

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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IWW Rallies Against The Policies And Priorities Of The G-20

By Kenneth Miller

This year, Pittsburgh hosted the summit of the Group of Twenty (G-20), a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's largest economies who meet twice yearly to discuss and coordinate the international financial system. Around 1,500 delegates, including heads of state, and more than 2,000 members of the media, thousands of police and security agents and thousands more protestors converged in the "Steel City" September 20-25.

Kicking Off the G-20

G-20 Protests began on Sunday, Sept. 20, with the establishment of a Tent City and Jobs March through the Hill District to Freedom Corner, which is now across the street from the Consol Energy Center construction site. The March and Tent City were dedicated to the world's unemployed, demanding

that "We need a J-O-B so we can E-A-T!" There was a clear connection to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., nonviolent resistance and the Poor People's Campaign for economic justice.

It was abundantly clear this was the kind of event where the IWW's 4-Hour-Day campaign would resonate and help people imagine how their right to a job might be bargained for and achieved. The Jobs March was organized by the Bail Out the People Movement in conjunction with Pastor Tom Smith of Monumental Baptist Church. The calls for "Green Jobs" and federal pork for construction are what Pittsburghers most often hear from our local labor movement about job creation.

Another G-20 protest kick-off event was held simultaneously in another part of the city. Religious leaders represented the billions of the world's poor who do not live in G-20 nations.

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Photo: Kenneth Miller

Wobblies from Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Rochester protest on Sept. 25. Shareholders Profit From Crisis

Coca-Cola Hellenic: Workers Pay,



Coca-Cola worker strike in Dublin.
From iuf.org

Members of the Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU), which organizes workers at Coca-Cola HBC Ireland, have been on strike against the outsourcing of 130 jobs at five distribution plants since the end of August. In June, workers were given a "choice" by management to either accept a reduction in terms and conditions amounting up to 40 percent,

or be transferred to a third party provider on similarly reduced terms. A first "welcome message" from the employer-to-be already announced upcoming redundancies.

Faced with the denial of good faith negotiations and the obviously inferior conditions at the third-party provider's, SIPTU served a strike notice on Aug. 20. Despite having filed legal notice of an industrial conflict, the workers were sacked while on the picket lines on Sept. 8, but the struggle continues.

The Labour Court ruled on Sept. 18 that the company should follow the previous pattern of negotiated redundancy packages with SIPTU as well as undertake jointly with the union a feasibility study on retaining jobs. Coca-Cola Hellenic (CCH) rejected the recommen-

dations because they were too "costly," claiming that its offer was already "extraordinarily generous." According to SIPTU National Industrial Secretary Gerry McCormack, the company went from being a good quality employer where there had never been a strike to "aligning itself with the worst practices in industrial relations in Ireland."

This most recent outsourcing initiative is part of a ruthless HBC assault on its workforce. The attack on jobs comes against a background of high growth in many CCH markets in recent years, including a successful crisis year, 2008, when profits still reached €425 million and dividends were increased by 12 percent. When the share price slumped in 2008, CCH management determined to restore it through severe restructuring. In Poland, 150 jobs were slashed, 550 jobs were eliminated in Romania through cuts and closures, and the plant in Bari, Italy, will soon be closed down. In Austria, full outsourcing of distribu-

tion was only stopped by strong union opposition.

The workforce has dropped from 47,777 employees in the first half of 2008 to 44,865 employees in the first half of 2009. CEO Doros Constantinou announced a €310 million operating profit and €200 million net profit for the first half of 2009. "We were delighted to see the benefit of our cost saving initiatives, together with lower commodity costs, contribute to a solid operating profit performance," Constantinou said.

The second pillar of CCH's strategy to continue delivering "shareholder value" during the crisis consists of returning cash to investors. In April 2009, the company announced an ambitious share buyback program. For several months HBC published almost daily press releases announcing share purchases of up to several hundred thousand euros.

On Sept. 18—the same day as the Labour Court hearing in Dublin—CCH
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Former Boss Of Occupied Chicago Factory Jailed

By Ben Dangl

Richard Gillman, the former CEO of Chicago's Republic Windows and Doors factory where over 200 workers organized a victorious sit-in last year, has been sent to jail on eight charges including felony, theft, fraud, and money laundering. After the judge announced the \$10 million bail, the shocked and dazed Gillman, dressed in a pin-striped suit, was hauled away to the county jail.

Republic workers captured the attention of the world when they occupied their plant on Dec. 5, 2008 calling for the severance and vacation pay they were due. The sit-in ended six days later when the Bank of America and other lenders to Republic agreed to pay the workers the approximately \$2 million owed to them. Recently, the workers won another victory with the

arrest of Gillman.

The prosecutors charge that Gillman defrauded creditors of over \$10 million, and then went ahead to use company money to complete payments on leases for two luxury cars—while his employees went without pay.

According to court records Gillman also secretly sent three semi-trailers full of equipment from the Republic factory to a non-unionized factory in Iowa without the consent of Republic board members and creditors. Luckily, however, the organized Republic workers followed the trailers, and during the occupation, prevented executives from entering the factory to take company documents that now make up much of the case against Gillman and other Republic officials.

"Gillman and others knew this
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Response To "Offended By 'The Reader' Review"

Fellow Workers,

I can accept the fact that Kenneth Miller finds my movie review of "The Reader" to be "uninteresting," in his piece titled "Offended By 'The Reader' Review," which appeared on page 2 of the October 2009 *Industrial Worker*. I also agree with him that much more can be said of this film than what I focused on. But, in my defense, one has to consider the constraints of space in a newspaper article. I'm sure FW Miller and I could have a very much longer conversation over ales about what the creator of this work was getting at.

Certainly, "generations," "illiteracy" and the exploitation of "ignorance" are factors which I only touched on in my review. It's true that I focused my lead in paragraphs on complacency and on the tendency to turn a fear-filled, blind eye to the everyday, contemporary realities of perfectly preventable, mass death of children worldwide. I'm sure many Fellow Workers have been told that the IWW is not "realistic" when people attempt to rationalize their refusal to

get wise and organize. I see a parallel between this willful ignorance and the generalised sense of powerlessness which afflicts our class today and which afflicted it during the reign of fascism in Germany and elsewhere in the past. This is the kind of discussion which I think "The Reader" raises. Of course, the solidarity and love inherent in our creation of One Big Union would be an expression of class power and a defeat for the everyday alienation which we feel under the rule of capital now.

As for FW Miller's concern about the "naked women in the bathtub" photo, I can only say that I found our editor's choice of the older woman and her younger, male partner in this scene to be most appropriate in terms of addressing the theme of love which runs through "The Reader."

X344127 took offense at my review because I didn't use more words to condemn Nazi regime participants' murders of six million Jews. Again, the space limitations of a mere movie review do not allow me to detail my disgust at us-

ing murder as a political weapon. As for X344127's assertion that I or my Fellow Workers in the IWW are somehow "anti-Semitic," "sexist" and/or "racist" let me take this opportunity to state publicly that I'm firmly convinced that there is but one race—the human race—and that while I'm alive, I'll condemn the pseudoscience of dividing people into races or superior/inferior sexes. I assume my fellow Wobblies have the same opinion, as I have never heard or read of a Wobbly who advocates anything other than the complete political equality between human beings as a strategic goal of the OBU.

FW X344127 also seems to have surprised that I'm somehow an advocate of the "socialism of fools." Let me say right now that I have been a rather severe critic of fascism and an advocate of a democratic, free association of producers socially owning the means of production; the abolition of the wage system; and the cessation of commodity production with production and consumption carried

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Gato Negro: Milwaukee Workers Discuss The IWW

By Sarah Bender

After meeting members of Industrial Union 310, General Construction Workers (IU 310) at the IWW's Delegate Convention in Chicago, I was so impressed that I traveled to Milwaukee the very next weekend. I checked out the IU in action and have been hooked ever since. I'm now living in Milwaukee, supporting the IU and apprenticing in the trades. I have been here for over a week and am overjoyed by the commitment and intelligence of the members. In about six months they've gone from a small group of interested workers to a democratically run industrial union branch—the first that our union has seen in decades!

I could go on and on about how great the IU is, but I figure who better to tell the story than the workers themselves? For this issue, three delegates and members of IU 310—Jessica, Jorge and Virginio—will tell the story of their involvement. In the next issue, you will meet three more leaders. I hope that you will find their words just as inspiring as I have.

Interview with Jessica Quinones, Communications Committee Chair

Sarah: How did you find out about the IWW?

Jessica: My friend, who I have known for four years, Rigoberto told me about it.

Sarah: Why did you join the IWW?

Jessica: To try to protect the rights of people and to protect them from injustices. My participation in IU 310 will be the first time I've participated in a union. "Gato Negro" (Black Cat) is the name of this union.

Sarah: What would you like people to know about IU 310?

Jessica: IU 310 is like a family. There are a lot of people involved and we support each other on our projects, and help out with taking care of each other's children.

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.

Sarah: What else?

Jessica: I like the committee projects, the meetings, and the classes.

Sarah: Describe the meetings.

Jessica: [The meetings] are very good because all of us together want to make everything better.



Graphic: Robin Thompson & DJ Alperovitz

Jorge: My friend had a union card and then I came to a meeting. I wanted to help the union grow and to help people.

Sarah: Why did you join IWW?

Jorge: With the declining level of job stability, workers can't trust their jobs without unions.

With unions you

have more rights and protection. When unions work with the workers they will all get strong. Workers [have] been losing a lot of jobs in Milwaukee. It's a good place to fight, but in all places it's good for workers to join unions in all areas.

Sarah: Have you ever been in another union?

Jorge: Yes, I was a member of the Steelworkers here in Milwaukee. Sometimes the union was working, sometimes not. When the union reps don't care about what [the] members think, and members don't participate, it doesn't work. The IWW is a little better because everybody works together to chip in and help out.

Sarah: Do you have any comments about unions and immigration?

Jorge: People come to this country to make their lives better. Unions can help with this if we come together to make it better. Together we can make Milwaukee a better city.

Interview with Virginio Miranda, IU Treasurer

Sarah: How did you hear about the IWW?

Virginio: I was volunteering for an immi-

grant rights organization and a colleague of mine, John Cook, told me about the union. I was giving a speech and he approached me after.

Sarah: Why did you join the IWW?

Virginio: I joined because the most important thing is that there is not a president and the officers don't receive salaries. The biggest reason is because I want to be a part of the union and can help organize laborers.

Sarah: How long have you been a laborer?

Virginio: Ten years.

Sarah: Jessica mentioned the committees. How do they work?

Virginio: Right now we have the Building, Communication, and Education committees, and we are creating more. We ask for volunteers to help run committees and after they step up we vote to see if the majority of the members accept.

Sarah: What advice would you give to another IWW organizer?

Virginio: You need to think of the IWW as a family and you must want to be a part of that big family. And the people you want to organize, you must identify with these people. It's the only way to work hard and feel the passion to organize and fight for those individuals' rights.

Sarah: What role do you see unions playing in the immigrant rights movement in the United States?

Virginio: I cannot say anything for the other unions because I am an IWW member, but I think that the IWW should support the movement. The union is fighting for workers' rights and I think immigrants suffer from the companies. As an IWW member we need to support them because they are part of the U.S. system. We have to see that there are many people working here with no rights. Right now union workers have a disadvantage compared to the non-union workers. In today's economy, the companies are trying to take advantage of workers who aren't unionized. If we can unionize these workers and take them from the shadows, the companies will not be able to take advantage of laborers. If all are unionized there will be a balance between workers' salaries and all will have a better life. The companies will not have a choice to pay one group less than the other and take the profits. There are a lot of things to say on this issue. We should start a committee in the union for immigration rights.

Sarah: Great idea. We can have people from different IUs on the committee.

Virginio: There is only one IU in the IWW...Gato Negro!!

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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.

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Sowing The Seeds Of Workers' Power

By X364060

One way in which capitalists keep us divided and detached from one another is through their ownership of technologies: television, media, cell phones, weapons, transportation vehicles, and agriculture. The knowledge, skills, equipment, and—above all—money needed to air a television program, publish a newspaper, create a cell phone network, manufacture a gun or car or bus, or start a farm, are largely inaccessible to average working people.

To overcome this control our only

option is to take possession of the means of production, and control them for ourselves. Our union contributes to this through

publishing the *Industrial Worker*. Workers can organize a factory and kick out the bosses. A very practical, relatively simple, and often overlooked opportunity for taking possession of the means of production is in agriculture.

Though I own no land or home, the two Fellow Workers whom I stay with do, and this year we have planted a small garden on their suburban lawn.

This was a new experience for us and I came to realize a few things: how disconnected from life, plants, knowledge of nature and vegetables, from the ancient tradition of cultivating one's own food I have been all my life; the potential for a union to support a bountiful community harvest through urban gardens; and the positive results for the environment gained in this activity.

Seeing the plants up close and following the daily growth of flowers and vegetables gives you a sense of how life and beauty thrive in this world against so much negativity and oppression—against so many odds. The cucumber plant was in its death-throes for weeks, and one day somehow sprang back to life, yielding new cucumbers—which is analogous to what can happen to the labor movement. Growing food gives you a sense of power: "I can grow a zucchini. Therefore I do not need to rely on an agribusiness, or anyone else, for that part of my sustenance. I have had a part

in creating something good for society—I am a worker-artist!"

A garden of three very small plots does not yield enough to live on, but enough to significantly contribute to our food supply. As every Wobbly knows, there is power in numbers, and so much potential for amassing vegetables and more. If everyone had a small plot, we could all meet at a central community location and equalize our yields. Though it can be difficult to have time to grow plants with a ten-hour work-shift at one's job, a little work and attention

divided between a few people goes a long way.

An environment with a balance of flowers, vegetable plants, herbs, insects, birds, and even squirrels and rabbits creates an ecosystem that fosters wild growth and enriches the soil, air, and water, just as a well-balanced organization of labor fosters an economic system that sustains everyone in the community.

Let's reorganize society, get rid of the unnecessary labor, and get everyone working the important jobs: food, shelter, clothing, health, and the jobs needed to provide tools and services for the same.

One last suggestion—and an important one if any of these ideas are going to work: let's all stop eating animal products, not only does it deplete our own hard-earned crops, creates unnecessary labor, and is not needed for our health, but actually creates numerous health problems. Much of humanity has lived millennia largely on plant food alone, and in the new society we can do the same.

Each leaf of Swiss chard is a right hook to capitalist agribusinesses the world over! And, in the meantime, let's buy the remaining portion of our food necessities from Community Supported Agriculture and small farmers whom we love!

"Workers Power" is a monthly column edited by Colin Bossen. Send your contributions of no more than 800 words to him at cbossen@gmail.com. The views expressed in the column are only those of the column's author.

G-20 "Events" Have Nothing To Offer The Working Class

By x358983

None of the actions that were organized around the G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh have anything to offer the working class.

The various left, religious and "community" groups—nearly all dominated by the petite bourgeoisie—have organized their own events. Like something out of a tragicomedy, they're all fighting to corner a section of the "market" of what will surely be another series of exercises in futility. A liberal march or vigil or two, a few acts of destruction, some losing clashes with the forces of the state. Activism for the sake of activism, making the participants feel better about themselves because they at least "did something," building organizations and prestige, etc...In the end, there were losses such as arrests, yet the class struggle won't be advanced one bit. In other words, it's politics as usual.

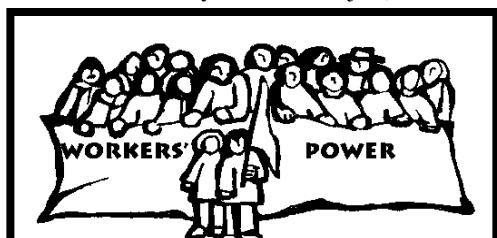
A concise example is the Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project's website, which isn't even clear about what it is protesting. It assumes that its audience will just know. It's aimed at "activists." A coal miner or part-time McDonald's line cook living in Pittsburgh that stumbled across the protest will likely come away from the experience confused or disinterested.

Likewise, official statements—especially those that a majority of workers will never see—and marches don't get the goods. They simply allow the participants to feel better about themselves, and build illusions about the possibilities of change under the "democratic" dictatorship of capital.

When slogans like "human need over corporate greed" are raised, they promote false hopes that human needs can be put first under capitalism and that the current economic crisis was caused by a handful of super-greedy CEOs and bankers, when in reality it was caused by the workings of capitalism itself, all the while disarming a militant section of the working class by allowing it to vent. There is a section of the ruling class which has no problem with such slogans, since it understands their true consequences, and that's why their labor lieutenants have been allowed to take part in raising them.

Class-conscious workers need to focus on actually organizing their fellow workers to take real, meaningful action against capitalist rule.

To paraphrase someone much wiser than myself, I'd trade 20 run of the mill G-20 protests for one truck driver strike against wage slavery.



WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 28 The Working Women's Union

At the close of the 1870s depression, radical working women and housewives organized the Working Women's Union in hopes of convincing the women of Chicago to organize. United action, they said, could overcome appalling working and living conditions. Although the times were not right for organizing women wage earners, they were able to build an organization of some thousand women.



Leaders of the Working Women's Union were Alzina Stevens, who lost a finger at age 13 in a Lowell, Mass. textile mill; Lizzie Swank, an Ohio farm girl-turned-teacher at 15 who worked in Chicago's garment shops; Elizabeth Rodgers, who had organized "socialistic groups" in the Rocky Mountain states; and Lucy Parsons, a brilliant speaker who left her native Texas because of laws banning racially-mixed marriages and the post-Reconstruction terror.

While organizing women around shop issues, the Working Women's Union also took part in labor struggles like the campaign for the eight-hour day. The WWU entered a pink float with banners proclaiming union themes and women's rights in a 1879 July Fourth parade sponsored by the Chicago Eight-Hour League. By 1881 the Working Women's Union had become a women's assembly of a new national labor organization -- the Knights of Labor.

This is not to deny that a lot of work has been done to put all of the demonstrations and other events together, or that those responsible for them are not committed or well intentioned. It's simply a matter of looking at this from the perspective of our class.

Of course after these events have drawn to a close, the activists, likely a few shorter due to arrests and dropouts, will feel triumphant and go on to do more. But that's part of the problem with activists.

Activists mean well. They believe that they are fighting for a better world because they are "organizing" and "doing something," and when they take part in mass upsurges that cause the rulers to throw a few crumbs off the table they indeed are doing something, to some small extent. But it does not advance the class

Graphic: Mike Konopacki
struggle. It doesn't bring us any closer to a world free of exploitation, war and vast inequality.

The question is not whether or not one "does something," but which class that person belongs to and what they are doing.

The liberation of the working class can only be achieved by the working class itself, by taking hold of the means of production, thus sweeping away class divisions and all the crap that comes with them.

Nothing that was planned around the G-20 gathering in Pittsburgh will bring us one iota closer to that.

The views expressed in this column are only those of the column's author, and do not reflect the position of the Industrial Worker. Full coverage of the G-20 protests appears on pages 6 & 11.

Laredo Wobbs Form Bus Riders Union

By Stephen Sullivan

In most parts of the right-to-work state of Texas, "solidarity" is a four-letter word. Due to the ridiculously low wages that workers are subjected to, the cities of Laredo and McAllen are home to some of the country's worse poverty levels. Most of the blame for the area's economic problems falls on immigrants from across the river instead of on the greedy businessmen that prey on desperate workers.

Luckily the border area is also home to a small, but growing number of Wobblies who have made it their first priority to change this. In McAllen, Wobblies are actively organizing

and nearing the formation of a General Membership Branch, while Wobblies in Laredo are taking advantage of current community outrage over a proposed city bus fare increase.

When the city of Laredo announced they would be raising bus fares exponentially—to the equivalent of more than \$120 per person, per month, local Wobblies recognized this as a direct attack on the working class and sprang into action. Flyers around town announced the formation of the Laredo Bus Riders Union, based on the principles set forth by the IWW. The first meeting was well attended by a diverse group of people from all over the city, including some

enthusiastic bus drivers. A few city hall "cronies" even showed up, but when they saw the number of attendees, decided to head back to their cars. The first meeting was very productive, with participants relishing in finally being able to have an outlet for their voices.

A variety of actions were planned, including a petition drive, a march to City Hall and a possible fare strike if the city goes ahead with the fare increase. Laredo Wobblies believe that for many in the area, the bus riders union will be a greatly needed introduction to unionism, which could in turn lead to greater union participation and working-class awareness across the city.



Photo: Stephen Sullivan

FW Emily Sanchez (standing, right) addresses members of the Laredo Bus Riders Union at first meeting.

Iraqi Labor Leaders' U.S. Speaking Tour Inspires And Educates

By Walt Weber

Leaders from five major Iraqi labor unions arrived in the United States for a three-stop speaking tour. They also attended the AFL-CIO convention in Pittsburgh to advance one unified message: Iraqi workers need the legal right to join a union.

Currently, Iraq is still operating under laws passed by former President Saddam Hussein in 1987—which prohibit a majority of workers in the country from joining or forming a labor union or participating in collective bargaining. Iraqi Laws 150 and 151 specifically prohibit public sector workers from being members of a labor union. Despite the promises of "democracy" made by the U.S. Government, these laws were upheld by the occupying forces in 2003, and to this day, they are still in effect under the provisional government of Iraq.

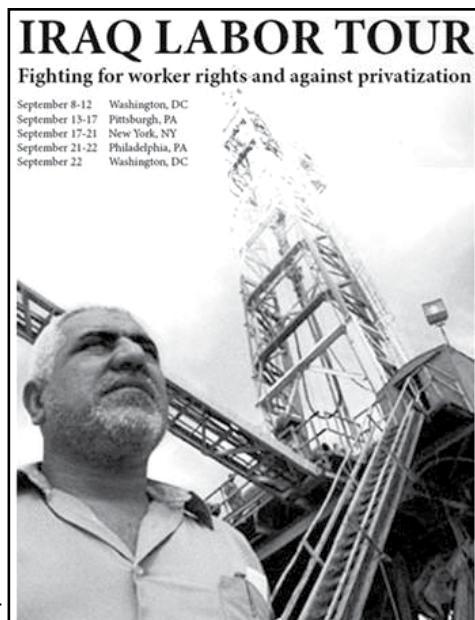
The tour, sponsored by the U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) coalition, landed in Philadelphia on Sept. 21 at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House. Speakers included Falah Alwan, President of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI); Rasim Awadi, President of the General Federation of Iraqis Workers (GFIW); Hassan Juma'a Awad, President of the Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions (IFOU); Sardar Mohammed, President of the Iraqi Kurdish Workers Syndicates and Unions (IKWSU); and Nabil Mulhim, Foreign Affairs Officer of the Kurdish General Workers Syndicates in Iraq (KGWSI).

The members each spoke for a few minutes about their struggles against the Iraqi government, oil companies, the American occupying forces and the dire economic situation in Iraq. All agreed that the people who suffered most from

the U.S. invasion were the Iraqi working class, having suffered the brunt of U.S. aerial assaults, starvation, lack of work, the destruction of agriculture and the destruction of the local economy. The largest sector of the economy that continues to prosper—the oil industry—stands under constant threat of privatization by the U.S.-sponsored provisional government.

The resistance to this privatization comes mainly from the Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions. Their president, Hassan Juma'a Awad, spoke about their wildcat strikes and constant work stoppages. He said that drawing a line in the sand has prevented the implementation of the U.S.-sponsored privatization laws. Other industries have also been threatened with privatization, such as textiles and petrochemicals, while at the same time, there has been an attempt to shift industrial production away from domestic benefit to an export basis, following the standard U.S. neo-liberal formula. Class-conscious workers have bravely fought off much of this onslaught, but it is an ongoing battle.

After brief remarks from each speaker, there was a question-and-answer session with U.S. labor activists and leaders. When asked what the Iraqi people needed the most, there was a clear consensus answer: withdrawal of



Graphic: uslaboragainstwar.org

U.S. troops, a modern labor law that permits unionization, and the prevention of privatization of key Iraqi industries along with a rebuilding of basic infrastructure.

Another audience member asked what role the Iraqi unions had with the political parties in Iraq. Rasim Awadi answered that the political parties in Iraq have tried to interfere with the labor unions, and that the unions have resisted, choosing instead to unite through solidarity

instead of political action. Hassan Juma'a Awad replied that currently there are 186 political parties, and they are all much weaker than the Iraqi labor movement. Collectively, the political parties seek to co-opt and weaken the labor movement and divide the working class. Since the many political parties have failed to persuade any of the labor unions to join them, they have begun forming their own unions, a tactic that is shared by the various religious sects in Iraq.

When asked if there were any pro-labor politicians in the Iraqi government right now, the panel answered a succinct and resounding no. All panel members also agreed that they rejected any government based on sectarianism, as well as sectarianism within the unions and workplaces. They pointed to their own delegation as a diverse group of religious and secular members of the working class. According to Rasim Awadi, "the

working class is one, and it will not be divided on sectarian lines."

Finally, the panel made it clear that they differentiated between the U.S. government and the people of the United States, and that they appreciated all of the solidarity that they have received from the working class in the United States. The labor leaders asked the U.S. working class to help their unions gain the right to organize under Iraqi law. USLAW event organizers circulated a petition, available on their website, which calls on Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to demand that the provisional Iraqi government adopt a labor law that permits workers to join and form labor unions, and to have collective bargaining.

It is clear that in order to change the Saddam-era Laws 150 and 151 in the new Iraqi government, it will take industrial solidarity from the unions and the working class in the United States and all over the world. While petitions can have an effect, direct action is what truly will win these rights for Iraqi workers. U.S. unions need to pledge their resources to assist their Iraqi Fellow Workers to organize and coordinate direct actions against the bosses.

In the end, it was an inspiring talk from union leaders who strongly believe in the unity of the working class against the employing class. Rasim Awadi's message was clear: labor unions exist to unite the working class through solidarity and direct action. Politicians, religious sects, clans, governments, and borders seek only to divide the working class. But the working class will not be divided by these differences; instead, it will unite in solidarity through labor unions to win short-term battles and fight for a future without the capitalist system!

Demanding Jobs, Justice In New England

October 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the Bush government's bailout of banks and insurance companies, and workers in Boston and Providence protested how maneuvering by banks and corporations who are using government financing to reduce the workforce are causing families to suffer even more from the economic recession.

In Boston, more than 1,000 people participated in a "Rally for Jobs." The day began with a march to the Verizon headquarters to protest those responsible for massive layoffs of electrical workers, followed by a rally at the Hyatt Regency hotel, where the marchers met up with over 200 members of the UNITE-HERE hotel workers union for a boisterous protest against Hyatt Corporation's recent firing of 100 longtime employees, who were immediately replaced with contract workers.

