

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

March 2015 #1772 Vol. 112 No. 2 \$2/ £2/ €2

**IWW Fights Wage Theft At London Language School** 5

**Celebrating (Working) Women's History Month** 6-8

**Review: Staughton Lynd On War & National Identity** 9

**Romanian Guest Workers Organize With The FAU** 12

## Fired Hospitality Workers Fight Back With The London IWW

By the London IWW

Since November 2014, the London IWW has been supporting three zero-hour hospitality workers who lost their jobs at the Friends House in London, headquarters of British Quakers, known officially as the Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). The affair, with its mix of insecure employment contracts, intimidating disciplinary processes, and union busting, goes to the very heart of the contradiction between Quaker theory and capitalist practice: management's solution to zero-hours contracts was to sack three workers employed on them, two of whom were Unite, the union workplace representatives at the time. A situation that should have led to introspection and action at BYM has instead elicited only evasion and harm from senior management.

Over the last few months, we have held five well-attended demonstrations outside Friends House. At our first, a large contingent of BYM employees came out to

support us, and our actions culminated in a powerful, noisy demonstration on Jan. 29, when we were joined by a six-strong samba band. Workers, Quakers, passers-by and customers have been overwhelmingly supportive. In tandem, we have had over 1,000 hits on our blog since it went live in early January, and have organized a communications blockade in which hundreds of emails were sent to Recording Clerk Paul Parker, the top boss at BYM.

So far, the bosses have displayed no desire to reach a resolution; instead, they circulated disingenuous information about the termination of the zero-hour contracts. When we invited Paul Parker to come and meet with us during our action on Jan. 29, he declined, citing his (and BYM's) "relationship with our recognized union Unite, which has been involved throughout and has been supportive of our process." Unfortunately for him, the Unite branch has now voted to support the campaign!

Continued on 11



London Wobblies join hospitality workers at a demonstration outside Friends House on Jan. 29, 2015. Photo: London IWW

## Montreal Wobblies Participate In Disruptive Action At Canada Post



Wobblies at the Canada Post distribution center in Laval, Quebec. Photo: L'activiste

By IWW Montreal

On the morning of Feb. 16, the IWW Montreal, the Student Workers Union of the University of Quebec at Montreal, as well as several other citizens, took part in the disruption of a Canada Post distribution center in Laval, Quebec.

This action in solidarity with postal workers is set in a current context of struggles against austerity, and in the scope of the campaign for a social strike on May 1, 2015.

Many workers are directly confronted with the effects of budget cuts to health services, municipal employees, fire fighters, postal workers, students and workers in the private sector.

Yet, resistance is organizing itself everywhere. We will not let different governments (whether conservative or liberal) and the bosses impose their anti-social measures on us. The time of a minority enriching itself on the back of an impoverished majority is finished.

Our unity allows us to wage a radical

struggle in the face of the bosses' logic. This struggle must only grow.

The government's different budget cuts will impact all services, as well as the quality of public services. As a result, those suffering its everyday effects are going to be the general population. The elimination of door-to-door postal services is no exception, since it will affect post accessibility for those people who are older, single parents, or living with a disability.

These measures will also have immense consequences for the workers of Canada Post, since the existence of their jobs is equally tenuous. In consideration of all this, we decided to show our solidarity and our anger in the face of the deterioration of public services.

Against the bosses' rules: Union Struggle – General Strike! The IWW Montreal calls for a mobilization towards a national general strike on May 1, 2015. For more information, please consult the Montreal IWW's website: <http://sitt.iww.org>.

Translated by Tristan W.

## IWW Toronto Harm Reduction Workers Win Pay For Fired Organizer



IWW harm reduction workers. Photo: thrwu.org

By the THRWU

On Jan. 7, two days before the end of her six-month probationary period, IWW

Toronto Harm Reduction Workers Union (THRWU) member S. was terminated from her job as a Senior Harm Reduction Worker at Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre.

S. was terminated immediately and without cause, which is reprehensible but legal in Ontario within a probationary period. During her six months-less-two-days at Syme Woolner, S. had advocated for better treatment of workers and against discrimination and disrespect of workers and service users. She was the third person to occupy her position in less than a year.

Continued on 11

Industrial Worker  
PO Box 180195  
Chicago, IL 60618, USA



Periodicals Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
and additional  
mailing offices

ISSN 0019-8870  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





### Letters Welcome!

Send your letters to: iw@iww.org with "Letter" in the subject.

### Mailing Address:

Industrial Worker, P.O. Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618, United States.

### May Day! May Day!

The deadline for announcements for the annual "May Day" *Industrial Worker* is **April 3, 2015**. Celebrate the real labor day with a message of solidarity! Send announcements to iw@iww.org. Much appreciated donations for the following sizes should be sent to:

IWW GHQ, P.O. Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618, United States.

\$12 for 1" tall, 1 column wide  
\$40 for 4" by 2 columns  
\$90 for a quarter page

# Remembering Joe Hill This Year

You can start to soapbox with a resurrection story. Those are popular. Even the most diverse group of baseball fans are interested in a good resurrection story. Tell them that Joe Hill was murdered by the capitalist class on Nov. 19, 1915 and that the Wobblies got eternal youth. That Joe Hill never gets old. You are not going to be silent. You live.

For me, soapboxing feels good when you start to pivot at your waist and your fingers start to drip. Some Wobblies can deliver an f-bomb with great, miraculous positive effect. Most cannot. All Wobblies can do the Wobbly doxology—help people remember something about their labor unions.

## IWW Bangladesh Working Group To Conference April 10

The IWW Bangladesh Working Group (BWG) will hold a conference call on Wednesday, April 10, at 8 p.m. Eastern time. The call will focus on planning May Day actions that highlight the struggles of the garment workers of Bangladesh, particularly those who belong to the National Garment Workers Federation.

The BWG was formed two years ago,

What I am saying is, this is the Joe Hill centenary. When you plan out your year and schedule your events, make sure you know when and where you can soapbox. Prepare a little. You'll want a stack of song sheets, posters of Ben Fletcher and Lucy Parsons and a selection of IWW memoirs.

IWW Literature Department Coordinators have a row to hoe here. When you plan to soapbox, IWW literature is on your coattails. It is about raising money for the union. But more importantly, it is about putting the best of the IWW at everyone's finger tips.

Solidarity,  
**Kenneth Miller**

with input from the IWW International Solidarity Commission. The BWG issues a sweatshop newsletter, *The Black Cat Moan*, on May Day and on Black Friday each year.

To learn more and to participate in the call, please contact Fellow Worker Greg Giorgio at 518-861-5627 or ggwob56@yahoo.com.

# IWW Literature Committee's Working Writers' Contest

### Fellow Workers!

Now you can give recognition to the story, essay, cartoon, or song that has inspired you this year!

The IWW Literature Committee is seeking nominations for the first annual Working Writers' Contest. Submissions can be in the following categories: workplace writing, contemporary labor or economic analysis, agitational cartoons, or songs.

We are **especially excited** to recognize writing that was published in the *Industrial Worker* or *Solidaridad* between May 2014 and April 2015 (even if it was written by a non-member). Unpublished pieces can also be submitted, as long as they were written by members, during the same time period.

Please send nominations to writingcontest@iww.org before June 1. Recognition will be given at the 2015 General Convention. Good luck!



# Industrial Worker

The Voice of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism

ORGANIZATION  
EDUCATION  
EMANCIPATION

Official newspaper of the  
**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD**

Post Office Box 180195  
Chicago, IL 60618 USA  
773.728.0996 • ghq@iww.org  
www.iww.org

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER:  
Randall L. Jamrok

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:  
K. Maria Parrotta, Michael White,  
D.J. Alperovitz, Drake Hoffmaster  
Michael MoonDog Garcia  
Jimi Del Duca, Elliot Hughes

EDITORS:  
Diane Krauthamer & Nicki Meier  
iw@iww.org

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:  
Diane Krauthamer

PROOFREADERS:  
Maria Rodriguez Gil,  
Jonathan D. Beasley,  
Don Sawyer, Neil Parthun,  
Skylaar Amann, Joel Gosse,  
Chris Heffner, Billy O'Connor

PRINTER:  
Globe Direct/Boston Globe Media  
Millbury, MA

**Next deadline is  
March 6, 2015**

U.S. IW mailing address:  
IW, Post Office Box 180195,  
Chicago, IL 60618,  
United States

ISSN 0019-8870  
Periodicals postage  
paid Chicago, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address  
changes to IW, Post Office Box  
180195, Chicago, IL 60618 USA

SUBSCRIPTIONS  
Individual Subscriptions: \$18  
International Subscriptions: \$30  
Library/Institution Subs: \$30/year  
Union dues includes subscription.

Published monthly with the excep-  
tion of February and August.

**Articles not so designated do  
not reflect the IWW's  
official position.**

Press Date: February 27, 2015



# IWW directory

### Asia

#### Taiwan

Taiwan IWW: c/o David Temple, 4 Floor, No. 3, Ln. 67, Shujing St., Beitun Dist., Taichung City 40641 Taiwan. 098-937-7029. taiwwangmb@hotmail.com

#### Australia

##### New South Wales

Sydney GMB: sydneywobs@gmail.com. Laura, del., lalalaura@gmail.com

Newcastle: newcastlewobs@gmail.com

Woolongong: gongwobs@gmail.com

Lismore: northernriverswobblies@gmail.com

#### Queensland

Brisbane: P.O. Box 5842, West End, Qld 4101. Asger, del., happyanarchy@riseup.net

#### South Australia

Adelaide: wobbliesSA@gmail.com, www.wobbliesSA.org. Jesse, del., 0432 130 082

#### Victoria

Melbourne: P.O. Box 145, Moreland, VIC 3058. melbournewobblies@gmail.com, www.iwwmelbourne.wordpress.com. Loki, del., lachlan.campbell.type@gmail.com

Geelong: tropicaljimb@gmail.com

#### Canada

IWW Canadian Regional Organizing Committee (CAN-ROC): c/o Toronto GMB, P.O. Box 45 Toronto P, Toronto ON, M5S 2S6. iww@iww.ca

#### Alberta

Edmonton GMB: P.O. Box 4197, T6E 4T2. edmontongmb@iww.org, edmonton.iww.ca.

#### British Columbia

Red Lion Press: redlionpress@hotmail.com

Vancouver GMB: P.O. Box 2503 Vancouver Main, V6B 3W7. 604-732-9613. contact@vancouveriww.org. www.vancouveriww.com

Vancouver Island GMB: Box 297 St. A, Nanaimo BC, V9R 5K9. iwwvi@telus.net. http://vanislewobs.wordpress.com

#### Manitoba

Winnipeg GMB: IWW, c/o WORC, P.O. Box 1, R3C 2G1. 204-299-5042. winnipegjww@hotmail.com

#### New Brunswick

Fredericton: frederictoniww.wordpress.com

#### Ontario

Ottawa-Outaouais GMB & GDC Local 6: 1106 Wellington St., P.O. Box 36042, Ottawa, K1Y 4V3. ott-out@iww.org, gdc6@ottawaiww.org

Ottawa Panhandlers Union: Raymond Loomer, interim delegate, raymond747@hotmail.com

Peterborough: c/o PCAP, 393 Water St. #17, K9H 3L7, 705-749-9694. Sean Carleton, del., 705-775-0663, seancarleton@iww.org

Toronto GMB: P.O. Box 45, Toronto P, M5S 2S6. 647-741-4998. toronto@iww.org. www.torontoiww.org

Windsor GMB: c/o WWAC, 328 Pelissier St., N9A 4K7, 519-564-8036. windsorww@gmail.com. http://windsor.iww.org.wordpress.com

#### Québec

Montreal GMB: cp 60124, Montréal, QC, H2J 4E1. 514-268-3394. iww\_quebec@riseup.net

#### Europe

European Regional Administration (ERA): P.O. Box 7593, Glasgow, G4 2EX. www.iww.org.uk

#### ERA Organisation Contacts

Central England Organiser: Russ Spring, central@iww.org.uk

Communications Department: communications@iww.org.uk

Cymru/Wales Organiser: Peter Davies cymru@iww.org.uk

East of Scotland Organiser: Dek Keenan, eastscotland@iww.org.uk

Legal Officer: Tawanda Nyabango

London Regional Organiser: Tawanda Nyabango

Membership Administrator: Rob Stirling, membership@iww.org.uk

Merchandise Committee: merchandise@iww.org.uk

Northern Regional Organiser: Northern Regional Organising Committee, north@iww.org.uk

