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Jimmy John's Workers Form Union, Demand End To Low Pay

By John O'Reilly

MINNEAPOLIS – Jimmy John's workers have had enough. Low wages, poor treatment by management and a lack of basic decency have led them to organize the IWW Jimmy Johns Workers Union (JJWU) to stand up for their rights. The workers are demanding that their management recognize the union and negotiate with them immediately. The Jimmy John's sandwich franchise, which the union says pays "wages so low you'll freak." The company is owned by MikLin Enterprises and operates nine stores—seven in Minneapolis and two in St. Louis, and have plans to expand by nearly 50 percent in the next two years. On Thursday, Sept. 2, workers in all nine stores went public with their demands. At press time, Mike and Rob Mulligan of MikLin Enterprises have refused to recognize the union or negotiate with the workers.

When Palmer Johnson, a delivery biker at the downtown Minneapolis skyway Jimmy John's store heard about the expensive golf trips that the owners of his franchise had been taking overseas, he could barely believe it. "Here

the workers are on food stamps and the owners keep getting richer," he said. Having worked at Jimmy John's for three years, Johnson thinks that it's time for equality and respect for workers at his store. "I'm here for delivery drivers like myself," he says, "but even more for the inshoppers who make sandwiches. I want to see them being treated better."

The workers, many of whom earn a minimum wage, are demanding higher wages and tip jars in their stores. "We live in a service economy these days," said Jake Foucault, a delivery driver at the Dinkytown and Riverside stores. "We've been pushed into these jobs, but they don't need to be like this."

Consistent scheduling is also difficult to come by, with workers complaining of shifts as short as one or two hours or having hours drastically cut for no apparent reason. "Our union is a tool to change the power on the job between the workers and the people making the money," Foucault added.

Conditions at the sandwich shops are also an important piece of the workers' demands. Employees must find replacements when they are sick, so they are

frequently forced to serve food to customers while ill. Basic dignity is an issue for Jaim'ee Bolte, an inshopper at the 9th Street store in Minneapolis. "There is no paid training for new employees and new hires need to pay for their uniforms with their own paycheck, meaning that their earnings drop below minimum wage," she said. For her, conditions at work need to be improved. "My coworkers and I are having issues. The union is a great way to get everyone treated fairly, especially on issues like sick days and fair scheduling," Bolte said.

The JJWU has been standing up to change the deplorable conditions that its members face. Ayo Collins, a delivery biker

Continued on 5 Workers picket the 9th Street Jimmy John's on Sept. 4.



Photo: Diane Krauthamer

London IWW, Labor Activists Unite In Support Of Swedish SAC Union

By X355622

On Aug. 13, the Cleaners' Defence Committee (CDC) of the London IWW General Membership Branch were joined by supporters at a demonstration outside the offices of London & Regional Properties (London Regional) in solidarity with the SAC (*Sveriges Arbetares Centralorganisation*, or Central Organization of the Workers of Sweden) for two hours, handing out information to the staff and passersby. The turnout was good as support came in from other groups, including branches of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMT) Solidarity Federation, Feminist Fightback, Latin American Workers Association, and London Coalition Against Poverty, amongst others.

Letters of support were read out

from comrades in Germany from the FAU (*Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union*) and the IWW, who were engaging in similar solidarity actions.

London Regional has so far denied all responsibility and association with Berns, a Swedish nightclub/company responsible for severe mistreatment of its cleaning staff, having made some cleaners work up to 22-hour shifts, six or so days a week. The dispute between Berns and the SAC continues, though London Regional will not engage in dialogue with the IWW, CDC, or any of the individuals and groups who have phoned them with their complaints.

But the message to London Regional/Berns is loud and clear: We will never ignore the mistreatment of workers

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London Wobblies and labor activists demonstrate on Aug. 13. Photo: Jose Sagaz

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Squeezed Baristas Shut Down Starbucks In Omaha, Nebraska

By the Starbucks Workers Union

Omaha, NE – Baristas and community supporters shut down the 15th and Douglas Starbucks on the morning of Aug. 5, demanding that management reverse all cuts to healthcare, staffing, and benefits that have been imposed during the recession. The baristas claim that executives have no justification to squeeze working families with Starbucks raking in profits of \$977.2 million in the past four fiscal quarters.

"We are being squeezed, and we can't take it anymore. Since the recession began, Starbucks executives have ruthlessly gutted our standard of living. They doubled the cost of our health insurance, reduced staffing levels, cut our hours, all while demanding more work

from us. Starbucks is now more than profitable again. It's time for management to give back what they took from us," said Sasha McCoy, a shift supervisor at the store.

Since the onset of the recession, Starbucks imposed a series of deep cuts on its workforce. Starting in 2008, as the economic downturn began, the coffee giant shuttered over 800 stores and slashed over 18,000 jobs. The remaining skeleton crew workforce was stretched out, forced to push VIA and other promotional products while keeping the stores running with insufficient staffing levels. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz then doubled the cost of the company health insurance plan in September

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Letters Welcome!

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

Mailing address:
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In November We Remember

Announcements for the annual "In November We Remember" *Industrial Worker* deadline is October 8. Celebrate the lives of those who have struggled for the working class with your message of solidarity. Send announcements to iw@iww.org. Much appreciated donations for the following sizes should be sent to: IWW GHQ, Post Office Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618, United States.

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not reflect the IWW's
official position.**

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Support Alex Svoboda

Dear Readers of the *IW*,

I'm grateful for the work FW Ken-
neth Miller has been doing on the
General Defense Committee (GDC), an
important component of our union's
mission. Kenneth mentioned my situa-
tion in in the Defiant Spirit column on
page 4 of the August/September *IW*.

While it is true that the ramifica-
tions of the attack I experienced in 2007
continue, I am almost certainly more
reasonably situated than FW Alex Svo-
boda, and would like to urge all support-
ers to send their monies, along with the
militant support, to the GDC, earmarked
for the support of FW Svoboda.

In solidarity,
Erik Davis

Boron Was No Victory

I wanted to thank FW Steve Ongerth
for making the point about claim-
ing victories in struggles that haven't
resulted in victories in his piece "Victory
In Boron? I Think Not," which appeared
on page 4 of the August/September
IW. Much of the "the left," and espe-
cially labor movements, are too quick
to celebrate moments that are far from

being victorious. Not only does this set
our standards low but it also plays into a
culture of misrepresentation that leads
people to be dismissive of publications
that claim progress in social movements.

Chris Agenda
Portland, OR

The Football Debate

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, the IW was unable to publish all responses to the August/September Soapbox letter, "NFL Players Are Not Workers: The Debate Continues" by X365465, but we will be publishing them in future issues. In the meantime, try to limit further discussion of this topic in your Readers' Soapbox submissions.

X365465 raised some worthwhile
points in last month's Readers' Soapbox
("The Debate Continues"). Foremost, it's
right to criticize football players for
crossing picket lines and generally
showing a lack of solidarity. However,
there are three criticisms of "The Debate
Continues" that need to be made. The
first is that lots of workers (no matter
how narrowly we define the category)
cross picket lines, and generally show
a lack of solidarity. This doesn't mean
they're not workers. Second, there's

nothing inherently wrong with watching
or playing sports. Sure, they can be a dis-
traction or even an anesthetic. But under
capitalism, sometimes we need a bit of
escapism to survive. And it's not like
sports are going to disappear after the
revolution. There's nothing objectively
wrong or pro-capitalist about a bit of
"team spirit," exercise, friendly rivalry,
or watching world-class athletes do what
they do best. If anything, working class
power is about workers getting more of
"the good things in life" and this means
entertainment, like watching sports on
your days off.

The third and most important point
is that income does not determine class.
Class is determined by one's relationship
to the means of production. Hence, the
absurdity of X365465's claim that indi-
viduals like Henry Ford or John Rock-
efeller could ever be considered workers.

Football players work for a wage.
Their labor creates wealth and they only
receive a certain percentage of it. In this
case, marketing, advertising and spon-
sorship grossly inflate the wealth gener-
ated, but it's still the labor of football
players—as workers—that enables the
NFL to bring in so much revenue. The

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The Battle Of Mahomet: Teachers Strike, Win Demands

By Neil Parthun

Students and educators in Mahomet, Ill. were back in class on Monday, Aug. 23, after the Mahomet Seymour Education Association (MSEA) and the school board were able to settle on a new contract on Aug. 20. The settlement marked an end to a two-day strike, the first strike ever in their union's history.

MSEA secured a one-year contract with 2.6 percent pay raise for teachers and a 3.5 percent raise for aides and other support staff. "I've negotiated several contracts and this has been the most contentious process I have ever been through," said MSEA President Joan Jordan on the two-day strike and the negotiations.

Building Up to The Battle

The strike was an eruption of continuing disagreement between the union and the district over issues related to employment. Board President Terry Greene said, "The MSEA president has been quoted as saying '[The district school board's] got the money and the power and we want some of both.' The board of education has quite a different view." Although this quote was uttered in the days before the strike, it aptly encapsulated the heart of the struggle between MSEA and the school board prior to the strike.

In the summer of 2009, the Mahomet school board, led by President Terry Greene, had demanded that educational staff perform medical procedures like insulin shots and inserting catheters. The board refused to negotiate the issue with MSEA despite significant pressure. Ultimately, the issue went to a mediator who ruled against the union.

With this victory fresh in mind and upcoming contract negotiations looming at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, the board announced in February that the 2010-2011 school year would see \$643,211 in pay cuts, and some staff that would be released. The district blamed

the economic downturn and Illinois' fiscal nightmare as they spoke about a projected deficit budget, however, the district would not be running a deficit budget. As the union pointed out, the district would not be "in the red" but rather only less "in the black." Further undercutting the district's cries of poverty was the fact that all cut staff, except for those on one-year contracts, were rehired by the end of March.

Having seen the bogus cuts for what they were, the union became even more adamant in their demands for appropriate and fair compensation, as the district had \$2.5 million in its general working fund and another \$1.5 million in its education fund.

Ultimately, the disagreement between MSEA and the school board was not totally about money. It was, more importantly, about the power dynamics between the workers and the board. Throughout these previous struggles, it appeared that Greene and the district wanted to bust the union's strength and prove that the administration and board were running the district.

The Contract

During the early negotiations, the district's offer was very negative. Union president Joan Jordan said "[the board offering was offering] zero percent and no vertical or horizontal movement. So, we weren't going to get any money for experience for being here another year nor were they offering any money if you had gotten more education. And we have to pay for our own education, which we need for our credentials and also to get paid more."

After little to no movement by the board throughout the spring and into the summer, despite the union's good faith negotiations, the MSEA called for a strike. This was overwhelmingly supported with a 211-25 vote to authorize the work stoppage.

Quickly, the union began organizing.

Illinois Education Association UniServ Director Gene Vanderport elaborated: "Our folks organized themselves to make this strike work...so we're well organized and that is key." Many members of the union volunteered for a number of committees to ensure that a potential strike would likely be successful.

The final district offer was a 2.1 percent pay raise for teachers, and a 2.5 percent raise for aides and for other support staff. Based on the final salary proposal, union members making as little as \$16,500 would actually suffer pay cuts due to their rising insurance costs, so this proposal was not tenable.

