel door molds lopsided on a ruined pallet.

"What the—," he turned the motor off the hi-lo. "And what now," his frustration was tangible.

I had an idea and decided to bounce it off my fellow worker.

"Well, it looks to me like we really only have one option. We're going to have to pick up this freight not on a skid at all. As it is the skid no longer exists. And in order to do that, take it off my truck and put it onto yours, we're probably going to mess it up pretty bad."

His eyes noticeably *lit up*. "Hmmm. That's true. It seems like that is the only way."

By the time we were done, I'm not sure if you could use that stuff for what it was designed for. There were some particularly beautiful indentations running along the long side that seemed to crease the entire stack of 15 molds all the way through. That's what happens when you send a Wobbly to a plant that's on strike with a shoddy shipping policy.

The other guy said, after I helped him load his truck, "Well, it's their problem now."

True, I thought, but it's also all of our problem. And the machine won't run if the parts are damaged.

On my way back from Chi-Town I got in touch with one of my fellow workers on the radio. I proceeded to relate this story to her (in a version which I'm sure was far shorter and rife with expletives).

"You're such a pussy," she said, "I would've just delivered the shit and been done with it."

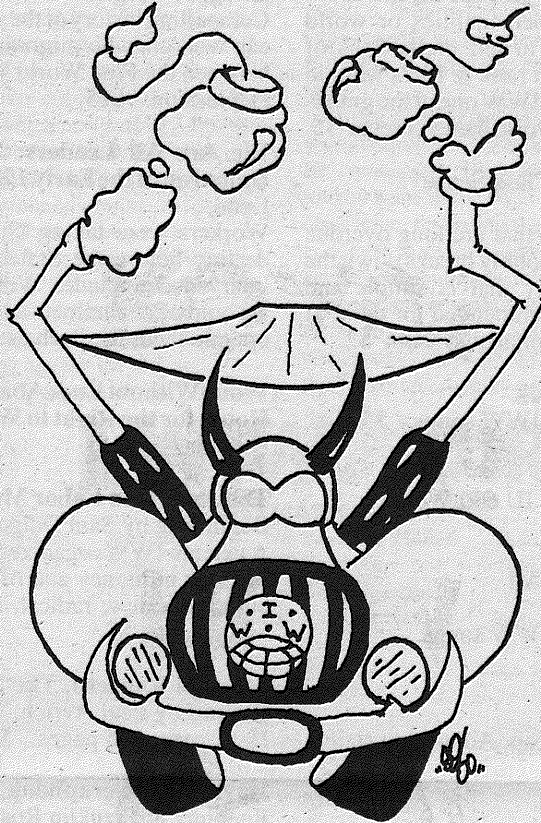
"Really," I replied, "well then you would've also been a sucker 'cause you wouldn't have been paid for 3 hours of waiting time. Not only would you have been a scab, but a sucker besides."

"You got paid *what!*," she exclaimed.

We laughed it off later over smuggled beer and cigarettes. It really is worth it to stand up for what you believe, and sometimes it even pays off in the way you least expect.

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Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$1,000: \$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 \$10.00

I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
 I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
 I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
 Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker