Workers get what they’re owed in Atlanta 5

London Agency Workers Fight Back & Win With SolFed

By Jerome Baxter

The past few months have seen the United Kingdom based Solidarity Federation (SolFed) engage in an escalating “disruptive action” campaign to redress a case of unpaid wages by the world’s largest employment agency. Four days into a national week of action, the Office Angels temporary agency capitulated and gave their ex-worker his dues.

SolFed was contacted by the worker, Dan, in March. He had worked for Office Angels for three days in December 2010. When he began work, he was not given a time sheet. When he inquired about this, he was told not to worry. Then, on the final day of his employment, he not only sat in a temporary agency sent to the Wimbledon Office Angels branch where Dan had been employed. The only response from the “Office Devils” (as they’d now been dubbed) was to ban Dan from all Office Angels premises.

Next, the London locals of SolFed chose to picket the busy Oxford Street location of Office Angels in central London. This time, SolFed members went on strike on Dan’s behalf.

Several posts were made on the libcom.org website, asking for assistance in his situation. Office Angels, who obviously monitor their online reputation quite keenly, summed out Dan’s identity and then had the nerve to harass him for seeking help on the issue. At this point, Dan asked the South London Solidarity Federation to step in. Efforts began in earnest, with a single picket and a delegation sent to the Wimbledon Office Angels branch where Dan had been employed. The only response from the “Office Angels” (as they’d now been dubbed) was to ban Dan from all Office Angels premises.

The fired workers filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in April seeking reinstatement to their positions. Although ample case law precedent protects the workers’ right to inform the public of a labor dispute or unsafe working conditions, the fired Jimmy John’s workers’ charge has been sent to the NLRB’s Division of Advice in Washington, D.C. for additional investigation due to recent government procedural changes. Union members hope for a legal decision this summer.

“This is smoking gun evidence not only of the seriousness of the public health risk posed by workers being forced to work while sick at Jimmy John’s, it also proves that Jimmy John’s franchise owner Mike Mulligan willfully lied to the media, the public, and his employees about his food safety track record. We will continue our fight for paid sick days for restaurant workers until Jimmy John’s changes their company policy to protect workers and the public,” said Max Specktor, one of the fired whistle-blowers.

“Whereas franchise owner Mike Mulligan has also publicly denied disciplining workers for calling in sick, the company’s own written policy mandates one to two disciplinary “points” for workers who call in without finding a replacement, even if they have a doctor’s note. Workers are fired after accumulating six points. In addition to the threat of discipline for calling in sick, workers are often unable to afford to take a day off if they fall ill because wages at the sandwich chain hover around the federal minimum of $7.25, and the company offers no benefits.

According to results of a survey of 40 sandwich workers conducted by the JJWU, the threat of discipline and poverty wages result in an average of at least two workers working while sick at Jimmy John’s in Minnesota every single day. The union plans to release a report highlighting these findings soon.

In an effort to silence employees who blew the whistle on serious food safety hazards at Jimmy John’s, the company fired six workers in March for putting up posters demanding the right to call in sick and paid sick days in order to avoid exposing customers to infection.

The fired workers filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in April seeking reinstatement to their positions. Although ample case law precedent protects the workers’ right to inform the public of a labor dispute or unsafe working conditions, the fired Jimmy John’s workers’ charge has been sent to the NLRB’s Division of Advice in Washington, D.C. for additional investigation due to recent government procedural changes. Union members hope for a legal decision this summer.

“This is smoking gun evidence not only of the seriousness of the public health risk posed by workers being forced to work while sick at Jimmy John’s, it also proves that Jimmy John’s franchise owner Mike Mulligan willfully lied to the media, the public, and his employees about his food safety track record. We will continue our fight for paid sick days for restaurant workers until Jimmy John’s changes their company policy to protect workers and the public,” said Max Specktor, one of the fired whistle-blowers.

“Whereas franchise owner Mike Mulligan has also publicly denied disciplining workers for calling in sick, the company’s own written policy mandates one to two disciplinary “points” for workers who call in without finding a replacement, even if they have a doctor’s note. Workers are fired after accumulating six points. In addition to the threat of discipline for calling in sick, workers are often unable to afford to take a day off if they fall ill because wages at the sandwich chain hover around the federal minimum of $7.25, and the company offers no benefits.

According to results of a survey of 40 sandwich workers conducted by the JJWU, the threat of discipline and poverty wages result in an average of at least two workers working while sick at Jimmy John’s in Minnesota every single day. The union plans to release a report highlighting these findings soon.

In an effort to silence employees who blew the whistle on serious food safety hazards at Jimmy John’s, the company fired six workers in March for putting up posters demanding the right to call in sick and paid sick days in order to avoid exposing customers to infection.

The fired workers filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in April seeking reinstatement to their positions. Although ample case law precedent protects the workers’ right to inform the public of a labor dispute or unsafe working conditions, the fired Jimmy John’s workers’ charge has been sent to the NLRB’s Division of Advice in Washington, D.C. for additional investigation due to recent government procedural changes. Union members hope for a legal decision this summer.

“These Department of Health reports definitively show what we already knew—we were fired for telling the truth about food safety hazards at Jimmy John’s. We hope that the NLRB will expedite our case because there is no time to lose in bringing healthy working conditions to the fast food industry,” said Erik Forman, one of the fired workers.

For more information, visit http://www.jimmyjohnsworkers.org.

By the IWW Jimmy Johns Workers Union

MINNEAPOLIS — Two months after Jimmy John’s fired six workers for blowing the whistle on a company practice of forcing sandwich makers to work while sick, the IWW Jimmy Johns Workers Union (JJWU) has released Minnesota Department of Health documents revealing eight outbreaks of food-borne illness at franchises across the Twin Cities area in the past five years, seven of which were due to employees working while sick at the chain. The release of the documents seriously erodes the credibility of Minneapolis franchise owner Mike Mulligan who had previously claimed to reporters and employees that “the company has made more than 6 million sandwiches during its nearly 10 years in business and no one’s ever gotten sick from eating one.” Two of the outbreaks, both caused by sick employees, were at the Mulligans’ (Mike and son Ron’s) stores.

“This is smoking gun evidence not only of the seriousness of the public health risk posed by workers being forced to work while sick at Jimmy John’s, it also proves that Jimmy John’s franchise owner Mike Mulligan willfully lied to the media, the public, and his employees about his food safety track record. We will continue our fight for paid sick days for restaurant workers until Jimmy John’s changes their company policy to protect workers and the public,” said Max Specktor, one of the fired whistle-blowers.

“Whereas franchise owner Mike Mulligan has also publicly denied disciplining workers for calling in sick, the company’s own written policy mandates one to two disciplinary “points” for workers who call in without finding a replacement, even if they have a doctor’s note. Workers are fired after accumulating six points. In addition to the threat of discipline for calling in sick, workers are often unable to afford to take a day off if they fall ill because wages at the sandwich chain hover around the federal minimum of $7.25, and the company offers no benefits.

