



Industrial Worker

SUMMER 2000

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For All Workers in All Industries

Major Protests Against Global Capital Continue

Since the *Industrial Worker* was last published there have been multiple events that seem to be related to events in Seattle, Washington, and around the world, against the process of globalization of capital. Though the so-called "Battle" or "Shutdown" of Seattle on November 30, 1999, is regarded by some as a "fluke," protests and mobilizations continue. Three major events that have transpired are the April 16, 2000, actions in Washington, DC against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank; the simultaneous actions in Detroit, Michigan, USA, and Windsor, Ontario, Canada, against the Organization of American States (OAS) on June 4, 2000; and the actions in Calgary, Manitoba, Canada, on June 11, 2000, against the oil companies who like to pretend they run our world.

All of these actions are similar in that they involve large amounts of people from diverse backgrounds and focuses, but each is also very different in its scope and message.

A16, Washington, DC.

Wobblies arrived in Washington, DC, from all over the United States and Canada during the weeks previous to April 16, and quickly went to work. Like Seattle, Wobs chose to work in different groupings and could be found in many places the day of the actions. A large group of Wobs met on April 15, and decided to take a section of the "pie" which the area surrounding the World Bank had been divided into, and a meeting place was agreed upon for the following morning at 5am.

The morning of the 16th, it was decided that police presence and harassment was high and devious. As a result, smaller affinity groups left the meeting place and made their way towards the World Bank meeting with a second rallying point being determined in Farragut Park. The smaller groups stuck mostly to sidewalks on the 15 block walk and passed out flyers and sang songs.

As we passed the front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, the entire procession broke into a loud and boisterous rendition of "Solidarity Forever." So loud and solid that even the cops looked impressed.

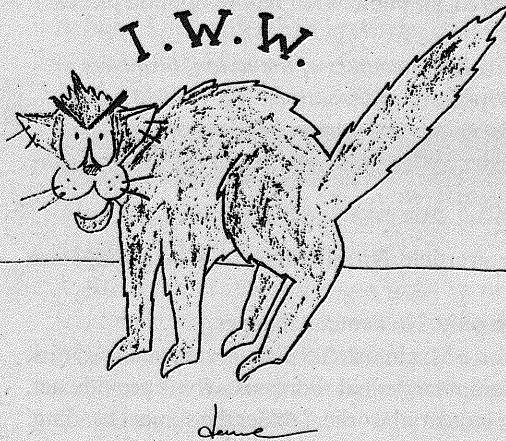
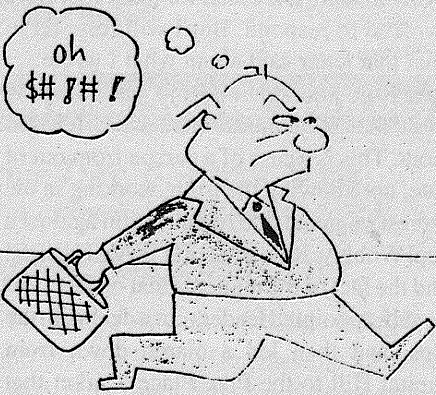
Upon arriving at our section, it became apparent that Wobs were present in many different groups. Some met us there and related information, others exchanged information as they passed through with related entities, and still others joined "flying squads" to let folks know what was happening at 11th and E Sts.

At all the intersections surrounding the World Bank building there was action. Buses, some with delegates on them, some empty, attempted to cross through. There was a definite feeling that the empty busses were simply being used to test the lines to see how hard protesters would stand. Reports of pepperspray being used liberally throughout the protest area were frequent, though maybe not at the levels used in Seattle.

Similar also to Seattle, the AFL-CIO and other groups had reserved a space for a huge rally away from the protest area. Unfortunately the throngs of people who attended the rally continued to keep their distance throughout the day.

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Workers Crash Bosses' Party



CHICAGO, IL—An up-scale shopping mall in downtown Chicago held an exclusive promotional event for the members of a "young professional" social club, (nearly all of whom were over thirty). The yuppies went from store to store in a "scavenger hunt." Workers were instructed to give each of them a free gift and a printed "clue" about the next store. The yuppies wore red wristbands to distinguish themselves from the other shoppers. The "scavenger hunt" was to be followed by an exclusive party in the mall with live music and a free martini bar.

The workers were largely resentful of the extra work incurred by this event until it was discovered that, using a little Scotch tape, the extra "clues," which were printed on strips of red paper 1/2 inch wide, could easily be converted into serviceable "wristbands."

The discovery was made simultaneously by the workers in several shops, and rapidly spread to every shop in the building. By closing time, when the party was to begin, many workers were equipped with "wristbands."

The party was a great success for the workers. Although some of the well-dressed "young professionals" appeared shaken by the presence of workers in street clothes in their midst, mall security guards made no move against their fellow workers.

Workers catering to the party, such as bartenders, also expressed solidarity with the mall employees, with the notable exception of one bartender who seemed to resent being asked to serve members of his own class, and who took offense when one worker called him "brother."

In spite of this isolated incident, and in spite of the fact that one worker was forced to go home early as a result of drinking too many martinis, the event was a great victory for the working class. The workers successfully asserted their right to enjoy the "good things of life" (such as martinis, Austrian beer, and exotic flavors of cheesecake). They also struck a blow against exclusivity and class privilege.

Finally, everyone had a good time.

FW David P.

Trial Date Set in Judi Bari's Civil Rights Case

Oakland, CA—On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the car-bombing of IWW/Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, a federal judge has set a trial date for their landmark civil rights lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Oakland Police (OPD).

On October 1, 2001 a federal jury will hear dramatic evidence proving that the FBI and the Oakland Police conducted an illegal campaign to disrupt and destroy Earth First!'s Redwood Summer campaign protesting cut-and-run logging of California's old-growth redwood forest.

On May 24, 1990 IWW/Earth First! organizers Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were targets of a car-bomb assassination attempt in Oakland California as they were on their way to a Redwood Summer organizing event. The bombing was preceded by an aggressive campaign of threats and harassment aimed at stopping their nonviolent defense of Northern California's ancient redwood forest.

The FBI and Oakland police arrived on the scene of the blast within minutes and ignored all the evidence that Judi and Darryl were victims of a politically-motivated bomb attack. Instead, the government agents conspired to frame Bari and Cherney, arresting them within hours for transporting explosives and using this violent attack against the environmentalists to falsely associate them with bombs. With the police and FBI investigation focusing only on the victims, the real bombers were never apprehended and remain at large. Evidence gathered in the civil rights lawsuit so far, including dramatic police photos and thousands of pages of FBI files, substantiates Bari and Cherney's claim of egregious police abuse.

Curbside Recyclers Negotiate New IWW Contract in Berkeley, California

BERKELEY, CA, USA. On Wednesday, April 5, 2000, the Berkeley Curbside Recyclers voted unanimously (8-0) to approve a new IWW union contract with the Berkeley Ecology Center. The contract extension will take effect immediately, retroactive to January 1st, 2000 and will expire on March 31st, 2003.

The new contract represents a major victory for the East Bay IWW, since the Union gained just about all they were asking for in this year's negotiations, including:

- (1) A 5% across the board wage increase for the year 2000, and Cost of Living increases equal to the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area for the next three years;
- (2) Increased and accelerated vacation time/pay, up to 200 hours per year after ten years of continuous employment;
- (3) Removal of three lower wage tiers, bringing everyone in said tiers up to a higher level;
- (4) Overtime Pay after eight hours;
- (5) Two additional paid holidays (up to 11 from 9);
- (6) Full union benefits for temporary employees, including a promotion clause for temps desiring regular work if available;
- (7) Management pays \$50 annually for shop-steward training;
- (8) Increased Severance Pay;
- (9) More union security clauses, includ-

ing the right to honor other unions' picket lines;

- (10) An accident review committee; and
- (11) The ability to renegotiate the terms of the contract during the current contract's lifetime if the addition of any new material (including plastics) results in significantly increased workloads.

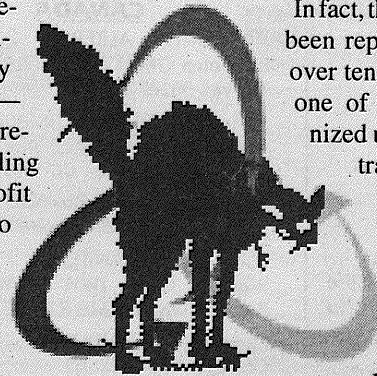
Contract negotiations became somewhat more contentious after the Berkeley City Council recently voted—by a narrow margin—to require the Curbside Recycling Program, run by the non-profit Berkeley Ecology Center, to pick up narrow-neck plastic bottles (identifiable by a number "1" or "2" inside the recycling symbol). Both Management and the Union were opposed to the City Council's decision for different reasons. Management opposed the addition of plastics to the curbside pick-ups for environmental reasons. The union opposed the decision, because no additional funding for the Curbside Recycling Program was approved by the City of Berkeley. Despite this wild card, negotiations concluded with a significant gain for the Curbside Recycling Workers.

This represents a significant improve-

ment over the previous contract and should refute a commonly held belief that the IWW (i.e. the same union that was famous for Joe Hill, Ben Fletcher, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Mother Jones, et. al; free speech fights, and the eight hour work-day) represents, "a weak union for a weak bargaining unit".

In fact, the Curbside Recyclers have been represented by the IWW for over ten years now, and it remains one of our strongest, best organized union shops. The new contract represents the latest in a series of organizing victories that includes the unionization of a Temp Workers Union by the IWW in Seattle, organizing by Student Recyclers at San Francisco State University, and a successful suit against the downtown Berkeley YMCA by four IWW members fired for union organizing in 1998. The IWW currently has organizing drives in progress at two other locations in the Bay Area, and continues to prove that rumors of its death are greatly exaggerated.

For the Industrial Workers of the World, East Bay General Membership Branch, - Steve Ongerth, Branch Secretary



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.
- 2) All copy is subject to editing for length only. No content changes.
- 3) 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, all submissions via email should have "for industrial worker" under the subject heading.
- 4) Advertisements: Advertisements will be taken as long as they do not contradict the basic IWW principles. Call GHQ at 215 763-1274 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 first weekend of September. 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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march up to the jail, again, far outside of the "No Protest Zone" and nowhere near the WTO meetings. I was there, unlike Rojo. Arthur J. Miller

Dear Editors,

I wish to respond to a letter in the April/May Industrial Worker, which was in response to an article I compiled about the WTO events in Seattle. While the letter attempts to replace anecdotal remarks on my part with what is viewed as factual information (and the signers are certainly entitled to their views), there are some issues that need to be clarified.

Individuals were in fact attempting to take over or kill the IWW procession down to the King County Jail. Several times during the course of the march, individuals who were in communication with Seattle Police (I saw them communicate with them on the street) twice attempted to divert the march away from the jail onto a different route or

"Some careful librarians have noticed that our last two issues were both numbered #1626. The issue marked April/May 2000 was actually issue #1627, so this issue which you now hold in your hands is #1628. Our publishing in the past months has been a little sporadic, so it is the number, not the date, which will tell you if you have missed an issue."

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Industrial Worker

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Readers' Poapbox

continued

turn the march back to its starting point. I was one of the people that witnessed this. The discussion about some Capitol Hill residents wanting to not "give a good goddamned" about protestors in jail is another matter entirely, and this split in the crowd was effectively resolved when it was suggested that those who wanted to continue to rally on Capitol Hill do so, and those that wanted to march to the jail could also do so, and this is what happened.

Second, the writer asserts that FW Arthur Miller got his information about the Direct Action Network cutting a deal with the city from the media. Actually, this has been confirmed by activists in Seattle, including a public defender/activist that has been working on many of the WTO arrestee's cases. Also, during the IWW march to the jail, it was announced to the marchers by someone claiming membership in the USWA that the DAN "legal team" and the city had agreed that the prisoners would get to see representatives from the public defenders office (note: not be released) in exchange for the protestors leaving the jail. I am sure FW Miller can defend himself on

this issue, but since the letter was primarily directed at the article I wrote about an event I was involved with, I felt that I should include this information.

Third, the letter takes issue with semantics, regarding claims (by non members) that the Mayor would release all prisoners in exchange for the IWW cancelling its march. I find it odd that the writer would take exception to my interpretation, yet not question the fact the Mayor Schell lied before WTO about using force against protestors in the first place at a press conference on November 24th, 1999 (he stated specifically that no armed personnel carriers or tear gas would be used), or why we should believe what his representatives have to say on the results of that lie—500+ imprisoned activists, not to mention those that were brutalized on the street and while imprisoned. I found it irresponsible that someone at a rally could repeat a "promise" with any

sort of seriousness, made by representatives of this criminal and lackey for the local capitalists, when the mayor's staff has no real power to act against the mayor's wishes. It should be noted that virtually all present didn't buy it.

WTO in Seattle was a struggle that all wobs should be proud of, especially those that traveled from out of town. I am hopeful that in the future more consideration is given toward those who are most affected by these struggles in the long term in a particular city. It is far more likely that someone who is active in a community for years will have a more accurate grasp on the politics of a situation as it relates to the powers that be locally, then someone who has made the sacrifice to leave their own workplace and community to come to an unfamiliar place for a week. This is not out of line with what we would advocate on the job, in that workers who have a vested interest in their work-

place and have been there the longest would have more knowledge about the dynamics of the workforce and how it relates to the boss, as opposed to a salt working on the job for a week who would be unfamiliar with these elements, even if they were the most talented organizers in the union. In the case of WTO, wobblers in Seattle have witnessed developments and events several months prior and after WTO that have substantiated much of the criticisms made of other groups (DAN in particular) by individual IWW members. It is unfortunate that there are fellow workers who do not recognize this parallel.

Post WTO Seattle is a very different place to organize in now, and it is a shame that in light of much suffering, virtually nothing is being done here by the Direct Action Network nor the AFL/CIO to help challenge the substantially more aggressive police force that was left here as a result of the demonstrations. This will certainly play into our effectiveness on the picket lines in the future for the IWW and the rest of the labor movement.

In Solidarity, x337969

Salt Lake City, UT, Mayday2K

I got up early to a beautiful spring Mayday morning. Went to my good friend Bill's house to find out what was on his agenda. He told me about a Mayday festival some fellow workers were putting together in Salt Lake's Liberty Park. We agreed to go down there to see if we could help and to enjoy the festivities.

We found a group of 100 or so fellow workers busy hanging signs, setting up music equipment, cooking, cutting up fruits and vegetables, setting up literature tables and hanging various decorations.

One FW pointed up in a tree to a piñata dangling from the other end of a rope. He said we're all going to have a chance to WACK THE BOSS. Looking up I noticed the piñata was in the shape of a fat boss with a top hat and monocle. Instead of legs, this boss had tentacles hanging with names like WTO and WORLD BANK and IMF. "What's inside?" I asked this wob.

He said, "treasures! Treasures the boss is constantly stealing and hoarding for himself but which rightly belongs to us, the producers."

This was a day filled with music of all sorts. There was sounds from Jim Kemmerle's jazzy organ music to Bob Moss' clown Bluegrass and poetry. Infrared Roses played a rousing set of music with a specially written song for Mayday. Glade and Eric McGill each played a great set of folk tunes most appropriate for the day.

Interspersed between the bands were

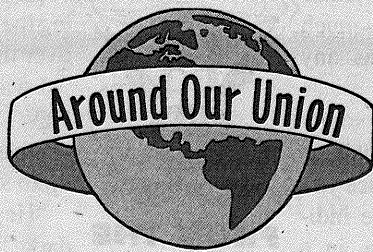
speakers. Topics such as non-violent direct action, IMF/WB/WTO, sabotage, and the general strike. Lloyd, a traveling anarchist from Idaho, got up and gave an impassioned talk about Mayday that got everyone in the mood.

After the delicious supper provided by FOOD NOT BOMBS, we all settled in for a skit performed by people from the audience. The play showed workers working the land for their community on a subsistence basis. A capitalist desiring more wealth (what else does a capitalist desire?) sends the church and the media in to hypnotize the workers into believing the capitalist's plan as good for the workers. After the capitalist drains the workers of their wealth to fill his wallow pen, the workers wake up and realize their power is in organizing. Gaining back their wealth, they proceed to live according to production for need and not for profit.

Later in the evening, we all headed over to the tree where the boss piñata waited, dangling from a rope. People lined up to take a swing at the boss. First, they had to be blindfolded. Written on the blindfolds were words like Sexism, Greed, Racism. Then they were given a wacking stick with words like General Strike, Direct Action and Sabotage written on it. The boss finally gave way after about six workers swinging (oh if it were only that easy!).

Happy Mayday! JOE HILL

P.S. Big Bill says, "Carry on Fellow and Sister Workers!"



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.

A Message from FWs in South Africa

Working life in South Africa

The strongest thing at work at the moment is the amazing level of fear. People are so shit-scared of losing their jobs that they are not willing to 'rock the boat' as this will possibly mean the loss of their livelihood. There are more and more retrenchments taking place and unemployment is growing with over 500,000 jobs lost since 1994. Obviously organizing is very difficult to say the least! Although we have a very recent history of militant unionism in South Africa, most of my friends, and workers I have spoken to, are completely disillusioned with the present state of the unions.

I can give a personal example of this disillusionment. Before we decided to relaunch the Industrial Workers of the World, we tried to join the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union, (SACTWU)—an affiliate of COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions). After meeting with organisers from SACTWU at their offices, it was arranged that an organizer would come round to talk to the rest of the people at my work. However, after 2 months no one had come so I went back to them and again we made arrangements for someone to come around. Again nothing happened. This was after I had personally taken membership forms and handed them out to all my fellow workers. The unions have become so passive that it has really disillusioned many working people. All the better for us I reckon as more and more workers are going to be looking around for a better, more militant union that will meet their needs.

The old COSATU unions, which were by far the most militant unions, are now locked in an alliance with the African National Congress (ANC), and the South African Communist Party, called the Tripartite alliance. Since the ANC is now the government all anger is being generated away from mass action and people are told to let "our comrades in government" solve the problems. The struggle has been diverted away from the class struggle against capitalism into a

struggle purely against Apartheid. Now that this has been achieved, at least on paper, the role of unions has become pretty reactionary. It is the usual story of political parties using our class to get themselves into power and then turning on us and/or selling us out. Most of the old militant unionists now hold well paid positions in government or have joined management (using the skills they have gained from being involved within the Union) or have joined better paying Non-Governmental Organizations. The unions are what I suppose we would call "business unions" with a lot of paid officials who are unnecessary. Because of this: the job of unionist has pretty much come to be seen as just another job with wage levels that increase as you go higher up the hierarchy. This compares with the 1980's when the lowest paid organizer was paid pretty much the same as the regional Secretary of the union.

However there are strong undercurrents of resentment at the grassroots level, which is perfect for rebuilding the IWW and why we thought that it would be the organization that would best suit our needs as we move into the next millenium.

I forgot to mention that one of the biggest problems we're facing at the moment is mass casualization. There are strong labor laws and rights won during the struggle against Apartheid, but the bosses are getting round these by hiring workers as casuals. Being a casual deprives workers of their rights and builds a climate of insecurity where workers are too scared to resist their exploitation as they can be fired without any layoff pay. Also, the bosses use this as a justification to pay casuals less than the rest of us. My friends at work who are casuals get approximately two thirds of what the rest of us who are labelled full-time are getting. I have friends who are labelled casual even though they have been working here 2 or 3 years!

Shane Freeman IWW P.O. Box 18969 Dalbridge, Durban 4014 South Africa

Amnesty International Reports on Police Brutality in US

GENEVA - Amnesty International criticized the United States for increasingly brutal police measures against crime suspects, saying the use of pepper spray and stunning devices as punishment constitutes torture.

The London-based human rights group presented a report to the U.N. Committee Against Torture, which meets Wednesday to consider the U.S. record for the first time since Washington ratified a convention outlawing torture in 1994. Since then, the "increasingly punitive approach toward offenders [in the United States] has continued to lead to practices which facilitate torture or other forms of ill-treatment," Amnesty said. U.S. officials in Geneva for the session had no immediate comment.

In the 45-page report, the London-based human rights group cited long-term isolation for prisoners and incarceration of asylum-seekers in "cruel and degrading conditions." It said the rising prison population contributed to widespread ill-treatment of inmates and that police brutality is particularly directed at racial and ethnic minorities.

There will be no separate peace as long as children must toil for economic masters in order to eat. There will be no separate peace as long as sweatshops bind so many workers in extreme exploitation. There will be no separate peace as long as our jobs are moved around the world to where the lowest wages possible can be enforced by the iron heel of state repression. There will be no separate peace as long as workers are being killed by the work they are forced to do in order to survive.

There will be no separate peace as long as huge powerful corporations can lock workers out of their jobs. We will not forget the workers at Kaiser Aluminum, A.E. Staley and so many other corporations around the world who find the doors to their jobs locked when they fight for what is right.

There will be no separate peace as long as super exploited workers, who cannot find work, or must work below a living wage, are forced by their conditions to leave their homes and

seek work in far off lands, or are forced to flee from the repression that so often accompanies their efforts to try

THERE WILL BE

to improve their lives. Often these workers must face horrendous tribulations just to reach the land which they believe has the work they seek. Once in the new land they are given the worst employment available and are treated by many as if they were some type of undesirable existence. In some lands the laws of the state declare them to be "illegal". There should never be any working person declared "illegal". If I had my way the borders of the world would be open to all productive people and only closed to the spread of parasitic capitalism.

There will be no separate peace until every worker everywhere has the right to organize in their own self-interest. There will be no separate peace as long as millions of working people have little to show for their labor, while a greedy few have far more than they could ever hope to use.

There will be no separate peace as long as the poor are forced to live in despicable housing or walk homeless upon the earth, while the rich slum lords profit from human misery.

There will be no separate peace as long as police and/or armies prowl our communities in search of victims for their sadistic social control.

NO

There will be no separate peace as long as there is a prison system based on profit and social control; as long as there are political and economic prisoners; as long as there are control unit prisons and the death penalty; as long as prisons are used to hide social problems.

There will be no separate peace as long as any race of humanity views itself as superior to the other races, as if the creation itself granted one race the divine right of supremacy.

There will be no separate peace as long as the eurocentric conquest of the Indigenous People of the world continues. This holocaust started long ago and has continued to this day without relief.

There will be no separate peace as long as women are forced into servitude to men: an

economic, political, sexual, cultural bondage. There will be no separate peace as long as religion is used as a means of

SEPARATE

imperialism, where some churches accumulate power and wealth through the suppression of the right each to determine their own spirituality or whether they will subscribe to any spirituality at all.

There will be no separate peace as long as the old are discarded into scrap heaps like used up engine parts; nor as long as the young are kept "in their place" for no other reason than the desire of their "owners" to exercise social control

There will be no separate peace as long as our Mother Earth is being raped for corporate profit. There will be no separate peace as long as the Earth is seen as an exploitable resource, rather than as the provider of the well-being of all.

There will be no separate peace for any as long as there is oppression and exploitation of anyone anywhere; for even the little gains of some are always threatened as long as we live under a system where some benefit at the expense of others.

PEACE!

All things are connected. Our freedom and well-being is directly tied to the freedom and well-being of all others. The survival of any and of all is directly dependent upon

the survival and well-being of our Mother Earth.

Though all of our struggles are connected, they are not a homogenized assimilation. Our power lies in the creativeness and wisdom found in our diversity. That power is most effective when we are able to create a balance between that diversity and our common needs; and a balance between our past, present and future. This is as true in the natural world as it is true among all humans. For it should be understood that humans are not above the natural world, but rather we are an integrated part of the natural world, as dependent upon it as any other life form.

When we arm ourselves with the true knowledge of who we are and the connections between all of us, we will then be able to create peace and well-being, not just for some, but for all of us. Then, and only then shall there be true peace.

In The Spirit Of Total Resistance

Arthur J. Miller

Wobbly Corner • "Pollution"

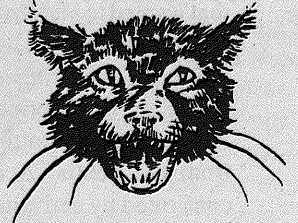
Junior

In Detroit, and many other places, pollution has been a big problem. It interferes with breathing a lot. I mean sometimes maybe you don't want to wake up to the stinkiness of factories! Something really needs to happen about it. If this goes on, at one point everyone is going to leave and nothing will be here at all except the factories. Or maybe everyone will have breathing problems or we all suffocate! And I like Detroit! At my old school, Zug Island was right next to us and every day we would smell of Zug Island. That is really why I have breathing problems, and so will other people. So that is my story about pollution. Really, help Detroit and you.
Solidarity, Alex

Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!!

Nike Website Hackers

The FBI is attempting to track down the hackers who took over the footwear and clothing giant's website at Nike.com for more than nineteen hours from Wednesday, June 23rd to Thursday, June 24th. Thousands of visitors to Nike were greeted with the message: "Global Justice is Coming - Prepare Now," and a link to a website run by the Australian activist group, S11 ALLIANCE at www.s11.org. The anti-globalization activist group is organizing widespread demonstrations and blockades during the World Economic Forum Asia-Pacific Economic Summit in Melbourne in September 11-13, 2000. Hits on the activists' site have skyrocketed from a low of 57 an hour before the Nike hack to a high of 66,000 an hour during the "highjacking." This site's administrators have no idea how or why the Nike.com page was redirected to S11.org and do not condone this action. "However we do thank Nike for the extra hits," said an S11 disclaimer.



Solidarity Vs. Civility on the Job

We have all had the experience of working with a coworker with whom we have difficulties. Hell, sometimes those difficulties are more than a simple roadblock to some sort of bearable work experience, and instead add to the dread which may or may not enter your mind when the alarm clock rings.

So what do we do about this? We are members of the working class just like all of our coworkers are. We also may have different ideas as to how things ought to get done, or how we make it through any given workday unscathed. How do we remedy these differences without jeopardizing each others' ability to make a living? Without bringing the boss into it? We are a creative bunch of stiffies and we need to learn how to breach the gulfs that we imagine between each other.

Recently, I've had the unfortunate circumstance of being in a position like this (of course, that's why I'm writing about it now, since it seems to me that this is as much an experience of work as any other).

In the trucking industry, sometimes workplace discord such as this is more problematic since you may be paired up with the individual for days at a time, in a distant city with no means of escape. And as the minutes, hours and days continue to drag on by with the speed of time on a Wednesday evening shift, you may find your patience rapidly deteriorating. Your snide comments creating a work environment that not even the boss could make worse.

What is happening here? I'm rapidly becoming my own worst nightmare. A boss.

I knew things were not going to be well as we picked up our ticket at the entrance to the Ohio Turnpike. One day traveling to New York, one day there, one day in Washington, DC, one day on the road back to Detroit, and then local deliveries. I calculated quickly as the dread overtook me, *that's four days!* How was this going to work? Murder was starting to look like a realistic option.

We drove on in silence. *Two more hours to Cleveland,* I thought. *I think I can make it.*

I prefer to drive in silence. I've spent most of my years as a truck driver running solo so it just makes sense to me. Maybe some song comes on the radio and I end up singing loudly and badly into the emptiness of the cab; a love song to the open road or perhaps something far more mundane like a terrible hit song about the banalness of a relationship gone bad. The situation when you are driving with someone who you have very little in common with is different. The silence can become dense and thick and often it is broken by something like this:

"Boy, sure looks like rain."

Thanks Einstein. Caches of murder weapons flash passed my eyes.

Waking up the next morning in the hotel and knowing the day will be crazy. 25 pickups and deliveries in New York. Oh joy.

The drive here proved trying, but we survived. The cops in the weigh station tried to put us out of service, I still can't believe how helpful my coworker was in that situation, (can you feel the sarcasm here?), but, then again, I've got more experience with them and everything turned out fine.

Halfway through the day I had to ask, "Wow, you've got an incredibly bad sense of direction, huh?"

"Yeah, my dad had the same problem, always getting lost."

"Really," I said with an edge of bitterness to my voice, "does your dad drive for a living?"

"Uh, no."

Didn't think so.

Due to this dyslexic problem, I ended up driving all day. Come 10pm, needless to say, I was dreading the trip south to DC, so I turned over the wheel.

I was passing out as we hit the New Jersey Turnpike heading south and about an hour later woke up to silence.

"Hey," my partner says into the dark, "I'm tired. You wanna drive?"

He's tired. Maybe the old adage is right. Murder *can* be fun.

We made it home an eternity later in the week. I was perplexed. What do I do? How do I talk about this with my coworker without bringing my boss into it? What am I going to do next time? I needed help.

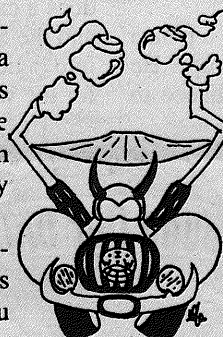
That help came to me through another coworker. I explained to her my dilemma frantically and drunkenly one night (and more likely with far more humor and animatedness than I have herein). Our communication was bad. We needed to work out a preagreed upon division of labor. We were both good at different things and we could make everything run more smoothly if we worked it out beforehand and thusly did not get pissed off at each other for expectations that were unrealistic. We needed to make our needs known to each other now, instead of when they became excuses for abuse.

Sounded a lot like the work you put into a relationship to me, but it is true, when you are spending that much time with someone twenty four hours a day, you have to work out some agreements. And that's what we did.

The division of labor we worked out has enabled both of us to get through a day smoothly and without incident. The boss did not need to be called in to do what we could easily do ourselves. No, we don't necessarily crave each others' company, but we don't make the experience of work worse for each other than it already is. *That's* the boss' job, eh?

Solidarity, Gator (red_gator@hotmail.com)

WILCO!

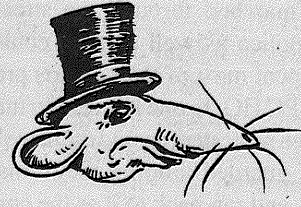


FROM THE BIG ROAD

One More Dirty Rat

Eugene Police Commission & the Brilliant "Prostitution-Free Zones" Idea

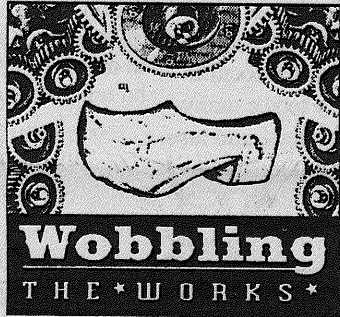
The Eugene Police Commission is attempting to adopt the following.. (1) The chief of police may designate an area of the city as a "prostitution-free zone" 2) The municipal court shall exclude a person for a period of 90 days from all public property in all prostitution-free zones if the person is arrested on "probable cause" for any prostitution-related activities. The brilliant thing is the police would need only "probable cause" to cite you, send you to mini court, and have you excluded from a five block square area for 90 days. And all they will need to do to get this ordinance passed is feed on the prejudice of the public against those in the sex industry. Handy and politically savvy at the same time!



The Beginnings of a Union Campaign

Recently I met with some workers at a bookstore who are fed up with their boss and looking to organize. They've got some good gripes, and if they can stick with it there's no reason they can't win some major improvements. But how to begin? The first step in organizing is to build an organizing committee, which should include Wobblers from the workplace as well as a couple of members with past organizing and direct action experience who can make a commitment to working on the campaign over the long haul. The committee needs to sort through the possible issues and develop a strategic focus for the campaign. Typically workers will have a host of gripes about the job - some affect only one or two workers, others are more or less intrinsic to the job and will be very difficult to address.

Sometime workers' list of grievances will be a mix of things that would benefit the company and things that would directly benefit workers. It can be very frustrating to do things you know are stupid just because the boss is too idiotic to recognize that he's wasting time and money or neglecting an important



opportunity. But it doesn't really make sense to spend our limited energies and resources organizing for things that, if won, will benefit the boss more than they'll benefit us. (Once we get rid of the bosses and start running industry ourselves, we'll want to get right on them.) The committee needs to sort out the issues, determine which would benefit the workers the most, which have the most appeal (some issues will appeal to lots of people; others only to a few, but might matter a whole lot to them; some issues just won't be important enough for people to make a fight over), and which might be able to be won. Some grievances could be met relatively easily by the boss, and you might well be able to win them by agitating on the job even before a majority of the workers are won over to the union. The boss might figure he or she can buy workers off with a few crumbs (you need to make sure that people recognize how these gains were won, and how much more could be won with solid organization), or might be scared by the threat of direct action or a legal complaint (many, many companies violate labor laws on a daily basis). Perhaps scheduling could be done on a more rational basis, or an unsafe machine could be fixed, or the payroll could be gotten out on time. Other gripes will require more work. Winning significantly better pay or benefits or getting the boss to stop riding workers generally will take a strong union presence on the job, if not union recognition. Once the union is in place and workers have won real improvements, you might even have time to address some of the frustrations arising out of the boss's stupidity. Once the committee has a handle on the

issues, it needs to research the company and the industry, while building an active group of members on the job. (Resources to research your workplace are available at the IWW Headquarters, send a few dollars and we'll send you some materials.) Ideally, the organizing committee should include workers on every shift and in every work area. If the workforce is fragmented (by race, language, gender, age or whatever), you'll want to reach out across those lines to build an inclusive committee. Usually, at the outset your committee will be somewhat less representative than you'd ideally want - this is a problem you'll want to keep in the forefront of your minds and actively work to address. Many, many campaigns have been lost because the union wasn't strong enough in reaching out to particular groups of workers - leaving the field to the boss.

Joining an organizing committee is an important commitment. You need to be able to make the time available to meet regularly, as a committee, in subcommittees charged with particular tasks (such as writing a leaflet or researching some issue), and with your fellow workers who haven't yet committed

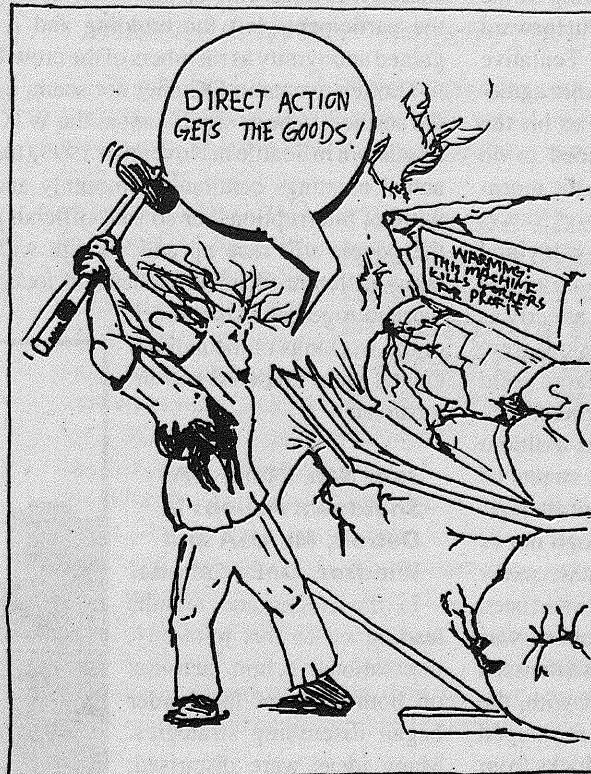
to the union. A member of the committee should talk with fellow workers on a regular basis, finding out their concerns and inviting them to become active in the campaign. In small workplaces, the temptation is often to put everyone on the committee. While this is a great goal, it's not always possible. Many workers are forced to commute long distances or work two or three jobs or have other obligations that makes it hard for them to take on such a commitment. Don't let your group be stymied by one or two people who can't make it. Figure out ways they can participate on a level that they can handle and be kept informed by phone or email or during your coffee break. In the business unions, the organizing committee exists to win a NLRB election. But all the government certification in the world won't win anything for workers who aren't organized to fight for it. The IWW is interested in building a strong union on the job no matter if the union is officially recognized or not. As the campaign develops, you'll want to rotate responsibilities and involve as many workers as possible in different aspects of the committee's work. The organizing committee is a step on the road to building a functioning job branch and making the union a vital, living presence on the job.

— Alexis Buss

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

Nancy Ludd's Corner

Tales of Sabotage & Direct Action in the Workplace



What do you do? when you are confronted with lousy working conditions, bad pay, horrendous hours, a lying and disrespectful management and a core group of like-minded coworkers? For one answer, read on.

The year was 1997. I had spent the last few weeks working nights up in the beet fields of Minnesota with a crew of friends and we had returned to the Twin Cities. We were expecting our last paychecks to arrive shortly, but in the meantime we figured we'd take advantage of the Xmas season and pick up some more seasonal work. We found just that in a warehouse shipping job for Rivertown Trading Company.

Getting hired was incredibly easy considering they were already panning trying to drum up the staff for the Xmas rush, and here we were, ready, willing and able to do the work. The work would consist of catching product in our "product chutes," matching up the orders, packaging the orders and then moving them down to the conveyor belts below us so that they could be carried along to be sorted for UPS.

Sure, no problem. Your basic assembly line/warehouse job. I'd done years of this work already.

It wasn't until the second day that we started to notice that things were perhaps extraordinary. The first day, other than being grueling and extremely hard on the wrists, was neither particularly difficult nor disparaging. On the second day they always tend to pick up the pace, and this was no different. What we did start to notice, almost jokingly at first, was that the clocks in the warehouse and lunchroom were a full five minutes apart. This amount of time, in the days to follow, would continue to grow further and further apart.

On the third day, our normal morning meeting began to become more reminiscent of kindergarten. We were encouraged by this type of logic; "Congratulations! Two days ago you finished 15 sets; yesterday you finished 25; and today we're moving you up to 30! We're raising the bar and you're meeting the challenge!" (after this exclamation you could tell they expected the workers to join in the sparse applause that management produced, but not many fell in line.)

After lunch on that third day, by now our half hour had been whiddled down to 20 minutes, workers were pissed. The shop floor started falling apart slowly but surely. It wasn't that workers were doing anything intentionally, just that less attention was paid to the constant flow of packages. Also, less and less time was spent listening to the insidious barks of the shop floor managers (which is to say that radios were turned up, or at least headphones worn for effect).

We knew we'd hear about this at the meeting tomorrow.

And did we ever! The first part of the meeting we were told that we would have

free ice cream at lunch time. Then we were congratulated again on doing more work for the same money and encouraged to do even more. And then came the lecture about respect of authority and how headphones would not be allowed on the floor anymore. Hands were raised. A coworker was called on and a voice said, "You are up there talking about respect! What do you mean? Can't we at least have the clocks in the warehouse and lunchroom synchronized?" Management feigned ignorance of this, but the clocks were back to normal that day, (they quickly devolved into their former time zone problem the next day). "All I've got to say," said another voice, "is that I am going to wear my headphones, it's boring as shit out there!" It was around this time that the work horn blew, management looked nervous and the meeting fell apart.

The shop floor was changing. Our Materials Handler brought around stacks of \$10 Off coupons so that we could put 3 or 4 in every outgoing package. Products were being either intentionally broken, or shipped to totally wrong addresses. The chutes were somehow broken and the missing parts were shipped to Mr. & Mrs. Jones along with a tie and coffee mug set. In the days to come, at least one coworker reported an entire skid of product finding its way to the dumpster.

Lunchtime was also getting stranger. Workers were milling about and speaking about the shop floor with each other and security/management waited on the outskirts, talking amongst themselves.

Things continued for another six days or so in this vein. More and more workers discovered sabotage as a realistic route to job satisfaction.

Rapidly my crew was dismissed, but the true beauty of this story occurred a year later. I was working for a different, smaller and more humane mail order company doing computer layout, when I was asked to ship out some orders. "We'll train you," my manager said.

"Oh, you don't have to," I responded, "I worked at Rivertown."

"You did?," he asked in disbelief, "when?"

"Last Christmas."

"Did you notice anything strange?," he asked.

"No, just a bunch of managers who treated us like kids. I don't think I've been treated with such disrespect before or since on the job."

"Well, that's wierd 'cause word has it that last year is the most money a mail order company has ever lost due to damaged product and misdirected mail. Customers accused them of ruining Christmas."

Needless to say, a smile crossed my lips.

Anti-Globalization Protests Continue

continued from page 1

Tactics for April 17 were discussed in a spokes council meeting the evening of the 16th. Many different ideas were put forward and concerns were addressed. Tentative decisions were made with two major agreements. One group had decided to hit the street early, while another decided to do solidarity actions starting later in the morning.

The morning of the 17th was rainy and miserable, but folks showed up en masse anyway. Many had hit the streets as early as 5am for the second day, and decisions were made to walk the streets as a large solid group at 8am to give support to them.

As the procession moved at random through the Monday rush hour streets of downtown Washington, police kept attempting to corral us. The traffic, though not as heavy as a normal Monday because many businesses and government offices had been shutdown for days due to the protests, was rather chaotic. Many commuters discussed issues with, and showed support with, the protesters. The marches finally regrouped and stopped about two or three blocks from the World Bank building where the meetings were taking place.

As is usual, at this point many folks began to take off.

The crowd really dispersed after a group of protesters decided to sacrifice themselves to the state by participating in a symbolic arrest and handed themselves over to the cops.

Mobilization Radio, which had been disseminating information throughout the week about the activities of the IMF/World Bank actions as they happened, was raided by the DC police, the FBI and at least one official from the FCC. The enforcement squad arrived at about 3:30, without a warrant, and ordered the station closed. A standoff ensued for about two hours, during which time the authorities refused to make any comment or even to explain why they were there. They blocked traffic on the entire road and restricted access for any non-residents into the alleged broadcast building or any of several adjacent buildings on either side.

Shortly before 4PM, a crowd of about three hundred demonstrators arrived on the scene, a deviation from their march to a jail solidarity action in support of those arrested during World Bank related demonstrations. At that point the police donned riot gear and formed a line in front of the building. What happened next was probably unprecedented in the history of microradio: the police, FBI, FCC and assorted other intelligence left the scene. The crowd immediately took the street in celebration, but almost as quickly gave the street back up to traffic, an indication of their unwillingness to create friction between themselves and the local community. For about a half-hour they allowed themselves to bask in the glow of a decisive victory before continuing back on their path toward jail solidarity. Throughout the course of this event there was no violence on the part of either demonstrators or police. In fact, when the police first made a move back to their cars the chant was "Let them through! Let them through!"

During the course of the weeks convergence on the capitol, Mobilization Radio, a low-powered, unlicensed radio station that was set up specifically for the weeks events, was a valuable means of communication for protesters in the street. They had been dispensing information about what kinds of actions were taking place and where help was needed. With the arrival of the law enforcement agencies the station

was shut down. After the police left, the station was disassembled and carried out as the participants left the building and regained anonymity as members of the crowd.

Though events in DC may not seem, on the surface, to be as significant as the WTO Shutdown in Seattle in November 1999, (the actual meetings continued "smoothly and without interruption," or so said officials), the people still rose up and, though with many different ideas on tactics and focus, worked together. Also, much of the workings of the nation's capital were hindered and interrupted.

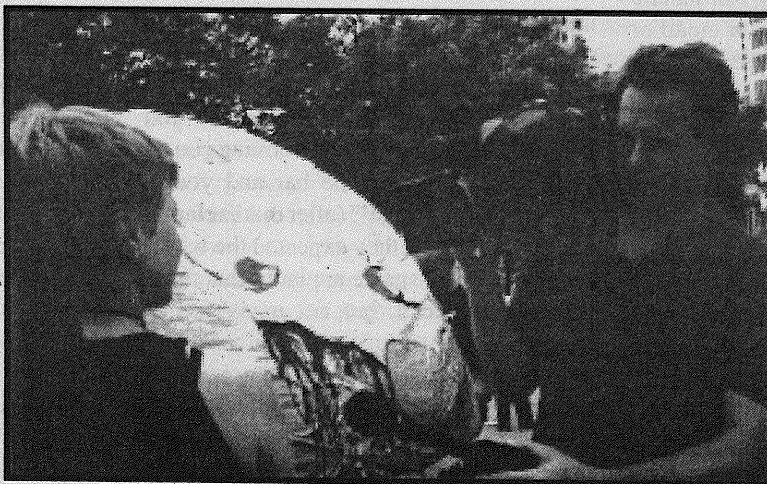
June 4th, 2000, OAS Shutdown Actions in Detroit, MI, USA and Windsor, Ont., Canada.

In the weeks and months leading up to this joint-city, international action, activists on both sides of the border began discussing strategies. Many ideas were discussed. What occurred, though smaller than anticipated by the authorities, was still a display of international solidarity.

One of the major issues being addressed by these actions was the preparations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA has been nicknamed "NAFTA on Steroids" by activists and promises to spread the "success" of NAFTA throughout the entire Western Hemisphere. The FTAA plans on taking workers' quality of life, the environment and indigenous lands, among other things, into the shithouse of multinational corporations with a scope that NAFTA can only dream of.

In Detroit, the "city fathers" declared again and again in the weeks prior their preparedness. They talked of the 10,000 protesters who they expected to arrive from around the country. They bragged about the \$5 million dollars they had spent on security and new equipment (instead of schools or other services for the community such as surface road repair or some kind of functional mass transit system) And passed so-called "anarchist laws", which outlawed the wearing of a mask in public (this also included hooded sweatshirts). The media joined in, as has been common at these events, by spreading fear and paranoia and demonizing protesters. It seemed as if the mere act of raising one's voice was becoming more and more illegal.

On the 3rd of June, the day before the main actions, about 20 arrests were made.



June 4th, 2000, Detroit, MI. While across the river, protesters held back OAS delegates' transport, in Detroit questioned the city's decision to spend \$5 million dollars to prepare for protests.

The arrestees had been riding bicycles in a "critical mass" along the waterfront. Citizens standing by, as well as the media, remarked upon the pointlessness and viciousness of the arrests. On CNN it was reported that the cyclists were arrested for blocking traffic, but their police reports put down the charge as "wearing masks." Most of the cyclists were wearing sweatshirts

with hoods.

When June 4th arrived, the number of protesters who hit the street numbered approximately 450, though authorities put that number at 800, possibly in an attempt to justify the \$5 million dollar price tag and the shutdown of downtown Detroit for three days. Police, through the use of a "clear and present danger" argument, changed the area for the "legal" rally from 10 blocks to 3 blocks. The 3 block march area consisted



Cops Having a good ole time on the streets of Washington, DC, April 16, 2000. Protesters held their own, but many delegates were snuck in before 5am.

of walking back and forth from Hart Plaza, up Woodward and back again. Protesters were told that they could "go back and forth as many times as they desired."

Spirits were high, and many people from the community of Detroit came downtown and stood together with local and visiting activists against police brutality and for the creation and maintenance of schools in the city. Partly as a result of the \$5 million dollar price tag, the actions turned local in focus which showed an ability to see many issues on the side of the protesters, and an inability on the side of the authorities to understand this movement.

In Windsor things were not nearly as calm. This was the site for the actual meetings. Protesters stopped buses, knocked down fences and interrupted OAS delegates. Approximately 3,000 people amassed in Windsor to speak out for the rights of all people and against capital. Who knows how many cops the city had on hand; officially the number was 5,000, and once again their toys were obvious and volatile. Tear gas and pepperspray were used to "control people," and the Canadian Police were obviously in a heated competition with United States' police force to show their capacity for violence. Also, in an (unfortunately) failed attempt to outspend the city of Detroit, Windsor officials spent a somewhat modest \$3.6 million dollars on police and their toys.

By the end of the week's events, 14 protesters were criminally charged. Many Canadian citizens were arrested, 6 US citizens as well as about 41 individuals who refused to identify their nationality. In an interview on 91.5 CJAM radio, which did live broadcasts from the actions as well as aired interviews with arrestees, a jailed protester explained how police had arrested him as well as a wide variety of puppets. He was refused access to the puppets who possibly remain in custody to this day.

June 11 - 14, 2000, Calgary, Manitoba, Canada, World Petroleum Coalition.

The city of Calgary, Manitoba hosted the meeting of oil companies and oil interests in June, 2000. Once again the habit these corporate host cities have of spending outrageous amounts of cash on security protec-

tion was apparent. \$2 million dollars of tax dollars were spend to "control" and "contain" the 2,500 protesters who came into the streets throughout the events. Newspaper strikers from the Calgary Herald entered the streets as well in solidarity with the protesters. The Calgary Herald workers have been on strike for the past year with no contract in sight.

Protesters marched through the streets and evaded police as well as they could. Authorities spent most of their efforts protecting the WPC HQ. In one interesting turn of events, when protesters passed the heavily guarded building, they turned and ran back to it as the cops freaked out. There they staged a "die in" and remained in absolute silence for 15 minutes.

Much time was spent participating in organized "games" throughout the city in the streets. Teams were divided between oil companies and people affected by companies (all of us) with radical cheerleaders and the like.

This movement (if it can be called such) is an artistic and creative movement, as well as a strong and vital one. The call to end global piracy

through global solidarity can be heard by many people from many walks of life. The continuance and resurgence of protest as a form of expression that has been dead in the US for some time, is a surprise to the authorities. We must maintain a local, at the same time as a global, perspective though. To organize at the point of production is what Wobblies propose to do. This cannot be lost sight of. These large protests and actions are a means to joining all workers in all industries and from all countries together in union. Why? Because Capitalism cannot be reformed.

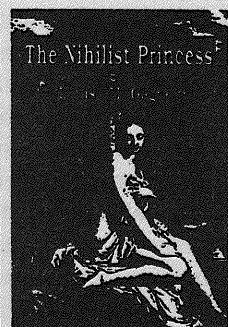
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a novel by

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India: Nationwide Strikes Continue

NEW DELHI, India, May 11

Businesses were closed and train and air services disrupted during a one-day nationwide strike called by India's leading leftist trade unions on May 11, 2000, union officials and witnesses said.

A spokesman of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) described the strike, called to protest against government economic policies, as a "total success."

Union representatives said 25 million workers participated. They vowed further agitation if the government did not accede to their demands.

The government said the strike was "partial" in most provinces barring the communist-ruled eastern state of West Bengal.

The unions are protesting over economic reforms and recent cuts in subsidies on foodgrains and fertilisers in the 2000/01 (April-March) budget, approved by parliament.

"All shops and everything is shut in West Bengal," the CITU spokesman said. Airport officials said almost all flights out of Calcutta, capital of the leftist-ruled state, had been cancelled or postponed until May 12.

Children played on the streets as protesters stopped vehicles on the road. "It is evident from today's strike that people participated spontaneously and took it as their own issue," CITU General Secretary Chittrabrata Mazumdar said.

Both houses of India's Parliament were adjourned amid uproar over the hike in the

prices of fertilisers and essential commodities. The leader of India's main opposition Congress Party, Sonia Gandhi, said: "This government has not responded to our demand during the finance bill. It is unfortunate that the government has been insensitive to such sensitive issues."

INSURANCE STRIKE

In New Delhi bank and insurance employees staged a sit-in protest in front of the local head office of the state-run Life Insurance Corporation.

"Down with the policies of the World Bank and the Government of India. Down with privatisation," the employees shouted as a large police contingent kept a close vigil.

"Opening up of the insurance sector is a threat to economic sovereignty of the country. We will urge the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) to repeal the Insurance Bill although it has been approved by parliament," R.P. Manchanda, president of the All India Insurance Employees Association said.

India late last year approved legislation opening up the state-controlled insurance sector to private Indian and foreign companies. The All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), which represents nearly 600,000 bank employees or about 50 percent of the industry's workforce, also went on strike in protest against the government's plans to privatise state-run banks.

Sweatshop Workers' Victory Over J.H. Design

Student activists' support cited as playing a major role.

Los Angeles, CA — With the support of university students nationwide, eight garment workers have won their struggle against their former sweatshop employer in May, 2000.

In November, the workers came forward to file a federal lawsuit against J.H. Design Group, a garment factory where they worked sewing jackets for USC, UCLA, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Tennessee, Nike, Reebok, and Disney, among others. The lawsuit alleged sweatshop conditions, including:

- Working seven days a week;
- Working 10-12 hours a day;
- Being forced to sew in their homes until midnight and on the weekends to meet quotas;
- Receiving sub-minimum wages, often without overtime pay;
- Illegal firings for speaking out about sweatshop conditions; and
- Inhumane treatment, including verbal abuse and subjection to racial slurs.

Approximately four months after the lawsuit was filed, J.H. Design Group agreed to settle the case with the eight garment work-

ers for \$172,000, which includes payment of back wages and compensation for the workers who were fired.

"We hope that students will continue to pressure their universities to investigate where their clothes come from..."
Julia Flores, sweatshop worker.

Adolfo Sanchez, one of the workers, said "We want to thank the students for the support they gave us. Their activ-

ism put pressure on J.H. Design, and we hope that our case helps to end the abuses in garment factories against workers. We hope that the public will continue to support workers who engage in efforts to bring more equality between garment companies and workers. This support is essential to victories like the one we won."

Julio Flores, another worker, said "Thank you to the university students who supported us. We hope that students will continue to pressure their universities to investigate where their clothes come from, to ensure that the workers who made them are paid and treated well."

This is the first victory for sweatshop workers who used university codes of conduct as tools to demand justice.

Russia: Massive Demonstrations Greet New "Slave" Labor Code

On 17 May 2000, approximately 300,000 workers across Russia participated in protests against the government's proposal to introduce a draconian "new" Labor Code. The new legislation removes workers' rights held for decades, rendering trade unions impotent and enforcing, among other things, a 56 hour working week.

The actions ranged from stoppages of work to demonstrations and pickets, often outside the administrative centers of towns. Areas with the largest turnouts included Kaliningrad (150,000 workers), Astrakhan, where years of work building up the local Zashchita union by Oleg Shein, one of the key co-ordinators of the campaign, paid off (10 000), Novosibirsk (8000), Nizhegorod (where 8000 workers at one factory participated), Samara nearly 4000, Moscow area 4000, Omsk 2000, republic of Komi, 2000 (including 1000 at a rally at Europe's largest mine). Certain groups of workers distinguished themselves, for example the dockers, 15,000 of whom participated in the ports of Vladivostok, Vostochni, Nakhodka, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Magadan, Archangelsk, Murmansk and Novorossiisk. At Yasnogorsk machine plant, whose courageous workers became famous when their long militant occupation won unprecedented gains, 3500 workers took part in a stoppage. In Kursk and Vladivostok demonstrations were held despite a local ban.

Although the bureaucratic leadership of the FNPR, the country's largest trade union federation, pressured by grass-roots activists, had put its name to a document condemning the new Labor-Code, they did not put any effort or resources into mobilising for the day. Most of the credit belongs to activists on the ground, especially those of the militant Zashchita and dockers union, coordinated by a committee set up by Oleg Shein (who has recently been elected to the Duma) with the help of veterans of workers struggles such as Yasnogorsk and Vyborg, activists of the Movement for a Workers Party, etc..

The secretary of the FNPR, Andrei Isayev, who last year joined forces with millionaire Mayor Luzhkov's Fatherland All-Russia coalition, submitted an alternative draft Labor Code to the one already submitted by colleagues of Oleg Shein. The draft submitted by Isayev was drawn up in collaboration with a representative from the right-wing Thatcherite Union of Right Forces.

Likewise the Communist Party of Zyuganov (KPRF) was generally noted for its absence from the struggle. This is not surprising considering that, despite their rhetoric, the party leadership has willingly approved every government budget for years and has declared itself in favour of defending "honest" entrepreneurs. In fact it was on the initiative of the KPRF member Selezhev, the Speaker of the Duma, that the government's draft Code was rushed onto the table for discussion after some years of delay.

Well over a hundred additional organisations and trade unions sent faxes in to protest against the new Labor Code.

Despite the widespread participation in the Day of Action, many workers who are not members of Zashchita or who have never before participated in industrial action felt that the battle against the new Labor Code was not relevant to them. This is because so many Russian workers have long been enduring the conditions to which the new Code gives an official stamp of approval - payment in kind, arbitrary sacking at the whim of the boss, casual work with no written contracts at all, long hours without any days off. With the collapse of nearly 50% of Russian industry since privatisation was brought in, unemployment and non-payment of workers for up to 18 months or more is so common that many people are ready to tolerate any conditions and hours just for the promise of a little cash.

Nevertheless the struggle is sharply relevant to even the millions of workers in casual or non-union (or weak union) labor. Efforts by militant activists who have expe-

rience of successful action to unionise casual workers, or to encourage those in inactive unions like the FNPR to fight for their rights can achieve much. But under the new Labor Code all intervention by unions will be very much harder.

The IMF enthusiastically approved the new Code, which also forces pregnant women to work night shifts and cuts maternity leave in half.

The western multinationals and their Russian stooges have devastated the lives of Russian workers with their privatisation programme. Now as a result, ultra-nationalism and a hatred of the west per se, as well as racism against minority groups, have appeared.

Workers around the world, following this mass 300,000-strong protest in Russia, must now show practical solidarity with Russian workers. We must not bury our heads in the sand while western and Russian governments incite "patriotic" hatred in preparation to drag us into a nightmare war over Caspian oil.

Lisa Taylor International Solidarity with Workers in Russia

Upper Midwest Wobfest 2000

On May 19-21, 2000, the Upper Midwest Wobfest was hosted by the Madison, WI GMB. Wobblies came from all over the Midwest, as well as from the East Coast. This was the second annual conference which has proven to be an excellent way of keeping Wobs who live in this region in touch with each other and active.

Workshops included: Organizing Small Shops IWW, Building Radical Caucuses within the Union Movement, Riding the Rails, Worker Collectives, Micro Radio, and many more.

A "Direct Action Roundtable" was held during which information about various direct action situations which members had been involved in was shared, as well as debate about what is direct action and what

S M I L E

a poem by Albert Nuh Washington

**I am locked in a cage
Where even the sun
can't penetrate
And no music
to brighten my mood
Yet I smile.**

**I am free in my soul
remembering
the songs of revolution,
comrades who died,
lived, loved,
sacrificed, cared
and even smiled:
The thought of them
makes me smile.**

3/22/88, MCC

is not. It became apparent once again that many Wobs have different ideas, and are willing to listen.

A workshop on Globalization Issues and the IWW became rather bogged down in ideas. Agreement was found in the area of reaching out to other radical unions, for example the FAT in Mexico. Also questions were raised as to the wiseness of working peripherally with right wing groups in situations like large protests without criticism of either tactics or philosophy.

In closing, the weekend was successful in many ways. In making the connections that put a face on our solidarity, sharing songs and ideas and great food, and looking forward to our future as a union *and* as a movement.

Report from "Autre Futur" MayDay2K, Paris, France

During June 1999, the San Francisco IWW co-hosted a multi-organisational international solidarity conference of anarcho-syndicalists and revolutionary unionists. The conference was called I-99 and was seen as the start of the IWW meeting with similar organisations on an international level to coordinate solidarity actions and exchange information. The Confederacion Nationale des Travailleurs-Vignoles announced that it would be hosting another international conference from April 25 through May 1, 2000. A week of debate and festivities were organised under the theme for "Autre Futur" [Another Future]. Some 170 comrades from 15 countries and 17 different groups/unions attended.

Public lectures were held about anarcho-syndicalism and revolutionary unionism (history, present, and future opportunities for those currents). Simultaneous translation was provided in French/ Spanish/ English. Topics included The first International, The histories of the Argentinean FORA and Italy's USI. One of the lecturers was the author of a French book on the history of the IWW and internationalism, Larry Portis. It was almost humorous during his speech when Portis laid claim that the IWW only existed for 12 years after 1905. You could see the crowd looking at each other as people shook their heads in disbelief. Considering the IWW members at the conference and the previous I-99 Conference, it was evident to everyone that Portis needs to get out of academia a little more.

On the same day an educational workers industrial workshop was held. Industrial branch workshops were held in 7 sectors in total: Education, Entertainment and culture, Janitorial, Post and Telecommunications, Construction, Health, and Welfare. Unfortunately, the Railways and Transport sector was unable to meet. These industrial workshops are a continuation of the similar European Alternative Unions meetings previously held in Spain and Italy.

That evening, a big concert was held at the nightclub La Fleche d'or with the rebel rock band Brigada Flores Magon. The concert was packed out into the street with the CNT's "service order" covering the security. The Brigada have offered to do a benefit tour for the IWW in the States and Canada if one can be organised. They have

expressed that they will not play for profit of anyone but the union and other such organisations. Many of the Brigada's members are member of the CNT's "service order". Many organisations in France have "service orders" to help with security at demonstrations, especially when opposition groups are expected to be encountered such as the police or the fascist Front Nationale. The CNT's "service order" are infamous in Paris due to their kick-boxing school and coed and multi-ethnic membership.

On Saturday, a red and black international workshop was organised. We discussed international solidarity, coordination, and how we can work together more efficiently.

The first issue discussed at the international meeting was the SOLIDNET webpage that has been adopted by many organisations as a source of international news and links. Currently members from the CGT-Spain & the Holt Syndicalists (UK) maintain the site, but they asked if the IWW Communications Workers could help with redesigning it. The website can temporarily be viewed at <http://www.nodo50.org/cgt/solidnet>. The website goal is to "foment direct action and international solidarity amongst workers, unemployed workers and their trade union associations, by immediate diffusion of information related to their international meetings, struggles and protests."

The second issue discussed during the red and black workshop was "I-99 and what next". Last year's I-99 Conference in San Francisco was considered a big step on the international front for the IWW. The question was now where to have the next conference and how to get better participation from all the world's continents. Currently the FAU-Germany has a motion at referendum to host the next conference in 2002. In the meantime the SAC have offered their June 2001 meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden as the next international gathering. As to the question of broadening participation, travel expenses were a major issue. The I-99 Committee still holds a bank account with around \$2400 allotted for travel costs for the next conference.

The last issue of the red and black workshop that we were even able to address was that of our organisations working on single

issues with other groups such as Trotskyists and Anarchists to combat capitalism. Actions such as the Liverpool Dockers & Anti-WTO campaigns were used as examples. It was concluded that this debate would take more time than was left and was tabled for sometime in the future.

After the workshop, Wobblies attending the conference had chance to meet at a bistro not too far away from the conference at the Bourse du Travail. We talked about our separate organising activities and to get acquainted with our comrades from Johannesburg, South Africa. FW. Alexis gave us a report of the progress of the move of headquarters to Philadelphia. She explained some related problems as well with creating a new membership data base.

A central public meeting, with five minute presentations from the foreign unions as well as the CNT-Vignoles, were simultaneously translated in French/ Spanish/ English with some help from individual translators for Russian and Italian. There were international delegations from libertarian unions such as the SAC (Sweden), the CGT (Spain), the SKT-Siberia as well as representatives from a host of other revolutionary unions such as Unicobas and USI (Italy), FAU-IAA (Germany), FAU-Switzerland, CAT-Belgium and of course IWW (USA, Ireland, Germany). Other groups included Voie Democratique-Morocco, RKAS-Ukraine, and the up and coming fellow workers from South Africa. Members of the Argentinean FORA attended the conference but did not give a presentation. The encouraging message that carried with each organisation was the that they all were experiencing growth even if they were only founded in the past year or so.

General Secretary/Treasurer Alexis Buss gave a noteworthy presentation of the IWW's recent activities. The international delegates were especially interested in hearing about the recent anti-WTO action in Seattle as well as the anti-IMF demonstration in Washington D.C. For many years the USA's labor force has been viewed by our international comrades as complacent and unclass conscious. Now they're inspired by the State's militant resurgence giving much of the credit to the IWW.

The CNT's conference week concluded on Monday with one of its largest ever

showings at the annual May Day rally and march in the center of Paris. The libertarian section gathered from noon onwards in Place des Fetes. The CNT and a variety of its sections in healthcare, construction, transportation, education and communications were joined by sizable groups from other organisations including the brass band from the South Wales National Union of Miners and a Brazilian Samba band. The IWW contingent of about 10 members was small but well loved. CNT organisers kept encouraging us to move further to the front of the march.

Along the entire route of the march from Place des Fetes to Place de la Republic, CNT organisers led a chorus of signing, dancing and chanting. By the time the marchers finally entered Place de la Republic to join with reformist unions like the CGT-France for the final parade to Bastille, the mood was "exuberant."

In past years the CNT has been forced into a section of the main May Day march reserved for political organisations which is a blatant attempt by the Communist based CGT to deny the CNT a presence. Sensing the competition of appearances, tense CGT members tried in vain to start small scuffles with the CNT and their guests. These attempts were dealt with easily by the excellent organisation and experience of the CNT.

To conclude, the conference was only darkened by the tragic death of a comrade Monica (27 years old) from CGT Valencia during an automobile accident on the way to Paris. Members of the CNT's International Secretariat did an amazing job of consoling Monica's family as well as coordinating the multitudes of foreign delegates. I have never felt more welcomed and cared for than by the CNT-Vignoles and the other comrades that attended this conference. Even though we have a long way to go in coordinating actions and being more effectively organised on a global scale, it is safe to say that we are well on our way to creating "another future" for the working class than what the Capitalists have predetermined for us.

In solidarity,

Liam Flynn Branch Secretary/Treasurer
Marine Transport Workers IU510 Local 9 -
Member of the IWW- International Solidarity Commission - Member of the I-99 Committee

Detroit Newspaper Strike Rocked by Court Ruling

continued from front cover

Former NLRB chair William Gould called the ruling, "incredibly tragic because of the fact that so many people have put their faith in the legal process and the board and been let down." Gould's comments echo those of a UAW local union president, and ardent strike supporter, who noted that, "The labor board was set up in the 1930s to take the struggle out of the streets. This ruling shows that the only place we have power is in the streets and on the shop floor."

The board's ruling was based on a 1997 ruling following a six month trial that accumulated 3,000 pages of testimony. The appeal judges' key finding was that the so-called merit pay plan imposed by the Detroit News was not similar to one earlier ruled illegal. In the previous case, the McClatchy newspapers had declared a bargaining impasse and imposed a pay plan that would base all individuals' raises on the discretion of management. The union would only be involved if the individual member asked for representation.

The 1935 National Labor Relations Act established workers' rights to union representation and mandated that employers must bargain with workers. Merit pay plans are destructive of collective bargaining. The court ignored the Boards findings and ruled

that the Detroit News plan was substantially different than that of the McClatchy case. The NLRB argued that the ULP was supported by the News claim that it could give the entire merit pay pool to one person. The judges ignored that point.

The judges also ignored the "Jaske trick" a blatant example of bad faith bargaining. Gannett's senior vice president John Jaske had faxed a notice to the Newspaper Guild's office at 8 pm on a Friday before the July 4 holiday weekend saying that he wanted to meet Monday morning. Nobody saw the notice. Jaske did not mention it to a Guild negotiator he saw at another union's bargaining session on Monday afternoon.

Overturing the board ruling has saved the newspapers over \$100 million in potential back pay awards and stripped the unions of a major bargaining point. NLRB General Counsel Leonard Page recently outlined actions the Board should take to benefit workers. Page, for example, argues that back-pay awards should be used to punish companies and not be mitigated by the income locked out workers earn in trying to survive.

Gould says the appeals court went renegade, "They find new facts and just ignore what we relied upon, which is completely contrary to what a reviewing court is sup-

posed to do under the relevant law. So long as there is substantial evidence in the record to support the board's finding, the court is obliged to defer to it."

The three judges are Reagan appointees. One, James Buckley is the brother of conservative ideologue William F Buckley. David Santelle is a South Carolina politician with a record of hostility to labor. Laurence Silberman was the author eleven years ago of a ruling allowing a "joint operating agreement" between the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press that has given them an unregulated monopoly despite an administrative law judges finding that there was no need for a 'joa'.

The mood among strikers is predictably glum. Called back workers were "walking around the News/Free Press building like zombies." Illegally fired workers felt the loss turned them into "throwaway bargaining chips" in what many expect will be an attempt to get any settlement that preserves the unions' status inside the papers. Many feel that the court decision will increase the determination of Gannett and Knight-Ridder to resist any settlement that doesn't completely bust the unions. Rumors that Teamsters President James P. Hoffa is willing to sign away hundreds of workers' stake in the strike have been floating for months.

Strikers and supporters have marked the fifth with numerous actions. Legal rallies, guerrilla actions and solidarity events have gathered hundreds of supporters once again. The boycott continues and damages circulation. The community of struggle around the strike continues to grow slowly and has branched off into solidarity support for water plant and cafeteria workers, anti-OAS organizing and the creation of a local Jobs With Justice chapter.

Lawsuits against various strikers and supporters still hang over peoples heads. — the farmington seven —. The RICO suit (Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations) plods along.—

Soyboy Slim

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**GANNETT DESTROYS
WORKERS' LIVES IN DETROIT
& IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Sweatshop Organizing in Central America

From the Roots: Women's union organizing in Honduras and the case of Yoo Yang
By Marion Traub-Werner

Marina Gutierrez is one of the few women in Central America who has organized a sweatshop into a union shop, and not just once, but three times. For two weeks in April, Marina toured the United States talking to concerned consumers about the importance of union organizing in the now infamous maquilas in Central America. STITCH, a women's labor solidarity network, sponsored the tour along with U.S./ Labor Education in the Americas Project. Marina focused on her latest efforts to organize a factory called Yoo Yang, producing for Kohl's and Phillips-Van Heusen.

As a worker in a Honduran maquila sewing bras for Warner's, Marina organized the first union in the industry in 1981. "The physical and verbal abuse was very damaging," she explains. "I felt that we, the workers, needed to unite and organize." Two years after winning a bitter struggle to establish the union, the company gave Marina and the other leaders of the union an ultimatum: quit or the company will fire all 300 workers. With great sadness, Marina left the company. Never one to take defeat lying down, she immediately helped organize elections within the factory for a new executive committee to sustain the union, which exists to this day.

The company, the Labor Ministry and the members of the business elite labeled Marina a communist and a terrorist. She was blacklisted and never able to work in the maquila again. Marina was unemployed for the next six years but the memory of her struggle left her eager to return to

the labor movement: "I felt that there were many workers in the maquila who continued to suffer in conditions that were even worse than what I experienced. I knew I needed to do something." Marina went to various union federations and finally got a job as a full-time organizer.

Together with a team of five organizers (all ex-maquila workers) and support from the international labor solidarity community, Marina organized a company called KIMI in 1997. After a two-year campaign, KIMI finally won its first contract in 1999. After intense investigation, Marina and her team set their sights on Yoo Yang, another factory in the same Free Trade Zone.

Marina talked about the workers at Yoo Yang, mostly young women, who regularly suffer serious violations of their basic rights. Before the union, workers were often expected to stay until 9 p.m. or sometimes midnight in order to finish an order. If a worker refused, she would be suspended for three days without pay. Workers were regularly denied permission to go to the bathroom, leading to kidney infections and emotional angst in cases where they were forced to relieve themselves on the factory floor. Marina spoke to U.S. audiences about the numerous challenges she faces to organize unions in the maquila sector. Workers in the maquilas are typically young women between the ages of 14 and 25 for whom the maquila is their first paid job. The young workers "do not really think about their future," Marina explained. "Most of them

do not think about the consequences of not having life insurance or the right to study." Another challenge is the companies' strong anti-union campaigns, with the tacit or active support of the Labor Ministry. It is taken for granted that the company will fire any worker suspected of union activity, a situation that forces Marina and the other organizers to work clandestinely until they have affiliated almost the entire workforce. Once the union starts to operate more openly, the company takes away production bonuses from all members and often tries to bribe the leadership. In a failed attempt to destroy the union last year, Yoo Yang reportedly offered the elected leadership \$3700 each to abandon the union and leave the company.

Marina and her team of organizers have overcome these many challenges through a slow process of consciousness raising and one-on-one education. The organizers spend their weekends and evenings for many months visiting workers in their homes. It may be several visits before they even start to talk about the union. Their first priority is to listen to the worker, understand his or her experience, and offer some basic information about their legal rights. The organizers eventually form small neighborhood committees, always keeping the groups small in case the company tries to infiltrate them. Finally, after months of preparation, the union membership meets as a whole for the first time, electing their leadership, notifying the company and requesting legal recognition from the Labor Ministry.

Throughout 1998 and 1999, workers at Yoo Yang went through this process. By the time the union presented itself publicly, choosing the SITRAIMASH, it had 480 affiliates of the 620 workers at the plant.

The role of international solidarity continues to be crucial in the recognition of unions and the negotiation of contracts in the maquila sector. Facing an ambivalent Labor Ministry, pressure on the brands that supply the all-important contracts to companies can be a deciding factor. In the case of Yoo Yang for example, knowledge of a pending international solidarity campaign helped force the company to sign an agreement with the union promising contract negotiations, despite the efforts of the Labor Ministry to stall the legal creation of the union. Such solidarity efforts, however, must be strategically coordinated. "We want to create alliances to defend the union," Marina said. "But these alliances must follow the lead of the workers."

Marina's message and the Yoo Yang campaign go to the heart of international solidarity. Consumers must channel their abundant energy generated by the knowledge of sweatshop conditions into supporting grassroots organizing efforts. At the same time, consumers have much to learn from the struggle for unions in the maquila in terms of their own efforts to improve their working conditions.

For more information about Yoo Yang/SITRAIMASH campaign or other union struggles in Central American sweatshops, contact STITCH, 4933 S. Dorchester, Chicago, IL 60615; hf52@aol.com; 773-924-2738.

The physical and verbal abuse was very damaging,"

Marina explains, "I felt that we, Sweatshops the workers, needed to unite and organize."

Stop

MPLU Stages Boycott of Colgate Palmolive

SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE
BOYCOTT COLGATE PALMOLIVE

The Missouri Prisoners Labor Union (MPLU) announced today that it is initiating an international boycott against all products produced either directly or indirectly by Colgate Palmolive

This action is being taken in response to Colgate Palmolive's failure to provide a letter of endorsement in support of the Missouri Prisoners Labor Union and/or aims and objectives for three points which are summarized as follows:

1) The establishment of minimum wage pay for all Missouri Prisoners. 2) Abolishing all forced labor and abuse perpetrated by the Missouri Department of Corrections in particular and the State Government in general.

3) Colgate Palmolive's active involvement in persuading the State of Missouri Legislature to impose a Bill of Moratorium on all executions of Prisoners in the State of Missouri.

In a letter to Colgate Palmolive spokesperson Bill F. Shanahan, MU

National Communications Officer Michael Lee stated

"Let me reassure you that neither myself or anyone directly associated with the Missouri Prisoners Labor Union has any intention of causing physical harm to either you personally or Colgate Palmolive employees' property. Our tactic is to simply fold our arms and turn a blind eye to your products." The letter goes on to reiterate what MPLU elected leadership stated in their 06-04-00 letter to Colgate Palmolive "...we realize that your company didn't put us in prison. This is a matter of Colgate Palmolive reaping immense profits for our incarceration and as the largest single consumer block you have a social obligation to us. The situation I am outlining, is the same argument organized labor has used to oppose sweatshop labor employed by Kathy Lee Gifford, Nike, etc. I would also like to add that we are not asking for anything from society except that we be treated in a fair manner as defined by the United States Constitution and numerous legal cases. We are not advocating for a cushy lifestyle but

simply a fair days pay for a fair days work and a safe, non-abusive work environment."

The MPLU is a 500 member organization which was created by Prisoners and supporters. It was legally chartered by the State of Missouri on August 3, 1998. It is our desire to better the living and working conditions of Missouri Prisoners in particular and two million United States Prisoners in general. We provide Prisoners a much needed political forum from which to promote the principles of social justice, economic and political issues confronting Missouri Prisoners and workers. Our commitment to non-violence has been demonstrated continuously. One of the linchpin principles of the MPLU is that there is nothing more powerful than a

with arms folded refusing to pick up tools or perform any labor.

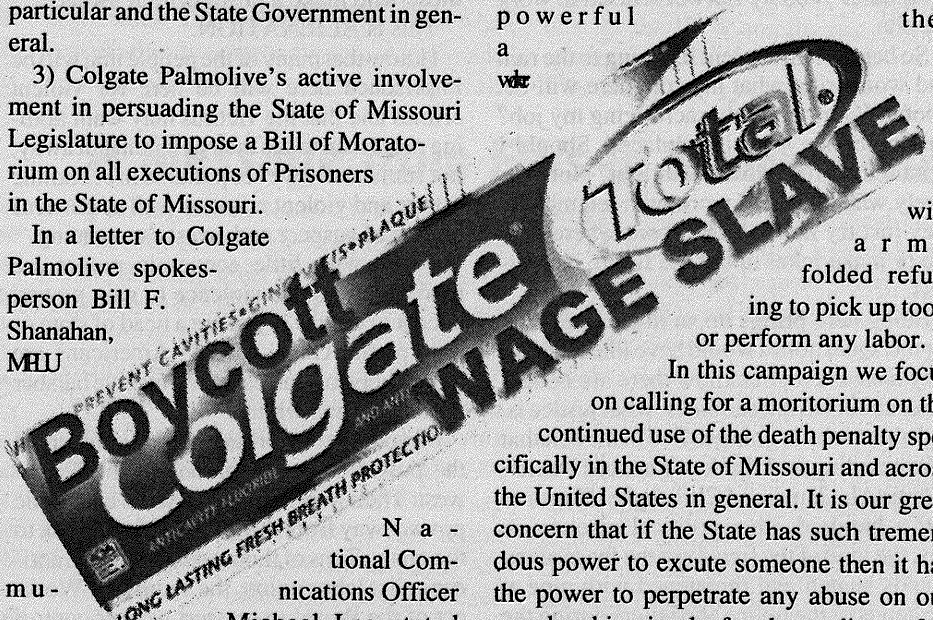
In this campaign we focus on calling for a moratorium on the continued use of the death penalty specifically in the State of Missouri and across the United States in general. It is our great concern that if the State has such tremendous power to execute someone then it has the power to perpetrate any abuse on our membership simply for demanding a fair days pay for a fair days work. Continual use of the death penalty is a human rights violation and an ineffective manner in which to combat anti-social behavior.

For the first time in history Prisoners who do not face the ultimate punishment are calling for a moratorium on its use. We do so as part of our social responsibility as an organization of economic self-defense and in defense of the Human and Civil Rights of all Prisoners.

As of July 1, 2000 we are requesting that all Prisoners and their family/friends, MPLU members and our supporters to non-violently decline to purchase Colgate Palmolive. In support of our efforts we have requested that all members of organized labor, peace and social justice activists and the NAACP to also refrain from purchasing Colgate Palmolive products until at such time our demands are met.

From The Barricades!

Mike Lee On behalf of Raze the Walls!



The MPLU Needs Your Help

Dearest Fellow Workers,

The reason we are writing today is that it is the sincere hope of our membership that I be in attendance as a representative of our organization at the next General Assembly meeting to present:

- 1) A resolution condemning the use and further expansion of prison labor at less than a sustainable wage.
- 2) A resolution expressing support for Prisoners right to address workplace issues by building Unions such as ours.

For your review and consideration we provide you with an expected cost break down and the total amount of funds we are attempting to acquire.

Travel \$138. Food, lodging \$300 for 5 days. Total \$438.

If either you or your Branch are able to assist us monetarily or in stamps, please forward aid to Charla Greene, Abolition Road PO BOX 3055, Rohnert Park, CA 94927

In closing, on behalf of our membership and elected leadership, I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and in advance for all of your help. If there are any questions or please do not hesitate to contact me personally at:

MPLU National Communications Office, 2435 E, North St. PMB 255, Greenville, SC 29615.

Mike Lee

LAND OF THE FREE HOME OF THE SLAVE

I am a construction worker at the Stafford Creek Prison near Aberdeen, Washington. How the hell did I get this glorious job and why the hell don't I quit? I ask myself these questions over and over every single day that I am here. I knew a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies), who worked out here and hated it. He hated every aspect of his participation in the building of yet another example of this country's growing prison industry. Industry? yes my friends, prisons mean money. Not necessarily for the town that has one, but for large corporations who can use prisoners as cheap labor. While here, my friend helped raise the consciousness of prison labor and participated in a rally of 50 or more union workers protesting against the use of prison/slave labor to replace union workers. Eventually my friend lost his security clearance and was placed at another jobsite.

Another Wobbly flat out refused to work the site.

So here I sit in my tent listening to the rain and wondering what my role here will be. Should I quit, possibly sacrificing my job? An apprentice is easily replaced. Should I agitate for a full-blown walk-out? Not very likely when people I work with tell me that they just try not to think about where they are or make jokes about the future inhabitants.

Being here brings up so many questions for me. Questions I would have liked to have easy answers to, but know there are none. I think about what freedom is, what justice is, and about who is going to live in the cell that I am standing in. I think of Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal and Christopher Plummer and a hundred other political prisoners in this, the land of the free. I see the faces of my friends beaten and threatened with rape at the hands of the police and jailers during the WTO, and again I wonder why am I here?

I talked with some of my friends about my working at the prison. They have all pointed out that I could certainly quit, but would only be replaced by someone who wouldn't question the reality of this place. So, here I stay. I walk into the maximum security cell and take out my tape measure. 14' x 6'2" with a corner cut out for the sink and toilet. A 2'4" x 6'6" cement slab serves as the bed. Two 3" slits are the windows.

Another worker tells me that the prisoners will spend 23 hours per day in their cells and 1 hour outside, where they can take a shower or hang out in the "day room," (a larger open space shared by the other 25 prisoners in their pod), or they can walk in the "dog run," (a thin strip of outdoors surrounded with razor wire). I think about critiques of our capitalist economy and the term "ALIENATION" comes to mind.

One way of seeing alienation is the removal of a worker's control over the things he or she creates. In other words, under capitalism, people are alienated and have no control over the final product of their work, ie. quality, quantity, distribution and especially the profits.

Another type of alienation is the kind between one person and another or perhaps the rest of society. I am obviously not a criminal psychologist or sociologist, but it doesn't take one to realize that when a person commits a violent crime, an anti-social act, what the hell sense is it in locking the person up for 10 to 20 years, for 23 hours a day in a 14' x 6'2" cell, surrounded by others who supposedly have done similar acts, guarded by Gunther, the lumber eating barbarian, and expect them to be released more socially adjusted than before?

During my orientation, one of the guards told us that we needed to have locking gas caps. This was because there were 60 some odd minimum security prisoners working around the compound and "they" could put a rag in your gas tank and light it, blowing up your car at one end of the compound and escape from the other side. He made it sound like all of these guys, (who were all minimum security), were Rambo prodigies and would twist your head off as soon as look at

you. Unfortunately, some of the other new construction workers started muttering to themselves about how these damn criminals were treated better than hard working Americans. Bleecchhhhh!

The intent of the orientation and that of the guard was to try to pit one group against the other so we couldn't see any common ground and no solidarity. Yea, what kind of solidarity do I have with some rapist I ask myself. Well, honestly I have little desire to hold his hand and sing old Wobbly songs, but if construction workers get mad at the prisoners for working and replacing union laborers, (which has already been done), the prison administrators have just saved labor costs and ultimately pitted the wage slaves against the prison slaves. This is the same game that is done by using race, gender, sexual orientation, religious and a thousand other differences as tools to blind us to the reality that there are those who create, and those who make a profit off our sweat.

This is ALIENATION.

I know that many of the people that will be imprisoned here will be here for violent crimes and that the victims may want nothing more than to see their assailant put away, but statistically we see patterns in economic power and violent crime as well as patterns in race of suspect and arrests/sentencing.

Those with little economic power are more likely to use violence to gain power, except of course if you are a head of state or a corporate CEO. African Americans are more likely to be arrested and receive harsher sentences than whites.

80 years ago, working people confronted the powerful timber barons of the Northwest. Their hope was to wrest the economic power away from the few and give it back to the many. Tens of thousands joined the anti-capitalist labor union, the Industrial Workers of the World to reassert worker control over production and distribution. Through years of attacks, many of these Wobblies were thrown into prison for nothing more than belonging to the union.

As the timber unions became weaker, labor protections became less, leaving only a few insecure union jobs. Somewhere around the 1970's - 1980's, more and more unsustainable cutting practices began to be used, for as capitalism uses the workers to the greatest degree for the most profits, it also uses all resources for the most profits. Towns like Aberdeen, Washington, once a timber boom town, now lacks a future in that industry, and didn't prepare itself for any other.

I've been told that Aberdeen has the highest welfare rate of any city in all of Washington. Supporters for the Stafford Creek Prison claimed more jobs would be created with the construction of this new minimum/medium/maximum security prison, but of the locals I have talked with, none are convinced. It reminds me of the scene in Michael Moore's film, "Roger and Me", when General Motors closed its plant in Flint, Michigan. Crime rose as people were put out of work. Some of the former GM workers became guards in the newly constructed prison, guarding many of their former workmates.

At night I lay in my sleeping bag or in a bed at a motel when it is too rainy and imagine what many of those old Wobblies would say to me building this prison, building this temple to capitalism, building Leviathan. Is the information I pass on to you, the reader, worth my participation? Does my ability to see the inside and experience just a fraction of the lies, the torture, the cancer of our society outweigh the hours I spend with hammer and drill, wire snips and putty knife? Am I building the future home for members of the Praxis Collective? Earth First!? Other Wobblies? Or myself for that matter?

At some point the answer will become obvious to me. At some point, I will have taken all that I can stomach. But until that time, I'm learning and speaking and organizing and bearing witness and hopefully passing on this education to you.

Wesley Everest

Nothing in Common: An oral history of IWW strikes 1971-1992 John Silvano, ed. 1999, Cedar Publishing 93 pp., \$9 Available from IWW General Headquarters

"The Wobblies! Wow, I didn't know you guys still existed." Virtually all Wobs have heard that during their membership in the union. Many have said it when they first came into contact with the Union after only having read about it in labor history as a union that died. Depending on which version you read, the IWW died; in the teens when the U.S. government imprisoned nearly 300 IWW organizers for criminal syndicalism; in the '20s when an internal conflict over the issue of centralism split the union; or in the '50s when the Union's General Executive Board refused to sign the loyalty oath required by the U.S. Taft-Hartley Act.

The concepts of industrial unionism and worker control of the means of production die hard. Yes, we're still around; and as John Silvano's collection of oral histories about IWW strikes from the 1970s through the early 1990s shows, as small as we became, we've kept busy.

While the book focuses on IWW organizing efforts involving labor strikes over the period, the introduction is perhaps even more impressive. It lists many of the organizing drives from the 1960's through the early 1990's which didn't lead to strikes. Among the organizing drives outlined were student organizing in the early '60s in the San Francisco Bay area, including IWW participation in the Berkeley free speech movement; restaurant and greenhouse drives in New York; organizing among students, the unemployed and farmworkers by the Chicago IWW Branch in the '60s; student drives in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario. The introduction goes on for pages giving brief mention to drives all around North America. For a Union whose membership never amounted to more than a thousand during this period, the amount of activity is very impressive.

There has been a good deal of discussion within the IWW in recent years about the efficacy of the strike as a tactic. Drawn out strikes can deplete union resources and demoralize workers. Many Wobs are coming to view the tactic as a last resort, to be used only when other forms of direct action on the job have not accomplished their goals, only when well thought out, when hitting the boss at a moment of economic vulnerability, when there are reasonable expectations of quick success. The strikes covered in this book met with varying degrees of success and failure. It's a good read for anyone engaged in organizing to get some ideas of both what might work and what hasn't.

The narrative by Frank Callahan about organizing among fast food workers has inspired organizers currently working in the food industry to work on citywide industrial organizing rather than focusing on one restaurant or fast food outlet, since the work force in that industry is so transient.

Mike Hargis highlights the dangers of a long term strike in a small shop. I think the chapter on the University Cellar Bookstore drive, from an interview with me, has a lot of lessons on what to expect in organizing. You can almost count on it to be tedious, requiring a long term commitment. A brief strike can be useful in putting management on notice that you're dead serious; but to be brief it has to come at a moment where the loss of our labor will be crucial. The strike is a valuable threat, but usually more valuable as a threat than as something put into action.

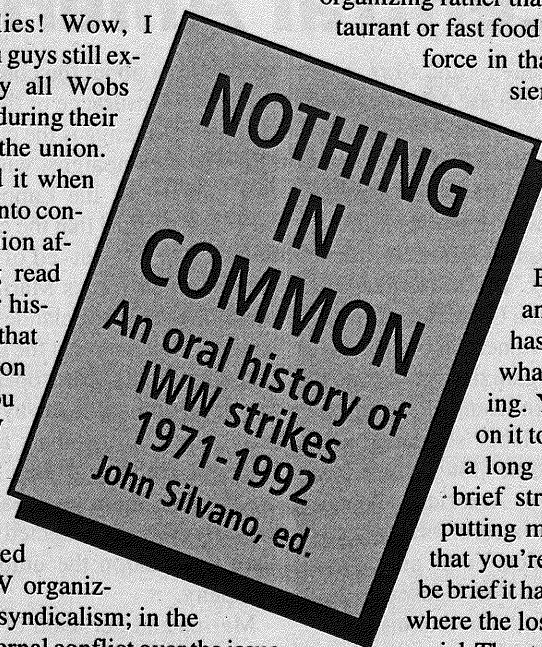
The book includes complaints from two of the Wobs interviewed about inadequate support from the Union as a whole. Hey, it wouldn't be the IWW if somebody wasn't beefing. Our resources are limited. Organizers have to go into a drive, especially into a strike with their eyes wide open. The union allows a great deal of autonomy in local organizing; but the flip side of that coin is that organizers will be required to line up a lot of the support they need locally. At the same time, in the Cellar drive donations came in from Wobs all over digging into their pockets.

Many IWW drives are in small shops. There is the danger that a strike will put the shop out of business. That deprives workers of their livelihood. But if the lost jobs are near minimum wage, other jobs are readily available, if it happens in an area where there is ongoing IWW organizing, and the closing of the shop can carry the message that there's a cost to bosses who mess with the Wobblies, it can still have long range value.

The book is an interesting compilation, at times inspiring, at times presenting the sobering realism that you aren't always going to win just because your cause is just. I found it impressive that 7 of the 8 people interviewed are still active in the Union, some nearly 30 years after the drives in which they were involved. Organizing can be a heady experience. Even in losses, the lessons learned and the solidarity developed can be enough to keep you going through the fallow times.

Union activity has risen dramatically since '92, the cutoff point for "Nothing in Common". This book may provide a stepping stone for those interested in documenting that more recent history. It's a good, easy read, a valuable primer for anyone thinking about organizing their shop.

fred chase



AVAILABLE FROM IWW BRANCHES

T-SHIRTS

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

IWW Globe, black on red. (L, XL) \$17 each, P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr. Denver, CO 80211

Industrial Worker Work Shirts, Black design on buttondown shirt. \$12 from IW Collective 5841 Fourth St., Detroit, MI 48202 USA

"Remember Ludlow!" pamphlet Free. Enclose \$1 for shipping from: Gary A Cox, 11790 Grant St., Northglenn, CO 80233.

