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German IWW Campaigns Against Ford Motor Company First "Eurest Day of Action" for Canteen Workers' Rights

By Elmar Stuhlfauth

The four millionth Ford car produced in Germany rolled off the assembly line on Feb. 5. The car was a silver Ford Fiesta, and the assembly hall in Cologne was prepared for a big celebration. The German Minister of Economic Affairs, Rainer Bruederle, was present, as was Ford Europe boss John Fleming, who praised the Cologne plant as the biggest Ford facility for production and development outside of the U.S. In combination with the Belgian plant in Genk, the German Ford locations in Cologne and Saarlouis produce about one million cars a year, 80 percent of which are exported to about 60 countries.

Only three days later, before sunrise on Feb. 8, Cologne Wobblies and friends from local social movements and anti-fascist groups hit the scene. They gathered at the parking lot in front of the Ford Development Center in Cologne-Merkenich with the goal of illuminating the dark side of the Ford success story in Cologne: that the people working in

the canteens run by the subcontractor Eurest are paid minimum wages and are severely harassed and bullied. The canteen managers try to kick the workers' council representatives out of the canteens by means of legal and illegal tricks, such as false accusations, threats, and psychological terror.

The protesters spread about 1,100 leaflets to the Ford workers demanding that Ford immediately fire Eurest as their catering subcontractor and urging the workers to not eat Eurest meals until humane working conditions are established. They carried a banner and gave away stickers saying "Compass leaves a foul taste!" referring to Compass Group PLC, which owns Eurest.

Eurest is the largest canteen and catering company in Europe. In Germany they employ 8,400 people at about 700 locations. The Compass Group PLC, listed on the London Stock Exchange amongst the Top 100, has an estimated 388,000 employees around the globe.

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Photo: x 355622

Feb. 8: London IWW picket at University College Hospital's Eurest staff location.

What's Next For The British Royal Mail Dispute?

By X365825

When Communications Workers Union (CWU) members voted for industrial action last summer, many of us were surprised by the level of support given the total letdown by the union hierarchy after the 2007 strikes. Most of us knew the leadership would let us down again, and we were not wrong. As they had done in 2007, the Executive Committee called off the strikes just as they were taking effect. In one sense, the 2009 letdown was worse because, with Christmas on the way, Royal Mail were really coming under pressure.

Three of the best assets the CWU had in the buildup to industrial action were Peter Mandleson, who was playing the role of mouthpiece for senior Royal Mail management; Adam Crozier, the

millionaire Football Association failure and Royal Mail Chief Executive who said postal workers were underworked and overpaid; and local delivery office managers who had spent the two years since the previous strikes honing their bullying and harassment skills. As one CWU representative put it, "I don't have to say anything. The way the DOM [Delivery Office Manager] treats people will make sure they vote for industrial action."

Royal Mail played its usual trick of telling the media that the strikes were not well supported by counting workers off as ill, on holiday or on their day off, and not being on strike. Managers were shunted around the country in the usual massive scabbing exercise despite being instructed by their own union, Unite, not to break CWU picket lines.

Brownie points and brown tongues were once again the order of the day for the Communication Managers Association section of the Unite union. Royal Mail always uses its managers as a pool of scabs during disputes. At vast expense it flies these people around the country and puts them up in hotels for days on end, so they can clear any backlog of mail that has built up during a strike and prevent any postal worker from booking an hour or two in overtime.

Picket lines were well supported, as photographs on various internet sites show, but just as the strikes were beginning to bite, the Executive Committee of the CWU called them off for "meaningful negotiations."

As I write this, the membership of the CWU have been kept in the dark

over the deal they will be asked to vote on in four months. Rumors abound that extra payments for delivering undressed leaflets will be abolished and that later start times will be introduced, meaning mail will be delivered up to tea time including Saturdays. Considering there used to be a Royal Mail standard of delivering the last letter of the first delivery by 9:30 a.m., this is quite a slide in performance. The Executive Committee of the CWU and their "partners" at the top of Royal Mail management don't work Saturdays. They'll still be able to follow their football team, spend time with their families, and pursue a hobby of some sort, so this won't affect them. Royal Mail likes to see itself as "family-friendly," but the term obviously doesn't

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Kati Moore Inspires Starbucks District Managers To Expose High-Level Sexual Harassment

By Starbucks Workers Union

In a risky departure from the normal chain of command, a group of Starbucks district managers has authored an impassioned letter to top executives in Seattle demanding that action be taken against a company vice president allegedly engaged in pervasive sexual harassment.

The letter, which was made available to the IWW Starbucks Workers Union, alleges that New York Regional Vice President Andrew Alfano has created an unsafe work environment with his behavior and is responsible for the departure of two female regional directors, among many other troubling charges.

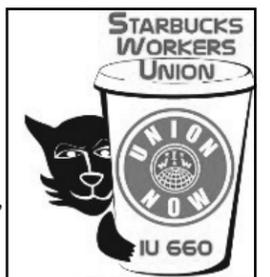
The district managers are demanding disciplinary action against Alfano,

a favorite of top company brass, and state that they were compelled to act after a widely-watched "20/20" television segment aired on Starbucks barista

Kati Moore who was repeatedly raped by her supervisor and then subjected to intimidation tactics from Starbucks' lawyers.

The SWU has made the letter available on its website at: <http://www.starbucksunion.org/files/dmletter.pdf>.

For full background, check out "SWU Solidarity With Kati Moore" on page 3.



Graphic: starbucksunion.org





Letters Welcome!

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

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Announcements for the annual "May Day" *Industrial Worker* deadline is **April 2**. Celebrate the real labor day with a message of solidarity! Send announcements to iw@iww.org.

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not reflect the IWW's
official position.**

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NFL Players Are Not Workers Too

Howdy Fellow Workers,

The decision to publish the series of articles entitled "Football Through Labor's Lens," which appears on page 9 of the February/March and April issues of the *Industrial Worker*, is significantly disturbing on several levels.

None of these football players, under any circumstances, would be considered "working class." They are overpaid professional celebrities, many of them multi-millionaires, who earn more in one year than most workers will ever earn in their entire lifetimes. None of them would ever serve as likely role models for the IWW.

Furthermore, many of them are of the employer class themselves, rather than being simple union workers. They have retinues or drivers, ground keepers, business agents, managers and so on, who are employed by the individual players to enhance their exorbitant lifestyle.

Finally, there is no sense of working class solidarity in the mindset of these "union" football players, in that they have no qualms whatsoever about crossing picket lines of other unions. In addition, they are of a similar parasite consciousness when it comes to the demands concerning wages and hours of the non-union employees upon whom both the players' union and the own-

ers greedily feed: the groundskeepers, janitors, concession sellers, etc...do NOT share in the football trough, since it is to the players' advantage NOT to pay them a fair wage. These "union" football players could show real solidarity with the fellow workers by refusing to play unless ALL stadium employees receive fair and equitable wages and benefits. But don't hold your breath for that to happen.

Let's maintain our focus on the real labor movement, and no a bunch of spoiled millionaire cry babies. Brett Favre is no Joe Hill.

Up the revolution!
X365465

Corrections To FAU Berlin Story

Dear IW,

I see you published my piece on the FAU Berlin struggle for union freedom, entitled "Fight For Union Freedom In Germany: Workers Struggle At Babylon Cinema" which appears on page 1 of the February/March *IW*. Unfortunately you published an earlier version which contained some errors.

One error in that piece is the statement that the ver.di trade union was a party to the lawsuit to get the FAU banned as a union. In fact ver.di did not intervene in court at all. The legal action against FAU was entirely the work of the lawyers for the New Babylon cinema. Also, the FAU finally did get it's day in

court in January, but the court upheld its earlier ruling. The FAU's lawyer says they will appeal to the Federal Constitutional Court, if necessary.

Another error in that piece is the statement that Berlin has a "red-green" coalition government. In fact the local government is a coalition of the Social Democratic Party and a socialist party, Die Linke (The Left). Die Linke apparently has connections to the management of the theater. Last September Die Linke held its pre-election campaign party at the cinema despite the fact that the workers at the cinema had organized a boycott.

Tom Wetzel

New IWW Branch Forms In Bristol

The IWW, a union for all workers, has started a new branch in Bristol. We have been active for several months and were prominent in support the CWU strike before Christmas. This is a proper rank and file union. All decisions are made by the members, and there are no paid officers, nor is there any link to any political party. Keep an eye open for a massive poster campaign, and support work against the excesses of capitalism. Come and join! Contact us at bristol-iww@riseup.net or 07506592180, or PO Box 4, 82 Colston Street, BS1 5BB. An injury to one is an injury to all. Solidarity is strength!!



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Starbucks Workers Union Solidarity With Kati Moore

By the IWW Starbucks Workers Union

Kati Moore is a hero. We, as workers at Starbucks, stand in complete solidarity with former barista, Kati Moore. Kati, at 20 years old, has far more integrity than the Starbucks' CEO, Howard Schultz. She has taken a fierce stand on behalf of every worker who has been made to feel that they were merely the sexual property of an abusive, manipulative employer. When Kati came forward, we felt that she did so in an effort to protect each and every barista at Starbucks, and every underage employee working in retail, from experiencing her pain. We hope that her courage will give others the strength to speak up, and the strength to fight back when they feel they are at their weakest. Kati's experience shows us that we CAN stare down corporations like Starbucks and declare that we deserve to feel safe at work, that we deserve respect, and that we, if victimized, are not alone.

Kati Moore filed a lawsuit against Starbucks in 2007 because of the company's failure to act when she told her manager about the abuse she was going through. She is rightfully suing for monetary damages due to Starbucks' failure to comply with the law when her superiors in the company obtained knowledge of sexual assault between a minor and an adult, as well as a worker and a boss.

At the age of 16, Kati was introduced to the workforce with her first job as a barista at a Starbucks in Orange County, Calif. She was quickly taken advantage of by her then 24 year old shift supervisor, Tim Horton. Horton coerced Kati into a sexually abusive relationship. As the situation worsened, Kati bravely sought help by disclosing the abuse to her assistant store manager.

By not doing anything to stop the abuse or hold Horton accountable for his actions, the manager violated various laws that are in place to protect minors

from sexual abuse, in addition to the laws surrounding sexual harassment in the workplace. As with many claims of sexual harassment at Starbucks, the person being harassed (in this case, Kati) was transferred to another store while the perpetrator received no repercussions for what they had done.

The law proclaims what Horton did was wrong, so why doesn't Starbucks?

When the company got word that Kati's story—which has been public knowledge for years—would be aired on national television, Starbucks issued several company-wide memos that reeked of lies and deception. The most disgusting assertion the company

made was that what happened was a "consensual relationship." This statement is not only false in more ways than one, but de-criminalizes the actions of Tim Horton and re-victimizes the experience of Kati Moore and others that have experienced sexual abuse.

As defined by California penal code 261.5, sex with a minor (under age 18) is illegal and considered statutory rape. "Rape," by definition, is NEVER consensual. Under the law, Tim Horton raped Kati Moore and he is held responsible for having sex with a minor. This relationship was by no means consensual, and by saying it was, Starbucks is effectively stating its support of Horton

once more (since it paid his legal fees in the earlier case where he was convicted of statutory rape) and framing Moore as "wanting it."

Furthermore, in a sexual relationship between a worker and a boss, the boss is the one held accountable in the relationship, because they are in a position of power. Thus, according to the first Supreme Court decision on sexual harassment: "The question is not whether the employee's conduct was voluntary but whether the boss's conduct was unwelcome...An employer can be held liable for sexual harassment committed by supervisors if it knew or should have known about the conduct and did nothing to correct it." (Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57, 40FEP Cases 1822). Therefore, even if Kati's part in the relationship was "voluntary," the relationship is NOT consensual. Under the law, Kati experienced sexual harassment and assault. Kati herself describes the relationship as coercive, saying she feared for her job. Starbucks is responsible for their inaction, because under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, employers are liable to prevent and stop sexual harassment of their employees.

