

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

September 2012 #1748 Vol. 109 No. 7 \$2/ £2/ €2



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## Reviving An Old Tradition Of Educating IWW Agitators

By Juan Conatz and Cedar Larson

The IWW is famous for its radical and inspiring history, and so an often-heard criticism of Wobblies is that we are “stuck in the past,” that 80 years have passed and we are now little more than a “Joe Hill Appreciation Society.” This argument discredits the value of lessons learned from past organizers, both recent and historical. The past has a lot to teach us, as does the present.

None of us are so smart that we can't learn from what other workers have tried before us. The important part in moving forward is what we do with that knowledge to adapt to present labor conditions. This past summer, Wobblies revived something from our history and updated it to fit our times. That something was the Work People's College (WPC).

Fellow Worker (FW) Mykke from the Bay Area said he came away from the WPC awestruck by shared knowledge. “Whether veterans or new members, just about everybody had invaluable organiz-

ing gems to share with each other. There was a palpable hunger to learn and an eagerness to participate in the group process,” Mykke said, adding that this could be called “thinking collectively.”

The WPC traces its roots to a Lutheran college founded in 1907 for Finnish immigrants in Duluth, Minn. As some years passed, socialists influenced the school, and eventually it was renamed the Work People's College. By 1921, following the split in the socialist movement along electoral and direct action lines, the WPC became associated with the IWW, which used it to promote theoretical study and the spread of organizational skills.

Wobblies came to the WPC to learn about industrial unionism and the skills needed to be a delegate and public speaker. There were also English classes, readings of Karl Marx and various IWW members, as well as explanations of the structure and methods of the union. The college continued, even as our membership declined,

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Junior Wobblies and counselors sing “All The Union Ladies” at the talent show on the last day of Work People's College. Photo: James Fellman

## Milwaukee Pizza Factory Workers Strike



The picket line at Palermo's on June 15. By Anne Lytle

Workers at a Palermo's Pizza factory in Milwaukee, Wis., went on strike on May 30 after the company retaliated with threats of termination and deportation against the workers' attempts to organize a union.

The workers have been on the picket line six days a week for two months (at press time), calling for the company to give them their jobs back and agree to meet with the Palermo's Workers Union. Palermo's responded by using an agency to hire scabs and by threatening the workers who remained inside.

Robert Silva, a second shift warehouse employee, has worked at Palermo's for 12 years. “They are telling people if they join us they're going to lose their jobs,” he said, adding that the company is using “whatever they have on their hands

to stop us.”

Palermo's has a history of workplace abuse, forcing employees to come to work while sick and blaming them for injuries caused by poor safety standards. Workers who are injured by unsafe machinery are expected to return to work the next day. Silva said the workers decided to organize for “better treatment for the employees... people are having accidents because of the speed of the lines.”

Palermo's workers regularly pull 12-14 hour shifts while making \$7.75 an hour, according to George Berry, who works on the factory floor. Berry said the company is exploiting its mostly minority and immigrant workforce to maximize profits. “It's blacks and Latinos on the floor every time, and the company is running smooth with them.” The company has promised a pay raise to some of the workers, but rather than deliver on that promise management continues to pay poverty wages.

A female employee who wishes to re-

main anonymous said that her family lost two sources of income when the company replaced both she and her spouse. “There are wives and husbands that work here and both of them lost their jobs,” she said.

Despite replacing most of the striking workers, Palermo's bottom line has been impacted by the strike. Three of the five production lines were reported to have been shut down and production has slowed due to the number of inexperienced replacements. The Palermo's Workers Union has called for a boycott of Palermo's frozen pizzas, which are sold at grocery chains such as Costco, Fairway, Pick 'n Save, and Hy-Vee.

The Palermo's Workers Union is affiliated with Voces de la Frontera, an immigrant rights center in Milwaukee. Voces and the United Steelworkers (USW) have been helping the workers organize. Palermo's refuses to recognize the union although 80 percent of the workers have

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## Prisoners Stage Hunger Strike In North Carolina

By Brendan Maslauskas Dunn

Over 100 prisoners in three North Carolina prisons initiated a hunger strike on July 16 to protest inhumane conditions in the prison system and to push for a number of reforms. The prisons affected by the hunger strike were Bertie Correctional Institution in Windsor, Scotland Correctional Institution in Laurinburg and Central Prison in Raleigh. Prisoners took this action to push the prison administration to end physical abuse, solitary confinement and torture. They were also fighting for better healthcare, cleaner cells and access to law libraries. Many of the prisoners called themselves the New Freedom Riders.

The hunger strike erupted on the heels of a renewed national movement for prisoner justice. The largest prisoner strike in U.S. history spread to numerous Georgia prisons in December 2010. The

unprecedented strike united prisoners across ethnic and cultural lines and broke down prior gang rivalries. Another strike wave rippled through California prisons in September 2011, originating at the notorious Pelican Bay prison.

In the fall of 2011, Occupy For Prisoners was formed to spread the Occupy movement into the prison system. The new group held a national day of action on Feb. 20, 2012, calling for human rights for U.S. prisoners. Prisoners at the Ohio maximum security prison in Lucasville staged a hunger strike to push for simple reforms and again staged a hunger strike on May Day in a coordinated action with Occupy protests. These are just a few actions and strikes that are giving shape to the new prisoner justice movement.

There is money to be made off of the mass incarceration of poor people and

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Industrial Worker  
PO Box 180195  
Chicago, IL 60618, USA



Periodicals Postage  
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and additional  
mailing offices

ISSN 0019-8870  
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### Mailing Address:

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

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\$12 for 1" tall, 1 column wide  
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\$90 for a quarter page

## Industrial Worker

The Voice of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism

ORGANIZATION  
EDUCATION  
EMANCIPATION

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

Post Office Box 180195  
Chicago, IL 60618 USA  
773.857.1090 • [ghq@iww.org](mailto:ghq@iww.org)  
[www.iww.org](http://www.iww.org)

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER:  
Sam Green

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:  
Monika Vykoukal, Don M.  
Ryan G., A. Vargas, Jason Krpan  
Mark Damron, Adam W.

EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER:  
Diane Krauthamer  
[iw@iww.org](mailto:iw@iww.org)

PROOFREADERS:  
MRG, Tom Levy, Nick Jusino,  
D. Keenan, Neil Parthun,  
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Estelle Clark, Rebekah David  
Skylaar Amann, Chris Heffner,  
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Next deadline is  
September 7, 2012

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

ISSN 0019-8870  
Periodicals postage  
paid Chicago, IL.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS  
Individual Subscriptions: \$18  
International Subscriptions: \$30  
Library Subs: \$22/year  
Union dues includes subscription.

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

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

Press Date: August 21, 2012

## Wobbly Inspiration From A Texas Prison

Dear IW staff,

Greetings from the Texas gulag! I wish I could claim to be a fellow worker—and I did indeed work for nearly two decades within the Texas prison system—but now I'm in high security (or "superseg") due to my outspoken but nonviolent subversive and antiauthoritarian political beliefs (I have "Enemy of the State" prominently tattooed across my breastbone), and so I'm in permanent solitary.

Over the past few years I have been struggling to educate myself concerning the genuine nature of the predatory and ultimately unsustainable capitalist-imperialist system of government and what model, if any, would be a preferable alternative. I've read a number of books promoting different forms of Marxism and anarchism, including several histories and biographies of prominent players in the ongoing struggle for freedom, and I've come to view communism and anarchism both as forms of socialism with differing degrees of authoritarianism and libertarianism, respectively, as the ideological bone of contention.

I've been receiving literature and periodicals from the Revolutionary Communist Party, a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist

organization, for several years now, and I must confess I've learned a great deal from them and, for a while at least, was seduced by their rhetoric into viewing myself as a revolutionary communist. Then I came upon a quote out of Emma Goldman's superlative autobiography, "Living My Life," in which, when asked if she had a message to workers outside of Russia, she replied, "May they emulate the spirit of their Russian brothers in the coming revolution, but not their naïve faith in political leaders, no matter how fervent their protestations and how red their slogans! That alone can safeguard future revolutions from being harnessed to the state and enslaved again by its bureaucratic whip." It was as if dear Emma was speaking directly to me down through the ages!

I have come to consider myself a Wobbly in spirit and am convinced when a critical number of people wake up to this spirit of solidarity and refuse to maintain the status quo by going along to get along, then we will be able to make a peaceful revolution organized around labor.

Thank you for all the wonderful work you do to hasten that collective awakening.

Peace!

Richard

## For A Large-Print IW

Recently a reader wrote that there should be a Spanish language edition of the *Industrial Worker* ("The IW Should Have A Spanish Section," July/August IW, page 2). I agree! There should also be a large print edition, for people who are visually impaired. Some people can't read small print easily. I would like to see more articles on workers with disabilities.

Many workers with disabilities face great workplace problems. The United Federation of Teachers has a special committee on people with disabilities. Workers with disabilities often face discrimination and harassment. Often, this discrimination and harassment comes from bosses and supervisors. At times, unfortunately, very often, this discrimination and harassment comes from other workers. Often this discrimination and harassment take the form of deliberately placing workers with these disabilities in situations and work assignments that are dangerous to their health and contraindicated to their disabilities. This is to say nothing about jobs that are inherently very dangerous and unhealthy such as coal mining, logging and mill work.

Raymond S. Solomon  
Editor, *Free Voices*



## IWW directory

### Australia

Regional Organising Committee: P.O. Box 1866, Albany, WA  
Albany: 0423473807, [entropy4@gmail.com](mailto:entropy4@gmail.com)  
Melbourne: P.O. Box 145, Moreland, VIC 3058. 0448 712 420  
Perth: Mike Ballard, [swillsqueal@yahoo.com.au](mailto:swillsqueal@yahoo.com.au)

### British Isles

British Isles Regional Organising Committee (BIROC): PO Box 7593 Glasgow, G42 2EX. Secretariat: [rosec@iww.org.uk](mailto:rosec@iww.org.uk), Organising Department Chair: [south@iww.org.uk](mailto:south@iww.org.uk), [www.iww.org.uk](http://www.iww.org.uk)  
IWW UK Web Site administrators and Tech Department Coordinators: [admin@iww.org.uk](mailto:admin@iww.org.uk), [www.tech.iww.org.uk](http://www.tech.iww.org.uk)

NBS Job Branch National Blood Service: [iww.nbs@gmail.com](mailto:iww.nbs@gmail.com)

Mission Print Job Branch: [tomjoad3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tomjoad3@hotmail.co.uk)

Building Construction Workers IU 330: [construction-branch@iww.org.uk](mailto:construction-branch@iww.org.uk)

Health Workers IU 610: [healthworkers@iww.org.uk](mailto:healthworkers@iww.org.uk), [www.iww-healthworkers.org.uk](http://www.iww-healthworkers.org.uk)

Education Workers IU 620: [education@iww.org.uk](mailto:education@iww.org.uk), [www.geocities.com/iwweducation](http://www.geocities.com/iwweducation)

Recreational Workers (Musicians) IU 630: [peltonc@gmail.com](mailto:peltonc@gmail.com), [longadan@gmail.com](mailto:longadan@gmail.com)

General, Legal, Public Interest & Financial Office Workers IU 650: [rosec@iww.org.uk](mailto:rosec@iww.org.uk)

Bradford: [bradford@iww.org.uk](mailto:bradford@iww.org.uk)

Bristol GMB: Hydra Books, 34 Old Market, BS2 0EZ. [bristol@iww.org.uk](mailto:bristol@iww.org.uk), [www.bristol.iww.org.uk/](http://www.bristol.iww.org.uk/)

Cambridge GMB: IWWCambridge, 12 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2AD [cambridge@iww.org.uk](mailto:cambridge@iww.org.uk)

Dorset: 0044(0)7570891030. [thehipleft@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thehipleft@yahoo.co.uk)

Hull: [hull@iww.org.uk](mailto:hull@iww.org.uk)

Leeds: [leedsiww@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leedsiww@hotmail.co.uk), [leeds@iww.org.uk](mailto:leeds@iww.org.uk)

Leicester GMB: Unit 107, 40 Halford St., Leicester LE1 1TQ, England. 07981 433 637. [leics@iww.org.uk](mailto:leics@iww.org.uk) [www.leicestershire-iww.org.uk](http://www.leicestershire-iww.org.uk)