Norwich Bar and Hospitality Workers IUB 640: norwich-bhu@iww.org.uk

Organising and Bargaining Support Department: organising@iww.org.uk

Research and Survey Department: research@iww.org.uk

Secretary: Frank Syrratt, secretary@iww.org.uk

Southern England Organiser: Steve Mills, south@iww.org.uk

Tech Committee: tech@iww.org.uk

Training Department: training@iww.org.uk

Treasurer: Matt Tucker, treasurer@iww.org.uk

West of Scotland Organiser: Keith Millar, westscotland@iww.org.uk

Women's Officer: Marion Hersh, women@iww.org.uk

#### ERA Branches

Clydeside GMB: clydeside@iww.org.uk

Cymru/Wales GMB: caerdydd@iww.org.uk

Edinburgh GMB: edinburgh@iww.org.uk

Tyne & Wear GMB: tyneandwear@iww.org.uk

Bradford GMB: bradford@iww.org.uk

Leeds GMB: leeds@iww.org.uk

Manchester GMB: manchester@iww.org.uk

Sheffield GMB: IWW Office, SYAC, 120 Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JD. sheffield@iww.org.uk

Nottingham GMB: notts@iww.org.uk

West Midlands GMB: westmids@iww.org.uk

Bristol GMB: bristol@iww.org.uk

Reading GMB: reading@iww.org.uk

London GMB: london@iww.org.uk

**Belgium**  
Belgium IWW: IWW België/Belgique, Sint-Bavo plein 7, 2530 Boechout, Belgium. belgium@iww.org

#### German Language Area

IWW German Language Area Regional Organizing Committee (GLAMROC): IWW, Haberweg 19, 61352 Bad Homburg, Germany. www.wobblies.de

Austria (Wien): iwwaustria@gmail.com, wien@wobblies.at. http://wobblies.at. www.facebook.com/pages/IWW-Wien/381153168710911

Berlin: Offenes Treffen jeden 2. Montag im Monat im Cafe Commune, Reichenberger Str.157, 10999 Berlin, 18 Uhr, (U-Bahnhof Kottbuser Tor). Postadresse: IWW Berlin, c/o Rotes Antiquariat, Rungestr. 20, 10179 Berlin, Germany. berlin@wobblies.de.

Bremen: iww-bremen@freenet.de. iwwbremen.blogspot.de

Cologne/Koeln GMB: c/o Allerweltshaus, Koernerstr. 77-79, 50823 Koeln, Germany. cologne1@wobblies.de. www.iwwcologne.wordpress.com

Frankfurt a.M. GMB: Frankfurt@wobblies.de, http://Frankfurt.Wobblies.de

Hamburg-Waterkant: hamburg@wobblies.de

Kassel: kontakt@wobblies-kassel.de. www.wobblies-kassel.de

Munich: iww.muenchen@gmx.de

Rostock: rostock@wobblies.de. iww-rostock.net

Switzerland: wobbly@gmx.net

#### Greece

Greece IWW: iwwgreece@yahoo.gr

Anarpsy - Mental Health Services - IU610 Clinic: anarpsy@espiw.net

**Iceland:** Heimssamband Verkafólks / IWW Iceland, Reykjavíkarakademíunni 516, Hringbraut 121, 107 Reykjavík

**Lithuania:** iww@iww.lt

**Netherlands:** iww.ned@gmail.com

**Norway IWW:** 004793656014. post@iwwnorge.org. http://www.iwwnorge.org, www.facebook.com/iwwnorge. Twitter: @IWWnorge

**United States**

**Alabama**  
Mobile: Jimmy Broadhead, del., P.O. Box 160073, 36616. tr0g@riseup.net

Tuscaloosa: Gerald Lunn. 205-245-4622. gerald@lunn.com

**Alaska**  
Fairbanks GMB: P.O. Box 80101, 99708. Chris White, del., 907-457-2543, ccwhite@alaska.com. Facebook: IWW Fairbanks

**Arizona**  
Phoenix GMB: P.O. Box 7126, 85011-7126. 623-336-1062. phoenix@iww.org. www.facebook.com/iww.phoenix

Four Corners (AZ, CO, NM, UT): 970-903-8721, 4corners@iww.org

**Arkansas**  
Fayetteville: P.O. Box 283, 72702. 479-200-1859. nwar\_iww@hotmail.com

**California**  
Los Angeles GMB: 323-374-3499. iwwgmba@gmail.com

Sacramento IWW: iwwsacramento@gmail.com

San Diego IWW: 619-630-5537, sdwww@iww.org

San Francisco Bay Area GMB: (Curbside and Buyback IU 670 Recycling Shops; Stonemountain Fabrics Job Shop and IU 410 Garment and Textile Worker's Industrial Organizing Committee; Shattuck Cinemas; Embarcadero Cinemas) P.O. Box 11412, Berkeley, 94712. 510-845-0540. bayarea@iww.org

San Francisco IUB 660: 2940 16th Street, Suite 216, San Francisco, 94103. 415-985-4499. SFUB660@iww.org.

IU 520 Marine Transport Workers: Steve Ongerth, del., intextile@iww.org

Evergreen Printing: 2412 Palmetto Street, Oakland 94602. 510-482-4547. evergreen@igc.org

San Jose: SouthBayIWW@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/SJSV.IWW

**Colorado**  
Denver GMB: c/o Hughes, 7700 E. 29th Avenue, Unit 107, 80238. 303-355-2032. denverwww@iww.org

**Connecticut**  
Connecticut: John W., del., 914-258-0941. Johnw7813@yahoo.com

**DC**  
Washington DC GMB: P.O. Box 1303, 20013. 202-630-9620. dc.iww.gmb@gmail.com. www.dciww.org, www.facebook.com/dciww

**Florida**  
Daytona Beach: 386-316-8745. DaytonaBeachIWW@gmx.com. www.facebook.com/pages/Daytona-Beach-IWW/133648520173882

Gainesville GMB: c/o Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., 32601. Robbie Czopek, del., 904-315-5292. gainesvilleiww@gmail.com, www.gainesvilleiww.org

Hobe Sound: P. Shultz, 8274 SE Pine Circle, 33455-6608. 772-545-9591, okiedogg2002@yahoo.com

South Florida GMB: P.O. Box 370457, 33137. 305-894-6515. miami@iww.org. http://iwwmiami.wordpress.com. Facebook: Miami IWW

St. Augustine: C/O The Lincolnville Public Library, 97 M L King Ave., St. Augustine, 32084. staugustineiww@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/StAugustineIWW

Tallahassee: www.facebook.com/IwwTallahassee

#### Georgia

Atlanta GMB: P.O. Box 5390, 31107. 678-964-5169, contact@atiww.org, www.atiww.org

#### Idaho

Boise: Ritchie Eppink, del., P.O. Box 453, 83701. 208-371-9752, eppink@gmail.com

#### Illinois

Chicago GMB: P.O. Box 15384, 60615. 312-638-9155, chicago@iww.org

#### Indiana

Indiana GMB: iwwindiana@gmail.com. Facebook: Indiana IWW

#### Iowa

Eastern Iowa IWW: 319-333-2476. EasternIowaIWW@gmail.com

#### Kansas

Lawrence GMB: P.O. Box 1462, 66044. 816-875-6060

Wichita: Richard Stephenson, del., 620-481-1442. barfolumu@gmail.com

#### Kentucky

Kentucky GMB: Mick Parsons, Secretary Treasurer, papamick.iww@gmail.com. 502-658-0299

#### Louisiana

Louisiana IWW: John Mark Crowder, del, wogodm1@yahoo.com. https://www.facebook.com/groups/iw-wofnlouisiana/

#### Maine

Maine IWW: 207-619-0842. maine@iww.org, www.southernmaineiww.org

#### Maryland

Baltimore GMB: P.O. Box 33350, 21218. baltimoreiww@gmail.com

#### Massachusetts

Boston Area GMB: P.O. Box 391724, Cambridge, 02139. 617-863-7920, iww.boston@riseup.net, www.IW-WBoston.org

Western Mass. Public Service IU 650 Branch: IWW, P.O. Box 1581, Northampton, 01061

#### Michigan

Detroit GMB: 4210 Trumbull Blvd., 48208. detroit@iww.org

Grand Rapids GMB: P.O. Box 6629, 49516. 616-881-5263. griww@iww.org

Grand Rapids Bartertown Diner and Roc's Cakes: 6 Jefferson St., 49503. onya@bartertowngr.com, www.bartertowngr.com

Central Michigan: 5007 W. Columbia Rd., Mason 48854. 517-676-9446, happyphippie66@hotmail.com

#### Minnesota

Duluth IWW: P.O. Box 3232, 55803. iwwduluth@riseup.net

North Country Food Alliance: 2104 Stevens Ave S, Minneapolis, 55404. 612-568-4585. www.northcountryfoodalliance.org



Letters from Prisoners

# Why Incarcerated Workers Should Join The IWW

By Sean Swain

X380847. That's my membership number in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The IWW has been around since 1905, making typical unions with the bosses and bureaucratic party nervous, since the stated goal of the IWW is the abolition of the wage system altogether, rather than reformist efforts to "improve" the conditions of the owners and union bosses. Unlike every other union during its formation that sought to divide the workers into trades, the Wobblies, as IWW members are called, had the ambitious program of unionizing all workers into One Big Union and thereby put the power into the hands of all workers collectively to shut down the industrial production system entirely.

Like the famed anarcho-syndicalist unions of Spain, the FAI (Federación Anarquista Ibérica) and the CNT (Confederación Nacional del Trabajo), Wobblies promoted worker direct action. In the 1910s and 1920s, Wobblies were targeted with charges of criminal syndicalism, sabotage and sedition.

Yeah. It was treason to demand a fair shake, to imagine power wrested from the hands of Crapitalists.

Still is, of course.

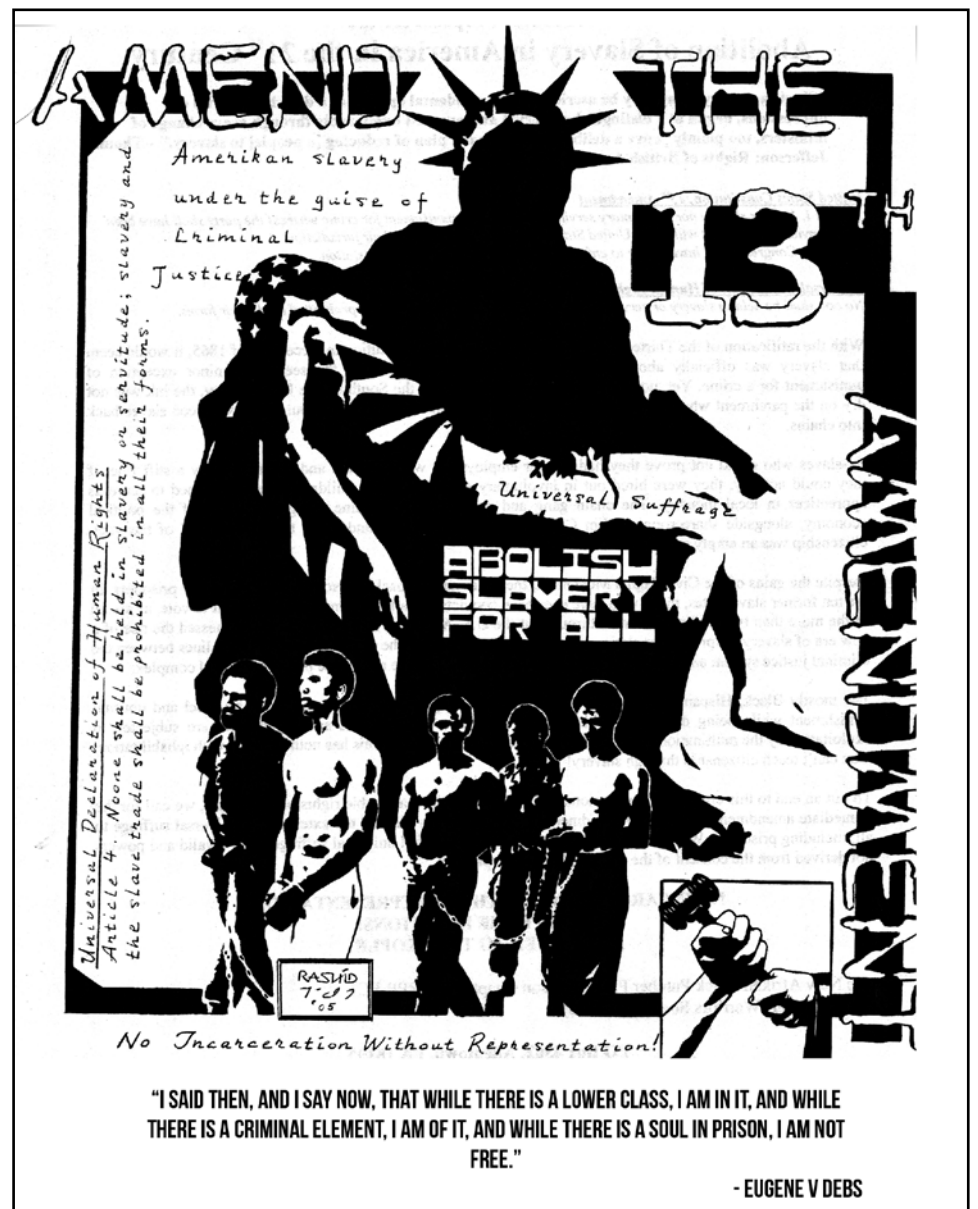
After Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the rise of the more reformist and industrial friendly unions like the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), and the United Automobile Workers (UAW), the threat and the influence of the IWW faded. Between state repression and the major unions collaborating to squeeze out the Wobblies, the IWW was largely neutralized during a time when anarchists were evolving new strategies and approaches that didn't necessarily involve the seemingly impossible task of organizing all the workers of the entire world into

the same union. But the Wobblies did not go away. They didn't become extinct. They're still around and making a comeback, if you can call it that. Innovating to become relevant. The IWW is actively soliciting prisoner membership, something no other union—apart from specifically prisoner unions—has attempted to do. You don't see, for instance, the UAW or Teamsters organizing prisoners, even though you've got Honda wardens at Mansfield Correctional in Ohio as just one example. There's been a trend over the last 20 or 30 years for corporations to outsource production to prisoners who receive slave wages and lack the health and safety protections enforced in the so-called free world. That's one of the driving engines, by the way, of the prison boom and the incarceration boom—cheap labor—leaving everyone else sleeping in their cars.