The Strike Begins

Before the last bargaining session prior to the scheduled start of the school year, the district canceled classes until further notice because of the potential strike. Board President Greene and the district unilaterally left the negotiations without even looking at a proposal by the union. MSEA members were visibly upset as Greene went to the media demanding that the union accept the lowest offer seen in that district for years. The school board president also wanted to make the agreement binding for two years. Some felt that the preemptive canceling of school meant that the district was not interested in negotiating but rather in having the union settle for only the board's proposals.

The board contended that their \$1.5 million education fund and \$3 million in working cash fund were for "rainy days," but not for the largest economic meltdown since the Great Depression does not apply. It was also recently announced that the district can expect nearly \$700,000 from the Federal Education Jobs bill which is meant to pay teachers and support professionals. Any of these revenue streams would have allowed the district to settle a fair and equitable contract with the educators.

The MSEA hit the ground running



Teachers picketing. Photo: Neil Parthun

with coordinated committees ensuring that picketers were transported, given water and fed. Others worked on producing press releases and speaking to the media about the realities of the strike. The union was quite prepared and had a very effective presence. Outside of a few middle fingers or catcalls, the overwhelming reception to the strike was positive as many honked horns and waved. Some students even joined the rallying workers with signs like "Our teachers rock!"

The negotiations at the end of the strike's first day failed to bring a settlement, as Board President Greene and the district unilaterally walked out of negotiations for the second time that week. Many observers noticed the irony of the board demanding a settlement in the press and then walking out of negotiations multiple times.

Day two of the strike continued the successes of the first day. A rally was held prior to the start of negotiations as chanting cries for a fair contract echoed in the air. By 2:30 p.m. that day, a contract settlement between the sides had been reached.

"It's a Major Victory"

After negotiating one of the most contentious contracts in her career, MSEA President Joan Jordan said "It's a major victory for us. The victory came in [the school board] understanding that we are a union and we are going to stand up for ourselves and we will do what it takes to get some action out of the school board."

The union recognized that the contract was about more than sick days and money. It was also about the power relationship between the union and board over the conditions of employment.

"Part of it was personal. The chief negotiator and I have been active union members our entire careers and [the school board] just wanted to make the rest of the union know that you shouldn't be following them," said Jordan.

The struggle of Mahomet educators marks another victory for organized labor and educators within the state of Illinois.

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: _____

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“Know The Union, Hear The Union, See The Union” Is Still Good Advice

By X361737

Some time ago, “Workers’ Power” ran a column in which a Fellow Worker promoted the phrase “Know the Union, Hear the Union, See the Union” as a way of explaining how a healthy campaign sustains itself and grows. Having participated in some organizing, I found myself often rereading that piece as a source of inspiration and advice. I hope to expand the “Know the Union” organizing approach by offering my thoughts on how to put it into practice.

In any workplace there are going to be some workers who will quickly be attracted to an organizing drive. Perhaps they’ve been involved in organizing before; perhaps they have some level of ideological agreement; or perhaps they simply have a high level of grievances. In any case, these workers “know the union” and typically come together to form the initial organizing committee.

Other coworkers will have to be persuaded to join the campaign through a series of one-on-one

conversations. They need to “Hear the Union” to get agitated about workplace issues and realize they don’t have to face those issues alone.

Most workers, however, fall into the third camp: “See the Union.” They’ll have to see the power of collective action before they get involved. Our Fellow Worker summed it up this way:

“Here’s how we move the workers who need to see the union in action. The workers who know the union organize and build relationships and leadership among the folks who hear about the union. Together, both groups take action to change small issues. This demonstrates in practice what a union is. Other workers see the union in action and start to understand that change is really possible.”

For our friend, the “Know the Union” concept proved helpful when organizing slowed and workplace militants got frustrated at the pace of growth. “Know the Union” encouraged workers to get back to the basics of successful organizing: one-on-one conversations and group meetings to plan and undertake winnable direct action grievances. It

also demonstrated the role the existing leadership should play in instituting a continual process by which coworkers are led up the “hear, see, know” ladder until a culture of solidarity and collective activity is instituted in a workplace.

There’s another important lesson to take away from this: many self-identified radicals have little real-world organizing experience. This is okay. Like anything else, organizing takes practice. What we do have, however, is a wealth of grand arguments supporting class struggle and a vision for a post-capitalist future. Because of this, there’s a temptation to intellectualize the organizing process. Speaking from personal experience, I know what it’s like to feel unsure about doing something new, especially when it comes to organizing. It’s tempting to fall back on something we’re more comfortable with—like making

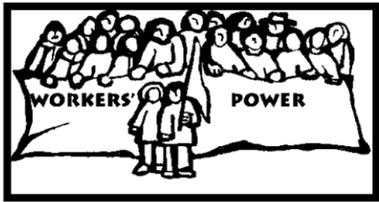
the argument for why we need a revolutionary union.

Reality, however, is much more complicated than a well-phrased argument. Instead of trying to win the orga-

nizing argument, we’re much better off building relationships of trust with our coworkers. Through this relationship, we engage our coworkers in smallscale, winnable actions. These actions, in turn, lay the groundwork for larger struggles and deeper conversations.

To put it another way, workers—conscious of it or not—undertake individual anti-capitalist acts all the time. Workmates, however, often need to see collective activity in action before they’re willing to join a union. From there, it’s involvement in collective struggle that opens a space for us, as radicals, to begin having discussions about class, capitalism, and the labor movement.

As organizers, the “Know the Union” strategy can help us not only by reminding us that organizing is a process, but also forcing us to recognize that, many times, as working-class writer and activist Martin Glaberman observed, “action precedes consciousness.” The most important thing organizers do is not winning arguments or making rousing speeches, but actually building the relationships that form the basis of any successful campaign.



The Defiant Spirit: News from your General Defense Committee

By Kenneth Miller

Marie Mason, who is a member of the IWW’s General Defense Committee, has been transferred to a Communications Management Unit in Texas. She is out of solitary confinement and gets to eat and spend time with others. There are 16 other women in her unit, and they never leave the building they are housed in. (For more information on this, read “Marie Mason Transferred To A New Prison In Texas” on page 8).

Justice for Jordan Miles

We are working on obtaining justice for Jordan Miles, who was left battered from an encounter with three Pittsburgh police officers in January. Please sign the petition demanding that our District Attorney prosecute the three police officers at <http://www.justiceforjordanmiles.org>. The Jordan Miles case will be discussed at events all over the United States on Oct. 22, the National Day of Action Against Police Brutality. Please attend an Oct. 22 action near you as a representative of our union.

Bangladesh Labor Arrests

Kalpona Akter, of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity, visited

Wobblies in five cities during the month of April. On Aug. 13, she and two colleagues were arrested and charged with inciting labor unrest, and they were released on Sept. 10 (see “Bangladesh Labor Activists Released On Bail,” page 12). The apparel industry workers of Bangladesh are demanding 35 cents an hour, or three times their current wage rate, so that they can climb out of misery and into abject poverty. Pittsburgh’s Sports and Exhibition Authority has presented the testimony she delivered in Pittsburgh City Council to the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Pirates have passed it along to Major League Baseball. Please sign the petitions at <http://www.sweat-free.org> and <http://www.nlcn.net>

Networking Opportunities

Brandworkers International, a New York-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to holding corporations accountable to workers and communities, is hosting its 2nd Annual Awards Dinner in New York City on Oct. 2. These Fellow Workers are doing a fantastic job of coordinating legal support. Members of the GDC should go to New York to attend this dinner, meet these lawyers, and understand this work.

WOMEN WORKERS’ HISTORY

Chapter 37 Rise and Fall of the Troy Collar Union

After the loss of their union in 1886, women employed in Troy, N.Y. shirt factories were at the mercy of the boss. Wages were reduced down to an average of 50 cents a day. By January 1891, the Troy “collar girls” were fed up. Said Mary Evaline, their spokesperson: “Many of us have others dependent on our work, and this wholesale attack on our wages can only result in privation and want to those who are near and dear to us.”

Collar, cuff and shirt workers employed at the Lansingburgh plant of the United Shirt and Collar Co. walked out. The strike quickly spread to other Troy factories; 500 young women were on strike. Strikers organized an American Federation of Labor union, and elected 23-year-old Mary Evaline president, Dora Sullivan vice president. With the threat of a New York AFL boycott, the company capitulated. The strike victory brought higher wages.



Placed on the New York AFL staff, Evaline and Sullivan organized several thousand garment workers in Troy and other New York cities.

The tide, however, quickly turned against them. When a Troy shirt company introduced a new starching machine in its laundries in 1892, Sullivan and the union women working there demanded guarantees of no job or income loss. The company refused and the workers struck. With less help from the AFL, the strike was eventually lost. Within a few years United Shirt and Collar broke the union during a bitter 13-week strike. The “collar girls” looked in vain to the Troy AFL central labor body for support; these leaders of exclusively male craft unions were hostile and unwilling to help.

Graphic: Mike Konopacki

Remember Labor History

The “In November We Remember” issue of the *Industrial Worker* will be here soon. This is the way that we collectively reflect on this history of this union and bring forth the experience and courage of those that have come before us. Please think hard about how to participate and get your advertisement into the *Industrial Worker* promptly.

The Football Debate

Continued from 2
secondary flaw in X365465’s analysis of class rests in the fact that the arguments he or she is making are basically the same arguments bosses make in relation to so-called “independent contractors.” Seriously, if you read the arguments of FedEx against the unionization of their employees it’s the same

type language used to deny collective bargaining to their drivers.

Finally, X365465’s theories about athletes don’t hold up across the board. Although an American, I live in the U.K. Here “football” means something different, but there are lots of instances of “footballers” showing open solidarity with workers in struggle. One of the most inspiring is the case of Robbie Fowler. After scoring a goal in an internationally televised, European Cup game he lifted his shirt to expose his under-shirt. Written on that shirt: “Support The 500 Sacked Dockers” in Liverpool. He was fined for that, but has stood by his action. If you want more examples, I recommend you check out Libcom’s “Celebrity Working Class Heroes” at <http://libcom.org/tags/celebrity-working-class-heroes>.

-Tom Levy, London



“Traitor Joe’s” Protest For Fair Wages

By Fran Korotzer, *Next Left Notes*

During the early evening hours of Aug. 19, the street in front of the new Trader Joe’s store on 6th Avenue and 20th Street in Manhattan was filled with about 200 chanting, placard-carrying demonstrators and a brass band, the Rude Mechanical Orchestra. Organized by a group representing the tomato pickers in Immokalee, Fla., called the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), and supported by their many allies, it was part of a campaign to get the Trader Joe’s market chain to agree to join with Whole Foods, McDonald’s, Subway, Taco Bell, and Burger King who are already working with the CIW to improve the working conditions and wages of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes that these stores sell. Essentially, that would mean that Trader Joe’s would have to pay an additional penny a pound for their tomatoes. The agreement between the Florida growers and these retailers requires that the retailers demand more humane standards from their Florida tomato suppliers, and for that they will agree to pay a higher price for the more fairly produced tomatoes, and they will only buy from growers who meet those higher standards. The Immokalee workers are trying to establish the principle of

“Fair Food.”

The CIW is responding to a human rights crisis in Florida’s tomato fields. Pickers earn 40 to 50 cents for every 32-pound bucket of tomatoes that they harvest. That pay rate has not risen since 1978. A worker has to pick 2.5 tons of tomatoes to earn a minimum wage for a 10-hour day.

