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Newspaper To Discontinue Print, Focus On Digital After More Than A Century, *Industrial Worker* Publishes Last Issue

By X359437

Citing irreparable financial issues and other internal problems, the IWW General Secretary-Treasurer (GST) and the *Industrial Worker* (IW) editor announced on April 1, 2013, that the IW will no longer be available in print format due to "an endless spiral" of financial loss which can only be remedied by discontinuing the official newspaper of the Industrial Workers of the World.

"Sure, as a union we're into building workers' power and all that, but our primary focus in 2013 is really about one thing: money," said GST Sam Green.

"Larger unions like the AFL-CIO are doing really well these days and, honestly, we could learn a thing or two from them," he added, though he did not specify what he

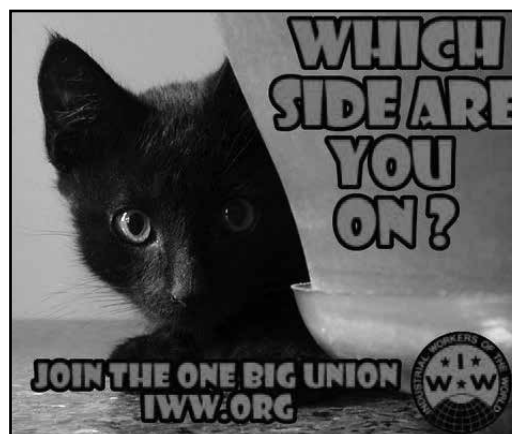
meant by this—leaving a lot to the Wobbly imagination.

According to IW editor Diane K., the 500 to 2,000-word articles previously available in the newspaper will now be converted to 140 characters or less and posted on Twitter. Meanwhile, the IW's Facebook page will be used exclusively for popular internet memes and cool animated GIFs.

"If we want to remain relevant to the working class—or 'middle class' as I am now calling it—we need to redirect our energy to creating media that they can relate to," said FW Diane. "No one wants to read four straight pages of dry theory or someone's latest ideas on industrial classification. The people want pictures of LOLcats and YouTube videos and hashtags," she said, adding that much of the

new content will not be about labor issues at all, but rather on entertaining content that "workers can relate to."

IWW Finance Committee member Jason Krpan said the move will benefit the union financially, saving the IWW "a good chunk of change." FW Krpan, who played an influential role in the two-person decision to switch to digital, added that the Finance Committee has other recommendations for improving the union's finances. This will include a mandatory dues increase for all members—effective immediately—as well as the elimination of all paid staff positions at General Headquarters. The GST position will be dismantled and divided into four new jobs that can be done "via the cloud," he said.

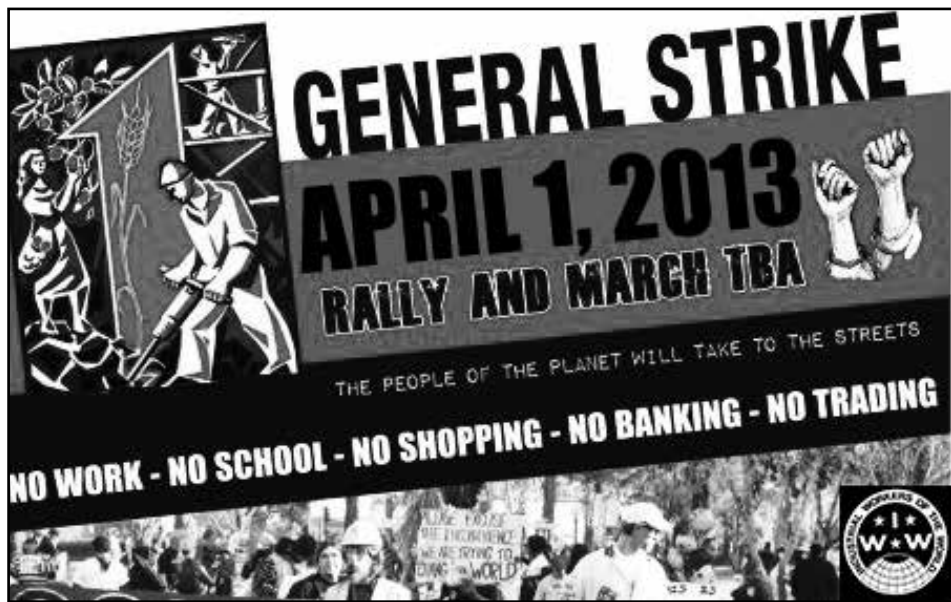


IWW digital content will exclusively feature trending internet memes, particularly photos of cats.

As for the remainder of 2013, the IW editor and the GST plan to send a letter of apology to all members and subscribers, but said they will not be able to provide a refund of any sort.

The change is effective beginning in May. The current April issue will be the last IW to ever appear in print.

General Executive Board Votes To Move May Day To April 1st



Promotional graphic for the new International Workers' Day, April 1st.

By FW Redd Card

In a closed-door conference call at the end of March, the IWW's General Executive Board (GEB) agreed to move International Workers' Day from May 1 to April 1, beginning this year.

"We thought it was time for a change of pace," said current GEB Chair Monika Vykoukal. "All the major unions in North America and Europe, and I guess throughout the world, call for the general strike to be on May 1st."

"So we thought, 'Hey, we're a revolutionary union, let's start acting like one!'"

Fellow board members agreed the shift would help modernize the union's image while increasing the chances of a full-blown general strike to actually happen this year.

GEB member X8675309 agreed with FW Vykoukal on the need for such a change. "Trying to have a general strike on May 1st has never worked for us in the past, so it's obviously not going to work for us in the future either," she said.

FW X8675309 called May Day "archaic," and a concept that "simply doesn't resonate with workers

anymore."

"When I hear about the Haymarket riot, I imagine a haggling-gone-wrong scenerio at that open-air produce market in Boston," added FW Brie C., who is not on the GEB but was a vocal participant in the conference call.

"Workers of the world don't know anything about the martyrs in Chicago. The eight-hour workday is irrelevant now that so many working-class people are unemployed or are regularly forced to work overtime. More importantly, when regular blue-collar folks hear 'May Day,' they think of an airplane crashing or kids dancing around the maypole. The first association they have with May Day is not International Workers' Day, and it is definitely not the general strike," added FW Brie.

At press time, FW Vykoukal said the GEB still hasn't figured out *how* to tell all the workers of the world to walk out on strike today.

"I'm sure we'll get the word out," she said.

"Maybe we'll send out an announcement over the listserve. Everyone reads the listserve."



Graphic: twitter.com/IWW_News

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