



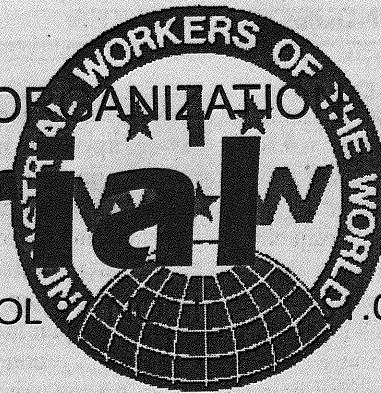
# Industrial Worker

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

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For All Workers in All Industries



## Global Solidarity Slaps the WTO Off Its Rails

By Jason Adams and Oshan Anand

At the IWW General Assembly in Winnipeg last year, a call for an International Day of Action Against the WTO on November 30, 1999 was endorsed unanimously. Less than a month before, the People's Global Action International Conference in India had also endorsed the International Day of Action. Between the two groups and the main action in Seattle, we managed to pull off the first day of global solidarity and action to successfully stop an organization as powerful as the WTO in its tracks.

IWW members sent letters calling for the International Day of Action to every branch and delegate listed in the Industrial Worker around the world. In addition, letters were sent to hundreds of other labor and community organizations all over the world from a list provided to us by People's Global Action, which was generated during preparations for the June 18 International Day of Action, also known as "J18." An Olympia IWW member set up a first rate website for international coordination at <http://www.n30.org> which generated over 50,000 hits in just 3 months of existence.

Worldwide, at least 500,000 participated in the actions, including people from every continent, 30 different countries, and 60 different cities. Workers in countries such as Hong Kong, Canada, Colombia, Australia, Guatemala, Germany, India, England, and of course, the United States took part. Most actions occurred on November 30, though a few occurred shortly before or after, as circumstances permitted. A few of the highlights include:

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## "Wobblies Are Everywhere" in Seattle WTO Protests



Wobblies occupy the rooftop of Seattle's Labor Temple. Photo by John Hoffman.

## Wobblies at JeffBoat Display Solidarity

*Workers fight back against cutbacks*

Things have been getting pretty bad for us at the Kentucky shipyard, Jeffboat. As you will recall from the November/December IW article, we IUB 320 Workers have been causing one hell of a stir. That period of open organizing and rapid gains against the bossmen of this "dangerous hellhole" is officially over.

Recently, on a Friday afternoon, the foremen began telling workers that the company was going to cut out upgrades (for example, if you are a 2nd class welder and you do 1st class work, you get 1st class pay upgrade), our bonus (which would have come at Christmas time), ALL breaks excluding lunch, all overtime, and essentially watch us like hawks. I began to raise hell, as did several of the other Wobs in the yard and other workers. We screamed, shouted, confronted the foremen, a couple of us shoved over equipment stands, and so forth. In the "Safety Meeting" the following Monday, the line foremen announced that no one would be allowed to take any sort of break BUT everything else (bonuses, etc.) would remain untouched. Some of us supposed our anger had scared the foremen and maybe even the company; others, including me, thought that it was a ruse to propose cutting EVERYTHING and then "only" deny one important right. In other words, the company comes out looking evil, but not as evil as they could be.

That Monday was tough since it rained and even the militant guys in the yard stayed out and worked in the freezing rain with no breaks. On Tuesday, we made a stand. A couple of us, three Wobs and another worker,

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## Wobblies "Wildcat" in Seattle—1000's Shutdown WTO!

IWW members traveled from all over North America, where together we took our stand against the WTO and what it represents.

(Seattle)-November 30th, 1999, marked the first time the City of Seattle had been effectively shut down since the General Strike of 1919-though the tactics employed this time were much different. In comparison, the General Strike was mostly quiet, with a noticeable drop in incidents involving the police; the Shutdown of 1999 was virtually the opposite, where the anger turned toward the terrorism perpetrated by police and the torture that took place in the King County Jail and the Sand Point internment facility.

The IWW, and many other organizations, had been planning for months, and the events exceeded the expectations of many, both in the overall effectiveness, and the amount of police repression that took place. By 10:00 am that morning, the downtown core was effectively paralyzed, long before the AFL/CIO contingent left on their own march of 30,000, by the people that had already occupied most of downtown in key intersections. The response by the security forces was confusion at first, followed by a disorganized attempt to control the demonstrations, ending with all out war and terror against both protestors and non-participating residents of Seattle, which lasted for two days.

### EARLY MORNING WARNING

Amongst activist and "affinity groups," Wobs showed up at the site of Seattle Central Community College at six in the morning. A fellow worker scouted the downtown

core, where it appeared that a substantial police presence existed, but were not fully deployed (A group of eight Pinkerton security agents were just sitting down for breakfast). The protestors rallied at about 7am, and Wobs prepared for the first of the wildcat actions that would mark the weeks events.

The march itself was to be led by members of the Direct Action Network, but Wobs had a different idea in mind. Five blocks into the march, The "One Big Union" banner made a hard right down a hill, splitting the march into two groups. In spite of attempts by leaders to discourage people from taking up behind the IWW banner, the Wob led contingent of about 400 zigzagged down Capitol hill, while scouts moved ahead to attempt to divert traffic and plot the immediate march route. The police had been completely evaded, as they were well aware of the DAN led contingent's plan to march straight to the Paramount theatre, which was part of the site of the actual WTO events. The IWW banner continued toward the heart of downtown, to take the first intersection and attempt to make a decision on the next course of action.

Fourth Avenue was yet undisturbed and the contingent blocked the intersection of 4th and Pine, next to Westlake Park, which would later be the scene of the most disturbing and brutal police repression in recent memory. Report of police in full riot gear began to make the rounds, and so the contingent moved south to 4th and Pike, through the park. The IWW had already penetrated the heart of downtown, and closed its main arterial bus route.

A line of 25 Seattle Police in riot gear moved across 4th Avenue almost as soon as the intersection was blocked, and immediately began physical assaults on Wobs and other protestors who instinctively and immediately sat down. This initially created some confusion amongst the Wobs, since the tactic had not been discussed, but did create a window of time to deal with the initial confusion at hand. Before a decision had been made for another destination, the police line mysteriously broke ranks and disappeared back through Westlake Park. Some reports from the media have indicated that this was the point where some windows had been broken some blocks away and may have created an opening for the IWW contingent to escape an otherwise serious situation.

As it was, most everyone was rattled at both the speed and the intensity of the events, as well as the problems arising on how the contingent would be led. The general feeling was that the Wobs should try to connect with a larger group for safety, and so the march moved east toward the convention center, where a sizeable crowd existed. After another stalemate with the police forces and nearly getting surrounded by the rear, a fellow worker attempted to negotiate passage through the line. The police agreed to give us passage, and then reneged, but did create a wide opening to move south on 5th Avenue, which was wide open and out of danger for the time being.

### THE BATTLE OF FREEWAY PARK

Wobs arrived at the intersection of 6th and University, which was also the entrance

to Interstate Route 5 and Freeway Park. The security forces had already built a column several hundred feet long, with an Armed Personnel Carrier (APC), also known as a "Peacekeeper," and scores of police in full riot gear. About a hundred demonstrators were already sitting down on one side of the intersection. Orders to disperse were being given, while protestors continued to occupy the intersection. Many fellow workers took the opportunity for a much-needed smoke, and some explored the area for an out if the tear gas was fired. After it became clear the police were going to take the intersection, Wobs began lining up to move back down the hill on University, to be ready to move if the police attacked. A few minutes later, several canisters of CS gas were fired, and several were fired at Wobs, in spite of the fact that many had already moved out of the intersection. Cans of gas were picked up and hurled back at police, as the contingent took the next intersection, which was safely out of range.

Several Wobs who had decided to sit down in the road to resist the police were caught up in the intersection that was overtaken by the security forces, while more gassing occurred at 6th and Union, 3 blocks away. In spite of media reports that gassing did not take place until the late afternoon, this occurred at 9:15am. Other Wobs, who had opted to resist the police without the threat of arrest, began to prepare to move again, while a contingent with a banner made their way to the labor rally at Seattle Center, slated for 10am. A scout was sent to

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# Editorial Policy Statement

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

## Submissions will be prioritized as follows:

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

## Unacceptable subject matter:

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

## Logistics:

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

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

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.

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Step 1: Sign-up the members of the organizing committee into the IWW. That way they will be part of the union from the get-go. They can start meeting as a union and relate to the rest of the IWW as an integral part of the whole. Some of these fellow workers should become delegates and start signing other people up into the union. Joining the union is more of a commitment than signing an auth. card, so people are more likely to hang tough when the shit hits the fan.

Step 2: Start to organize people around grievances and take direct action to resolve them. This way people can start to act union and get a sense of their collective power. One important thing: never allow a fellow worker to be victimized by the boss without some sort of retaliation.

Step 3: After a solid majority in the shop are holding red cards and the union is established among the workers, draft a letter of recognition and present it to the boss. He/she will do one of three things: 1) recognize the union has a real presence in the shop and agree to bargain with it (this is rare, but has

## Industrial Worker

### THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

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**Reader's Soapbox cont.**

agree to bargain with it (this is rare, but has been known to happen); 2) refuse to recognize the union without and NLRB vote (unless you decide to strike for recognition, this is when you go to the NLRB and ask for an election); 3) the boss will refuse recognition and either fire all or some of the members of the organizing committee or lock-out the entire workforce. In the latter case you'll want to respond with either a strike or informational picketing and a boycott of the company's goods, if possible. In the former case the response should be a strike on the job and a boycott of the company's product. Oh yeah, you might also want to file unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB, although it will probably be two-three years before a decision is made (most likely against you).

The purpose of organizing at the point of production is to give our class the power to abolish the wage system. Part of our organizing task, therefore, is to prepare ourselves and our fellow workers for that ultimate goal. Our organizational methods need to emphasize workers' autonomy and self-management. We cannot do that by relying on the state (ie, NLRB) to force the employer to deal with us, we have to rely on our

**Upstate New York GMB**

Upstate New York Wobs on the Move into Y2k By: Sourdough Slim

The Upstate N.Y. Regional General Membership Branch of the IWW has been busy with local activities to aid organizing for the year 2000 and beyond.

The Old Capitol District Group grew to Branch size at the end of 1998, and the new Branch Charter took effect in February of '99. New members continue to come on board. We've even picked up some Wobblies recently relocated from California and New York City.

Anti-sweatshop informational picketing at a local Wal-Mart has been an ongoing action since last March. Local press coverage is spotty, at best, so the Branch is working on more creative ways to call attention to sweatshop-produced goods and the huge retailer's enforced transparency about where and how these products are produced. A Wal-Mart Sweatshop press kit is being distributed to the local electronic and print media, an attempt to bring about better press relations and coverage of the issue that won't go away. Wal-Mart Campaign Coordi-

nator Dan Ray and other IWW members will be meeting with some of the local editors and reporters as a follow-up to the press kit's dissemination. The capitalist press, such as it is, does not want to devote time to anything unless there is some fanciful, prurient "angle" or gimmick attached to a particular story. As if toys and clothes produced by children in what is essentially chattel slavery, sold to our children, isn't a story!

The Sister Worker Newsletter has released its first edition of a planned quarterly publication, edited by IWW members Barbara Sands and Judy Olsen. Several women from the Branch also contributed to the premier issue which includes articles about domestic violence language in collectively bargained agreements, organizing tips, workfare and much more. Wobbly women with articles and contributions about life within and without the IWW are encouraged to contact the Sister Worker Newsletter at 136 South Pine., Albany, N.Y. 12208. E-mail: barbara@albany.net

Wobs here participated in solidarity efforts on behalf of local restaurant workers and in protests against the W.T.O. in November.

Several members of the IWW Upstate

NY Branch helped lead a march of 150 protestors through a SUNY at Albany dining hall in support of HERE restaurant workers. They are trying to negotiate a contract with notorious union-buster Sedexho-Marriot Corporation, operator of four dining facilities on the State University campus. NLRB charges are pending, following S-M's failure to negotiate in good faith with the workers who were nearly unanimous in their desire to unionize in May of '99.

SUNY Albany students selected the Upstate Branch of the IWW to work with on a class requirement in their political sociology course. Six students attended a Branch meeting in October, a local Wob's labor radio program, and joined the picket line at the Latham Farms Wal-Mart. The SUNY interns also brought Branch Secretary Greg Giorgio to class where he lectured about the IWW's place in the greater political lexicon.

There may be opportunities for organizing in restaurant and entertainment industries in the near future for the Branch. A long-term goal is to secure office space. And fundraising is underway.