Therefore, Kati is not responsible for her actions in the eyes of the law, but Horton and Starbucks definitely are responsible.

Whether Kati wins or loses, our main concern as workers is Starbucks' poor treatment of employees who come forward with cases of sexual harassment.

At Starbucks, sexual harassment issues are often joked about. Many who come forward do so through accessing the supposedly confidential "Ethics Hotline" only to have the information spread throughout the store, to get transferred without their consent, or to be told that they are lying. In several instances, claims are said to be under investigation but are never discussed again and meanwhile an abused or otherwise violated worker must work alongside their perpetrator. In that time, the worker may experience retaliation for coming forward or be pushed into quitting in order to feel safe. We have even heard of circumstances where perpetrators of sexual harassment at Starbucks who were seen as favorites were promoted in order to have them transferred away from their victim(s).

No one should ever have to choose between their livelihood and their personal safety and well being.

In Kati's case, one could make a decent argument that Starbucks' poor training for managers on sexual harassment is to blame. Regardless of who is at fault for the actual offenses, or for the creation of the environment that made them commonplace at Kati's store, Starbucks is most certainly to blame for their disgusting choice of legal representation. By using Akin Gump, the same law firm that Starbucks employs to attempt to destroy the union organizing efforts of its employees, it becomes abundantly clear how Starbucks feels about their workers. Time and again, Starbucks ferociously defends its fortune and public image at the expense of common decency. "They are trying to defend themselves by calling me a slut," said Kati. "It's intimidation. It's harassing to sit through deposition and just be re-victimized."

When Kati decided to go public with her name and face through an interview with "20/20," Starbucks retaliated by petitioning Federal Judge Anthony J. Guilford to allow her past sexual history to be revealed in court, despite the fact that someone's past sexual history has zero bearing on whether or not they were sexually abused. This blame the victim mentality is unacceptable, especially for a company that spends so much money trying to convince the public that they are "socially responsible."



Graphic: Tom Keough

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**.

We Are All “Amigos”

By J. Pierce

In most of my experiences in the working world, I have felt as if the bosses expected me, a college-educated white guy, to relate only to them. I’m supposed to want what they want and believe what they believe. Many of my previous employers, often despite their own backgrounds as people of color, were willing to express some pretty racist and anti-worker sentiments. They expected me to agree.

When they find that I have befriended co-workers of color on the job, they are usually dismayed. At the cafeteria, befriending Abraham, an older African-



American, made Jean (the “hatchet lady” brought in to do the firing) quite angry. Soon enough, both of us were fired in the bosses’ quest to break up our informal control of the pace of work.

Before I got hired at the recycling yard, the bosses asked me, “Are you sure you can take orders from a Spanish speaker? These guys aren’t even from Mexico. They’re from, like, Guatemala!...[insert more racist blather].” But befriending all the Latinos (95 percent Mexicanos, by the way) made Ted, Andy, and Chaz pretty red in the face. After refusing a “promotion” to a supervisor position and building trust among my co-workers, management canned me after three months. Before that, because of our friendship, however, we enjoyed the only supervisor-free department and had some fun to boot!

“When we get bigger, and start to hire some amigos,” joked the widget boss, “I’m going to need you here managing them.” Eventually new people

were hired and I treated them as compañeros and ignored the boss’s intended hierarchy. We enjoyed relatively stress-free working conditions, won expensive jackets, and orchestrated raises and equal pay—all out of our collaboration.

The thing I have learned from my time in the IWW is that I, myself, am an “amigo.” I am the cheap and vulnerable laborer who the bosses chase after. As a white guy, I have better access to

jobs and I enjoy better treatment, relatively speaking. But if I don’t play their racist game, I quickly become the “lazy American” who wants more leisure time, safer and more meaningful work, and

thinks everything ought to be free. (Wait ‘til they hear how the IWW intends to get it!) When the grocery bosses ask me to help save on “labor,” it is code for cutting back my hours so I can barely pay the rent. When the widget boss goes on an impromptu rant about how “the unions” screwed up the country, he’s scolding the people who comprise his “labor,” entreating us to expect a grim future for our children.

Every night before bed, the capitalists pray that we continue to identify with the rich instead of uniting with our fellow workers. They want us to continue on the path of racial segregation, exclusion (ostensibly) based on “citizenship” status, and delusions of joining the upper crust. But despite the bosses’ best efforts, IWW members in half a dozen countries insist on identifying with the oppressed ranks of labor. We insist on building links across color lines as we fight to bring the new society into existence. But that’s just what friends do.

The Defiant Spirit: News from your General Defense Committee

By x361737

The GDC has temporarily suspended regular publication of the *Defiant Spirit*. We are so pleased that the editor of the *Industrial Worker* has agreed to work with us on a “Defiant Spirit” column. Please send your Defense news to nosweatshopsbucco@yahoo.com or put “Defiant Spirit” in the subject line of your submission to the *IW*.

Pittsburgh Man Beaten By Police, IWW Shows Solidarity

Pittsburgh Police Officers Richard Ewing, Michael Saldutte and David Sisak may very well go to jail for beating the pulp out of Jordan Miles on Jan. 11. Police claim that they stopped Miles and beat him because they thought he was carrying a gun. Then they claimed that they mistook a bottle of Mountain Dew for a gun. Now it is clear that there was no gun or Mountain Dew. The police accused Miles of resisting arrest. Then on March 4, the charges against Miles were dismissed. It is clear and not surprising



Photo: trueslant.com
Jordan Miles before and after the police beating.

row. This year workers advertised for the summit in a workplace where we have an organizing drive, and we signed up new IWW members at the gathering. Fellow Workers Kenneth Miller and Jim Maskew worked with Krystal Mitchell of the United States Student Association and Richard from the Intern Cultural House to conduct a “Support Jordan Miles Strategy Session.” This session contributed to 50 of Miles’ classmates showing up at Pittsburgh City Council two days later!

Ottawa Panhandler Hammered by Police Harassment, then Slammed with Legal Fees

Faced with a possible constitutional challenge to the city’s removal of homeless shelter in one of Canada’s coldest cities, prosecutors from the City of Ottawa dropped the charges against Fellow

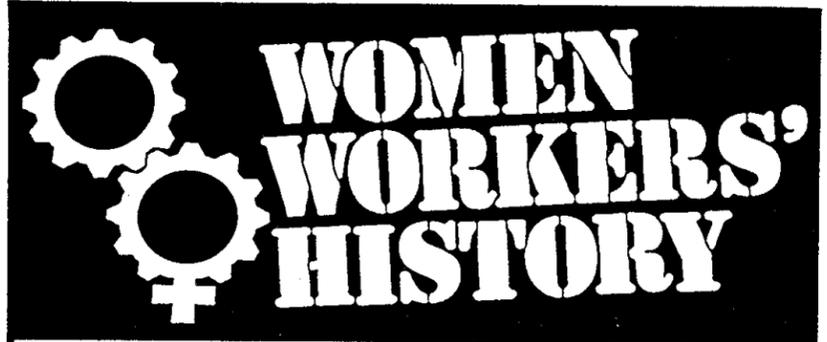


Photo: gatheringforjustice.ning.com
the panhandler.

Worker Andrew Nellis recently. FW Nellis had tried to cut a padlocked gate on a fence that was put up to prevent the homeless from sleeping

under a downtown underpass.

To date, GDC Local 6 has raised one-fifth of the funds needed to pay FW Nellis’ legal bills, but we still need to raise another \$1,200 (CAD). FW Nellis cannot work and is fighting the city for



Chapter 32 Ladies Federal Labor Union

Four years after the founding of the American Federation of Labor, in 1890, a federation convention had its first woman delegate: Mary Burke, a charter member and first vice president of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association. She introduced a successful motion calling on the AFL to appoint women organizers. It wasn’t implemented for several years.

But women workers weren’t prepared to wait – at least not in Chicago, where organized women of various occupations were collectively given a charter as “Ladies Federal Labor Union Number 2703.” (If an AFL craft union’s jurisdiction did not cover a job category held by women, the AFL could charter a “federal local” directly affiliated to the federation.)



Ladies Federal Labor Union No. 2703 was chartered in 1888. Four years later it had brought to life 23 separate unions of women workers in Chicago, including unions of shirtmakers, shoeworkers, watchmakers and bookbinders. A key organizer in this impressive union effort was the local union’s secretary, English-born Elizabeth Morgan.

She once wrote to AFL Pres. Samuel Gompers: “My education is but poor, but I will do the best I can as I like many other children had to work when but 11 years old. I went to work in a Mill and worked from 10 to 16 hours a day.” Despite her lack of education, the former mill girl was a brilliant and hardworking organizer. She gained national attention for her fight against sweatshop conditions in Illinois (see the next chapter!).

Graphic: Mike Konopaeki

access to disability funding, so he cannot pay these bills on his own. This is where our funding appeal comes in—to support his outstanding organizing work and to settle accounts with the lawyer so that he, too, can engage in future defense work.

GDC Local 6 has raised a significant amount of money to help this Fellow Worker. The GDC Steering Committee recently allocated an additional \$50 from our Central Fund. You can send additional support to FW Nellis through the GDC at the following address: General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World

C/O GST Tom Kappas
P.O. Box 317741
Cincinnati, OH 45231

2010 Steering Committee Members:

- Ant Ince, billybo-bince@hotmail.com
- Marie Mason, Marie Mason #04672-061, FCI WASECA, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 1731, Waseca, MN 56093
- Kenneth Miller, nosweatshopsbucco@yahoo.com, 412-867-9213



Ending Wage Theft in Florida

By **Interfaith Worker Justice**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. — On Feb. 19, the first county-wide ordinance in the country to combat wage theft was passed, making it easier for workers to bring legal action against employers who fail to pay, or underpay, them.

“This is momentous,” said Jeanette Smith, Executive Director of South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice (SFIWJ). “The passing of this legislation will make a difference for every worker in Miami-Dade County and, hopefully, will encourage groups all over the country to establish similar mechanisms for workers in their communities.”

The vote was the culmination of over a year of work by SFIWJ and the South Florida Wage Theft Task Force. Similar initiatives are being considered by states and cities across the country, including Los Angeles and New Orleans.

“This victory is a spark that will help ignite a wave across the country,” said Ted Smukler, Public Policy Director of Interfaith Worker Justice. “It is a shining example of many initiatives underway at the state and local levels

to combat this crime, and demonstrates that there’s widespread political will when people are made aware of the extent of the crisis.”

“Recovering back wages owed workers will put more money in the local economy, send a message to crooked employers and create a more level playing field for honest employers,” read a *Miami Herald* editorial endorsing the ordinance, which the newspaper argued would “fill a vacuum” and “be a future deterrent.”

“When raising the minimum wage was blocked at the federal level for 12 years,” said IWJ’s Smukler, “people took action at the state level and were successful in winning state campaigns that raised the minimum wage above the federal level in a majority of states in the country, creating the momentum that eventually led to raising the national minimum wage in 2007. We believe that victories like this can similarly inspire a wave of policy changes and legislation at the local, state, and ultimately federal levels, with the goal of ending wage theft in America.”