London GMB: c/o Freedom Bookshop, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX. +44 (0) 20 3393 1295, [londoniww@gmail.com](mailto:londoniww@gmail.com) [www.iww.org/en/branches/UK/London](http://www.iww.org/en/branches/UK/London)

Nottingham: [notts@iww.org.uk](mailto:notts@iww.org.uk)

Reading GMB: [reading@iww.org.uk](mailto:reading@iww.org.uk)

Sheffield: [sheffield@iww.org.uk](mailto:sheffield@iww.org.uk)

Tyne and Wear GMB (Newcastle +): [tyneandwear@iww.org.uk](mailto:tyneandwear@iww.org.uk), [www.iww.org/en/branches/UK/Tyne](http://www.iww.org/en/branches/UK/Tyne)

West Midlands GMB: The Warehouse, 54-57 Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5TH [westmids@iww.org.uk](mailto:westmids@iww.org.uk) [www.wmiww.org](http://www.wmiww.org)

York GMB: [york@iww.org.uk](mailto:york@iww.org.uk) [www.wowYork.org](http://www.wowYork.org)

### Scotland

Clydeside GMB: [hereandnowscot@gmail.com](mailto:hereandnowscot@gmail.com)

Dumfries and Galloway GMB: [dumfries@iww.org.uk](mailto:dumfries@iww.org.uk), [iwwdumfries.wordpress.com](http://iwwdumfries.wordpress.com)

Edinburgh GMB: c/o 17 W. Montgomery Place, EH7 5HA. 0131-557-6242. [edinburgh@iww.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@iww.org.uk)

### Canada

IWW Canadian Regional Organizing Committee (CANROC): [iw@iww.ca](mailto:iw@iww.ca)

Edmonton GMB: P.O. Box 75175, T6E 6K1. [edmontongmb@iww.org](mailto:edmontongmb@iww.org), [www.edmonton.iww.ca](http://www.edmonton.iww.ca). Gabriel Cardenas, del., 780-990-9081, [x349429@gmail.com](mailto:x349429@gmail.com)

British Columbia  
Vancouver GMB: 204-2274 York Ave., V6K 1C6. 604-732-9613. [contact@vancouveriww.com](mailto:contact@vancouveriww.com). [www.vancouveriww.com](http://www.vancouveriww.com)

Vancouver Island GMB: Box 297 St. A, Nanaimo BC, V9R 5K9. [iwvi@telus.net](mailto:iwvi@telus.net). <http://ivanislewobs.wordpress.com>

Manitoba  
Winnipeg GMB: IWW, c/o WORC, P.O. Box 1, R3C 2G1. [winnipeg@iww.org](mailto:winnipeg@iww.org)

New Brunswick  
Fredericton: [jono\\_29@riseup.net](mailto:jono_29@riseup.net)

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

Ottawa Panhandlers Union: Karen Crossman, spokesperson, 613-282-7968, [karencrossman17@yahoo.com](mailto:karencrossman17@yahoo.com)

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

Toronto GMB: c/o Libra Knowledge & Information Svcs Co-op, P.O. Box 353 Stn. A, M5W 1C2. 416-919-7392. [iw-toronto@gmail.com](mailto:iw-toronto@gmail.com). Max Bang, del., [nowitstime610@gmail.com](mailto:nowitstime610@gmail.com)

Windsor GMB: c/o WWAC, 328 Pelissier St., N9A 4K7. (519) 564-8036. [windsoriww@gmail.com](mailto:windsoriww@gmail.com). <http://windsoriww.wordpress.com>

### Québec

Montreal GMB: cp 60124, Montréal, QC, H2J 4E1. 514-268-3394. [iww\\_quebec@riseup.net](mailto:iww_quebec@riseup.net)

### Europe

#### Finland

Helsinki: Reko Ravela, Otto Brandtintie 11 B 25, 00650. [iwvsuomi@helsinki.fi](mailto:iwvsuomi@helsinki.fi)

#### German Language Area

IWW German Language Area Regional Organizing Committee (GLAMROC): IWW, Haberweg 19, 61352 Bad Homburg, Germany. [iww-germany@gmx.net](mailto:iww-germany@gmx.net). [www.wobblies.de](http://www.wobblies.de)

Austria: [iwwaustria@gmail.com](mailto:iwwaustria@gmail.com). [www.iwwaustria.wordpress.com](http://www.iwwaustria.wordpress.com)

Frankfurt am Main: [iww-frankfurt@gmx.net](mailto:iww-frankfurt@gmx.net)

Cologne/Koeln GMB: c/o Allerweltschau, Koernerstr. 77-79, 50823 Koeln, Germany. [cologne1@wobblies.de](mailto:cologne1@wobblies.de). [www.iwwcologne.wordpress.com](http://www.iwwcologne.wordpress.com)

Munich: [iww.muenchen@gmx.de](mailto:iww.muenchen@gmx.de)

Switzerland: IWW-Zurich@gmx.ch

Netherlands: [iww.ned@gmail.com](mailto:iww.ned@gmail.com)

Norway IWW: 004793656014. [post@iwwnorge.org](mailto:post@iwwnorge.org). <http://www.iwwnorge.org>. <http://www.facebook.com/iwwnorge>. Twitter: @IWWnorge

#### Africa

##### South Africa

Cape Town: 7a Rosebridge, Linray Road, Rosebank, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa 7700. [iww-ct@live.co.za](mailto:iww-ct@live.co.za)

##### Uganda

IWW Kabale Uganda: Justus Tukwasibwe Weijagye, P.O. Box 217, Kabale, Uganda, East Africa. [jkwijagye\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:jkwijagye[at]yahoo.com)

#### United States

##### Arizona

Phoenix GMB: P.O. Box 7126, 85011-7126. 623-336-1062. [phoenix@iww.org](mailto:phoenix@iww.org)

Flagstaff: 928-600-7556. [chuy@iww.org](mailto:chuy@iww.org)

##### Arkansas

Fayetteville: P.O. Box 283, 72702. 479-200-1859. [nwar\\_iww@hotmail.com](mailto:nwar_iww@hotmail.com)

##### DC

DC GMB (Washington): 741 Morton St. NW, Washington DC, 20010. 571-276-1935

##### California

Los Angeles GMB: (323) 374-3499. [iwwgmba@gmail.com](mailto:iwwgmba@gmail.com)

North Coast GMB: P.O. Box 844, Eureka 95502-0844. 707-545-9591. [okiedogg2002@yahoo.com](mailto:okiedogg2002@yahoo.com)

Sacramento: 916-825-0873. [iwvsacramento@gmail.com](mailto:iwvsacramento@gmail.com)

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

IU 520 Marine Transport Workers: Steve Ongerth, del., [intextile@iww.org](mailto:intextile@iww.org)

Evergreen Printing: 2412 Palmetto Street, Oakland 94602. 510-482-4547. [evergreen@igc.org](mailto:evergreen@igc.org)

San Jose: [sjiww@yahoo.com](mailto:sjiww@yahoo.com)

##### Colorado

Denver GMB: 2727 W. 27th Ave., #0211. Lowell May, del., 303-433-1852. [breadandroses@msn.com](mailto:breadandroses@msn.com)

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##### Florida

Gainesville GMB: c/o Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., 32601. Robbie Czopek, del., 904-315-5292. [gainesvilleiww@riseup.net](mailto:gainesvilleiww@riseup.net), [www.gainesvilleiww.org](http://www.gainesvilleiww.org)

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

Pensacola GMB: P.O. Box 2662, Pensacola 32513-2662. 840-437-1323. [iwvpensacola@yahoo.com](mailto:iwvpensacola@yahoo.com), [www.angelfire.com/fl5/iww](http://www.angelfire.com/fl5/iww)

##### Georgia

Atlanta GMB: 542 Moreland Avenue, Southeast Atlanta, 30316. 404-693-4728

### Hawaii

Honolulu: Tony Donnes, del., [donnes@hawaii.edu](mailto:donnes@hawaii.edu)

### Idaho

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

### Illinois

Chicago GMB: P.O. Box 57114, 60657. 312-638-9155. [chicago@iww.org](mailto:chicago@iww.org)

Central Ill GMB: 903 S. Elm, Champaign, IL, 61820. 217-356-8247. David Johnson, del., [unionyes@ameritech.net](mailto:unionyes@ameritech.net)

Freight Truckers Hotline: [mtw530@iww.org](mailto:mtw530@iww.org)

### Iowa

Eastern Iowa GMB: 563-265-5330. William.R.Juhl@gmail.com

### Kansas

Lawrence IWW: 785-843-3813. [baqjb@ku.edu](mailto:baqjb@ku.edu)

Wichita: Naythan Smith, del., 316-633-0591. [nsmith85@gmail.com](mailto:nsmith85@gmail.com)

### Louisiana

Louisiana IWW: John Mark Crowder, del., 126 Kelly Lane, Homer 71040. 318-224-1472. [wogodm@iww.org](mailto:wogodm@iww.org)

### Maine

Maine IWW: 206-350-9130. [maine@iww.org](mailto:maine@iww.org), [www.southernmaine.iww.org](http://www.southernmaine.iww.org)

### Maryland

Baltimore GMB: P.O. Box 33350, 21218. [baltimoreiww@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoreiww@gmail.com)

### Massachusetts

Portland Area GMB: PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. 617-863-7920, [boston.iww@gmail.com](mailto:boston.iww@gmail.com), <http://iww-boston.org>

Cape Cod/SE Massachusetts: [thematch@riseup.net](mailto:thematch@riseup.net)

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

### Michigan

Detroit GMB: 4210 Trumbull Blvd., 48208. [detroit@iww.org](mailto:detroit@iww.org)

Grand Rapids GMB: P.O. Box 6629, 49516. 616-881-5263. [griww@iww.org](mailto:griww@iww.org)

Grand Rapids Bartertown Diner and Roc's Cakes: 6 Jefferson St., 49503. [onyabartertowngr.com](mailto:onyabartertowngr.com), [www.bartertowngr.com](http://www.bartertowngr.com)

Central Michigan: 5007 W. Columbia Rd., Mason 48854. 517-676-9446. [happyhippie66@hotmail.com](mailto:happyhippie66@hotmail.com)

### Minnesota

Duluth IWW: Brad Barrows, del., 1 N. 28th Ave E., 55812. [scratchbrad@riseup.net](mailto:scratchbrad@riseup.net)

Red River IWW: [redriver](mailto:redriveriww@gmail.com)



## Building Blocks

# It's All Relative: Building The IWW GMB In Richmond, Part 1

By Kenneth Yates

In January 2010 several community organizers reacted to a trend of notices appearing in the more destitute areas of Richmond, Va. These notices declared that public transportation access would be reduced or eliminated and fares would be raised to make up for a shortfall in the operating budget of about \$1.5 million. In a city where the vast majority of riders are dependent on public transportation in order to survive, this seemed like a logical place to begin organizing.

In part one of this series on building the Richmond General Membership Branch (GMB), I would like to address, from my perspective, what led to our initial development and why it may be important for struggling or prospective IWW branches to choose an issue—if not shop- or industry- based organizing—that addresses working people's concerns on a practical level and helps develop class consciousness.

I joined the IWW in August 2009 as an at-large member, online, while visiting a friend in Minneapolis. Why I didn't just find a Twin Cities delegate and sign up through them, I don't know. Shortly after joining, I received my red card, a General Organization Bulletin (GOB), and something about voting in some referendum thing. Regardless of my enthusiasm, I had absolutely no idea what was going on. As an at-large member, I felt a little disconnected, but I wore my pin proud, read the *Industrial Worker* and dove into the history of the union.

I feel it's important to point out that the labor movement in Virginia is virtually non-existent. Because of Virginia being a "right-to-work" state, union density is less than 4.6 percent and people believe this means that unions are either illegal in Virginia, or that you have to be grandfathered in. You can imagine how abstract and frightening the concept of organizing in the workplace must be to people who suddenly realize they have that right.



First meeting of the Richmond Transit Riders Union in June. Photo: rvanews.com

Naturally, knowing we had a lot to learn, we decided to go with what we knew and took to the streets. After putting in some research, we realized that no one in the city was addressing the issues of public transportation—including the impending fare increase and route reductions. If people were addressing these issues, it wasn't from the perspective of the community who was dependent on it. Rather, it took on more of an environmentalist, or "how can we get more white people to ride," slant. We thought the transit-dependent communities required an organization all their own that wasn't mired with alliances to nonprofit organizations, developers or business associations.