Prisons are now third world colonies; fenced off and ready for exploitation. Why move a factory all the way to Mexico or India when you can take advantage of slave labor in Alabama prisons?

Apart from simply keeping the repressive machinery of the State operating, and thereby allowing the State to ratchet up the repression, prison labor is now an integrated component of the global economy. As an indication of just how essential prison slave labor has become, in an "Each One Teach One" interview with Anthony Rayson of the South Chicago Anarchist Black Cross Zine Distro, I mentioned that if Ohio prisoners simply laid on their bunks for 30 days the state's entire economy would collapse. It wouldn't simply disrupt the prison system, it would tank the state's entire economy, and it wouldn't recover for a decade.

In 2008, a year after I made that observation, the State attempted to get me transferred to a supermax (supermaximum security) prison. So, if there was any doubt about my assessment of how



Graphic: Kevin "Rasheed" Johnson

critical prisoner slave labor is to Ohio's economy, the State's reaction certainly confirmed I was right.

But prison authorities can't legally punish union membership. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Jones v. North Caro-*

*lina Prisoner Labor Union, Inc.*, made a distinction between union membership, which is legally protected, and union activity (like striking), which is not legally protected. And this is where the Wobblies can become very effective at consciousness-raising among prisoners, educating and radicalizing. Everyone can be a Wobbly. And once all the prisoners are Wobblies and act collectively it's too late to put the proverbial poop back into the donkey. The State can shoot us to death but it can't shoot us back to work. And they can't put all 3 million of us in a superdupermax either.

You know where 3 million Wobblies sit? Wherever they want to sit. If you have a friend or loved one locked up or you just want more information, contact the IWW at 773-728-0996 or email them at ghq@iww.org. You can write the IWW via snail mail at P.O. 180195, Chicago, IL 60618. Membership for prisoners is free.

Wherever there is exploitation let's grind it to a halt!

This is IWW X380847 at Ohio's supermax facility. If you're reading this, you are the resistance.

*This originally aired on "The Final Straw" radio show and was published in The Incarcerated Worker Vol. 1 No. 1 February 2015.*

**There are nearly 400 members of the IWW behind bars. Help grow this effort. Create your own letter writing group, or get involved in other ways by emailing iwoc@riseup.net. Donate to your delegate or online at: <https://fundly.com/the-incarcerated-workers-organizing-committee#>. We can't do this alone.**



Graphic: The Incarcerated Worker

## IWW Constitution Preamble

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 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 interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or 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 the everyday struggle with 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.

## Join the IWW Today

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially—that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers' ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

We are a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses' orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member-run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

**TO JOIN:** Mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and your first month's dues to: IWW, Post Office Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618, USA.

Initiation is the same as one month's dues. Our dues are calculated according to your income. If your monthly income is under \$2000, dues are \$9 a month. If your monthly income is between \$2000 and \$3500, dues are \$18 a month. If your monthly income is over \$3500 a month, dues are \$27 a month. Dues may vary outside of North America and in Regional Organizing Committees (Australia, British Isles, German Language Area).

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Post Code, Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership includes a subscription to the **Industrial Worker**.

## What Does It Mean To Be A Wobbly?

By Colin Bossen

Last year I interviewed Staughton Lynd a few times for an essay I am writing on his religious ethics (given that Fellow Worker Staughton is a Quaker). During one of our conversations I asked him what he thought of the recent essay, “Wobblyism.” I can’t remember his exact response, or even if he had read it. But one thing he said in response to my question has stuck with me. I paraphrase, “The most important theoretical question that members of the IWW can wrestle with is: What does it mean to live a Wobbly life? What does it mean to commit yourself to 20, 30, 50 years of struggle?”

I have thought about Staughton’s question a lot in the intervening months. It has particularly been

on my mind since I learned a couple of weeks ago that my friend Federico Arcos was in the hospital after suffering a heart attack. Federico will turn 95 this year. A lifelong anarchist and member of the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist labor union Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo (CNT), Federico has lived in Canada since the 1950s, when he fled fascist Spain. By the time he left Spain he had spent close to two decades fighting and organizing against the forces of Spanish fascism, first as a union militant, then as a militia member, and, finally, as part of the anti-fascist underground.

Federico has never joined the IWW. The CNT, of which he is still a member, is a bit like a Spanish version of our union. It is committed to the vision that people can run the world without bosses, cops, or soldiers. Like other members of his union, Federico believes that working people have everything that we need to create a peaceful, sustainable society. All we need to do is get together and organize. At the same time, he is very practical. Since moving to Canada he has been involved in the Canadian Auto Workers—for years he was a tool and die maker at an auto plant—and in countless efforts to create and sustain the anarchist movement in Detroit, Windsor, and throughout the world. When I think of living a Wobbly life, Federico is one of the people I think of.

Commitment, love, and memory are

three important principles that he has emphasized throughout the years that I have known him. It might seem odd, but probably the most important of these is love. He believes in its transformative power and often says, “Life without love is like a long death.” Federico has quite a romantic spirit and was devoted to his wife Pura until her death almost 20 years ago. For him, love is what makes life worth living; not just the love one might have for a partner but the love that one can have for one’s comrades and for all of humanity. This love is what has sustained across more than 80 years of struggle.



Throughout that time he has remained committed to the vision of the CNT and the ideas that working people have power to change the world. No matter how harsh the odds, he hasn’t given up on his ideals. This is an essential element to the Wobbly life. I doubt that revolution is coming anytime soon. If, and when, things change for the better, it will be because people organized for and stuck with their vision over decades.

As for memory, our union is more than 100 years old. We embody the hopes of those who came before us. There’s a story that Federico has shared with me that I think expresses this well. On the day of the fascist coup in Spain, it was the workers who rose up in the streets and resisted. While the government did nothing to defend itself they seized arms from the army and the police and distributed them to the masses. When Federico went to the Anarchist Defense Committee to get his gun he was given an old rifle and six bullets. He and his friends demanded new weapons. They were told, “There are people here much older than you who will need the newer rifles. When they die you will take their place. That is your responsibility and our trust in you.”

What is a Wobbly life? I admit that I am still trying to answer Staughton’s question. But I think there’s something in studying a life like Federico’s. It provides a model for the rest of us to follow and a reminder that, as Brazilian popular educator Paulo Freire used to say, “We make the road by walking.”

## Addressing Some Common Objections To The Black Lives Matter Movement

By Patrick O’Donohue

*“People need to stop making things about race.”*

Agreed. Racist institutions and people need to stop making things about race by treating people of color unfairly. Until they do, we should all point out their racism and criticize them for it.

*“We need to come together, not be divided!”*

Yes, we should come together against racism.

*“ALL lives matter!”*

Agreed. So, when the police treat lives as if they don’t matter, we object. When the police target some ethnic groups, such as black people or Native Americans, for disproportionate abuse, we point out that racist targeting. When police continue to summarily execute black people and get away with it over and over, and treat black lives as if they do not matter, it is appropriate for us all to say, “Black lives matter!”—because all lives matter.

*“Irish-Americans were persecuted, too.”*

Many decades ago, but agreed. That’s why Irish-Americans should stand on the side of people who are currently going

through discrimination similar to what our ancestors went through. Same goes for people whose ancestors were Italian, German, Jewish, Slavic, Spanish, or any other ethnicity that faced discrimination when they first came to America. Really, the same goes for all of us.

*“All this race stuff just divides us against the real problems like class and government abuses of power.”*

Agreed. Racism has historically been used to keep exploited and governed populations from working together against their common interests. As such, racism is a supporting pillar maintaining the power of class and the state. Instead of allowing racism to fool us into supporting the institutions of the state and of class, we should unite with people of color against those institutions and against the racism that upholds them.

*“White people get killed by the police, too!”*

This is true. We get killed at a much lower rate, and the media doesn’t demon-

# WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

---

Chapter 80
Trade Union Unity League

---

Some hope and direction during the grim depression years of the early 1930s came from the Trade Union Unity League. The TUUL was founded in 1929 at a convention attended by 690 delegates, nearly half of them from three militant unions — the National Miners’ Union, the National Textile Workers’ Union and the Needle Trades Workers’ Industrial Union. Seventy-two delegates were women.

---



---

The TUUL took the place of the Trade Union Educational League, which had been organized around demands that craft unions in the American Federation of Labor amalgamate into industrial unions. The new organization had a more ambitious goal. “Its main task was the organization of the unorganized into industrial unions,” recalled Ella Reeve “Mother” Bloor. “New unions were to be formed only where the A.F. of L. unions were in a hopeless state, or did not exist at all.”

---

The founding convention elected legendary organizer William Z. Foster as general secretary, sent two women to the executive committee (Rose Wortis of the Needle Trades and Ann Burlak of the Textile Workers) and adopted a far-ranging women’s program, described by labor historian Phil Foner as “the most detailed and advanced for women workers ever adopted by an American labor organization.”

---

That program included equal pay for equal work, raising women’s wages, a minimum wage for women workers in agricultural and domestic service and maternity leave of full pay for eight weeks.

---

Along with the convention was a women’s conference, at which women from the needle trades, textiles, mining, electrical, auto and other industries talked about the problems faced by women in industry, and called for the organization of the eight and a half million unorganized women workers.

---

Unorganized workers were organized by the millions in the late Thirties by the CIO, but the TUUL helped prepare the way. And as Mother Bloor pointed out, “practically all the important strikes between 1929 and 1933 were carried on by the TUUL unions.”

Graphic: Mike Konopacki



Photo: rolereboot.org

ize the white victims of police brutality to nearly the same degree that black victims of police brutality get demonized, but yes: white people get killed by the police, too—especially

white queer, mentally ill, homeless, or working-class people. These aspects of police discrimination should be discussed, just like the racial aspect should be—and, of course, every summary execution by the police should be condemned. The demands that the Black Lives Matter movement is making—demands like body cameras, independent investigations of police violence, community oversight of the police, and an end to “broken windows” policing and the drug war—are demands that will help all victims of police brutality, regardless of our race.

*“You’re inconveniencing people!”*

That’s the point of civil disobedience—we aim to make it impossible to continue ignoring the problem of police brutality and racism. We aim to make our movement a constant problem for those

in power and for those who have ignored the problem, because we have seen that politely asking for the State to please stop summarily executing people doesn’t work. If you only support social change when it’s convenient, non-disruptive, and doesn’t interrupt business as usual, then you don’t support social change at all. Change is disruptive by definition.

*“You protestors are breaking the law!”*

This may be so, but the law is breaking human beings and communities every day. The law targets working-class people and people of color through mass incarceration in a racially-targeted drug war, “broken windows” policing that gives unforgiving punishment for minor “offenses,” and policies of minimum sentencing. The law operates as a back-door tax on the communities the police target, and as a way to funnel people into prisons to be used as cheap labor. The law covers for the police when the police murder unarmed people. We are absolutely breaking the law, and hope to break it so thoroughly it can no longer be used to target and oppress working-class people and people of color.