**Finland**

There has been some positive developments in the Sovetski Pulp and Paper complex, occupied by workers for 2 years near the city of Vyborg and the Finnish border in Russia. Workers re-elected leadership for the first time, and the old executive chief was replaced by a new, Ms. Aleksandra Zhaikina. She made a much better impression to members of MPST-IWA when they were visiting the complex than the former executive chief who had strong links to red-brown communist parties. Most likely Finnish IWW has also met her.

I hope she is not just a nice character, but also engages herself in developing some real democracy in the plant. Before Russian syndicalists were not very interested in doing solidarity work, and there was not a lot Finnish IWW could do with no active Russian partners. walking up to Party People who have run the plant, at least until now, and saying "just take our money to run your election campaigns" doesn't make a lot of

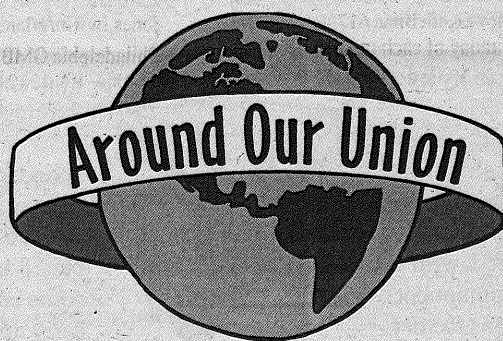
sense. So far the plant has financed communist parties in Russia, not vice versa.

Also election results in the area around Sovetski were most interesting - 20-25% voted against all parties, "Mr. Nobody" got the most votes. In fact, more than any red-brown commies. According to the Russian constitution, this means the election is not valid, and must be repeated. Seems like its really boiling there! (Or this kind of fraud is profiting someone.)

In the Yasnogorsk occupation last winter, daily strike committee meetings were open for everyone to participate and talk, and the strike committee was in a continuous rotation. I've been told a few dozen workers

were in the room where the strike committee was working constantly. In Sovetski, there is no strike committee, just a leadership. Rank and file workers aren't even allowed to participate in the national trade-union conference which was organized there in November.

Anti R.



**Detroit GMB**

As you all know the General Headquarters office has moved to Philadelphia, PA. You will find all the applicable address changes in this issue of the IW. IW Collective members Robin Hood and Bridget Knoche worked very hard for the weeks after the election responding to union correspondence and taking care of business while simultaneously packing and labeling the office. Fellow Worker John Eaton, also an IW Collective member, drove the boxes which were the office to Philly with a couple of working stiff buddies and loaded them up the stairs and into their new home. So long, been good to know ya!

As it is now, the IW offices are being evicted to make way for the rich. Some investor is taking over the building to open a restaurant/jazz club. The IW, along with some other groups that make up the Xicano Development Center (including the Brown Berets and Active Transformation) are presently searching for a building to buy. Any support will be most appreciated. We mean that, anything at all.

The IWW will be speaking at a huge anti-WTO event here in February, and we are also working on an enormous May Day event which will include an encouraged sick-out (we hope this spreads far beyond Detroit, though).

The truckers here continue to work at gaining more and more respect on the job. We have erased the undocumented charges for phone use that were arbitrarily taken from our paychecks, and the next move is for healthcare, hopefully.

The kitchen crew that many unions use for their events here already contains 2 (and sometimes 3) Wobs. They are trying to organize further so that the AFL has to come to us when they want to get things done. Hmmmm...maybe this is sort of an historical precedent?

**Springfield, IL**

SPRINGFIELD DELEGATE ANNOUNCES APRIL 2000 WOB MEETING IN MIDWEST: Delegate Pete Fox would like to invite all FWs to a Midwest Wob meeting in April 2000. The meeting will be a day meeting from morning to afternoon formatted around issues of solidarity support for direct actions and strikes. Also roundtable discussions on networking and issues of organizing labor and tactics for recruiting workers. Agenda is being done and further news will be sent out later, look

in the next issue of the Industrial Worker. Meeting is planned for Springfield, Illinois where a GMB is being built. For more information contact iwwspringfield@hotmail.com or pete fox iww-wsa 204 South Maple Street, Nokomis, Illinois 62075. This should be a good time! OBS, Pete Springfield Wobs

**Rhode Island GMB**

Notes of the Rhode Island Red & Black After making a promise to try to stay closer in touch with all y'all sabo kitties out there, here goes another shot. I've come to the realization that for the IW to be an even better paper we all gots to contribute to its pages. So my part is going to be to try to get 'lil' Rhody mentioned somewhere else other than the listings page.

So what goes on in God's modest little acre? I'll tell ya. In a word contact goes on. I've left my cheffing job in a huff 16 years on the line is a sentence not a career, something all y'all 640's can attest to. So I'm out on the bricks with my heart and mouth open (I got the heart and mouth disease). I've been meeting folks and listening too. And what I hear is bad news.

First off, Providence, RI is in the midst of an economic up-swing and yet me pals who work in the class war casualty section tell me that the soup lines are overloaded and the shelters are full up.

Now aren't we all supposed to be doing better...So how come I don't feel better.

Our proud and brilliant city fathers have built a mall that effectively cuts the city in half sort of a Berlin Maul this mall even has a high school in it a sort of immersion training for tomorrow's cashiers today. This is what we're up against folks, I know we're up to it.

In local union news we been signing folks up and hookin up the red Ducat to the folks who need it, I know there are more of you out there, c'mon in, the union's fine. Your humble scribe has been invited to give a speech on the effect of the WTO (scary music background) on labor which the way I see it is a no brainer...IT'S WICKED BAD! Now, how to say that for thirty minutes!

Now a fellow Wob and I are headin out to Georgia to the SOA protest. I'm sure I'll see some smiling union faces out there, but if not I'll try to make you proud.

Yours for the big pissah!  
General Strike Mike x345885

**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.





So we have finally made it into the new millennium and the dreaded specter of Y2K has mercifully eluded us. Many people have been stocking up on bottled water, canned goods, fuel oil and generators and now they are stuck with more than they can use. It pays to advertise, indeed! And good old Capitalism has indeed survived into the new millennium.

Advertising always plays heavily on the fears of the consumer and it had a healthy boost with the Y2K-induced paranoia. A few summers ago, I had been invited to participate in an art camp out of state. The dude who officiated as the director of this art camp was already hot and bothered over the likelihood of the computers going haywire by the introduction of a new set of digits with the coming of a new millennium and he called a special meeting of all the instructors to discuss how we, as creative artists, could address the situation.

Various opinions flew around the room as was to be expected. Yours truly, voicing his concern that computers, which dominate much of our destiny, are being programmed by the wrong kind of people. The equivalent of allowing the fox to guard the chicken coup. This sort of a breakdown might well be a blessing in disguise, I argued, we would be compelled to once again rely upon our own resources and perhaps put a little humanity into our advanced technology. Surprisingly, most of my colleagues shared this opinion. I had just rejected the use of a mechanical wood gouger in favor of traditional hand wood cutters.

I voiced my opinion that we had already been experiencing Y2K for quite a few years but in gradual doses. We have been informed, via the media, that workers in Freedomland are putting in longer hours than workers in other "advanced" countries. The information peddlers neglected to mention that this was the case only for those who were still working. This is only to be expected with the weakening of the union movement and the migration of jobs to cheaper loonies.

Yes Fellow Workers, under our current state of organization, Capitalism is in no immediate danger but happily flourishing. A case in point bears testimony to this unpleasant fact of life. The two Freedomland-based pharmaceutical firms, Cell Genesys and Corixa, are in the process of developing lung cancer drugs and vaccines and have sold the rights of these developments to Japan Tobacco, the third largest cigarette manufacturer in the world. There is profit in making us sick as well as curing us of the afflictions they have bestowed.

Now that we have entered a new millennium, it behooves us to think in terms of making this Our Millennium. Our species has endured far too many millennia manipulated by they whose only talent is to gather up more of the world's bounty than they deserve. When we learn that we are capable of controlling our own destinies, those on the top will be faced with the alternative of jumping from windows or being productive members of the human race.

In a worker-run society minus racial and gender discrimination, wars and depressions, our species will be able to live in harmony with our earthly environment. We have only to spread the message of this stalwart little periodical. Our message is crucial because the time is getting shorter and shorter.

Draftees of the World Unite!

You have nothing to lose but your generals!

C.C. Redcloud

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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Robin Hood, Managing Editor, December 24, 1999.

## Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!! Leonard Peltier. AIM Member. Political Prisoner

February 6, 2000 is the 24th anniversary of Leonard Peltier's arrest. Last year over 50 cities internationally organized protests for his release. As members and supporters of the IWW, we know too well what the State does to our loved ones. Locking them up in silence, murdering them, or both. Leonard has refused to be silent through his two decades plus in the prison system. How can we, with our own imagined freedom, remain silent on the outside?

Leonard has a parole review hearing this March 2000. Put pressure where pressure is needed. Spread the word!

We are a creative people, let us use the anniversary of Peltier's arrest to bring his case and life to more and more people around the world

Do not just remember...ORGANIZE!



## Solidarity—On the Job!

At the company my fellow workers and I work at, like all companies that all of us work at, it becomes necessary on frequent occasions to stand up for each other. This is nothing new to any of us who work for a living, but it is a lesson that puts us to the test over and over again. Solidarity in the workplace is one of our major cards that we can play to keep the boss at bay. And plus, it's fun...

I'd been moving freight all over the Detroit Metro area all day. Hauling crazy from factory to factory and moving through the extensive freeway system that GM had expedited, though not paid for, at the expense of the public transit system and workers' paychecks. When you move freight, it is necessary to withstand a week or two of locals, dealing with suburban souldeath, in order to land an exciting job down south or back east. In other words, I find myself praying for a change of scenery away from the toxic plumes at the River Rouge plants or Zug Island which we have sadly mistaken for progress.

My two-way radio complained into the cab, "Hey Gator, I've got a question for ya." It was Bridget.

"Yeah," I answered with a suitable air of non-commitment.

"Hey, I'm here at this factory and they want me to pick up some containers with hazardous placards, so what's the deal? Do I have to do this?"

My guttural surprise and outrage was practically audible over the top-of-the-hour news broadcast in the cab, "Absolutely not!," I said.

Like so many problems on the job, this one had a history too.

When I first started moving freight it was around Metro Airport in Detroit. The company I worked for was dispatched out of another local outfit. It was your basic middleman scheme so common in this industry and, when all is said and done, more often than not it seems as if the middleman, regardless of who they are, exist solely for the purpose of making workers' lives hell. Unbelievably, workers are often played not against each other, but as fodder for the petty battles that each employer fights with the other. As if whether the percentage cut your own employer makes from the job will influence the cut that you receive as a worker. What is more common, and proven, is that when one employer gains concessions from another, the job % that the driver makes is lowered to keep the imaginary living wage afloat in their mind.

Basically, once again, the workers are screwed all around.

At this outfit, I was expected on numerous occasions to move hazardous materials. Every time this occurred I'd call first my dispatch and then my own boss in an attempt to keep my sanity and my license. If you get

caught hauling that shit without the proper classification, not only is your license history, but the fines (and potential jail term) can put you out of commission indefinitely. Not that the boss at all cares, it's an industry rife with replacement workers.

Both dispatch and the boss would inevitably deny any knowledge of the shipment being hazardous and there I was, the sucker again, putting myself in jeopardy.

When my company finally went independent, this issue was one of the first I addressed. There was no way in hell that I would ever haul that crap ever again. Period.

Sure, there'd been instances when I'd show up, see the Flammable or Corrosive placards and get more pleasure out of refusing the load than I can describe in a family publication such as this.

But SW Bridget was new to the job at this point.

I had the bossman on the radio. "What the hell is up with this shit!," I said; "did you know that the shipment was hazardous?"

"Yeah, I knew," he responded, (I couldn't believe he was admitting to it and the look on my face made my disbelief tangible). "Isn't there some sort of law that you can carry up to a certain amount of the stuff without placards?"

"Look. There may be such a law," I was having some

trouble maintaining sanity, "but until you look it up and make it available to your workers there ain't no way we're hauling it. Whatever, we don't want to haul it regardless! You can't put our lives in jeopardy for a buck or two!"

"OK, man, I'm sorry."

"And you are paying Bridget for that run, whether the company we're doing it for pays you or not."

"Yeah, I'll take care of it."

Bridget was on the radio again.

"Whoa man, you wouldn't believe what went down, man!," she was sounding good, I knew she'd stood her ground.

"What happened?"