According to results of a survey of 40 sandwich workers conducted by the JJWU, the threat of discipline and poverty wages result in an average of at least two workers working while sick at Jimmy John’s in Minnesota every single day. The union plans to release a report highlighting these findings soon.

In an effort to silence employees who blew the whistle on serious food safety hazards at Jimmy John’s, the company fired six workers in March for putting up posters demanding the right to call in sick and paid sick days in order to avoid exposing customers to infection.

The fired workers filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in April seeking reinstatement to their positions. Although ample case law precedent protects the workers’ right to inform the public of a labor dispute or unsafe working conditions, the fired Jimmy John’s workers’ charge has been sent to the NLRB’s Division of Advice in Washington, D.C. for additional investigation due to recent government procedural changes. Union members hope for a legal decision this summer.

“These Department of Health reports definitively show what we already knew—we were fired for telling the truth about food safety hazards at Jimmy John’s. We hope that the NLRB will expedite our case because there is no time to lose in bringing healthy working conditions to the fast food industry,” said Erik Forman, one of the fired workers.

For more information, visit http://www.jimmyjohnsworkers.org.

By Drew Robertson

SEATTLE — Negotiations are in the air once again in the Emerald City with another contract at Central Co-op (a.k.a. Madison Market) coming to a close. In past years this has been an uneasy song and dance between the IWW and management, but one without much friction outside of the negotiating table. This however, was not a normal year. In the lead up to negotiations, management denied a previously negotiated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) raise, which was to take effect in February, ahead of the first session. Undeterred, workers were ready to fight back. So in March, after denying the raise, a grievance was filed as per the contract. In April, after management had given word they were going to deny the grievance by claiming that the contract was no longer in effect, workers met promptly to decide a
Dear Reader:

Howdy again, Fellow Workers:

Thanks for printing the article “The Railroad Industry And The Need For One Big Union” on page 3 of the April 2011 IWW News.

My grandfather Ed Clifton died in 1933, 14 years before I was born; but there were three railroad workers in my family. One was my grandfather (to whom I was never his best friend, though he was the only one of his generation that I ever knew); another was the father of my mother (not my father’s mother); and the third was her generation—my grandmother. (I never knew her, in part because she wasn’t clear about this). From what I’ve heard, she wasn’t a typical IWW member. She never heard the call to action, but she was a loyal and committed supporter. She never struck. She accepted the paycheck and the government. My grandmother, who was a kindergarten teacher, and the government. My grandmother, who was a kindergarten teacher, is my mother’s mother, and she was a very competent and important woman.

He never worked for the railroad again. Experience gained through working in ANY union environment is definitely beneficial, if for no other reason than to acquire a fuller understanding of the manner in which most unions govern themselves and attempt to represent their members. However, what is most important is the opportunity to experience firsthand the history of the IWW in this brave new world, and how streamlized the IWW brand of direct action may come in selection. We have witnessed what “progressive unionism” can be, in ANY union environment is definitely beneficial, if for no other reason than to acquire a fuller understanding of the manner in which most unions govern themselves and attempt to represent their members. However, what is most important is the opportunity to experience firsthand the history of the IWW in this brave new world, and how streamlized the IWW brand of direct action may come in selection. We have witnessed what “progressive unionism” can be, if we so choose, and how it can be a powerful tool for the IWW.

Dual-Carding Is Useful Experience

IWW News

Indus-
The Union Movement We Need: Wisconsin And Why You Should Join The IWW

by IWDB

In Wisconsin, the business unions were the only unit with the infrastructure capable of building the statewide urban/ rural coalition of low-wage, unemployed, and public workers necessary to win the struggle. Tied in the streets of Madison against a budget bill designed to crush the whole of the state's working class.

This was because the business unions summarily refused to live up to their potential to expand the struggle towards victory. First, workers failed to expand or significantly support the strike initiated by Madison's teachers, who ended it after three days due to bureaucratic pressure and the trade unions' inability to chart us onto a new course, and the IWW needs you. As of now, the IWW is the only labor formation with the clarity of principle, the independence of mind and finances, and the spirit of democracy necessary to move unions towards that goal—a world without poverty, bosses, or destruction of the earth.

IWW Constitution Preamble

The work class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace as long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people. New birth of human liberty and the electrification of the world is going to demand the limitation and wise control of the means of production and distribution of capital and land, as the basis of human welfare. We find that the centering of the man in the world and the IWW needs the IWW.

Farmers came to Madison in force and the whole world watched as U.S. workers identified with the bravery of those in Egypt and across the Middle East. For the first time, the global working class questioned whether it could indeed take control of its own destiny.

Importantly as well, thanks to the leadership of a small IWW tendency in the business unions, the Southern Central Federation of Labor (which includes Madison) passed a resolution authorizing an educational committee to educate all members about a general strike. Thanks to this work, and amplified by IWW members across the country, the general strike and the framework of workers defining their own power were launched into the common vocabulary of this nation's workers, and debated on the front page of Madison's newspapers.

The question then, was not general strike or no, but would workers across the nation exercise their own power in their own interests—because no one else will do it for them. This struggle in Wisconsin, however, this next phase goes, is the beginning not the end. Dramatic austerity measures caused by the speculation of the rich and false budget deficits of their politicians are already reaching U.S. shores, as have new and the massive unrest from workers the world over.

Design to the work class and the employing class, we must go on until the workers of the world have all the good things of life. The working class and the employing class have all the good things of life. The working class and the employing class are the only institution with the necessary self-interest to do so en masse. Yet as we have seen in Wisconsin, business unions summarily refuse to live up to their historic mission in the present...

This is why the world needs the IWW and the IWW needs you. As of now, the IWW is the only labor formation with the clarity of principle, the independence of mind and finances, and the spirit of democracy necessary to move unions to the center of the struggle for the other world that is possible—a world without poverty, bosses, or destruction of the earth.

In the midst of a global economic transition and the edge of an ecological crisis there has never been a more pressing time for organizing. We need you to join the IWW to transform the labor movement and in doing so, to help transform the IWW itself.

Surely, we are not uncritical of the IWW as it currently stands. Its diversity is poor, its organizing, coordination, and strategy vary greatly from excellence to ineffectiveness. We have important lessons to learn from workers' centers, reform movements, other unions with democratic traditions like the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), and business unions campaigns—particularly their more democratic locals.

This does not however change the experience from Wisconsin. There is an essential necessity for the rank-and-file tendency to fight for what it will take to win, to engage in day-to-day struggles from their own workplaces with an eye on the big picture and the big picture. It will not do to transform labor into a labor movement capable of putting unions and the working class, broadly defined, at the center of struggles against corporate tyranny and for a new world in the shell of the old.

The name for this is the IWW. It is time for you to make that your name, too. We will seize the moment or suffer in silence until the rain stops, and God knows what that means. We will seize the moment or suffer in silence until the rain stops, and God knows that compared to the present November 2011 in a good time.