*This piece was originally published in The Organizer, a blog of the Twin Cities IWW, on Jan. 16, 2015.*



**Wobbly & North American News**

# IWW Tackling Wage Theft In London

By Jerome Baxter

As part of their continuing campaign targeting their wage-stealing boss, workers at the Leicester Square School of English (LSSE), supported by the Angry Language Brigade and the IWW, held an early morning picket outside the Drapers' Hall in the City of London on Feb. 16.

Workers chose to target the Drapers'—once a master craftsmen's guild, now little more than an elite business club—because their boss, LSSE owner Craig Tallents, is a noteworthy member. In fact, an earlier action caused Tallents to resign as a governor from the Bancroft's Academy—a position he attained through nomination by the Drapers'.

Workers are fighting for thousands of pounds in unpaid wages resulting from the Tallents' decision to permanently shut down the school over Christmas without informing staff or students. To be more precise, one teacher received a letter informing her that the school was shutting down. The other two teachers—who were on illegal self-employed contracts—didn't get as much as an email or a phone call, never mind a letter.

Apart from effectively stealing holiday pay, notice pay, and straight-up unpaid wages, Tallents allowed newly arrived international students to arrive at a closed school unable to provide the lessons and accommodation they'd been promised. If it hadn't been for the staff—at that time occupying the school building—these vulnerable students, some with very little English-speaking abilities, would have literally been left out in the cold.

Ensuring they caught the morning rush hour, workers arrived to the Drapers' Hall bright and early. Donning hi-vis IWW jackets and carrying flags and banners, the workers quickly made themselves noticed.



LSSE workers picket on Feb. 16. Photo: libcom.org

As they'd chosen to install themselves on the privately-owned Throgmorton Avenue, they were soon asked to leave on threat of the police being called.

After protesters made it clear they wouldn't be moving, the Drapers' Hall security took the interesting decision of first closing and then locking the gates at each end of Throgmorton Avenue, leaving the picketers barred inside.

While the picket had already garnered considerable interest from both passersby and local office workers, the shutting down of this usually busy passageway only served to dramatically increase the visibility and effectiveness of the picket. And despite the fact their morning was being disrupted, passing commuters were almost unanimously supportive.

Once the police had arrived and workers were "released" from their enforced street occupation, they set up in the front of the building to finish off the picket and snap some pictures.

As part of the campaign, workers have already occupied their unused school building, caused Tallents to take down the website of his company Asparagus Consulting, and held a series of rowdy pickets.

## Trans-Atlantic Workers Focus On Same Company

By FW Bill B.

The Sheffield IWW contacted the IWW International Solidarity Commission (ISC) in late 2014 requesting aid in getting in contact with Marty of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) in Klamath Falls, Ore. Klamath Falls organizers are in the process of organizing Jeld-Wen Industries. The Sheffield, England plant had been an independent company but has since become a Jeld-Wen division due



Jeld-Wen production facilities in Klamath Falls. Photo: FW Bill B.

to a buyout. Working conditions have deteriorated considerably since that time.

Fellow Worker (FW) Bill B. of the Portland IWW branch boarded the Coast Starlight train heading south. As the winter sun sank early in the west, the train made its way through the wild and snowy Cascade Mountains of Oregon. Cell (mobile) phone connectivity disappeared, only to be restored as the train approached Klamath Falls an hour late and just as the hands of the clock neared midnight. Bill and Marty arranged to meet for breakfast the next morning.

The IAMAW was threatened with gun violence by a Jeld-Wen manager while picketing on public property outside the local plant. It perhaps goes without saying that threats of that nature are illegal. Workers at Jeld-Wen receive strong anti-union indoctrination upon hiring and are told that if a union representative speaks with them and they don't immediately report it to management, they will be fired. Firing for union activity is also illegal. However workers in Klamath Falls are cowed and feel "lucky to have a job." It is also a small town and word gets around.

Dick Wendt, said to be very anti-union, founded Jeld-Wen in 1960. He died in 2010 and his sons began divesting portions of the company. Onex Corporation, based in Toronto, recently purchased a controlling interest in Jeld-Wen and has moved some of its management functions to North Carolina, including its CEO. This was said to be due to the fact that the new CEO did not want to move to Klamath Falls. It should also be noted that North Carolina is much more hostile to union organizing.

A large manufacturing complex remains in the town and is one of its largest employers. Bill and Marty drove around the various factory buildings and took photographs of the plant and its surroundings. These include a golf course. The late Mr. Wentz was very interested in sports and hoped to bring the winter Olympics to Klamath Falls. The Jeld-Wen name was on the Portland soccer (football) stadium for a number of years.

IWW members in Sheffield are anxious to work in concert with organizing efforts in Klamath Falls. Here is to a long and productive association!

# Wobblies Help Spread Berry Boycott

By X331980

The Sakuma Brothers Farms, Inc. berry boycott campaign spread to yet another grocery store in Bellingham, Wash. on Feb. 21. A large group of Wobs and friends picketed a Haggen Foods grocery store on behalf of the Familias Unidas por la Justicia farm workers' union. This was the first of these boycott pickets organized by the Whatcom-Skagit IWW, and it drew a good crowd.



Wobblies demonstrate on Feb. 21. Photo: Liisa Wale

A large, bright red "Boycott Berries" banner attracted attention from the busy street in front of the store. Others picketed on the busy street corner two blocks down. Some picketers held signs supporting the nationwide boycott of Driscoll's berries and Häagen-Dazs ice cream, large purchasers of berries grown at Sakuma Farms in Burlington, Wash. Some signs urged drivers to "honk" if they supported farm worker justice and drivers did. Others leafleted customers entering the parking lot with information about the boycott. Similar pickets occur frequently in Bellingham, Mount Vernon, Burlington, and Seattle, organized by various groups supporting

Familias Unidas. There is a need to spread these pickets to groceries everywhere Driscoll's berries and Häagen-Dazs ice cream are sold. Contact the Whatcom-Skagit IWW for information (see the *IW* Directory on page 2).

The migrant farm workers at Sakuma Brothers Farms organized themselves into an independent farm workers' union in 2013, and have since held six strikes for better conditions and higher pay. Courts have so far upheld all lawsuits the workers have brought against the farm corporation, but management has yet to recognize the union or agree to negotiate.

## Wobs Support Striking Refinery Workers

By X331980

Striking refinery workers and numerous supporters marched at the gates at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Wash. on Feb. 7. Among the 100 or so picketers at the main gate were members of the Whatcom-Skagit General Membership Branch (GMB), who serenaded the crowd with good ol' Wobbly songs, perhaps somewhat off-key. The *Skagit Valley Herald's* Feb. 8th edition carried a front-page photo of some of the Whatcom-Skagit Wobs and their banner among the supporting unions at the picket. Picketing continues at the refinery (at press time), with managers and contract workers locked in behind the gates and



Whatcom-Skagit GMB parades their banner on the picket line. Photo: Whatcom-Skagit IWW

protected by county sheriffs. Wobs have been asked by striking United Steel Workers Local 12-591 to show up in shifts to give strikers a break from picket duty, and several we know of have signed up to do so.

## Pittsburg IWW & MOVE Ban Together



Photo: 1Hood Media 412-403-6101.

By Martin Zher

Wobblies Jeff Cummings (far right) and Martin Zher (far left), joined with MOVE activist Pam Africa and rappers in fundraising at the New Bohemian in Pittsburgh, Pa. for the legal defense of the Dallas 6, a group of incarcerated workers facing prosecution for exposing inhumane practices of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. For more information, see <http://bit.ly/11OL24x>.

Get in touch with the Dallas 6 campaign through [sd4hrc@gmail.com](mailto:sd4hrc@gmail.com) or

## Co-op In Gainesville Rehires Fired IWW Workers

By Carla Vianna, *The Independent Florida Alligator*

The controversial dismissal of several Citizens Co-op employees last year in Gainesville, Fla., led to an almost year-long labor dispute, but a much-anticipated settlement is now on the horizon.



Photo: southernmaineiww.org

An agreement to rehire four of the five workers who were fired last year has been reached between the co-op's new board of directors and the Gainesville IWW, said Thomas Hawkins, board chairman.

The tentative agreement would rehire four of the five workers, pay them a collective \$10,000 and recognize Gainesville IWW as their union.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) must approve the terms by March

16 or the labor complaint will appear in court.

Hawkins said he is confident the deadline will be met.

The agreement would end a dispute that began in March 2013 when seven co-op employees allegedly used the store's email database to send out a message about unionizing.

Five of the workers refused to cooperate with an internal investigation and were consequently fired. The dismissed workers then filed a complaint with the NLRB accusing the co-op of firing them for wanting to unionize.

This story appeared in its original version in *The Independent Florida Alligator* on Jan. 26, 2015. It was reprinted with permission from the author.



## Women's History Month

## Portrait Of Penny Pixler, Feminist And Wobbly

By Patrick Murfin

I was stunned and flattered when Nicki Meier asked me to profile my old friend and Fellow Worker Penny Pixler for this special women's issue of the *Industrial Worker* (IW). I was a bit intimidated too. I haven't been asked to contribute to the paper I once helped edit for over three decades, and I fretted how some might respond to a man profiling one of the leading Wobbly women of the last 40 some odd years. Mostly I fretted about how to paint a human portrait that transcended biography or a hagiographic obituary. I started and stopped half a dozen times.

Then I went to see the film "Selma" the other night, and it all became clear. As you probably know, the movie tells the tale of the 1963 voting rights drive in Selma, Ala. and revolves around the charismatic presence of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. But it was not a movie about King, no matter how much screen time he commanded. It was a movie about all of the people who came together in a tough and dangerous moment to really change history. We see and are introduced to all of his key associates—Hosea Williams, Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, James Bevel, C.T. Vivian, John Lewis and Bayard Rustin. But we also see the ordinary people of Selma, the rank and file of the movement, and especially the overlooked often erased-from-history women. Sure, there is Coretta Scott King who in a critical moment proves wiser than her husband, but there is also key Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leader Diane Nash; 54-year-old nursing home aide Annie Lee Cooper who frames the indignity of trying to register to vote and becomes one of the first victims of police violence; local stalwart Amelia Boynton; Viola Lee Jackson, marcher and mother of the first martyr of the campaign against Jimmy Lee Jackson; and Viola Liuzzo, the young white Detroit mother who came unbidden, volunteered, and died. This was not King's one-man show. It was a movement.

The IWW in the 1970s did not have a great charismatic leader, undoubtedly for the better. The radical feminists had sometimes rancorously competing claimants to that mantle. But both were genuine movements arising from the real need of real people and helped along by remarkable human beings. Penny Pixler bridged those worlds. I can only tell her story through my own un-objective eyes.

I first saw Penny at a social gathering of Chicago Wobs sometime in the early 1970s. At first, frankly, I didn't take much notice. She sat cross-legged on the floor and seemed quiet, even meek as conversation, booze, and other recreational substances swirled around her. Long blonde hair cascaded with wavy neglect across her shoulders. She had a faint scar from a repaired cleft lip that left her with a minor speech impediment. I later noted how she would use that to her advantage, to invite folks in the circle to lean forward to listen to her when she shook off reticence and spoke. She would first rock forward, cock and nod her head, and raise a pointed finger to punctuate a comment. And the comment was inevitably wise and/or funny. Penny, it turned out, had a wicked, dry sense of humor.

Penny had arrived in Chicago a couple of years earlier after graduating from the University of Iowa in her home state and having done graduate work at the hotbed of radicalism, the University of California at Berkley. She was already a veteran student and anti-war activist and had a sense of adventurousness that belied her unassuming personality. She had joined one of the first tours of China by American activists after that country was opened to visitors. The eye-opening experience had turned her away from any temptation to go down the path of radical chic Maoism. She was already in on the ground floor of movements that were just taking shape—

radical feminism and ecology, which barely had a name.

Penny joined the Chicago Women's Liberation Union (CWLU). The CWLU had been founded in 1969 by women, including Naomi Weisstein, Vivian Rothstein, Heather Booth, and Ruth Surgal, who were dissatisfied with the reformist leadership of the National Organization of Women and its obsessions with the problems of upwardly-mobile career women. The organization wanted to confront gender inequality across class and ethnic lines. Many of the women were committed Marxists, others, notably anarcha-feminist and Wobbly Arlen Wilson, provided a more libertarian left analysis. The CWLU was action-oriented and divided into several semi-autonomous working groups concentrating on consciousness raising, education, and the introduction of Women's Studies on Chicago campuses, reproductive rights and abortion, lesbian rights and issues, anti-rape campaigns, workplace organizing through alliances with groups like Nine to Five, arts and expression through groups like the Women's Graphic Collective and CWLU Band, and building solidarity with movements of minorities and women of color. One of the CWLU's most famous—and dangerous—projects was the Jane Collective and Abortion Counseling Service of Women's Liberation (JANE) which went beyond advocating for abortion rights to anonymously arranging then illegal procedures for hundreds of desperate women.

