

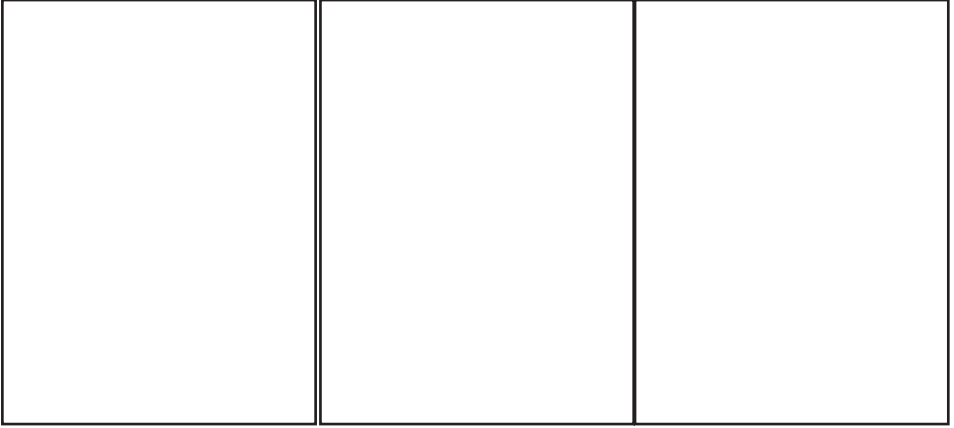
Happy Super Bowl Sunday 2002 – Wave the terrible Towl!

244 DAY STRIKE

OVER PIRATE BASEBALL CAPS

And the work has been subcontracted to Bangladesh

Check out the report on New Era subcontractors in Bangladesh, www.nlcnet.org.



What would the Pirate heroes who enshrine publicly owned PNC Park think?

The caps are sewn at sweatshops owned and subcontracted by New Era, a company owned by Chris Koch. Chris is a notorious sweatshop boss. **His family has an 80 year history of violating worker union organizing rights, and guess what?** The workers at New Era's flagship plant in Derby, New York used to make the on-field playing caps for the Pirates and all the other Major League Baseball teams. Now the workers are on strike.

In the words of one striker, "We affiliated with the Communications Workers of America about 4 years ago, after dumping the company union. We already had a contract in place at the time of affiliation (a five-year deal), and had not bargained a contract with CWA representation before we began negotiations with the company in September 2000. Our contract expired on December 1, 2000.

"The contract we were attempting to negotiate with the company was imposed on June 2, 2001, it spelled out wage cuts after a transfer to new engineered standards. It also took away sick days and production bonuses, and increased the number of qualifying hours for personal time. **The wage cuts for some of our employees, including the best-paid ones, would be up to \$7/hr and are simply unacceptable.**"

On Super Bowl Sunday, the strike will have lasted for **244 DAYS**.



**Recognize
this logo?**

It mimics the American flag. You have probably seen it on the really nice fitted caps that are on sale in the stadium and in other athletic wear outlets. If you like baseball caps, you are lucky to find one on sale for \$20. **On average, less than 1% of the retail cost these caps is paid in wages.**

Chris Koch is determined to beat this strike and crush the union. Not only is Chris running scabs in Derby, he is subcontracting much of the work to a sweatshop in Bangladesh where workers are making 23.5% of a living wage. A living wage is 35¢, but they are only making 8¢ an hour. **The incident of malnutrition amongst the workers' children is the same as those of unemployed parents in Bangladesh.**

Roberto, Pops and Wagner would agree that these conditions are terrible and encourage Pittsburghers to stand up for human dignity!