MUNI Workers And Riders United

By **Bill Hackwell**

Hundreds of San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) workers from the Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 250-A, riders and community organizations rallied and marched in downtown San Francisco on March 1 to oppose the Municipal Transportation Agency’s (MTA) proposed budget cuts and threatened layoffs. The march began at Powell and Market Streets, and went down Market to rally in front of the MTA offices. Instead of cutting funding from workers, protesters called for cuts in the salaries of overpaid, Mayor Gavin Newsom-appointed executive managers. The march then went to City Hall for a spirited spontaneous forum led by TWU cable car driver and union organizer Eric Williams, who explained what the workers are forced to put up with and called for unity between MUNI workers and riders. The overwhelming sentiment of the protest was in solidarity with the TWU workers.

The MUNI is a vital service to the people of San Francisco, serving over 700,000 riders a day. In the current



MUNI operator protests. Photo: Bill Hackwell economic climate, which is affecting public services across the country, workers and the poor are being forced to bear the brunt of the crisis. While banks are bailed out, essential services are cut. The San Francisco MTA has waged a vicious campaign against the TWU in attempt to weaken the union and to cover their own mismanagement in creating MUNI’s financial mess. They have called for cuts in service, hikes in fares and the firing of 176 TWU operators. At the rally in front of the MTA offices the union was asking for independent accountability of the money. The MTA has a budget of \$783 million, of which only \$200 million is spent on operational costs.

UE Workers Reach Settlement

By **UE Local 1174**

MOLINE, Ill.—A settlement has been reached between former workers of Quad City Die Casting and the Assignee in charge of the company’s assets that will ensure workers receive the pay and benefits they have earned. United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) members will be paid for vacation that they were due in 2009 and enough funds to settle the outstanding medical bills employees incurred when the company retroactively cancelled their insurance.

“We’re glad to get paid our vacation and medical bills. We stuck together and didn’t give up and in the end we won! We would have been paid sooner if Wells Fargo had not been so greedy!” said Deb Johann, Secretary of UE Local 1174.

Quad City Die Casting announced they would be closing in May 2009 because Wells Fargo would not provide the credit necessary to keep the business open. Workers and their allies pressured the bank to save approximately 100 jobs and fought to make sure workers would be paid what they had earned.

High demand for the product and a dedicated, skilled workforce kept the plant open throughout the summer, earning Wells Fargo, the company’s primary creditor, an extra million dollars. Despite this unexpected windfall, Wells Fargo refused to pay the workers’ vacation pay and health insurance bills. Bravely, the workers and their union, UE, didn’t give up, and instead picketed Wells Fargo and filed several legal charges to win what they were due. This settlement resolves the legal charges.

“The Wobblies Show” Debuts

By **Jim Del Duca**

BILLINGS, Mont.—“The Wobblies Show: Exploring Economic and Social Justice Issues” debuted on the city’s community access cable channel. It was produced by local members with the assistance of the Two Rivers IWW of Missoula. The show will potentially reach over 30,000 households in the metro area. The show’s producers hope to present the show to an even wider audience through rebroadcast on other area community access channels across the state.

The show was a result of the desire to reach more workers with the IWW revolutionary message. The usual method of flyers, posters, and coffee shop meeting simply wasn’t working effectively to grab the attention of workers. Initially the Billings group considered

an FM radio show, but got only the cold shoulder from the local National Public Radio station. However, the community access cable channel was immediately encouraging, with the result being a show to air on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Community access cable is funded through the franchise agreement between the city and the cable network. The station operates for the education and service of the citizenry. This meshes perfectly with the One Big Union policy of “Educate, Organize, and Emancipate.” A new full-power public access radio station is also under development, and they have been notified that when they are up and running, we want a show there too!

Other Wobblies who are interested in using cable TV outreach are encouraged to contact Delegate Jim Del Duca at delducja@gmail.com, or 406-860-0331.

Obituary

A Personal Reflection On Howard Zinn

By **Paul Buhle**

Whoever wants to know more about Howard Zinn’s life and accomplishments can find the details easily on the Web. I only want to add my own little bit: how I misunderstood and underestimated his popular histories for years, how I grew to admire him as I came to understand their importance, and how I was lucky enough to work with him on the comic art version of his book “A People’s History of American Empire.”

Howard was always a bit larger than life, and perhaps for that reason a bit distant to the New Left historians coming of age in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He had a legendary life, from the Depression to the Second World War to the civil rights movement to the antiwar movement. In Boston especially, but far beyond, he was a speaker everyone wanted to hear in an era when appealing white radical speakers were not all that numerous.

There was always something about Howard. If a speaker like Noam Chomsky was best at Q&A’s, answering point-for-point and elaborating, Howard had such an aura about him that the proverbial pin could drop as audiences small or large listened for his words. Sometimes, like my political mentor, C.L.R. James, he would start a little quiet as he built up his physi-

cal delivery. Then, look out: he overwhelmed with eloquence. It was easy to get a catch in the throat while listening to him.

Howard once told me that he was surprised his “People’s History” was so popular. It might not even have been his best book. But it went to the heart of the issues of U.S. history and proved to be exactly what young people (and many not-so-young) needed to understand. My generation was great at discovering and elaborating details. Howard was better at explaining them. Incredibly better.

So it was my not-so-brilliant idea, after the creation of “Wobblies: A Graphic History of the IWW,” to create a book that encompassed the ideas in Howard’s classic book and, in a sense or two, went

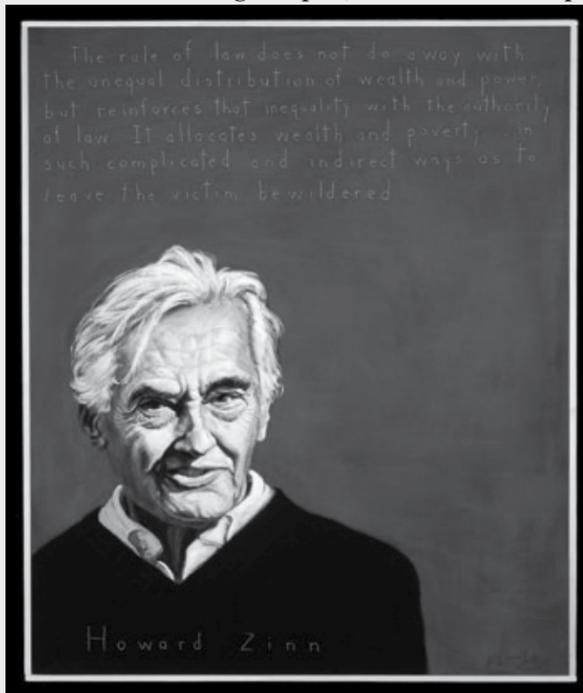
a bit beyond it. Why beyond? Because when it comes to the concept of “Empire,” the “American Empire.” William

Appleman Williams, who was the master radical historian of the 1950s/60s, didn’t grasp race and hardly grasped class, but he had “Empire” down cold. So his work became a supplement of sorts—an amendment—to the guiding ideas in Zinn’s work.

I did one more thing that was useful: insisting that Zinn’s own life be part of the graphic narrative. The child of impoverished immigrants with a brother dead from an ailment that middle class families might have had healed, the working-class teenager who took part in 1930s radical dem-

onstrations, the man who worked at a defense plant, went into the war, and got the upward mobility of the G.I. Bill. He had been through it all by the time he went south as a teacher in the 1950s. His life experiences were embedded in everything he did. Being able to see it all on paper in the form of comic art—thanks to scriptwriter Dave Wagner and artist Mike Konopacki—was one of the great pleasures of my intellectual life. I knew that we had created something that would find an audience and set an example for what comic art can do to offer simple but necessary truths.

That was my “Zinn Moment.” Since then, my collaborators and I have pondered how to understand and explain the concept of “Empire” as a bipartisan, ongoing operation at the very center of American political life. We know that Howard, to the very end, was delivering the essential message. We will be hearing him, in one form or another, so long as the quest for imperial power—that is, imperial dominance of the planet—is the prevailing logic of our rulers. It is not a message about “Evil Americans,” but about those who assumed too much about their own mostly good fortune and those in power, who now must come to understand the dilemma that we all face together as humans: the survival of the empire versus our own survival.



Graphic: themormonworker.files.wordpress.com

South Asian Garment Sweatshop Workers Speak Out

By Jonathan Christiansen and Erik Davis

The last time a large number of people lost their lives all at once in New York prior to Sept. 11, 2001, was on March 25, 1911, when 146 garment factory workers, almost all female, died in a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. The workers weren't able to escape the building because managers habitually locked them in to prevent them from "wasting time" with cigarette breaks or fresh air. Those who didn't die from smoke inhalation died from their attempts to jump to safety.

The tragedy of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, and its clear origins in the dangerous practices of management, led to an outcry over factory conditions in the United States. Today, sweatshops are not permitted in the United States (although there are plenty nonetheless), and few of the clothes American workers wear today are made in the America. They are made in places like China, Pakistan, Cambodia, Honduras, and Bangladesh, places where similar factory tragedies, caused by the same predatory managerial practices, continue

to murder workers.

In Bangladesh, 99 years after the Triangle Shirtwaist tragedy, 21 workers died in a factory fire on Feb. 25, 2010. Thirteen of the dead were women. Fifty more were rushed to the hospital with serious injuries. Globally, in spite of the so-called "advances" of today's institutionalized wage slavery system, industrial "accidents" are increasingly acceptable to the global elite; one newspaper account remarked that "Clothing factories in Bangladesh are prone to fires as a result of poor safety standards." What it didn't mention was that these "poor safety standards" include locking workers inside sweatshops.

International Solidarity Means Real Relationships

The IWW has worked for several years to strengthen our relationship with garment workers in Bangladesh. The organization we have the strongest ties with in Bangladesh is the National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF). NGWF is one of the largest garment worker unions in Bangladesh, and one of the few that are not tied to a political

party. Like the IWW, they take pride in their independence.

In 2007, IWW member Jason Fults visited Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, to meet with the secretary of the NGWF, Amirul Amin. They discussed a variety of concrete means by which the two unions could forge a stronger relationship, such as having NGWF members submit articles to the *Industrial Worker* and sending bundles of *IW* issues to Bangladesh. These discussions helped strengthen our relationship and led to specific plans for continued communication, but there was not much follow-up until FW Jonathan Christiansen's move to Bangladesh last year.

FW Christiansen moved with his family to Dhaka last summer and will stay until July 2010. From Dhaka, he contacted FW Fults and Amirul Amin with the aim of building upon what had been accomplished previously. These efforts were further empowered by the involvement of FW Kenneth Miller from Pittsburgh, a member of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance (PASCA) who has worked on sweatshop issues for many years. Kenneth quickly formed a working group and scheduled conference calls for this purpose.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day In Dhaka

The working group decided that a good first step was to build increased cultural understanding between workers in the United States and workers in Bangladesh. With the plan of appropriating what we do in the United States on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Bangladesh, FW Christiansen went to all U.S. embassy-sponsored MLK Day celebrations with as many Bangladeshi garment workers as possible to confront the U.S. mission in Dhaka with the fact that millions of workers in Bangladesh are being denied their civil and human rights.

The working group felt that any discussion of Dr. King's legacy in Bangladesh must include people who are currently fighting against the evils about which he spoke. Thanks to the efforts of the Fellow Workers in the United States, who pressured senators to contact the embassy in Bangladesh about the conditions of garment workers in Dhaka, the Political Affairs Officer of the U.S. mission met with a sizable group of Bangladeshi workers on MLK Day. As there was no formal embassy event scheduled, they organized their own. Representatives from the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS), a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that provides support for garment workers, was also invited.