In Providence, approximately



Unionists rally on Boston Common. Photo: x355910

200 students and workers gathered to demand health care for workers. The march began on Brown University's main campus, where workers and students called for healthcare for the school's dining services workers, and healthcare reform for the city and across the nation. The group then marched to Whole Foods to protest the CEO's stance against public healthcare.

With files from Massachusetts Jobs With Justice and the Brown Daily Herald.

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

"All those thousands of unnamed Wobblies buried in unmarked graves throughout the West"
- Utah H. Phillips, x342408 (1935-2008)

...And all those hundreds of thousands worldwide who lived for and died believing in the OBU.

- FW Sparrow, x326388

Utah Phillips

Protesting the G-20 in Pittsburgh

IWW Rallies Against The Policies And Priorities Of The G-20

Continued from 1

A Wobbly from Madison, Wis., was helping a food bus get situated to serve protestors. The bus was impounded by the police. One of the bus drivers, Cynthia, had told the police that her name was "Thea," and they arrested her for giving false identification. There is a coordinated police effort to harass protestors with busses, and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the ACLU is hard at work trying to stop it.

The Week Progresses

The "People's Summit" hosted events throughout the early part of the week with some pretty high-profile international folks and panels of diverse local activists. The event was billed as "educational" rather than protest in nature. The cops left it alone, and some people came out to learn about issues they would not have heard about otherwise.

The Climate Convergence organized to confront the conference of coal industry fat cats on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 21-22. The Climate Convergence's mission statement reads:

"Here in the Three Rivers, the birthplace of Rachel Carson, the Climate Convergence aims to powerfully tie together our local and global environmental issues through education and creative action.... All of these challenges to humanity, and to the continued inhabitability of our planet, stem from the same system of greed, exploitation and power-concentration that now goes by the name of global corporate capitalism..."

The police shut down their tent encampment in Schenley Park. The Climate Convergence folks were the only visible protest group at Point State Park early in the week.

Anne Feeney, Mimi Yahn, Matt Toup's Break Away Marching Band and Mike Stout sang their hearts out, playing instruments and leading sing-alongs at G-20-related protest events. Anne Feeney carried copies of the "Little Red Songbook" with her everywhere she went, selling them for \$5. All week long, we needed more IWW Delegates than we'd expected to have been prepared with their rigging to take dues and sign people up.

Big Labor and Big Media

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, the Steelworkers hosted recently elected AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and held discussions throughout the day. Union staffers want "peace and justice" folks to get to know Trumka and what a militant progressive he is. The AFL-CIO mobilized its members to attend a concert at Point State Park. "Rally for Clean Energy

People's March rallies outside the City County Building on Sept. 25.

Photo: Kenneth Miller

Jobs" and "Made in America" were the prevalent themes.

The mainstream media's fear mongering about the protests and traffic congestion was endless. We had to be clear with our fellow Pittsburghers that we have rights and this is our city and we have to confront this occupation of our city by the Secret Service, National Guard and State Police and protest the economic policies and priorities of the G-20. The locals seemed beaten down by the media reports and its viciously unkind and unsympathetic descriptions of the protestors.

Outreach and Organizing

On Thursday, Sept. 24, Etta Cettera organized a Cabaret "Soap Boxing" event at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health auditorium. Hundreds of people showed up, and there were no cops anywhere on site. Food from the Seeds of Peace Food Bus was served, and there was a great exchange of ideas. Etta went the extra mile to make our out-of-town guests welcome and brought the friends she met through the Books for Prisoners program into the room to eat with us.

The Street Medics were awesome,

well organized, and provided important services all week long. ACLU Legal Observers in their orange and green hats came to the scene whenever they were called. The ACLU/National Lawyers Guild G-20 Hotline and the G-20 "Know Your Rights" literature was helpful to everyone. It was the most relevant literature for Pittsburghers to share with our out-of-town guests.

Continuing the Struggle

The Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Club lost three in a row to the Cincinnati Reds immediately prior to the G-20 protests. One of the worst losing streaks in sports history continues with no end in sight. "Damn," thinks the Commissioner of SweatFree Baseball, "What the hell am I doing if I am not out there talking to baseball fans about sweatshops?"

A Civil Rights Bridge from PNC Park to the floor of the global sweatshop was within reach. I felt like Pittsburghers convinced themselves that the G-20 meeting was a totally unique opportunity for access to the global debate about jobs and worker rights. We could transcend geography and language and media markets anytime we wanted by escalating our campaign at PNC Park.



Ann Feeney and David Rovics playing at the Sept. 25 protest.

Photo: Kenneth Miller

G-20 Defense Note

By Kenneth Miller

Pittsburgh's Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB) was on the scene throughout the build-up to the G-20, providing viewpoints counter to those of the mayoral administration's about the police buildup. The CPRB was critical to bringing the ACLU and the National Lawyers Guild to the table during early hearings. While the CPRB's voice was drowned out as court actions took center stage, CPRB Director Elizabeth Pittenger and City Council Safety Committee Chair Bruce Krause were on the front lines between protestors and police on Sept. 25. Other cities facing preparations for this type of event should use the expertise and experience of Pittsburgh's CPRB. Protestors could have used the CPRB more strategically and consistently than they did. We are hopeful that they have filed complaints with the CPRB and that the CPRB will be on top of investigating police misconduct during the G-20.

Consider participating in the October 22 National Day of Action Against Police Brutality and the Criminalization of a Generation. Learn more at <http://www.october22.org>. The General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World has been a formal affiliate of the O22 Coalition several times in recent years.



Graphic: october22.org

Pitt's Bogus Anti-Sweatshop Policy

By Kenneth Miller

The workers who sewed the University of Pittsburgh's logo shirts at a Russell Athletics factory in Honduras were fired for organizing a union. There was no clean drinking water at the factory, the restrooms and the eating areas were unsanitary. The wages were far below any reasonable calculation of a living wage in Honduras.

The workers stood up for themselves and Russell Athletics fired them all, a violation of Honduran labor law and every international standard. The workers went to Chancellor Nordenberg for help, saying: "Chancellor Nordenberg, you can help us. You can use the University of Pittsburgh's collegiate licensing agreements to protect our rights. Please, we think the people at the University of Pittsburgh care about our rights."

Chancellor Nordenberg ignored them; he slammed the door in the face of 17-year-old women trying to keep their jobs. Russell Athletics was emboldened. They closed the factory altogether and they escalated their campaign of anti-union intimidation at its other factories in Honduras.

The U. Pitt community is asking for everyone to help turn this around. We know better. Sign the petition at <http://www.pittsweatshops.org>.

G20 coverage continues on page 11



Warren Buffet, holding the symbol of the University of Pittsburgh, the Pitt Panther, on a sweatshop worker.

Graphic: Tom Keough

OFFERINGS FROM THE

I.W.W. Literature DEPARTMENT

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



2010 LABOR HISTORY CALENDAR of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Solidarity Forever: Worker Resistance in Hard Economic Times 2010 Labor History Calendar of the IWW

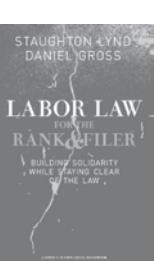
The IWW's revolutionary labor calendar with compelling photographs of workers' struggles from around the world and hundreds of notes marking important dates in the fight for industrial freedom.

This year's edition celebrates actions working people have taken during rough economic times: from beating back concessions and demanding shorter work hours, to taking over shut down enterprises.

A sure source of inspiration for every wage slave!

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Labor Law for the Rank and Filer: Building Solidarity While Staying Clear of the Law

BY STAUGHTON LYND AND DANIEL GROSS

Labor Law for the Rank and Filer is a guerrilla legal handbook for workers in a precarious global economy. Blending cutting-edge legal strategies for winning justice at work with a theory of dramatic social change from below, Staughton Lynd and Daniel Gross deliver a practical guide for making work better while re-invigorating the labor movement. *Labor Law for the Rank and Filer* demonstrates how a powerful model of organizing called "Solidarity Unionism" can help workers avoid the pitfalls of the legal system and utilize direct action to win. This new revised and expanded edition includes new cases governing fundamental labor rights as well as an added section on Practicing Solidarity Unionism. This new section includes chapters discussing the hard-hitting tactic of working to rule; organizing under the principle that no one is illegal, and building grassroots solidarity across borders to challenge neoliberalism, among several other new topics. Illustrative stories of workers' struggles make the legal principles come alive.

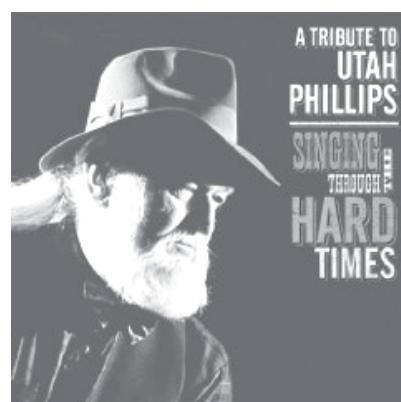
110 pages, \$10.00



Don't Be A Scab poster. 17"x22" Duotone reproduction of two girls flying during a NYC transit strike **\$8.50**



Pyramid of the Capitalist System poster. 17"x22" color reproduction of the classic graphic **\$9.50**



Singing Through the Hard Times: A Tribute to Utah Phillips

In his life, Utah Phillips was many things - soldier, hobo, activist, pacifist, union organizer, storyteller, songwriter. He was an oral historian who documented the events of the working class and turned them into stories and songs. And in the folk tradition, he passed them on to others. Righteous Babe Records continues that tradition with *Singing Through The Hard Times*, a 2CD set that celebrates the music that Utah sang and loved. Included are performances from Emmylou Harris and Mary Black, Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, Rosalie Sorrels, Gordon Bok, Ani DiFranco, Magpie, Jean Ritchie and many others - folksingers whose music springs from the same rich vein of the people's history that Phillips chronicled throughout his life.

39 tracks on 2 CDs, \$15.98

IWW T-shirts: Sabo-cat or globe design, printed in red on black shirt.

Sizes S-XL \$15.00

Size XXL \$17.00

When ordering, please specify size & design

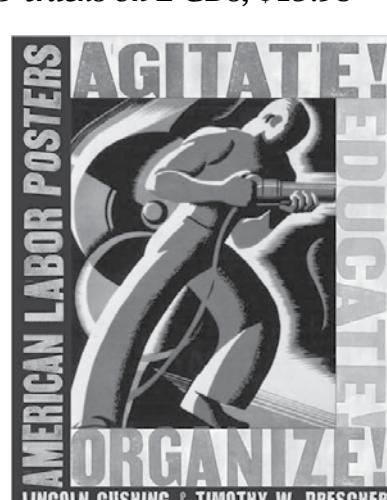


Women's Cut IWW T-shirts

Printed on union-made taffy pink or olive green shirts

Shirts run small, order up a size for a looser fit.

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AGITATE! EDUCATE!

ORGANIZE!: American Labor Posters

BY LINCOLN CUSHING & TIMOTHY W. DRESCHER

In *Agitate! Educate! Organize!*, Lincoln Cushing and Timothy W. Drescher share their vast knowledge about the rich graphic tradition of labor posters. Lavish full-color reproductions of more than 250 of the best posters that have emerged from the American labor movement ensure that readers will want to return again and again to this visually fascinating treasury of little-known images from the American past.

Along with the stunning color images, the text contributes to a much deeper understanding of the politics, history, artistry, and impact of this genre of activist art and the importance of the labor movement in the transformation of American society over the course of the twentieth century.

216 pages, oversized paperback,
268 color photographs, **\$24.95**



Starbucks Union T-shirts

Logo in green and white on the front, with an IWW logo in red on the back

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XXL \$19.00

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Dynamite: The Story of Class Violence In America

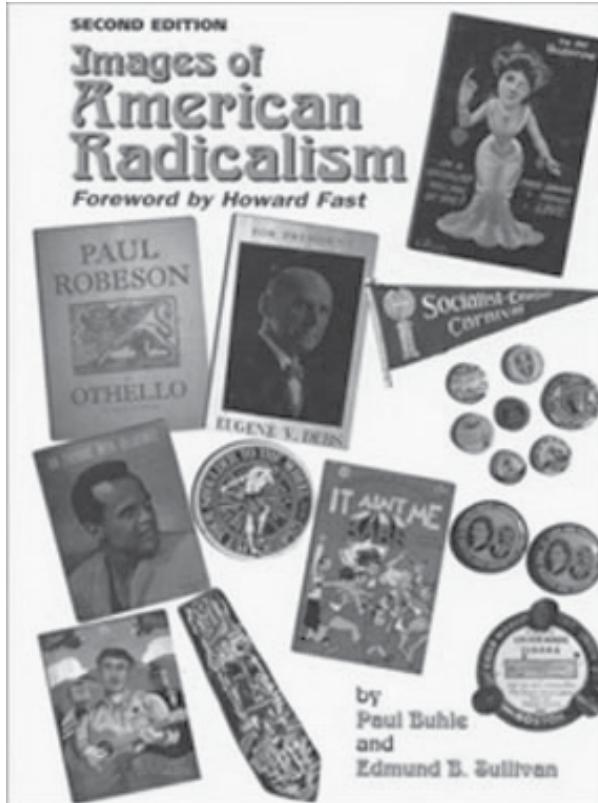
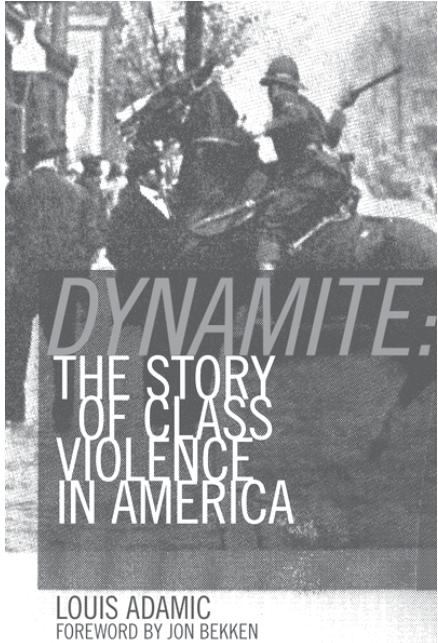
BY LOUIS ADAMIC
WITH A
FORWARD BY
JON BEKKEN

The history of labor in the United States is a story of almost continuous violence. In Dynamite, Louis Adamic recounts one century of that history in vivid, carefully researched detail. Covering both well- and lesser-known events—from the riots of immigrant workers in the second quarter of the nineteenth century to the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)—he gives precise, and often brutal, meaning to the term “class war.” This new edition of Adamic’s revised 1934 version of Dynamite, includes a new foreword by Wobbly Jon Bekken, who offers a critical overview of the work that underlines its contemporary relevance.