In 2008, two farm labor employers in Immokalee each got 12 year prison sentences for enslaving tomato harvesters. The pickers were held against their will, beaten, chained, and locked up at night. During the past decade there have been seven convictions of tomato growers, involving over 1,000 workers, for servitude and slavery.

The CIW did not gain the power to represent the workers easily. They began organizing in 1993 in a room in a local church. Their goal was to better their lives and the lives of their community. It took three community-wide work stoppages, a month-long hunger strike, strong pressure on the growers from groups that supported the workers, and a historic 234 mile march in 2000 from Ft. Meyers to Orlando to enable them to gain recognition and win industry-wide raises of between 13 percent and 25 percent for the harvesters.

As people passed Trader Joe’s they were handed leaflets explaining the action and very many stopped to talk. The demonstrators explained that they were not asking anyone to boycott the store yet. Postcards addressed to Dan Bane, Trader Joe’s CEO, were signed by people in the street and urged him to work with the CIW to ensure fair wages and working conditions for the farm workers. They were later delivered to the store manager.

After about 90 minutes, as the colorful signs and musical instruments were packed up, there was one final militant chant, “We’ll be back and we’ll be stronger. We won’t take this any longer.”



Photo: Bud Korotzer
Activists rally outside Trader Joe’s in Manhattan.

Wobs Return To The Boss’s House

By Benjamin Ferguson

On Aug. 8, the New York City IWW and community supporters went to the home of the owner of Flaum Appetizing, a sweatshop in Brooklyn which fired 17 workers who were unionizing to stop wage violations. Despite the boss’ refusal to hire them back and give them the stolen overtime pay as ordered by the courts, workers have joined the IWW and are leading the protests several times a week at a supermarket which carries Flaum products. The influential blog “FailedMessiah.com” has covered the campaign in several articles and has curiously inflammatory and supportive comments from readers.



Photo: Benjamin Ferguson

Labor Day Pineapple Protest

By John Kalwaic

Labor Day in the city of Philadelphia was more interesting than usual this year. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter was booed at the annual Labor Day rally on Sept. 6. Usually, AFL-CIO unions receive Philadelphia’s Democratic Party mayors warmly, but this year was a different story. Several city unions are working without a contract and are angry with the mayor for laying-off their fellow workers. Mayor Nutter seemed unmoved by the doings saying, “It’s all a part of the job” and that the Philadelphia economy was “going good.”

The march culminated with workers from the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) Local 1291 dumping Del Monte pineapples into the Delaware River. The ILA union members are furious at the Del Monte Fruit Company for moving their business from union ports across the river in Camden, N.J., to nearby Gloucester Terminals LLC, which is privately owned by Leo Holt and his family. Their workers receive less pay than they do at the plant in Philadelphia, which is publicly owned and unionized with the ILA. The pineapple tossing was the finale of the Labor Day march.

Correction: The group photo which appeared under “Celebrating 105 Years Of Industrial Unionism” on page 5 of the August/September *IW* was inaccurately credited to “NYC IWW.” The photo was taken by David Buccola, who was also cropped out. The original photo appears here.



Jimmy John’s Workers Form Union, Demand End To Low Pay

Continued from 1

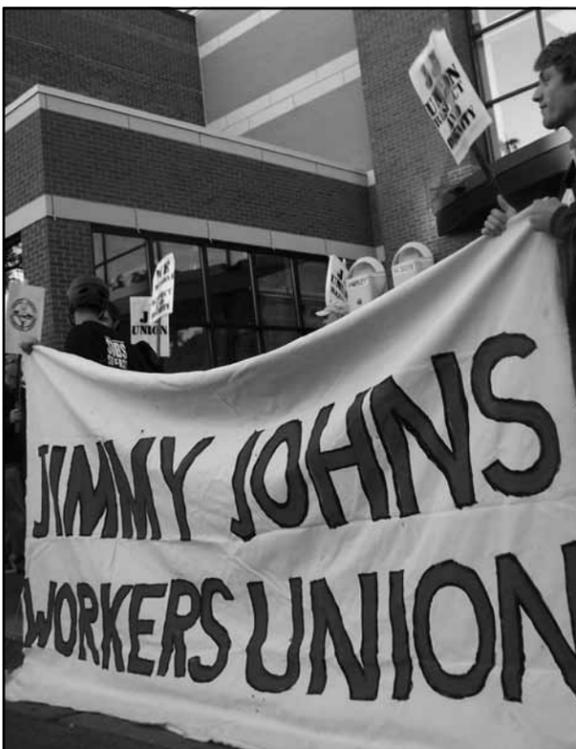
at the 9th Street store, thinks the union is important because it means having a say on the job. “I would like to see owner cooperation during negotiations,” he said. “I hope that they will be reasonable. I want to be listened to.”

Union members are pushing for MikLin Enterprises to recognize them as the representatives of the workers at the franchise and negotiate around improving the problems that workers have put forward. As Bolte puts it, “We want our coworkers to have a sense of dignity at work and a sense of solidarity with each other.”

The JJWU has picketed at several of the franchise stores and presented demands to local managers, but the Mulligans continue to ignore the voices of the workers.

“If Mike and Rob won’t just sit down and meet with us, we feel we have no other choice but to put pressure on them to make them listen. We are going to show Jimmy John’s corporate executives that if they don’t ensure that their franchise owners are respecting their

employees, there will be consequences at the national level,” said Emily Przybylsky, a union member. The fight to organize and improve lives for Jimmy John’s workers has just begun, but with the support of their community and their class, the JJWU is poised to set a new standard for workers in fast food.



Jimmy John’s picket on Sept. 4. Photo: Diane Krauthamer

First In Nation, Jimmy Johns Workers File for Union Election

By the Jimmy Johns Workers Union

Sandwich workers at nine Minneapolis Jimmy John’s locations made history on Sept. 14 as they filed for the first-ever National Labor Relations Board union election at the national fast food chain. If a majority of workers vote in favor of unionization, franchise owner Mike Mulligan will be legally bound to negotiate with a bargaining team elected by his employees.

“Since we formed a union... Mike Mulligan has refused to even talk to us. We intend to keep the pressure on management to meet our demands. They may be able to stonewall us for now, but when we win this election, Jimmy John’s will have no choice but to negotiate,” said Mike Wilkow, a Jimmy Johns Workers Union member.

Since workers at nine Minneapolis Jimmy John’s locations announced the formation of a union and demanded negotiations with franchise management on Sept. 2, the chain has been bombarded with an escalating campaign of actions in 32 states intended to bring management to the bargaining table. The Jimmy Johns Workers



JJWU spoke card. Photo: jimmyjohnsworkers.org

Union’s demands include sick days, a no-nonsense worker’s compensation policy, fair scheduling, livable wages, an end to sexual harassment, and other measures of basic fairness at work.

Franchise owner Mike Mulligan and general manager Rob Mulligan have ignored the union’s repeated requests for negotiations. Union members say managers have begun using typical union-busting tactics, such as distributing threatening letters, calling employees into irregular one-on-one meetings, and making concessions to individual workers on demands around wages and hours.

Special

Looking Back, Moving Forward & Taking Action:

By Diane Krauthamer

On the weekend of Sept. 4-6, Wobblies from across the United States, Canada, England and Germany gathered in the Twin Cities, Minn., for a weekend of planning, debating, picketing, networking, voting and even some bowling at the 2010 IWW General Convention.

Kicking off the Convention

The convention kicked off the morning of Saturday, Sept. 4 inside the Art Department building of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. After enjoying breakfast, tea, and coffee, Wobblies filed into the conference room and General Secretary-Treasurer (GST) Joe Tessone officially called the 2010 General Convention to order at 9:27 a.m. Delegates representing their General Membership Branches (GMBs) appointed a temporary chair and secretary, and elected a Credentials Committee and a Committee on Rules. The Credentials Committee confirmed the list of delegates who were allowed to be seated on the convention floor, while the Rules Committee drew up guidelines on the structure of the meeting. Minutes later, delegates and IWW participants began the permanent session and elected permanent officers for the convention: Ryan G. (Portland GMB) as Chair; Annie Sommer Kaufman (Baltimore GMB) as Co-Chair; Monika Vykoukal (West Midlands GMB) as Recording Secretary; Noah J-G (Portland GMB) as Time Keeper; and Angel Gardner (Twin Cities GMB) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Proceedings began with a brief discussion on the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions that were to be voted on at the meeting, and the formation of charges and appeals committees. Following this, officers and representatives of the IWW's various elected bodies presented reports on past, current and future activity.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

GST Joe Tessone started with a report from General Headquarters (GHQ). He spoke about the progress of GHQ's recent switch to a new database. He explained how this and other technological improvements have allowed for more efficiency when promoting and developing organizing and outreach opportunities for the union as a whole.

One new policy that GHQ has implemented through these technological improvements is immediately putting Wobblies in touch with their local GMB when they sign up through the website.

"It's really important to reach out to these folks to make sure that they have people to work with," FW Tessone said. While this is important for the first steps in building membership, he added that GHQ is

focusing on building the union along industrial lines and not just geographically by connecting members with Industrial Unions, and not just their local branches. He added that 416 people have been initiated into the union since Jan. 1, 2010, and hopes for the membership numbers to grow even more in the coming year.

The General Executive Board (GEB) was next to present their report. GEB Chair Koala spoke on the status of GMBs, pointing to some exciting developments in South Africa, and the recent

formation of the Albuquerque GMB.

GEB member Ryan G. spoke more extensively to questions of the IWW's finances and legal questions. FW Ryan discussed how the IWW needs to "focus on seeing ourselves as a union that is growing and gaining a higher profile," especially in the face of scrutiny from our bosses in such growing national and international campaigns as the recently-formed Jimmy Johns Workers Union and the Starbucks Workers Union. All in all, the GEB was applauded for the difficult work they put into the union.

Next was a report from the informal project called the Membership Database Coordination Project Committee (MD-CPC), in which Steve Ayers and Ryan G. presented the new database interface that GHQ is utilizing. FW Ayers showed Convention attendees how the new system will make it easier for Wobblies to coordinate with the nearest branch with an automated map that gives members a set of directions showing where each

occur all over the country in the coming year. The ODB is also working on developing a Spanish-language version of the 101 training and on getting all written materials translated.

FW Pierce reported on the work of the ODB's Survey & Research Commission. The commission is looking to develop a manual for corporate industrial research, centralize their Spanish-translated materials, and develop ODB liaisons in various branches to connect folks from different GMBs with common campaigns. FW Pierce added a word of advice to the union body that new GMBs should develop strategies to organize in industries that are already IWW targets.

Eric Zenke spoke about some of the new projects that the Literature Department has planned for the coming year, including a focus on fundraising for organizing campaigns. FW Zenke said the Department's goal is to eventually sell merchandise from all of the active IWW campaigns. The new items they have for

grow," he commented. "We're making some good technological advances, but we have a lot of work to get through."

Last but not least was the *Industrial Worker* report. In 2010, the *IW* has cut its expenses in half and significantly increased circulation throughout the world. The newspaper has featured content on a range of IWW organizing efforts, rank-and-file struggles within mainstream labor unions, working-class analyses on a diversity of issues, and reviews of current and historical literature about the labor movement and labor history. The *IW* has also featured news that promoted international diversity and solidarity. The editor thanked all the hard-working volunteers and contributors who make the paper possible.