The MLK Day event was a great success. FW Christiansen spoke about who Dr. King was and led a discussion about the history of U.S. civil rights struggles, drawing many parallels to the current situation in Bangladesh, including the fact that Rosa Parks was a seamstress. He also discussed what King's legacy meant and why it could be important to workers in Bangladesh. Famous IWW slogans such as "Solidarity Forever" and "An Injury to One is An Injury to All," as well as several Martin Luther King quotes, were translated into Bangla. As Dr. King himself said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny... Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Participants expressed how this



Graphic: Tom Keough

universal connection related to their struggle and demonstrated their own leadership—as collective members of the IWW, NGWF, BCWS, and as members of the international working class—by demanding change.

In closing the program, FW Christiansen reminded folks that Dr. King had a dream and encouraged people to share their own dreams by writing them on a poster board that said, in both English and Bangla, "I have a dream." One NGWF organizer excitedly grabbed the pen and asked people to share their dreams as she wrote them down. It was an inspiring scene, with people shouting out their dreams for her to write. The dreams of the workers ran the gamut, and were incredibly moving in both their honesty and aspirations. Some of the dreams that were recorded include: "I want to make my future life better," "I want to see that there is no discrimination between rich and poor," "I want to get my monthly salary on the first day of the following month," and "My dream is a safe working place and a safe life in society."

The dreams of the garment workers in Bangladesh expressed what are dealing with, often times basic issues like getting their salary on time. But they are also battling severe discrimination and, because of the combination of their class and sex—the vast majority of garment workers are women—they are rarely safe from assault, both at work or in society in general.

The jointly-organized, well-attended event did much to build a stronger relationship between the working women and men within our two unions, but much more work is needed. We need to assess ways in which our unions and other organizations can work together to build stronger international labor solidarity. The working group has several plans in place, but we need the help of all our Fellow Workers to make these efforts more meaningful and lasting. We are planning a May Day exchange between groups in Bangladesh and the United States and need more FWs to help us make this exchange meaningful. FW Christiansen plans on working with the NGWF as well as the BCWS as much as possible while in Dhaka. His goal is to have a strong and sustainable relationship built with these organizations before he leaves in July. Discussions are ongoing regarding ways to better connect consumers with worker struggles, as well as connecting Bangladeshi workers with other workers in the Global South.

A great opportunity for the IWW to connect with workers from Bangladesh and Pakistan will present itself this April, when workers from those countries will begin touring the United States (see left sidebar for tour dates).

Bangladesh And Pakistan Garment Workers Tour The U.S.

In mid-April, workers from factories in Bangladesh and Pakistan will launch a U.S. speaking tour in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. The focus of the national tour, organized by the International Labor Rights Forum and Sweat Free Communities, is municipal procurement. The Twin Cities IWW will organize an event to reach out to other community groups who support workers' struggles around the globe, including union locals, academic departments, and student groups.

IWW members plan to raise about \$2,000 to defray the cost of the tour, which averages roughly \$1,000 a day. Fellow Workers in the Twin Cities have already made great progress on fundraising efforts, and hope to raise even more funds. We will also be making a red-and-black IWW flag for the visiting workers and encourage each hosting IWW branch to make a branch patch they can sew onto the flag when it arrives in their town; the visiting workers can then carry our banner in their own May Day marches, and demonstrate with the solidarity of the IWW workers in their home countries.

Groups in the Twin Cities and other locations are banding together for these events, not merely to learn about the lives and conditions of workers abroad, but to express real, concrete solidarity with their struggles. There are actions we can take in the United States to help our brothers and sisters in other countries, and these will be fully discussed at the events.

Across the nation, local and federal governments order massive numbers of garments and other products from Asian factories. In the case of Bangladesh, these are mostly uniforms: prisoner underwear and jumpsuits, police uniforms, custodial uniforms, etc. In the factory of the Pakistani workers, they primarily sew soccer balls purchased by U.S. municipalities for schools and community groups.

Opposed to, and independent from, the politicians who present themselves as the arbiters of morality and justice in a world run by capitalists and thugs, radical unions must still address the power of states acting as private-market consumers. Our principled stand against the power of the state and capital does not logically require us to pretend that the state has no current power in relationship to capital, nor prevent us from taking advantage of their hypocrisy to make things better for our comrades. Neoliberal regimes like the U.S. state live in a contradiction: they are consumers of products, and therefore want the lowest price, but, as wage workers know very well, lower prices are usually the product of low wages. On the other hand, the governments also portray themselves as promoters of workers' and general human rights around the globe.

During this tour, participants will encourage local activists, unionists, and citizens to pressure municipalities and educational institutions that have not yet signed on to sweat-free procurement policies. These policies require that all purchased goods be sourced only from factories in Bangladesh that meet—and will commit to continuing to meet—high labor standards.

These events are intended to invigorate local unionists, activists, and citizens to hold their governments responsible for their rhetoric instead of focusing solely on protecting their own bottom lines. We don't want uniforms made by young girls locked in sweatshops; we want a world in which all workers have rights. We can help build the necessary international solidarity to make this vision a reality by working together to reveal and improve the real economics and the real conditions of sweatshop workers. We know that we will always need the solidarity of workers from outside our own country. Let's build that reality today.

Jonathan Christiansen can be reached at christiansen.jonathan@gmail.com; Kenneth Miller at nosweatshopsbucco@yahoo.com; and Erik Davis at erik@riseup.net.

*April 15: Twin Cities, MN

- Lunch and Discussion with Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Students at Macalester College

*April 16: Twin Cities, MN

- Presentation at Macalester College's Weyerhauser Chapel, 4:30 p.m.
- Presentation and benefit party at IWW Office Space, 8:30 p.m. -12 Midnight.

April 17: Eau Claire, WI

April 19: Milwaukee, WI

April 24: Detroit, MI

*April 24: Lafayette, IN

- Tom Lewandowski of the Ft. Wayne Workers Project will represent the Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Community Alliance at this event.

April 25: Delaware, OH

April 26: Columbus, OH

*April 27: Pittsburgh, PA

- 2:00 p.m. Western PA anti sweatshop policy meeting at the City/County Building
- 7:00 p.m. Rally in support of union organizing in the global apparel industry at the August Wilson Center

*April 28, Philadelphia, PA

*April 29: Baltimore, MD

- At Red Emma's with special participation by the United Workers Association

April 30: Washington, D.C.

The International Workers Holiday, May Day, comes on a Saturday this year.

Check <http://www.iww.org> for changes and tour updates. Call Erik in the Twin Cities at 1-612-508-4246 for resources and support.

* indicates Wobbly are on board and central to the tour activities in these locations at the time of the April *IW* publication.

Towards Class Struggle Feminism

By the ZSP

Members of the Związek Syndykalistów Polski (ZSP)—or Union of Syndicalists—from Warsaw, Olsztyn and Wrocław took part in International Women's Day marches on March 7. Members organized radical blocks in Wrocław and Warsaw.

In Wrocław, people had a banner with a scale that said "women's work does not pay," in reference to both wage differences between men and women and the fact that in many low-paid service sectors and "feminized" professions, women are stuck doing hard jobs for little money. Many of the slogans were chanted in response to the liberal feminists in the march who want a certain liberal feminist leader to become president. They chanted "No patriarchy, no capitalism" and "We don't want parity, we want revolution," among other things.

In Warsaw, ZSP marched for the third year in a row with WRS (Freedom, Equality and Solidarity), this year calling itself "the revolutionary block." The Warsaw demonstration, unlike the Wrocław one, had some union delegations and the revolutionary block was joined part of the way by the teachers' union Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego (ZNP). The attempt to make a more pro-social demonstration, however, seems to have alienated many marchers; the demonstration was less than half the size it was last year.

The march in Warsaw was also met by fascists of different sorts, notably the Falanga and all-Polish youth.

The following is part of the text of a critical leaflet handed out in Warsaw:

Solidarity in Struggle? But for what and against what?

The slogan of this year's Manifa (International Women's Day), "In Solidarity in the Crisis, In Solidarity in the Struggle," is meant to be a clear reference to the labor struggle and an allusion to the history of the Women's Day march. As participants of this march who have each year come to the demonstration calling for women's greater participation in workplace organizing and anti-capitalist social movements, it would seem we should be delighted that such a slogan would appear this year.

Unfortunately we are faced with a different reality when coming to the Manifa: large parts of the dominant figures in the feminist movement are in solidarity with the neoliberal project or reformist social democracy. This is just a dangerous distraction from the real struggle: the struggle of building a grassroots social and labor movement, independent of the bosses and politicians. Only such a movement can break free from their agenda and threaten to topple their power.

Besides holding the occasional one-off lecture at some university on "women's role in labor," we wonder what the mainstream of the women's movement has been doing to show working class women that they are in solidarity with them. Surely they cannot show solidarity by continuing to insist that neoliberal women like Henryka Bochniarz, head of a powerful business lobby and CEO of Boeing in Poland which sold F-16s to the government, are somehow in the same struggle as "women in general." The voices of feminists who claim no sup-

port for the neoliberal agenda are drowned by the chorus of moderate conformists who insist that women don't push such "divisive" issues as the class struggle.

Another project which has become one of the feminist movement's main activities, but is surely a diversion, is the call to introduce parity on electoral lists. At a time when working women are facing increasing hardship and need to organize effective, fighting social movements, the project of political parity is an astounding waste of resources and activist's time. We do not believe that gender determines the political line of women and the existence of powerful women in government or political life is no consolation to us. The fate of the Thatchers, Albrights and Rices of the world should be the same as the Berlusconi, Sarkozyes and Obamas.

There is no getting around it: women are part of the oppressive system, even if to a lesser degree than men. If one recognizes the postulates of capitalism to be the main factor in the dire situation of working women, then changing over from capitalist bastards to capitalist bitches is no progress. Selling it as "progress" is just another liberal diversion to keep people from getting to the root of the problems or waging any struggle which may threaten what the system really must maintain: not the patriarchy, but capitalism and political power over the people.



Photo: zsp-iwa.blogspot.com

ZSP march on International Women's Day in Warsaw.

Much as we are opposed to sexism in all its aspects, the patriarchy can be significantly toppled and still leave the system of exploitation and slavery intact. Fighting the patriarchy is simply not enough.

Although we can support goals to change the politics of single issues (for example, eliminating laws that interfere with women's reproductive choices), we are not excited by a women's movement which stops at any issue that may not be to the liking of the bourgeois, statist or neoliberal feminists. For this reason, we do not go to your "breakthrough congresses" dominated by elites, or vote for the "Women's Party," or stand on corners collecting signatures for parity. Instead, we call for women to be more active in the grassroots social revolutionary struggle. For a world without bosses or masters, bureaucrats or patriarchs.

International Women's Day, 2009 To 2010

By Katherine McFatridge

We here at the Edmonton GMB Women's Committee felt like it was time to take stock of the past year. The world is a big, wild, wondrous place full of so many events that it can make a person's head spin. While taking this into consideration we figured we should do a run-down of some major world events that pertained specifically to women and women's rights in a more global theater. Some of these are going to be news items that make you smile. Some really give you hope that the world is moving in the direction of equality among the genders. Others are going to make you shake your head. Some might even make you tear up a little tiny bit. Never claim that I promised you a "feel good" article.

Labor

Starting out on a low note, Crystal Lee Sutton passed away on Sept. 11, 2009, from meningioma. She had been involved in an ongoing struggle with her insurance providers to cover her treatment. Sutton was the inspiration for the 1979 movie "Norma Rae." If you've never had the chance to watch this movie, or read the book "Crystal Lee, a Woman of

Inheritance," I suggest you do so sooner rather than later.

In brighter news, unions are good for women? Who knew? April 28, 2009 was Fair Pay Day in the United States and with that in mind here are some amazing facts from the Center for Economic and Policy Research!

- On average, unionization raised women's wages by 11.2 percent—about \$2.00 per hour—compared to non-union women with similar characteristics.