A young immigrant with a vivid interest in labor—and the calluses to prove his knowledge was more than academic—Louis Adamic provided a unique, eyes-open-wide view of American labor history and indeed of American society. Dynamite was the first history of American labor ever written for a popular audience. While delineating the book’s limitations, Jon Bekken’s foreword also makes clear for today’s readers its continuing significance.”

- Jeremy Brecher, historian and author of Strike!

380 pages, \$19.95



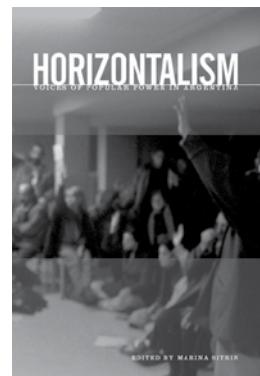
Images of American Radicalism

BY PAUL BUHLE AND EDMUND B. SULLIVAN

Historians Buhle and Sullivan engagingly document here the history of American radicalism. The more than 1500 illustrations provided – 72 in color – are paintings, drawings, cartoons, photographs, lithographs, posters, and other graphics depicting religious visionaries, Shakers, abolitionists, suffragists, anarchists, socialists, Wobblies, feminists, Civil Rights workers, gay and lesbian activists, environmentalists, and more in their quest for a cooperative society overcoming capitalism. This handsome book is a superb visual approach to an important but little discussed aspect of American social, political, and cultural history.

\$20 paperback, \$25 hardcover

Workers of the World



Horizontalism: Voices of Popular Power in Argentina

EDITED BY MARINA SITRIN

December 2001 marked the beginning of a popular rebellion in Argentina. After IMF policies led to economic meltdown and massive capital flight, millions of Argentinians poured into the streets to protest the freezing of their bank accounts, the devaluing of their currency, and the bankruptcy of their state. This rebellion—of workers and the unemployed, of the middle class and the recently declassed—erupted without leadership or hierarchy. Political parties and elites had no role in the movement that toppled five national governments in just two weeks. People created hundreds of neighborhood assemblies involving tens of thousands of active participants. The dozens of occupied factories that existed at the start of the rebellion grew to hundreds, taken over and run directly by workers. The social movements that exploded in Argentina that December not only transformed the fabric of Argentine society but also highlighted the possibility of a genuinely democratic alternative to global capital. Horizontalism: Voices of Popular Power in Argentina is the story of those movements, as told by the men and women who are building them.

“Marina Sitrin has provided an invaluable service to scholars and activists around the world by compiling the testimonies of the participants in some of the most prominent and original Argentine popular movements. These activists speak of political passion, determination, solidarity, and new forms of horizontal organization. They also speak of frustration, obstacles, and repression. Overall, their voices show in startling detail the stubborn hope of a new generation of sufferers and fighters.”

—Javier Auyero, author, Contentious Lives

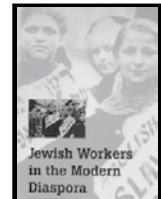
255 pages \$18.95

The Sky Never Changes: Testimonies from the Guatemalan Labor Movement

BY THOMAS REED AND KAREN BRANDOW

Ten moving oral histories reveal the memories and hopes of workers actively involved in the struggle for labor rights in Guatemala in the 1970s and 1980s. The speakers include rank-and-file activists, union organizers, indigenous leaders, and the widows of assassinated unionists. Together, their testimonies give immediacy to the anguish and heroism of the Guatemalan labor movement. “Hope never dies... In the workers’ movement, they say as long as people are subjected to this level of injustice there will be only one option: to challenge the oppression, to change the structure completely so that people can develop themselves and live in a real democracy. ... We have to maintain hope to live, not only to live but to live well. To live just for the sake of living doesn’t make sense.” Rodolfo Robles

192 pages, \$12.00



Jewish Workers in the Modern Diaspora

EDITED BY NANCY GREEN

Documenting the history of the Jewish working class from the 1880s through 1939, this draws upon contemporary newspaper articles, letters, memoirs, and literature to give voice to the workers who left Eastern Europe for the West - and in the process, played a key role in building the modern labor movement as they battled intolerable conditions in their new jobs and communities. This book chronicles those struggles in major cities around the world, and also looks at the cultural and social institutions the Jewish workers built.

256 pages, \$10.00

Democracy at Work in an Indian Industrial Cooperative

BY THOMAS ISAAC, RICHARD FRANKE AND PYARALAL RAGHAVAN

This is the story of Kerala Dinesh Beedi, a democratic workers’ cooperative that makes cheap hand-rolled cigarettes known as beedis. The beedi workers have long been among India’s most exploited, so the organization in 1969 of this successful cooperative had a transforming effect on the lives of the thousands of workers who work in it, while offering a development model that implicitly challenges mainstream economists’ prescriptions. At the same time, the authors do not shy away from the limitations of the cooperative, from the limited opportunities available to women members to the apathy that threatens its democratic culture.

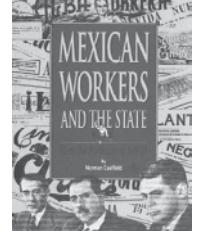
255 pages, \$15.00

African Population & Capitalism: Historical Perspectives

EDITED BY DENNIS CORDELL AND JOEL GREGORY

Eight chapters (including one in French) examine the devastating effects of slavery, colonialism and capitalism on 20 African societies.

304 pages, \$10.00



Mexican Workers and the State: From the Porfiriato to NAFTA

BY NORMAN CAULFIELD

In contemporary Mexico, as during the Porfiriato, the forces of global capitalism are transforming labor, the political system, and other sectors of society. The situation has generated political fragmentation, popular uprisings, violence, militarization and a volatile economy. Within this context, organized labor seeks to redefine itself. Caulfield’s book, which contains extensive work on the IWW’s cross-border organizing, helps readers understand the importance of independent, internationalist, working class movements.

180 pages, \$15.00

SET OF BUTTONS

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Full color 1.5 inch
IWW buttons

Set includes one each
of these seven
designs



Wobblies and Zapatistas:

Conversations on Anarchism, Marxism and Radical History

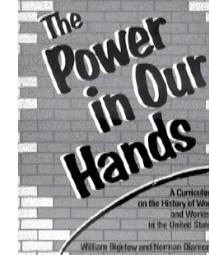
BY STAUGHTON LYND
AND ANDREJ GRUBACIC

Wobblies and Zapatistas offers the reader an encounter between two generations and two traditions. Andrej Grubacic is an anarchist from the Balkans. Staughton Lynd is a lifelong pacifist, influenced by Marxism. They meet in dialogue in an effort to bring together the anarchist and Marxist traditions, to discuss the writing of history by those who make it, and to remind us of the idea that “my country is the world.” Encompassing a Left libertarian perspective and an emphatically activist standpoint, these conversations are meant to be read in the clubs and affinity groups of the new Movement.

The authors accompany us on a journey through modern revolutions, direct actions, anti-globalist counter summits, Freedom Schools, Zapatista cooperatives, Haymarket and Petrograd, Hanoi and Belgrade, ‘intentional’ communities, wildcat strikes, early Protestant communities, Native American democratic practices, the Workers’ Solidarity Club of Youngstown, occupied factories, self-organized councils and soviets, the lives of forgotten revolutionaries, Quaker meetings, antiwar movements, and prison rebellions. Neglected and forgotten moments of interracial self-activity are brought to light. The book invites the attention of readers who believe that a better world, on the other side of capitalism and state bureaucracy, may indeed be possible.

“There’s no doubt that we’ve lost much of our history. It’s also very clear that those in power in this country like it that way. Here’s a book that shows us why. It demonstrates not only that another world is possible, but that it already exists, has existed, and shows an endless potential to burst through the artificial walls and divisions that currently imprison us. An exquisite contribution to the literature of human freedom, and coming not a moment too soon.” —David Graeber, author of *Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology* and *Direct Action: An Ethnography*

300 pages, \$19.95



The Power in Our Hands

BY WILLIAM BIGELOW & NORMAN DIAMOND

Curriculum materials for middle and high school teachers on the history of work and workers in the United States, including units on workers rights, exploitation, scientific management, the Homestead and Lawrence strikes, racial conflict and the labor movement, labor songs, and more. Includes lesson plans, hand-outs for students, and other resources.

184 pages, \$18.00

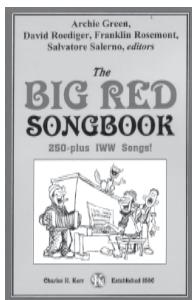
STAN WEIR SINGLEJACK SOLIDARITY

BY STAN WEIR
EDITED BY GEORGE LIPSETZ
FOREWORD BY NORM DIAMOND

Blue-collar intellectual and activist publisher, Stan Weir devoted his life to the advocacy of his fellow workers. Weir was both a thoughtful observer and an active participant in many of the key struggles that shaped the labor movement and the political left in postwar America. He reported firsthand from the front lines of decisive fights over the nature of unions in the auto industry, the resistance to automation on the waterfront, and battles over racial integration in the workplace and within unions themselves. Written throughout Weir’s decades as a blue-collar worker and labor educator, *Singlejack Solidarity* offers a rare look at modern life and social relations as seen from the factory, dockside, and the shop floor. Gathered here for the first time, Weir’s writings are equal parts memoir, labor history, and polemic; taken together, they document a crucial chapter in the life story of working-class America.

384 pages, \$19.95

Books About Wobblies

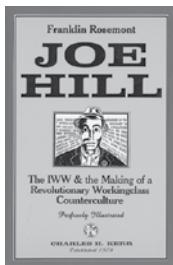


The Big Red Songbook

EDITED BY ARCHIE GREEN, DAVID ROEDIGER, FRANKLIN ROSEMONT & SALVATORE SALERNO

The most comprehensive collection of rebel workers' songs and poems ever compiled in English, *The Big Red Songbook* includes all the songs that appeared in the IWW's celebrated Little Red Songbook from 1909 through 1973, plus dozens more. Here are the songs of Joe Hill, T-Bone Slim, Dick Brazier, Ralph Chaplin, Covington Hall and other Wobbly legends. Also included is a wealth of essays, analysis, references, and bibliographies provided by Archie Green and other collaborators, giving historical context and a wide range of perspectives on the Wobbly counterculture and its enduring legacies.

546 pages, \$24.00



Joe Hill: The IWW & the Making of a Revolutionary Workingclass Counterculture

BY FRANKLIN ROSEMONT

In Franklin Rosemont, Joe Hill has finally found a chronicler worthy of his revolutionary spirit, sense of humor, and poetic imagination. This is no ordinary biography. It is a journey into the Wobbly culture that made Joe Hill and the capitalist culture that killed him. But as Rosemont suggests in this remarkable book, Joe Hill never really dies. He will live in the minds of young rebels as long as his songs are sung, his ideas are circulated, and his political descendants keep fighting for a better day.

- Robin D. G. Kelley

639 pages, \$19.00

Big Trouble

BY J. ANTHONY LUKAS

An Idaho governor who spent his career cozying up to mine bosses is assassinated. Pinkertons and state prosecutors pin the blame on three union officials, including Big Bill Haywood. Lukas examines every facet of the case, from sensationalized press to the prosecution's manufactured evidence. This is a rich, engaging narrative of one of the labor frame-ups of the 20th century.

873 pages, a steal at \$15.00!

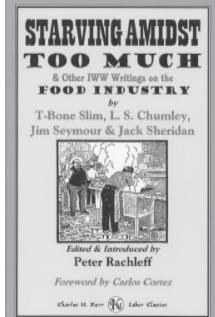
The Industrial Workers of the World:

1905-1917

BY PHILIP S. FONER

One of the basic and most thorough texts on the life of the IWW from its founding through WWI.