Penny thrived in the CWLU, working on many projects, including contributing to the organization's several publications. She was among those who helped define the organization as Socialist Feminist, which was made explicit in the important 1972 pamphlet "Socialist Feminism: A Strategy for the Women's Movement," compiled by the Hyde Park Chapter and a team led by community organizer Heather Booth.

In the mid-1970s Arlen Wilson introduced several young CWLU members, including Penny, to the IWW, at first through social gatherings. The women found Chicago Wobs less patriarchal and hierarchical than many Marxist parties and sects. Not that the IWW was perfect, just that it was less rigid, more open, and had a history of women organizing on the job going back to the Lawrence and Paterson strikes. Several joined the union and became active in the Chicago branch in addition to their continued work with CWLU projects.

The CWLU dissolved acrimoniously in 1976. Penny and the other former members shifted their primary activity to the union.

The IWW has a mythological character named Jimmy Higgins—a rank-and-file member who shuns the spotlight and glory but is always there to do any work that needs to be done. Penny Pixler could have been a model for Jill Higgins. Although working full time wiring computer mother boards and doing computer repair—a breakthrough job for women in those days—she could be found most evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays lending a hand at the hall the Chicago branch shared with IWW General Headquarters (GHQ). In fact, she spent much time offering GHQ her aid, especially when it moved to a new storefront location on Webster near Halstead. She was always there for IW mailings, back when yellow manila sheets were run through the Addressograph, slathered with library paste, and then rolled around copies of the paper which then needed to be bundled by zip code. She did typing, answered phones, collated and stapled pamphlets, and did dozens of things to help the General Secretary Treasurer (GST), part-time bookkeeper, and the editorial collective.

In the process, she became a voice in the ongoing conversation about the union



Old friends and Fellow Workers gathered at Women and Children First Book Store in Chicago for a farewell party. Penny Pixler is seated at the far right. Photo: Patrick Murfin

that percolated through the office—an ever more important voice. Soon, she was regularly contributing to the *IW*—book reviews, international labor news, and always-insightful articles on women's issues. Many of the articles were unsigned or simply initialed. Penny never sought to draw attention to herself. She quickly became a member of the staff collective then managing the paper, which included former editor and continuing columnist Carlos Cortez, veteran organizer and historian Fred W. Thompson, and me. She would continue to contribute to the paper almost all of the rest of her life.

Penny also found time for branch duties—a delegate, frequent recording secretary at meetings, on committees, and on any picket line or demonstration that called. She particularly mentored and nourished young women entering the union. Penny would serve as the Chicago branch secretary on more than one occasion. At the end of her life as she knew she was dying of the cancer that eventually killed her, she made sure that the Chicago branch got her vast personal collection of radical, labor, and feminist books to form the basis of a lasting library. She even arranged for the bookshelves to hold the books. It was a fitting legacy for one of the most well-read and thoughtful members the Chicago branch ever had.

Penny never sought a high-profile role in the union. She was not, unless pressed, a public speaker. She was seldom involved in the workplace organizing drives that make stars among us, not to say that she ignored that side of things. She went back to school and became a Chicago Public School teacher. At first, she was a Full-Time Basis Substitute (FTB), meaning that she had no benefits and just a flat rate daily stipend. She was assigned to teach math at the city's toughest inner-city schools. Shifted from school to school, sometimes multiple times a year, she relished the challenge of working with young people of color, but she also became active in the FTB movement for better pay and conditions. When she became a regular district employee, she became active in the Chicago Teachers Union and was an outspoken supporter for its most militant faction.

In the 1980s Penny served terms on the General Executive Board and as GST. She was not the first woman to fill the chair of Vincent St. John and Big Bill Haywood—Kathleen Taylor did that back in our days in the Webster street office and others followed. But the routine acceptance of women at the highest levels of IWW leadership owed a lot to paths she blazed. Penny continued to be a pillar of the union and of the Chicago branch.

As time went on, Penny and I were not in as close of contact as I was with other Wobs because Penny, although a pioneering computer tech, resolutely refused to use one to access email or the internet, not because she was a some sort of a Luddite

but because she was convinced the internet and electronic communication could never be secure from government spying or manipulation. She considered it to be an unsafe and unsuitable means for revolutionaries and radicals to communicate. If you wanted to get a hold of Penny you had to phone, write an honest-to-god letter, or meet her in person. In retrospect, her seeming paranoia seems to be prescient.

Penny always kept up with our fellow workers in Chicago and around the country, including those who most of us had lost contact with. With or without social media, she was the glue that knit many of us together. It became something of a joke between us as the years rolled on—Penny would call my landline in Crystal Lake, I would answer and on hearing her voice ask, "Who died?" She broke the news about so many over the years and helped arrange memorial gatherings in the city that I would get to when I could.

Penny had retired from teaching. In addition to her continued activism with the IWW, she now found time to engage in an old interest in the environment. As usual, she preferred hands-on service to theory. She adopted a wetland prairie—Chicago's all but obliterated original environment in the Cook County Forest Preserves—and worked regularly at its restoration. She also carefully monitored frog and amphibian populations.

More than two years ago, Penny got word that a cancer she had once beaten had returned with a vengeance, spreading through her body. It was inoperable but treatable with a rigorous and rehabilitating regime of chemotherapy and radiation. Penny remained both hopeful and realistic. She knew that she would become unable to continue her activities and keep her long-time apartment. The decision to leave Chicago and all of her friends and fellow workers after so many years was a difficult one, but she faced it. She elected to move to Denver, where she had family and where she would have access to quality medical treatment. She hoped for enough time to enjoy her sister, get healthy enough to resume some conservation activities, and get active in the Denver branch.

Before she left, she carefully wrapped up her affairs and gave away a lifetime of accumulated possessions, including that invaluable library. Many of her old friends and fellow workers gathered at one of her favorite places, Women and Children First Book Store in the Andersonville area, to give her a farewell. A great time was had by all, and no one laughed harder than Penny.

She had a few months in Denver. She impressed and bonded with Denver Wobs but never got well enough to resume regular physical activity. She died on March 29, 2014. I got the word from Kathy Taylor and via several Facebook and social media posts.

But I kept waiting for that phone call from Penny to make it real.



## Women's History Month

# International (Working) Women's Day

## A statement by the IWW Gender Equity Committee for International Women's Day

The Gender Equity Committee (GEC) is both honored and excited to reflect on the impact working women have had on the labor movement and working-class struggle, contributing to the creation of International Women's Day (IWD).

This day, for more than a century, has been and continues to be a day of working-class women's resistance and organizing, bridging the women's movement and the working-class labor movement. It dates back to the garment workers' picket in New York City on March 8, 1857, when women workers demanded a 10-hour workday, better working conditions, and equal rights for women. Fifty-one years later, on March 8, 1908, a group of New York needle trades women workers went on strike in honor of their sisters from the garment workers' strike of 1857, in which they demanded an end to sweatshop and child labor and the right to vote.

In 1910, at a meeting of the Second International, German socialist Clara Zetkin proposed that March 8 be celebrated as International Women's Day to commemorate both previously mentioned strikes and lay a fertile ground for working women's resistance and organizing across the globe. Since the early 1900s, workers have, first and foremost, used IWD as a day to resist and organize together, and second to celebrate the hard-fought struggles of working people all across the world. Many countries—including Afghanistan, Cuba, Vietnam, and Russia—celebrate March 8 as an official holiday.

The true working-class roots of International Women's Day must not be forgotten. It is crucial that we continue

forward, in a similar spirit of our sisters who went on strike in 1857 and 1908, fighting to abolish patriarchy and sexism alongside capitalism, as both systems of oppression and exploitation are deeply intertwined. We must struggle for gender equity in our union, workplaces, and the world at large.

Because we recognize that our own union is sometimes the source of gender-based violence and inequity, we are here to seek out and offer resources for peer mediation, conflict resolution, anti-sexism training, literature, consent training and direct actions. Our aim is to foster an atmosphere of inclusiveness in the labor movement and the IWW in particular. If you are in need of assistance, solidarity or action concerning (but not limited to) any of the points listed above, please send an email to [gec@iww.org](mailto:gec@iww.org).

The GEC is also responsible for administering the IWW Sato Fund in memory of Charlene "Charlie" Sato. The Sato Fund was started to aid IWW members who are women, genderqueer or trans\* to attend important meetings, trainings, classes and workshops, therefore elevating the participation, ability, and presence of non-cissexual ("cis") male membership. If you qualify and this resource would be of help to you, please fill out the application (<http://bit.ly/1ySjYiW>) or contact us at [gec@iww.org](mailto:gec@iww.org). If you can, please consider donating to the Sato fund here: <http://store.iww.org/sato-donations.html>.

Last summer the Toronto IWW Fundraising and Literature Committee held a fundraising competition for the Sato Fund. Several branches around the union participated or organized events and created new art work and literature. We are currently working on publicizing the fund better, including our new online applica-

tion process, and we hope to create some assessments for the fund shortly.

In 2014, we published a call to action for members and branches to address harassment, sexual violence, abuse and misogyny in the IWW (see "Fighting Patriarchy in the One Big Union," September 2014 *Industrial Worker*, page 3, or online at [www.iww.org/projects/gec](http://www.iww.org/projects/gec)). We also helped develop a safer spaces policy for the union's General Headquarters. Since then, following a petition of fellow workers (some of them serving on the GEC), a union-wide safer spaces policy was adopted in our annual referendum (and is now found in the IWW Constitution).

We also support fellow workers interested in forming subgroups of the GEC or separate committees/caucuses with others who identify as, or, in regards to the last two, have interest in working on: trans\* members, people of color, disability/access (some fellow workers have also created an "Accessible IWW" group on Facebook), and fat positivity. We are happy to put you in contact with folks working on/interested in these issues/areas.

For our work this year, we have identified three main priorities: reviewing the IWW's complaint process, developing workshops (such as on consent culture), and continuing to provide support to any members who are facing gender-based



Graphic: Sarah R. from the Toronto GMB

discrimination and harassment at work or in the union.

More information on our work is also available at <http://www.iww.org/projects/gec>. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GenderEquityCommitteeIWW> and email us at [gec@iww.org](mailto:gec@iww.org). The five voting members of the GEC—elected at the IWW General Convention each year—communicate with each other as well as other members through the GEC listserv. Any IWW member is welcome to join. If you are interested, please sign up at <http://lists.iww.org/listinfo/genderequity>.

## The Story of Pearl McGill

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

The name Pearl McGill may be lost on even the most serious student of the U.S. labor movement. Nevertheless, this nearly forgotten "Rebel Girl" continues to inspire a new generation of workers.

McGill was born near Grandview, Iowa in 1894. She dreamed of becoming a school teacher but did not have the means to pay for her education. At age 15, she left her hometown to look for work. By 1911 she had moved to Muscatine, Iowa to work at a button factory.

The button industry in the Midwest, which started around 1891, employed at least 10,000 workers in the early 1900s. At that time, buttons were made from shells, such as mussel shells, culled from four major sources: the Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers. This put Iowa at the heart of this booming industry. It is estimated that in 1916 alone, over 20

million buttons were sold. Author Mark Twain, who lived in Muscatine for a few months, referred to it as "Pearl City" for the natural treasures found on its shores.

Not long after her arrival, McGill was recruited by factory bosses as a spy to observe fellow workers to see if they were "shiftless and lazy" or if they were secretly "talking union." Seeking to make a good impression on her employers, she accepted this dubious position. In this capacity, the teenager discovered that if any atrocities were being committed in the factory, they were being committed by the bosses and not by the workers.

"Workers put in an average of 60 to 72 hours per week to earn their \$5.00 salary if they were female, \$7.00 to \$8.00 if they were male," according to the Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety and Environmental Education (TMC).

The long hours, low wages and appalling working conditions fanned the flames of discontent in McGill's heart. After some of the workers attempted to organize a union, the bosses responded with a lock-out. It was not long before the workers went on strike, with McGill becoming one of its most prominent leaders at age 16.