Get in touch with questions, or join us today by emailing db@riseup.net, or visiting http://www.iww.org.

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, where in production and distribution are organized by workers themselves to meet the needs of the entire population as a whole. 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.

When the IWW was founded in 1905, it had the necessary to recognize 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 workplace.”

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 badly 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 strategies to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

The IWW is the only labor formation capable of putting unions and the working class, broadly defined, at the center of struggles against corporate tyranny and for a new world in the shell of the old. The name for this is the IWW.
Industrial Unionism and One Big Unionism
In The History Of The IWW

By John O'Reilly and Nate Hawthorne

This article is the second in a series discussing the themes of the One Big Union and Industrial Unionism. We believe these themes are relevant to the future of our organization and our organization's vision and values. Through these articles, we hope to push for a discussion about possible ways forward for the IWW and how to build a new society. We welcome replies, whether in print or online, to continue the conversation.

We in the IWW, like many others, have long tried to link two types of struggle—struggles for short-term improvements under capitalism and organizing to replace capitalism with a better society. For years, now the IWW has used two ideas to think about the connections between these two types of struggles. These ideas are Industrial Unionism and the One Big Union. These ideas have meant many different things but they have always been related to the IWW's revolutionary vision. These ideas relate to our vision of a future revolution that ends capitalism and to our vision of organizing our society under capitalism before such a revolution.

In this piece, we discuss some of the ideas in the early IWW about the IWW, One Big Unionism, and Industrial Unionism. The IWW was famous for stating that "by organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old." For the early IWW, the idea of building the new within the old was an important part of both ideology and practice. One was a matter of organizational design and the other was a matter of preparing the working class. In its organizational design, the IWW's structures were supposed to be set up to form the basis for running a future society democratically. The role of the IWW for the working class to be able to run the economy as quickly as possible after a revolutionary change to get the post-capitalist economy going again after the tremendous disruption caused by the revolution. In terms of preparing the working class, the IWW was intended to radicalize workers by making them want revolution and make them more capable in actual struggle against capitalism. We can see the notion of structure in some documents from just before the IWW's founding. A letter that helped bring about the IWW's founding states: "The IWW's structures were described for the need of a new type of union. The letter called for "a labor organization built up of the working class, embracing within itself the working class in approximately the same groups and departments and industries that the workers would assume in the working class administration of the Co-Operative Commonwealth." The IWW's structural design was supposed to be set up to form the basis for running a future society democratically. The role of the IWW for the working class to be able to run the economy as quickly as possible after a revolutionary change to get the post-capitalist economy going again after the tremendous disruption caused by the revolution. In terms of preparing the working class, the IWW was intended to radicalize workers by making them want revolution and make them more capable in actual struggle against capitalism.

When Lucy Parsons addressed the convention, her words demanded attention. "We (women) are the slaves of slaves. We are exploited more ruthlessly than men. Wherever wages are to be reduced, the capitalist class uses women to reduce them. If there is anything you men should do in the future, it is organize women."

The IWW's founders had no use for the American Federation of Labor, which had organized only five percent of the workforce, mostly skilled, while males. We're not here to form a rival union as the AFL said William W. "Big Bill" Haywood, a tough leader of western miners. "We are here for the purpose of forming a labor organization."

Unlike some AFL unions, there were no membership restrictions on women or black workers in the IWW. Initiation fees were kept low.

Chapter 45  A Chicago Convention

One participant called it the "Continental Congress of the working class." On June 27, 1905, workers from around the country met in Chicago to launch a new labor organization, the Industrial Workers of the World. They were men and women who had seen some of the toughest labor battles of their era. They wanted to build a union to organize all workers, industry by industry, and engage in militant struggle against the bosses.
Report Faults Massey Energy For 2010 West Virginia Mine Blast

By Michael Dranove

Independent investigators in the state of West Virginia released their first report on the Upper Big Branch (UBB) mine explosion on April 5, 2010, which claimed the lives of 29 workers. The investigators found that Massey Energy, which owned the Upper Big Branch mine, was responsible for the deaths which could have been avoided if Massey had put standard safety procedures in place.

A company that was a towering presence in the Appalachian coal fields operated its mines in a profoundly reckless manner, and 20 coal miners paid with their lives for the corporate risk taking.” read the report. “The company’s ventilation system did not adequately ventilate the mine. As a result, explosive gases were allowed to build up.” Also detailed in the report are allegations that Massey Energy threatened miners with termination if they stopped working in areas that lacked adequate oxygen levels. Numerous other state and federal safety standards that Massey failed to comply with were detailed in the report.

Investigators also say that the U.S. Department of Labor and Health Administration (MSHA) were at fault for failing to act decisively at the mine even after Massey was issued 515 citations for safety violations at the UBB mine in 2009. The report lambasts MSHA inspectors for failing to issue a flagrant violation citation, which could have fined the company up to $220,000. Investigators claimed that this citation was entirely necessary given Massey’s failure to meet basic safety protocols and the investigators found it “disturbing” that the violation was not issued. The failure to issue flagrant violation citations was attributed to MSHA, not issued. The failure to issue flagrant violations since then— a testament to the negligence of the ruling class in their war against all who seek to live peacefully.

Some three weeks after we won Erica’s pay, we received another call from an employee at Arby’s General Store. She expressed that she had not been paid in a month and was prepared to take action immediately. I think this is a good example of the damage we need to prevent.”

Recently, there has been a third complaint against Arby’s General Store. Peter, a chef, had heard of ASOL from the moment he sought employment at Arby’s. Upon being hired, he asked if he could look around to find his website and read the story about our fight over Erica’s wages. After being reassured that he had been paid, he was prepared for the worst.

Peter put special emphasis on the fact that they were very respectful and kind to him at this point—illustrating that the specter of another fight with ASOL had not sweeping effects on the way the business was being run.

Although some of us are not confident that Bell General Store is going to change for the good, and we would have been able to fight them again, we are overjoyed to hear that the power of the people has materialized in this radical victory.

Thanks to everyone in ASOL and congratulations on putting the fear of collective direct action in the employing class of Bell General Store!

Workers Celebrate Victory At The Kelly General Store In Atlanta

By the Atlanta Solidarity Network

A little while back, a Belly General Store restaurant worker named Erica contacted the Atlanta Solidarity Network (ASOL) because she was not getting paid what she was owed in a timely fashion. We put pressure on the bosses for just three days and they caved and paid her. ASOL has been contacted at the restaurant twice since— a testament to the resilience of the ruling class in their war against all who seek to live peacefully.

Several months ago, a worker at Arco’s pay, we received another call from an employee at Arby’s General Store. She expressed that she had not been paid in a month and was prepared to take action immediately. We think this is a good example of the damage we need to prevent.