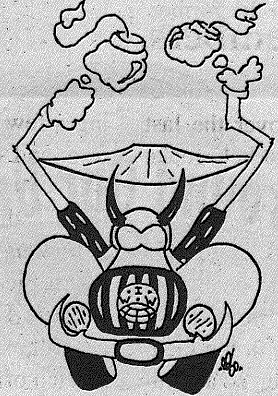
"Well, I told the woman at shipping that I wasn't gonna take it, and she said I had to. I told her that we were Wobblies and we're union and we didn't have to haul that shit. She said that this was gonna cost our boss a lot of money, and I told her that I didn't care if it cost him \$50,000, I wasn't taking the shit."

"Right on!," I said.

About two weeks later, Bridget picked up her paycheck at the office and, written in all caps and highlighted on the manifest was a full payment for a job whose description was: "HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PICKUP—SORRY!"

Solidarity,  
Gator

### WILCO!

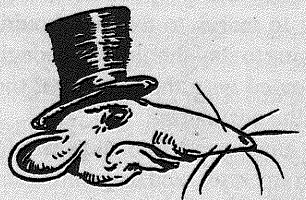


FROM THE  
BIG ROAD



## One More Dirty Rat New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

Faced with a midnight strike deadline that could have paralyzed the city's trains, Giuliani lawyers succeeded in convincing a judge to issue a court injunction calling for steep fines above and beyond the already heavy penalties of the state's Taylor Law, outlawing work stoppages by public employees.



But where the Taylor Law goes after the offending union, violating the judge's orders would have also meant an express ride to the poorhouse for the city's subway motormen and bus drivers: a \$25,000 fine for the first day and doubling each day thereafter. A TWU member on strike for a week would be fined \$775,000!

The judge's order also included a clause which forbade any member of the TWU from, "causing, instigating, encouraging or condoning or lending support or assistance of any nature to any strike." Has he read the Constitution?

## Greetings From the New GST

Thank you to the IWW for giving me the chance to serve as General Secretary-Treasurer. This is a grave responsibility for me and for Philadelphia, and I'll do my best to meet the challenge and to be responsive to the concerns of my brother and sister Wobs along the way. I want the Philadelphia General Headquarters to be a place that Wobblies can depend on, whether it is providing needed organizing resources or balancing the books. The more input from the membership the better, so as we get started, please throw advice, comments, and questions our way.

Fellow Worker Fred Chase and the office staff and volunteers in Ypsilanti, Michigan, deserve all of our gratitude for

their work at Headquarters over the last five years. They all labored to help make the transition from one administration to the next as easy as it could be. I find myself wishing at times that we could afford gold watches, but gold stars seem to be all that our finances will allow for now. Deke Nihilson, the other candidate in the General Secretary-Treasurer race, is an immensely valuable Wobbly whose long commitment to the union is unquestioned. I know the union will continue to benefit from his skill and dedication for a long time to come.

Our new General Executive Board is showing a lot of promise, and will be having a face-to-face meeting in Austin, Texas at the end of February.

Right now, attentions around here are focused on getting our new office up and running. So many people have stepped up to the plate to volunteer—thanks to all of you who have become acquainted with my

lumpy sofa bed and early-morning eccentricities for the sake of the union.

The office space that we got is a bit of a fixer-upper. There are some romantic features: we're right around the corner from the place where the Knights of Labor was founded, we've got a sweet little wood burning oven, and there's an exquisite plaster ornament on the ceiling which we worked

hard to preserve. But aside from that, for the time being we're making do without real plumbing and heating systems. This week, the construction has been demolishing

a few parts of a ceiling on the second floor and sanding down joint compound, so we like to say we're putting the "dust" back in the Industrial Workers.

Writing this column in my new role as a union pie-card doesn't come easy. That's because I understand the strength of successful, strong organizations isn't from elected officials, but rather from the efforts and initiatives taken by the members. There are a lot of possibilities ahead for the IWW. Every day I see another reason to renew my faith in the possibilities for democratic, revolutionary unionism, from reports of a new branch starting up in South Africa, to Wobbly shopfloor struggles in the right-to-work south. I'm looking forward to sharing these stories with you, so that you may use them to inspire others to create a better world. We're all here to build the one big union, so let's stick together.

-Alexis Buss

**"I understand the strength of successful, strong organizations isn't from elected officials, but rather from the efforts and initiatives taken by the members."**

## Abolition of the Wage System a personal experience

By: Richard D. Neill

For a long time, I did not understand how the abolition of the wage system would work. I got a better understanding of it while reading Philip Foner's "History of the Labor Movement in the United States." I learned that this was actually an early American concept dating back to colonial times. In essence, the Abolition of Wages simply means the equal division of the value created by the producers of that value. Then I realized that I already worked in a situation where the wage system was not in effect. This is the story of that experience.

In Cape May County, my home, one of the few industries is commercial fishing. Temporarily unemployed, I was in the Harbor Inn idling away the time until I found employment. An old acquaintance on the other side of the bar stated that the "Edwin," a purse seiner, was rigging up; why didn't I try getting on board. I finished my beer and went out to the wharf seeking the skipper, Mr. Carlson. "Sure", he said, and I started work immediately.

The purse seiner "Edwin" had a crew of ten men. The captain, the cook, and four men that would work each seine boat. Of course, since there were no wages, there would be no pay at the end of the week. First we had to create something of value, then we would whack up the value between us. It was another week rigging up in preparation for the season, then we set sail for the open sea in search of something of value.

Finally, with the nets mended, the seine boats in place, the fuel tanks filled, and the stores on board, we left port. As soon as we cleared the rock jetty, we hoisted the sail. We would sail up and down the coast from the port of New York to Chincoteague, Virginia. All eyes would be scanning the horizon for a bird play. A bird play will indicate a school of fish. This phenomenon takes place as the big fish preys on the smaller fish and chases them to the surface. The ever-watchful seagulls, scouring the seas for food, immediately start a diving campaign on the surfaced fish. The sky is soon filled with shrieking gulls.

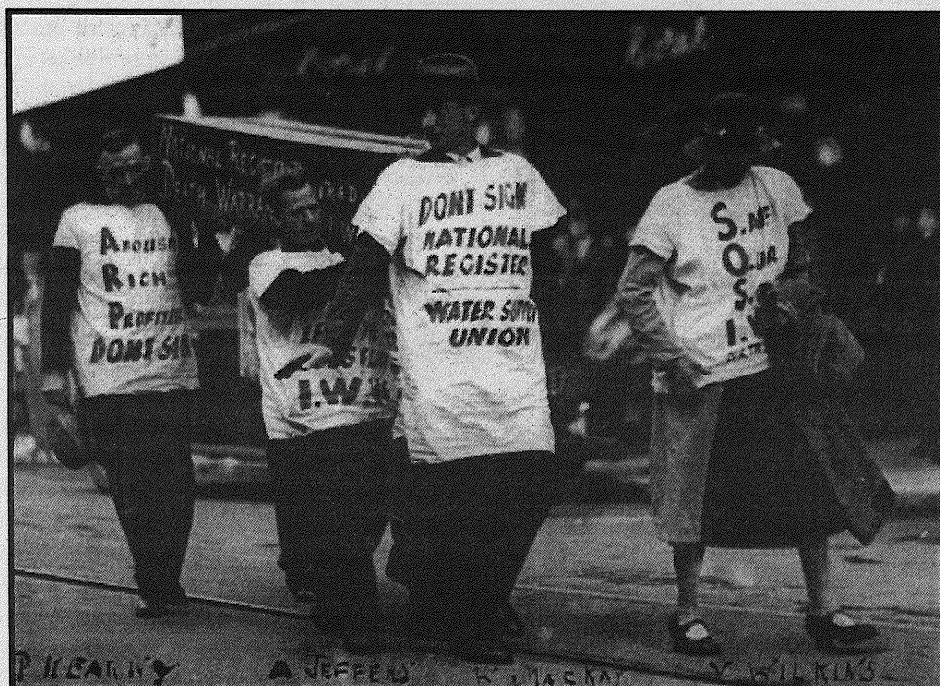
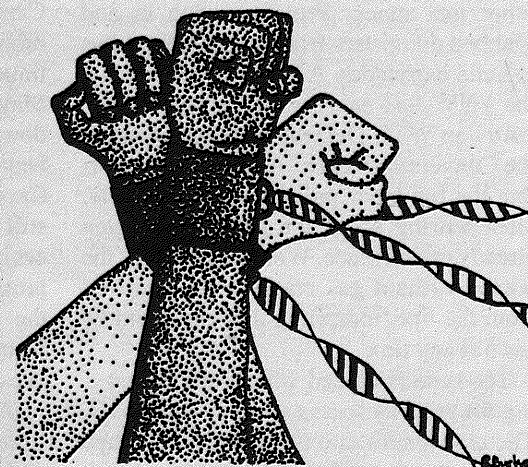
The ship quickly sets course for the sighted bird play. The crew springs into action and readies the seine boats for launch. The seine boats are positioned on each side of the ship. Half the net is in each seine boat with the bunt (center) draped around the ship's stern boat connecting the two. At a signal from the captain, the seine boats are swung out on the davits and the nets lowered into the sea. The boats fall to the stern. When the net is clear of the ship, the seine boats head for the bird play at full speed. At the right moment, the speeding boats part and circle the screaming gulls.

The net is paid out as the boats complete the circle. The lead line on the bottom of the net sinks to the ocean floor while the cork line holds the net at the surface of the water. As the two boats completed the circle, my job was to leap on board the other seine boat with the purse line. There, the purse line was passed through a pulley attached to a lead weight; which was then thrown overboard. I carried the purse to the winch and begin pursuing the net. With the pulley stationed on the bottom of the ocean and the purse line run through the rings of the lead line, the entire net was closed and brought to the surface.

The four men in each boat then began pulling the net on board, flaking the net, lead line, and cork line so that it could easily be paid out on the next set. When the entire operation was reduced to a large pocket of fish, the ship would pulled along side to scoop the fish on board. The first set proved to be a big one. With the ship loaded, we headed for port.

At dock side we were informed by the agent of the fish buyer that our catch would bring three cents a pound. This was the lowest amount acceptable to the crew. Packing out the fish consisted of unloading the fish in baskets, hoisting and swinging them to the dock and dumping them into boxes that were set on a scale. The captain kept tally of the weight. With all of the fish packed, iced, and loaded onto trailers; the fish buyer's agent wrote a check.

The ship took forty percent of the check. Then the food and fuel and any other expenses were deducted. The balance was then divided up amongst the crew. The value of the catch (market price) determined the amount of your share. It was in this way that we worked without the wage system.



## Remembering Our History IV

Sixty-one years ago, in August, the Perth Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World staged a protest against the National Register Act that had recently been passed by the Australian Parliament. The Act, which mandated that all laborers must register with the State and provide detailed information on themselves, was opposed by the IWW as intrusive and "Fascist."

Members of the Perth Branch of the IWW marched down Hay Street, the main street of Perth, with a coffin on their shoulders in a mock funeral procession. Pictured to the left are Violet Wilkens, W. Mackay, A. Jeffrey and P. Kearny who took part in the March. They stopped several times to give short speeches against the National Register and, according to IWW eyewitnesses, a crowd of several thousand was formed. The same witnesses said that all traffic was blocked for half an hour. Subsequently arrested and tried for not having obtained the correct permits to hold a demonstration, the six IWW members spent 3 days in jail as a result of exercising their rights to free speech. During the short trial, the six sang "Solidarity Forever" and were forcibly removed from the court.

Most remaining IWW historical records are contained in the IWW Collection and other related personal collections at the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Anyone interested in the collection, or interested in adding to it should contact William LeFevre at the Archives at telephone number 313-577-2789 or by email at William.LeFevre@Wayne.Edu.



# Wobblies Converge Upon Seattle to Shut Down WTO!

*continued from page 1*

locate the People's Assembly march, which had been denied a permit to march, and we learned that the Assembly was near 4th and Jackson, several blocks away. The initial plan was to attempt to join with that march at around 10am, to boost their numbers and provide additional security for both groups.

## THE BATTLE IN SEATTLE BEGINS

After lengthy deliberation, the Wob banner moved to 4th and Union, where the column of riot police had also arrived after gassing protestors on 6th and Union. Apparently, some WTO delegates had been terribly inconvenienced by not being able to travel West on Fourth. Several fellow workers noted that the police formation indicated that gas would not be fired for a short time, and again considered the option of getting back to Westlake park in the event of another gas attack. Protestors dug in and grabbed dumpsters from nearby alleyways to build barricades. A rumor circulated that the IWW had successfully prevented the Peruvian WTO Delegation from getting to the Convention Center. Another rumor was that the big labor rally would leave early, after hearing about the police repression already taking place. Wobs observed as the horses without gas masks were removed from the line, indicating that gas could be used at any time.