In a letter dated April 25, 1911, McGill recalls her Muscatine experiences:

"They had all the hardest Union workers on the black list. The factory where I worked had the most. They had eight men, and me. I was the only girl in the factory they wouldn't take back. So because there were so many discriminated against the rest of them that could have gone



Pearl McGill.

Photo: uswtmc.org

back wouldn't go until the [manufacturers] will take us all back and deal fair with us. They don't want to recognize the Union at all but they will have to before they ever start those factories up again."

In the course of his research author Jeffrey Copeland, who penned the book "Shell Games" based on McGill's life, came across several episodes of violence leading up to the strike, much of it instigated by detectives from the Pinkerton Detective Agency. These detectives, also known as "Pinks," were "an agency that was like an army for hire," Copeland said in an interview with the *Muscatine Journal*, and that the agency had "questionable legal status." They were notorious strike-breakers who supplied arms to anti-union vigilantes and helped form goon squads to intimidate workers.

Around this time, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was spreading its message of industrial unionism across the Midwest, including Iowa. Before long, she joined the IWW and started organizing across the country, giving speeches and lending support wherever she could. She found herself in the middle of the landmark textile strike in Lawrence, Mass., in 1912.

During her journey, McGill met the fearless IWW member and socialist Hellen Keller in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Keller became a friend and mentor who encouraged McGill to become a teacher. That same year, she joined the Women's Trade Union League and continued her efforts as a labor organizer. She was soon blacklisted in the textile industry.

McGill later fulfilled her wishes to become a teacher. She taught briefly in Muscatine and later moved to Buffalo, Iowa. She was married for six years before she and her husband, who was reported to be mentally ill, divorced. In 1924, authorities ruled that her ex-husband killed her, and then took his own life. She was only 29. To this day, the circumstances surrounding her death have not been conclusive.

Some people, including Copeland, believe she was not killed by her ex-husband but rather by anti-union forces. Some might see this theory as speculation, but it was not uncommon for union organizers to be killed for their beliefs. As recounted by IWW leader Big Bill Haywood, the IWW has "been foully dealt with; drops of blood, bitter tears of anguish, frightful heart pains have marked its every step in its onward march of progress."

Regardless of who the culprit was in McGill's untimely death, her example still inspires a new generation, who are awakening with a renewed sense of class consciousness.

In February 2013, McGill made headlines nearly 90 years after her death when an Iowa high school student named Elena Hildebrandt portrayed McGill at the National History Day competition. Hildebrandt was moved by McGill's passion.

"[McGill] became a huge advocate for all the women and children working in factories across the country," Hildebrandt told *The Des Moines Register*.

Seldom do champions of social justice and equality receive the recognition they deserve in their lifetime. But the contributions of McGill and countless other workers transcend generations in the ongoing struggle for a better world. In the words of the great IWW organizer and songwriter Joe Hill: "That's the Rebel Girl, that's the Rebel Girl/To the working class she's a precious pearl."

### Industrial Worker Subscriptions

#### Reminder!

As per GEB motion JWS-09, the pricing for IW bundles is \$0.50/copy. Yearly bundle subscriptions (10 issues) are as follows:



**Monthly Bundle of 5: \$25**  
**Monthly Bundle of 10: \$50**  
**Monthly Bundle of 25: \$125**  
**Monthly Bundle of 50: \$250**  
**Monthly Bundle of 100: \$500**

Pricing has already taken effect as reflected on the store website and delegate forms. Starting January 1, 2015, any incoming renewal requests will be at the above rate.

To request a renewal or inquire on your subscription expiration date email [ghq@iww.org](mailto:ghq@iww.org). Please title your email "Subscription Inquiry."



## Women's History Month

## The Two Troublemaking Idas

By Jane LaTour

This is the story of two women named Ida—Ida Tarbell (1857-1944) and Ida B. Wells (1862-1931). Born within five years of each other, they shared many similarities: both were first-born children; both were big readers. Each grew up absorbing Charles Dickens' novels in serial form and other classic works of literature; both attended Christian-affiliated colleges—college being an atypical path for women in that age; both took up teaching and disliked it; both found a career in journalism and put the power of their pens to work tackling huge targets. Both women were part of larger movements for social justice. Both died before completing an autobiography. Neither woman had an appreciation in her lifetime as to how kindly she would be viewed by history.

There were dissimilarities too: one woman was white, one black. One was born into a middle-class family which accompanied her into old age, the other was born into slavery and lost her parents and a sibling to yellow fever. At age 16, Ida B. Wells became an orphan and took on the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings—her first act of courage and independence in a life that would be filled with many. One lived out her life as a single woman, the other married and became the mother of four. Both women speak to us from the past, worthy subjects of study, inspiration and emulation. Threading these two lives together provides us with a picture of exemplary lives lived within the same epoch and illuminate the political environment they had a major role in shaping.

Ida Tarbell's father, Franklin, was a teacher and an inventor. The tank he invented held hundreds of barrels of oil just at the time that derricks started pumping petroleum out of the ground. Aside from this invention which brought him into the oil business as an independent operator, his great contribution to his first-born daughter's life was as a living example of the rapaciousness of John D. Rockefeller and the methods he used to crush opposition. This was a home filled with causes and passionately involved parents—anti-monopoly, suffrage, temperance and abolition. Ida Tarbell and her brother followed the Civil War and "Lincoln's cause" through a series of engravings in the pages of *Harper's Magazine*. At age 18, she left for college, hoping to study botany. Science was unwelcoming for women; teaching and missionary work were the traditional careers for women. While working as a teacher, Tarbell's eyes were opened to social injustice, "on a far greater scale that she had imagined possible," wrote Kathleen Brady in "Ida

Tarbell: Portrait of a Muckraker."

Ida B. Wells had the benefit of parents who worked their way from slavery into a stable, secure life. Her father was a skilled carpenter, her mother a cook, and they raised their eight children in a home that they owned. The parents stressed the importance of education in the lives of their children. When yellow fever struck, Ida, training as a teacher, took on the financial responsibility and care for her siblings. She lengthened her dresses and went to work as a teacher in rural Mississippi. As a young reader, deep into the pages of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" and other tales of social exploitation, she developed a strong set of values. "Throughout her life, Wells expected her self and others to battle injustice and refuse to compromise," wrote Linda O. McMurry in "To Keep the Waters Troubled: The Life of Ida B. Wells." After moving to Memphis, Wells, 22, was expelled from a first class railway car and protested. She took the matter of segregation to court and won her suit against the railroad. However, on appeal, she lost. But despite the costs of the case, it put her on a new path: she began writing political columns for local church newspapers. Then, as a school teacher in Memphis, she saved her money and became part-owner of a newspaper, *Free Speech and Headlight*. But she earned the enmity of her employers for a column criticizing unequal funding of the black schools by the board of education. Denied her teaching position, she became a full-time journalist.

Ida Tarbell went from teaching to a position as editor for *The Chautauquan* and promptly discovered a new passion. "The sight of her work in type was like magic which dispelled forever dreams of botany...plans and calculations yielded to a coup of fate" (McMurry, p. 36). As she and her work mates read the liberal *New York Tribune*, Tarbell saw the 1880s as a decade that "dripped with blood" (Brady, p. 37). In 1886, workers were striking for higher wages and a shorter day. While taking on more and more tasks, Tarbell also encouraged the paper to run articles on social and economic problems. "Unlike botany, journalism was a field where women were making a place for themselves" (Brady, p. 43). Tarbell discovered a new career. After carving out a life as a freelance journalist working from Paris, in 1893 she was recruited by Samuel S. McClure to write for his new magazine.

In the post-emancipation age, segregation and disfranchisement were expanding and the political power of African Americans was declining. Despite black resistance, the threat of American terrorism was on the rise and Jim Crow practices were emerging. In 1892, three men in Memphis were lynched. One, Thomas Moss, was a close friend of Ida B. Wells. He worked for the federal government as a mail carrier and Wells was the godmother of his daughter. Outraged, she wrote an editorial, denouncing "a town that takes us out and murders us in cold blood" (McMurry, p. 136). Her appetite for activism was whetted and increasingly, her pen became her outlet for confronting what angered her (McMurry, p. 86). As it proliferated, the black press served many functions. One function was to serve as "a voice for the voiceless ... In the worsening racial climate of the late 19th century, the voice was usually one of protest" (McMurry, p. 87). Wells was forced to leave town in the wake of the outrage set off by her words. Moving from Memphis to New York City gave her a larger platform—a national audience. For the rest of her life, there was seldom a

time when she was not embroiled in some form of controversy. "Her forced exile added more fuel to her rage and strength to her determination" (McMurry, p. 156).

Writing for *McClure's Magazine*, Tarbell's journalism also gained a national scope. The new publication combined technology, vision, and good writers with a broad platform for a new type of journalism—exposure journalism—what came to be known as muckraking. The muckrakers took on big subjects, all with the aim of exposing the malefactors—the politicians, railroads, patent medicines, the industrialists—those involved in ripping off the public. Tarbell's first big subject was the trusts—the movement to sweep up smaller corporations into monopolies. The idea behind her initial project was to delve deeply into one trust—the Standard Oil Company—to expose the inner workings of what Tarbell came to refer to as, "the octopus," and the force behind it, John D.

Rockefeller, in order to illustrate the pattern of how ownership of American industry was passing from control by the many to control by the few. Her youthful connection to Rockefeller and his destructive impact on her family made the story very personal. Scrupulous in her methods, Tarbell researched, collected evidence—documents, conducted interviews, sought out insiders, and—pushed and prodded by her editors, "became not only competent but a force in journalism" (Brady, p. 64). She demonstrated a dogged determination to follow leads; to cross-check every fact. Tarbell was described as having, "the historian's pedantry, the journalist's instinct, and the friendly guile of one seeking help" (Brady, p. 99) in her search for evidence. At one point, she wrote: "The task confronting me is such a monstrous one that I am staggering a bit under it...It has become a great bugbear to me. I dream of the octopus by night and think of nothing else by day" (Brady, pp. 129-130). Though it weighed on her, she completed her mission. The series, first approved in 1901 as a three-part, 25,000-word feature, was published in final form in a two-volume history, "The History of the Standard Oil Company," in November 1904.

As a young woman, weighed down with financial and other obligations, Ida B. Wells paid for elocution lessons, and took part in dramatic societies. The skills she honed as a public speaker would come to play an increasingly important role in her life. As she took on the dual role of writer and speaker, she viewed the newspapers she wrote for as "a strong voice of protest and a force for change" (McMurry, p. 91). Her greatest talent was "the ability to articulate outrage" (McMurry, p. 108). She determined to be "the voice of a long-suffering people...until every wrong is righted" (McMurry, p. 91). She provided an analysis of lynching and spearheaded the anti-lynching movement. She collaborated with legendary figures—Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey. After her move to New York City, she wrote: "I felt that I owed it to myself and my race to tell the whole truth now that I was where I could do so freely" (McMurry, p. 156). As her biographer points out, "if she had not been run out of Memphis, she would never have become the recognized leader of the anti-lynching movement"—the most effective, accomplished and fearless leader (McMurry, p. 167).

The late 19th century was a tumultuous time—a time of crisis for corporate capitalism. Crises included a series of financial panics and depressions, economic instability, unemployment on a massive scale, and a wave of immigration which triggered its own reaction. Massive strikes (striking railroad workers in



Ida B. Wells in the 1920s.

Photo: digitalcollections.nypl.org

pitched battle with armed troops in 1877, Chicago's "Haymarket Riot" in 1886, and the Homestead and Pullman strikes in the 1890s), financial expansions and contractions, in combination with immigration, provoked the rise of class antagonisms. The Progressive Movement waded into this mix, along with the other causes that generated activism—most significantly, the civil rights and women's suffrage movements.

Muckraking was an essential ingredient of the Progressive Movement—in fact, as the historian, Richard Hofstadter, in his classic treatment of "The Age of Reform," wrote: "To an extraordinary degree, the work of the Progressive Movement rested upon its journalism. The fundamental, critical element was the business of exposure and journalism was the chief occupational source of its creative writers. Its characteristic contribution was that of the socially responsible reporter. The muckraker was a central figure. Before there could be action, there must be information and exhortation. It was muckraking that brought the diffuse malaise of the public into focus."

Ida B. Wells is a central figure in the pantheon of radical reformists dedicated to social justice. In "Black Prophetic Fire," the philosopher Cornell West calls her "the exemplary figure, full of prophetic fire in the face of American terrorism—Jim Crow and Jane Crow—when a lynching occurred every two and a half days for over fifty years in America." West writes: "The cost she has to pay at that time is enormous and yet she comes back to us as in some ways as contemporary." She was not willing to compromise and she offended many sensibilities—male and female. She was involved in an immensely broad form of activism. West reminds us that, "we must learn from her in terms of moral integrity, spiritual fortitude, and political determination."