Over the next few months, we took it upon ourselves to conduct a lot of independent research. We became intimate with the transit system—how it's funded and structured, where it goes and doesn't go, etc. We familiarized ourselves with transit riders unions in other cities like Milwaukee, Los Angeles and Laredo, Texas. We decided that a transit riders' union was something Richmond needed,

but questions still remained: How would it be organized? Who would organize it? How should it be structured?

Those of us doing the research happened to also be interested in building the Richmond GMB. This would bring us to about three card-carrying members. We thought that that this would be a good first campaign to take up under the banner of the One Big Union. We took our research to a May Day workshop titled "Why Richmond needs the Industrial Workers of the World" in hopes of gauging people's interest and recruiting more organizers. In this workshop, we gave a brief history of the union, dispelled the aforementioned myths that unions are illegal in Virginia, discussed the IWW's organizational structure, and attempted to articulate why the IWW and revolutionary unionism is important to building a principled and effective anti-capitalist working-class movement and culture.

We knew that people would want to know what we were doing right now, so we made our case for the Richmond Transit Riders Union (RTRU), discussed the role

of IWW members in the initial research and defined what our roles as organizers would be in building the organization. We emphasized the importance of approaching the issue of transportation justice from the perspective of class, and that by doing so we would inherently create dialog around relative issues. These include issues that are currently being addressed as unrelated single concerns: unemployment, housing, racism, sexism, accessibility and immigration, among others. At the end of the workshop, we encouraged people to join and announced what would become the first of many Richmond GMB meetings.

From there, over the course of three weeks, a motley, but growing, crew of Wobblies took to the streets armed with clipboards and fliers announcing an interest meeting for the formation of the RTRU. We introduced ourselves as members of the IWW, and many of us being choice riders, made it clear that we wanted to help organize, not be decision-makers. We talked to people as they waited for their buses, collecting over 500 contacts. We then invited every single person to a presentation where we laid out all that we learned and made the case for a transit-dependent-led organization. All the hard work resulted in over 30 riders attending, and the idea was enthusiastically received. The RTRU was born and thus our first campaign deemed a success.

For many, if not all of us, the community approach was a natural first step to building a branch that would become a driving force in how people view the local and international labor movement. It's difficult to be completely objective; however, I think it's safe to say that Richmond has become a more dynamic city in terms of class-based organizing since the IWW was established in town.

Our involvement continues with the RTRU as a partner organization, and we have gained several IWW members from the RTRU directly due to this.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

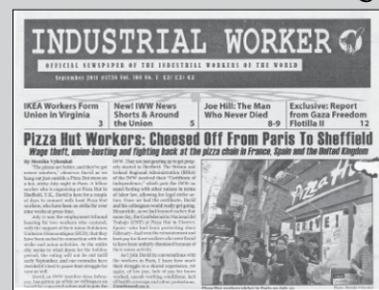
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An unofficial publication  
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<http://recomposition.info>

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## Self-Employment, Or The Illusion Of Freedom

By Monika Vykoukal

I met him at a dinner party last autumn. He said, "There are a thousand girls like her," when my friend told the owner of the small film company that I was looking for work. He was right. Six months later, he called needing urgent help. Now, I work at least 20 hours a week for him. He'd like me to do more, full-time work if possible—for minimum wage, because he can't give me a contract.

Our initial agreement was that I would give him an invoice and "independently take care of my work." To do that, I have to be in the office four hours a day, answering calls, running daily orders and doing stock work. This is not self-employment. I am not even sure it is legal. Still, I have gotten the boss to pay me enough to theoretically do my own taxes, buy insurance and end up with minimum wage. The union people I talk to tell me not to do it. They say that it is not technically self-employment. If I listen to them I won't have a job.

"So, what do you do for money?" asked the company's new intern. When I answered, "I work here," she looked like I'd just said I didn't like chocolate. Everyone around here is an artist, or "creative" in some way. The boss is one of us; he's a lovely guy. We all only care about great art. Beyond the specialism of this niche, the issues are that small businesses don't require union representation and that bosses, in terms of what they do, can appear to be "one of us." We all have two to three other jobs, just like we did ten years ago. I make less net income now than I did then. I am not alone in this, but it is hard to get to know your colleagues between so many jobs. The film company is my best bet, because there is an office, I go there to work and other people work there too.

Even my colleague at my second job, at a delicatessen, is a budding filmmaker. When we meet to talk about work, he tells me he doesn't "care about the other folk." He just wants to make movies and move to California. I want to tell him that he's not going to make a living from the films he makes and that working in a California grocery won't be much sexier than what he's doing now (unless you consider his potential visa troubles). I want to ask him why he insists in believing that there is some ladder that he is climbing. But I don't say that. If you want to build solidarity you shouldn't mock the dreams of colleagues. Those dreams are going to help us. Even if his dream is to make a film, or to move to California, he doesn't want to be stuck here. He believes he can get a better deal. I try to believe the same.

There is a long-term trend toward being your own creative director. It pushes workers into conning themselves that they can get a better deal if they are self-employed. The whole "start-your-own-company, be-your-own-boss" racket is heavily pushed by government agencies and all kinds of employers. It was first put forth as a solution to high unemploy-

ment and then, less openly, as a route to cut costs and erode worker solidarity and class consciousness. It relies on people's underlying hatred of work, personified by the boss, and sells the dream of autonomy by telling people that they can become their own, fake, boss. The reality is different. Companies don't hire people full time or long term anymore. They realize that freelancers are, in reversal of the marketing image, more at the mercy of employers than regular employees. We have to compete with all the other one-person businesses and supply our own laptops, software and unpaid time to learn skills.

This scenario seems like an upgraded version of the employment structures from 100 years ago. Workers would go to a hiring hall in the morning, bringing with them their own tools and work clothes, and hope to be picked for a job. They competed with all the other workers in the hall.

The boss is away now, so there is a window of opportunity to get to know everyone a bit. I want to figure out if they can help me get a permanent contract. But even the desire for a permanent contract and the benefits that come with it—something precarious workers are organizing around at bigger companies in less "glamorous" fields—is not really part of our conversation. Still, as I talk with my colleagues I realize that most of us don't believe in the illusions of freedom and opportunity that are supposed to come with self-employment. The more conversations we have, the more openly they talk about how our multiple insecure jobs seem to direct our lives. It feels like there is something shameful about these conversations. Shameful because the ordinariness of our jobs is something we should be above as we pursue our creative ventures.

It's hard to see how to connect and make common cause with freelancers beyond my own small immediate job radius. While there are a myriad of associations, initiatives and networks, it is unclear how freelancers can take common actions beyond their self-imposed limits of industry, employment status and geographical area. These limits are irrelevant to the realities of the diverse range of jobs we engage in as workers.

I think that if I get the backing of my de facto colleagues, I'll be able to ask my boss for a contract in September. It won't be by finding some initiative to join, but by making it clear to him, IWW-style, that all of the workers on the job have my back. I am not sure I can change anything else. People will move on and come back. New ones will show up to do some work. The unending flow of unpaid interns, reminding us that we're all replaceable, will continue.

Yes, there are "a thousand girls like me" here. It might be slow and it might be small, but we need to find ways to meet, talk and realize again that what I was told made me expendable is also what makes us stronger.

- Editor's note: Monika works in France.

## What Will It Take To Organize Fast Food?

By db

What will it take to organize fast food?

- A union campaign that blasts minimum standards into the popular consciousness and spreads them like wildfire through (social) media and word of mouth.

- A wave of franchise-by-franchise sit-down strikes and occupations that enforce a union and minimum standards on hosts of employers.

- Inspired workers along the food chain and in similar workplaces rise up to demand more.

- Mass pickets, civil disobedience, sit-down strikes and more force non-organized employers to concede to the union or see their businesses destroyed.

- A series of additional bloody struggles to raise standards and enforce them across the industry are waged and won.

Nothing more, nothing less. Can you

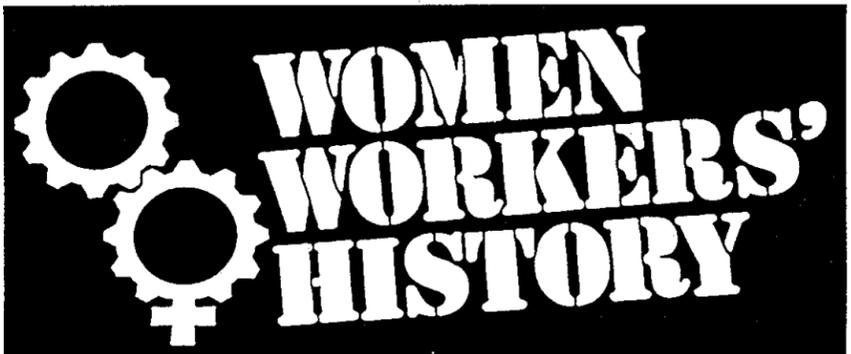
feel it? Taste it? Are you loving it?

This is what we might call "sandwiches meets the autoworker" model, inspired by my own experience as an organizer at Jimmy John's in Minneapolis, through which I saw the need for a more developed strategy of direct action and a need for more concise, winnable demands.

It is also influenced by looking at history, including the book "Reviving the Strike" by Joe Burns, which talks about the importance of strikes in building a powerful labor movement.

While the future is gray, to not shoot for this type of organizing in such an explosive industry is to set ourselves up for failure.

What do I suggest as minimum standards? How about a campaign for \$9 per hour, tip jars and dignity, or the ability to call in sick and not have to face harass-



### CHAPTER 56

### Paterson Silk Strike

Back in 1913, Paterson, N.J. the mostly female silk mill workers were fighting mad about deplorable working conditions and wages as low as \$1.86 for a 56-hour week. A walk-out by Doherty Silk Co. employees on Jan. 27 led to others; by March 3, 25,000 silk workers were on strike. Workers' demands included an end to the four-loom system (hated for its speed-up and elimination of jobs), recognition of the IWW, an 8-hour day and a minimum wage of \$12 a week.

The manufacturers struck back furiously, using the police, the courts and hired thugs to break the strike. There were mass arrests and clubbings: the police ignored the right to picket. Outdoor meetings were banned, so the IWW held rallies in neighboring Haledon, which had a socialist mayor.

IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn won the strikers' admiration. Strikers produced heroes of their own, like 17-year Hannah Silverman, who would be back on the picket line each morning after her release from jail, and Carrie Torello, who brought her five small children with her to jail in the patrol wagon.



By the 17th week, the strikers and their families were in desperate need. Hopes were pinned on "The Pageant of the Paterson Strike" in New York's Madison Square Garden. Strikers acted and sang in this "first labor play" which inspired the audience but made no money. Some workers began drifting back to work. Reluctantly, the strike committee authorized shop-by-shop settlements. The strike officially ended Aug. 1. After 22 weeks, the strikers were defeated by starvation. But their heroic struggle inspired.

Graphic: Mike Konopacki

ment or discrimination. What should we use as a slogan? How about "dignity comes between two slices of bread" (because bread can be slang for money)? The dollar amount could be raised progressively, or upped to fit local conditions or a rising minimum wage.

Such an effort would require some beautiful posters to plaster around stores, including a model "code of conduct" that businesses would be forced to agree to.

It would also be helpful to develop some modern day tar-and-feathering equivalent for creepy or racist managers, as an empowering response to harassment. This could be spread through social networks and done anywhere easily. Something like a glitter bomb, perhaps?

After all, we are the IWW, goddamn it! This is what we do. And fast food workers today are almost as broke as the timber beasts of yesteryear.

That said, being in the IWW gives us an additional advantage. We know that the current economic and political order called capitalism is destroying the Earth and that the same can be said for the capitalist food system. So we know that when the time comes we aren't going to defend the practice of serving the working class diabetes. Instead, we'll take things over and transform them for the benefit of all, bringing about a new world within the shell of the old.

A working class revolution is possible! Join the IWW! Think outside the bun!