After the reports, complaints against members and other such internal formalities were sifted through, and committees formed to meet and develop proposed solutions for the union at large to consider and vote on. Following this

were nominations, and Fellow Workers nominated candidates for next year's GST, GEB, *IW* Editor, ISC, Central Secretary Treasurer (CST) of the GDC, Audit Committee, Literature Department, Finance Committee, and 2011 Convention Sites. The nominations for next year's Convention include Baltimore, Portland, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Pittsburgh and Olympia.

A Spirited Picket

As the afternoon drew to a close, Wobblies gathered outside for a barbeque with burgers, shish kebabs and beans, and at approximately 6:30 p.m. most of those in

attendance carpooled across the Mississippi River into Minneapolis for a boisterous two-hour picket at the Jimmy John's store in Calhoun Square, bringing business at the store to a near halt. The job action came two days after Jimmy John's workers at all nine Minneapolis franchise locations announced the formation of a union and demanded talks with owners Mike and Rob Mulligan over labor conditions at the chain.

Upwards of 100 IWW members, the majority of whom were spirited Jimmy Johns Workers Union members, as well as a large contingent of other supporters from the Twin Cities and Convention attendees from across the globe, joined with signs, noise-makers, bikes, fliers, petitions and even a few instruments. With a spontaneous rendition of "Solidarity Forever," accompanied by a street musician playing an accordion, the picket line lasted well into the evening, sending a strong message that was echoed by the group: "We'll be back and we'll be stronger." (To read more on the Jimmy Johns Workers Union, check out "Jimmy John's Workers Form Union, Demand End To Low Pay" on page 1).

After the picket, Convention participants carpooled back over to the Midway Lanes bowling alley in St. Paul. Wobblies formed teams and listed themselves on the scoreboard with their union membership numbers, and all had an enjoyable evening.

Towards a More Inclusive Culture

Delegates and attending members arrived back at Macalester College early on Sunday morning for what would be a 16-hour session. The chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., and business was picked up right where it was left off.

Decommissioning inactive committees was one of the first agenda items.

Continued on next page



IWW delegates and members strike a pose at the 2010 General Convention.

Photo: Industrial Worker

person is in relation to a nearby office. FW Ayers explained that the MDCPC is working to move the current database online, and wants more people to get involved in the development of this project.

Fellow Workers M. Jones and J. Pierce reported on the Organizing Department Board (ODB). FW Jones began with an update on the Organizer Training Committee (OTC). One of the OTC's ongoing projects is to establish, keep track of, and work to develop Industrial Organizing Committees (IOCs) in industries where the IWW has been active, such as in the Construction Workers Organizing Committee (CWOC), Freight Truckers Organizing Committee (FTOC), and the Starbucks Workers Union. The OTC is also in the process of developing IOCs in Industrial Unions 460 (food-stuffs workers) and 620 (education workers).

FW Jones also reported that the Los Angeles GMB hosted a successful organizing summit in May, with a number of workshops and presentations, a lot of talk about strategy, a giant pizza for lunch, and a performance by famous Wobbly musician Tom Morello. FW Jones reported that these summits are held every two years. Additionally, the ODB continues publishing the *Organizer's Notebook*, a resource for all members to stay up to date on the ODB's activities.

The ODB was excited to report on a new training they're offering: Organizing 102! FWs had spent many months developing this follow-up to the popular Organizer 101 training, and FW Jones was excited to report that the Portland GMB will host the first 102 training in November. He also noted that the ODB as a whole wants to see the trainings

sale include posters, beanies, picket line accessories, Starbucks Workers Union coffee mugs, and t-shirts!

GST Joe Tessone was next up to present a brief Audit Committee report. Overall, the committee found significant improvements in bookkeeping this year. No one was available to present an International Solidarity Commission (ISC) report, but the ISC's work was reflected throughout the Convention as elements of their hard work in building strong alliances across the globe significantly improved this year. (To read more about the ISC's latest activities, check out the *ISC column on page 12*).

Steve Ayers reported on the recent work of the General Defense Committee (GDC). He reported that the GDC is continually working with political prisoner and IWW member Marie Mason, who serves on the GDC's steering committee and is serving a 20-year jail sentence. The GDC also continues to raise funds to cover FW Alex Svoboda's legal costs incurred after she had her leg broken by the cops in Providence, R.I. while attending a solidarity march for Industrial Union 460 workers from New York. Ayers also reported that the GDC is building relationships with the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). (To read more news and announcements on GDC's activities, check out the "Defiant Spirit" column on page 5.)

The Internet Administration Committee (IAC) followed with a report on the status of the union's website, iww.org. Fellow Worker X363945 discussed the technicalities involved in making significant updates to the website and the codebase, and offered that the new site will allow Wobblies to create their own groups, invite certain people to be a part of these groups and contribute, and vote on content.

"I would like to see the website



Photo: Industrial Worker
GST Joe Tessone reports.

Special A Report From The 2010 IWW General Convention

Continued from previous page

A major highlight of this session was the re-commissioning of the Gender Issues Committee, which was tasked with drafting a union-wide anti-harassment policy and developing recommendations on how to include and involve more women in the IWW. Angel Gardner of the Twin Cities GMB was nominated to be the chair of this committee, and immediately followed through on this task by collecting contact information from Wobblies who were interested in participating. She and others participated in two short Women's Caucus meetings during informal break-out sessions.

At these meetings—one during a morning break on Saturday and one during Sunday's lunch break—a handful of female-identified Wobblies discussed a variety of issues that women in the union are faced with, and brainstormed ideas for developing a more inclusive culture while lending support to serious and more immediate concerns of female-identified members. This included an overall commitment to strengthening the fight against misogyny and all other forms of discrimination that unfortunately tend to seep into every crevice of society and into the IWW as well.

Developing a culture of inclusiveness involves a number of approaches, such as providing a greater voice to Wobblies of all genders, races and creeds, including Wobblies of all ages.

Erik Davis of the Twin Cities GMB, a father of two, said one of the Convention highlights for him was the childcare services provided throughout the whole weekend. FW Davis said that one of his goals of the weekend was to "increase multi-generational membership and activity."

"We had a lot of kids here throughout the whole Convention, and seeing this effective childcare accomplished really was wonderful," he commented. Another Wobbly father pointed out that developing programs for children's involvement and educational programs in the union could be one of the projects that male-identified anti-sexist Wobblies could commit to in the coming years.

The General Convention: A More Democratic Structure?

From the late morning until the late afternoon during Sunday's session, the body discussed and voted on 12 constitutional amendments and five resolutions. These proposals were thoroughly picked through and debated, as branch delegates discussed pieces of each section, provided recommended amendments, and debated for hours until a compromise was reached among a majority of branch delegates.

The structure of the General Convention, which was reinvigorated after decades of being the defunct model for the IWW's annual meeting, is still relatively new for many current IWW members who have, in the recent past, relied on the General Assembly structure. The Convention structure, which allows for each General Membership Branch to send a certain number of delegates to represent the GMB's interests and limits the voting power of each branch while curtailing the voting power of anyone else in attendance who does not represent a branch, replaced the Assembly, which allowed for every IWW member in attendance at the meeting a voice and a vote. Some argued that the Assembly model was unfair as it allowed those Wobblies within a closer vicinity of the

meeting site to have a stronger voice and vote than those who lived further away from the hosting city and could not attend. The Convention structure may be one step closer to a more democratic union, but the transition to this model is a period of trial-and-error.

Charli Haataja of the Twin Cities GMB, who had joined the IWW one month prior to the Convention, observed that it is a real challenge for the IWW to maintain a delicate balance between its democratic principles and efficient functioning.

"The Convention is a balancing act between principles and organization," she observed, adding that the IWW Constitution and Bylaws provide a broad set of guidelines for the IWW to operate, but there are allowances to these rules and changes which are constantly made. Haataja said the Convention structure seems to maintain a fair balance of power within the union.

The question of whether or not this balance was being achieved remained on the forefront of the Convention floors, as debate surrounding the various proposals and internal issues ensued. With only two short breaks after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening—one for

a dinner and another for ice cream sundaes and root beer floats—the session continued on late into the night. Wobblies had some very difficult issues to discuss and tough decisions to make throughout the contentious disciplinary proceedings, as charges were presented against members and officers and

were debated late into the night. A little after midnight, the end of the Convention was in sight.

Before the meeting concluded a major item was left on the table and Wobblies representing the IWW Friends of Palestinian Workers Group delivered powerful speeches in favor of the proposed Resolution in Support of Workers of Israel-Palestine. While some Fellow Workers pointed to the possibility of appearing anti-Semitic in passing such a resolution, others argued that the motion was actually called for by workers whom the International Solidarity Commission had met with in 2009 and supports the working class of both the Israeli and Palestinian states who identify with many religions and creeds. Fellow Workers further argued that the resolution makes a point that the union does not recognize the right of any state to exist, and although it calls for the boycott of Israeli goods, it does not explicitly support or proscribe the creation of a Palestinian state, or any Palestinian political factions. The debated resolution will come to a final vote through the referendum ballot this fall, which all members in good standing will receive a copy of in the mail.

Good and Welfare

By 1:30 a.m., the final item of business to hear reports from caucuses, campaigns, branches, Regional Organizing Committees, shops and other bodies was shortened to only include hearing a brief oral report from the Women's Caucus, who reported on the two meetings and steps ahead. After this came "Good & Welfare"—a time traditionally set aside at IWW meetings in which attendees provide compliments or critiques to the body regarding various aspects of the Convention as a whole. At this time Fellow Workers expressed a profound appreciation of the Twin Cities GMB for all the hard work that less than a dozen

volunteers put in to make the Convention a success.

If anyone should write a handbook on how to host a General Convention, it is the Twin Cities GMB! Only a handful of hosts managed to coordinate housing, food, childcare and transportation for nearly 100 out-of-towners who had a mix of needs. While putting in a tremendous amount of time and energy into hosting, all of the coordinators actively participated in the Convention proceedings itself while continuing with on-the-ground organizing with the Jimmy Johns Workers Union—an IWW campaign four years in the making that had gone public on Sept. 2, two days before the Convention began. The Twin Cities GMB also maintains organizing work with the Starbucks Workers Union and its members are actively involved in other areas of the IWW as well.

Also, Fellow Workers were commended for the additional contributions they made at this year's Convention. Although there were many difficult tasks and long sessions to pull through, some Fellow Workers kept in positive spirits throughout the Convention by contributing to a live Twitter feed of the proceedings—a new initiative at this year's meeting provided as a service to those who could not physically attend the meeting. Other Fellow Workers found comic relief in bingo cards distributed by the "Industrial Laughification Committee," whereby Wobblies could mark off when certain things happened or certain statements were made, such as "Inspirational speech, applause" or "A FW dressed 'to the nines' has the floor." When participants had marked off five squares on the card and announced "bingo!" they received a small prize of union postcards and stickers. Some Wobblies know that the only way to maintain the momentum of productive decision-making is to provide tools for mental stimulation and active participation.