Aside from the fact that, in her youth, Ida B. Wells joined the Chautauqua educational society (McMurry, p. 79), that published the paper Tarbell edited at the beginning of her career, there is no evidence that their paths ever crossed. Wells took it upon herself "to keep the waters troubled" (McMurry, xvi). Writing her autobiography at the end of her life, she began her last chapter with this phrase: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" (McMurry, p. 321). Tarbell's biographer noted that the famed journalist—the premier muckraker, "was called to achievement in a day when women were called only to exist. Her triumph was that she succeeded. Her tragedy was never to know it" (Brady, 255). Both women did keep the waters troubled—and part of their legacy is that we are fortunate to know it.



Ida Tarbell, circa 1904-1905.

Photo: The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, Special Collections, Pelletier Library, Allegheny College



## Wobbly Arts

## 'Midwife heading towards the West Marsh circa 1920' (2014) oil on linen, 71 x 107cm

By John A Walker

This painting depicts a midwife riding a bicycle set against an industrial townscape of the 1920s. Like delivery boys, midwives have recently become icons of popular culture in Britain. The composition was based on an old documentary, black-and-white photograph. The midwife has just crossed the old Corporation swing bridge that spanned the Haven Dock in the fishing port of Grimsby, Lincolnshire. The dock dated from 1800 but became part of the Alexandra Dock in 1879. It created a barrier between the East and West Marsh



Graphic: John A Walker

districts of the town, hence the need for the bridge (1872-1925) available to pedestrians and cyclists only. The tug boat seen on the left was used to open and close the bridge. In the background are buildings that have since vanished. On the extreme left is a brick structure that was part of Marshall's flour mill complex (1889 and 1906, demolished in the 1950s). Next to it is the blank rear wall of the Palace Theatre (1904-79) a music hall and later cinema. Adjoining the theater is the Palace Theatre Buffet which is the only building still standing at the time of writing. Across the bridge in the center is the Central Market Square built in the 1850s with a clock tower dating from 1870 (all demolished in the 1950s and 1960s). On the right is an engineering works that no longer exists. Modern Grimsby was a consequence of 19th and 20th century industrialization but has since been subject to the opposite process of de-industrialization.

## Women's Rights & Freedom



Sculptures & photos: Ferydoun Mahinfarahmand

This piece is one of many in my collection of art work in the form of sculptures. It represents women's struggle for equality and freedom around the world. The physical representation is that of a Muslim woman and opposite her, a liberated peer. The message is the same regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion or national origin. The concept of struggle is universal.

If you would like more information about me and my art work I would be happy to speak with you about my collection of work, whose genre is that of political art and political expression. My website is currently under revision. I can be reached at this phone number: 505-907-6481.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Ferydoun Mahinfarahmand**

### Review

## Staughton Lynd On The Vietnam War And Our National Identity

Appy, Christian. *American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity*. New York: Viking, 2015. Hardcover, 416 pages, \$28.95.

By Staughton Lynd

Christian Appy is the author of two splendid previous books about the Vietnam War: "Working-Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam" and "Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides." "Patriots" was extraordinary in that it offered oral histories by soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

The main argument of Appy's new book, "American Reckoning," is that "the Vietnam War shattered the central tenet of American national identity," namely, faith in "American exceptionalism."

Appy defines exceptionalism as the belief that the United States is a "unique force for good in the world, superior not only in its military and economic power, but in the quality of its government and institutions, the character and morality of its people, and its way of life." American presidents tend to lapse into exceptionalist mode at the end of important addresses, as in referring to the United States as the "indispensable nation" or otherwise suggesting that ours is the best country in the world.

This book, with this central theme, could not have appeared at a more appropriate moment. The U.S. government has initiated a program, planned to extend over several years, to celebrate the Vietnam War. The emphasis, as Appy incisively observes, will be not so much on the war itself, because this country lost that war, and not at all on the catastrophic harm inflicted by the American invasion on the Vietnamese people and the very ecology of Vietnam. Rather our government will seek to stir up positive sentiment about the valor and sacrifice of American soldiers. In this way, it is apparently hoped, the Vietnam syndrome of disillusionment and suspicion of government undertakings abroad can at last be overcome.

### Why Were We In Vietnam?

The anti-war movement was never able to answer this question. There were references to rubber, tin, and oil, but natural resources simply didn't—and don't—seem to explain the enormity of

the American effort.

Appy follows the clues left, first, by the John F. Kennedy (JFK) administration, then by the kitchen cabinet of Ivy Leaguers that surrounded President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ). He fastens on some notes to himself made by McGeorge Bundy in March 1965: "Is our interest economic?" he asks himself. "Obviously not... Is our interest military? Not really..."

What then? According to Appy, "as always, Bundy returns to what he regarded as the 'cardinal' principle of U.S. policy in Vietnam: 'not to be a Paper Tiger. Not to have it thought that when we commit ourselves we really mean no major risk.'" Or as JFK had previously told a journalist: "Now we have a problem in making our power credible and Vietnam looks like the place."

Appy challenges us to consider whether "[a]n aggressive masculinity shaped American Cold War policy, and still does." He concludes that policymakers "were afraid to appear weak." Lyndon Johnson's personal style was crude compared to that of the privileged men around him.

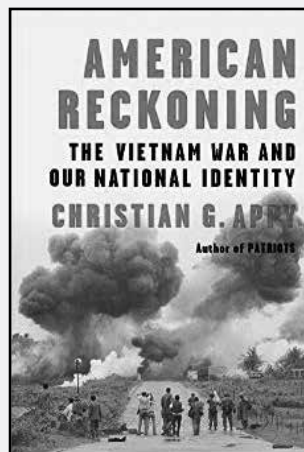
But they, too, were every bit as concerned as was LBJ to demonstrate their manly resolve.

It was an astonishingly homogeneous group. Their ideas about manhood were forged in a common set of elite, male-only environments—private boarding schools, Ivy League secret societies and fraternities, military service in World War II, and metropolitan men's clubs.

### What About Capitalism?

Does this mean that we should set Marxism aside and look to neo-Freudian explanations? It does not. But the point to understand about the Kennedys, the Bundys, the Rostows, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Richard Bissell (the Yale professor who was chief strategist for the Bay of Pigs), and their cohorts, is: They were not personally greedy. They didn't need to be. They looked down on individual money-grubbing but considered themselves entrusted with managing the system as a whole.

American capitalism, as they saw



Graphic: amazon.com

the world, was essential to preserving freedom. Hence Vietnam was critically important, not as a market for American exports, but as a market for goods produced in Japan lest Japan fail in its function of offering a counterweight in Asia to the expansion of Communist China.

In practice, so Appy continues his analysis, "the United States has been far more consistent in its support of capitalism than democratic rights." The Cold War "provided a powerful ideological cover for economic goals."

Ironically, as things turned out, while "the war brought big profits to some American corporations, the profits of U.S. businesses and banks as a whole actually declined in the late 1960s." In Vietnam, the war did not produce solid capital investment but a South Vietnamese economy in which "commodities, not capital goods, were the quickest and safest way to make money." The economy became "oriented to services catering to foreign soldiers." Indeed, what was characteristic of South Vietnam's economy during the war became the shape of things to come in America as well, beginning in the 1970s as manufacturing fled to lower-wage settings outside the United States.

### What About The Grunts And The Veterans?

Appy says that Daniel Patrick Moynihan "viewed the military as a vast, untapped agent of upward mobility with the potential to train the unskilled, employ the young and the poor, and bring self-esteem to the psychologically defeated." During "the years of massive escalation in Vietnam (1965-1967), many articles touted the military as a bastion of democratic opportunity, particularly for African Americans." Thus *Time* magazine declared, "the integrated military vindicated American exceptionalism."

Appy, in contrast, argues that Vietnam was not only a working-class war but a war that gave rise to a significantly working-class peace movement. He provides a vivid account of the marauding construction workers who attacked anti-war protesters in New York City. But he also reminds

us that protesters were killed at Jackson State as well as at Kent State, and adds an account of the highly suspicious death of Hispanic journalist Ruben Salazar in Los Angeles.

Three days after Kent State and two days before his own death in an airplane crash, Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) who had refused to condemn the war while Democrat Lyndon Johnson was president, sent a telegram to President Richard Nixon protesting "the bankruptcy of our policy of force and violence in Vietnam."

And if it was working-class young men who were disproportionately drawn into military service, it was presumably that same demographic group who predominated in the army that by 1971 was reported in the *Armed Forces Journal* to be "in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and noncommissioned officers, drug-ridden and dispirited where not near-mutinous." Appy reports numbers: "In the army, desertions jumped from 14.9 per 1,000 soldiers in 1966 to 73.5 per 1,000 in 1971. Conscientious objector applications submitted by active-duty soldiers jumped from 829 in 1967 to 4,381 in 1971."

I can offer one small vignette from my own experience suggesting caution when it comes to ascribing to the working class a blind belief in American exceptionalism.

Shortly before the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, a group that called itself Labor Against the War held a founding meeting in Chicago. I took the Greyhound bus from Youngstown, Ohio, with two friends, a Teamster shop steward and a man who had been chemically poisoned working at General Motors Lordstown.

Arriving in the Windy City, we were astonished to learn that the street address we had been provided was the location of a Teamsters local union. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is not known for its opposition to U.S. foreign policy. I sought out a couple of shop stewards and asked them what was going on.

"It was the Vietnam vets," I was told. "They hit the mike at the local union meeting and said that they had seen this movie before."







Front Page News

# Fired Hospitality Workers Fight Back With The London IWW

Continued from 1

Along with an escalating program of direct action, we are now launching our online petition and fundraising website. Friends House management's current intransigent attitude of denial and indifference suggests that this will be a long campaign for justice. The workers concerned have been struggling to find work since but still need to make rent and pay for food and travel; meanwhile the IWW is a grassroots, do-it-yourself union without paid staff or large organizing budgets. We are therefore asking for financial support for the organizing, materials and legal advice that will be necessary if we are to succeed in getting justice. Any contributions from supporters in the United Kingdom and around the world will be hugely appreciated.

**Background**

The three workers were employed by Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd, a subsidiary of BYM, on zero-hour contracts—a highly insecure method of employment in which bosses are not obliged to provide workers with any minimum working hours. The rise of these contracts is indicative of the huge increase in poorly-paid, precarious and casual employment in the U.K. economy since the 2008 crash, as the employing class has taken the opportunity presented by the crisis to extract greater profits from and generally weaken the position of the working class.

Well over 1 million workers are employed on zero-hour contracts, but their use at Friends House prompted the Quaker community and workers in the building to “speak truth to power,” an important

tenet of Quakerism, to campaign for their removal. The way BYM and the Hospitality company decided to end these zero-hour contracts goes to the very heart of the contradiction between Quaker theory and capitalist work discipline: management's solution was to get rid of zero-hours contracts by sacking three workers employed on them, two of whom were at the time workplace representatives with the recognized Trades Union Congress (TUC) union, Unite.

The affair began when, in June 2014, one of the zero-hours workers (who was also a union representative) was hauled into a meeting with the human resources (HR) department without notice and put on suspension. This came three weeks after she reported an act of bullying experienced at work and after opposing an attempt by the management to impose new duties on staff without consultation. What was initially described as a “short-term paid leave” turned into a three-and-a-half month investigation. Finally, the process came to an end, pending her return to work—then, one week later, management started a second investigation! This damaging process seriously affected her health.

Meanwhile, returning to work after the refurbishment of the workplace over the summer, the other two workers concerned were first told that the refurbishment had overrun, and that they could not expect work until December. Then, a short while afterward, two hospitality jobs were publicly advertised, now as fixed-hour contracts: management expected the workers to compete with each other to re-apply for their own roles.

Faced with these divide-and-rule tactics from the bosses, the three instead decided to stand together in solidarity with each other and objected to the process. The advertised posts were filled; then, to their shock, their contracts were ended and they were told they were out of a job. To put it plainly, the management of BYM and the Hospitality company used the cover of ending zero-hours contracts as a way of getting rid of three outspoken union members.

The three workers suggest that they were picked out as easy targets because of who they are; all are young, two are women, and all have pre-existing health issues. The bosses' actions caused them serious stress and anxiety. In a statement, the workers say, “We have been done harm. This has impoverished us materially and seriously damaged our health.”