608 pages, \$15.00

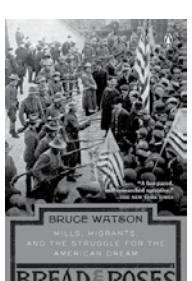


Starving Amidst Too Much and Other IWW Writings on the Food Industry

EDITED BY PETER RACHEFF

This is a book about the irrepressible conflict between the poorly paid workers who feed the world and the multi-billionaire corporate powers that make the rules and grab the profits. Classic documents on the "food question" by four old-time IWWs. T-Bone Slim provides a detailed critique of the industry - chockful of penetrating insight and black humor. Organizer L.S. Chumley portrays the horrid conditions of hotel and restaurant workers circa 1918, stressing the need for direct action. Wobbly troubadour Jim Seymour reflects on the possibilities of a radically different diet. Jack Sheridan's fascinating 1959 survey of the role of food in ancient and modern civilization, especially in economic development, is also a crash-course in the materialist conception of history at its Wobbly soapboxer best.

128 pages, \$12.00



Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream

BY BRUCE WATSON

On January 12, 1912, an army of textile workers stormed out of the mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, commencing what has since become known as the IWW's "Bread and Roses" strike. Based on newspaper accounts,

magazine reportage, and oral histories, Watson reconstructs a Dickensian drama involving thousands of parading strikers from fifty-one nations, unforgettable acts of cruelty, and even a protracted murder trial that tested the boundaries of free speech.

352 pages, \$15.00

A Century of Writing on the IWW 1905-2005: An Annotated Bibliography

COMPILED BY STEVE KELERMAN

This annotated bibliography published by the Boston General Membership Branch of the IWW lists all known books on the IWW, organized by category in chronological order. Brief critical notes describe the books, quickly and helpfully identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Other categories are Biographical Works, Miscellaneous Works including substantial discussion of the IWW, Writings by Wobblies, and a listing of novels featuring the union. An excellent resource for anyone doing research on the IWW.

38 pages, \$5.00

Wobblies on the Waterfront

BY PETER COLE

This long-awaited book tells the history of the IWW on the Philadelphia waterfront. Wobblies built the first integrated longshore union in the U.S., winning better wages and shorter hours than any other American port until the employers, federal government and ILA came together to crush the union in the early 1920s. With IWW job control that lasted nearly a decade, Philadelphia proved both the practicality of the IWW's approach, and the union's commitment to racial equality. Cole's book is a sympathetic look at a vital chapter in IWW history.

227 pages, \$40.00

The Great Bisbee Deportation

BY ROB E. HANSON

Wobblies so worried the authorities of Bisbee, Arizona, that the state ran them out of town. This comprehensive account brings the events of the day alive.

56 pages, \$2.50

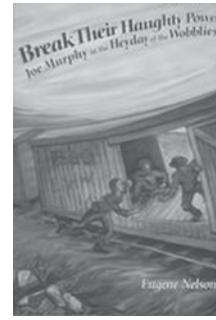


Oil, Wheat & Wobblies: The Industrial Workers of the World in Oklahoma, 1905-1930

BY NIGEL ANTHONY SELLARS

One of the best local histories on the IWW, Nigel Anthony Sellars describes Wobblies' efforts to organize Oklahoma's migratory harvest hands and oil-field workers and relationships between the union and other radical and labor groups such as the Socialist Party and the American Federation of Labor. Focusing on the emergence of migratory labor and the nature of the work itself in industrializing the region, Sellars provides a social history of labor in the Oklahoma wheat belt and the mid-continent oil fields. Using court cases and legislation, he examines the role of state and federal government in suppressing the union during World War I.

320 pages, \$15.00



Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy In The Heyday Of The Wobblies

BY EUGENE NELSON

Joe Murphy, chased out of his Missouri hometown by anti-Catholic bigots, hopped aboard a freight train and headed west for the wheat harvest. Within weeks, the 13 year old Joe became a labor activist and organizer for the IWW. Eugene Nelson, a longtime friend of Joe Murphy, recounts many labor and free-speech struggles through the eyes of 'Kid Murphy.' This biographical novel relates Murphy's adventures in the wheat fields, lumber camps, and on the high seas. Historical events include the 1919 Centralia massacre in Washington state; the Colorado miners' strike of 1927; and the 1931 strike by workers building Boulder Dam. Nelson also relates the young Murphy's reflections on meeting Helen Keller, Eugene Debs, and Bill Haywood. A classic slice of labor history brought to life.

367 pages, \$16.00

Free Speech in its Forgotten Years

BY DAVID M. RABAN

David Rabban richly details the forgotten legal history of free speech. The pre-World War I era saw extensive battles on behalf of free speech, fought by a variety of individuals and organizations, for a range of causes he collectively labels "libertarian radicalism." Central to this period is the Free Speech League (FSL), precursor of the ACLU, which Rabban claims was "involved in virtually every major free speech controversy during the first two decades of the twentieth century." In the IWW's "free speech fights" from 1906 to 1917, the FSL played a major role in establishing free speech as a real and extraordinarily complex legal issue. A chapter is devoted to the subject. Rabban also explains why pre-WWI free speech history has been relegated to the dustbin: the civil libertarians of the post-War period wrote radicals out of the history books.

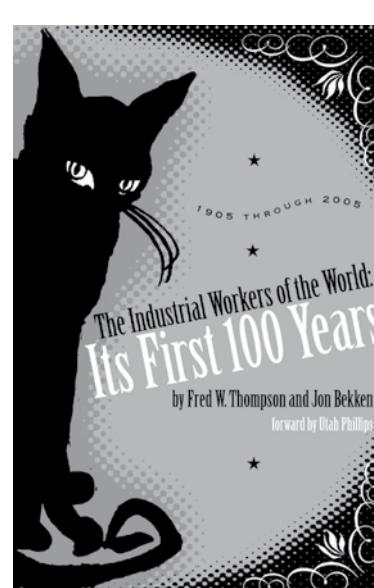
404 pages, published at \$34.95, now \$10.00



Little Red Songbook: Centenary edition

A limited-edition songbook with 42 classic and new labor songs. Includes chords for guitar.

\$6.00

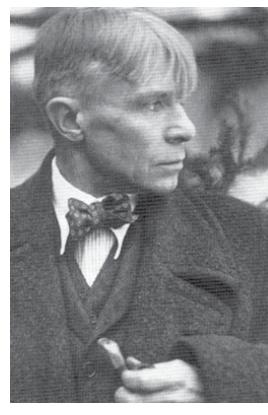


The Industrial Workers of the World: Its First 100 Years

BY FRED W. THOMPSON AND JON BEKKEN, FORWARD BY UTAH PHILLIPS

The first book on the history of the IWW was published in 1919, just 14 years after the union's founding. Since then, countless articles, novels and histories have been published on the union – showing that the IWW's influence has extended well beyond its membership and captured the imagination of generations of labor activists, novelists, poets and historians. *The IWW: Its First 100 Years* is the most comprehensive history of the union ever published. Written by two Wobblies who lived through many of the struggles they chronicle, it documents the famous struggles such as the Lawrence and Paterson strikes, the fight for decent conditions in the Pacific Northwest timber fields, the IWW's pioneering organizing among harvest hands in the 1910s and 1920s, and the war-time repression that sent thousands of IWW members to jail. It is the only general history to give substantive attention to the IWW's successful organizing of African-American and immigrant workers on the Philadelphia waterfront, the international union of seamen the IWW built from 1913 through the 1930s, smaller job actions through which the IWW transformed working conditions, Wobbly successes organizing in manufacturing in the 1930s and 1940s, and the union's recent resurgence. Extensive source notes provide guidance to readers wishing to explore particular campaigns in more depth. There is no better history for the reader looking for an overview of the history of the IWW, and for an understanding of its ideas and tactics.

Biographies



The Other Carl Sandburg

BY PHILIP YANNELLA

Best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Abraham Lincoln, his Rootabaga stories for children, and his long career as "poet of the people," Carl Sandburg got his start writing for socialist and progressive newspapers in Chicago and Milwaukee, including for the leading socialist magazine (and one

that supported the IWW) of the day, the International Socialist Review. This biography focuses on Sandburg's early socialism and progressive journalism, and the ways in which his politics influenced his later work.

Yanella's biography documents the federal government's surveillance of Carl Sandburg, as well as examining his radical journalism and the commitment to social equality and justice that informed his entire career as a poet, historian, and writer.

Hardcover 186 pages, published at \$27.00, now \$8.00

Memoirs of a Wobbly

BY HENRY E. MCGUCKIN

The classic narrative of a lesser-known Wobbly hero who hopped freights all over the continent, saw action in the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913, and manned the jails during many a free speech fight. An IWW masterpiece that will fit in your pocket.

94 pages, \$8.00

Rebel Girl: An Autobiography, My First Life

BY ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

The most famous of Wobbly women tells her amazing story. From teenage soap-box orator to IWW leader, this memoir covers some of the great labor struggles of the age from the mouth of a key participant.

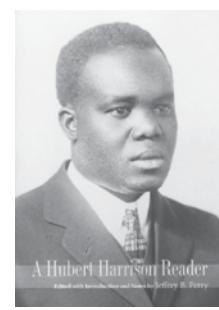
326 pages, \$12.00

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson

COMPILED WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DAVID ROEDIGER

"Let's make this planet a good place to live." That was the slogan of the author, who was a Wobbly, Socialist, historian, and class war prisoner. Thompson (1900-1987) organized with the IWW throughout his life, and his memories bristle with wisdom and humor.

93 pages, \$10.00



A Hubert Harrison Reader

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION & NOTES BY JEFFREY B. PERRY

Hubert Harrison (1883-1927) was a brilliant writer, orator, educator, critic, and radical political activist and one of the most important, yet neglected figures of early 20th-century America. Harrison was drawn toward the policies and practices of the militant and egalitarian IWW, whom he considered to be practitioners of true unionism. He argued for direct action and praised the work of the integrated IWW-affiliated Brotherhood of Timber Workers in Louisiana. Besides being an excellent collection of nearly forgotten writings by Harrison, the overall work poses interesting questions on the concepts of multi-cultural unionism, political action, and "Race First" organizations.

473 pages, \$25.00

Living Inside Our Hope: A Steadfast Radical's Thoughts on Rebuilding the Movement

BY STAUGHTON LYND

From his days in the civil rights movement to the fight against plant closings, Staughton Lynd has been on the front lines for decades. This book collects 12 essays on solidarity unionism, socialism with a human face, and thoughts on the role of intellectuals within the movement.

281 pages, \$12.00

Protesting the G-20 in Pittsburgh

A Radical Response to the G-20 and Capitalism in Pittsburgh

By Audrey, BAAM

On Sept. 24 and 25, radicals and anti-capitalists from across the country got together to march, make their voices heard, take direct action, and otherwise confront the G-20 Summit while the meeting of the world's 19 richest countries and the E.U. went on behind closed doors in Pittsburgh. The White House announced the location of the Summit only four months prior, much to the surprise of Pittsburgh locals, while radicals in the community immediately began organizing as the Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project (PGRP), with participation and support from the Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG), among other Pittsburgh-based organizations. Groups requesting permits for marches and assemblies found their requests denied, leading to the filing of lawsuits against the city by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

No one knew how many people to expect; law enforcement estimated that 3,000 individuals would show up and threatened to arrest 1,000 of them. There was an issue of funding security for the summit and of attaining enough police to ensure that things didn't get "out of hand." The city, with the help of the federal government, barely met its goal of getting 4,000 police and scrambled together enough money to pay for the total security expenses that would top \$20 million. Now the city and the organizers had to wait and see who turned up, and what would happen after all their hard work.

Law enforcement set their sights on places suspected of harboring anarchists and demonstrators. The four-acre permaculture farm Landslide was surrounded and its residents were harassed for much of Monday. The reason the police gave for targeting them: there were several old tires piled on top of each other nearby on city property. The siege ended the next morning when, under the watch of the police, the tires were hauled off by the city, as farm residents had long requested they do, thus eliminating the stated cause of the visit.

On Sunday and Monday the police harassed Everybody's Kitchen and the Seeds of Peace group, there to make free food and provide street medic trainings. The police impounded the Seeds of Peace bus, which contained tools for the volunteers. One member was arrested and charged with giving a false name to a police officer. She gave her nickname, "Thea," instead of her full name. After that, all the Seeds of Peace volunteers wore stickers that read, "My name is Thea," and they filed a harassment lawsuit against the city of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Police Department.

On Tuesday, the PGRP held a community gathering and picnic attended by 300 people, and heavily watched by police. On Wednesday, the first direct action against the G-20 happened. The local media, desperate for protest footage, were on top of it within minutes. Six Greenpeace activists rappelled off a bridge near downtown Pittsburgh and hung a banner that read, "DANGER: Climate Destruction Ahead." They were arrested and bailed out immediately. Meanwhile, worries mounted that Thursday's unpermitted march would only be a couple hundred people and would end in mass arrest.

Thursday was the beginning of the official G-20 meetings and also the beginning of mass actions against the G-20. At 2:30 p.m., an unpermitted march was slated to assemble at Arsenal Park. There were around 1,000 anarchists and anti-capitalists on the scene, joined by Cindy Sheehan. The police had the park almost surrounded and were dressed in riot gear. You could feel the energy in the air as the march moved into the street.