At this time, Steve Ayers announced



Photo: Industrial Worker

A spirited rendition of "Solidarity Forever"

that the GDC raised upwards of \$160 for FW Alex Svoboda at the Convention, and the San Francisco Bay Area GMB announced an initiative to donate to flood relief efforts in Pakistan. Additionally, GST Joe Tessone delivered a powerful statement to the union as a whole, expressing his inspiration at the IWW's progress and stating that "there's some love going on in this organization."

As per tradition at each year's general meeting, the weekend drew to a close with a spirited singing of Ralph Chaplin's "Solidarity Forever," our long-time anthem. This year, Wobblies added an additional verse which appears in the 2010 "IWW Little Red Songbook":

*It is we that wash the dishes, scrub the floors and chase the dirt
Feed the kids and send them off to school and then we go to work
Where we work for half wages for a boss that likes to flirt
But the union makes us strong.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 a.m., and Wobblies left feeling inspired to move forward, and hopeful for the year to come.

Taking the Cake: IWWers Disrupt Honest Employee Efforts at Labor Peace

By Mr. Block

More than a hundred years ago, the good men in Congress created Labor Day, a three-day weekend used to celebrate the fact that we no longer need unions—in fact, that we never needed them. Over a century ago honest Americans figured out that the best way to rise to the top is to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, to work hard, to do the occasional favor for the boss, not by trying to extort our honest employers who gave us the jobs we should be thanking them for.

Well, somehow all these troublemaking IWWers didn't get the memo. It must not have been mentioned in their left-wing, anti-American, printed on recycled paper, communist press or in any of their sabotage-inspired pamphlets that promote punching the boss over punching the time clock and that talk about how profits are evil.

It'd be bad enough if all these backwards thinking, lazy, no-goodniks kept their ideas to emails. But this past Labor Day Weekend, when flag-flying Americans enjoyed a paid day off and gave thanks to their benevolent bosses, all these IWWers came to the Twin Cities from as far away as Socialist Germany and Mexi-zona and started rabble-rousing at a local Jimmy John's.

Jimmy John's workers are loyal and true blue Americans and like all of us all they want is a good pat on the back and an occasional "Att-a-Boy!" from their honest and equally hard-working employer. And like all of us who enjoy union-free workplaces, we have the freedom to talk about our jobs with our bosses as individuals without needing the approval of cow-pie-cards and boo-racrats. And the Jimmy John's workers used to be able to talk one-on-one with their bosses, too.

But the store owners had to end the open-door policy after these lousy IWW-shnrors who parachuted into town descended on a local Jimmy John's. They set up a picket that blocked hungry people from their God-given rights to patronize and BUYcott a loyal American enterprise, and started making all sorts of demands like consistent hours, respect and pay raises. I don't get it. First they say the wage system should be abolished because all profit is tainted. Then they say they want the tainted money for higher wages. Well I've got news for them, that money 'taint theirs.

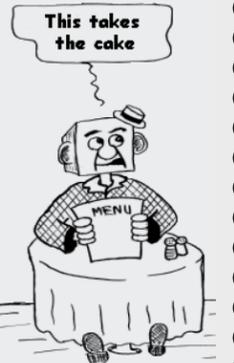
If bosses could afford to pay more they would. If workers worked harder they would get more respect. In a way it's kind of funny that they did this at a sandwich shop, because all of their demands were baloney!

But not only did they disrupt the harmony of the store by demanding all these things from the store's owners, who, like all bosses, have the well-being of their loyal employees at heart, but they also started crying for all this other stuff FOR THEMSELVES!

These bums who probably lied, cheated and stole their way into town for something called the General Convention, demanded from their "fellow workers" full 3-course meals, free lodging, bottomless coffee and ice cream at one in the morning.

For all their talk about wanting a bigger piece of the pie, the nerve of these anarchist IWWers truly takes the cake.

Though he has no phone or email, readers wanting to contact him can generally find Mr. Block crossing a picket line or purchasing struck goods.



Political Repression

Marie Mason Transferred To A New Prison In Texas

By Erik Davis

Fellow Worker Marie Mason, a long-time member of the Industrial Workers of the World, is currently serving a 22-year sentence for two acts of property destruction in 1999 and 2000—events in which no human injuries were intended nor occurred.

Marie has received the longest sentence of any of the Green Scare defendants, whose prosecution in the United States appears to be the new front line in the revived COINTELPRO-esque actions of the state. While there is room in our union for discussion and disapproval of the acts that resulted in Marie's imprisonment, the more significant issues before us are the use of Green Scare prosecutions to pioneer a new set of repressive laws and punishments for those who oppose the state in general, and capitalism and its depredations in particular.

The Twin Cities General Membership Branch of the IWW voted to "adopt" FW Mason when she was transferred to a Federal facility in Waseca, Minn., about an hour-and-a-half from the Twin Cities. I was able to make a few visits

during her period here, and exchanged many letters. I found her to be an astonishing person, full of optimism and struggle, even in her dire circumstances. She taught guitar and music lessons, and organized with a group of Spanish-language speaking imprisoned mothers, known as "Spanish Mommies." Her personal struggles were not her focus, although they were considerable. As a vegan and a practicing Buddhist, she has not been permitted a proper diet or the ability to properly practice her faith in prison.

Marie has now been transferred to a new federal facility in Carswell, Texas, near our sisters and brothers in Fort Worth. Marie was held in a Solitary Housing Unit for a considerable amount of time both prior to the transfer and after. While she is now out of solitary, her unit has only 16 others and they are never permitted to leave the building in which they are housed. It is unclear whether her dietary or religious needs are being properly addressed.

At this time, FW Marie needs our actions, and our solidarity. You can help out significantly merely by writing to

her; the address is below. Please DO NOT SEND MONEY, as she will be fined for this and the money confiscated. We also hope that Fellow Workers in Fort Worth and the Carswell area will consider formally "adopting" her the way the Twin Cities GMB did, and make attempts to visit her.

Write her at Marie Mason #04672-061, FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX, 76127. She is being represented by a lawyer at the Civil Liberties Defense Fund in Eugene, Oregon. Contact Kenneth Miller at 412-867-9213 if you are in the Carswell/Fort Worth area.

Consider also reading the blog <http://www.supportmariemason.org>, which is regularly updated with news.



Photo: Fellow Inmate at FCI-Waseca
FW Erik Davis and his two kids with Marie Mason, in the visiting room.

Stop FBI From Destroying Bomb Case Evidence

From judibari.org

Following the 20th anniversary of the 1990 car bombing and attempted frame up of Earth First! (EF!) organizers Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, on Sept. 8 civil rights attorneys Dennis Cunningham and Ben Rosenfeld argued a motion to prevent the FBI from destroying two sets of bomb remnants. The motion asked that those remnants and other evidence to be turned over to Cherney or an agreed upon laboratory for DNA and other forensic testing to determine the identity of the bomber.

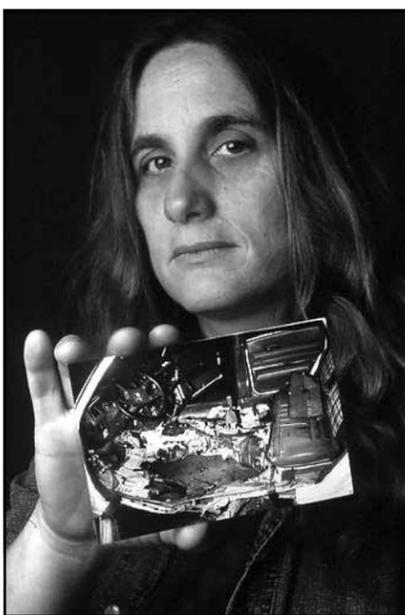


Photo: judibari.org

The case stems from the FBI and Oakland Police Department's attempts to pin a political bombing on the victims rather than look for the terrorist who tried to kill Judi Bari, also an IWW member, by hiding a motion-triggered pipe bomb under the driver's seat of her Subaru station wagon. The explosion interrupted Bari and Cherney's musical road show in which they traveled to

colleges to encourage people to participate in the Redwood Summer campaign to stop the logging of ancient redwoods. They had pulled out of Oakland just before noon, heading to the University of California at Santa Cruz to perform on that fateful May 24, 1990, when Bari's car exploded. Oakland police and FBI agents instantly declared Bari and Cherney the only suspects despite the fact that all of the physical evidence pointed at an assassination attempt. They also provided the FBI with a folder full of death threats targeting them on the day of the bombing.

Bari (posthumously) and Cherney won a successful civil rights trial in 2002, in which the jury agreed that their First and Fourth Amendment rights had been violated when the FBI and Oakland Police falsely arrested them and illegally searched their homes—all in order to discredit and silence them. The events took place in a highly charged

year. A ballot initiative—Forests Forever (Proposition 130) on the November ballot—would have banned clear cutting and preserved ancient forests among other proposed reforms. It was defeated by just over one percentage point in a major setback.

The FBI, intent on framing Bari and Cherney, has never conducted a sincere investigation. It has failed even to analyze lifted fingerprints or to do DNA forensics. Cherney, however, has conducted his own investigation—collecting and analyzing evidence in pursuit of the bomber the FBI appears intent on hiding. "There is a logging truck's load of forensic evidence in this case," said Cherney.

A letter taking credit for two bombings, including the bomb in Bari's car, signed "The

Lord's Avenger," provided details on the design of another bomb that barely went off at the Louisiana Pacific sawmill in Cloverdale, Calif., two weeks before the car bombing, as well as details of

the car bomb. The bomb in Cloverdale is nearly intact and could provide DNA and other forensic evidence that could identify the bomber.

A jury awarded the Bari and Cherney \$4.4 million (in Bari's case, to her estate). Later, the parties settled for a total of \$4 million, inclusive of attorney's fees. The parties also agreed that: the FBI would return evidence to Oakland, Oakland would turn over evidence to Cherney, the parties would certify any disputes to the Court, and that May 24, 1990 be proclaimed Judi Bari Day by the city of Oakland, which did, in fact, occur.



Graphic: Glad Day Press
Sticker from Redwood Summer, 1990.

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London IWW, Labor Activists Unite In Support Of Swedish SAC Union

Continued from 1

anywhere, and will stand with our brothers and sisters when they need our help. The battle is not over and we will be back as often as need be to win this dispute. These demonstrations will grow unless the stubborn managers of Berns and London Regional agree to negotiate.

We once again thank everybody who has been supporting this campaign so far and who turned up to make the demonstration on the 13th the success that it was. We once again send our message of solidarity to the SAC, who we stand with, and we wish it all the best in the struggle ahead.



Photo: Jose Sagaz
Latin American Workers Association.

International News

Hot Summer for Iranian Workers' Movement

By J. Pierce

The summer of 2010 has been a tumultuous one for the workers of Iran. Despite constant arrests and violence by government police, the workers' movement fought back with courageous resistance. Nearly every corner of industry has been hit by workers' strikes and protest actions: steel, metal, auto, and tire workers, taxi and bus drivers, coal miners, iron ore workers, oil refinery workers, tourism employees, bakery and soft drink workers, reservoir dam workers and municipal workers, road construction workers, textile workers, and information telephone operators—workers from every sector have been in the streets to make themselves heard.