The rumors ceased when without warning the security forces attacked the crowd. The crowd split into two halves, to escape the dozens of rounds of tear gas being fired. Cops assaulted and peppersprayed demonstrators. In anger, some responded by breaking windows. The police were only able to clear the intersection, as any more force would have created a full-scale riot; there was barely enough room for people to move away. After the assault subsided, water and solutions were used to treat burning eyes and skin. A stalemate situation began to develop, where the crowd continued to resist the random assaults of the police on the front line. Meanwhile, the AFL/CIO labor march began to approach a block away, where they could not see what the police were up to. Clearly, the orders were that the police only assault demonstrators while big labor had its back turned. When Wobs, Teamsters, Steelworkers, and ILWU members split the march to go down 4th, the police stopped; when the AFL/CIO "marshals" came to remove union members, the assaults continued.

## THE POLICE ESCALATE ON UNION STREET

Almost seconds after Wobs had pulled down a banner near 4th and Union, the police opened fire again. The gas was so thick you couldn't see more than 20 feet if you were completely outside the cloud. No one in the cloud could see at all, blinded and coughing, some vomiting. The security forces opened fire with rubber bullets directly at people, and both stun and concussion grenades were fired into the crowd. A few enraged protestors came to Westlake and shouted, "they're shooting at us!" Wobs got the word out via radio to gather again at Westlake. Several Wobs disappeared, and radio contact remained sparse. Another situation was developing at 6th and Union, near the Niketown outlet. While explosions of grenades could still be heard at 4th and Union, a contingent of 100 behind the IWW banner went to Niketown, after an FW reported that some demonstrators need backup.

The arrival at Niketown was met with dozens of locked down protestors, riots cops, an APC, and trashed (corporate) storefronts. In a disgusting act of selling out, someone got up onto a police car and demanded that everyone stay where they were while

the police moved in to attack the crowd. She was met with catcalls from the anarchists and others, who didn't appreciate a speech about saving the capitalist's property and taking a beating from the police. Others began to expropriate from the stores near the intersection, and according to some reports, the group that was locked down in the intersection unlocked themselves in time to try to escape an all out assault by the police—some were successful. No sooner had the IWW banner rounded the corner, explosions were heard, and the attack of demonstrators at Niketown continued. Many were beaten, shot with rubber bullets, and attacked by the police. Nightfall had arrived, and explosions echoed from the alleyways and the sides of downtown buildings.

Hoads poured out of downtown, while the police pushed protestors back up to Capitol Hill, where the attacks with larger rubber dowels and wooden projectiles continued. A curfew was declared, and the Mayor declared free assemblages of people downtown illegal. National Guard troops began to move into downtown, and up to Capitol Hill, where allegedly protests were still legal, but the police brutalized protestors nonetheless. The crackdown effectively prevented the Reparations 2000 march to the African American Heritage Museum from happening, which was slated for Westlake Park around dusk.

## DECEMBER FIRST

Seattle had become virtually a police state, with shock troops attempting to keep the streets clean for the arrival of President Clinton. Some 500 demonstrators were attacked at 7am, and physically beaten and gassed, with serious injuries. Many were detained at the Sand Point interment facility, while others were taken to King County jail and the regional correction center in Kent. At least three Wobblies were arrested and subjected to the brutality of Seattle's jail system (which has been a problem long before WTO). The message sent by the city was this: "we have plenty of room for you." Reports came that police attacked protestors that refused to leave busses and enter the jails, using pepperspray and physical force.

Hundreds were arrested near Regrade Park (outside the "no protest zone") and at Westlake Park, in the heart of the shopping district.

Several marches sprung up during the day, while other people tried to assess what had happened to friends and fellow workers. At dusk, for the second night running, the police forces attacked residents of Capitol Hill, driving protestors there while shooting at bystanders with rubber bullets and gas. Even though there was no property destruction that day, the police were even more ruthless than the day before and reports of torture began to surface from the jails. The attacks on Capitol Hill went well into the night, and the fact that many businesses announced that they would close early, gave rise to suspicion that these attacks were planned in advance. The anger at the police and the city government began to swell amongst citizens who were not even protesting the WTO, but who were enraged that the police would

turn their

neighborhood into a war zone.

## DECEMBER SECOND

Organizing came from the streets instead of the hall, as Wobs tried to assess what needed to be done. Breaks appeared between groups as spokespersons began to denounce anarchists and window breakers. Organizing was hastily done, and natural affinity groups began to develop amongst Wobs. It was also clear that the IWW would again have to assert its own course of action as the organization structure of groups began to crumble.

The idea came about that labor should address the torture of prisoners and the police terrorism. Members of the USWA, Teamsters, ILWU, and other AFL/CIO union members had been assaulted the night before by the Police during the Steelworkers march that started that afternoon. Residents of Capitol Hill were angry. Over 500 prisoners were being held in jail and were being denied all basic civil rights. By-standers and residents were gassed, clubbed, and shot at for being in their own neighborhood. The media began to turn toward a pro-police sentiment, and the marches and protests got smaller as leaders got thrown in jail and people left town. Yet the city needed to feel at least the threat of what labor could do, and in the atmosphere of the day, there were no limits of what people at least thought was possible.

Wobs on that morning began to agitate for a General Strike in Seattle and a rally on Broadway and march to the jail was called for that evening at 5pm. For the afternoon, leaflets were handed out on Capitol Hill, and residents were supportive. The watchword was "Call the labor temple. Call the Teamsters hall. Tell them you live here, and tell them you want a General Strike to release the prisoners and end the police terrorism!" Rank and file union members in the meantime began to gather at the jail, and Wobblies went amongst them to talk about the General Strike. All those spoken with were receptive, but the leadership of the unions was nowhere to be found.

When 5pm rolled around, a crowd of about 200 had gathered, and the Wobs declared a street meeting. Proposals came from the crowd on where to march, why to march, and votes were taken. Even the news commented on the new element that had been brought into the protests—meetings in the streets, democracy and voting, people determining their own course of action for themselves instead of it being decided for them. The newspapers, including the big Seattle papers as well as the alternative papers, billed the rally as either non-existent or as a community rally with no politics, and disconnected it from the larger events happening in town.

The meeting unanimously decided to first march up and down Broadway and then to return to the same place to determine if a promise had been made good on. A representative from DAN insisted that if the IWW cancelled the rally that all prisoners would be released. The crowd responded with distrust, and upon returning to the plaza, no such news had come. The crowd had grown to 500, while in-

dividuals appeared out of nowhere, attempting to take control of the rally and kill it. Wobs continued to pass the megaphone to people in the crowd who wanted to speak on the question at hand—should the march to the jail move forward? The proposal came that those wanting to march to the jail should, and those wishing to stay should also, though a majority decided with their feet that the jail would be the destination.

The police announced that they would give the march an escort, and the contingent headed toward the jail, which was about 15 blocks away. In spite of efforts of the police to spread rumors about where the march would go, the Wobs continued to follow what had been decided by the meeting—the march would go to the jail and meet with others already gathered. Random individuals continued to appear and attempt to control and redirect the march based on police orders. The television reported that the "march was ignoring the police," though not one single order to do anything came to the crowd from any officer.

Finally a member of the USWA ran up the hill from the jail and announced that an order had come through to give the prisoners access to lawyers. The other contingent of 1000 was leaving the jail, and met up with the contingent led by the IWW banner. The crowd continued to swell, and by the time it had reached its starting point on Broadway, another crowd of 500 had gathered. The police at some point had decided to lay off after initially sporting riot gear down at the jail; somewhere between the time the IWW began the street meeting and the time the crowd got to the jail, the police changed its tune. The prisoners were not released, but only "given" their rights that they were supposedly already entitled to.

## DAMAGE CONTROL

The AFL/CIO called for another march for the afternoon of December 3rd, and in spite of all that had happened, the leadership refused to allow the rank and file's wishes to march back to the jail. Rope was strung up alongside of the march to prevent "splits" and many rank and filers left the rally before it concluded, upset that the unions "had blown it again." Wobs continued to pass out leaflets about the General Strike, which was met with mixed responses. Ultimately, the goals were to educate about the real power as workers, to define what the IWW's stance has always been, and most of all, provide a starting point to organize in a direction that would make the Mayor pay attention to the concerns of labor about the WTO and the police terrorism. However, it had become clear that the level of anger at the police had died down, since the crackdown had ended, and energy would have to be turned in another direction.

Things became more hectic as people continued to leave town and the issue of prison support went unaddressed. A meeting was called, and the Wobs had learned that prisoners would soon be released out of the facility in Kent, some 25 miles out of town. A vehicle dispatch system was set up, and IWW members took the task of making sure prisoners had transportation back to the city upon release. Wobs stayed up for as long as 36 hours to make sure that prisoners could be transported back to a warehouse that had been used for WTO organizing.

IWW members demanded it be used as a safe point for prisoners to rest upon release. News came in that Wobs had been released along with the mass coming out of the jails. Released prisoners were given cigarettes, and shown the copy of the paper that read: "SUMMIT ENDS IN FAILURE."

We had won, won big, at least for the time being.





# Global Solidarity Derails International Trade Talks

*continued from page 1*

In the Asian continent, several nations were represented. In Korea, 3000 workers, students and activists rally against the WTO at Youido Park in Seoul. India: Thousands of farmers and unionists march to Gandhi's statue in Bangalore. 500 people sit-in at Raj Ghat. 300 people scale the fence of the World Bank, blocking the building and covering it with posters, graffiti, manure and mud. Phillipines: 8,000 union members and activists rally at the US Embassy and presidential palace in Manila. Later, demonstrators return and throw rotten vegetables at the US Embassy to demand the release of Seattle anti-WTO prisoners Pakistan: 8,000 demonstrate against the WTO in Muzafferghar

Middle Eastern and African nations had less involvement than other continents. But in Turkey, dozens of Turkish workers marched from Corlu in the northwest of Turkey to Ankara, a distance of over 2,000 miles. Demonstrations took place in 18 cities on the road.

European nations took part in large numbers. In Italy, trade unionists, IWW members, anarchists, and autonomists marched against economic globalization. Australian IWW members took part in actions that occurred there. In England during the day, anti-WTO demonstrators occupied a Nestle factory, while construction workers protest the reintroduction of asbestos into England as a result of a WTO ruling. Later, thousands rally at Euston Station to support public transportation workers and to protest the WTO. The rally degenerates into a riot of sorts, with police confrontations, 38 arrests, several casualties and an overturned police van. In Switzerland, demonstrators from People's Global Action occupied the WTO head-

quarters, chaining themselves to WTO Director Michael Moore's office with placards saying, "No Commerce, No Organization: Self-Management!" 5,000 others rallied against the WTO. In France 75,000 people in 80 cities joined the International Day of Action Against the WTO. 800 miners clashed with police, ransacked a tax office, and burned cars. Protestors occupied a McDonald's restaurant. In Portugal 300 marched through Lisbon against the WTO.