## Wobbly &amp; North American News

## IWW Organizing Against Police Brutality

By Kenneth Miller

Members of the Pittsburgh IWW helped to organize the Black and White Reunion's Barbecue To Stop Police Brutality on July 28. Black and White Reunion events are organized to showcase the IWW. The event took place during the civil trial of the three police officers who beat Pittsburgh resident Jordan Miles nearly two years ago. Folks were grappling with the fact that this was a civil trial and the opportunity to try these



BBQ to stop police brutality in PGH. Photo: Kenneth Miller

police in criminal court has passed. What does it mean that Police Chief Nate Harper is part of the wall of silence protecting these criminal police? What examples do we have of labor unions fighting police brutality here in Pittsburgh? Below are a few such examples:

- The Black and White Reunion is one of the groups with which the Pittsburgh IWW organizes October 22 National Day of Action Against Police Brutality activities.

- Members of the IWW invite workers to the Summit Against Racism on the Saturday after Martin Luther King Day each year, sometimes signing new members up there.

- Pittsburgh IWW member Kenneth Miller is attempting to build a case with the National Labor Relations Board to make organizing against police brutality and in support of public transit at work concerted activities and protected speech under the National Labor Relations Act.

- There was organizing for this event amongst workers at Giant Eagle, a large supermarket, Wendy's fast food restaurant

and the Marriott City Center hotel. We tried to make some waves at the Rivers Casino and a few Starbucks, but that did not work out this time.

Additionally, the Black and White Reunion Coordinating Council is planning to combine civic engagement and voter registration work at the Community College of Allegheny County with workers' rights education. The community college system is bursting at the seams with displaced workers, many of whom have been members of labor unions and have lots of union experience. Thousands of food service workers are also students attending the community college.

It is good that we have this kind of coalition demonstrating a shared commitment against racism and police brutality. The Black and White Reunion is a place where organized workers can be together and organize safely, with an emphasis on stopping racism through direct action. For more information about the October 22 National Day of Action Against Police Brutality, please call Kenneth Miller at (412) 867-9213.

## Celebrating Woody Guthrie In Oregon

From the Lane IWW

The Lane IWW General Membership Branch helped organize a 100th anniversary, all-day celebration of the birth of Woody Guthrie in Eugene, Ore., on July 10. Our branch was prominently featured as we appeared on stage and had a table with information and merchandise set up. Pictured are branch members and participating musicians Mark Ross, Anne Feeney and Larry Penn.



Photo: Lane IWW

## Wisconsin Defeat Does Not Spell Doom

By John Kalwaic

In criticizing the failed tactics of the AFL-CIO in the Wisconsin fight-back struggle, let's not forget some key factors of why labor lost. More importantly, let's not forget that not all is lost and that public opinion is not against the rights of workers. First, the AFL-CIO should not have even tried for a recall election. The timing was wrong and the point of the struggle was never about electoral politics. Secondly, the momentum of the struggle had gone down since the movement started in 2011. The recall campaign was a year later.

Two important factors swung the election in favor of Governor Scott Walker. The first factor was that the Democratic candidate was not a good one and not very pro-labor. The pro-labor candidate had lost the primary to the mayor of Milwaukee. The mayor was a weak candidate for labor. In fact, the graduate student union in the state even refused to back him.

The second major factor centered around election rules and suspicious activity. Right before the election, robo-calls were made to people's houses, stating

that if a potential voter signed the recall petition, the voter did not have to vote in the primary. Other robo-calls were later made, correctly stating the opposite. The exit polls showed Scott Walker in the lead by only a few percentage points. In the election, however, Walker won by almost 10 percentage points. Although the exit polls could have been wrong, they were rarely that wrong. Something suspicious had gone on in the election process. In addition, it is important to keep in mind that the position the public takes on issues does not always reflect the public's position on the candidates. The protests in Ohio against the public sector bargaining ban were much smaller than those in Wisconsin, yet the bargaining ban in Ohio was voted down in a direct ballot. In Mississippi, residents voted a near abortion ban despite reelecting the politicians that proposed it. The lesson to take from Wisconsin is that labor tying itself up with political candidates is a dead end. It is important to analyze what went wrong but not to dismiss the entire struggle or think that all is lost.

## Thousands Of Firefighters March In Philly

By John Kalwaic

On July 27, around 3,000 firefighters marched in Philadelphia to protest Mayor Michael Nutter's refusal to honor a contract. The protest swelled due to a national firefighter convention that was being held that week. The protest came after a court ruled in favor of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 22. The city, however, has so far not honored the ruling. Occupy Philadelphia organizers tried to get their own members out to the demonstration



Firefighters march to City Hall.

Photo: Philly.com

but, unfortunately, they did not learn of the rally until earlier that day.

## Greensboro IWW Growing Strong

From the Greensboro IWW

It's been a busy couple of months for the newly-chartered Greensboro IWW General Membership Branch (GMB). After being approved as a branch on May 1, we spent the day distributing "Happy May Day" cards that our members designed and printed to almost 400 people who had to spend the day working. These cards received an overwhelmingly positive response. Later in the day, IWW members participated in a May Day march and held a well-attended potluck social event later that evening.

Around a dozen members in the new branch were joined by several out-of-town Wobblies for a workplace organizing training, led by the broader union, later in May. By the end of June, the Greensboro GMB had pulled off its first action, successfully winning weeks of unpaid back wages for two employees at a local café/bar, called Sessions.

One of our members at this newly-opened business specializing in craft beer reported that she hadn't been paid for several weeks of work, and before long we discovered the employer was systematically not paying many of his employees, often laying them off and hoping never to hear from them again. Along with a coworker, she decided to take action.

After delivering a letter with the hours

the two workers were owed for and requesting to be paid by the end of the week, the workers were thrown out. When Friday rolled around and the owner still refused to pay, the IWW was ready to back up the workers. The owner found out we were planning a picket and scrambled to pay the two employees immediately. A picket with over 20 IWW members and supporters lined the front of Sessions while the two workers went in for their checks and received most of the money they were owed. By the end of the weekend, both workers had all of their money and we declared victory.

Since our first public action, a handful of new members have signed up and we've started to receive outside requests for support. We co-sponsored a "Know Your Rights" workshop in August, aimed at teaching regular working people what their rights are in the workplace regardless of whether they are organizing or not.

We've talked to several workers in the Raleigh-Durham area of the state and plan to help them get a GMB off the ground when they are ready. The large metropolitan area is just one hour away from Greensboro, and building this branch would allow the two branches to easily support each other. Until then, the closest branches in Asheville and Richmond are three hours away.

## Solidarity Against FBI Repression

From the Portland IWW

The following is a statement expressing solidarity with the current targets of FBI repression, and was signed on to by the Portland IWW. This statement was originally posted online and includes others who have signed on, which can be found here: <http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com>.

On Wednesday, July 26, the FBI conducted a series of coordinated raids against activists in Portland, Ore., and in Olympia and Seattle, Wash. They subpoenaed several people to a special federal grand jury, and seized computers, black clothing and anarchist literature.

Though the FBI has said that the raids are part of a violent crime investigation, the truth is that the federal authorities are conducting a political witch hunt against anarchists and others working toward a more just, free and equal society. The warrants served specifically listed anarchist literature as evidence to be seized—pointing to the fact that the FBI and police are targeting this group of people because of their political ideas. Pure and simple, these raids and the grand jury hearings are being used to intimidate people whose politics oppose the state's agenda. During a time of growing economic and ecological crises that are broadly affecting people across the world, [this repression] is an attempt to push back any movement towards creating a world that is humane, one that meets every person's needs rather than serving only the interests of the rich.

This attack does not occur in a



Graphic: nopoliticalrepression.files.wordpress.com

vacuum. Around the country and around the world, people have been rising up and resisting an economic system that puts the endless pursuit of profit ahead of the basic needs of humanity and the earth. From the Arab Spring to the Occupy movement to [the protests against police brutality in] Anaheim now, people are taking to the streets. In each of these cases, the state has responded with brutal political repression. This is not a coincidence. It is a long-term strategy by state agencies to stop legitimate political challenges to a status quo that exploits most of the world's people.

We, the undersigned, condemn this and all other political repression. While we may have differences in ideology or choose to use different tactics, we understand that we are in a shared struggle to create a just, free and liberated world, and that we can only do this if we stand together. We will not let scare tactics or smear campaigns divide us, intimidate us or stop us from organizing and working for a better world. No more witch hunts!

An injury to one is an injury to all.

## Special

# Reviving An Old Tradition Of Educating IWW Agitators

Continued from 1

all the way until 1941 when it finally closed shop.

In 2006, the Twin Cities IWW began reviving the WPC in a smaller way. This began as a series of workshops, mainly in the form of one-day educational events and presentations. While originally focused on attracting and building up organizers in the Twin Cities and upper Midwest, the project eventually developed into the idea and manifestation of a six-day event, returning to the woods of the former WPC in northern Minnesota. This time the event was aimed at wider audience: Wobblies throughout the United States and Canada.

This past summer, for the first time in 71 years, this more ambitious form of the WPC took place. From June 30 until July 5, approximately 100 IWW members from across the United States and Canada came to Mesaba Co-op Park. These campgrounds, near Hibbing, Minn., were originally founded by Finnish immigrant communists in the 1930s. In a region where the historical IWW led miners and timber workers in strikes a hundred years ago, fellow workers attended workshops and were able to have conversations with other members across the union.

Gifford from the San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch (GMB) was amazed by the conversations he encountered at the WPC. “I slept an average of four to five hours a night, mostly because I couldn’t break away from engaged late night conversations with comrades from all four corners of the continent, like young militant service industry workers from Florida, musicians from Vancouver, Starbucks workers from New York and dual-carding grocery workers from Southern California,” said Gifford. “Hearing in-depth analyses from young and old workers active during the upsurge in Wisconsin, the organizing drives of food service workers in the Twin Cities, and articulate young radicals from across the Midwest. Every one of those conversations was amazing.”

Conversations on the IWW’s present and future stemmed beyond workshops to less structured exchanges at the campgrounds. A lake with a small beach, canoes and fishing allowed folks to socialize. All three meals of the day were cooked from scratch by rotating committees of volunteers. Additionally, the separate but simultaneous Junior Wobblies camp allowed children and young adults to be a part of the week in a way that benefited everyone in attendance.

Malinda from the Pacific Northwest expressed enthusiasm at the WPC’s capacity to bring together Wobblies as a community. “If I had to summarize my experience in one word, it would be: inspiring. Sharing ideas, stories, meals and songs boosted our morale, built a sense of camaraderie and friendship and rejuvenated our will to fight,” she said, adding “[the WPC] provided the opportunity for many of us to heal. It also provided us with the opportunity to strategize on how to improve our branches, our campaigns and our union.”

The structure of the six-day event allowed organizers “to offer an ambitious set of workshops that challenged us all to rethink the way we organize,” said Malinda. Sam from the Madison Industrial Union Branch (IUB) 560 felt inspired and reinvigorated as well. “[The] WPC made it very clear to me that no matter how tough things are in the tiny bubble where our day-to-day life and workplace campaigns exist, we are always amongst friends—even with the distance between us—who are willing to help however they can, support each other and who also know that when they need it, others will help them too,” he said. Sam said he felt the week was “an object lesson in what solidarity really looks like in action. I wouldn’t trade that experience, or the friendships I made there, for anything. I came back recharged, ready to

dive back in, head on, into my workplace campaign; motivated to tighten the bonds in our committee, my workplace, and our branch.”

The WPC ran a wide spectrum of workshops in unique areas. Examples of workshops that focused on some practical skills included: Branch Administration, Running a Good Meeting/Committee, Industrial Research I & II, Graphic Design Basics, three courses on Media, and Picket Training. Workshops also shared knowledge of history and theory, including Understanding Capitalism and the History of Labor in North America. Areas of experience in the IWW still in development were also explored, such as Strike Support, Dual-Card Organizing and Power & Privilege on the Committee and Mediation, among others.

Sarah Rose from the St. Louis GMB said her favorite workshop was Building New Members. “We discussed formalizing programs to build up the general membership, being strategic and growing solidarity,” she said.

“The bulk of the conversation was directed into tactics a branch can use to build up new members. This included asking for goals from people who are interested in joining, creating a new member orientation, having regular socials and showing solidarity with each other by the use of time banks, skill shares and gift circles,” said Sarah Rose. “The most important reason the workshop was so enlightening was that the focus was on ways to be strategic while still building up members. Ways to do this include building a branch social map and building the branch on class-consciousness rather than on friendship,” she added.