Recently, there has been a third complaint against Arby’s General Store. Peter, a chef, had heard of ASOL from the moment he sought employment at Arby’s. Upon being hired, he asked if he could look around to find one of Mai (May Day) Festivities. Here is a photo from the event. Grüss y Libertad.

IWW Celebrates May Day in Zurich

As it does every year, the Zurich IWW had a booth for books and brochures and as well for Thai dishes at the Zurich 1 of Mai (May Day) demonstration. Here is a photo from the event. Grüss y Libertad.

Grand Rapids Diner Goes “Wobbly”

Locally-owned, worker-run, IWW-unionized restaurant.

Grand Rapids, Mich. — Barbertown Diner and Roe’s Cakes— opens June. For more information (UFT), Coalition for the New's Unemployed Restaurant in Michigan Joins Historic Labor Union” on page 1 of the June IWW.

New Yorkers Demonstrate Against Budget Cuts On May 12

By John Kalwaic

On May 12, thousands of demonstrators filled the streets of New York City to demonstrate against the cuts made by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to public sector workers, schools and various other programs. The mayor’s spending plans would also cut $90 million from the Vandalized Wall Street bull.

The rally then turned to protest on Wall Street against the stock market’s misdoings and failures in recent years. One day before the rally, the famous Wall Street bull sculpture was vandalized with circle anarchy symbols. Thousands of protesters, teachers, social workers, union members and students marched in the demonstration. The last such demonstration took place in April 2010. The coalition which organized the demonstration, the May 12 Coalition, included the Communication Workers of America (CWA), United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Coalition for the Homeless, N.Y.C. Unite, and New York Jobs With Justice. Civil rights leader Al Sharpton and union leaders marched hand and hand at the demonstration.

There were even some black clad anarchists and a punk marching band. The demonstration reached more than its estimated goal of 10,000 protesters.

Industrial Unionism and One Big Unionism in The History of the IWW

Continued from previous page

organized and coordinated with the trade unions. As a vision of a future society, the One Big Union meant a democratic society where workers could be freely organized. As an idea of revolutionary change, the idea was that workers would form One Big Union and then that union would end capitalism.

This could mean a few things concretely. It could mean that the IWW literally became the fighting divisions of the IWW. This could mean that the IWW was part of the modern phase of the revolutionary movement.” For the early IWW, the One Big Union served to keep the organization aimed at revolution and to prevent them from helping this revolutionary vision practical instead of just wishful thinking.

 Collective direct action in the employing class could materialize to help keep the Industrial Unions from the capitalist class before the revolution. In that sense, the One Big Union was made up of Industrial Unions which were meant to be the fighting divisions of the IWW. The Industrial Unions were supposed to concentrate workers in particular industries in order to maximize the power they could exert. The IWW’s One Big Union administrative structure was supposed to join struggles across Industrial Unions in order to make them more effective. The organization as a whole was also intended to spread the idea of One Big Union as a revolutionary vision. This was supposed to help keep the Industrial Unions from the capitalist class and is only made on the day-to-day and month-to-month struggles.

In 1913, Paul Brissenden described the revolutionary potential of the IWW. He noted that the IWW didn’t invent the idea of industrial unionism or of revolution: “The Industrial Workers of the World is not the first organization of workingmen built upon the industrial form. Even its revolution-
New Local Agency Workers Fight Back & Win With SolFed

Special

Continued from 1

into Office Angels, spoke to management, demanded Dan be paid, and informed them this would continue until Dan received his full wages.

After this picket, SolFed began to develop public support amongst the community, which was aided by two important factors. First, each picket so far (and throughout the dispute) was met with overwhelming public support. As even Office Angels admits, “There are in excess of one million temporary workers in the United Kingdom...Many people find themselves in a position where they need to consider temporary work as a result of job loss or redundancy. That means millions of workers have experienced the shady practices and hyper-exploitative business model of Office Angels.”

Second, we were already having interested groups come to us offering support. Using this momentum, the first thing we did was to create an online callout explaining the situation and requesting sympathetic individuals attend our next picket and involve themselves in a “communications blockade” of the Wembley Office Angels call centre. “With a few phone communications zaps,” saw hundreds of phone calls and emails sent to the Office Angels managers by individuals and groups who were interested in our support. This as well as our dissatisfaction with Office Angels’ unscrupulous employment practices.

The management of Office Angels, who had been mistreated by the company to contact us. Even a cursory glance at the wider activist lens demonstrates that what we were about is post-Millbank activism. From giving demand letters to managers to sort out Office Angels’ money problems, to our managers to play nice. In the process we strength-ened our collective membership and our ability to engage with the public or, even worse, online debate.

In any case, the morning before our first public picket, Office Angels contacted Dan to let him know that he had worked long enough and he would “definitely” get paid. A manager promised to contact him to sort out Office Angels’ money problems, but Dan, the fight wasn’t over until the money was in the bank. To ensure this would happen, I had planned for two things. The first was to call a National Week of Action, full with a second communications barrage of phone calls. Leading up to this week, London SolFed put out a call for other SolFed locals and comradely orga-nizations to join us. We contacted the Anarchist Federation (AF), and the Com-munism, to picket Office Angels locations in the town or city. The second was to begin preparation for an International Week of Action. Action against Adeco, the company which owns Office Angels and is also the largest employment agency in the world with over 5,000 locations. By calling on SolFed’s membership in the International Workers Association (the IWA or, as it’s also known, the Workers’ Power”, we could call the pickets and actions on at least a global level. We also contacted the U.S. IWA and the Syndicalist Youth Federation in Sweden.

The National Week of Action began with pickets being announced around the United Kingdom: numerous pickets in London, three in Northampton, two in pickets, and in pickets Oxford, Nottingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Bristol, and Liverpool. Some of these pickets called demand letters, some by IWA or AF branches. In any case, it was an outpouring of solidarity and the initial response from Office Angels was similar—cursing the picketers—proved they were shaken. But, by the second day of the Week of Action, it appeared that someone higher up in Office Angels wasn’t willing to go to court to retrieve their client. This had happened on the publicity angle. On the Office Angels website, a press release went up from their board of directors, in it it was stated that “various individuals” were accused of un-dertaking unjustified “disruptive action.” There was also a change in their responses to our pickets. The cops were no longer called and managers came out to speak to us-“try this thing out to be friendly and practically begging us to see if we’d be contacted by any other Office Angels workers. This was most evident in Read- ing, where an Office Angels manager had aggressively confronted a SolFed member, a mother with her 14-month-old child, and tried to rip fliers out of her hands. Thanks to cool-headed SolFed members, things didn’t escalate and he soon left. The next day, Reading went back to picket again. This time the same manager came out and apologized profusely. Someone, somewhere, was putting pressure on local managers to play nice.

Also on the second day of the Week of Action, Dan’s guards were being aggressively confronted by picketers. This was aided by two important factors. One was the skill at the bargaining table, but due to the other was the potential for the picketers to be seen as a group of people who were willing to take action.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law - yers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.