Many of these strikes and protests are defensive actions, however, as angry workers in search of their stolen paychecks attempt to recoup their wages. The practice of withholding workers' pay for months on end is an all-too-common habit among Iran's unscrupulous employers. Three-hundred workers of the Hormozgan Steel Complex in the southern city of Bandar Abbas, for example, have been ripped off for the last three months as they work 10-hour days with-

out pay. Their protest action on Aug. 23 hoped to loosen the boss's purse strings as promises go unfulfilled. Similarly, 400 workers at Kian Tire factory (or Alborz Tire) in Tehran went on strike on Aug. 19 to demand back wages and improved working conditions. Reminiscent of the explosive strikes in 2008 which saw 1,000 workers arrested, the tire workers locked the warehouse gates behind them and prepared for another long fight.

Along with the rare strike victories, Iranian workers have endured numerous tragedies and setbacks. The most horrific were the state executions of five



Photo:astreetjournalist.com

Families mourn Kurdish political prisoners in May.

and hung inside Tehran's notorious Evin Prison. Farzad Kamangar was a teacher, an activist, and a respected member in the Teachers' Trade Association of Kurdistan, a union under constant attack. International outcry over these state murders has weakened the government's legitimacy. Nevertheless, Iran's impris-

Kurdish political prisoners on Sunday, May 9. Farzad Kamangar, Ali Haydarian, Farhad Vakili, Shirin Alam Holi, a woman, and Mehdi Eslamian, a non-Kurd, stood accused of membership in a radical Kurdish organization and were then convicted of *moharebeh*

(enmity against God)

oned unionists and activists still face grim prospects.

One such prisoner is Mansour Osanloo, a leader of the Tehran and Suburbs Vahed Bus Workers Syndicate (Vahed Syndicate). He was first arrested on Sept. 7, 2005 and has been released and re-arrested multiple times over the last five years. Since his latest arrest on July 10, 2007, Osanloo has been subjected to routine beatings and torture by prison guards. His tongue was cut by prison personnel during one such incident. Osanloo's case has become a global human rights campaign, with demonstrations for his release supported by mainstream human rights watchdogs as well as union federations such as the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

Although the Islamic Republic continues its crackdown unabated, the Tehran Bus Workers did secure a small victory with the release and reinstatement of Saeed Torabian, the public relations director of Vahed Syndicate. Given that unpaid workers continue to clash with government forces and a U.S. invasion is very possible, the summer heat promises to continue in Iran.

The Story Of Western Australia's Solidarity Park

By Bruce Campbell, X368040

Directly opposite Parliament House in Perth—the capital city of Western Australia—is a small but amazing park, called Solidarity Park. Solidarity Park today serves as an assembly point for various unions to meet before Parliament House rallies against issues. It is the location of the local International Workers' Memorial Day service on April 28, as well as other sporadic events, and could now do with a “revitalization,” which this FW is currently working on. However, it is the story of the founding of Solidarity Park—which not only amazed me when I first read about it and amazes me to this date—that I wish to share, as it is a story worth telling and may generate a few thoughts about how to organize today and in the future.

The background is Western Australia, 1997. A Conservative state government had unfortunately been elected in 1996. Key on the government's agenda was Industrial Relations “reforms,” dubbed “The Third Wave.” The supposed “reforms” consisted of weakening unions' and union members' rights. They could be seen to be a precursor to the Howard Government's 2005 “Work-Choices” push that would, if not stopped, give any boss the right to sack any worker for no given reason and without any right of reply, among other things. In a nutshell, “The Third Wave” would have been very bad news if it had been enacted.

Solidarity Park's origins date back to April 29, 1997, when a 30,000-strong

multi-union mass rally marched through the streets of Perth up to Parliament House. Inspired by the successful 1992 “tent embassy” protest outside the Tasmania, Australia, Parliament House against similar legislation, the Western Australia Trades and Labour Council (TLC) installed a “Trojan horse” caravan—ostensibly to serve as a first aid post for the rally—outside the Western Australia Parliament House at 4:00 a.m. on April 29. Security immediately checked in, but, to the surprise of the unionists, let the First Aid post stay. The unionists also set up a marquee (a tent) later in the day, and the TLC Worker's Embassy was then officially opened by Jennie George, the President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The police made arrests and then dismantled the marquee. Around 12:30 a.m. on May Day, those who had been imprisoned returned to Parliament House to continue the protest, finding that the police had packed up the marquee inside the caravan, which was just about to be towed away by a contractor. Seeking to continue the protest, the unionists convinced the contractor to place the caravan just opposite Parliament House, on land between the street verge and a car park. By 1:30 a.m., the unionists had regrouped and had the TLC Worker's Embassy up and running again on what was a scrap of land left over by chance, too small to fit into the bigger scheme of town planning—but now officially claimed by the TLC under the Western Australia Mining Act of

1978.

After this, the TLC Worker's Embassy planned the Third Wave Occupation of the Legislative Assembly - which occurred from May 14-15, 1997. Yes, that is correct: the TLC coordinated the occupation of the upper house of Parliament!

Albeit for a period of only two days—and in a stable, non-totalitarian first world country—this, nonetheless, certainly was a landmark action. The government did not give in to this act, so the unionist stayed at the Worker's Embassy across the road from Parliament House—for another six months! At the latter stages of the campaign, the TLC Worker's Embassy even went mobile in part, with the caravan touring the state and hosting local rallies at regional centres.

So did it all actually work? The answer is yes. In fact, the Third Wave legislation did pass through the Legislative Assembly, but the Conservative government was too scared to implement any of its measures, and was unceremoniously

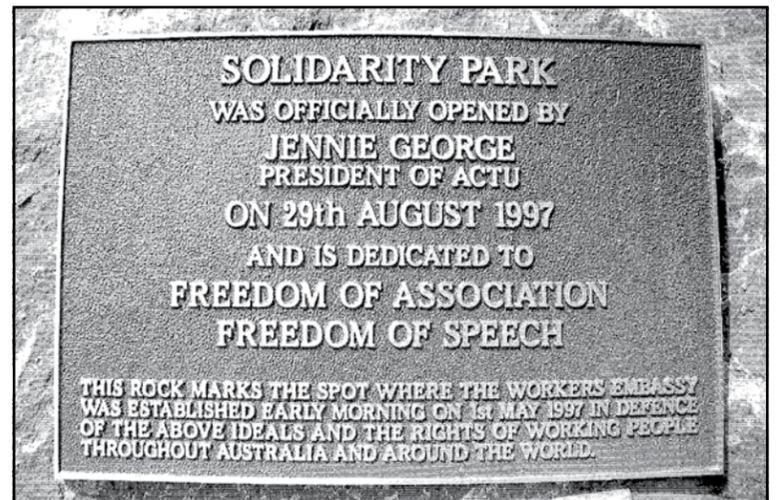


Photo: Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

Monument for Solidarity Park.

booted out of power at the next State election. The “mining lease” site opposite Parliament House was officially named by the TLC as Solidarity Park in late July 1997, with the trade unions involved in equipping the Park with a full array of paving, gardens, memorial walls and features, permanent shelters, and being in Australia, the obligatory barbeque! Also, Solidarity Park is now on the State Heritage register.

So there is the story of Solidarity Park, not widely known even in Western Australia these days, but still very inspiring. Personally, I feel the real story of Solidarity Park is about all the various union members (and trade unions) uniting and winning. This kind of reminds me of the IWW!

Squeezed Baristas Shut Down Starbucks In Omaha, Nebraska

Continued from 1

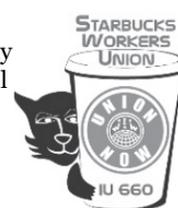
2009, leaving many workers unable to afford medical treatment because of sky-high deductibles and premiums. While the cuts continue, Starbucks made a record profit of \$207.9 million in the last quarter, according to company figures.

The protesting baristas are members of the Starbucks Workers Union. The store action makes the 15th and Douglas location the first Starbucks in Nebraska to have a public union presence. The workers decided to move to unionize after watching their standard of living be whittled away while top executives chose to reward investors with dividends.

Samantha Cole, a barista at the store said, “I work hard for every dollar I make in order to put food on the

table for my family; Starbucks rewards workers with a poverty wage while they give their Wall Street pals dividends. I'm not doing this for myself so much as for the next generation that will grow up in this country. These are the only jobs that are left here—we need to make sure they are good jobs for working families.”

While portraying itself as a “socially-responsible” employer, Starbucks pays Nebraska baristas a poverty wage of \$7.35 per hour. In addition, all retail hourly workers at Starbucks in the United States are part-time employees with no guaranteed number of work hours per week. According to Starbucks figures released to the *Seattle Post-*



Intelligencer, 40.9 percent of its employees (including managers) are covered by the company health care package, a lower percentage than the oft-criticized Wal-Mart, which insures 47 percent of its workforce.

Since the launch of the IWW campaign at Starbucks on May 17, 2004, the company has been cited multiple times for illegal union-busting by the National Labor Relations Board. The company settled numerous complaints against it and was recently found guilty by a judge in New York on more than 30 additional rights' violations. Starbucks' large anti-union operation is operated in conjunction with the Akin Gump law firm and the Edelman public relations firm.



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Reviews

The Labor Movement Needs Equity And Solidarity

"Unions, Equity and the Path to Renewal." Ed. Janice R. Foley and Patricia L. Baker. Vancouver: UBC Press 2010. Paperback, 249 pages, \$32.95.

By Peter Moore

If books had feet, this book would be wearing boots to kick the labor movement's ass on issues of equity. The impetus for this book is the stalled drive toward equity—fairness in the distribution of resources and social power—particularly within union movements in Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States. The book addresses women, visible minorities, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people, Aboriginal people and the disabled.

The nut of this book's argument is that the lack of equity in unions erodes solidarity and rank-and-file involvement. The path to union renewal is through equity. Existing union power structures must be challenged to achieve this goal and rebuild the movement. The feminist perspective, well represented in this book, goes one step further by saying that the equity gap is the cause of unions' decline.

Of the 15 authors in the book, 12 are academics, five are trade unionists and one is a community activist. They make

the case that the workforce has changed and that unions have yet to catch up in policy and action.

While the book is riddled with the usual academic jargon, acronyms and theory that characterize information produced through the academic publish-or-perish awards system, it remains a useful primer for activists who want to take action. What is really needed, however, is an accompanying pamphlet that goes to the heart of the issues so that activists can turn the research and analysis into a mobilization and education tool for the rank-and-file workers on the front lines of this struggle.

There are both legible and useful chapters. The interview with Beverley Johnson and Marie Clarke Walker, mother and daughter activists in the labor movement, by Miriam Edelson, put a much-needed spotlight on racism in the Canadian labor movement. The failure of the Canadian Labor Congress to implement most of the recommendations of its Challenging Racism taskforce report, released in October 1997, is one such example. Marie Clarke Walker's own fight to bring the voices of minority workers into decision-making with an executive vice-president at the same organization, is also telling.

"[I]t is important that we look at the causes and effects of multiple oppressions. We need as many perspectives at the table as possible if equity-seeking groups are to have a voice," said Clarke Walker.