- Among women workers, those in unions were about 19 percent more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and about 25 percent more likely to have an employer-provided pension.

- For the average woman, joining a union has a much larger effect on her probability of having health insurance (an 18.8 percent increase) than finishing a four-year college degree would (an 8.4 percent increase, compared to a woman with similar characteristics who has only a high school diploma).



Graphic: Diane Krauthamer

International Good News

In April 2009, the president of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (The first black woman elected to run any country) came out with her autobiography "This Child Will Be Great."

In July, the Indian Supreme Court struck down a colonial-era law criminalizing intercourse between people of the same sex.

Dec. 17, 2009 was the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. Sex workers are still workers, a fact some people would do well to remember.

Take Back the Night (March 27, 2009) and the Stolen Sisters Awareness March (June 18, 2009) were both attended by members of the Edmonton IWW.

International Not-So-Good News

Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, signed a law in early March 2009 that is believed to contain articles which state women cannot leave the house without their husbands' permission, that they can only seek work, education or visit

the doctor with their husbands' permission, that they cannot refuse their husband sex, and grants custody of children to fathers and grandfathers only. The last time I checked, this law had still not been formally published due to technical problems.

Reproductive Rights

Shall we start this on a low note? Yes, why not. In mid-September, the Dominican Republic passed a constitutional change completely outlawing abortion.

Closer to home, Dr. George Tiller, one of only three doctors offering late term abortions in the United States, was murdered on May 31, 2009. The one positive aspect (if you can see anything positive in this story) was that Scott Roder, the anti-abortion activist responsible, was found guilty of first-degree murder and two counts of aggravated assault on Jan. 29, 2010.

While there were obviously some wonderful events over the course of the past year, I think that one thing we can all take away from this is that there is still work to be done if we want to achieve equality between the sexes. Here is hoping for a great year to come.

German IWW Campaigns Against Ford Motor Company

Continued from 1

The IWW has an Industrial Union (I.U.) 460 shop group at a Eurest-run Commerzbank canteen in Frankfurt.

The Cologne Wobblies have twice before addressed Ford workers with leaflets explaining the severe problems at the canteens. Although the situation was not resolved satisfactorily, Eurest at least moved the abusive kitchen executive Hans-Werner Steinbach to the neighbouring canteen at the Ford replacement-part store, where he continues to abuse workers. And now Eurest is pushing for the nomination of the universally loathed "Kitchen General," Steinbach, as candidate in the coming election of shop stewards this April!

The Cologne IWW wants to push

the conflict to a higher level in 2010. For that purpose they invited other local groups and individuals to create the "Kitchen Committee Cologne" to put pressure on Ford. The committee asked groups and branches in other cities to join in the first Eurest-Ford Day of Action on Feb. 8.

The result was protests against Eurest in front of the Ford Saarlouis Plant and at several bank canteens in downtown Frankfurt. In addition, London Wobblies talked to Eurest canteen workers at the University College Hospital, and fellow workers in New York City delivered a letter of protest to a Ford Motor company dealer in Manhattan.

The Kitchen Committee is now pre-

paring further action until Ford resolves all contracts with Eurest and the Compass Group.

Ford has to finally realize that their brand image can be seriously damaged by allowing their subcontractors to abuse their workers. Our Day of Action against Eurest was prepared on the quiet, but next time we will promote it worldwide so that every Ford car dealer will be a potential target of protests.

The Wobblies are calling for an international email-protest campaign to the following addresses: hplankem@ford.com, dthinkelm@ford.com, media@ford.com, iwwcologne@yahoo.de.

You can use the form letter at <http://www.wobblies.de/?p=481>

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Reviews

One More Ride: Folk Musicians Pay Tribute to Utah Phillips

Various musicians. "Singing Through the Hard Times: A Tribute to Utah Phillips." *Righteous Babe, 2009. \$16.99*

By **Nathan Moore**

"There's no such thing as a career move in folk music"—Utah Phillips

Bruce Duncan Phillips, known to generations of fans as Utah Phillips, was one of folk music's legendary characters. A storyteller, songwriter, anarchist, humorist, labor organizer, and pacifist, he was also known for his fiery and pun-laden stage presence and for his life-long commitment to social justice. On May 23, 2008, Utah Phillips passed away at the age of 73, but his poignant songs will continue to be sung by future generations of folksingers and fans alike. Recently, Righteous Babe Records released a double album entitled "Singing Through the Hard Times: A Tribute to Utah Phillips." It includes versions of Utah's classic songs performed by friends, family members, and fellow musicians, and it has since earned a Grammy-nomination for Best Traditional Folk Album and received widespread critical acclaim.

It was in Dan Schatz's living room that "Singing Through the Hard Times" began its long journey from a humble idea among friends to a 39-song tribute to Phillips' life and legacy. Along with Phillips' long-time musical compan-

ions Kendall and Jacqui Morse, Schatz, a Unitarian minister and musician, decided to put together a benefit CD to help an ailing Utah Phillips pay for his mounting medical expenses. They enlisted the help of noted singer Gordon Bok, came up with some initial tracks, and the project began to grow as Ani DiFranco lent the resources of her label Righteous Babe Records.

The album features a wide variety of artists who were directly or indirectly influenced by Utah Phillips. Some like Emmylou Harris, Pete Seeger, and Tom Paxton are famous folksingers, but many of the artists are not as well known. Tracks by Will Brown, Mark Ross, Elizabeth Laprelle and others create a real grassroots feel to this album and emphasize Phillips' dedication to what Dan Schatz refers to as "homegrown music played by homegrown musicians."

"Utah cared about finding the people in society who had been dispossessed and telling their stories and giving them their humanity back," says Schatz. There's plenty of those "people's songs" on "Singing Through the Hard Times"—songs about hobos, workers, immigrants, and brown-shoed soldiers. Schatz hopes that these recordings will prompt new listeners to seek out Utah's own albums and to learn about the social justice movements that were so profoundly influential on Phillips' work.

Banjo player and singer Rik Palieri is one of the musicians featured on this album and he believes that the album is a testament to the many ways in which Utah Phillips acted as a mentor to younger musicians. Palieri remembers fondly how Phillips took him under his wing, helped him navigate the world of folk performance and festivals, and introduced him to other musicians and new audiences.

"He was such a generous man," Palieri says, "and the coolest thing is the idea that the album can give a helping hand to all of Utah's friends. It's like he's reaching out from the unknown and providing the experience."

Eugene, Oregon's own Mark Ross spent years playing and singing with Utah Phillips, and his recording of "Look for Me in Butte" is included on the album. "It's an honor to be in such distinguished company," Ross says. "My only regret is that it didn't come out in time for Bruce to hear it." He also notes that Utah's greatest hope was that his songs would enter the folk music tradition. He believes that this is happening both in the creation of projects like "Singing through the Hard Times" and in the fact that Phillips' songs are sung at festivals, workshops, and on picket lines by people who have never heard of the artist himself.

The irony of "Singing Through the

Hard Times" is that Utah Phillips was unconcerned with celebrity and awards, and he would most certainly have avoided the commercial pomp and ceremony of the Grammy Awards. According to his son Brendan Phillips (featured on the album with his band Fast Rattler), "My dad wasn't a fan of the award industry...but he would have loved the idea of people coming together to make a record and pay tribute to the music." Brendan Phillips also stresses that the lasting importance of his father's music is not in the awards that it wins, but in the homage that it pays to "working folks—the folks who brought us the eight hour day."

While "Singing through the Hard Times" did not win a Grammy at the 2010 awards ceremony, the songs of Utah Phillips will continue to be cherished and sung long after the pop-music industry has crumbled to dust. The album, with its wide variety of tracks from a host of musicians young and old, testifies to this fact. For those of us in the labor and folk movements, the life of Utah Phillips is honored every time we raise our voices together in song and protest for fair wages, better working conditions, and a decent and peaceful society.

Nathan Moore is a freelance writer and a member of the Low Tide Drifters, a folk band from Eugene, Oregon

"False Profits" Explores The Current Economic Crisis

Baker, Dean. "False Profits: Recovering from the Bubble Economy." *Polipoint Press, 2010. 174 pages, paperback, \$15.95*

By **John Maclean**

Dean Baker says, in "False Profits: Recovering from the Bubble Economy," that the people who wrecked the economy, over a trillion dollars in annual demand, "are desperately working to re-write history." Elites do not want their corruption and incompetence to be known, and are trying to "confuse" people concerning the complexity of these matters. Real policy solutions, needed deficits and a devalued dollar, are not up for discussion, because they go "directly against [elite] financial interests and indict the policy agenda they have promoted for more than a decade." It is simply a "falsehood" that political and financial elites are not to blame for the current situation, and the Fed needs to be democratized so as to end its domination by private banks. The frame here should be that conservatives, of both parties, are not interested in less government, but in using it to harm the many.

People in high places, and positions to inform, "ignored" an \$8 trillion housing bubble, and the financial industry amassed great fortunes. These same failures are charged with making things right, and Baker says, "instead if inquests and exposes we get cover-ups." From the 1800s to the 1900s home prices nationwide "tracked the overall rate of inflation" and major trends like this "should be taken seriously." In 1995, when these prices broke with inflation, nothing in supply or demand, the fundamentals, could explain it. Home prices rose, sales spiked, and "lending standards" collapsed. This activity was being sold in "secondary markets" and Wall Street pushed Freddie and Fannie Mac out of the way. After losing much of its market share these government-supported entities got involved, and this had nothing to do with political demands on their having to serve minority communities. Baker calls this a "myth" along with commentary on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The "CRA had almost nothing to do with" the explosion of bad loans, says Baker. Policymakers

should have seen the loss of demand coming; the total hit is "between \$1,030 billion, and \$1,430 billion annually, and amounts to almost 10 percent of GDP." The Fed similarly failed monetarily.

By July 2009 more than 15 percent of the workforce was without a wage, or underemployed, and more seem poised to join them. In times like these "those who are most disadvantaged get hit the hardest." As a rule, Baker says, for unemployment to fall one percent, GDP must rise at least two percentage points, and currently the economy is operating well below capacity. Some thinkers see the "pain" of all this as a "virtue" and they warn against efforts to lift the economy, or help. This "pain causes no gain" and government is irresponsible if not acting. The housing bubble created \$8 trillion in "illusory" wealth, and during the second half of 2009 foreclosures were at two million a year. The current recession is a "humanitarian disaster" and without doubt competent "economic policy could easily have prevented it."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke Paulson, and media "cheerleaders" sought to scare the Congress and the public into support for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP); the difficulties coming out of the mistrust between banks, and in commercial paper markets, connected to payrolls, could have easily been dealt with by the Federal Reserve Board. Dean Baker says that members of Congress "were responding to political pressure" and "not making reasoned judgments about the state of the economy." The two main arguments in favor of the TARP were lies. Free marketeers were in Washington, D.C. with their hands out, and Congressional leadership made sure that their members only heard from TARP supporters; the Democratic leadership was especially zealous in this regard. The initial defeat of the TARP was "remarkable" and Baker recalls being on a public radio show and listening to the host complain, during a break, about "ignorant constituents strong-arming members of Congress..." Making policy based on stock market happenings is "incredibly foolish" in that all this activity reflects is "the future value of profits." The stock market is not

the economy. The elite response was to play the "insider game" and buy votes with promises of pork. The Congress handed over \$700 billion, and the Fed another \$1.6 trillion from "special lending facilities," further subsidy came from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and its Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, and finally, through American International Group (AIG), the government poured another \$150 billion in taxpayer largess. It should be clear that the TARP is "the least important route through which taxpayers subsidized failed banks and bankers."