Finally, direct action works. We achieved what we achieved without law-

ers, courts, industrial tribunals, or even could get paid. And we won. Planned and strategized and, despite some inevitable hiccups, we orchestrated an escalating campaign against the largest employment agency in the world. We didn’t even play all the cards in our hands and we still forced Office Angels to pay up out of pocket mid-way through our National Week of Action. After all, they still haven’t been paid by their client. In the process we strength-ened our class confidence. Everything from giving demand letters to managers to speaking to the public to coordinating activities, we’re better at that now than we were three months ago.
Support Wobbly Wobblies: Donate to the Sato Fund!

This fund, established in memory of fellow worker Charlie Sato, supports the participation of women members in the IWW for example by contributing to their travel costs to attend important meetings like our annual international convention.

A tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, Charlie Sato was a member of the CNT (an autonomous, anti-stress Latin American solidarity organization) and the People’s Fund, other projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, and an active member of the Oahu General Membership Branch of the IWW.

Donate online at http://store.iww.org/sato-donations.html; or send checks payable to IWW (mentioning the Charlie Sato Memorial Fund) to: Industrial Workers of the World · General Headquarters, Post Office Box 180095, Chicago, IL 60618– U.S.A.

By Juan Conatiz

A group of Wobblies recently published a pamphlet called “Direct Unionism: A Discussion Paper,” intended to start a dialogue about how we organize. It’s a welcome addition to a further conversation that has been going on in the IWW for some time, in-depth discussions and assessments do not occur for various reasons. This wasn’t always the case. Historically, the IWW had a number of different publications, with varying purposes, and some of them included theoretical, long and comprehensive articles. As the IWW receives additional attention and interest due to its campaigns at Starbucks, Jimmy John’s and in Wisconsin, there is no better time than now to restart these conversations around strategy and organizing. You can read the pamphlet online at http://bit.ly/3gJZ.

Direct Unionism and “Building the Union”

The piece suggests a way for the IWW to organize, which it calls “direct unionism,” described as “instead of focusing on contracts, workplace elections, or legal procedures.” IWW members should strive to build networks of militants in whatever industry they are employed.

I enthusiastically support this outlook. During the Depression, the IWW was active at the plant level until the 1930s, “no contracts” was actually part of the constitution. In an article titled “Industrial Workers of the World—General Headquarters, Post Office Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618– U.S.A. Charlie Sato Memorial Fund) to: Industrial Workers of the World - General Headquarters, Post Office Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618– U.S.A.

Support Wobbly Wobblies: Donate to the Sato Fund!

This fund, established in memory of fellow worker Charlie Sato, supports the participation of women members in the IWW for example by contributing to their travel costs to attend important meetings like our annual international convention.

A tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, Charlie Sato was a member of the CNT (an autonomous, anti-stress Latin American solidarity organization) and the People’s Fund, other projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, and an active member of the Oahu General Membership Branch of the IWW.

Donate online at http://store.iww.org/sato-donations.html; or send checks payable to IWW (mentioning the Charlie Sato Memorial Fund) to: Industrial Workers of the World · General Headquarters, Post Office Box 180095, Chicago, IL 60618– U.S.A.

There’s some truth to that. Some people are really focused on getting others to join if that is the end all, be all. After they join, they aren’t engaged as much and the same effort that was put into getting them to join is not put into getting them active. What is forgotten is that, despite the phrase of “One Big Union,” the IWW at our largest and most active in the early 20th century still mostly organized strikes and actions with workers regardless of whether they were members or not. Membership was secondary to militant organizing.

In my own experience with groups that are easy to join, I’ve seen this issue come up before. While I do 2o or so people total were technically a part of group I was involved in, we did far better work when we reorganized ourselves and totalled less than 20. Quantity over quality was the key to effective work.

Another sentiment that is tied with “building the union” is the unfortunate one of thinking membership precludes activity. As our organizer training program says, “We need to act like a union before calling ourselves a union.” A group of workers who are active on workplace issues but do not call themselves a union is more desirable than a workplace with a union presence, but in which workplace issues go unaddressed or ignored. To quote “Direc


tion Unionism,” “informal participation in workplace struggle, not formal mem-

bersonship in the IWW, should be the first concern of a workplace organizer.”

Our aim is to intensify class struggle. This requires our co-workers to become active and gain confidence in our collective power. Their membership in the IWW is good, but it is secondary. This does not mean everything should be informal. Formal membership is an important aspect, but it is part of a wider experience and outlook, not the only and final thing.

Staying Power “Direct Unionism” includes some of the shortcomings of the historic IWW.

The publication tries to address how gains are protected without contracts and with membership de-emphasized, but it’s not really explored in much detail. While the pamphlet usefully re-centers us on some of our more successful practices, there are negative aspects to these.

An isolated island, where major issues of the historical IWW was staying power. They came into a particular town in a particular industry, organized and then whether the results were a win or a loss, IWW presence disintegrated fairly quickly. Perhaps this was a result of internal strife, but it is part of a wider experience and it is pretty much a requirement to know that workers remain in full control…This means democratic and open mass assem-

bly of workers (as opposed the secretive practice and inhuman organization of unions) and must decide every aspect of the struggle. The final decision on what actions to take and when to call them off must be decided by the workers themselves.”

This important concept should be used to combat chauvinism many folks have about their particular unionized workplace or mainstream union. I’ve no-

iced a mentality of “my union/workplace is completely unique and you can’t give me advice,” as if their union/ workplace is the only one of any sort of commonalities from other workplaces (unionized or not) and other issues. This likely has a lot to do with the way most members of the union organize.

While, yes, each workplace and union local is different, there are broad strate-

gies, generalizations and essential principles. One which destroys the divisions between unionized and non-union, public and pri-

vate, is the importance of avoiding a “no contracts” approach in organizations. The IWW small, it is often forgotten that mainstream unions are also small, repre-

senting 11.9 percent of the U.S. workforce. We can’t afford to stay restricted to one segment of the class, and must, instead, use tactics that broaden the struggle beyond our small numbers. As “Direct Unionism” says:

“We are not seeking to function as a union pressure group, reform union, or trying to ‘capture’ official positions within the union...In a union workplace, the IWW organizing committee must remain independent of the recognized union.”

Emphasizing the importance of independence is important here also. The point is not to “poach” members from the mainstream unions, but to show the people that a level where this was realistic, it would still be a bad idea. An ideal dual-carder strategy would not be about trying to replace another union, but about elevating the struggle and bridging divides.

In Puerto Real, Spain, the Confederac-

ción Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) worked to “massify” a strategy by organizing cross-union and cross-industry assemblies of workers, which were held on a weekly basis from 1917 to 1918. The people were very militant and fought the closing of the shipyards there, and not only that it is pretty much a requirement to know

In Spain, the three most widely known anarcho-syndicalist organizations (in order of size): the Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), theCNT and Solidaridad Obrera. This admiration, combined with the lack of identifiable radical history we’ve inherited, much like the Communist movement in general.