Police and the National Guard blocked off the intended route with concrete blocks, police cars, and a BEAR (Ballistic Engineered Armored Response vehicle) with an LRAD mounted on it. The LRAD, or Long Range Acoustic Device, otherwise known as a "sound cannon," is a "less-lethal" weapon that the military has been using in Iraq and Afghanistan, though never before in the U.S. It can cause permanent hearing damage, leaving some victims deaf for life, and is intended to cause incapacitation in its targets by using intensely loud beeping noises somewhat similar to a car alarm. The LRAD also played a pre-recorded message in English and Spanish that said, "By order of the City of Pittsburgh Chief of Police, I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly. I order all those assembled to immediately disperse. You must leave the immediate vicinity. If you remain in the immediate vicinity you will be in violation of the Pennsylvania Crime Code no matter what your purpose is," followed by a list of what means could be used to disperse them. Meanwhile, police began to fire smoke grenades into the crowd, and the march moved down an alley and onto another street. This same scenario played out dozens of times over the next few hours and it became evident that the police were prepared to do anything they needed to keep this uncontrollable group of anarchists away from the downtown area.

During the march, lots of locals, particularly the working poor, came out of their houses to watch the march



Graphic: Gary Huck

proceed down their streets. While the overall response to the anarchist march was mixed, supporters were not hard to find. One resident said, "I don't want my city to be full of all these damn cops." Another, referring to the actions of the anarchists, said "This is the best thing that's happened in Pittsburgh by far in the last 50 years! Keep going!"

On Friday, the last day of the G-20 meetings, liberal groups planned a permitted march. There were many smaller marches that would lead to the general march, and I decided to join the radical queer sex-workers. When the radical queers appeared on a street corner, around two dozen riot cops stood guard across the street. They seemed more interested and amused than anything else and after 20 minutes they left us to go harass another group. We walked down towards the main march and had a lot of fun on the way. We began choreographing our marching to some show tunes, adding a lot of color and pizzazz to the boring college neighborhood we passed through. The main march was intended to go straight downtown, with two stops on the way. When our group of radical queer sex-workers got to the main march, we were all astonished at the sheer mass of people who were gathered there. There were reports of a minimum of 5,000, and a maximum of 10,000 protesters there. There were unions, a Jobs With Justice group concerned about "womyn workers being oppressed by the system," there were anarchists, Code Pink, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and just about every group you could possibly think of. Liberals and radicals came together to reject global capitalism.

The entire downtown area of Pittsburgh was a clearly defined police state.

There were 10-foot-tall fences and other barriers set up with barbed wire at the tops. Every corner and every block had at least one line of riot cops and National Guardsmen, dictating who could go where. Police K-9 units patrolled the streets while red and blue lights flashed everywhere you looked. Entire streets were barricaded off and getting anywhere from downtown was close to impossible.

There are at least 55 pending lawsuits against the city of Pittsburgh and the police department. The University of Pittsburgh administration has threatened to suspend and even expel any students that were arrested over the week and found guilty, though they are now offering clemency. The ACLU and other legal groups are helping both the students and the demonstrators with their individual lawsuits, and the student ACLU group at Pitt is making noise about the threat to expel and suspend students who were unfairly arrested. There has been no word of people going deaf, or losing a significant amount of hearing as a result of the use of the LRAD.

A few questions remain: How did so few of our anarchist and revolutionary comrades end up arrested? Maybe we were better organized and prepared beforehand. Maybe it was the support of the locals, who sometimes even offered groups running from the riot cops space to hide in their houses. Or maybe it was because of students who came out feeling the same anger toward the pigs who took over their town as the protesters had towards capitalism.

This story originally appeared in the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement (BAAM) Newsletter, Issue #26.

In November I Remember:

Virgil J. Vogel (1918-1994)

an early mentor of mine
during my Chicago years

— Harry Sifton,
Bay Area GMB

G-20 Defense Summary



Photo: indypgh.org

By Albert Petrarca

In the end, the G-20 monster was no match for the combined political and organizational unity of the people. Their sound-emitting science fiction machines, their lackeys in the corporate media, their stooges on the city council, their fools in the mayor's and county executive's offices, their overwhelming police state apparatus, their federal judge, their months of disinformation and repression against our black block brothers and sisters, in the end, proved futile and useless. The power and resolve exhibited by the people in Thursday's "Battle of Lawrenceville" and Friday's march to downtown will go down in the annals of Pittsburgh's great history of resistance. They were unable to drive a wedge between our young lion anarchist fighters and the mass mobilization. The institutional Democratic Party had its cover ripped off to reveal its function as little more than a delivery boy for the Allegheny Conference. A page was turned this week. *iHasta la victoria siempre!*

In November We Remember

Remembering The New England Textile Struggles

By Diane Krauthamer

On September 7, people from across Rhode Island and Massachusetts spent their Labor Day commemorating workers' struggles for "both bread and roses" in the small New England towns that bore both an ever-growing textile industry and an increasingly powerful labor movement. Amongst the Labor Day events were a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Saylesville Massacre in Central Falls, R.I., and the 25th annual Bread and Roses Festival in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Saylesville Massacre

In September 1934, unionized textile workers went on strike at plants around Rhode Island, protesting low wages, poor working conditions and the loss of jobs to the South. At the time, textile mills were closing down in the North and moving to the South, where labor was cheaper and resources were more



Photo: Diane Krauthamer

Arthur Benoit points to the bullet holes.

plentiful.

When hundreds of Independent Textile Union protesters gathered outside the non-union Sayles Finishing Co., the company asked for protection from the National Guard, who confronted the hundreds of unarmed strikers and chased them into the Moshassuck Cemetery with fixed bayonets. Union picketers took cover behind headstones in the graveyard. The bullet holes visibly remain in the stones today.

Lifelong resident of the Central Falls area Arthur Benoit pointed to an old gravestone with two bullet holes punctured through it, describing the turbulence he remembered as a 12-year-old kid during the 1934 uprising. He recalled the strife that lasted in the town for weeks on end and the social inequalities that continue to this day. Benoit said if he were in that situation, he would have refused the National Guard's orders to fire on the workers, as he considered them to be "illegal orders."

This period, marked by the injuries and deaths of protesters, changed the history of the town and gave it a legacy in the American labor movement. Some years later, locals commemorated the struggles by planting a tree on the site, which Benoit said symbolizes the promise that "the labor movement will continue to grow." The tree, draped with a commemorative wreath and decorated with flowers by the locals who held a memorial event, stands at the center of the Moshassuck Cemetery.

Bread and Roses Strike

This year marked the 25th Annual Bread and Roses Festival in Lawrence, Mass., which featured live musical performances, local food vendors, informational stands and tours of the downtown area, where the former textile

mills stand. The Boston IWW had a table filled with merchandise, reminding attendees that, more than 100 years later, the IWW is still alive and strong.

Staff from the Lawrence History Center gave walking tours of the area. One tour guide discussed the events of the 1912 Lawrence Textile Strike—commonly referred to as the "Bread and Roses" strike—and the role that the three workers who were killed played in the events.

On Jan. 11, 1912, when workers at the Everett Cotton Mills realized that their employer had reduced their pay by 32 cents, they stopped their looms and walked off the job. Workers at other area mills joined the next day, and within a week more than 20,000 workers were on strike. IWW organizers Joseph Ettor and Arturo Giovannitti had inoculated the mill workers leading up to the strike and assumed leadership roles when the strike developed.

On Jan. 29, 1912, a 34-year-old Italian millworker named Anna LoPizzo was struck by a police bullet as she marched on the picket line. However, the police accused and arrested Ettor and Giovannitti for her death, charging them as "accessories to murder." These men were at a meeting three miles away at the time. After this arrest, martial law was enforced and all public meetings were declared illegal.

The following day, a large group

of Lebanese band members gathered to prepare for a memorial parade. A 20-year-old man named John Ramey was practicing on his cornet. The militia proceeded in a charge-bayonet position and as Ramey retreated he was punctured in the back with a bayonet. He was taken to the hospital and died shortly thereafter.

Tension remained in the city for a long time after the strike. Six months later, Jonas Smolskas, a Lithuanian immigrant, was killed by a group of men who objected to his IWW pin.

Today, these martyrs are buried in St. Mary's Immaculate Conception cemetery where red carnations—a symbol of our tribute to working class martyrdom—are resting on top of the stones.

This November, let's remember the struggles and victories of our fallen comrades and carry on their legacy. Let's take this month to build, as the late Franklin Rosemont said, "a sense of continuity to the struggle of the workers, not only from year to year, but from generation to generation."



Photo: Diane Krauthamer

The IWW & The Commemoration Of Haymarket

This story originally appeared in "Haymarket Scrapbook" (Roediger, Dave, and Franklin Rosemont, eds. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Publishing, 1986), and is republished as a tribute to the late Franklin Rosemont.

By Franklin Rosemont

No labor organization in the U.S. has more profoundly or more consistently identified itself with the traditions of Haymarket than the Industrial Workers of the World. The active participation of several veterans of 1886 Chicago anarchism in the IWWs founding convention in 1905 helped implant something of the Haymarket spirit in the new union right from the start. An early IWW historian noted that Lucy Parsons' presence at the first convention was "a constant reminder to the delegates of the Haymarket tragedy, which had ended the first great drive for a revolutionary unionism, in this same city of Chicago, nearly a generation before."

Lucy Parsons' impact on labor radicals in general and Wobblies in particular was in fact immense. IWW organizer Art Boose acknowledged that he might have turned out to be a "scissorbill" had he not encountered Lucy, and many others surely could have said the same.

In the IWW's historical books and pamphlets—such as the "Historical Catechism of American Unionism," "The Blood-Stained Trail" and "Neroiso"—Haymarket figured prominently as a milestone in the struggle for working class emancipation in the U.S.

The One Big Union's feeling of kinship for the Haymarket anarchists became yet more poignant when, in the course of their own "conspiracy trial" during World War I, Ralph Chaplin and

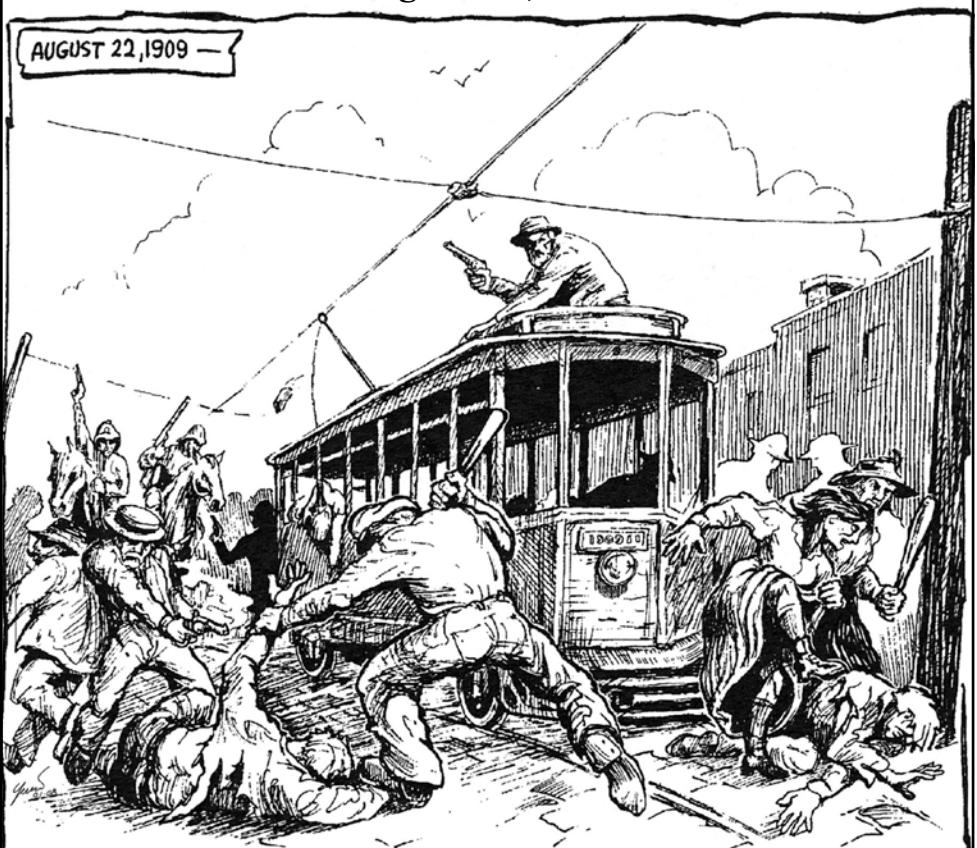
others were locked up in the very cells of Cook County Jail that had once confined Parsons, Spies, Fischer, Engel, Fielden, Neebe and Schwab.

Especially interesting is the way in which the Wobblies incorporated the Haymarket martyrs into their own extensive proletarian martyrology—Joe Hill, the Everett Massacre, Wesley Everest and others—as vividly portrayed in the text reprinted here by the well remembered Charles Velsek, an old-time Wob who was one of the mainstays of the Chicago branch until his death in 1979.

As Fellow Worker Velsek noted, IWW branches and locals held November meetings to commemorate Haymarket as well as other "victims of class war." These nonsectarian gatherings generally featured speakers representing a broad spectrum of radical workers' organizations. Lucy Parsons and Nina Spies often attended, along with Irving Abrams of the Pioneer Aid and Support Association, Boris Yelensky and Maximiliano Olay of the anarchist Free Society Group, John Kercher of the Proletarian Party, Hugo Oehler of the Revolutionary Workers' League, as well as representatives of the Socialist Party, the Communist League of America and other groups.

Such memorial meetings—together with the songs, poems, articles and cartoons on the "In November We Remember" theme—which to this day are a feature in November issues of the *Industrial Worker*—helped, as one Wobbly writer put it, "to give a sense of continuity to the struggle of the workers, not only from year to year but from generation to generation."