Brianna from the Kansas City GMB said that the WPC allowed her to be inspired by the shared struggles of herself and her fellow workers. “Seeing so many people that I have only known online and hearing the many stories of struggle, success and failure really reinforced my belief that each and every one of our contributions to each others’ struggles really does make a difference in the lives of workers who are not just workers, but human beings who face daily challenges, struggle to make life worth living, not just for themselves, but for all workers, and feel the same feelings of hope, remorse, joy and pain as myself. My actions or lack of action are part of what determines whether or not someone else’s life is improved and every life improved is a step toward a more humane society. What we do matters, sometimes in an abstract and long term way, and sometimes in a very immediate tactile way,” said Brianna.

For some, the WPC was the first opportunity for those kinds of steps to be taken, as it was their chance to meet and talk to people outside of their branch or region who had been a part of well-known struggles at Starbucks, Jimmy John’s, and New York City warehouses, as well as those who had participated in recent events in Wisconsin and Oakland.

For others still, the WPC served as an opportunity to step up and discover their own strength as organizers. Sarah Elizabeth from Kansas City and formerly the New York City GMB said she was amazed at her own development there. “The Work People’s College was a lot of firsts for me,” she said. “My first experience organizing a project across states, internationally, through conference calls and Google Docs, in a community I’d never lived in, at a venue I’d never seen, and with people I had never met in person and knew very little about. I had to trust my fellow workers completely when they said, ‘Yes, I will make sure that this is ready by...’ or, ‘This person would be excellent at...’”

“I moved to Minneapolis a month before the Work People’s College to lend an extra pair of hands. As someone with a history of working at an infoshop, and hosting skill shares and small-scale events,

I figured there would be some way in which I could help out. Maybe some of the skills I developed in Lawrence, Kansas would be helpful? The learning curve during this time was pronounced and intimidating. It required that I ask a trillion questions to catch up. Who is this? What is this? How is this being done? And why? But in true IWW fashion, fellow workers were supportive and patient. They challenged bad ideas in constructive ways and encouraged me to run with the good ones. By doing so, I was pushed to a whole new level of organizing,” she said.

Sarah Elizabeth knows both she and fellow organizers took a chance as she developed her leadership role for the pilot year of the WPC. “This happened with a lot of anxiety about failing and thinking that surely someone more experienced could do each task better than me. But I learned that often the ‘best’ person for a task is the one who will actually make sure it is done and not be afraid to ask for help. We are all teachers and students, specialists and generalists, leaders and workers. Working long nights through stress and unknowns created more than a weeklong intensive training in northern Minnesota; it built a



Canoe break at WPC.

Photo: James Fellman

lasting solidarity with other fellow workers, the type of solidarity that can only be built over collective struggle,” she said.

The impact and after-effects of the WPC are still coming into view across the union. Some fellow workers across North America have had the opportunity to participate in building up the IWW’s presence while paying respects to its history, but the legacy of the WPC is not yet over.

With a look to the future of WPC, FW A. said, “It felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to meet so many Wobblies from so many different walks of life, but luckily that isn’t the case, and the Work People’s College will be back in 2013. So, if you didn’t come in 2012, come next year. If you did, come back. Together, we can build a better world.”

## The Kids Annotated Preamble

By Sasha

*This piece was written by FW Sasha, a 12-year-old member of the Junior Wobblies, and was used during his presentation of the “IWW Preamble” during one of the daily political education activities at this year’s Junior Wobblies camp. For more information about the Junior Wobblies or the camp, which runs at the same time as Work People’s College, please email walla279@umn.edu.*

### Introduction

In 1905 a group of workers founded the IWW. These workers wrote the “Preamble to the IWW Constitution” to explain why the IWW was started. It was written in 1905, which is more than 100 years ago! So it might be a little hard to understand. Someone wrote the “Annotated Preamble of the IWW Constitution” more recently. This is a little bit easier to understand for grown-ups but it isn’t written for kids. I’m going to try to explain the “Preamble” in a way that kids can understand.

### “The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.”

There are two types of people in the world: workers and bosses. The two different kinds of people want two different things. Workers want better pay, a shorter time working, better and safer jobs, work that keeps the earth clean and safe, and the power to decide what they do with their work. Bosses want to make sure they get more money no matter how little they pay their workers or how dangerous the work is for the workers or the planet.

### “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 in life.”

It isn’t fair and really just doesn’t make sense that very few, very rich people have everything they want when tons of working people don’t even have the basic things they need.

### “We find that the centering of management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class.”

There are other kinds of unions that only organize one kind of job or trade—that’s why they are called trade unions. There are a lot of good working organizers in trade unions, but trade unions themselves won’t lead to a revolution. Trade unions only unionize part of the workers and sometimes they even work against each other.

### “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

In the IWW everyone is equal. It doesn’t matter what color their skin is or whether they are a boy or a girl. The IWW is not connected to any country, government, religion or business. If one person needs help organizing, everyone will help. The IWW is one big union.

### “It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.”

Capitalism is the system in which bosses make money off workers. No one can be equal when capitalism is the way the world is run. The reason capitalism thrives is because the bosses have power. They have power because they live off the work of the workers. If all the workers stopped working, the bosses would have no power.

### “The army of production must be organized, not for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown.”

People should organize not only to deal with the bosses now, but also to get rid of capitalism. We can figure out how things will work when capitalism has been stopped.

### “By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.”

How the IWW is organized is the way the world should be organized when capitalism is abolished. By organizing people now, we will have a base to organize from and we won’t have to start from scratch once capitalism has been stopped.

## Analysis

# The IWW, Starbucks And Class Warfare

By Matt Muchowski

Upset over low pay, poor treatment and the struggle to qualify for health benefits, employees of Starbucks (referred to by the company as “partners”) have been organizing to form a union under the banner of the IWW.

Starbucks has opposed their partners’ attempts to have a voice on the job, and had originally maintained a policy that strictly prohibited wearing pro-union buttons, which is a blatantly illegal violation of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The company settled with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and adopted a new policy which allowed employees to exercise their legal right to wear a union button if it were “reasonably sized and placed,” unless the buttons were to “interfere with safety or threaten to harm customer relations or otherwise unreasonably interfere with Starbucks’ public image.”

Starbucks management uses the terms of this policy to prohibit employees from wearing more than one union button, arguing that doing so would harm customer relations and interfere with the company’s image. However, after Starbucks fired an employee for wearing more than one union button, the NLRB ruled that by limiting the number of pro-union buttons allowed Starbucks violated the NLRA rule. The NLRB said that wearing more than one button would not interfere with Starbucks’ public image.

Considering that Starbucks is a company that tries to paint itself as a conscientious employer that gives part-time employees a health package, it does seem odd that they would try to limit their employees’ legally protected union activity.

Starbucks appealed the NLRB’s ruling, and the Second Circuit Court ruled in Starbucks’ favor. Judge Jon Newman offered a decision that read more like a biased opinion than a ruling based on the laws he is sworn to uphold. The NLRA does not limit the number of buttons that an employee can wear or specifically define how many would have to be worn to hurt “managerial interests.”

Judge Newman admitted that the burden would be on the employer to prove that the wearing of multiple union buttons harms “managerial interests”; however, he did not cite a single shred of factual evidence from Starbucks that such “harm” took place. Starbucks did not provide any evidence of customer complaints, financial loss or negative publicity as a result of employees wearing more than one union button. Starbucks may actually receive more negative publicity for their anti-union rule than they would by simply allowing employees to wear multiple pro-union buttons.

In an article about the case on <http://www.legalnewsline.com>, Vincent Vernuccio, labor policy counsel for the Competitive Enterprise Institute—a pro-business think tank group—made statements that show his complete ignorance about the IWW and labor law. Vernuccio claimed

that “the NLRB consistently attempts to put unions before workers and job creators.” Vernuccio’s distinction between unions and workers is odd, considering that the IWW is run by the workers themselves. The IWW is a democratic and member-run labor union; it does not employ organizers, but rather workers organize themselves.

Vernuccio complains of the “unelected bureaucrats at the National Labor Relations Board” who rule in support of workers, while he praises the unelected judges who rule against workers: “The courts are the last resort in preventing this rogue agency from giving more favors to one of the Obama administration’s biggest benefactors: labor bosses.”

The IWW could hardly be described as having “labor bosses.” The union has less than a dozen paid staff throughout the country. Its highest paid official is barely above the federal poverty line and makes a fraction of what apologists for illegal corporate behavior like Vernuccio make.



Graphic: wobblies.de

As for being a benefactor of Obama, the IWW does not have a political action committee, does not endorse political candidates, and the IWW’s constitution prohibits the union from affiliating with political parties.

Expensive corporate lawyers like Vernuccio like to become hysterical in the face of even the smallest pro-labor sympathies, calling the tiniest of tax increases on multi-millionaires “class warfare.” Members of the IWW know what class warfare truly looks like. It looks like the IWW members shot and killed on the docks of Everett, Wash., for trying to exercise free speech. It looks like Frank Little, who was lynched for trying to organize copper miners in Montana, and Anna LoPizzo, who was murdered in Lawrence, Mass., for demanding bread—and roses too.

Class warfare looks like the college graduate who doesn’t know how they will repay their loans, the mother who doesn’t know how she can afford healthcare for her kids, the husband who fears that one injury at work would cost him an income, the grandfather who wonders how he will retire, the immigrant who fears *La Migra* (immigration enforcement and border patrol officials), the occupier clubbed and pepper sprayed. And class warfare looks like the compulsive money hoarders who would rather fire a barista for wearing a few buttons than provide them with their basic legal rights, a decent job and a voice at their workplace.

## Milwaukee Pizza Factory Workers Strike

Continued from 1

signed a petition. They have filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge against the company and have also filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board for an election.

Apparently after seeing the partnership with the USW as an encroachment on their turf, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1473 in Milwaukee has managed to get itself on the ballot, alongside the independent Palermo’s Workers Union, causing the election to be delayed. It is likely that the fired workers will not be allowed to vote since the new election was scheduled after their termination date.

In the meantime the workers, many of whom are unable to return to their jobs because they’ve been replaced, intend to continue to picket and build community support for the strike. When asked why they decided to organize a union, Silva said “I know it’s the right that we have.

It’s everyone’s right to do it so that we can have a voice on the job.”

The fight that the Palermo’s workers are engaged in is a significant one, especially in light of the recent failed attempt by the mainstream labor movement to win the spending war and replace Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker with a Democrat. While many Wisconsinites are still reeling from the defeat, the Palermo’s Workers Union, with the help of Voces, is doing the type of organizing that the left should have been doing all along.

The Palermo’s workers are setting an example for how we should move forward after the recall in the following ways:

- Organizing from the ground up rather than following the direction of business union leadership.

- Building solidarity with community groups.

- Making the availability of their labor for the purpose of making profit contingent on their demands being met.

These workers appear to understand the power that they hold. They are determined to make positive change in their workplace rather than continue listening to management’s promises of small improvements that never materialize. They are reminding us what a real rank-and-file struggle looks like—the type of struggle that we got a taste of when 150,000



Photo: Madison IWW

people filled the streets of Madison, but that was quickly subdued and funneled into a doomed electoral campaign. It’s not too late for workers in Wisconsin and everywhere to begin pushing the labor movement in a different direction.

*The Madison IWW General Membership Branch is raising money for the Palermo’s strike fund and sending food, water and people to the picket line. To support the striking Palermo’s workers, you can donate to the strike fund at <https://www.wepay.com/donations/170361>.*

*If you’re in the area, you can also join the picket line, refuse to buy Palermo’s products and pressure your local grocery store to do the same. Palermo’s Pizza is located at 3301 West Canal Street in Milwaukee, Wis. The picket goes from 1:30-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10:00 a.m.-1:30pm on Saturdays. Contact Voces de la Frontera (<http://www.vdlf.org>) for more information.*

## Prisoners Stage Hunger Strike In North Carolina

Continued from 1

predominantly black and Latino people in this country, and the North Carolina prison system is no exception. Many people in this country hold onto the false belief that slavery ended with the passage of the 13th Amendment, which clearly states: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” Emphasis should of course be placed on the portion following the word “except.” Forced slave labor has always been legal in this country. Although the Civil War ended chattel slavery, it only narrowed the confines of slavery into the prison system. One can only guess why the U.S. prison system is the largest one in the world. It is this modern slavery, and the modern slave-like conditions in slave-like quarters, that the North Carolina prisoners staged a strike against.