When IWW members in the U.S. or Canada, that weren’t originally part of the struggle. The CNT opposes workplace representation (as opposed to the post-Franco CNT), the CGT originated as a faction of the Spanish trade-union form…Wobblies will encourage struggle to be organized across trade unions and seek to bring unorganized workers into the struggle…When mass actions occur, Wobblies should make sure that workers remain in full control…This means democratic and open mass assembl-

"In workplaces where IWWs are dual-carding, the organizing committee will seek to encourage workers to ‘super-

dede’ (i.e. move ‘above and beyond’) the trade-union form...Wobblies will encour-

age struggle to be organized across trade unions and seek to bring unorganized workers into the struggle...When mass actions occur, Wobblies should make sure that workers remain in full control...This means democratic and open mass assem-

bly of workers (as opposed the secretive practice and inhuman organization of 

unions) and must decide every aspect of the struggle. The final decision on what actions to take and when to call them off must be decided by the workers themselves.”

This important concept should be used to combat chauvinism many folks have about their particular unionized workplace or mainstream union. I’ve noticed a mentality of “my union/workplace is completely unique and you can’t give me advice,” as if their union/workplace is the only one of any sort of commonalities from other workplaces (unionized or not) and other issues. This likely has a lot to do with the way most members of the union organize.

While, yes, each workplace and union local is different, there are broad strategies, generalizations and essential principles. One which destroys the divisions between unionized and non-union, public and private, is the importance of avoiding a “no contracts” approach in organizations. The IWW small, it is often forgotten that mainstream unions are also small, representing 11.9 percent of the U.S. workforce. We can’t afford to stay restricted to one segment of the class, and must, instead, use tactics that broaden the struggle beyond our small numbers. As “Direct Unionism” says:

“We are not seeking to function as a union pressure group, reform union, or trying to ‘capture’ official positions within

Special

What Wobblies Can Learn From “Direct Unionism”
The totalitarianism of our schools is central to "The Goslings." Sinclair devotes entire sections of the book to show that schools were once used to teach "The Brass Check" and other books that are still used in schools today. The book is organized thematically into six books, "The Brass Check" is the one only in print. Had "The Goslings" stayed in print and circulated widely, we are now forced to dig up used copies since it was written in 1924. Beyond that, reading "The Goslings" now will show that we've gotten worse, not better. Sinclair details in "The Goslings," one that has never derailed. Or as Sinclair puts it:

"It is the thesis of the business men who run our educational system that the schools are factories, and the children are products of our own manufacture - to be turned out thoroughly standardized, of the same size and shape, like biscuits or sausages. To these business men the teachers are servants, or 'hands,' whose duty is the same as in any other factory, to produce the maximum, and mind their own business, and be respectful to their superiors. Whenever by any chance teachers dare to have ideas of their own, or especially to ask for higher wages, these teachers are treated precisely as we have seen labor unions treated by the Black Hand of Southern California."

To be turned out thoroughly standardized, like sausages. What appalls about this paragraph is not only how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown. All, in order for a school to receive state funding, it must "be in compliance" under the state's "program quality assurance services." Now, teachers are told that education is driven by "data-based assessments." Their schools are judged on "adopted performance outcomes?" Money is being fed to our students through textbooks, textbooks. In 2004, Nauset Regional High School in Orleans, Mass., was a corporation's marketing arm. The textbooks that were used to push republic-centric, pro-capitalist thought and conformity onto students. At one point, he quotes directly from the "United States of America, Hand of Southern California," to think of language without thinking of ideology and power. Taking that as true, how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown. At one point, he quotes directly from the "United States of America, Hand of Southern California," to think of language without thinking of ideology and power. Taking that as true, how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown.

At Sinclair's great, his classic hyperbole seems outrageous, but this in a stylistic tick used for a particular effect. When combined with the frantic nature of his writing ("Chief Spy Doty admitted that he had "Ha ha!""). Perhaps this is cynicism he'd yield to be heard. The hyperbole and exaggeration help to reduce incredible quantities of information into easily understood terms. When teaching teachers and doing a dense academic study of American education is instead easily readable by anyone. Stylistically, this is Sinclair's chief triumph. By making the book accessible without sacrificing any depth of thought, it could, if put into people's hands, make them outraged enough to enact change. "The Goslings" is not one of the watered-down teaching manuals influenced by self-help books given to graduate students today. It is not "The Daily Discipline of Leadership: How to Improve Student Achievement, Staff Morale, and Personal Organization." If "The Goslings" could be a concession to socialism to teach "The Daily Discipline of Leadership: How to Improve Student Achievement, Staff Morale, and Personal Organization," then the America of "The Goslings" will have succeeded. How little has changed since "The Goslings." Sinclair exposed it in "The Goslings."

The totalitarianism of our schools is central to "The Goslings." Sinclair devotes entire sections of the book to show that schools were once used to teach "The Brass Check" and other books that are still used in schools today. The book is organized thematically into six books, "The Brass Check" is the one only in print. Had "The Goslings" stayed in print and circulated widely, we are now forced to dig up used copies since it was written in 1924. Beyond that, reading "The Goslings" now will show that we've gotten worse, not better. Sinclair details in "The Goslings," one that has never derailed. Or as Sinclair puts it:

"It is the thesis of the business men who run our educational system that the schools are factories, and the children are products of our own manufacture - to be turned out thoroughly standardized, of the same size and shape, like biscuits or sausages. To these business men the teachers are servants, or 'hands,' whose duty is the same as in any other factory, to produce the maximum, and mind their own business, and be respectful to their superiors. Whenever by any chance teachers dare to have ideas of their own, or especially to ask for higher wages, these teachers are treated precisely as we have seen labor unions treated by the Black Hand of Southern California."

To be turned out thoroughly standardized, like sausages. What appalls about this paragraph is not only how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown. All, in order for a school to receive state funding, it must "be in compliance" under the state's "program quality assurance services." Now, teachers are told that education is driven by "data-based assessments." Their schools are judged on "adopted performance outcomes?" Money is being fed to our students through textbooks, textbooks. In 2004, Nauset Regional High School in Orleans, Mass., was a marketing arm. The textbooks that were used to push republic-centric, pro-capitalist thought and conformity onto students. At one point, he quotes directly from the "United States of America, Hand of Southern California," to think of language without thinking of ideology and power. Taking that as true, how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown. At one point, he quotes directly from the "United States of America, Hand of Southern California," to think of language without thinking of ideology and power. Taking that as true, how little has changed, but how accepting of this we've grown.