It was at this point that the three workers came to the IWW. As the bosses had browbeaten the Unite union into withdrawing their Unite branch membership, the IWW stepped in at the workers' request and we began our campaign together. After all, the IWW has much more in common with the Quaker church than the BYM bosses do: we are committed to mutual aid and equal respect for all human beings, and we organize through the direct participation of our members, with the ultimate aim of a just world in which people can live flourishing lives. The management, on the



Wobbly picketer on Jan. 29. Photo: London IWW

other hand, operates through exploitation and intimidation, like all bosses.

Sign a petition to support these workers: <https://www.change.org/p/paul-parker-reinstate-the-sacked-zero-hours-workers-at-friends-house>.

You can donate to the campaign at <http://www.gofundme.com/m73ksw>.

Additional information about the struggle can be found online here at <http://iww.org.uk/friendshouse>.

# IWW Toronto Harm Reduction Workers Win Pay For Fired Organizer

Continued from 1

Upon her termination, Syme Woolner management gave S. an offer of severance in exchange for her silence. It erroneously informed her that “since you are still in your probationary period, you are not entitled to any notice of dismissal or pay in lieu thereof.” Syme Woolner offered two weeks of pay to S. if she contractually agreed to refrain from “directly or indirectly, either orally or in writing, make any comments of a negative or disparaging nature whatsoever about the Company, its employees, officers, directors, or associated companies.” She did not want to sign the document.

Fortunately, S. is a member of the THRWU. In coordination with the Toronto IWW's Solidarity Committee, THRWU moved forward with a plan to get S. what she was owed. Especially concerning to the union was the idea that S. would have to refrain from discussing conditions at

Syme Woolner.

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, S. and 25 members of the Solidarity Committee, THRWU, and supporters, walked in to Syme Woolner and read a letter to Executive Director Mark Neysmith demanding that S. be paid the outstanding money she was owed for hours worked, as well as two weeks termination pay. The letter stipulated that Syme Woolner had until the end of the week to comply.

S. and supporters filled the lobby of the center, but courteously and politely made space for the service users and workers going about their business, and explained that they were just there to support S. in delivering a grievance. After the crowd parted to allow a service user access to the center, she remained in the lobby and asked “I should join in too?”

After about five minutes, Syme Wool-



Graphic: THRWU

ner manager Mark Neysmith appeared. Mark told the crowd that this was “a private matter.” However it was clear to all that this was no longer the case. Mark was given a copy of the letter and at first refused to allow S. to read it aloud. She began reading anyway. When she had finished, there was spontaneous applause, and S. and her supporters made their exit.

Two days later, on Thursday, Jan. 22, S. was paid for her outstanding hours and one week's termination pay.

The day after S. received her pay, she received a letter from Syme Woolner's lawyers, claiming “Our client is extremely concerned by the actions of you and your friends [...] Needless to say, Syme Woolner will take legal action if you engage in any activity, either directly or indirectly, that is defamatory of Syme Woolner or otherwise

affects the Organization, its reputation, or its operations negatively.”

Despite this, the lawyers reiterated the offer to buy S.'s silence, saying, “Despite the manner in which you have conducted yourself since dismissal, and our client's concerns regarding your conduct when you attended at their offices, the offer set out in the dismissal letter remains open for acceptance. If you would like to receive the additional week of pay, please execute the enclosed Release and return it to my attention.” S. has no intention of signing.

Harm reduction workers make harm reduction work. The days of harm reduction workers getting pushed around by management with no recourse are over in Toronto. The Toronto Harm Reduction Workers Union will continue organizing to win better working conditions and worker's power, both of which are essential to achieving harm reduction services that work.

## SPONSOR AN INDUSTRIAL WORKER SUBSCRIPTION FOR A PRISONER

Sponsor an *Industrial Worker* subscription for a prisoner! The IWW often has fellow workers & allies in prison who write to us requesting a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*, the official newspaper of the IWW. This is your chance to show solidarity!

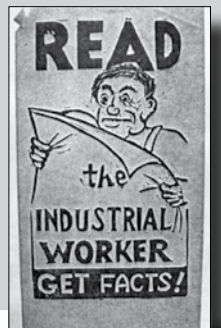
For only \$18 you can buy one full year's worth of working-class news from around the world for a fellow worker in prison. Just email [iw@iww.org](mailto:iw@iww.org) to order the subscription TODAY!



## Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

Subscribe or renew your *Industrial Worker* subscription.

- Give a gift that keeps your family and friends thinking. Get 10 issues of working class news and views for:
- US \$18 for individuals.
  - US \$30 for libraries/institutions.
  - US \$30 for international subscriptions.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this subscription form to:  
**Industrial Worker Subscriptions,**  
**PO Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618 USA**

Subscribe to the *Industrial Worker* today!



# World Labor Solidarity

A COLUMN BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMISSION

The IWW formed the International Solidarity Commission to help the union build the worker-to-worker solidarity that can lead to effective action against the bosses of the world. To contact the ISC, email [solidarity@iww.org](mailto:solidarity@iww.org).

## International Solidarity On The Rise

By the International Solidarity Commission

In January and February, the International Solidarity Commission (ISC) monitored struggles in France, Japan, Mexico and Colombia:

We signed onto a petition for the reinstatement of a union activist at La Poste France, Yann Le Merrer of the Solidaires, Unitaires et Democratiques - Poste, Téléphone et Télécommunications (SUD PTT) in France. He is being fired for union activity and his fellow workers are rallying in his support.

Targeting the Japanese company UNIQLO and Fast Retailing, the Students & Scholars Against Corporate Misbehaviour (SACOM) and Human Rights Now (HRN) have organized a series of public events such as press conferences and seminars in Japan to raise public awareness of the workers' rights violations by UNIQLO's suppliers in China. The Japanese owner of UNIQLO, Fast Retailing, responded with promises of fixing the problems and monitoring the conditions. However, SACOM and HRN conclude that actions taken by the company so far have not been transparent and are insufficient. In a joint statement, they demanded further activities from Fast Retailing. The ISC is interested in building up our contacts and support for struggles in Japan and other parts of Asia.

Disabled General Motors (GM) auto workers in Colombia have been struggling for just compensation for their injuries under the banner of Association of Injured Workers and Ex-Workers of GM Colmotores (ASOTRECOL). The workers have been escalating their actions against GM at their headquarters in Detroit and putting pressure on targets such as the U.S. Embassy in Bogota with demonstrations. These workers are also building a coalition with injured workers from other companies. Additionally, ASOTRECOL has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice, charging GM with bribing public officials in Colombia. The ISC voted to officially endorse this struggle, and we are work-



Several of the ex-GM workers on the 488th day of their tent occupation outside the U.S. embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, on Dec. 1, 2012. Photo: zcomm.org

ing in collaboration with the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC), which is spearheading efforts to support these workers, against the wishes of interested elements within the United Automobile Workers (UAW) in the United States. PCASC has had a strong bond over the years with the IWW in Portland, Ore., and we're proud to fight alongside them.

The ISC is very excited about the re-launch of *Solidaridad*, the IWW's official Spanish-language publication. *Solidaridad* will be a vital tool in building international solidarity with our fellow workers in Spanish-speaking regions. A few examples: Fellow Worker (FW) Graeme from Toronto is in Argentina, has joined the Federación Obrera Regional Argentina (FORA), and has written a piece about his experiences. Supporters in Mexico, whom FW Pierce visited last summer, have submitted several incisive pieces on social struggles in Mexico. FW Monica in Miami is featuring her artwork about her experiences in Chile. FW Tristan will be submitting a travel log piece on his ISC ambassador tour of South America and his friendship with unions like Confederacion de Trabajadores de la Economía Popular (CTEP). IWW members are building cross-border and cross-ocean affinity and the ISC will be using *Solidaridad* as much as possible to highlight those achievements. Read, write for, translate for, and distribute *Solidaridad*! Find out more: <https://iwwsolidaridad.wordpress.com>.

## Workers Barricade Cannery In Israel



Pri Hagalil factory workers standing outside the plant on Jan. 1, 2015. Photo: timesofisrael.com

By John Kalwaic

Workers at the Pri Hagalil factory in northern Israel barricaded themselves into their factory on Jan. 1. The workers were protesting the impending closing and the subsequent layoffs at their factory, which makes canned and frozen foods. The previous week the employers of the

Pri Hagalil factory sent all of its 220 workers on a forced vacation because they were not able to pay for the renewal of their business permit. Union chairman Moti Haziza expressed his frustration with the situation and his concern that workers at Pri Hagalil were being used as pawns. Pri Hagalil factory workers barricaded the factory and set up a protest tent outside, they refused to let anyone inside. Trucks were turned away from the action by the workers. The Pri Hagalil firm has been open since 1951 and is one of the largest employers in northern Israel.

With files from the Times of Israel.

## Romanian Guest Workers Organize With FAU

By John Kalwaic

Between late November and early December 2014, Romanian construction workers picketed at the "Mall of Shame" in Berlin. The guest workers are organizing with Germany's anarcho-syndicalist Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union (FAU). The picket organizers are protesting the unpaid wages and exploitation of the construction guest workers. They are calling the Mall of Berlin the "Mall of Shame." Nearly 10,000 flyers were handed out at the picket.

The Mall of Berlin Workers' Face-



"Mall of Shame" picket. Photo: fau.org

book page (<https://www.facebook.com/mallofshame>) has more than 1,400 supporters and nearly 500 people signed the petition for the workers. The media in Germany was mostly favorable to the picketers.

With files from <http://www.libcom.org>.

## Bosnian Workers Seeking Asylum



Workers march in Bosnia. Photo: revolution-news.com

By John Kalwaic

In December 2014, workers in Bosnia hired by the Tulza companies Aida, Dita, Livnice and Konjuh started the February uprising, attempting to leave the country on foot. The workers were trying to seek

asylum in Croatia and the European Union. Around 300 left for the border.

The struggle began in February 2014 when the workers were not paid the benefits they were owed. A movement started, and an uprising brought down the government of Tulza Canton. An "expert government official" of Tulza came into power. The new government, however, was also un-

able to solve the problem for the workers. The uprising in Bosnia declined due to media propaganda, police infiltration and dwindling numbers of protesters, but the workers' struggle continues.

With files from Revolution News!

## #Caravana43: Friends And Family Of The Ayotzinapa 43 Plan U.S. Tour

By Greg Rodriguez

On Sept. 26, 2014, 43 students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa were disappeared outside of Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, after being attacked by local police. The student-teachers were on their way to peacefully protest education policy in Mexico at a conference featuring the mayor's wife, Maria de Los Angeles. We know now that the city's mayor, Jose Luis Abarca, ordered the initial attack on the students that led to the disappearances.

Public outcry over the situation in Mexico has been met with harsh police repression. Abarca and Los Angeles have since been arrested for their involvement in the disappearances, but according to Jose Villagran of the #Caravana43 Planning Committee, "There is no real justice because the system remains in place that let this happen to begin with." What Villagran speaks of is a system of political corruption, police/cartel violence and an overall "Drug War Capitalism" (to borrow Dawn Paley's book title) that is largely fueled by U.S. policy.

It seems appropriate to note that Rural Colleges have strong leftist traditions which carry over toward lifelong commitments to labor and social justice struggles in Mexico.

Family and friends of the missing students are gearing up to tour the United States sometime in March 2015, in what has been dubbed #Caravana43 in order to ensure an online buzz and social media anticipation. They wish to share their

stories as the community of Ayotzinapa continues their fight for justice. The tour aims to cover 40 cities in 20 states and will culminate at the United Nations in New York City.

Solidarity protests and press events are also being coordinated to coincide with the tour.

Cities already confirmed by the tour: McAllen, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas, Texas; New Orleans, La.; Miami, Fla.; Kansas City, Kan.; Birmingham, Ala.; St Louis, Mo.; Atlanta, Ga.; Springfield, Ill.; Durham, N.C.; Des Moines, Iowa; Richmond, Va.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Washington, D.C.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; Lansing and Detroit, Mich.; New Haven, Conn.; Boston, Mass.; Toledo, Ohio; San Diego, Calif.; and New



Graphic: commons.wikimedia.org

York, N.Y.

The tour's first stop in the country will be right across the United States/Mexican border in McAllen, Texas. Members of the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas IWW are busy planning fundraisers and educational events as part of the #Caravana43 Planning Committee.

Those wishing to get involved in their respective cities or wanting to meet the friends and family of the Ayotzinapa 43 should contact the regional coordinators of the tour:

**Atlantic Region**  
Martha Ojeda: [cjmstaff2012@gmail.com](mailto:cjmstaff2012@gmail.com)  
**Central Region**  
Julio Cesar Guerrero: [camila@umich.edu](mailto:camila@umich.edu)  
**Pacific Region**  
Roberto Lovato: [robovato@gmail.com](mailto:robovato@gmail.com)