North America had some of the most intense actions, particularly in Seattle (see the Seattle article). In Washington DC around one hundred protestors, including IWW members, assembled at Lafayette Park, and again at the USIA Building, to express their displeasure with corporate greed and FDA inaction with regard to genetically-engineered (GE) foods. ACT-UP activists occupied US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky's office to protest WTO policies that effectively deny AIDS medications to poor nations. Portland IWW members

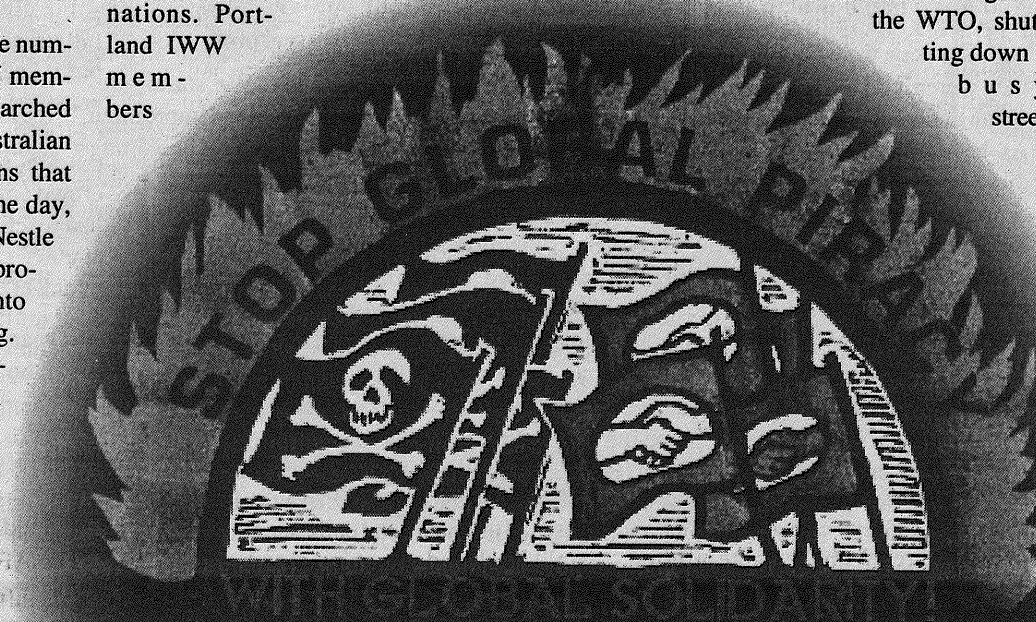
and others took part in a solidarity rally for imprisoned anti-WTO demonstrators in Pioneer Square. Over 125 people protested outside the Baltimore World Trade Center. In Boston demonstrators protested against the WTO outside the Federal Reserve Building. A diverse group of activists gather in Woodruff Park in downtown Atlanta for an educational event including speakers, musicians and free food and clothing. In West Virginia, IWW members and other activists march through Morgantown, handing out leaflets and engaging in other educational activities. In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, hundreds participate in a week of awareness and action against the WTO. Over 9000 longshoremen go on strike and close down all ports along the West Coast - some for a few hours others for the majority of the day. In Toronto, IWW members and several hundred other protesters marched through the streets of the financial district. Winnipeg IWW members and over 300

others marched against the WTO, shutting down a busy street

during rush hour. They marched to the University of Winnipeg where there were several speakers and some singing. In Ottawa, about 150 people gather at Parliament Hill for an anti-WTO rally. 35 people march against the WTO in Salmon Arm, BC. In Penticton, BC, 25 people demonstrate on the boulevards in the middle of Main Street to protest the WTO. In downtown Edmonton about 100 demonstrate against the WTO outside Canada Place.

In Central and South America, there were a number of actions, but due to lack of email access (as in Africa and most of Asia) contacts between the first and third world were few. In Mexico, striking UNAM students held an action in solidarity with jailed Seattle anti-WTO protestors. A few days later, 500 striking UNAM students in Mexico City had a demonstration at the US embassy. After speeches a clash between riot police and students brought 98 arrests, 10 injured students and 6 injured policemen. The FZLN sent a press release out expressing their solidarity with the students and condemning police brutality. In Guatemala, a teach-in on the WTO was held by leftist teachers.

The IWW made it's name known worldwide through it's actions to help facilitate N30. As an international union for all working people, we took on a roll that one day will hopefully bring a new world of industrial democracy and freedom for all. Another International Day of Action is being planned with Wobbly participation for May 1, 2000 and is being dubbed Mayday2k. Mayday, as most of us know, is the oldest International Day of Action Against Global Capitalism around. To get involved organize a local action, or go to <http://www.onelist.com/mayday2k>.



## Some Personal Accounts of Seattle Protests by Wobs

### Outside the Labor Temple WTO account—FW Eric Chase

As demonstrators were racing away from police, an elderly man carrying groceries kept walking through the onslaught toward the police who by now were beating anyone they could get near. I helped this man get to several activists wearing the red cross. Another demonstrator, blinded by gas and moving away from the police, was charged by a cop seeing an unsuspecting victim. The cop began hitting the demonstrator with his baton, I was able to pull this guy out of the way nearly losing my camera to the baton. If I had a third hand I would have gotten this picture. Several protesters recounted tales of police pepper-spraying people coming out of restaurants and arresting them. It was very obvious who the tourists were more scared of.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The demonstrators chanted "Back to the Steelworkers!" and we were in full agreement. I had lost site of most of the other Wobblies except for FW Sheryl of Oly and FW David of D.C. We latched onto a Steelworker that I know from the Tacoma Port takeover and we made our way further out of the "control area." It was obvious by their pursuit that the police were no longer interested in dispersing us, but were intent on beating us down. As we got closer to the Seattle Labor Temple, it became more apparent that the police were not going to let us meet up with the USWA. With two armored personnel carriers, they charged. Rich, the Steelworker, told us to head for the

Labor Temple, but we became seperated from FW Sheryl. I remember picking up a Teamster picket that one of them had dropped while retreating and handing it to Rich, who refused it stating that if he had something in his hands that could be used as a weapon, "someone would die."

While running to the hall, I asked Rich if they would even allow Wobblies in the AFL hall. Rich replied that he was a "Goddamn Steelworker" and we were all going in. Dave, Rich and I made to the hall and jumped into an elevator going up. A woman asked us what was wrong and we informed her that demonstrators as well as Longshoremen, Teamsters, Steelworkers and

Wobblies were "getting the shit kicked out of us by the cops." She told us to follow her and she took us directly to the President of the Seattle Labor Council, Ron Judd. Immediately he asked who we were. Identifying ourselves as Wobblies and Steelworker, he proclaimed that the Labor Temple was a Sanctuary and to get all the demonstrators inside.

By the time we got back outside, the police had the demonstrators surrounded on four sides, in the middle of an intersection about a block and a half away. From what we could see, the demonstrators all sat down, realizing they could go no further. The Police proceeded to gas everyone and load

them onto buses. Ron Judd tried to walk through the police line and was promptly thumped by a police baton. He asked the cops if they knew who he was and they replied they didn't "give a fuck" and threatened him if he did not step back. Two Longshoremen who didn't get picked off by the police came to his defense, but Ron backed away, preventing the cops from getting their asses kicked. He then called someone on the cell phone and was having an extremely heated exchange, one can only guess which stuffed collar he was yelling at.

I am proud to have been in Seattle with everyone of the brave and committed people standing up for the rights of all people and the Earth. When reports come in about the police raiding a church hosting an AA meeting and using tear gas, I feel that we truly are on the verge here. I understand that busses are burning in London and riots and demonstrations are going on all over the world. I am proud to be a Wobbly. What do we want?!? General Strike!!! When do we want it?!? NOW!!!

**Frank Hoffman Olympia, WA GMB**

The image I remember from the anti-WTO protests is of women and men in their 20's sitting on the pavement of intersections in downtown Seattle November 30, stopping traffic. Without speeches, poses or ideologies, bringing global capitalism to a halt for a day. Amazing!

*more on the following page*

**"It's not my revolution if you can't dance to it." —Emma Goldman/Anarchist**

**A Revolution**

**You Can Dance To**

**Drummers dressed in black define Seattle streets. Dance of turtles and teamsters. Hip hop armies, anarchists stamping out the beat scatter past a hula hoop. Longshoremen marching to their own trombones shut down the waterfront. Drummers reappear, high stepping, masked. Youth of ghetto and barrio ask to dance in what are now their streets. Windows of privilege shatter. Inflatable whales shot by rubber bullets. Bullets as real as police who beat and mace a revolution they cannot stop.**

**CODA**

**A group of delegates to WTO, the architects of capitalism, stand bewildered in the street. A group of young anarchists surround them, say, "You are leaving now." And they did. Nothing will ever be the same.**

**B. Pliskow '99**

*background photo: A new volley of police tear gas creates a pause in the pressure. Seattle, Nov. '99*



### FW Kim Toombs, Victoria GMB on Seattle, December 1st, 1999

On December 1st, approximately 12 to 15 Wobblies and allies decided to serve as roaming medics. We hooked up with some of our Victoria allies who were involved with the Direct Action Network (DAN) communications team. We stocked up with teargas and pepperspray remedies, cloth, and other quick-fix medical supplies. With the current police state that was in effect we'd been warned that the cops were arresting anybody that looked like a protester, and this included visible medics. So we did our best to look like respectable, ignorant Christmas shoppers.

As we entered the downtown area, the magnitude of the "police state" became very apparent. Hundreds of cops and National Guards lined the intersections. National Guards were also spotted lining rooftops. The tension was high. We broke off into smaller groups so that we could roam about less obviously.

There were a surprising amount of people downtown just going about their shopping or business and stopping occasionally to watch the stand off's occurring at random intersections. It seemed as though it would be crazy for the cops to take any action because of the flack they'd get for tear gassing 'innocent' consumers.

It looked as though the cops were just going to let people be. However, at approximately 3:30pm a misty cloud of tear gas began to fall upon the downtown and its surrounding area. We rounded the corner. Crowds of people were hustling towards Pike St. Market. At this point it became difficult to know what direction other medics went in and most of us became separated from each other.

There were people collapsing to the ground because of the intensity of the gas. Burning eyes and lungs were happening, like the day before, but this time people were also vomiting and collapsing. We became very busy, rinsing people's eyes out and dragging them away from confrontation with the cops. I was helping one older man who'd been peppersprayed, when I suddenly became aware of the enormous amount of police presence quickly closing in on all of us. November 30th was the day they didn't expect us. They hurt us physically and may have damaged us mentally, but it was still our day. However, December 1st was the "Pigs Day." As I watched hundreds of them walking in Storm Trooper formation I realized that today was the day that all cops wait for; the day they get the okay to kick anybody's ass. At times, it almost seemed as though the cops outnumbered the protesters.

I was lost on unfamiliar streets as they became a mass of cops and gas. I tried to escape the "sea of riot cops" into an alley, and discovered that the police had taken over the alleys. I managed to avoid any direct altercation with the police and somehow ended up ahead of about a hundred riot cops. I found myself screaming at unsuspecting people on the streets to go the other direction. Many people that didn't believe that they were in any danger quickly changed their minds when they peered further down the street.

Eventually I found two other red-eyed

Wobbly medics who were also lost and a bit wiggled out by all the cops and gas. We made it out of the "no protest zone" just prior to the, once again, 7:00pm curfew.

Protesters had been pushed onto Broadway for the second night in a row. The tear gas could be smelled for at least a four block radius. We walked out onto Olive St. and were intercepted by two busses of riot cops heading up to Broadway. We decided to go towards the smell of tear gas, fearing that more violence was happening. As we approached we saw a woman being dragged out of an alleyway. She had a medic patch on her arm and was obviously in extreme amounts of pain. The cops had peppersprayed and kicked her repeatedly in the alley before she was found by two Wobblies. Around the same time, a young woman that was with us was grabbed by four men in plain clothes as they attempted to pepperspray her. They didn't manage to get her in the eyes, but got her in the back, and as she ran away they told her they were going to "kill her."

Broadway is part of a neighborhood, and it seemed as though the entire neighborhood was out on the streets in full force. People were angry and yelling at the police to stay out. The cops were pure evil that night and they weren't done kickin' ass. I watched as a man approached the cops to ask a question. As he approached he was peppersprayed directly in the eyes. Since that night I have heard of people being sprayed inside their cars while driving by. The police were chasing people down the streets like rabid dogs.

Soon after that, Seattle's Best began directly gassing the streets surrounding Broadway. It turned into another pig fest and by 10:15pm the Wobbly Medic Squad decided we had to pack it in. We were almost out of supplies and energy to keep us going.

The next day I attended a press conference at the SCCC where I discovered that the violence of the night before went on until approximately 3:00am. When I saw the TV coverage later on it appeared as though they'd been gassing fewer than a hundred people until those early hours. Unfortunately, it's difficult to know how many people were seriously injured and hurt by the cops that day and I don't think that most people will ever know the magnitude of violence that occurred that day.

### FW Jason Adams, Seattle GMB on Workplace Shutdowns in Seattle

After months of Wobbly agitation among non-union workers, rank and file union members and students for a city-wide walk-out on November 30, thousands of ILWU Longshoremen shut down the entire West Coast for the day with a "stop-work", while hundreds of non-union cab-drivers struck as well for a total of around 3,000 workers on strike for the day.

According to a Seattle Central Community College student, approximately 8,000-10,000 community college, public high school and university students walked out of class. 2,000 of these students were from the University of Washington, while the rest were from other schools.

The walkout, though not as successful as we would have liked, went widely unreported in the major media. Most who walked out went downtown to participate in the actions against the WTO.