Below are the prisoners’ demands:

1. Law libraries. We are tired of being railroaded by the courts, and having our rights violated by prison staff and officers. North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services are inadequate and often times do not help us at all. A law library is needed to enable us

to legally defend ourselves.

2. An immediate end to the physical and mental abuse inflicted by officers.

3. Improve food, in terms of quality and quantity.

4. A better way to communicate emergencies from cells. Many emergency call buttons are broken and never replaced, and guards often do not show up for over an hour. At least one prisoner has died this way.

5. The canteens that serve lock-up units need to make vitamins and personal hygiene items available.

6. An immediate stop to officers’ tampering or throwing away prisoners’ mail.

7. Education programs for prisoners on lock-up.

8. The immediate release of prisoners from solitary who have been held unjustly or for years without infractions; this includes the Strong 8, sent to solitary for the purpose of political intimidation.

9. The immediate end to the use of restraints as a form of torture.

10. The end of cell restriction. Sometimes prisoners are locked in their cells for weeks or more than a month, unable to come out for showers and recreation.

11. The theft of prisoners’ property, including mattresses and clothes. When

on property restriction, we are forced to sleep on the ground or steel bed frames naked, with no bedding.

12. Medical privacy and confidentiality. Guards should not be able to listen in on our medical problems when on sick call.

13. Change our cell windows to ones which we can see through. The current windows are covered with feces and grime. Not being able to see out is sensory deprivation, and makes us feel dissociated from everything that exists outside of prison.

14. An immediate repair of cell lights, sinks, toilets and plumbing.

15. Toilet brushes should be handed out with cell cleaning items.

16. The levels of I-Con, M-Con, and H-Con need to be done away with altogether. When one is placed on Intensive Control Status (I-Con), one is placed in the hole for six months and told to stay out of trouble. But even when we stay out of trouble, we are called back to the Federal Correctional Complex and Division of Community Corrections only to be told to do another six months in the hold, infraction free.

Throughout the duration of the hunger strike, prisoners called for outside support. Local anarchists began to assist the prisoners before the strike started and continue to do so. Chapel Hill Prison Books Collec-

tive and Greensboro Legal Defense, among other organizations, have been helping prisoners connect with the outside world. On July 29, the two organizations held a protest outside Central Prison—drawing nearly 100 people, who showed solidarity with the strikers. The prisoners also asked supporters to hold actions at companies that are profiting off of their conditions such as Coca-Cola, New Balance and Heinz, as well as lesser-known businesses like JM Murray. Occupy activists and a few Wobblies from as far away as Utica, N.Y., heeded the call and held an Occupy For Prisoners demonstration at the business JM Murray in Cortland on Aug. 3. At least three other similar solidarity actions were held across the nation.

In the first week of August, prisoners agreed to end the hunger strike. The outcome of the hunger strike is still uncertain (at press time). Like all strikes, the organizing and actions do not end when the dust of the strike settles; they continue in different forms. It only makes sense for Wobblies to include the abolition of modern day prison slavery in their struggle to abolish wage slavery by getting involved with the new prisoner justice movement. The New Freedom Riders are depending on it.

## Reviews

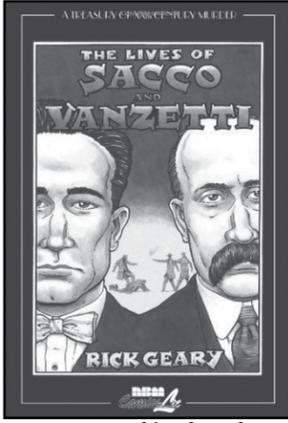
## The True Story Of Sacco & Vanzetti

Geary, Rick. *The Lives of Sacco & Vanzetti* (A Treasury of Victorian Murder). Syracuse, NY: NBM Publishing, 2011. Hardcover, 80 pages, \$15.99.

By David Feldmann, X361736

"Two good men a long time gone...Sacco & Vanzetti are gone." – Woody Guthrie

It's been 85 years since the state of Massachusetts took the lives of Italian-American radicals, Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco. During that time, numerous books, articles, films, and songs have been made about their lives and the infamous trial which ended in their conviction for the murder of a payroll clerk and his guard in Braintree,



Graphic: nbmpub.com

Mass. Now, the tale of Sacco and Vanzetti's final years, from their arrest in 1920 to their execution in 1927, is told in the form of a slim graphic novel published by NBM Publishing.

Rick Geary's Eisner Award nominated "The Lives of Sacco & Vanzetti" is less of a polemical tract than a true crime account. Beginning with the murder of two men transporting over \$15,000 in payroll cash and concluding with Sacco and Vanzetti's death and subsequent legacy, most of the book's content revolves around the murder trial, when two working-class anarchists

attempted to clear their names and avoid the electric chair. Geary presents the trial in the most unbiased manner as one can write, considering the xenophobic climate of the United States at the time, the tampering with evidence (the gun used as evidence against Nicola Sacco was disassembled and reassembled with different parts), and the remarks of the man presiding over the case, Judge Thayer, to a friend at an affluent country club: "I'll get those anarchistic [sic] bastards... I'll get those guys hanged."

"The Lives of Sacco & Vanzetti" offers no clear-cut answers regarding the case, although Geary does appear to be sympathetic to both men, who clearly didn't receive a fair trial and, most likely, were completely innocent of the charges against them. As has often been the case in politically charged criminal trials (the Haymarket Affair, the Chicago 7 trial, Joe Hill, etc.) before and since the Sacco and Vanzetti case, defendants with left-wing viewpoints have been forced to endure the prejudice and misunderstanding of an intolerant public. Despite the controversial nature of this historical incident, Geary's book manages to depict the tragic series of events surrounding the notorious case in a provocative yet grounded way.

## The Story Of "L" Is No Fairy Tale

Becker, Jillian. *L: A Novel History*. Palo Alto, CA: William Baldwin Group, 2012. 410 pages, \$14.99.

By Elle Kaye Jung

Jillian Becker is a lifelong student of history and terrorism, both domestic and abroad, so it should shock no one that her "L: A Novel History" isn't a fairy tale. Becker is a self-anointed "atheist conservative," making it difficult to separate her politics from her prose. There was little doubt that the follow-up to Becker's "Hitler's Gang: The Story of the Baader-Meinhoff Terrorist Gang," wouldn't be a similarly engrossing read. For a thick, dyspeptic tome that takes on the ratiocinations of Gallic heavy weights like Georges Bataille, Michel Foucault, Jean-Paul Sartre, and most tellingly, the Hungarian aesthete György Lukács, Becker's premise here is remarkably simple and forthright. Basically, she asks, what would've happened, post-1979, if the U.K. Labour Party radicals had vanquished former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher? As expected from the founder of the now defunct Institute for the Study of Terrorism, the entirety of Britain would surely have been rent asunder. Writing backwards from the year 2023, our fictional historian Bernard Gill is piecing together the true, declassified story of one Louis Zander, the supreme leader of the brutal, but short-lived Red Republic of England (1987-89). Conscripting the private militia of his archrival, the



neo-Nazi stalwart Edward Foxe, "L" enacts unspeakable atrocities on the good people of the Isle, plunging a once powerful and prosperous nation into base Marxist misery. If such an existence sounds a bit too heavy-handed, well, that's because it often is. Not even a prodigious talent like Becker can shoulder the ideological burdens inherent to historical dystopia... especially via flashback. And yet, that's not reason enough to stop turning the pages. As always, Becker's chief concern—as she interprets it—is for humanity itself: "May the story of 'L' be a warning to all those who would trade in their freedom for a mirage of security under a paternalistic state led by a charismatic would-be dictator," she writes. Of course, one could quite easily caution the same of a self-aggrandizing writer with a God complex republishing her novel in an election year.

## Managing Manure To Save Mankind

Logsdon, Gene. *Holy Shit: Managing Manure to Save Mankind*. White River Junction, VT: N Chelsea Green Publishing, 2010. Paperback, 204 pages, \$17.50.

By John MacLean

"Sooner or later, we must learn to live in the same world as our colons." – Gene Logsdon

The animating idea behind Gene Logsdon's book, "Holy Shit: Managing Manure to Save Mankind," is that we are taking from soil much more than we are putting back, and it must stop. This destructive error is as old as the Epic of Gilgamesh, coming down to us from the cradle of civilization. Now that the trees are gone, and the land has been made desert, conquerors are back for the last remaining ancient forests, crushed and heated, deep under the ground.

Gene Logsdon claims that we have "lost touch" with the land and become obsessed with sex and "the consolidation of wealth and power." In the last century, our increasingly urbanized society has decreased the amount of organic material in soil to dangerous levels, and this era of man-made-and-mined fertilizer is coming to a close. Logsdon calls manure a divine commodity, a "precious gem," even "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," and contends that only small, dispersed garden farms are able to use manure efficiently. Supporting this argument, farmers insist that we break with our current era of "wanton wastefulness" and not remain "helpless before the dragons of a self-destructing economy."

Urine is far richer in "plant nutrients" than manure, contains significant amounts of nitrogen and potassium, and is readily available to plants. Manure, writes Logsdon, is overflowing with "goodies," including "starch, cellulose, lignin, fat, proteins, carbohydrates of various kinds, minerals, and vestiges of digestive juices that begin the process of decomposition in the animal's intestines." Unnumbered millions of bacteria help this all along as well. The richest manure is that of chickens, goats and sheep. The author later mentions guano as being equally rich.

The use of "bedding" can stall the loss of this richness, through exposure to

the elements, which then turns the soil to humus. Manure that is piled up uncovered outside a barn can lose as much as half of its value as fertilizer, and "manure pack" bedding, in covered, accessible sheds, is by far a better management solution. Composting with a manure pack ages the materials slowly, is anaerobic, and follows a very different dynamic than garden composting.

Logsdon hails the manure spreader as a "more momentous" invention than the plow or the automobile. He also finds, contrary to his early teachings, that plowing freshly spread manure into fields is not optimal; it's best to let the sequestered nitrogen in an aged manure pack leach into the surface soil after haying. He writes in regard to "manuring" and "mulching" that most of the "feverish microbiological activity" in soil occurs at the surface, where there is plenty of oxygen. Logsdon writes, "Our most important livestock, in fact, are invisible to the naked eye."

At about the halfway point of his book Logsdon shares a lovely little essay called "Meditations on a Meadow Muffin." He writes that cow pies are "magnets," drawing to themselves "a wondrous array of microorganisms, insects, birds, animals, and even humans, all interacting in a marvelous web of life that results ultimately in the enrichment of the earth." Birds swoop in after bugs; skunks, raccoons and opossums practice "the cow-flop flip" in search of worms; and dung beetles, when left to do their work, are capable of depositing tons of waste matter in the ground yearly. These bugs save nitrogen, aerate, and increase the amount of organic matter in soil. Earthworms also "dine" on elements in the manure and turn it all into readily available "plant nutrients." Working with nature is a much easier road to travel, according to the author.

Logsdon writes of the horrified reaction he got from a friend when he mentioned mulching his garden with manure. Properly aged and dried barn manure is "safe and beneficial" as mulch and contains most of the nutrients that garden plants need. It also can "blot out weeds," he says. Using too much can keep soil from

warming in the next season, though, and under no circumstances "should you use fresh manure drippy with urine close to any plants." This kind of mulching also acts as a "moisture preserver" during a dry spell, equal to many other irrigation systems. Logsdon says his compost consists of layers of grass, leaves, soil, worms, and sheep shit pack, and that the resulting heat is enough to limit pathogens and kill parasite eggs. The heat can be used to carefully warm starter plants early in the spring, and the finished compost can be put into the ground with seeds. Fresher manure can be used when mulching around trees in an orchard, as the ammonia is not as damaging to trees as it is to other plants.

When you look at "a spec of muck soil" under a microscope, Longsdon writes, it's almost as if you are seeing "a scene from a rainforest." And in comparison with soil that has been long cultivated, "woods soil," he says, contains a greater number of microorganisms and larger living things in it, "all in symbiotic or combative relationships to each other." The roots of woodland trees take in nutrients through the mycorrhizal fungi (mycelia) that are attached to them, and trees without these fungi grow poorly.