At Sinclair's great, his classic hyperbole seems outrageous, but this in a stylistic tick used for a particular effect. When combined with the frantic nature of his writing ("Chief Spy Doty admitted that he had "Ha ha!"). Perhaps this is cynicism he'd yield to be heard. The hyperbole and exaggeration help to reduce incredible quantities of information into easily understood terms. When teaching teachers and doing a dense academic study of American education is instead easily readable by anyone. Stylistically, this is Sinclair's chief triumph. By making the book accessible without sacrificing any depth of thought, it could, if put into people's hands, make them outraged enough to enact change. "The Goslings" is not one of the watered-down teaching manuals influenced by self-help books given to graduate students today. It is not "The Daily Discipline of Leadership: How to Improve Student Achievement, Staff Morale, and Personal Organization." If "The Goslings" could be a concession to socialism to teach "The Daily Discipline of Leadership: How to Improve Student Achievement, Staff Morale, and Personal Organization," then the America of "The Goslings" will have succeeded. How little has changed since "The Goslings." Sinclair exposed it in "The Goslings."
Wanted: Servile, Illiterate Drones

By Eric Miles Williamson

I have always found it suspicious that for my entire adult life, local, state and federal politicians have emphasized the importance of teaching students from kindergarten through college, above all. In Barack Obama’s kindergarten through college, above all federal politicians have emphasized the humanities. And yet these lawyers tell us not to study what they studied, not to make words a priority, but to study the sciences. These lawyers, the most powerful people on the planet, tell us not to be as successful and powerful as they are. They tell us to be sheep in cubicles and in laborator-
ies, to watch Fox News and believe every word we hear. And Americans do believe what they hear on the news, of course they do, since Americans are not trained in language skills, but in how to program a computer, how to do income taxes, how to drill a root-canal. Jimmy Carter, the last president to be an avid supporter of the arts (he published a book of poetry), was also the last American president to study the sciences: he did graduate work in nuclear technology and physics. And so, the next time you hear a politician say we need to invest in the sciences, implying that we do not need to pay attention to the humanities and liberal arts, remember what he’s actually telling you and your children to do: spend the rest of your life on your knees at the mercy of those who control the language.

For he who controls the language controls the people.

WHERE YOU FIND INJUSTICE, THE PROPER FORM OF POLITESSNESS IS ATTACK.

T-BONE SLIM

VERSES:

Yeah, it’s something we all need
Oh, solidarity
Yeah, it’s something we all need
Oh, solidarity

FREE SPEECH with T-Bone Slim & Mr. Block

The above images are three in a series of postcards called “A Short Treatise on Etiquette by T-Bone Slim,” published by the Charles H. Kerr Company in 1992. They were sent to the Industrial Worker from FW Harry Siitonen. The postcard on the top is T-Bone Slim; on the bottom left is a cartoon by labor artist Mike Konoecki illustrating a T-Bone and Mr. Block skit that originally appeared in the JW on Jan. 10, 1925; and the postcard on the bottom right depicts Wobbly environmentalism, drawn by William Whilhelm for the JW on April 9, 1947.

July/August 2011 • Industrial Worker • Page 9
WE ARE STRONG
AND GROWING STRONGER

BUT EVERY DAY THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM BURDENs OUR CLASS WARRIORS WITH LEGAL TROUBLES

JOIN THE IWW
GENERAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE
FOR A STRONG UNION

The General Defense Committee exists to give financial aid to Fellow Workers facing legal battles, including unfair Labour Practices and other class-war related issues. As part of our pro-active program we are also currently working on prisoner outreach to incarcerated individuals for moral and educational support. Soon from store.iww.org you will be able to purchase literature that will ship directly to prisoners.

The only commitment needed from you is your membership. Dues are very low - $5 initiation and $5 per quarter. In addition to your membership card, button, and bylaws you receive our quarterly publication “The Defiant Spirit” in digital format. You also help maintain an IWW War-Chest in cases where IWW Members find themselves at hardship for participation in the Class Struggle toward a fair and just world for the working masses.

JOIN THE GENERAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE:
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ____________________________
Postal Code/Zip: ___________________
Country: __________________________
If incarcerated, include additional information here: ____________________________

☑️ I have included $5 for initiation.
☑️ I have included $5 for quarters dues.
☑️ I am currently incarcerated and would like to receive a membership sponsorship from a fellow GDC member.
☑️ I affirm that I subscribe to the general aims and principles of the GDC and the IWW.

MAIL TO: PO Box 180195 Chicago, IL 60618

JOIN THE IWW!
☐ YES, please send me more information on the IWW and how to join.

PRISONER? GET SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP!
☐ YES, I am currently incarcerated and am interested in having my membership in the GDC and IWW sponsored.

FREE LITERATURE FOR PRISONERS:
☐ YES, I would like to be added to the list of prisoners to receive literature from the GDC/IWW.

Support this project and others like it at http://store.iww.org
By Neil Parthun

Management has told its workers that due to budget problems, there must be sacrifices. The boss demands concessions such as salaries in vacations, pensions and benefits. Yet, observers are aware that management is potentially lying about their financial pictures and this appears to be a method to attack the existence of the union, the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), and its hard-gained protections. Readers may be thinking about the events in Wisconsin, Ohio or the more than 20 states that are currently organizing labor. However, this article is about another labor struggle—the players of the National Football League (NFL) against their owners.

Realities: Owners and Players

While some, like the Miami Dolphins owner saying so recently, feel that the NFL players make millions of dollars and should not be considered workers, the reality is that the average career of an NFL player is 3.5 years. This makes them almost a half-time investment into the health care system just for four years. Nate Jack-

son, a tight end who played for the Denver Broncos from 2005 to 2008, laid out the realities for most NFL players:

[NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell] received a prévu I was wondering about the popularly held notion that an NFL player's career lasts 3.5 years. The truth, Roger Goodell, according to the NFL's
day roster as a rookie, your career will last almost six years; if you get drafted in the first round, it's nine years; and if you make a Pro Bowl, your career will last nearly 12 years.

“This PR push by the NFL—a response to [NFLPA Executive Director] DeMaurice Smith’s recent public attempts to shed light on what a typical career is like for an NFL player—could be as harmful as
to us; confusing; disingenuous; and ignorant. Confusing because it implies that the average NFL career, the average professional football existence, is comparable to the anomalous careers of Pro Bowlers and first-round draft picks. Disgusting because it indicates to players when GOOD begins to care profoundly about the health of his players. Ignorant because far too many former athletes who sacrifice their minds and

their bodies for a sport that keeps them hanging around, training, играя in and out of training camps and practice squads and now paying them full salaries for years.