### FW Bill Bradley, Portland GMB on Jail Solidarity

In the morning, I somehow managed to wake my comrades to get them to the downtown rendezvous a little after 7am. On Weds everything was differ-

ent. The day before it had been almost impossible to get arrested, on Weds they were arresting anything that moved. We joined a gathering feeder march and eluded the police for a while until we were eventually cornered in Westlake center, where we sat down. I was on the edge with my kid and coworkers, with no intention of getting arrested. So I asked "Has there been an order to disperse?" A cop answered "No." But not more than a minute later I was grabbed by an agro cop in no mood to talk who slapped zip cuffs on me and dragged me off to a commandeered city bus. A coworker somehow managed to get my kid out of there without getting arrested and came around to the bus so I wouldn't worry.

On the bus, it was a while before I had any idea what to do. Fortunately the DAN folks on the bus got us ready to take collective action, let us know about legal support, organized us so that we could make collective decisions (most of us had had no arrest preparation, several were attending the first protest of their lives). It wasn't until we were off the bus at the Sand Point Naval Station processing center that we really started resisting. I got elected as one of the facilitators and spokes — we rotated these roles as much as possible to keep anyone from getting singled out. We started demanding our lawyers with a loud impromptu song, dancing around, some of us getting out of our temporary cuffs. Then we got into the holding room with another group and the resistance really started. Everybody decided to go limp and refused to be processed. We traded radical cheers, songs, food, stories of organizing. Those of us who weren't sure whether we'd be willing to cite out got behind those who knew they wouldn't to prolong the resistance. We eventually succeeded in getting our lawyers in there, tied up the center for like twelve hours, and on the bus to a jail in Kent we got the driver to stop several times by rocking the bus, opening the window exits, etc until guard on board started macing us. (Unfortunately for the guard, he was asthmatic himself and started having an attack, poor guy.) We got to Kent at maybe 4 in the morning, tuckered and not very full of resistance.

Not until the next day when some of us were brought for arraignment did anything much happen. We killed time all day by doing teach-ins, playing rolled-up-sock hacky sack etc and reviewing jail solidarity options. Then the protesters outside the jail circled the building and the whole justice center was "locked down" no court functioned, no movement between floors. The guards were very impressed. One told us there were thousands and thousands of activists outside. Like many guards and cops throughout, he went out of his way to tell us he supported the protests.

In the process of arraignment, I got offered a drop of all charges, no ban from the protest zone, and an apology. Some of us with those offers, accepted, some stayed in. I accepted and by 4am Friday, I was out. A DAN lawyer who hadn't slept in three days picked some of us up in Kent and took us where we were going.

I learned more about resistance, and like my coworkers and so many others, I felt more prepared than ever for future mass militant action. Also, I'm used to being the most optimistic person in any given group. Since the WTO that is no longer true.

The optimism is general and infectious. Yours for the One Big Union, Bill

### FW Arthur Miller Reflections on the Battle of Seattle from a Tacoma Wobbly

After much discussion our little group from Tacoma, which was made up of two Wobblies (my son and I) my daughter and her friend, we decided that the best place for us to march on the Nov. 30th day of action was with the LELO group.

The reason for this decision was rather simple, we felt that LELO had the best message. Whereas the Direct Action Network included people who we viewed as eco-racists and eco-classists and thus excluded people for those reasons, whereas the official AFL-CIOers also were not open to all people, but LELO had the message of "No Separate Peace," in other words a resistance that left no one behind.

We started off at the labor rally. LELO was allowed to present a few union speakers from Mexico, Central and South America, who voiced sincere words of international labor solidarity. After that somewhere around 40,000 labor unionists took to the streets of Seattle.

Somewhere in that mass of people we lost LELO and ended up marching with Longshoremen from Bellingham and Tacoma. Near the convention center the march split into two parts, with some returning to the beginning of the march while others went on to the area of the police lines and that is where the longshoremen went and we followed them. After a while, without any notice that I heard, the police started firing tear gas, concussion bombs and rubber bullets. My son, daughter and myself were tear-gassed rather heavily. We made our way over to where the Wobblies were to meet for the museum march. There were people there, I guess they were DAN people, telling everyone that the march had been canceled, but since we did not know any of them we just hung out there until the police lines started firing again.

The next day I made it to the steelworkers march and spotted a few shipyard workers who I had worked with and I marched with them. Afterwards we all walked up through Pike Place Market right into a raging police riot. I saw the police assault working people who were just standing waiting for their bus. To the dislike of the "peace police" we did fight back, in what manner I will not say.

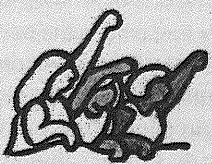
On the next day I was driving into Seattle and heard on the radio about a large march heading to the park by the market and I joined up with it. From there we marched to the jail. After I left I heard on the news that the self-appointed protest leaders had negotiated with the police state. DAN leaders had made a deal with "authorities" to stay far clear of the so-called "no protest zone," thusly leaving the WTO to conduct their meetings in peace and quiet, away from the noise of resistance. We may have marched on the jail in solidarity with those arrested, but DAN leaders had kept us away from the WTO in a joint agreement with the police state. The DAN leaders had made deals with the facists which effectively shut down the majority of protesters by removing them from the trade talks!

Later that night I talked with NW AIM people about their planned march the next day. At first they were going to march with the labor march but some pie cards did not want them there. But at the last minute some labor allies stepped in and got NW AIM and the Indigenous Environmental Network to march in front of the labor march and I was there with them. Some among labor still did not like this, and when Chief Johnny Jackson was giving a prayer they chanted very disrespectfully "march!, march!, march!" Then the AFL-CIO sound truck tried to drown out the AIM drum with pop music, but many good unionists would not stand for that. The march went through the streets and at every police line the AIM drum stopped and did the AIM song right in front of them before moving on.

There are many things to learn from the Battle of Seattle. We need to break from the isolated debased groups and take our message to the communities and workplaces. We need to push for a movement that includes all people, all concerns and all resistance into a united force against global corporate fascism. Let us never leave anyone behind! NO SEPARATE PEACE!

## For Sister Workers—Order NOW!

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# JeffBoat Workers and Wobs Continue the Pressure in Kentucky

simply walked off the job at breaktime. Other workers watched and followed suit. By Wednesday, we had our breaks back. After all, what could the company do?

FW Paul Knight, who works in the pipe gang, visited his Fellow Workers on Line 1 to tell us that he thought the company was preparing a more serious attack. This Monday they announced, once again, that the breaks were out, and perhaps even lunch, with "strict enforcement." Well, we took our breaks just the same. We took our lunch. And some of us took a little extra for good measure.

Realize that all of this is taking place against a backdrop of an executive board election for Teamsters Local 89, the largest union local in Kentucky. Our local has been ruled by what the newspapers are calling a "dynasty" since the 1950's when Jimmy Hoffa helped put these good people in power. This election is the first to challenge this dynasty since 1975. A lot of people are upset about this. A lot of people are also upset that radical unionism has hit JeffBoat, the third largest company whose workers are "represented" by Local 89.

The mobsters who run Local 89 are being challenged by an Independent slate, the "United Rank and File" slate. This slate is composed of working Teamsters from a number of the workplaces involved with Local 89. I have heard some troubling things about the "leadership" of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (United Rank and File), but I saw no problem in stirring up trouble in the yard by organizing for the IWW. If our "radicalism" helps working people take charge, especially away from the mob, then it's for the best. If guys want to keep an IWW cell in the yard, so be it. If they want to change their affiliation to IWW, that's peachy too.

The election was held this past weekend

with expected intimidation efforts by the mobsters and the "mobsters Independent slate," a breakaway mobster faction that is an obvious attempt to split the reform vote. The companies with workers voting in the election went nuts, working us outrageous overtime hours and trying to foil anyone's chances of voting whatsoever.

Monday morning someone started a rumor that the actual Independent slate had won. That was the last Monday mentioned above, when the company decided to "lay down the law" which we promptly violated. The problem for the company was that, with all the IWW talk and practice, it becomes more and more difficult to "lay down the law" to workers. Guys who hadn't taken part in any sort of direct action were standing up announcing that they were doing

I returned to work Wednesday and of course, I took breaks from the cold. I am working on protest until we get our upgrade. I am doing my job EXACTLY ACCORDING TO THE CONTRACT, (which cuts out a lot of my work), and I also filed a grievance, along with other workers, against our foreman for not giving us our pay.

When we returned to work the following Monday, it was the beginning of the New Year and the day on which the company planned to "get tough." I was dreading that day because it meant that we workers would have to eat what the company forced down our throats. It would mean losing what little dignity we had left.

I arrived at work Monday morning pre-dawn. A heavy, cold rain was falling. A hundred or so men filled the breakroom,

hips, told him to sit down and informed him that we'll do whatever we're told if we wanted to keep our jobs. He looked at the other foremen standing beside him and they simultaneously ordered us all out into the freezing rain to work.

No one moved. Another foreman shouted, "Let's go to work!" No one moved. The first foreman shouted through clenched teeth, "Didn't you guys hear the man? Get out here!" And all the foremen began pounding on the metal tops of the nearest bench with their hardhats, shouting at us.

One man moved. It was Fellow Worker McConahay who stood up and yelled, "I'm a member of the IWW and I don't have to do a goddamned thing!" The foremen were jerking their heads around as Fellow Workers told them, "Yeah, we're Wobblies, you can suck on this!" A guy named Harvey screamed, "Ain't nobody going nowhere, especially out in that shit and get their ass fried!"

Guys began walking through the breakroom, shouting, laughing, and hitting tables. The foremen left the building; the meeting had broken down.

The whole thing happened very quickly. I had been sitting in the back, stretching, trying to ignore what I thought was going to be a boot on my fellow workers' necks and my own. The moment FW McConahay yelled at the foremen, I began calculating what to do when they hauled him out. Now we all gathered at my table in the back.

In a half-hour or so, Fellow Worker Paul Knight came through the door and took a seat at the table. He told us they had shut down the pipe gang's work too and that no one over there had complied with orders either. "I got them stirred up," he said, "I told them this is how a Wobbly would do it."

After another half-hour or so, a foreman entered the breakroom and asked if anyone there was going to go to work. One guy yelled back, "Hell no! It's still raining like a mother, and I'm playing cards!"

They sent us all home two hours after the "Safety Meeting" started. The Fellow Workers and some Fellow Workers-to-be went to FW McConahay's house and had an informal meeting of IUB 320.

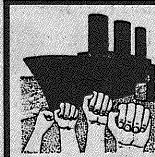
That was a hell of a day, and I'm not ashamed to admit that that morning, and in the retelling, my eyes get wet. I thought I was going to watch our dignity get flushed; instead we got stronger.

Two days later, on Wednesday, the Line foreman (the guy who's above all the foremen) called for a hearing on our grievance. The union steward thought it would be some time before we got our hearing, but apparently our work protest caused a little problem (not much, but enough it seems). It was the yard's nastiest foreman (our foreman), the line foreman, the union steward, FW Brison, an old guy named Mack and yours truly. Somehow I wound up as the spokesman.

The line foreman tried to talk us down at first, but our case was pretty straightforward. Our foreman lied all along the way, but I threatened to bring in paperwork to prove him wrong. Eventually, and strangely, the line foreman agreed that we had been wronged and gave us backpay and a guarantee to pay us for upgrades in the future. Now all of the other workers that have been denied their pay are coming forward.

All in all, it was a great week, but I am concerned about the next move. What just happened felt fucking fantastic, and it was a victory but they'll be back. They're bigger than us, too, and better equipped for and accustomed to causing pain in others. We got to keep our heads through the good and the bad, I guess.

Holding strong for the moment...  
Solidarity, Terry Nikolai Tapp



**"I'm a member of the IWW and I don't have to do a goddamned thing!" The foremen were jerking their heads around as FWs told them, "Yeah, we're Wobblies, you can suck on this!"**

whatever the fuck they wanted and nobody was going to tell them to remain outside in the freezing rain or the 15 degree temperature without a break. The Monday morning "Safety Meeting" broke down into chaos.

I talked with our alternate steward on the phone Monday night. He ran for a Trustee position on the slate. He informed me that some of the guys might be out for blood in the yard, like the guys who operate the cranes that swing heavy metal plates by our heads. Some of the men trade trinkets such as little favors or several hundred dollars in palm money for the rights and freedom of their fellow workers and themselves. He also told me that the company plans to fire any man that walks off the job to take a break. He suggested I take the day off, and it seemed like a good idea.

most sitting on benches, all waiting for the weekly "Safety Meeting." After several minutes the five foremen walked through and took their places at the head of the room. They went through a list of changes in the yard including no breaks, reduced lunchtime, monitored time in the heatshacks (a little metal hut for warming up), and no getting off any barge for any reason. Most importantly, they stressed the fact that we were completely out of line about disobeying orders before and taking breaks, and they were fed up with our insubordination. Things had changed, as of that moment, they said.