Baker calls the gains homeowners reaped, as the bubble advanced, counterfeited; it was a transfer from non-owners, in the bubble, to owners. This policy reality was "directly at odds with" the stated intention of promoting home ownership. From 1996 to 2006 house values rose 80 percent, according to the Case-Schiller index, and rental prices went up by only four percent. A rent-based appraisal of a homes' value would limit speculation and avoid huge losses from "bad business judgment." A "sharp drop" in bubble home values would "benefit the overall economy" and give owners a truer sense of their wealth. If the Obama administration continues to ignore the housing bubble, our losses will be greater still. The "balance of power" between "banks and homeowners" can be altered by giving judges the ability to change mortgages in bankruptcy, and allowing for the right to rent over foreclosure. Banks would oppose changes like this.

The loss of demand going into 2009-2010 approached \$1.3 trillion, says Baker, and the stimulus made up only about one-tenth of this. There were also cuts in aid to states and local governments; and Obama's people didn't make clear the difference between TARP and the stimulus, or "give us the basic economics lesson" we sorely need. For Baker, debt is a poor measure of inter-generational equity, harming the environment and forcing children to suffer the unemployment of their parents are truer ones, and U.S. "debt-to-GDP ratios" are nowhere near what they were after World War II. Those who would block more stimulus, or see suffering as a good, have created

"bogeymen...to scare the public," says Baker.

Baker says that stimulus can get people working, or working less. Sources are getting money to states and local governments, immediately dealing with the national health care scandal, publicly funding drug trials and avoiding copyright abuse, directly subsidizing public transportation, supporting creative workers as did the New Deal, and funding open source software and making it freely available. Policy could also encourage working less, and in this way "we could have the whole workforce employed, but working ten percent fewer hours." This could be accomplished by providing "a tax credit to employers to give their workers paid time off, which can take the form of paid family leave, paid sick days, paid vacations or a shorter workweek." This could address unemployment, and is appropriate, because it was government policy which initially pushed in the opposite direction.

Next, the financial system must be reformed; he proposes restructuring the Fed, and imposing a financial transaction tax (FTT). The monetary policy of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) must be wrested from the financial industry; at present "12 of the 19 members of the FOMC, and 5 of the 12 voting members" are installed by the industry, not by elected officials. Baker says: "in no other sector is the regulator as much under the control of the industry it regulates." The Fed should also not be allowed to do its business in secret. An FTT would "reduce the size and profitability of the financial industry" and in this way lessen its political power, making effective regulation more likely; this could also dampen destructive gambling, and allow finance to fulfill its productive purpose.

The "bubble perpetrators" continue unmolested in their careers, and their failure, and ideology pass "unchallenged." These same people have "airbrushed the real story away and filled the media with accounts of how complicated it all was." The bosses stand before us failed, and our slavish devotion allows it all to linger; as Wobblies we should joyfully shake them from their wasteful promontories.

Football Through Labor's Lens, Part 2

By Neil Parthun and
Dann McKeegan

This is the second part of a two part series about football, health and labor issues.

Part one of this article, which appeared on page 9 of the February/March *Industrial Worker*, covered the history of the National Football League Players Association's (NFLPA) labor struggles. It is an extensive history marked by organizing and the struggle to retain the wealth that their labor generates. While the NFLPA has seen past successes, there are still a number of issues facing the union. The two primary issues are: how the league will deal with concussions, and negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The Concussion Conundrum

A concussion is defined as a bruise to the brain tissue, often the result of a violent blow. Due to the jarring impacts inherent to the sport, brain injuries have long been a part of football. However, as significant improvements have been made in public health and nutrition, these same improvements have drastically increased the raw power on the field. The mantra of "bigger, faster, stronger" has made for what is widely considered a more exciting game, but at great physical risk for the players. While some athletes like Steve Young and Troy Aikman have suffered multiple concussions and currently have notable and successful post-football careers, that is not true for all players.

Multiple studies have shown that repeated concussions are linked to the symptoms of clinical depression. One 2007 study by the University of North Carolina's Center for the Study of Retired Athletes examined 2,500 retired NFL players and found that those who had suffered at least three concussions were three times more at the risk of developing clinical depression than those who had not suffered brain injuries. The players with one or two diagnosed concussions were 50 percent more likely to be diagnosed with depression.

Frequent concussions may also be tied to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a disease similar to dementia pugilistica, caused by frequent concussive and sub-concussive brain traumas. According to the *New York Times*, CTE "affects the parts of the brain that control emotion, rage, hypersexuality, even breathing, and recent studies find that CTE is a progressive disease that eventually kills brain cells." CTE can eventually progress to dementia with loss of both memory and emotional control, increased and pervasive agitation and the presence of delusions/hallucinations. Although the science is relatively new, examples of this trend of early onset dementia are unfortunately growing:

- Tom McHale: NFL player who was found dead on May 25, 2008. An examination of his brain at Boston University's School of Medicine diagnosed McHale with CTE.

- Terry Long: NFL player whose autopsy showed brain damage consistent with CTE, likely inflicted during his playing career that contributed to his depression and subsequent suicide.

- Andre Waters: NFL player who committed suicide. At his autopsy, the pathologist stated: "the condition of Waters' brain tissue was what would be expected in an 85-year old man, and there were characteristics of someone being in the early stages of Alzheimer's." The doctor believes the brain damage had come from or had been quickened by successive concussions.

- Mike Webster: Pittsburgh Steeler great and Hall of Famer who died in 2002. He was diagnosed with CTE after his death. Neuroscientists estimated he had been in the equivalent of "25,000

automobile crashes" in over 25 years of playing football at the high school, college and professional levels.

- Justin Strzelczyk: NFL offensive tackle that committed suicide by crashing his car into a tanker truck during a high speed chase with police. Post-mortem medical studies indicated that he had suffered from brain damage due to concussions.

- Wayne Chebret: New York Jets receiver had at least six concussions during his career from 1995 to 2005. He occasionally returned to games in which he had been knocked unconscious. He recently acknowledged that he has depression and suffers memory problems such that he cannot make a routine drive without a global positioning system.

After Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, running back Brian Westbrook and wide receiver DeSean Jackson of the Philadelphia Eagles and others suffered concussions during the 2009-2010 season, the teams, NFLPA and the NFL have enacted policies to be more judicious about concussions. These policies are due, at least in part, to Congressional hearings about the dangers of concussions to players. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell sent a memo to all major league teams, saying that a player who got a concussion should not return to action if he shows certain signs or symptoms. The league has partnered with the union to find mutually agreed upon independent physicians to enact this new policy.

On the same day that the new memo was issued, the heads of the NFL's head injury studies resigned from their positions. As the *New York Times* elaborated: "Dr. Ira Casson and Dr. David Viano, members of the committee since 1994 and co-chairmen since 2007, co-authored most of the group's published research papers whose conclusions regarding head injuries were met with considerable criticism from medical peers. Casson has been the league's primary voice discrediting all evidence linking football players with subsequent dementia or cognitive decline, drawing criticism from fellow scientists, players and ultimately Congress." Further evidence of the league's changes on the issue of concussions was seen with the NFL's partnering with Boston University brain researchers who had criticized the league's prior stance on brain trauma. The NFL has donated over one million dollars to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy and is requesting that former players and their families to donate the retired players' brains to the BU study upon their deaths.

The changes signal a divergence from past practices that may substantively improve the lives of players after they leave the gridiron, but there are also revisions being made to prevent players while they are on the field. The NFL rules regarding "defenseless players" may be expanded to better protect athletes from jarring tackles. There are also anti-concussion helmets and mouth pieces. While these are more expensive than traditional helmets, if the NFL chose to lead the way, the prices could lower for college and high school football teams due to the amount of equipment needed by the league. However, there is some resistance from the players to the new helmets because they are heavier and more uncomfortable than traditional helmets. Some are willing to risk the potential medical dangers because they feel that the helmets inhibit their ability to play on the field. But, the science correlating concussions to early onset dementia is quickly becoming an issue that a growing number of players and families fear. Player treatment is also in flux due to the upcoming labor negotiations.

The New CBA Negotiations

In 2008, the NFL owners chose to exercise their "opt out" clause in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the NFLPA. The two sides were unable to come to terms on a new contract prior to the March 5 start of "free agency" for the 2010-2011 season. With no contract, the NFL is operating under the following rules:

- Unrestricted free agency is only available to players with six years of experience in the NFL, rather than the four years found in the now-dead CBA. Some veterans with less than six years in the league have become restricted free agents, meaning that their current club will have the right to match another team's offer sheet or receive compensation for the loss. This rule change has affected over 200 players.

- There will be no salary cap or salary floor for the 2010-11 season. In 2009, the cap was \$128 million and the floor was \$111 million. This means that teams are allowed to spend as much or as little money as they want on players.

- The eight teams that made the divisional playoff round will have limits on the number of unrestricted free agents they can sign.

- The 32 teams will not be obligated to fund player benefits programs including retirement, player annuity, severance pay and tuition assistance. This will save owners over \$7 million.

- The supplemental revenue sharing pool, valued at \$220 million for 2010, will remain in place despite the owners trying to dismantle the program. This program, consisting of the centralization and redistribution of league revenue, allows teams in smaller media and population markets to compete with the large markets such as Dallas or Chicago. It also eliminates the have/have-not dichotomy of Major League Baseball and the pocketing of revenue sharing money endemic among that sport's profitable but uncompetitive underclass.

The main issue dividing the union and management is money. Despite fantastic TV ratings and an average team value of \$1 billion, the owners are demanding substantial concessions from the players, including a cut in the guaranteed percentage of revenue going towards players. The owners argue that their franchises are not generating profit at a rate commensurate with investment given the evolving economic playing field, and that the financial shortfall could create long-term problems for the league. Much of the problem stems from the teams being unable to have taxpayers subsidize infrastructure and stadium developments in the midst of the economic crisis. So, franchises have had to use more of their own funds and cut into their profit margins.

The contentious negotiations have most sports fans believing that a strike or a lockout will occur at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 season. NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith spoke about the upcoming contract negotiations, and said that on a scale of 1 to 10, the likelihood of a lockout is a 14.

"The simple fact is the [owners] have engaged in a concerted course of conduct where anybody looking at it will see that they have done more to prepare themselves to not play football than to play football. On the one hand, you have a collective bargaining process that is designed to have two equal parties negotiating over issues. On that side you have concerted action designed to severely restrict and critically enhance your bargaining leverage," Smith said. When asked if the intent of the owners' strategy is designed to break the union, Smith responded that the owners hired "the guy who orchestrated the hockey lockout in 2007," attorney Bob Battersman, who represented the National

Hockey League during the longest work stoppage in sports.

Smith said the latest NFL offer to the players would reduce their share to from about 59 percent of applied revenues to 41 percent. He emphasized that the teams take \$1 billion off the top of the estimated \$8 billion the league generates. In subsequent interviews, Smith said the sides have had 12 general bargaining sessions to discuss issues related to developing a new CBA. He added that there have been more than 30 overall bargaining sessions with the league in the past six months.

"While we have made progress in some areas," Smith wrote, "we continue to have significant disagreement with the NFL over their desire to have players take an 18 percent reduction in their share of revenues given the NFL's failure to provide meaningful financial data to support the assertion that their costs have increased significantly since the capped system was put into place in 1993...Their demand that the players take such an historic pay cut is even more disturbing given the NFL's continuing economic growth despite the worst recession in recent history." The NFLPA also reportedly made another offer for a salary cap for the 2010-2011 season but it was rebuffed by the owners.