The sad fact that Logsdon began to realize is that farming "is by its nature not...sustainable" and, at its worst, invites "ecological collapse." There is a long history of agricultural mistakes proving this. Logsdon recalls the *terra preta* (black earth) experiments, from the area of the Amazon, in which indigenous people long ago made their own soil. Sadly, he writes, most past civilizations "never learned to return their wastes to the soil like those who utilized the *terra preta*" technique. In most cases, the "divine materials" were just piled up in "midden pits" as people distanced themselves "from the daily task of food-getting."

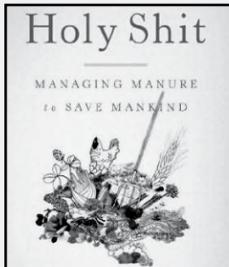
Logsdon says there is hope for us in the work of Harry Hoitink, who discovered that the impact of many plant diseases can be lessened by using composts, but there are great industrial concerns arrayed against even this solution.

If we "continue to cram more and

more animals and more and more humans into less and less space" we have no chance of dealing sustainably, or affordably, with our waste, according to Logsdon. He writes that humans produce more than 50 million tons of usable nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium each year, and we are not only throwing much of it away, but are "spending incalculable amounts of money to do the throwing."

Properly treated human biosolids are approved for use on farmland, but organic certification rules prohibit or greatly restrict this use, says Logsdon, who recommends adding human waste onto livestock manure pack and extols the virtues of dry or composting toilets. This would require people becoming expert at "thermophilic decomposition," as aging and heat are needed to deal with the pathogens in human feces. The many experts that landed us in our current bigger-is-better plight, the spinners of "rosey-hued yakety yak" to Logsdon, are at present lying low, not unlike the cast of characters who recently looted and wrecked our economy, who are busy rewriting history. Logsdon writes, "We should all be working together to find a way to use our shit—this plentiful, natural, local, and renewable source of fertility—rather than continuing to rely on expensive, synthetic products in bags that do nothing to improve the soil."

This grotesque, scandalous book is worth a read. The author's great sense of humor is on display throughout, particularly when he claims to be exhausted by all the world's endless social movements, while at the same time remaining very much down with the movement centered within the divine bowel. Logsdon seems to take for granted access to land and, as recent events in Paraguay demonstrate, violent conflicts over access to land are common, and even governments can be overthrown in the process. It would be helpful also to mention that soil fertility also can be maintained, short of composting and spreading manure, through the use of cover plants and other techniques of natural farming. But in an increasingly arid United States, where as much as half the land is desert (or becoming such) and wildfires burn through the summers, manure, composting, and natural farming must all be part of a future solution.



Graphic: booktopia.com.au

**Wobbly Arts**

# Irreplaceable

**By Grace Parker**

This song can be heard online here: <http://www.soundclick.com/beerandroses>.



Photo: Beer and Roses

To the left, to the left x3  
Bring all your trade unions to the left  
Leave the pork chops  
And the high dues  
I don't even know what the money goes to  
Rank-and-file has no say  
While you're going round earning six-figure pay  
It's time to take the union back  
How long has it been since we've had a contract

**CHORUS:**

Standing at the capital  
Giving all the Democrats my dues  
Talking bout how I'll never ever find a union like you  
You got me twisted  
You must not know bout me  
You must not know bout me  
I could have another union in a minute  
Matter fact, Wobs be here in a minute, baby  
You must not know bout me  
You must not know bout me  
I could have another union by tomorrow  
So don't you ever for a second get to thinking  
You're irreplaceable

So go ahead and get gone  
Call up my boss and see if he's home  
I know that you like him more than  
All us workers who voted you in  
You're really just a boss too  
Rolling all around in the car my dues bought you  
That's why you don't resist  
And always side with the capitalists

**CHORUS**

We must organize and fight  
Because we all have nothing  
Nothing else left to do  
Fellow workers I am telling you  
We'll trade their bureaucracy  
For workplace democracy  
We're the ones with solidarity

To the left, to the left x3  
Bring all your trade unions to the left  
In our hands we hold the power  
Rise up workers it's our hour  
Direct action gets the goods  
More than union bosses ever could, and  
It's time to dump them off our back  
And raise up the flag of the red and black

**CHORUS**

# Occupation Song

**By Joe Hill**

No copyright, so circulate widely!

Last night Joe Hill came by and shared his new song. Yes, he confirmed that the rumors of his demise are greatly exaggerated, and that he is still composing. In any case, the issues are current, and the melody is oddly similar to Bob Marley's "Redemption Song." He thought it possible that you would want to publish it in the Industrial Worker. It was performed here in Bozeman at our May Day General Strike rally. The crowd liked it!

Soli!

Jimi Del Duca

The Banksters they did rob us, to keep us in the Bosses grip  
We work in perpetual servitude, like a bottomless pit  
But our hands were made strong, as a Union we are mighty  
We've flowered in this generation, defiantly;  
Oh, won't you help me sing, these songs of freedom  
The time to act is now! Occupation song, occupation song...

Emancipate yourself from corporate slavery; it begins when we free our minds

Have no fear of Homeland Security, for even they can't stop the tide  
How long will we fill their pockets, while they keep us on their hooks?  
They say that we belong to them, 'cause our names are in their books;  
But now I want to sing, these songs of freedom  
The time to act is now! Occupation song, occupation song...

(Instrumental Break)

Emancipate yourself from Bosses slavery! We've all got to organize!  
Have no fear of Homeland Security, not even they can stop this tide  
How long shall we make them profits, while we struggle on their hooks?  
They think that we belong to them, 'cause our names are in their books;  
Now let us help you sing, these songs of freedom  
The time to act is now! Occupation song, occupation song, occupation song...

# Toutes Les Fascistes Vous Allez Perdre (All You Fascists Are Bound to Lose)

**By Sean Carleton, X364847**

Tune: "All You Fascists" by Billy Bragg/Woody Guthrie

This is a solidarity song for *Le Printemps Érablé (The Maple Spring)* in Québec in Canada. By refusing to go to school, and by taking to the streets in the hundreds of thousands, and, ultimately, building a powerful movement of solidarity, Québec students and workers, including IWW members in Montréal, Sherbrooke, and Ottawa, are showing the rest of Canada and the world that direct action really does get the goods. Check out the video (with many pictures from the mass movement) on my Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/thetimberbeast>.

Capo, 5th fret

Verse 1

Em C G  
I'm gonna tell you fascists/ you may be surprised  
C G  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
Em C G  
The people in this country/we're getting organized  
C G  
All you fascists are bound to lose

Verse 2

You can't stop us now/this one thing we know  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
Your tuition hike and greed/have got to go  
All you fascists are bound to lose

Chorus:

G C G  
All you fascists are bound to lose  
Em C G  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
All you fascists are bound to lose  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre

Verse 3

Students and workers/we're marching side by side  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
Austerity has put us all/squarely in the red  
All you fascists are bound to lose

Verse 4

On your hands is our blood/ you've shed  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
Jean Charest/you've got nowhere to hide  
All you fascists are bound to lose

Final verse

We're going to battle/put you fascists on the run  
Toutes les fascistes vous allez perdre  
We'll change this world/before the summer is done  
All you fascists are bound to lose

# The Uganda Worker



Graphic: radicalgraphics.org

**By Justus Weijagye**

Very early in the morning at sunrise wakes up-the Uganda worker.  
Tends to the duty till sunset-the Uganda workers.

For 12 hours and more is at work, sometimes doing manual labour like tilling the land using a hoes, and panga-the Uganda worker.

For less than a fifth of a dollar per hour does the job, sometimes 12 dollars per month-the Uganda worker.

Swallows all the dehumanization, abuses by the boss-the Uganda worker.

When female worker, sometimes can be sexually assaulted, raped or pays in terms of sex for favour of a new job, a promotion or salary/wage increment-the Uganda worker.

Without protective devices such as helmets, overall clothes, mouth and nose masks works in unfavourable conditions such as mines and stone quarries-the Uganda worker

Carry very heavy loads on head sometimes same weight as his/her body weight-the Uganda worker.

Once a day gets a meal-the Uganda worker.

Walks very long distances to and from work-the Uganda worker.

When it shines it shines on him/her and when it rains it rains on her/him-the Uganda worker.

A big family and extended family he/she looks after with her/his meager earnings-the Ugandan worker.

To complain and strike for a pay rise, better working conditions and/or safety on job means death toll rise addition to that workers dying out of accidents on job or during travel .

On important occasions such as workers' (labour) day or women's day, the Uganda worker marches besides the seated employers and the ruling class from dawn to dusk.

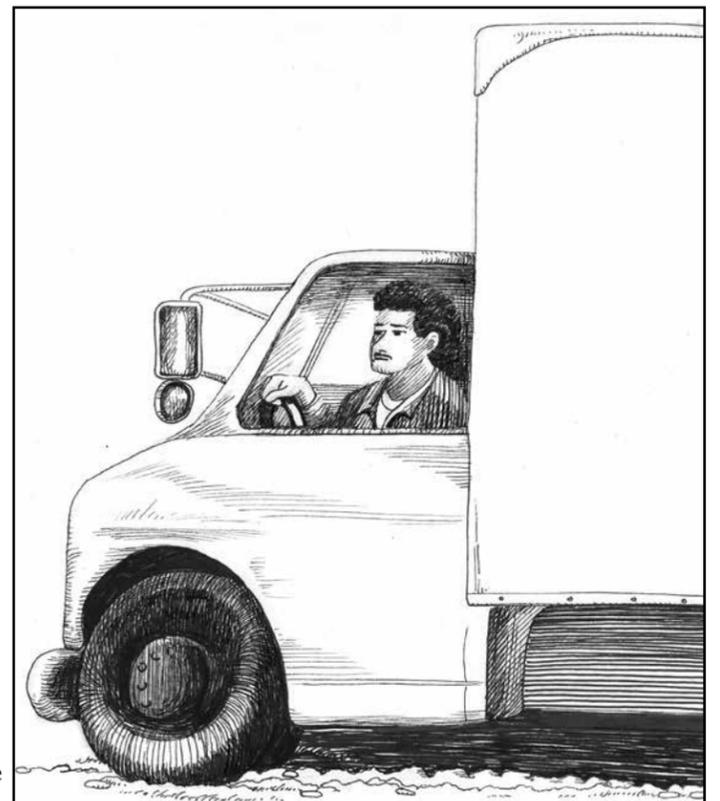
He/she is sometimes appointed and disappointed, hired and fired at the discrete of the employer,-the Uganda worker.



Graphic: radicalgraphics.org



Graphic: Tom Keough



Graphic: Tom Keough

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## Workplace Organizing

## Wobblies Bridging The Gap Between Labor And Occupy In Milwaukee

By Alison Olhava

On June 6, approximately 200 protesters met at Pere Marquette Park in Milwaukee, Wis., and marched through the banking district to City Hall in order to speak out against Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's anti-union legislation, corporate control of elections, censorship of free speech, and, as the name of event suggested, to "keep it in the streets," or to keep activists energized and engaged long after the recall election ended. The event, which was organized by Occupy Milwaukee, boasted support from dozens of organizations including the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 82, Milwaukee Teachers Education Association, Voces de la Frontera, Milwaukee Students for a Democratic Society, and Youth Empowered in the Struggle. Although Walker survived the recall attempt, speakers at the event proclaimed that the battle had just begun, as occupiers and labor organizations joined forces to raise awareness and inspire action surrounding issues of collective bargaining, workplace discrimination, and the continually growing gap between the richest Americans and the working majority.

At least 40 cops clashed with peaceful protesters who marched into the streets, following and repeatedly beating them for 12 blocks of the march, resulting in five arrests—one for resisting an officer and four for disorderly conduct. Multiple protesters were injured, including one pregnant woman who was pushed to the ground by a cop and multiple protesters who were hit in the back of the head with batons as they attempted to flee the violence. Members of Occupy Milwaukee have reported broken feet and black eyes, among other injuries. After the march, the remaining protesters continued speeches and discussion, were served a free dinner, and some then continued to the jail to show solidarity with those who had been arrested.

Peter Adamczak, a member of Occupy Milwaukee and an organizer of the event, made it clear that the rally was not,

as some media sources portrayed it, just about Walker, anger at the recall results, or support of the Democratic Party, but was instead about dissatisfaction with the corporate control of elections and of the policies of both parties and raising unity among those who want a better choice than a Democratic or Republican candidate who stand for essentially the same things. Accordingly, many who attended the rally voiced that they saw the recall efforts as the result of nothing but the power of money, citing the fact that Walker's campaign budget was eight times that of Democratic candidate Tom Barrett, with Walker raising more than \$30 million, largely from out-of-state and corporate donors.