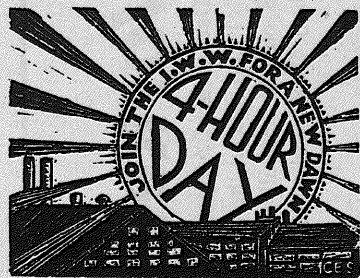
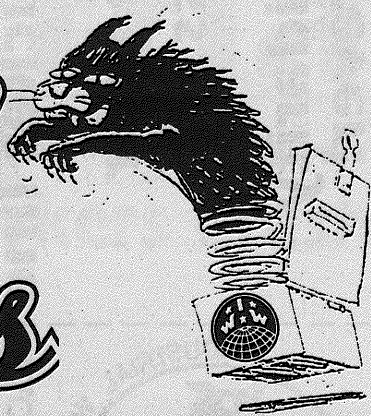
Sister Worker a quarterly publication of stories, histories, poems and sex written by Wobbly women. Definitely not for the squeamish. 1 issue \$5/4 issues \$15: make check or m.o. to Sister Worker, 136 S. Pine Ave., Albany, NY 12208, USA.

OUTSIDE U.S.
Canadian Little Red Songbook \$5 36th Edition Int'l Songbook \$10 c/o Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto, ONT M6R 2L2

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: Shorter Work Days!

4-Hour Day T-Shirts \$12
Black ink on cocoa shirt (specify M, L, XL)

Whatever Happened to the 8-Hour Day? by Arthur J. Miller \$2.50

For growing numbers of U.S. workers, the eight-hour day is but a faint memory – driven from consciousness by 10, 12 and even 14-hour days. Miller's pamphlet is based on his experience working 14 hours a day, seven days a week, in a shipyard. He decries the relentless fatigue imposed by this soul-crushing schedule; reflects on how workers got into this miserable situation; voices his rage at what this job is doing to his body, his son, and the planet; and notes the desperate need to return to IWW ideas in order first to put an end to forced overtime, and then to resume the fight for a shorter work week.

Kellogg's Six-Hour Day by Benjamin Kline Hunnicutt 248pp. \$26.00

During the Depression, Kellogg's shifted production in its cereal plants to a six-hour day. Workers were forced to accept eight-hour shifts during World War II, but they successfully fought for a return to six-hour days at the war's end. This book documents the implementation of the six-hour day and the enormous benefits for workers and community life, as well as management's 40-year fight to force workers back onto eight-hour shifts. This story is told from the workers' point of view, showing why workers (particularly women) refused to surrender the fight and how they were ultimately defeated (though many workers quit rather than return to eight hours). While any workers won the six-hour day in the 1930s, Kellogg's workers held on to it until 1985, demonstrating over a prolonged period the many advantages and practicality of shorter hours.

Arguments for a 4-hour Day by Jon Bekken 16 pp. \$2.50

The IWW first began demanding the four-hour day in the early 1930s, after decades of fighting for first the eight- and then the six-hour day. At the time, the six-hour day seemed destined to become the norm - the U.S. Senate even passed legislation to adopt it. But with U.S. entry into WWII, the labor movement's fight for shorter hours was almost totally abandoned. Now workers put in longer hours on the job than we did 70 years ago. This pamphlet reviews labor statistics which show the four-hour day is both practical and necessary.

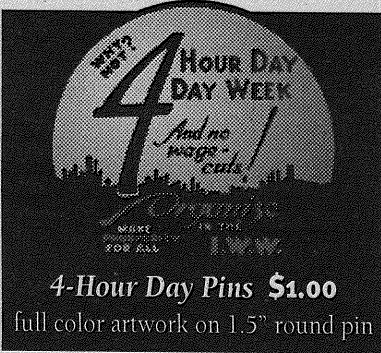
Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Kline Hunnicutt 389pp. \$14.00

Work Without End offers a compelling history of the battle for shorter hours that collapsed with federal legislation establishing the 40-hour week in 1938, explaining how American workers became trapped in a prison of work that allows little time to live our lives. Hunnicutt documents a widespread social movement for shorter hours that was derailed by a big business-New Deal coalition bolstered by the rise of consumer culture. A depressing story of how the labor movement abandoned the vision that had inspired it for generations, but an important one.

How to Tell When You're Tired:

A Brief Examination of Work by Reg Theriault 188pp. \$13

Instead of some academic's-eye-view, we hear from a worker himself— former crate-maker, fruit tramp, and longshoreman— what work is really like for someone who does manual labor. Says it with gusto and humor and demonstrates that a job site runs best when the workers themselves set the tune.



IWW Literature

Little Red Songbook 36th Edition

103 labor songs to fan the flames of discontent from around the world, with music. Includes songs by Joe Hill, Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Utah Phillips, and more. **\$10.00**

One Big Union An introduction to the structure, methods and goals of the Industrial Workers of the World. **\$2.00**

A New Union Vision by Arthur J. Miller A discussion of the present-day need for democratic, revolutionary unions. **\$2.00**

Labor History

The Fragile Bridge: Paterson Silk Strike, 1913 by Steve Golin

A discussion of the challenges faced in the relationship between workers and the radical bohemians of Greenwich Village. A good discussion of the "self-activity" of the workers involved in the strike. **\$17.00**

The Great Bisbee Deportation by Rob E. Hanson Wobblies so worried the authorities of Bisbee, Arizona, that the state ran them out of town. This comprehensive account brings the events of the day alive. **\$2.00**

Solidarity Forever by Stewart Bird, Dan Georgakis, and Deborah Shaffer Oral histories of IWW members. **\$10.00**

The Legacy of the Bunker Hill Mine by Arthur J. Miller Bunker Hill Mine's turbulent 100-year history is examined in this first-hand account of nightmarish working conditions, environmental devastation, and theft of indigenous lands. **\$2.00**

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher A classic text – a history of American workers' struggle from a working-class viewpoint, arguing that class upsurges are based in every-day life and rank and file initiative. **\$22.00**

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology Compiled and edited by Joyce L. Kornbluh Culled from Wobbly periodicals from the movement's founding in 1905 to the present, *Rebel Voices* presents pamphlets, stories, songs, poems, courtroom testimony, skits, cartoons and illustrations that bring the story of the "minutemen of industrial unionism" to life in native accents. – *Detroit Labor News* **\$24.00**

Labor Struggles in the Deep South & Other Writings by Covington Hall. Edited by David Roediger

IWW organizer and poet Covington Hall's history of southern labor struggles, with articles covering issues ranging from lynching to IWW strikes to worker education, and a few examples of his poetry. Historian David Roediger adds an appreciation of Hall's life and a discussion of the book's importance. **\$14.00**

Union Democracy

Democracy Is Power: Rebuilding Unions from the Bottom Up by Mike Parker & Martha Gruelle. This book offers practical ideas of how the rank and file can run unions. Major discussion of Teamsters for a Democratic Union experiences in this area. **254pp \$17**

On Strike at Hormel: The Struggle for a Democratic Labor Movement by Hardy Green Tells the stirring story of the Hormel meatpackers' fight in the 1980s. Local P-9 not only had to take on the bosses but also the bureaucracy of the UFCW. **268pp \$15**

Democratic Rights for Union Members: A Guide to Internal Union Democracy by H. W. Besnon. Useful guide (although it could use more discussion of direct action ideas) to the legal rights of union dissidents who are jerked around by local or international bureaucrats. **244pp. \$15**

Organizing Help

The Couriers are Revolting! by Des Patchrider

A lively and candid pamphlet on how the Dispatch Industry Workers Union organized English bike-messengers from 1989 to 1992. Eventually this effort petered out but their innovative style of organizing provides an inspiration to all of us. **26pp \$3.50**

A Troublemaker's Handbook: How to Fight Back Where You Work-and Win! by Dan La Botz. An encyclopedic work on worker initiative and organizing on the job. Goes beyond business unionism as the latter cannot deal with today's climate of intensified corporate aggression. Shows that sitdown strikes still aren't dead and immigrant workers can be organized. **262pp \$17**

No Justice, No Piece!: A Working Girl's Guide to Organizing in the Sex Industry by the hell-raisin' hussies who organized the Exotic Dancers at San Francisco's Lusty Lady Theater. Tales of the working conditions at the peep show which inspired a successful SEIU drive, direct action strategies for dealing with wrongful firings, and easy-to-read explanations of the legal process. **\$5.95**

Cool Stuff

IWW Buttons

NEW! Fighting Union Button \$1
Fire Your Boss \$1 Direct Action Black Cat \$1

Music for Rebel Workers Compact Discs Making Speech Free

A live concert by Utah Phillips. **\$12**
We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years 18 IWW Songs sung by Utah Phillips. **\$15**

Rebel Voices 20 IWW songs, sung by Wobbly entertainers. **\$15**

Wake Up Dead Man Black convict worksongs from Texas **\$15**

Order Form

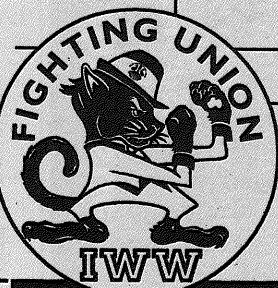
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Sub-Total: _____

Shipping: US add 10%, Overseas add 18%: _____

Total Enclosed US Funds Only: _____

Hey Mate! Writings on Wobs from Down Under



The Wobblies At War: A History of the IWW & the Great War in Australia by Frank Cain **300pp \$13.50**

Cain tapped police & military records and other sources to write the most comprehensive history thus far of the IWW's establishment (in 1907) and growth in Australia, where Wobs challenged the existing conservative trade union movement with ideas of a classless society. In 1916 the Australian government set out to destroy the IWW (then waging an anti-militarist campaign), outlawing the union and jailing its activists on trumped-up charges.

Tom Barker and the IWW recorded & edited by E.C. Fry **48 pp \$3.50**

Tom Barker joined the Australian IWW in 1913, quickly landing in jail for selling IWW newspapers. He was deported to Chile in 1917 for being an Wob, where he was active in IWW organizing across Latin America, before ultimately settling in London where he remained active in labor struggles. This pamphlet contains Barker's reminiscences of his life through the early 1920s, when he was recruiting skilled workers for the Soviets. The heart of this pamphlet is Barker's vivid memories of his work with the Australian Wobs. This is a valuable historical document, and Brisbane IWW members have done a nice job in bringing it back into print.

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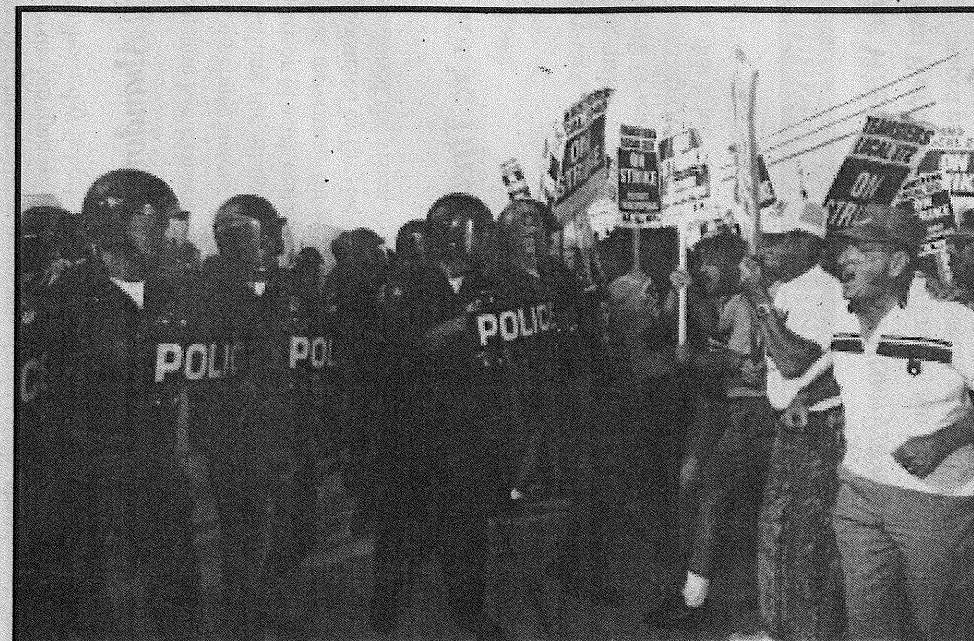
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Sterling Heights, MI, Free Press plant, Labor Day 1995 (above). Strikers stand strong, later the police bloodied picketers.

Detroit Teamsters Hall press conference, July 7, 2000 (below). Strikers and supporters listen disbelieving to court's ruling.

PHOTOS BY REBECCA COOK

Courts Deal Blow to Detroit News Workers

5 years later, court rules unanimously in favor of the company.

Three right wing federal Appeals judges ruled in July not to enforce the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) 1998 ruling that the Detroit Newspapers strike is an unfair labor practices strike. The NLRB had found the newspapers guilty of multiple ULPs and ruled 5-0 that the strike was a ULP strike. The ruling came down six days before the fifth anniversary of the strike/lockout.

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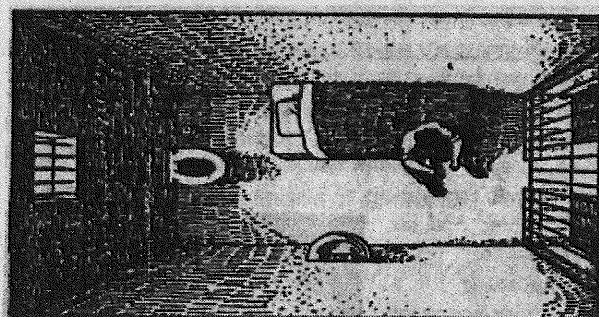
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