All the talk of historic pay cuts and the restrictions of free agency have infuriated some players. "I don't see [NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell] out there getting hit or nothing like that. The Commissioner makes \$9 million, so you tell me where the balance is? He doesn't put his life on the line. He pushes a pen," said Minnesota Vikings defensive end Ray Edwards. Players like Edwards realize that it is their labor which is producing the wealth for the NFL, and that their careers are at risk every time they step onto the field. As Tennessee Titans center and President of the NFLPA Kevin Mawae said, "The players are more united than ever before and we're preparing for a lockout."

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

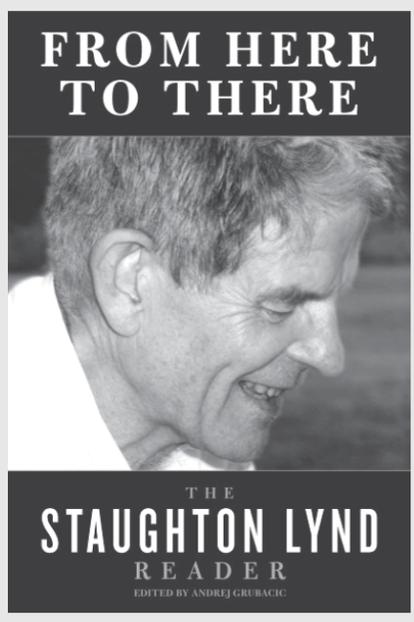
In a time in which unions nationwide are being asked to make concessions due to the economic crisis, we must defend the lives and well-being of all workers, including professional athletes. As former player Dave Meggysey said, football players are compensated for giving up their middle age by playing in the league. Obviously, pro athletes are among those whose professional existence is a pre-existing condition for health care providers. The short duration of the average career, the difference between contract value and "guaranteed money," the relatively low median salary of borderline players, and the comparatively high health risks involved, all call to mind extremes of labor conditions everyday workers face, well, every day. The owners' desire to shift salary from unproven rookies to proven veterans, dismissing their initial draft status, would be a positive step toward meritocracy within the NFLPA. But a growing body of medical evidence suggests that players have more health risks than ever before. The NFLPA and NFL owners have long been at odds over pensions, disability compensation in later life, and other issues that will be affected by any change in salary, revenue or inflation. Injuries are the ultimate leveler of the playing field. Both now and later, they wreak havoc on lives and savings.

The celebrity status of these athletes can provide openings to discuss the rights of all workers to own the fruits of their labor and have appropriate health care coverage. The outcome of the NFLPA's negotiations may have repercussions outside of the gridiron, not just in the arenas of entertainment and culture, but also in employer/worker relations.

OFFERINGS FROM THE I.W.W. *Literature* DEPARTMENT



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From Here To There: The Staughton Lynd Reader Edited by Andrej Grubic

From Here To There collects unpublished talks and hard-to-find essays from legendary activist historian Staughton Lynd. The first section of the *Reader* collects reminiscences and analyses of the 1960s. A second section offers a vision of how historians might immerse themselves in popular movements while maintaining their obligation to tell the truth. In the last section Lynd explores what nonviolence, resistance to empire as a way of life, and working class self-activity might mean in the 21st century. Together, they provide a sweeping overview of the life, and work—to date—of Staughton Lynd.

Both a definitive introduction and further exploration, it is bound to educate, enlighten, and inspire those new to his work and those who have been following it for decades.

"Staughton Lynd's work is essential reading for anyone dedicated to implementing social justice. The essays collected in this book provide unique wisdom and insights into United States history and possibilities for change, summed up in two tenets: Leading from below and Solidarity." —Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

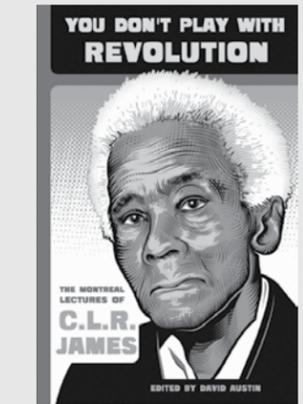
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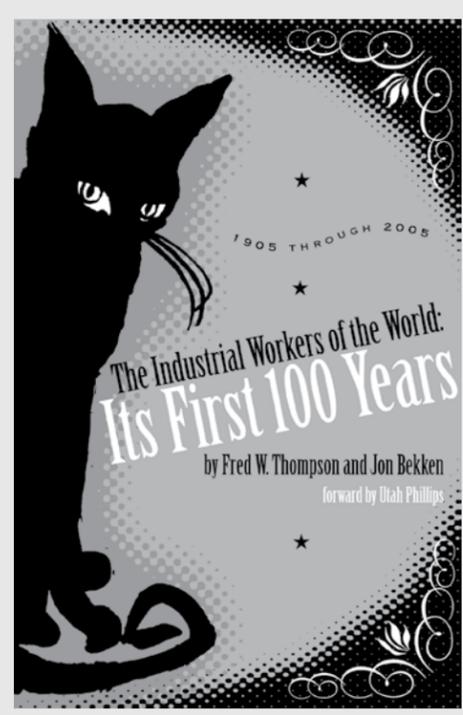
You Don't Play With Revolution by C.L.R. James

This new collection of essays by radical activist/critic C.L.R. James (perhaps best known today for his *Every Cook Can Govern*) features eight never-before-published lectures delivered in Montreal in 1967 and 1968, on subjects ranging from Shakespeare and Rousseau to Caribbean history and the Haitian Revolution.

Editor David Austin contributes a historical introduction to James' life and work. The book also includes two interviews from James' stay in Canada, selected correspondence from the period, and an appendix of essays including Marty Glaberman's "C.L.R. James: The Man and His Work."

This book is essential reading for everyone who has grappled with James' contributions to radical theory, in particular his efforts to fuse radical Marxism with an approach focused on supporting autonomous struggles by the dispossessed.

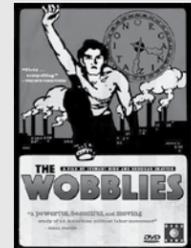
333 PAGES, \$18.95



The Industrial Workers of the World: Its First 100 Years by Fred W. Thompson & Jon Bekken forward by Utah Phillips

The IWW: Its First 100 Years is the most comprehensive history of the union ever published. Written by two Wobblies who lived through many of the struggles they chronicle, it documents the famous struggles such as the Lawrence and Paterson strikes, the fight for decent conditions in the Pacific Northwest timber fields, the IWW's pioneering organizing among harvest hands in the 1910s and 1920s, and the war-time repression that sent thousands of IWW members to jail. But it is the only general history to give substantive attention to the IWW's successful organizing of African-American and immigrant dock workers on the Philadelphia waterfront, the international union of seamen the IWW built from 1913 through the 1930s, smaller job actions through which the IWW transformed working conditions, Wobbly successes organizing in manufacturing in the 1930s and 1940s, and the union's recent resurgence. Extensive source notes provide guidance to readers wishing to explore particular campaigns in more depth. There is no better history for the reader looking for an overview of the history of the IWW, and for an understanding of its ideas and tactics.

255 pages, \$19.95



The Wobblies DVD

This documentary from 1979 takes a look at the IWW's early days, with a combination of interviews and archival footage.

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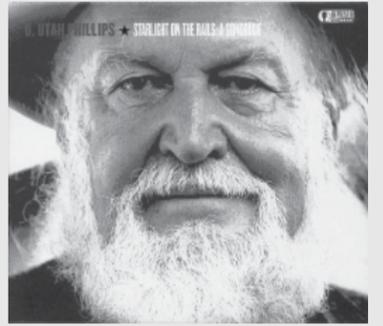


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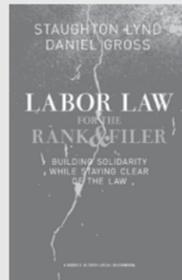
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Wobbly Arts The Making of Wobbly Songs

By Joe Grim Feinberg

I have spent the last six months on a committee to re-edit the “Little Red Songbook” of our IWW. The committee has read and listened to hundreds of songs, a collective testament to a working class that will not be beaten or bored. As we put finishing touches on the new, 38th edition of the songbook, I’ve taken the opportunity to reflect on the history and future of our song tradition, which has been so often emulated but never quite copied.

Part I. Origins

Before the Wobbly Song emerged as a genre of its own, IWW writers based their lyrics on earlier models of poetic rebellion and anthemic affirmation. Romantic poets William Morris and Percy Shelley were both included in the first IWW song-cards, and Shelley’s “Song—To the Men of England” (1819) remains an unsurpassed expression of proletarian anger:

*The seed ye sow another reaps;
The wealth ye find another keeps;
The robes ye weave another wears;
The arms ye forge another bears.*

*Sow seed, but let no tyrant reap;
Find wealth, —let no imposter heap;
Weave robes, —let not the idle wear;
Forge arms, in your defence to bear.*

(verses 5 and 6)



Graphic: DJ Alperovitz

This lyrical zeal was combined with the earnest, direct, and grandiose declarations of “The Internationale” and “The Red Flag” to provide a model for early IWW songs like “Industrial Freedom” (a.k.a. “Freedom, Toilers!”), written by William R. Fox for the *Industrial Worker* in January 1906, subsequently reprinted with piano accompaniment and heavily advertised by the *IW* throughout 1906:

*World-wide ringing goes the message,
Tyrants quake with horrid presage,
Freedom! Freedom! Freedom, toilers!
Land and tools at last for users,
And the product to producers!
Unto him who works requital,
But the idler has no title!*

*Workers of the world, unite all!
World-alliance!
Hurl defiance!*

*Force compliance from the spoilers!
Down with shirkers!
Up with workers!*

Freedom! Freedom! Freedom, toilers!

(first verse; thanks to FW Evan Wolfson for bringing this song to my attention)



Graphic: Ned Powell

In spite of its creative rhymes, however, Fox’s song was soon forgotten and was never included in a “Little Red Songbook.” Richard Brazier soon introduced an important innovation into IWW song tradition by writing all his words to popular commercial and religious tunes. This helped ensure his fellow workers would know the tunes, while providing him with a variety of narrative motifs already found in the parodied songs. Still, in songs like “A Dream,” Brazier maintained the solemn attitude of his anthem-writing predecessors:

*One day as I lay dreaming, this vision came to me:
I saw an army streaming, singing of liberty;
I marked these toilers passing by, I listened to their cry.
It was a triumphant anthem—an anthem filled with joy;
It was a triumphant anthem—an anthem filled with joy.*

*One union, industrial union;
Workers of the world unite,
To make us free from slavery
And gain each man his right.*

(first verse and chorus; first appeared in first Songbook edition, 1909; tune: “The Holy City”)

It was Joe Hill who first used the genre of parody to its full potential to lampoon the priests and politicians and too-loyal workers who were lauded in popular music. Irreverent wit was firmly established alongside triumphant earnestness, and a new model for labor songs was born. These are the songs that have made the “Little Red Songbook” the best-loved work of labor literature. And there is no need to reprint examples here, because the new Songbook edition will be amply filled with them when it arrives at your branch this May.

Next month: Part II, on the future of Wobbly song.



Graphic: Ned Powell

The Working Classes

By Francis W. Cooke

I am not a laboring man but I am the son and grandson of laboring men. I didn’t know my grandfather but my father was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and was active in the labor movement from his early teens. He often told me that it took two generations of blue collars to put the third generation in a white collar. I am proud that I was able to fulfill his dream for me by working for 50 years as an engineer in a white collar. This poem is dedicated to my father, Bill Cooke.