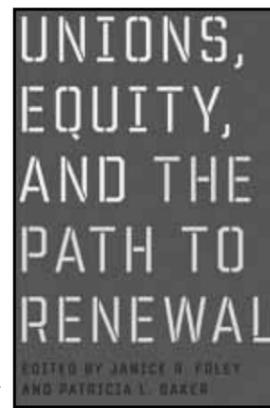
The Canadian Labour Congress' failure to follow through with its good intentions appears to be a recurring theme for labor movements in the Western world. Several authors point out that proven tools for advancing equity already exist: organizing focus on issues of interest, like-to-like recruiting, backing policy with money and staff time, family friendly meeting times and locations, childcare, ensuring leadership backing, mentoring, encouraging and listening to self-organized groups, as well as creating official union structures with voice and the capacity to act. Yet, progress in even formulating an equity agenda is a challenge, let alone in making advances.

Barbara Pocock and Karen Brown point to the Your Rights at Work campaign by the Australian union movement as a successful campaign that changed

the poisonous anti-union public environment by showing the diversity of the union movement. In this case, women, minorities and families took center stage. It was harder for Australian politicians to complain about union members on TV ads were moms helping out at the local community centre. While one of the results of this campaign was the election of the labor party, which has distanced itself from the unions to curry favor with conservative voters, the authors saw this type of campaign as proof that

the union movement can make gains through equity.

Creating a common destiny for communities and unions in ways that create equity and solidarity is the challenge for union movements, particularly in countries that are de-industrializing. Workers in the service economy and other "hard-to-unionize" sectors need to see with their own eyes how unions build community and advance working class interests in all spheres of life. For that to work, no one must be left behind.



Graphic: ubcpress.ubc.ca

Wobblies Can Learn A Lot About Climate Change

Hansen, James. "Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity." New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2010. Hardcover, 320 pages, \$25.00.

By John Maclean

In "Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity," James Hansen claims to be a "witness" with information so vital that silence is not permissible. The familiar money in politics is, he says, our "biggest obstacle." For Hansen, climate change is real, and we need an alternative direction which includes a "prompt" phasing out of coal emissions, along with changes in forestry and agriculture. We also need not be confused by extremes in the hydrologic cycle, which include drought, fires, heavy rains, floods, and severe storms.

The NASA scientist mentions how in going before the Bush administration a balanced standard was insisted upon, which demanded the presence of climate contrarians. The "dean" of these contrarians is Richard Lindzen, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who boasts the revealing history of having testified for "tobacco companies" in debates concerning smoking and lung cancer. Hansen sees Lindzen as more of a lawyer ("A lawyer does not seek truth; a lawyer seeks to win for a client.") than a man of science, and says: "A draw in a global warming 'debate' is a loss, because policy inaction is the aim of those who dispute global warming." He wants to draw our attention to earth's "paleoclimate," ice cores and the atmospheric evidence found in them, not so much focus on climate models and how the cores show a past climate sensitivity. He mentions how stable sea levels may have helped the development of complex societies, and how "insolation effects," changes in the earth's orbit and tilt, "now favor ice growth in the northern hemisphere, [although] ice is melting rapidly. Human made climate forcings are now in total dominance over the natural forcings."

This climate mess is "the greatest threat civilization faces" and its onset is rapid when placed alongside the paleoclimate record; with great changes com-

ing "in decades, not tens of thousands of years." There are three main "sources of inertia" which impact warming and its consequences: the oceans, sheets of ice and our fossil fuel energy system. Feedbacks that are currently amplifying climate change are significant losses in ice sheets, gases being released from "melting permafrost," underwater "continental shelves," and the shifting of climate zones, plant distributions. He mentions the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) of 55 million years ago, a natural feedback of methane release, which brought on a mass extinction. Over a period of decades, leading up until 2007, the Earth's ice cover shrank from nearly 8 million square kilometers to about 4 million. Hansen writes: "That it borders on insanity to suggest that humans should work to 'adapt' to climate change, as opposed to taking actions needed to stabilize climate." He says that scientists may come to "rue" their "reticence" in communicating with the public, particularly if it locks in a history of disasters; for him "inertia and climate amplifying feedbacks, as humans rapidly increase atmospheric greenhouse gases, spell danger for future generations—big danger."

Hansen sees "protection of our home planet [as] intimately related to protection of our democracy." He mentions Mark Bowen's book, "Censoring Science," and how the NASA Office of Public Affairs "had been taken over by political appointees of the Bush administration." All press releases were to be first sent to the White House, and the office came to be, for him, the "Office of Propaganda." Hansen spoke with an NPR reporter, about the political filtering of press releases (the new NASA "rules of engagement"), how this "seemed reminiscent of the Catholic Church and Galileo," and he thought that publicizing it could help. When he asked younger colleagues about speaking out he discovered that they "had been 'talked to'" and feared retaliation. Hansen always prefaced his lectures by quoting the

NASA mission statement, which in part read "to understand and protect our home planet," but sometime in 2006 the clause was removed mysteriously and he was told he could no longer use this rationalization.

Hansen was asked to lecture on David Keeling, by the scientist's son, at a 2005 meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), in San Francisco. Keeling measured increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from

the late 1950s until his death. Hansen also writes that he saw atmospheric carbon dioxide decrease during the day as plants assimilated it, and increase in the atmosphere at night with respiration. It seems that "plants take one breath a day, and the Earth overall takes one breath a year." There are about 800 gigatons (GtC) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, 600 GtC in plants and trees, 1,500 GtC in the soil, mostly decomposing matter and humus, and 40,000 GtC

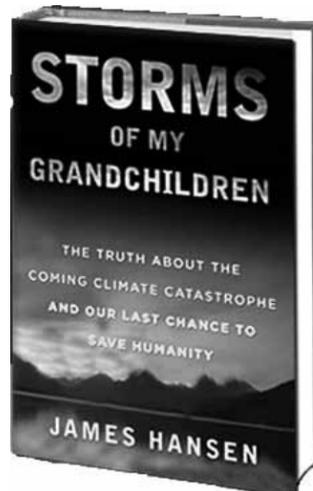
"in the oceans." There are "fluxes" back and forth between these reservoirs, and humans alter the carbon cycle "by burning...fossil fuels and deforestation." The sinking capacity of the Earth is cause for hope in climate stabilization, but this cause for optimism still demands reduced emissions.

Hansen says that "most of the fossil fuels must be left in the ground" and this is "the explicit message that science provides." The "unconventional fossil fuels," such as tar sands, shale, and methane hydrates, must similarly be abandoned "if we wish future generations to have a livable planet." Hansen's plan is for a 'fee-and-dividend' tax on all fossil fuels at the source, the proceeds from which would be reinvested in the public; this would address the cheapness of fossil fuels and would yield "a series of points at which various carbon-free energies and carbon saving technologies are cheaper than fossil fuels plus their fee." He also believes that only nuclear power can provide for our immediate "baseload" needs, and that new "fast reactors" which can "extract uranium from seawater" should

be classed as "renewable," like solar power (these thoughts can be seen as independent from his climate science as they come from conversations with "utilities executives and their technical staff," and Helen Caldicott has warned that climate scientists have been targeted by the nuclear industry). The plan is to tax British Petroleum/Massey out of existence, and transition to a cleaner future.

Late in 2008, Hansen gave the Bjerknæs Lecture, named after the Norwegian founder of modern weather forecasting, before the AGU, in San Francisco. He chose to take a planetary perspective; going over the "Venus syndrome" and what is called "the 'Goldilocks' chart." He writes: "Earth is the only one of the three terrestrial planets that is 'just right' for life to exist. Mars is too cold. Venus is too hot." These differences have to do with distances from the sun, albedo, the reflective and absorptive capacity of planetary bodies, and the presence and absence of atmospheric greenhouse gases. The average -50 degrees Celsius Mars has "little gas in its atmosphere," and Earth with an average temperature of +15 degrees Celsius has a delicate mix of gases moderating its climate, while Venus "has so much carbon dioxide in its atmosphere" it averages +450 degrees Celsius and can melt lead. Hansen says of Venus: "The surface became so hot that all the carbon dioxide in the crust was 'baked out' into the atmosphere." The early Venus was wet, it experienced a "runaway greenhouse effect," and the question for us on Earth is at what tipping point could we be? If we proceed to burn all the fossil fuels, ice will disappear, sea levels will rise, possibly yielding a PETM-like warming that could kill off species.

Hansen warns that "climate system inertia" has thus far limited the effects of warming, this limiting is not our friend though, and feedbacks can push us on to tipping points which will make it "harder to reverse direction." He invites us to become protectors of our "children and grandchildren" and against our corrupted, diminished democracy; he writes: "Civil resistance may be our best hope." We can keep up to date on the ice sheets, levels of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere. Wobblies can learn a lot from this book.



Graphic: stormsomygrandchildren.com

Wobbly Arts

No More Class War!

By Sean Carleton, X364847

On April 29, 2010, FW Tom Morello (a.k.a. The Nightwatchman) was interviewed about his upcoming May Day show in Chicago with the IWW. He spoke of the historical importance of the IWW's fighting songs and the new 38th Edition of the "Little Red Songbook" (which included his "Union Song"). He also called for new union songs to be written and sung, "we need songs for right now" he said. Morello claimed that these new songs do not necessarily have to be folk songs. "No More Class War," then, is part revolutionary rock anthem and part traditional folk parody in the stylings of Joe Hill. So turn the volume and distortion up—here's to Wobbly songs with power chords!

Tune: "We're Not Going To Take It" by Twisted Sister

Power chord intro: *7/9 5/7 4/6 2/4 (repeat twice)
 *(numbers represent which frets on E/A strings respectively your fingers show go)

Verse 1
 o /2 (palm muted) 7/9
 Working for the boss is hard and draining
 o/2 5/7
 The stress is never ending
 o/2 7/9 o/2 7/9 x7
 We're all slaves, slaves to the wage.

(so) Fellow workers let's get together
 To make our lives better
 It's time to dig deep and make your voice heard (sing it!)

Chorus (not palm muted – play open and fiercely):
 o/2) 7/9
 Oh, we're not going to take it
 o/2 5/7
 No, we're not going to take it
 o/2 7/9 o/2 7/9 x7
 We're not going to take this class war anymore!

Verse 2
 We need to take the power back
 And give our bosses the sack
 Let's make this world work for you and for me

Don't be fooled by the boss's tactful lies
 We've got to organize!
 One big union all singing this song

Chorus
 Transition slide: 10/12 9/11 8/10

o/2
 We're right – yeah!
 1/3
 We're free – yeah!
 2/4
 We'll fight – year!
 7/9 x7
 We're the Wobblies!

Chorus!

Massey's Massive Massacre

By Ken Lawless

On the fifth of April, 2010, an explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia killed 29 men. Evidence suggests that a corporate crime killed the miners before their time. Continuous mining machines have spinning carbon teeth that cause sparks so the law requires each to have a methane monitor to shut off the machine before dangerous concentrations occur. On February 13th, an Upper Big Branch supervisor called the surface to find an electrician capable of disabling the monitor, an illegal action. Massey management considered safety a profitless distraction. The Upper Big Branch Mine was cited for one thousand three hundred violations since 2005. Had existing laws been enforced, the 29 miners would still be alive. Fellow workers, harken to the call-- an injury to one is an injury to all.

Three witnesses saw the methane monitor disabled, three who agree on the facts. Miner Ricky Lee Campbell was fired for telling the truth, the other two remain anonymous fearing they'll get the ax. Corporate responsibility, like corporate profit, should be greatest in the highest echelon or corporate crime's lethality will continue on. Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship should be sent to prison on a one-way trip. CEO Blankenship bears ultimate responsibility for 29 capital crimes, he should serve a life sentence 29 times. 29 coal miners were sacrificed to corporate greed, our government is complicit, our justice system a weak reed. We are all remiss in thought, word, and deed. Fellow workers, harken to the call-- an injury to one is an injury to all.