In November We Remember Bloody Sunday in McKee's Rocks August 22, 1909.



Art work by Bill Yund. More of Bill Yund's art work can be found in "The Point of Pittsburgh" by Charles McCollester's. Thank you to the PA Labor History Society for the organizing they did in McKee's Rocks to commemorate this centenary.

In November We Remember Commemorating Transgender Struggles

By Justin Atkins

Nov. 20, 2009, is the 11th International Transgender Day of Remembrance. This is the day when we remember all of the people killed because of their gender identity and/or gender expression. In the past few years I have observed that most of the individuals on the list of those to be remembered are people of color and the unemployed or underemployed.

As a transgender person, I am blessed to have steady work and health insurance; I am a rare person in my community. The reasons that I am employable are easily traced to the fact that since my transition I fully pass as male and I was raised in an upper-middle class white family and given access to education. My parents also raised my sister and I with the idea that we could do anything (they never thought that would include becoming a guy). Most people in my community are not so privileged.

In his research on transgender people and employment in 2007, Richard Juang cites studies showing a 35 percent unemployment rate, with 60 percent earning less than \$15,300 annually. These studies also find high rates of workplace termination, denial of

employment and harassment within the transgender population.

According to Dr. Jillian T. Weiss, "the transgender [unemployment] statistics are much higher [than] the statistics in the general U.S. population—the unemployment rate is about eight times higher and the poverty rate is about five times higher." We have a crisis in my community. Without employment my community is more susceptible to hate crimes and is often driven to professions such as sex-work. This line of work often makes transgender people a target of police violence and imprisonment. It has been said that one-third of the transgender community has been, or is, incarcerated.

Within the prison industrial complex transgender people face harassment and discrimination. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, "transgender prisoners are often housed without regard for their physical safety and are disrespected by using improper pronouns or wrong names." I recently became pen-pals with a few transgender women in male federal prisons. As I wrote to my new friends I found out that they are routinely raped, and sexually assaulted by inmates and guards.

When my friends reported the abuse, with evidence, they were segregated and placed in "protective" cells being cut off from most human interaction. In short, the abused were punished. If they were transferred as a way of "protection" it is often to higher security prisons. I have friends who have been transferred to maximum security prisons even though they were originally incarcerated on misdemeanor charges.

In the U.S. and around the world, my community faces systematic discrimination and lack of access to employment. Here in the U.S. many are placing all of their focus on passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Despite advances in protecting transgender people on the state and local level, as well as in the private sector, it remains perfectly legal in 37 states to fire someone solely based on her or his gender identity. While I think that this piece of legislation is needed, it is not going to solve the systematic discrimination that my community faces. What we need is a cultural and societal shift.

I joined the IWW a few years ago because I knew that this was an organization that cared about "the least of those" in our society. Since I joined I have read

and heard much about immigration, and female workers. What about the LGBT workers? What are we doing to make the world a better place for them? Are we standing up to the bosses and telling them to hire transgender employees? If you know someone who is transgender, have you helped them get a job at your place of employment? Last month Jim Crutchfield wrote about education. Education is another area that my community has limited access to. Many in the trans community have dropped out of school because of the blatant and constant discrimination and harassment they have faced in such a highly gendered institution. Are we helping educate transgender people, helping to prepare them for the workplace? Do you know about transgender issues so you can spot discrimination when you see it?

I dream of a day when we no longer need a "day of remembrance", when people in my community are accepted in society. Until then I vow to fight for our rights. I vow to stand up against the bosses and against injustice.

With files from the Transgender Workplace Diversity Blog and the National Center for Transgender Equality website.

Boston Remembers Sacco And Vanzetti

By Jake Carman

August 23 marked the 82nd anniversary of the executions of Italian anarchists Ferdinando Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Approximately 70 people, including members of the Boston IWW, marched from Copley Square to the North End in the fourth annual Sacco and Vanzetti march, organized by the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society (SVCS). In honor of the pair, the Boston City Council declared August 23 as "Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Day" for the third year in a row.

In Copley Square, marchers listened to musical performances by local folk singers Evan Greer and Sergio Reyes, as well as Lanfranco Genito from Italy. At the Paul Revere Mall in the North End, Jake and the Infernal Machine per-

formed songs, and Dorothea Manuela of the Boston May Day Committee, City Councilor Chuck Turner, and Jake Carman of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement (BAAM) shared speeches with those assembled and those passing by. BAAM and SVCS member Laila Murad served as the MC.

Along the march, participants chanted loudly and handed out SVCS pamphlets and BAAM newsletters. Though the march was sanctioned by the Boston City Council, and though the SVCS had marching permits, for the first time in the event's four-year history the Boston Police Department refused



Photo: Ryan McKernan

to let the marchers take the streets. The officer in charge repeatedly threatened to "break up the protest" and arrest any marcher who stepped off the sidewalk.

Former Boss Of Occupied Chicago Factory Jailed

Continued from 1

on terrible hard times and then all of the workers quite abruptly laid off," he said. "We saw a great opportunity with a great facility and great workers." Another thing that attracted Surace to the Republic plant was that 90 percent of the equipment was still there—thanks to the workers who prevented the bosses from hauling it away.

"We knew Gillman was lying to us for a long time, now the rest of the world knows it too," said Armando Robles, the President of United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 1110, the Republic workers' union. "Workers suffer with bad bosses all the time, so this is a victory for all workers."

Gillman's arrest is just one of the results of the Republic workers' actions. In February of this year, Serious Materials bought Republic for \$145 million, promising to put the unemployed workers back on the job. California-based Serious makes heating efficient windows.

"Having another company reopen the factory was always our hope when we occupied the factory in December," Robles told the *New York Times*.

Kevin Surace, the chief executive officer of Serious, was drawn to the Republic workers' story, leading him to eventually acquire the bankrupt factory. "It was very sad to see what looks like it could be a world-class operation just fall



Photo: inthesetimes.com

has been slower in producing results than the administration had hoped. Yet Lydersen points out that the Republic workers "know they can't just sit back and wait for the stimulus or the factory's new owner to make everything all right."

Meanwhile, Gillman is facing justice thanks to the workers' actions. Melvin Maclin, a former Republic worker who is currently unemployed and the father of six children, commented on Gillman's arrest in a UE statement, "We feel like justice has finally come and we all hope that this is the beginning of more bosses being held accountable for their crimes against workers."

This story originally appeared on http://www.towardfreedom.com.

Coca-Cola Hellenic: Workers Pay, Shareholders Profit From Crisis

Continued from 1

announced a "capital return" which would directly funnel €548 million in cash to shareholders—more than €4 million for each of the 130 outsourced Irish workers. The recapitalization, according to the company press release, "will be financed through a combination of accumulated cash and new debt."

In the quest for ever greater returns to investors, the company is taking on new debt to pay out cash. Debt-to-equity ratio now stands at close to 65 percent, and workers pay the cost.

Investors certainly approve, as the share price has climbed from €10 to €26 in less than six months. Irish workers, however, are not the only ones outraged by the actions of a company that dishes out loads of cash to shareholders while slashing jobs. CCH workers throughout Europe and Africa have expressed their solidarity by protesting to CCH management, as has the Coca-Cola Workers Alliance Steering Group, which unites major unions of Coca-Cola workers from around the world. All of these groups have condemned the company's actions and called on CCH to negotiate a settlement with SIPTU.

This story originally appeared on the International Union of Food workers' website, Oct. 5, 2009.



Response To "Offended By 'The Reader' Review"

Continued from 2

on for use and need, not sale, since I became politically aware around 1972. If that position describes "the socialism of fools" then, I plead guilty.

Thank-you FWs for giving me the opportunity to respond to the very valid concerns which you have about my approach to reviewing "The Reader" in the August/September 2009 issue of our *Industrial Worker*.

For the end of dead time,
Mike Ballard

2009

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This statement will be published in the November 2009 issue of this publication. Signature: Chris

Lytle, General Secretary-Treasurer. 10/1/09

The IWW: Literature Review 2009

By Jon Bekken

I open with what is a rarity in the scholarship on the IWW—an article about a contemporary organizing campaign. Bryant Simon's "Consuming Lattes and Labor, or Working at Starbucks" (*International Labor and Working-Class History* 74, Fall 2008, pp. 193-211) uses the Starbucks Workers Union campaign as a prism to discuss labor conditions at the coffee giant. Simon talked to workers across the United States and closely observed the work environment. He places Starbucks in the tradition of welfare capitalism, which uses its much-touted health care benefits as a means to discipline and control workers who suffer from arbitrary scheduling, favoritism, repetitive motion injuries, excessive noise, and the emotional toll taken by the company's insistence that baristas be "friendly" to their "guests."

Lincoln Cushing and Timothy Drescher have compiled an anthology of American labor posters, "Agitate! Educate! Organize!" (Cornell University Press, \$24.95, available from the IWW Literature Dept.), which includes several IWW posters. It's a beautifully produced large-format paperback, and the 250-plus posters are reproduced in full color (though often three or four to a page), organized thematically and accompanied by short chapters that provide context for the art. Wobbly art spans from the 1911 Pyramid of Capitalism to a 2007 Nicole Schulman poster supporting the IWW Starbucks Workers Union, as well as a number of IWW images reworked in the service of other campaigns. There are several Carlos Cortez prints among the hundreds of images reproduced here, and some little-known pieces, including a 1921 IWW poster condemning the Ku Klux Klan and a 1912 full-color lithograph depicting the Industrial Cooperative Commonwealth putting the bosses to work from the IWW-affiliated International Publishers (not the same outfit as the current publisher).

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Spokane Free Speech Fight, John Duda's "Wanted: Men to Fill the Jails of Spokane" (Charles H. Kerr, 2009, \$15 from the IWW Literature Dept.) collects firsthand accounts by participants and IWW newspapers from the first of our union's famous free speech fights. In an era when free speech is again under full-scale assault, there are many lessons to be learned from the heroic struggles of earlier generations of Wobblies who successfully took on the power of the state and the bosses to win not only the right to denounce capitalism in the streets of Spokane, but also to organize their fellow workers to confront it on the job.

IWW organizing in Los Angeles and the brutal repression visited not only against our members, but also against their young children, is the subject of two chapters in Errol Stevens' new book, "Radical L.A." (University of Oklahoma Press, 2009). Stevens documents the IWW's early strength among Mexican-American workers, agricultural workers in the city's hinterlands and, particularly, the strong organization of waterfront workers in San Pedro and the campaign of mass arrests, KKK/police terror, blacklists and murder that our fellow workers resisted as best they could.

There are scattered references to the IWW in Ernest Freeberg's "Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, the Great War, and the Right to Dissent" (Harvard University Press, 2008). While focusing on the repression, Freeberg also discusses the massive silent protest organized by the Seattle IWW to rebuke President Wilson during a presidential visit as well as rank-and-file efforts to mobilize American Federation of Labor (AFL) union locals to fight for amnesty

for thousands of political prisoners.

The Australian journal *Labour History* (vol. 94, 2008) features IWW singer Andy Irvine's song "Gladiators" as part of a regular feature on labor history in song. "Gladiators" tells the story of Australian IWW organizers sent to jail and deported as the government joined the international crusade to make the world safe for (their) capitalism. In the introduction, FW Irvine notes that "The IWW is still going strong, still striving to 'Fan the flames of discontent.'" Of related interest, Heather Goodall's "Port Politics: Indian Seamen, Australian Unions and Indonesian Independence, 1945-47" (in the same volume of *Labour History*), about a campaign in which 559 ships were tied up in Australian ports by industrial actions in solidarity with Indonesian workers, mentions in passing that "of all the Australian maritime unions, only the syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World ... attempted to organize [Indian] seamen into their union," citing a 1915 effort in Darwin.

The IWW's welcoming of Chinese workers into our ranks is discussed in Gregor Benton's "Chinese Migrants and Internationalism: Forgotten Histories" (Routledge, 2007), which focuses on Australia and Europe, and notes the IWW's persistent efforts to challenge anti-Chinese policies in the Australian labor movement and the role we played among maritime workers around the world to promote the cause of international solidarity and inclusive unionism. The introduction discusses the IWW's commitment from its very founding to the organization of Chinese and other Asian workers, and calls for more research into these efforts.

Jeffrey Perry's monumental biography, "Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism 1883-1918" (Columbia University Press, 2008), includes several pages on this major African-American working-class intellectual's speaking on behalf of the IWW and his organizing efforts from 1912 through 1914. Much of this history is subsumed within chapters focusing on Harrison's increasingly troubled relations with the Socialist Party, stemming from its backward positions on immigration and race relations.

Harrison spoke several times at meetings of the Paterson silk strikers, drawing particularly vitriolic comments from the boss press on account of his race and his fierce condemnation of the employing class. Even after leaving the IWW to focus on the New Negro Movement, Harrison continued to speak positively of our union, and his writings on labor issues had a definite industrialist flavor.

IWW efforts at self-education are discussed in William Niemi and David Plante's "Democratic Movements, Self-Education, and Economic Democracy: Chartists, Populists and Wobblies" (*Radical History Review* 102, Fall 2008, pp. 185-200). The authors discuss the organization and administration of strikes, community life in the jungles, efforts at practicing industrial democracy, free speech fights and organization of jail life. Unfortunately, they ignore the libraries found in every Wobbly hall, Work People's College and the union's countless educational events and publications.