One fellow in the back pointed out the door and said, "We can't go out and work in this, at least not until it lightens up a bit." One of the foremen, with his hands on his

## Deep Roots Workers in Greensboro Go Wobbly

*continued from front cover*

cess. While Deep Roots is a consumer cooperative the policies of management in the past weeks have been anything but cooperative. The Deep Roots workers took to organizing quickly, talking with folks on the job and placing photocopied articles from the *Industrial Worker* in employee boxes.

On the day of a scheduled staff meeting, management threatened the job of a Union member who is one of the most vocal critics of the rollbacks. Workers decided to confront management with their Union affiliation and three specific policy change proposals at the staff meeting. The proposals were: benefits issued to all employees who are scheduled 30 hours or more a week, a demand for worker representatives at management meetings, and staff meetings held on a quarterly basis. The proposals also stated "The entire staff at Deep Roots has become confused, angry and tired of the Management Team's policy changes that effect only the workers and not the manag-

ers themselves".

The next pay period following the meeting included a note from management stating that no policy changes, including the loss of health insurance, would be made until a new General Manager could be instated. While the worker's two other demands are on hold, and a host of other problems exist, they have retained their health coverage for the time being and feel that is a victory. Rest assured, there is still an uphill battle confronting the Deep Roots staff and the IWW will be by their side as they push forward in an effort to create and maintain shop democracy.

Wobblies not employed at Deep Roots will be working on a Deep Roots Worker support committee. Anyone wishing to donate much needed organizing funds or send letters of support can contact the Greensboro IWW at PO BOX 10093 Greensboro, NC 27404 or gborowobs@usa.net

Dave Coker

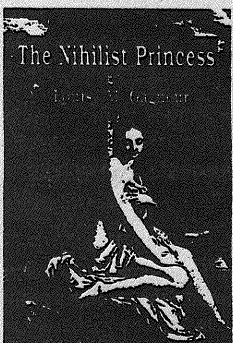
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## Heads UP! Fellow Workers!

April 14 is the date the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has chosen to meet in Washington, DC! The IMF is directly responsible for destroying the lives of workers all around the world through "mandatory policy changes" contingent to loans.

Contact the Baltimore, Philadelphia or Ground Zero (Washington, DC) GMBs for info on IWW plans for this event.

(Can you think of something better to do than fight capitalism?)



## 12,000 Gather to Close the SOA

By: Jessica Dawson

On Saturday, November 21, 1999, 12,000 people gathered for a two-day protest of the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA). The vigil was held at the front gates of Ft. Benning in Columbus, Georgia. The passion of the vigil was created by diverse voices ranging from SOA survivors to the blessings and music of Mayan, Lakota, Baptist, Buddhist, and White Earth Chippewa sisters and brothers.

At 12:50 PM on November 22, 2,000 protestors crossed the line onto the fort in a memorial funeral procession, honoring all the victims of the SOA and vowing to advocate peace and remain committed to closing the school. The procession marched with remarkable solidarity; most carrying crosses and Star of David's, each marked with a different SOA victim's name that was shouted out in remembrance during the procession. In response, a thundering "presente" was cried out as everyone raised his or her crosses and stars in unison. A few of the protestors, including Martin Sheen, staged a mock massacre equipped with fake blood, coffins, and death masks. Sixty-five people were arrested for civil disobedience. As of January 5th, twenty-three have been charged.

The SOA was started in Panama in 1946 and under the Panama Canal Treaty was forced to relocate to Georgia in 1984. The SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American troops in combat skills including commando tactics, military intelligence, psychological operations, torture, execution, and black mail. This was revealed by a White House report in 1996, the same year the Pentagon was forced to turn over the

SOA's training manuals used up until 1991. The SOA trains soldiers in Low Intensity Conflict, used to preserve the interests of rich U.S. Corporation leaders and their buddies in Latin America. SOA graduates return home to brutally torture, rape, and murder their own country's educators, labor organizers, religious leaders, activists, and others. Some targets in the SOA manuals are those who do "union organizing or recruiting" and "literature in favor of the interests of workers." This disgusting excuse of a "school" is sponsored with \$10 to \$20 million a year of U.S. tax dollars.

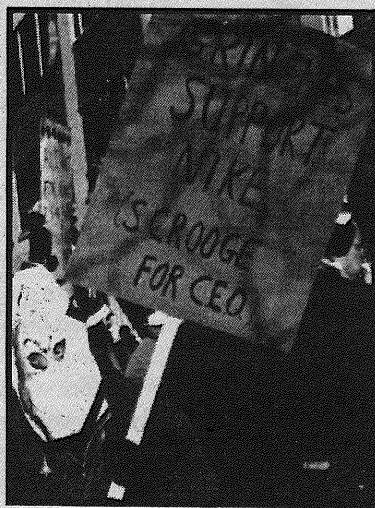
Your next chance to stand up in solidarity against the School of Americas is April 2-3, 2000 in Washington D.C. On Sunday April 2nd a rally will be held in Lafayette Park from 11am to 5pm. On Monday, April 3rd, you can lobby the legislators to support the bill to close the SOA, at East-Center Capitol steps from 10am to 6pm. Another act of solidarity could be demanding your representative to cosponsor HR732 and your Senator to cosponsor S873. Also Fast 2000, a juice-only fast, begins April 6th and goes to April 19th in an act of solidarity with our friends in Latin America. Every day of Fast 2000 will represent a different country that has suffered from the hands of SOA graduates. For more information contact SOA Watch at PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017, (202) 234-3440, www.soaw.org. SOA Watch carries a lot of useful information such as SOA manuals, interviews with the SOA, SOA graduates, and other news/reports. Encourage the movement, spread the word and be there in April.

## Chicago Wobs Celebrate X-Mas at Niketown

Santa to Nike: "You've Been Very Bad, Come and Get Your Coal"

On Saturday December 18th from 11am to 1:30 PM, Niketown at 669 N. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, IL received a visit from Christmas spirits urging that Nike pay it's workers a living wage. Santa was there and delivered a big bucket of coal for Nike and it's shareholders.

His helpers in Santa hats sang such famous carols as "God Bless You Very Wealthy Men," "Away in a Sweatshop" and "The Twelve Days of Sweatshopping." Jacob Marley, the ghost famous for his appearance in Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" (played by FW Mike Hargis), was there pleading his case to the holiday shoppers as were others. They drew



attention to the wages Nike pays some of it's overseas workers, by soliciting contributions from passers by; in the form of hourly and daily wages. They asked for thirty cents representing the hourly wages Nike pays it's workers, and \$2.40 for what they make in a day. They used figures supplied by Nike itself, and raised a fair amount from the concerned consumers who pitched in.

The event was organized by the Labor Rights Task Force (LRTF) of the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee. The Chicago Branch of the IWW was represented by two current and two former members. Bruce Gould, the chair of the LRTF, said "Today we used theater and merriment to communicate an issue to the public that is very serious. We brought home the fact that what corporations like Nike do has a huge impact on the global economy, and the local economy in Chicago. We want to both support the efforts of overseas workers who are exploited, and raise the issue that the people here in Chicago should have good paying jobs in

the production of consumer goods."

Showing up on the side of Nike at the protest, were the Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge, who spoke to the Michigan Avenue crowd about how generous Nike was with it's workers, citing the fact that a worker making roughly 60 cents for what on average is a \$60 pair of Nike shoes are doing pretty well for themselves.

Gould on the other hand, underscored the point that he doesn't want this to be seen as protectionism. "It is not as simple as 'companies should only produce goods here in the U.S.,' we know that with the globalization of the economy, that isn't realistic. But we can even the playing field, and among other things pay a wage above the poverty line no matter where production is."

The public reaction was positive, with an exception that was revealing about the level of apathy some consumers still have about Nike. At one point Santa was orating to the Grinch and the crowd about how most shoppers cared too much about the conditions in Nike's overseas factories to purchase their shoes—Chicago consumers were more likely to go home and send off a note to Phil Knight, the CEO of Nike, asking him to make improvements at his company. However, the Grinch, in a cunning move to win the argument that people don't care, asked a passerby with a newly purchased pair of Nike shoes under his arm if he cared about the people who made those shoes. The Grinch smiled broadly as the man gave his two word reply, that seemed to underscore everything the Grinch stands for. "Bite me," the man responded.

Bob Lyon

## Wobblies Show Strong at SOA

By: Mike Arauja

Your humble scribe here to tell you about the SOA (School of the Americas) protest in Columbus, GA. But first; why protest the SOA and why it is important for Wobs to do so?

The SOA, among other horrible things like killing nuns and priests working for social change, trains the modern equivalent to the Pinkertons and the FBI. I am talking about union busters. Our class is under attack in the lands south of Texas; our fellow workers are fighting not only for the right to organize, higher wages, and better conditions, but also for their very lives. Their struggle is our struggle.

I know comparing things and people to the Nazis is over-used and often inappropriate. In this case the comparison fully applies. This school's graduates are butchers as surely as any SS officers. Union busting and murder is what they do.

As Wobs we are militant always, military never. We have a long and proud tradition of fighting our bosses and their minions. Today our bosses kill with impunity in the southlands with one hand and rob us with the other. Wages and bullets are the fraternal twins of our bosses; neither is worth much to us. Our bosses need a divided working class as much as we need class

solidarity. We have to keep the pressure up here to relieve the pressure there.

The protest drew nearly 12,000 with about 2000 crossing the line to the base. A really good folk duo called Sing It Down played Wob songs with the illustrious Mr. Seeger. Some guy played a swinging version of Solidarity Forever, while people danced on the barricades. There also was an American Indian rapper who got the folks moving. It is things like this that reaffirm my class pride.

Now on to the IWW presence.. gosh do I love my union.

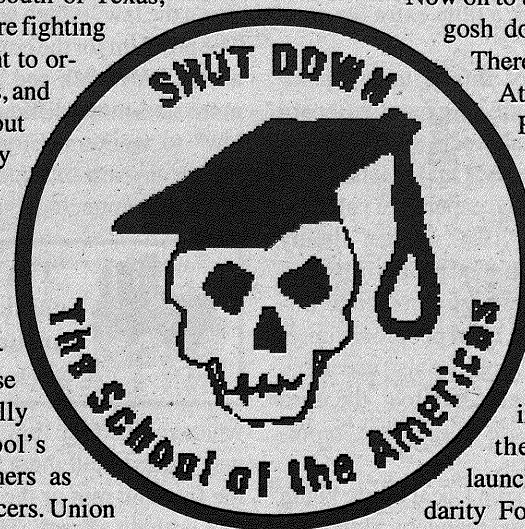
There were Wobs from Atlanta, Detroit, San Francisco, Texas, Massachusetts, and of course Rhode Island. Hell, a lapsed Wobbly even paid his dues.

So anyway, while we were being taken away on the bus. FW Dave launches a rousing Solidarity Forever that had the

bus jumping. I am wicked proud of

all the Wobblies, union folks, priests, nuns, college students, parents, grandparents, vets, Mennonites, and everyone else who was there that I neglected to mention. Now if only I could get you all in the Grand Industrial Band we'd have cooperative commonwealth in a year.

P.s. 2001 in 2001. I bet we can do it!



## FAT Strike Continues in Mexican Printshop

WORKERS ON STRIKE FOR 3 YEARS NEED YOUR SUPPORT! July 13th, 1999 marked the third year of the Morales Printshop strike in Mexico City. Even as the strike stretches into its fourth year, the workers remain resolute. "We are going to win," says one of the "guardians of the night" who take turns living in sheds barricading the front of the plants.

The Morales Bros. Printshop primarily employs single mothers with a median age of thirty. For twenty years, they supported a corrupt union that did nothing to stop abuse, mistreatment, paycuts, and a shop floor that was run with threats of dismissal or beatings. When the current owner, Jose Antonio Morales, cut the plants' workforce from seventy to thirty, the workers finally decided to seek independent union representation.

The printshop workers affiliated with the Authentic Labor Front (F.A.T.). Jose Morales, however, refused to negotiate with the F.A.T.'s representative, and instead made a failed attempt to bribe the union's general secretary. Morales then stopped work at one plant and greatly reduced work at another. When Morales failed to pay eight weeks

worth of wages, the printshop workers walked out on strike on July 13th, 1996.