We All Need To Eat



We All Need To Eat - Part 2



We All Need To Eat - Part 3

Above and below are parts 2-4 of a series of one page comics by Wobbly artist Tom Keough about the food system in the U.S. with specific examples from New York City, called "We All Need To Eat." It is a continuation of the comic page published in the Wobbly Arts section on page 11 of the July 2010 IW.



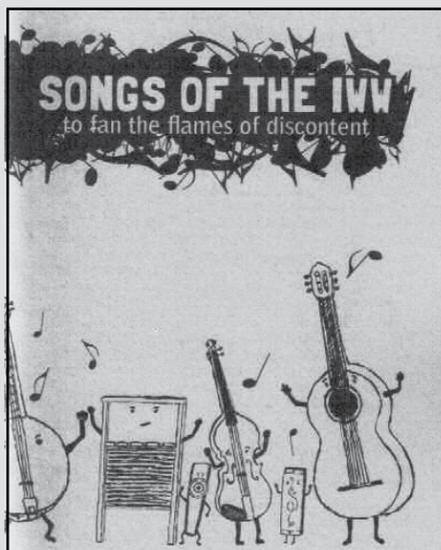
We All Need To Eat - Part 4

Help The Work Along...On Youtube!

As an extension of the work of the 2010 Songbook Committee, we are now trying to follow through on trying to make many of the songs of the IWW available to everyone online (of course, we still recommend you purchase hard copies of albums put out by Wobbly musicians!) What we have in mind here is amassing an archive, of IWW songs on our own Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Wobblysongs>. We are just getting started but we need some volunteers to help the work along.

Here's what we need: folks who are good at video editing (i.e. Windows Movie Maker or the Mac equivalent); those who feel like they could record a song or two (or more—songs from the Songbook or originals), either just audio or using a webcam or digital camera, and then pass these along (if you just want a short audio/video clip of the verse and chorus and then a link to a website—that is cool too); and those who have rare Wobbly songs in MP3 format that could pass them along to be made into a Youtube clip.

If you would like to help and bring the fighting songs of the IWW to an online audience (and get them out there for people to hear so they can learn to play them)—please email scarleton@riseup.net.



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 Matt Antosh

It's been a bit of a slow month here on the International Solidarity Commission, but we continue to do the work of developing solidarity and strength in the international revolutionary labor movement.

Palestine Workers Resolution Passes!

The ISC-supported Resolution in Support of Workers of Israel-Palestine passed with no amendments by a wide margin on at the IWW 2010 General Convention in the Twin Cities. It was also signed by more than 60 IWW members to successfully be qualified as an independent rank-and-file initiated resolution.

It will be submitted for a rank-and-file vote on the referendum ballot later this fall. The ISC strongly supports this resolution as a practical step for strengthening solidarity with Palestinian labor unions and the people struggling in the occupied territories.

Also available from the IWW Friends of Palestinian Workers Group are "IWW BDS Campaign" assessment stamps for \$5, with artwork by famed underground comic artist Spain Rodriguez (author of "Che: A Graphic Biography"). See ad at the bottom of this page for more information.

ISC Resolution on Bangladesh

The International Solidarity Commission of the Industrial Workers of the World is deeply concerned about current repression and detention of workers and activists in Bangladesh. At press time, we especially highlight the situation of Kalpona Akter of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) and demand that she is released from detention, all charges against her be dropped, and that the BCWS's Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) status be immediately reinstated.

Responding to the government's cruel and insulting offer of merely \$43 a month minimum wage, in the country with the lowest garment wages in the world, Bangladeshi workers took to the streets for five days. The workers were met with the full force of the Bangladeshi police and security forces, in the service of the bosses.

The ISC recalls the work we have engaged with in the past with the BCWS and the National Garment Worker Federation (NGWF). We were pleased to host Akter at many branches of our union in North America during a speaking tour in the spring of 2010, and she stayed in many of our homes. We shared our differences, similarities, and learned a great deal from each other.

After the labor action, the BCWS has had its NGO status revoked by the Bangladeshi government, and Kalpona Akter of the BCWS has been labeled a criminal—accused by the state and bosses of

inciting a riot. As of this writing, she has been detained in an unknown location for over 24 hours; supporters and families fear for her well-being and life, as well as that of her comrades and fellow workers.

The International Solidarity Commission expresses its full solidarity with Kalpona Akter and other unionists and workers, past, present, and future, experiencing repression from bosses with the assistance of the state. We request that the Bangladeshi government, and especially its police and judicial forces, immediately release Kalpona Akter, drop all charges, and recertify the NGO status of the Bangladesh Center for Worker. (Editor's note: at press time, news has been received that Kalpona Akter and two other activists were released from jail. For more information, see "Bangladesh Labor Activists Released On Bail" on opposite side of page).

Donate to Labour Relief Campaign to help people of Pakistan

Pakistan is facing the worst ever floods of its history. Torrential rains have unleashed flash floods in different parts of the country late this summer. Water levees broke, leaving the people exposed to flood water. It is a devastating scene on the television screens.

The National Trade Union Federation, Labour Education Foundation, Women Workers Help Line and Progressive Youth Front have set up Labour Flood Relief Camps in Lahore, Karachi and some other cities and so far have collected more than 1.5 million rupees (\$32,630). Almost all the collected amount has been used for helping flood-affected people with food and non-food items. They are appealing to organizations in Pakistan and abroad for donations of a monetary kind or in the form of drinking water, new clothes, shoes and medicine.

The ISC is in the process of setting up a pledge account for collecting donations for the cause. In the interim, for those who wish to donate, please contact the San Francisco Bay Area Branch at bayarea@iww.org

ISC Liaisons to the World

Of course, we are always looking for a little extra help on the ISC. So, we ask branches and interested individuals to volunteer to be ISC liaisons in order to develop branch-level and worker-to-worker international solidarity.

Every month, ISC liaisons will get an update and an action to bring to the branch level. We would like to invite every branch to select an ISC liaison to help spread the word about the solidarity activities in other parts of the world and to help develop our campaigns. We ask all Fellow Workers to please continue sharing your international contacts and expertise. The ISC can be reached at solidarity@iww.org.

Bangladesh Labor Activists Released On Bail

By Clean Clothes Campaign

The Clean Clothes Campaign is very pleased to announce the release of Kalpona Akter, Babul Akhter and Aminul Islam after they spent 30 days in custody. During a special hearing on Sept. 8, a magistrate granted bail to the three defendants, and ordered their release. They were released on Sept. 10, at the start of the Eid Festival, which marks the end of Ramadan.

Kalpona and Babul were arrested during the night of Aug. 12, accused of being involved in eight cases of worker unrest, violence and destruction of property. These cases, which were filed by garment factory security personnel and police officers against thousands of anonymous workers, included accusations against what appears to be an arbitrary list of union leaders and labor activists, including staff members of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS). While in remand, Babul was beaten with a thick wooden stick by several non-uniformed persons, who blindfolded him and then threatened to shoot him in a staged police incident. Aminul, who had already been arrested and brutally beaten by the National Security Intelligence in June, but had managed to escape, was re-arrested and charged with three crimes on Aug. 29.

It seems that the source of most of the "evidence" against the BCWS staff comes from testimonies of six other arrested workers, which were obtained

only after charges against the BCWS had already been filed. Moreover, Aminul was coerced into signing a statement that incriminated Babul and Kalpona. This indicates efforts by the police to fabricate evidence against the critical labor organization.

The Bangladeshi government cancelled the BCWS's NGO registration on June 3, 2010, and ordered the confiscation of all of its property and freezing of its bank accounts. The BCWS was accused of "involvement in several wrongful acts, including inciting [a] riotous situation and assisting in creating labor unrest in the readymade-garments sector, as well as anti-state and social activities," which are "deemed as [a] threat to national interests and security."

Two months later, on Aug. 9, BCWS was granted permission to submit a new NGO registration application. This was considered unacceptable to the BCWS, because agreement to the submission of a new application would essentially be an admission of the government's allegations. Another condition of re-registration was that Kalpona and Babul would have to resign from their positions at BCWS.

The BCWS maintains that their NGO registration should be restored, based on the legitimacy of the review petition they submitted to the relevant authorities on July 27, 2010, in which they rejected all of the outstanding allegations against them.

Guest Workers Strike And Win In Malaysia

By John Kalwaic

In August, 5,000 migrant guest workers went on strike and won. Guest workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam make up 10-20 percent of Malaysia's work force. According to Amnesty International, working conditions in Malaysia are some of the most precarious in the world. Workers in this country, particularly foreign workers, experience horrific conditions including verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

In August 2010 in the city of Johor Baru's industrial region of Tebrau, 5,000 workers from the JYC Co. Ltd electronics went on strike. A 20-year old Nepalese man who worked in the factory contracted a high fever, which he tried to conceal from his managers. Eventually, it became obvious that he was sick, and his employers refused to send him to the hospital and he died. Workers were prompted to strike by the death of their colleague, as well as low wages and no health care facilities. The workers proposed a four-point program demanding

a salary hike and the creation of a mini-clinic for sick workers. Workers tried to pressure management to agree to their demands as well as trying to pressure the Nepalese embassy to intervene on their behalf. Many of the workers rioted facing a force of 200 police and Federal Reserve Unit personnel who were deployed. The strikers threw stones and garbage at police and tore down a guard tower. Management eventually agreed to most the workers' demands after three days of riots and protests. The family of the diseased Nepalese worker got 10,000 ringgit (\$3,222) for compensation. The management also raised the minimum monthly salary from 428 ringgit (\$138) to 546 ringgit (\$175) and created an ambulance service for the workers.

The strike demonstrates how workers of different nationalities can win if they stand together against oppression. Hopefully, this will only be the tip of the iceberg for continuing protests in a country of a severely exploited workforce.

Garment, Construction Strike In Cambodia

By John Kalwaic

At the end of August approximately 160 garment workers went on strike in the Meanchey district of Cambodia. Len Pov, a representative from the Sun Lu Fong factory, said one of the workers' demands was that each of the workers gets \$80 for back pay not received. Som Aun, president of the Cambodian Labor Union Confederation (CLUF) said the severance demands of the workers are "illegal" and too high, and he condemned the strike as "illegal." Aun said that the factory management would be willing to discuss their demands if the workers returned to work. Keo Sareoun, the chief of the Chak Angre Leu commune said that authorities planned to crack down on striking workers.

"It is difficult for us to maintain order and safety at night when such

an anarchic strike is happening... On Monday, I will not allow them to protest in the area any longer," Sareoun said. He declined to say what measures he would take. In the previous week 40 construction workers went on strike in the Kendal province against KC Gecin Enterprises. Chea Sokyeak, one of the striking building workers, said that they were striking against the company because 27 workers were fired illegally for trying to form a union. Workers had a rally at the company's headquarters to call for the reinstatement of the workers. Sok Sovanneth, director of the Cambodian Federation of Building and Wood Workers, said the workers' firing was considered to be illegal because no reason was given for their dismissal. Hopefully there will be more news to come from Cambodia.

**Assessment Stamp
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