“The reason the average NFL career length is 3.5 years is because for every Pro Bowler, there are maybe 35 players who sign contracts and never play a down for their team. They go through off-season conditioning, mini-camp, training camp, preseason games, then get cut the week before the opening game. The players are told to stay in shape and be ready. We really like to start the season. But, when someone gets hurt, we’re definitely going to call you. So be ready. The NFL is putting the players at the heavy attrition every week in the NFL, the substance of that 3.5 years starts to take

Theirs careers are finished by the time they enter their early 30s, and data has shown that football players die much earlier than other males. Former Denver quarterback Dave Maggese stated that players were later than other males. Former player

they enter their early 30s, and data has

TV viewership reached record levels and the league had seen record-setting success. All of this success came from the collective bargaining agreement that is now denied by the owners as they utilized the opt-out clause to remove

The NFL and the NFLPA have to split $9 billion in revenue. Traditionally, the owners took $1 billion off the top for expenses, leaving $8 billion in remaining money with the players. Citing increased costs of new stadiums, the owners have demanded

The owners have also demanded two more regular season games. Commissioner Goodell ex-

tols how the fans want to see an 18 game regular season. However, recent polls show the fans do not want two more regular season games but instead want lower price pre-season tickets. The de-
mands for more games are even more absurd when one considers about concessions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy entered the discussion. More and more former players are coming to

Almost everyone with chronic condition has athletic experiences to degenerative brain diseases.

Commissioner Goodell institutes fines for devastating hits and trumpets how importantly the NFL takes player safety. He underestimates all that lofty rhetoric when they demand that the players take more risks in their short term and long term health by playing even more games so

The owners felt that they could get these huge concessions from the players because it was the first negotiations for NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith. New Orleans Saints’ quarterback Drew Brees explained “Eyer since [former executive director] Gene Upshaw passed away… the owners can bleed in the water… They felt like this is our opportunity to take a significant piece of the [financial] pie back at all costs, a piece that we will never have to give back again. It’s not an
chance, while they don’t have leadership.”

Or, as Jerry Richardson—owner of the Carolina Panthers and member of the owners' bargaining team—put it, “We signed a shitty deal last time and we’re going to kick their ass with the players for another year, and they were kept from making a living.

For a more in-depth account of the aforementioned Drew Magary wrote...

...suing the league was essentially one side to be on here and it is on the side of the players, as much as humanly possible.

Many owners didn’t bother to show up for the initial negotiating sessions in March. They want their lockout, and they’re going to exhaust every shitty, awful option they can to make it happen.

As of this writing, U.S. District Judge Susan Nelson, ordered mediation between the two sides which has had no substantive gains. On April 29, Judge Nelson ruled in favor of the players and ended the NFL’s lockout. Just days after, the NFL owners appealed in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and got a temporary stay on Judge Nelson’s order. There was a hearing on June 3 to see if the lockout will remain in effect. A decision was expected from the Eighth Circuit a few weeks after the initial June 3 hearing. The players have called a lockout for the rest of the NFLPA and the Sports Fan Coalition to end the lockout.

The Results

The owners, as of this writing, still have their lockout in place. As the players and owners remain locked in litigation, the owners have further pushed their demand for profit by instituting furloughs and pay cuts on their office staff. Approximately one-third of NFL teams have instituted such policies.

It is imperative that we see this labor battle in the wiser device of the war against organized labor in this country. One side is trying to take away workers’ ability to take steep concessions without justifying need, putting workers into even more dangerous working conditions, and pun-

ishing other employees to further cement their billions in net worth. There is only one side to be on here and it is on the side of the NFLA’s players.
Bullying At Catering Giant Makes Workers Sick
By Harald Stubbe and Monika Vyakoukl
The IWW in Germany is fighting a real global workplace struggle at the giant canteen firm Eurest in Germany. We are telling the story of an industrial union at the giant, and how it is winning solidarity from all around the world.

The IWW in Germany at info.eurest@compass-group.org

Support International Solidarity!
Assessments for $3 and $6 are available from your delegate or IWW office. To order, contact: P.O. Box 180195, Chicago, IL 60618, USA.

Response To The ISC's Statement On Cuba
Dear Fellow Workers of the International Solidarity Commission,

We do not believe that your solidarity with “Cuba” Condemn Conyers: You Are Not Alone,” which appeared on page 12 of the June 2011 Industrial Worker is the position the IWW should take, especially by FWS living in the United States. Some of you are United States citizens, and visited Cuba. It is important to know the historical cultural events and talked with a myriad of people that comprise Cuban society.

We have heard complaints and criticisms from these Cubans about the state of their lives and government policies, but are concerned by the fact that the great majority of those comments are the expression of the West’s thought on Cuba, the Revolution and that they understand intimately and are overwhelmingly committed to the principle of overcoming factional and individual tendencies that create divisiveness in their society, which are part of the political class of the United States to punish Cuba for the ideals and accomplishments of the Revolution.

Lifting the 49-year-U.S. embargo of Cuba could do much more for these “Cuban crossing” than the billions that the U.S. has spent against Cuba’s development and peoples who... who, in our own countries, resist the neo-liberal, authoritarian policies of the capitalists and their gendarmes in Seattle, Washington; Mexico City; Paris; Caracas, Venezuela; San Francisco; London and the entire world.

Defend these Cuban comrades who, as you say, “represent the liveliest, most splendid beacon of the Cuban revolution, which refuses to perish despite the cannon of bureaucracy...decent folk who have risked their lives in service to others.” But don’t use their problems to legitimatize U.S. imperialism. By defending the Cuban people, we make to maintain its independence from the vice of global capitalism. Do it in the spirit of people like Brian Wilson, who risked his life and lost his legs when he sat in front of a train to block it from leaving Concord, Calif., with a railcar full of bullets. In the spirit of people like Brian Wilson, who risked his life and lost his legs when he sat in front of a train to block it from leaving Concord, Calif., with a railcar full of bullets.

We, as people living in the heart of imperialism, must be careful when criticizing the U.S. government. We believe that the United States’ policies throughout the globe are motivated by the same whim of the U.S. government’s neo-liberal policies that wreak havoc on people around the world.

We are people in the world who have been exposed to the anti-Cuba rhetoric low-key. We are people in the belly of the American beast, and we must beolving into the war fever that the government constantly pushes. We risk sowing apathy among our ranks and among our anti-war and anti-imperialist friends in the United States. “What good is opposing a war when that country was bad to begin with?” our opponents will ask. We must be careful not to bring back capitalism.

We agree with your sentiments that revolts tend to develop bureaucratic “cankers,” so the revolution must continue from below until it is no longer neces-sary. However, the situation today is not the same as it was as long as it has while constantly under attack from the North. Perhaps that alone care not to bring back capitalism.

How should a workers’ state look and how do we get from here to there? Let’s ask the working people of Cuba, the island is still suffering from years of a crippling embargo. It is very hard for any country to continue to maintain public services and create jobs for its people when it is being under such immense imperialist pressure.

Despite any liberal positions the Obama administration may seemingly take to promote global stability, it is clearly evident that Cuba is as long as it has while constantly under attack from the North. Perhaps that alone care not to bring back capitalism.

We, as people living in the heart of imperialism, must be careful when criticizing the U.S. government. We believe that the United States’ policies throughout the globe are motivated by the same whim of the U.S. government’s neo-liberal policies that wreak havoc on people around the world.

We are people in the world who have been exposed to the anti-Cuba rhetoric low-key. We are people in the belly of the American beast, and we must be

Are Not Alone,” which appeared on page 12 of the June 2011

Industrial Worker...