The two major demands made by the protesters were to repeal Wisconsin's Act 10 and to restore the Equal Pay Act, both passed by Governor Walker as part of his budget repair plan. These acts will take away unions' collective bargaining rights in the state beyond raising salary rates to match inflation, meaning wages will be capped at a rate based on the consumer price index that will only allow them to raise as inflation does, unless by special referendum. In other words, Walker is stripping unions' power to negotiate essential workplace issues such as safety standards or health care benefits and leaving workers who are already underpaid unable to gain higher real wages.

The rally's focus on condemning Walker's anti-union legislation served to highlight the relationship between the 99 percent and the workers of the world. This connection has led many to encourage a shared future for the Occupy movement and the labor movement, or to at least point out the lessons each movement has to learn from one another. Over 30 labor organizations have already endorsed the Occupy Wall Street movement, and most city chapters of the Occupy movement have labor committees which work alongside labor organizations and show solidarity at strikes and other events. Although occupiers and labor activists have often worked together and have won battles



Protesters march in Milwaukee on June 6.

Photo: occupywi.org

for their shared goals, there are also large divisions separating the two movements. The most substantial rift between the movements seems to be their divergent organizational structures. Some labor groups see Occupy as too disorganized or too radical to effectively work with for short-term change, while occupiers often condemn the hierarchical structure of many unions and feel that unions are too friendly with the Democratic Party or big corporations in return for jobs, causing them to lose sight of the fact that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common.

This connection was also an important discussion point during my interview with Adamczak, who expressed both his frustration towards past cooperation between the Occupy movement and his hope for working together in the future in ways which are more mutually beneficial. Although Occupy Milwaukee had successfully worked with some smaller or local unions in the past, problems had arisen when occupiers felt hostility from union leaders who did not want them involved in the decision-making process during shared events or campaigns. Adamczak felt that for unions and occupiers to work more successfully together, both needed to be involved in the organizing process rather than dictating their strategies to one another. Additionally, he explained that some unions' focus on legislative change was frustrating to occupiers who felt it was more appropriate to utilize direct action in order to gain media attention and spread consciousness of labor issues to the public. Perhaps most importantly, direct action is favored as a way to encourage rank and filers, rather than lobbyists or other professionals, to fight for the rights of working people.

It seems that, despite past problems, there is a great possibility of a bright future for the Occupy movement and the labor movement working together. The Occupy movement is developing a strong class consciousness and is beginning to realize that as a "movement of the people" it is also a movement of the working class and therefore it must also be a part of the broader labor movement in order to accomplish its goals. On the other hand, unions and other workers' rights issues are increasingly coming under fire, and the labor movement needs to reorganize and recreate itself in order to successfully combat these attacks. Adamczak sees the current issues faced by the labor movement as a turning point for the movement and hopes that Occupy can help inspire unions to return to or formulate new, more radical strategies for change. Above all, he sees these challenges as an opportunity for the labor movement to rethink its strategies and organization and to remind the American people why we need the labor movement, perhaps with Occupy activists marching at its side.

The IWW may be in the perfect position to mediate between these two movements and to bring labor issues back to the

forefront of the American consciousness. While the Occupy movement brings youth, energy, and increased media attention, there is a lot they could stand to learn from the IWW's history. The IWW has, after all, shared many of the Occupy movement's current struggles over its 107-year history, including police brutality, media misrepresentation and demonization, mass imprisonment, and censorship of speech, and still stands as a powerful force for organized labor. Additionally, because the IWW remains democratic and member-run and refrains from endorsing political parties or candidates, it is appealing to occupiers who disdain hierarchy and who may want to learn how to better organize their movement to improve communication, planning, and coordination across different occupy locations' committees without letting go of these ideals. Also, members of the Occupy movement in a variety of cities across the country have expressed interest in working with the IWW, seeing the union as an organization which represents their goals and interests. Even the Occupy movement's most radical members, such as its growing anarchist contingent, often share this feeling of camaraderie, even though they may hesitate to work with other formal organizations—an issue which itself has divided the Occupy movement in the past.

Above all else, the IWW shares Occupy's goal of restructuring society from the bottom up and creating a new society within the one in which we currently live. Occupiers have created their own lateral democratic process and have demonstrated sustainable living techniques such as utilization of solar technology. Teach-ins have been held at occupations across the country where professionals from various fields have given free lectures of various ideologies and methodologies for change, educating those involved about the structure dominating our society, and offering solutions to these problems. The IWW, accordingly, teaches workers how to democratically self-organize and empowers them to work together for their shared welfare.

Additionally, the IWW hosts events through the Work People's College such as workshops and presentations which serve to "give a new generation of leaders in the IWW all the tools they need to build union branches, and fight and win the next battles of the class struggle," according to its website. The "Preamble to the IWW Constitution" states: "The army of production must be organized, not only for 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." The IWW and the Occupy movement, therefore, may not always use the same language, but they share the same end goal of the creation of a society run by the people and for the people, rather than by the capitalists, or the 1 percent, for their own benefit, by their greed.

## Attention Organizers!

Help us build the SRC so that we can support your campaign!

The SRC can:

- Help you find people with the right skills or knowledge to complete a needed task for your organizing.
- Help you find the resources and tools you need to research a company or industry that you can use to fight your fight.
- Help you find people who can give their special skills and time to help your campaign win.

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The Survey and Research Committee (SRC) helps IWW organizing efforts by providing the union with useful information, research, effective materials, and other research-based resources for your organizing needs. We are here to help fellow workers help themselves by organizing effectively with the right materials, knowledge and resources.

# World Labor Solidarity

A COLUMN BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMISSION

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

## Spotlight On Africa



Members of the newly-formed Uganda IWW.

Photo: Uganda IWW

### By the ISC

In celebration of the fund-raising site going live for the Uganda IWW (<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/188413?c=home>), here are some labor news highlights from the continent.

### South Africa

At the end of July, workers at the Foskor mine in the Limpopo Province began a strike after negotiations for medical aid, long service benefits, and other issues collapsed. Their union, the National Union of Mineworkers, received the certificate to strike back in April, but had hoped the company would come to the table. Over 1,100 workers are involved in the strike. Foskor is a phosphate mine owned by the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa.

Additionally, after six months of wage negotiations and nationwide strikes, public sector workers in South Africa won a 7 percent wage increase. Unions had initially demanded a 10 percent increase, but the new increase will be backdated to May.

### Swaziland

Workers in the last absolute monarchy in Africa are putting the king to the test. In June, teachers struck for a 4.5 percent salary increase. Seeing this reasonable demand go unmet, given that the inflation rate is at 9 percent and teachers had received no increase in three years, other public sector workers joined in the strike. On July 12, police opened fire on peacefully protesting public sector workers, hospitalizing at least 12 of them. At press

time, more than a month into the strike, King Mswati III of Swaziland ordered hundreds of teachers fired, including the entire executive of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT). Meanwhile, several of the king's wives are on a shopping spree vacation in Las Vegas.

### Botswana

In July, the High Court of Botswana ruled that the mass firings during the public sector strike in 2011 were illegal, effectively reinstating all of the workers. The ruling of the Court reverses the arbitrary decision made by the Director of Public Service Management, who unilaterally dismissed thousands of striking trade unionists on May 16, 2011. The director had claimed the workers were part of "essential services" and therefore their actions threatened public safety.

### Malawi

Back in May, the government of Malawi devalued their currency, the kwacha, by 49 percent in an attempt to revive a program of the International Monetary Fund. Workers around the country have demanded comparable pay increases. Government workers were given a 21 percent increase, while only requiring private companies to provide 5 percent increases. Meanwhile, inflation for July hovered around 20 percent. Throughout July, there were work stoppages at hospitals, radio stations, water supply, electricity supply, and at the Malawi Postal Corporation. The postal workers struck against a 5 percent wage increase, demanding 21 percent.



## Strike And Lockout At Chung Hong Electronics In Poland



Striking Chung Hong workers in Kobierzyce.

Photo: ozzip.pl

### By Inicjatywa Pracownicza (Workers' Initiative)

This past summer, dozens of workers struggled at the Chinese-owned Chung Hong Electronics factory, a supplier of LG Electronics, in a Polish Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Kobierzyce, Poland. Workers at the factory entered a collective labor dispute with a series of demands: A wage increase, the restoration of the social fund, the reduction of the annual overtime limit, and the restoration of free transport for workers.

As no agreement was reached between the employer and employees, workers carried out a strike referendum, and a majority of workers supported the strike. The employer refused all demands and industrial action was organized in accordance with Polish labor law.

On June 28, one worker—a member of the Inicjatywa Pracownicza (Workers' Initiative) labor union—was dismissed. Immediately, 40 workers went on a strike that lasted two weeks. On July 10 the company hit back and sacked 24 striking workers for disciplinary reasons. That is a lockout by the Chinese employer who violates the freedom of association stipulated in Polish labor and union law.

Currently, Chung Hong Electronics is looking for new workers through temporary job agencies.

The sacked workers staged protests in front of the Chung Hong factory as well as in front of LG Electronics, both located in the same SEZ. However, LG used the media to announce that the workers' protest "spreads chaos, creates a negative investment climate and blocks the economic development of Poland, and leads to a deterioration of diplomatic relations with the biggest investor countries in Poland; the result of it will be an increased unemployment in Poland."

LG Electronics and Chung Hong are situated in an SEZ, which grants them tax reductions and other forms of state support. These companies benefit from public subsidies while openly violating workers' rights.

Among the dismissed workers are long-term and highly qualified employees who had worked at Chung Hong for five years, as well as single mothers. They only earned the Polish minimum wage, but now they are deprived of any source

of income.

The workers will assert their rights in the labor courts, but their case will probably last for more than one year. How will they survive until then? If you are sacked on disciplinary grounds in Poland you cannot get unemployment benefits. What is more, the workers will find it hard to find a new job if their work record includes "fired for illegal strike action."

In Poland, the globalization of the economy could mean that the influx of Chinese commodities is followed by the import of Chinese labor standards. The right to strike was a result of intense workers' struggles in Poland in the 1980s, and it was finally introduced in 1990. Today, it has become a fiction. The right to strike is being violated constantly, and Hong Chung is just one example. Big business is attacking those who have often paid a high price for defending the freedom of association and the right to strike.

The workers of Chung Hong, their labor union Workers' Initiative, and all supporters demand the reinstatement of the sacked workers with full compensation and the fulfillment of all workers' demands.

We will not give up!

### Solidarity Strike Fund

A Solidarity Strike Fund was created to support the striking Chung Hong workers. The collected money will be used for the financial support of those workers who are in the most difficult situation and for covering the strike costs.

To support the striking workers, email [international@ozzip.pl](mailto:international@ozzip.pl). If you are in Poland, please transfer money to:

Account holder:  
OZZ Inicjatywa Pracownicza  
Address: ul. Kościelna 4, 60-538 Poznań, Poland  
Bank: Volkswagen Bank direct  
Address: Rondo ONZ 1, 00-124 Warsaw, Poland  
Account number: 88 2130 0004 2001 0577 6570 0001  
IBAN: VOWAPLP1  
SWIFT: PL88 2130 0004 2001 0577 6570 0001  
Reference: "Chung Hong Solidarity Strike Fund"

## Israel Kidnaps Palestinian Organizers

### By Michael Dranove

On July 31 at dawn, Israeli soldiers abducted the coordinator of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Dr. Moayad Ahmad Bisharat, from his home. The UAWC is a Palestinian grassroots organization that organizes Palestinian farmers to defend their land and develop their products.

Following the abduction of Dr. Bisharat, Israeli forces raided the UAWC's Jericho offices, confiscating computers, laptops, and files from the organization. These actions follow the abductions of Fuad Abu Saif, the UAWC's Director of

Development and Operations on July 26, and the abduction of the director of the UAWC's Jericho office, Mohammad Nujoom, on July 16. In addition to these abductions, UAWC Board Member Ahmad Soufan, held in administrative detention for one year, was recently ordered into a third term of six months in arbitrary administrative detention without charge or trial. This renewal of his administrative detention is in direct violation of the agreement signed by Israel with Palestinian prisoners in May.

There are currently 4,660 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails.

## Support international solidarity!



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