Since then, the workers have maintained a constant presence in front of the plants. Taking turns living in sheds barricading the doors, the strikers have endured cold, rain, and the breakup of families. One worker returned home from the vigil to find her thirteen year old son dead from unknown causes. Workers have continually suffered assaults and death threats from the owner's thugs. If the owner is not able to pay the back wages owed to them, the workers demand that the plant be turned over to them for their own use.

In this era of global markets, it is absolutely vital that resistance go global as well. Different struggles and countries must support each other, in order for us to win.

Please send financial and/or moral support, to: F.A.T., Godar, Colonia Guadalupe Victoria, CP 07790, Mexico DF, Mexico. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Frente Autentico de Trabajo, please include a note indicating that your support is for the Morales Imprenta Huelga. Thank you very much; together, we can surely win.

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**Sister Worker** a quarterly publication of stories, histories, poems and sex written by Wobbly women. Definitely not for the squeamish. 1 issue \$5/4 issues \$15: make check or m.o. to Sister Worker, 136 S. Pine Ave., Albany, NY 12208, USA.

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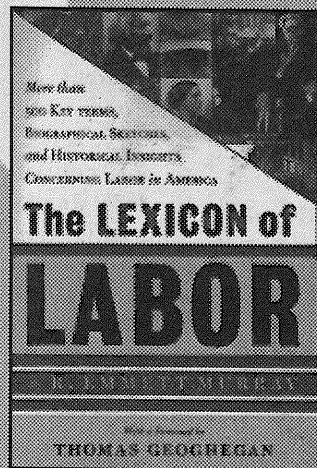
#### British Isles

**36th Edition Int'l Songbook £4**, post-paid. A selection of literature is available from: IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB



# books for rebel workers

## New This Month



**The Lexicon of Labor** by R. Emmett Murray

*The Lexicon of Labor* defines and describes over 500 key terms and has biographical sketches and historical insights. It is focused on the United States, and should prove helpful to workers trying to get a handle on the words, laws and historic events that shaped labor relations in this country.

Much of labor's lingo evolved informally, making it difficult to nail down precise definitions, let alone dates when terms were first used. Nevertheless, Murray (a Newspaper Guild activist) does his best to be specific. While one could quarrel with some of the derivations (the definitions themselves are generally sound), and with Murray's often quite generous characterizations of current and former labor leaders (Lane Kirkland is described as "highly respected" and "a tireless advocate of civil rights"), this remains a useful reference work.

207 page paperback book **\$13.95**

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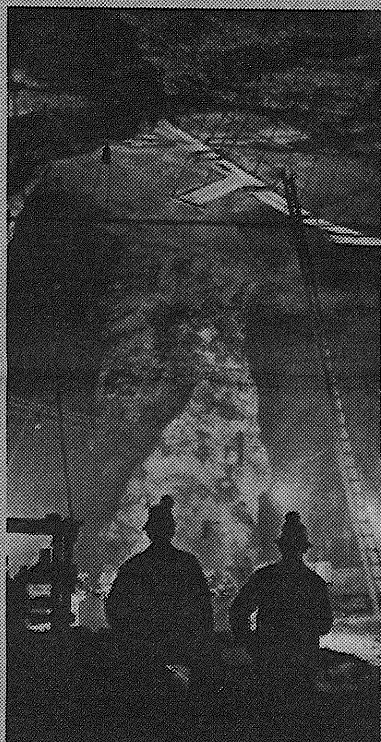
**The Legacy of the Bunker Hill Mine**

by Arthur J. Miller

Bunker Hill Mine's turbulent 100-year history is examined in this compelling first-hand account of nightmarish working conditions, environmental devastation, and theft of indigenous lands. The lessons to be learned from the legacy of Bunker Hill are many, but the heart of the matter is very simple: we, the workers, are the only ones who can put an end to the historical human tragedy called capitalism.

Former Bunker Hill Mine zinc stripper Arthur J. Miller has also worked as a pipefitter, oil industry roughneck, fruit picker and long-haul trucker. He has been a member of the Industrial Workers of the World for 30 years and has written for numerous labor papers around the world. Based in Tacoma, Washington, Miller publishes *Bayou La Rose* and is active in indigenous rights struggles in the Pacific Northwest.

26 page pamphlet **\$2.00**

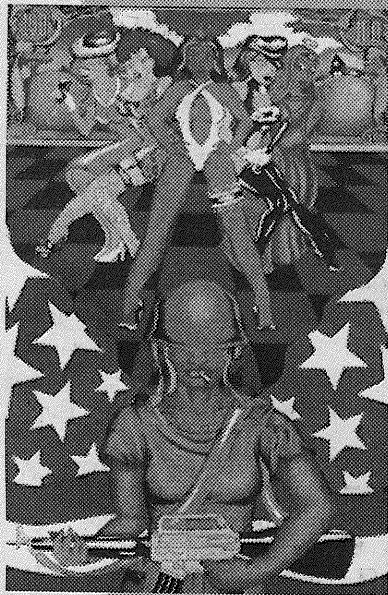


**No Justice, No Piecel: A Working Girl's Guide to Labor Organizing in the Sex Industry**

by the hell-raisin' hussies who organized the Exotic Dancers at San Francisco's Lusty Lady Theater

This is an excellent resource for anyone involved in organizing their workplace, but is especially geared towards sex industry workers. From tales of the working conditions at the peep show-room which inspired a successful SEIU drive, to direct action strategies for dealing with wrongful firings, and easy-to-read explanations of the legal process, the girls from Lusty Lady have made a very valuable contribution to the labor movement with this manual. *No Justice* also includes sample leaflets, examples of union busting techniques, legal forms, and media attention they received.

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Wobblies so worried the authorities of Bisbee, Arizona that the state ran them out of town. This easy-to-read, comprehensive account brings the events of the day alive. **\$2.00**

**Solidarity Forever** by Stewart Bird, Dan Georgakis, and Deborah Shaffer

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**Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology**

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## Global Village Current Events

**Global Village or Global Pillage: Economic Reconstruction From the Bottom Up** by Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello

In this 'global economy repair manual,' Brecher and Costello document the economic, political, social, and environmental effects of the New World Economy, and describe how workers, students, feminists, environmentalists, and other activists around the world have started challenging them.

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**screw the suits**

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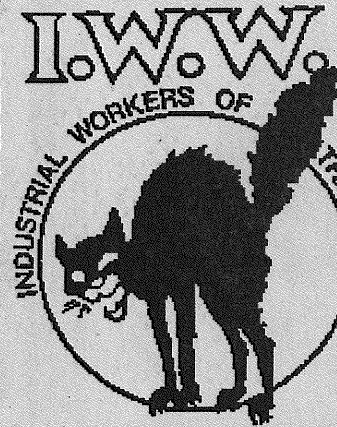
**never cross a picket line**

**fire your boss**

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- I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
- I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
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*I'm going to call in sick on May 1st.*  
*Why? Because it is a chance for me to stand in solidarity with all of my Fellow Workers all over the World to celebrate our heritage as working people. It is a time to remember all those who gave their lives on the picket lines so that you and I could have a better future. After all, May Day is the real Labor Day...if you've got any sense.*  
*I won't tell your boss,*  
*if you don't tell mine...*

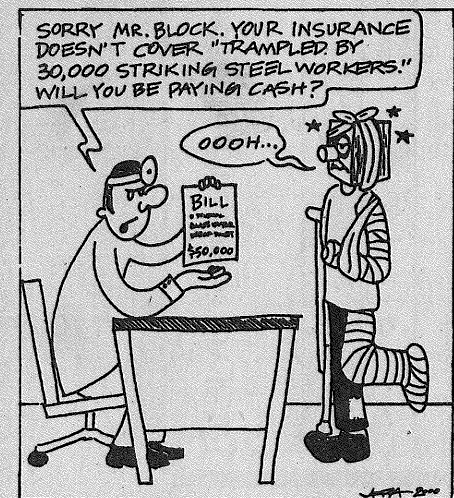
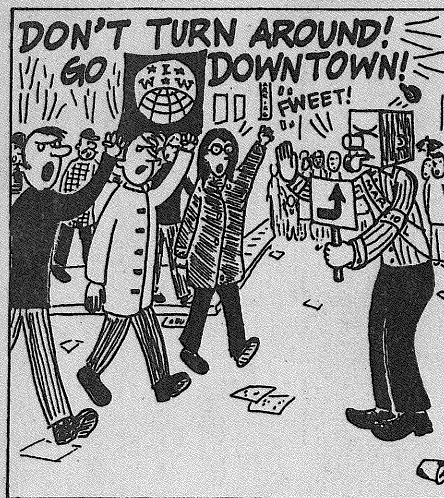
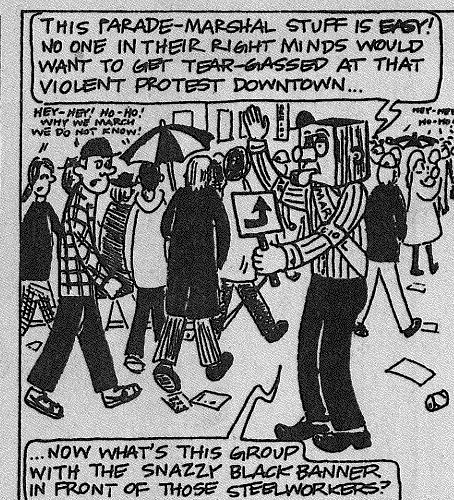
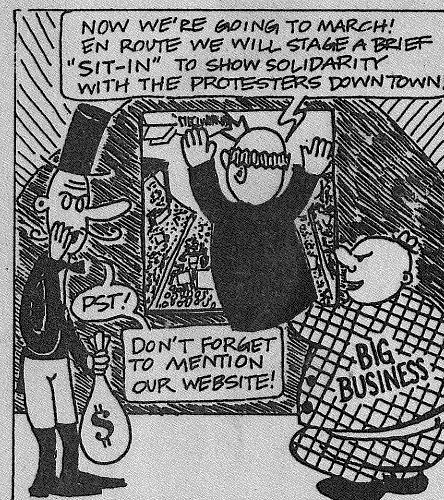
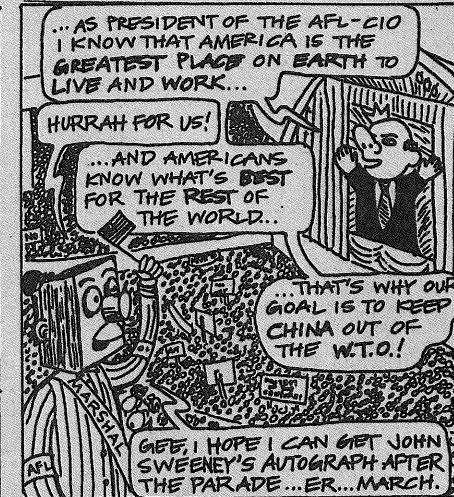
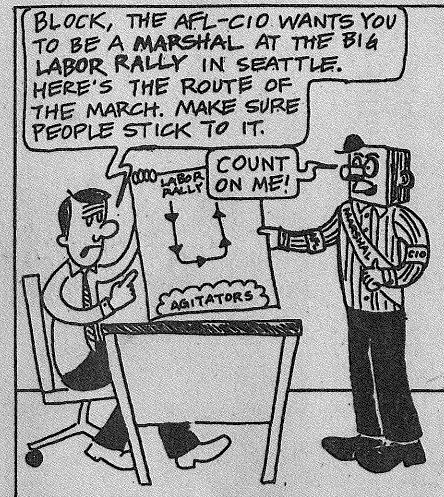
# EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION OF THE ★ EMANCIPATION

# Industrial Worker

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000 #1626, VOL 1.00/75p For All Workers in All Industries

## MR. BLOCK

HE MARSHALS A PROTEST



## Co-op Workers in Greensboro Go IWW

A strong majority of the workers employed at Deep Roots Market have recently joined Industrial Union 660 of the IWW. Workers began organizing after management unilaterally slashed health benefits and became indignant when confronted on the issues. While the loss of health insurance and a general lack of respect were certainly the catalyst for workers to organize there has been a gradual erosion of worker's rights and benefits over the last several months. Other grievances include: delay of raise reviews, delay of staff meetings, loss of extra dollar an hour on weekends, and a less than desirable rehiring pro-

continued on page 9

## Inside this Issue:

**Kentucky Shipyard Workers On the Move**  
*the latest from our Fellow Riverworkers*

**Wobbly Accounts from the WTO**  
*photos and stories from Seattle*

**Global Anti-WTO Actions**  
*around the world, workers strike back!*

**School of the Americas**  
*Wobblies and others join to Shut It Down!*



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