*When the bosses do their jobs
They’re sitting on their asses
But you and I we have to stand
Cause we’re the Working Classes*

*And when the bosses get their checks
They get more dough than Crassus
But you and I, we get the change
Cause we’re the working Classes*

*They say the boss creates the jobs
That employ the nations’ masses
While all we do is all the work
We’re just the Working Classes*

*But when it’s time to disemploy
And pass out those pink passes
There’s always plenty to go around
Among the Working Classes*

*And now our women have to work
While the bosses make their passes
And the girls just have to take it
They’re part of the Working Classes*

*And our kids are drunks and druggies
And dropping out of classes
Cause no American dream is left
For America’s Working Classes*

*“Any why should it be this way?” you ask
Why you bunch of horses asses
You’re a cost of doing business
Not human, the Working Classes*

What’s Next For The British Royal Mail Dispute?

Continued from 1

extend to the families of those who actually do the work.

Royal Mail has plucked a figure of 10 percent out of the air and informed the media, who are only too willing to believe it, that this is the amount of mail they are losing each year. One way they come up with this nice round number is by lowering the average amount of mail each tray of mail holds. Mail arrives in delivery offices in a grey tray. An agreement between Royal Mail and the CWU said that each tray holds an average of 208 letters. Royal Mail later lowered this to 150 letters. We did a count at my delivery office and not one tray contained fewer than 200 letters, and frequently trays contained as many as 280. Royal Mail and the Government have an agenda to sell off the business to a privateer, and the “falling mail volumes” scam fits right in with it.

The other big scam is known as “Down Stream Access” or DSA. This is mail which postal workers have to deliver for private companies such as TNT Express, DHL and Citipost. Royal Mail was allowed by the government to set a rate for delivering this mail, which meant they lose money on every letter handled. Even CWU General Secretary Billy Hayes has stated a loss to Royal Mail of two pence on every single item delivered. Who pays? The taxpayer and postal workers who have not had a pay rise since 2007. Will Billy Hayes start a campaign telling the taxpayer they are subsidizing Rupert Murdoch’s TNT? I doubt it!

The figure of 10 percent seems to be one which Royal Mail has grown very fond of. Last year it issued what they call “The Ten Percent Challenge.” It sounds like the title of a daytime TV game show, but it’s far more entertaining than that! Royal Mail expects each delivery office to make budget savings of 10 percent year on year. One way this is achieved is by managers bullying staff not to book overtime on overloaded deliveries. Another way Royal Mail makes savings—while at the same time driving down standards—is by replacing full-time workers and, instead, hiring part-time staff on

24-hour contracts.

Workers on 24-hour contracts do not sort mail, and as their working hours are so short, their mail has to be prepared for delivery by a full-time worker who has been taken off their sorting duty. This reduces the number of staff who sort through mail, so the job takes much longer to complete. The knock-on effect is to make deliveries leave the office later and later. Mail which used to arrive by breakfast time now arrives at any time of the day and sometimes the night.

Part-time staff know that they have no chance of ever becoming full-time and everyone knows managers are out to get rid of as many full-time staff as possible, using sick absence procedure or issuing warnings for the slightest misdemeanor.

All of this causes much resentment. Naturally, Royal Mail comes in for criticism, but the leadership of the CWU is seen as being complicit due to their reluctance to do anything about it. The CWU admit to losing 15,000 members in 2009 alone (there are now 27,000 non-unionized workers in Royal Mail) and expect losses of 1,000 members per month in 2010. The ratio of leavers to joiners is two-to-one, and total membership has fallen from 300,000 to 217,000. This means a loss of around £250,000 per week from CWU coffers.

Postal workers have a reputation for militancy which is not matched by the CWU leadership. If the deal with Royal Mail, which the workers are not deemed worthy to know the details of, falls short of expectations, a further tightening of belts in CWU headquarters at Wimbledon will become inevitable as more members leave.

Can we expect the leadership to lead? Experience says “no.” The Labour Party has constantly attacked the living standards and employment rights of the working class, yet Hayes and company persist in throwing cash at it.

Will the executives of the CWU sit back and watch the casualisation of the postal service, with its short-term contracts and easily-disposable and replaceable staff? I wouldn’t bet against it!

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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.

By Nathaniel Miller

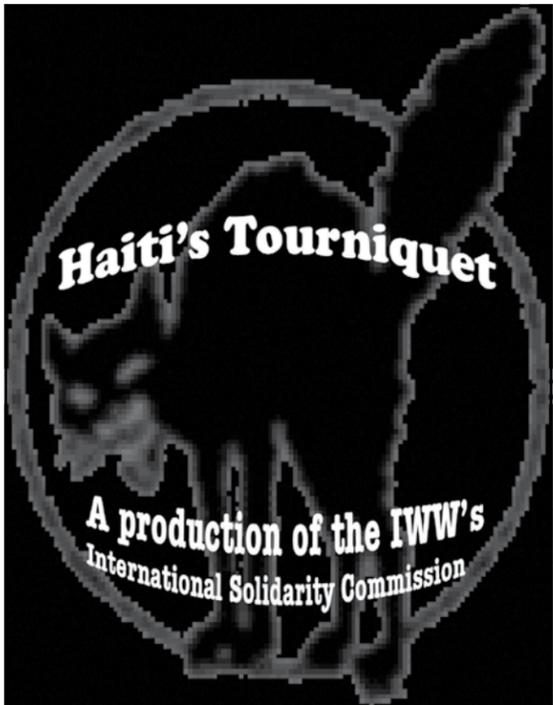
The International Solidarity Commission is off to a great year. We are engaged in some important solidarity work: with workers in Bangladesh, raising money for unionists in Haiti, giving presentations on past ISC delegations to Palestine and Haiti, and hosting a tour by the National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh. Also we are excited to announce that some autonomous workers in Cuba wish to affiliate with the IWW.

Solidarity with Haiti

Thanks to the generous support of Fellow Workers all over the globe we have so far been able to raise nearly \$3,400 for workers in Haiti.

In April 2008, the ISC was part of an IWW delegation to Haiti, where we met with workers and peasants struggling against neo-liberal slavery. We pledged our continued support to their struggle, and Fellow Workers donated generously to support their organizing, and again following

the hurricanes. Our delegation made a short video about our trip, "Haiti's Tourniquet," which we're selling for \$15 (includes shipping) to raise money for our comrades in Haiti, and any donations large or small are greatly appreciated. You can purchase videos and send donations to: Nathaniel Miller, PO Box 31909, Philadelphia, PA 19104. You may also Paypal donations to iwwhaitifund@gmail.com. Please mark checks/Paypal payments "IWW Haiti Fund," and note if you want a video. Contact nathaniel@iww.org for other questions. We will be collecting money for a few more weeks before we send it down to Haiti.



Graphic: International Solidarity Commission

IWW in Palestine Website

The IWW in Palestine Working Group website is up and we are busy putting together an FAQ sheet and strategizing how to best support the unions we met while there. Members of the delegation have given presentations in Alaska, Philadelphia and Baltimore Wobfest, and Winnipeg branch members helped put together a series of events for Israeli Apartheid Week at the University of Manitoba. Check out <http://www.iww.org/en/projects/isc/palestine> for more information.

Bangladesh Garment Workers Tour the U.S.

The ISC is supporting a U.S. tour by the National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh in April. For tour dates, see "South Asian Garment Sweatshop Workers Speak Out" on page 6.

Solidarity with Cuban IWW affiliates

Finally we want to offer a warm welcome to the workers in Cuba who wish to affiliate with the IWW. We are currently trying to figure

out with them the most sensible way to maintain this relationship given the difficulties of organizing independent unions in Cuba, but we will offer them solidarity in any feasible way.

Get Involved with the ISC!

The 2010 ISC is seeking to expand our contact database and relationships with international unions. If you are planning to travel to other parts of the globe and would like to be an ISC delegate please contact solidarity@iww.org and we can try to put you in touch with workers in the region. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Judge Upholds Boycott Ban On FAU Berlin

By the FAU

On Feb. 16, 2010, the regional labor court of Berlin confirmed that the Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union (FAU) Berlin can't call for a boycott of the Babylon Mitte Cinema. The same court had previously issued an injunction in October 2009 against the boycott at the behest of the cinema's bosses.

The boycott was a part of a year-old labor dispute between the Babylon and FAU Berlin members who work there—their goal being better working conditions and labor contracts. The judge, Dr. Rancke, found that the FAU Berlin was not allowed to call for job actions in labor disputes because it was not "mighty" enough. In Germany, unions must display a certain degree of "social might" (the amount of which is decided by judges) before they can sign labor contracts and take job action without fear of legal retribution. If a union's particular form of social might isn't accounted for in case law, which is true for the anarcho-syndicalist FAU, the union must sue for the right to take job action and sign contracts—a lengthy and costly procedure. The judge admitted that the FAU Berlin's might could have forced the Babylon to sign a labor contract with Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di), a union representing service



Photo: syndikalismus.wordpress.com

workers which has a few members in the Babylon, but that he did not have the power to determine this. The judge explained that German law—as opposed to many other countries—does not allow for "small, dexterous unions."

Meanwhile, the case of the FAU Berlin has reached a wider audience. The hearing at the regional labor court had to be moved to a bigger room because of the crowd. Two days earlier—on Valentine's Day—unionists and civil rights activists launched a petition that calls for the workers' freedom of association to be defended and the ban on the FAU Berlin's union activities to be lifted. The FAU Berlin staged a demonstration on Feb. 20 in Berlin to highlight the fact that workers should decide how they organize, not the state.

To contact FAU Berlin please email soli-faub@fau.org.

Global Day Of Protest In Solidarity With FAU Berlin

By "robot"

On Jan. 29 & 30, 2010, there were protests in at least 56 cities in 20 countries against a verdict that prohibits workers in Berlin from affiliating themselves with the union of their choice. The bosses at the Babylon Mitte Cinema managed to find a court to ban the FAU Berlin from calling itself a union and are now trying to get the FAU Berlin charged with fines or even have their members imprisoned. This comes after a month-long labor dispute between the FAU shop-floor and the management.

We received reports about protests in the following cities:

- Germany: Aachen, Berlin, Bonn, Darmstadt, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt/M, Halle/Saale, Hamburg, Hannover, Karlsruhe, Kassel, Kiel, Leipzig, Moers, Münster, Nürnberg, Recklinghausen, Schwerin, Plauen, Stuttgart;
- Spain: Alicante, Barcelona, Bilbao, Jerez, Madrid, Malaga, Grenada, Valencia, Zaragoza
- United Kingdom: Leeds, Liverpool, London
- France: Paris, Lille, Marseille
- United States: Philadelphia, Phoenix
- Greece: Athens, Thessaloniki
- Switzerland: Bern
- Slovakia: Bratislava
- Belgium: Brussels
- Bangladesh: Dhaka

- Ireland: Dublin
- Italy: Florence, Trieste
- Sweden: Gothenburg, Katrineholm
- Ukraine: Kiev
- Denmark: Copenhagen
- Norway: Oslo
- New Zealand: Wellington
- Austria: Vienna
- Japan: Fukuoka

We'd like to thank those of you in Germany and all around the planet who expressed your solidarity with the FAU Berlin by making a statement about your disgust with the management of the Babylon Mitte Cinema and the scandalous verdicts of the Berlin courts. We are deeply touched that we have been the cause of one of the biggest waves of international solidarity within the anti-authoritarian workers' movement in the past few years. We also would like to thank all those in Germany and from other corners of the planet who took action but did not send in reports. And, of course, we appreciate those like the Freeters General Union in Japan, who plan to take action in the coming days. The struggle has just begun. We were therefore glad to hear that many more unions and organizations—though they did not manage to take action during this wave of protests—have announced that they will take action next time. For reports and any further information please contact soli-faub@fau.org.

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WOBBLIES! A Graphic History has recently been reprinted and it is available again. \$29.95

May Day is just around the corner!



Graphic: niu.edu

Celebrate the real labor day with a message of solidarity! Send your May Day announcements to iw@iww.org by Friday, April 2.