Louis Adamic's "Dynamite: The Story of Class Violence in America," first published in 1931, has been reissued by AK Press (2008) with a new introduction in which I discuss the book's role in popularizing labor history, provide extensive notes pointing readers to more contemporary scholarship on the struggles Adamic discusses and address the limitations posed by Adamic's emphasis on leadership and romanticized violence as the engines for social progress. Four

of Adamic's 33 chapters are devoted to the IWW, and the union figures in several others as well. "Dynamite!" is vividly written, and while there are today more comprehensive and sophisticated general histories of the American labor movement, there is none that is more lively and readable.

A few years ago, R. Alton Lee's "Farmers vs. Wage Earners: Organized Labor in Kansas" (University of Nebraska Press, 2005) was released to little fanfare. It cannot be recommended. The author has read widely but uncritically, and besides a few hysterical boss press articles has little new to say in his chapter on the IWW. His method is to toss together whatever he finds, sort of like a hobo stew, but less satisfying. On one page he describes the IWW as a messianic Christian movement, on another he suggests that our members blew up oil derricks and buildings and raided local jails. He acknowledges the brutal treatment 27 of our fellow workers received while awaiting trial in Kansas (it took the feds more than two years to pull together its case; at that, the case was so weak the IWW's attorneys saw nothing to rebut, and the employer-packed jury spent 20 hours in deliberations before yielding the convictions they had been chosen to deliver). However, he accepts at face value the tales of sabotage and dynamiting told by the government's professional stool pigeons. There are snippets on IWW organizing here, a little more on the lurid accusations bandied about in the boss press, a lot of violence attributed to our union based on the thinnest of evidence and an odd conclusion that blames the "disintegration" of the IWW on our victory over Kansas' criminal syndicalism law in *Fiske v. Kansas*, though the events he says that Supreme Court decision touched off actually preceded it.

John Richardson's "Mill Owners and Wobblies: The Event Structure of the Everett Massacre of 1916" (*Social Science History* 33:2, Summer 2009, pp. 183-215) contains a useful chronology of events, but is primarily dedicated not to uncovering new evidence, but rather to exploring in a "scientific" way the connections between events that led to the massacre of our fellow workers (though Richardson oddly refers to it as a "gun battle").

Jonathan Christiansen's "We Are All Leaders": Anarchism and the Narrative of the Industrial Workers of the World" (*WorkingUSA* 12:3, 2009, pp. 387-401) uses the Everett Massacre and the 2007 police assault on an IWW march in Providence, R.I., to bookend his account of an intrinsically anarchistic Wobbly culture. The article explores the use of stories and songs to continue a radical tradition based on direct action and solidarity, not formal structures, and the affinities between the IWW (which he agrees never defined itself as anarchist) and a resurgent anarchist tradition.

Greg Hall's "The Fruits of Her Labor" (*Oregon Historical Quarterly* 109:2, 2008) discusses a 1913 cannery strike in Portland which began in response to a pay cut and which local Wobblies actively supported. The strike failed after the state's Industrial Welfare Commission intervened, negotiating a

settlement without the involvement of the workers. This dispute illustrates the limitations of the progressive reformers who sought to improve workers' conditions through "expertise" and moral persuasion rather than through collective action and organization.

"Radical Economics and Labor" (Routledge, 2009, edited by IWW members Frederic Lee and Jon Bekken) collects several essays originally delivered as part of an economics conference marking the centenary of the founding of the IWW. The IWW is addressed primarily in the introduction and in Fred Lee's useful (if sometimes rather technical for a lay audience) chapter on the economics of job control. Other chapters explore Senex's early writings on labor economics (now available at www.iww.org), critique the field of industrial relations, explore the anarchist economics tradition, demonstrate that the costs of treating labor as an international commodity are much higher than is generally recognized and explore what a revived radical economic tradition might look like. The book is priced for academic libraries, and sometimes assumes more background in economic theory than most *Industrial Worker* readers will have, but it is part of a growing engagement with labor issues and social transformation that is rattling the long-entrenched economic orthodoxy.

I have been unable to lay hands on Erik Loomis' Ph.D. dissertation, "The Battle for the Body: Work and Environment in the Pacific Northwest Lumber Industry 1800-1940" (University of New Mexico, 2008). The abstract says loggers lamented the environmental costs of their work, and that the ruin being visited both upon the forests and upon their own bodies motivated them to join the IWW. "IWW organizers ... claimed that tall trees and unspoiled nature created anti-capitalist men who could defeat the corporations." (I've not encountered this sort of rhetoric in my examination of IWW papers from the region.) Loomis concludes that the IWW was destroyed in 1918 by the government-backed Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, though an active IWW organization remained in the woods for many years after that.

Also discussing the IWW are several essays in a new anthology, "Writings of Daniel DeLeon" (Red & Black Publishers, 2008), from the Socialist Labor Party leader's brief affiliation with the IWW. The essays are widely available elsewhere and illustrate that, whatever DeLeon's merits as a Marxist theorist, he never understood revolutionary industrial unionism.

Anarcho-Syndicalist Review 51 (Winter 2009, pp. 27-31) features a compilation on "The IWW: Its First 100 Years," with contributions by Eric Chester, Mike Hargis, and Gerald Ronning, who is presently writing about the IWW's 1927 Colorado coal strikes. And finally, "The International Encyclopedia of Revolution and Protest" (Immanuel Ness, editor, Wiley/Blackwell Publishing, 2009) includes entries on the IWW, the Marine Transport Workers Union, and IWW figures, including former *Industrial Worker* editor Pat Read.

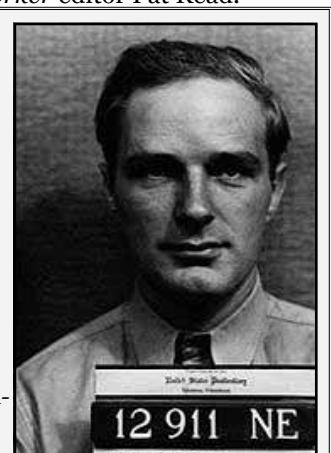
In November We Remember

David Dellinger

August 22, 1915 – May 25, 2004

David Dellinger was a pacifist and a member of the Chicago 8. He was an IWW member for a while and ran the Universal Label on a peace newsletter he was printing. Sometime in 2000 he took the bus to NYC to participate in a conference that included members of the UMASS Radical Student Union. He shared his biography "From Yale to Jail" with conference participants. He talked about his life, and the struggles for free speech, against racism and against war. Wobblies should be very proud that David Dellinger was a member of our union.

-Paid for by Alumni of the UMASS Radical Student Union.



FASINPAT: A Factory That Belongs To The People

By Marie Trigona

The workers at Argentina's largest worker-controlled factory are celebrating a definitive legal solution to a nine-year struggle for the right to work and workers' self-determination. The provincial legislature of Neuquén voted in favor of expropriating the Zanon ceramics factory, giving the workers' cooperative, FASINPAT, the right to manage the plant definitively. Since the workers occupied Zanon in 2001, they have successfully set up a system of workers' management, created jobs, doubled the production of ceramics, supported community projects, and spearheaded a network of over 200 recuperated enterprises. Zanon, renamed FASINPAT (Fábrica sin Patrón, or Factory Without a Boss), can now continue production without the threat of eviction.

Zanon, Latin America's largest ceramics manufacturer, is located in the Patagonian province of Neuquén, a region with rich working-class traditions, history, and mystique surrounding its red desert, rich forests, and crystalline lakes. The workers officially declared the factory under worker control in October 2001 following a lockout by the factory bosses.

In Argentina, more than 13,000 people work in occupied factories and businesses, otherwise known as recuperated enterprises. The sites, which number more than 200, range from hotels, to ceramics factories, to balloon manufacturers, to suit factories, to printing shops to transport companies, as well as many other trades. Most of the occupations occurred following the nation's 2001 economic crisis, when unemployment rates soared above 25 percent and poverty levels hovered over 50 percent. The takeover of Zanon by its workers is one of the largest and foremost factory occupations, and has become a symbol for millions of workers who lost their jobs during the worst economic crisis in Argentina's history, in which thousands of factories shut down. FASINPAT has proved that factories can produce without a boss.

Legal Victory

At a little past midnight on August 13, the legislature, controlled by the right-wing party Popular Movement of Neuquén (MPN), voted for the law to expropriate the Zanon ceramics factory. The expropriation law passed 26 votes in favor and nine votes against the bill. Thousands of supporters from other workers' organizations, human rights groups, and social movements, along with entire families and students, joined the workers as they waited outside the provincial legislature in the capital city of Neuquén. Many activists from Buenos Aires travelled 619 miles to Neuquén to support FASINPAT's fight for the expropriation law, including workers from the worker-run Brukman suit factory, the occupied Hotel BAUEN, rank-and-file union representatives from the subway system, and public hospital employees.

"When we found out that they were going to vote, we called our supporters. About 3,500 people participated in the protest, including social movements, human rights organizations, teachers, and unionists," said Jorge Bermuda, a veteran worker at the factory during an interview with representatives from the Center for International Policy (CIP) Americas Program in Buenos Aires. Despite the strong Patagonian desert winds, hundreds waited for the final legislative decision, huddled around bonfires. As the legislature voted, supporters watched a screen transmitting the process outside the government building. Onlookers gathered in awe and immediately joined in to celebrate with the workers without bosses. Burly ceramists in their beige work clothes

and blue jackets with the embroidered FASINPAT logo embraced each other in tears of joy, releasing the grief and unhappiness of the long struggle for control of the factory.

"This is incredible, we are so happy. The expropriation is an act of justice," said Alejandro Lopez, the general secretary of the Ceramists Union, overwhelmed by the emotion of the victory. "We don't forget the people who supported us in our hardest moments, or the 100,000 people who signed the petition supporting our bill."

The workers credited the community's support for making the objective of expropriation become a reality. "The vote wasn't only the victory of the 470 workers at Zanon, or the original 150 who took over the plant, but the victory of an entire community that gave their support," said Bermuda.

During the debate on the bill, deputy representatives took note of the fact that

over half the population supports the expropriation bill that puts the factory in the hands of the workers.

Aside from being a political victory, the expropriation of the Zanon plant sets a legal precedent for legislation in favor of other workers' cooperatives that have taken control of businesses closed down by their owners. The bill passed in Neuquén is the first expropriation without reimbursement to factory creditors by workers; instead, the state will pay factory owner Luis Zanon's debt of 22 million pesos (around \$7 million) to privileged creditors. The main creditors include the World Bank, which gave a loan of \$20 million to Luis Zanon for the construction of the plant, and Italian company SACMY, which produces state-of-the-art ceramics manufacturing machinery and is owed \$5 million. These creditors were pressuring Argentina's judicial system to auction off the plant to pay off the debts.

Although previous expropriation bills have passed locally, no expropriation law has made it to vote on the national level, meaning workers' cooperatives had to assume the debt left by the previous business owners. In return for this arrangement, FASINPAT agreed to sell materials to the province at cost.

The Zanon workers argued that the government should not pay Luis Zanon's debts, saying that courts have proven that the creditors participated in the fraudulent bankruptcy of the plant in 2001 because the loans went directly to owner Luis Zanon and not to investments into the factory.

"If someone should pay, Luis Zanon should pay, who is being charged with tax evasion," said Omar Villablanca, a young worker at FASINPAT who was recently voted general secretary of the provincial ceramists union. The FASINPAT collective presented a previous expropriation bill, on which the current bill was based. It would have cancelled the debt to Zanon's creditors. More than 100,000 people signed the petition to get this bill passed.

The Roots of Zanon

The massive factory, spanning several city blocks, was built in an isolated industrial park along Route 7, a highway leading into the capital city of Neuquén. The Zanon ceramics plant was inaugurated in 1980, three years before the nation came out of the nightmare of the dictatorship that ruled the nation with terror from 1976 to 1983. Officers from the military dictatorship and Italian diplomats presided over the ceremony, which included blessings from a Monsignor of the Catholic Church. Luis Zanon, known as Luigi, thanked the military

government "for the atmosphere of security and tranquility that the Armed Forces have provided since they took charge on March 24, 1976." That fateful date in 1976 marked the beginning of one of the bloodiest eras for Argentina, in which the military terrorized the nation and was responsible for the disappearance of 30,000 workers, activists, and students.

Conditions inside Zanon previous to the workers' occupation led to an average of 25 to 30 accidents per month and one fatality per year. During the years before the worker takeover of Zanon, 14 workers died inside the factory. Former management enforced rules to divide workers and prevent communication among ceramists as a way of controlling union organizing independent from company interests. Many workers recount how they had to organize clandestinely to win control of the union.

Carlos Villamonte participated in the efforts to win rank-and-file union seats, organizing secretly in the late 1990s. "It was very difficult to win back the internal union at the factory because we had to do it clandestinely. The company had a very repressive system. They didn't let you in another sector, talk with fellow workers, or even use the bathroom freely. Many times we had to communicate by passing notes under the tables in the cafeteria or walking through each sector making secret times and places to meet. We found ways to evade the bosses' and bureaucratic union's control." One such way was forming a ceramists' soccer team. Between practices, games, and tournaments, workers were able to strategize how to win shop-floor union representation.

After the rank-and-file workers' movement at the factory won control of the ceramists union in 1998, the struggle culminated with a lockout in 2001. The workers were fired and the factory closed down, owing workers severance pay and millions of pesos in unpaid salaries. This led to a workers' protest camp outside the plant. While the workers were camping outside the factory, a court ruled that the employees could sell off the remaining factory stock. After the stock ran out, on March 2, 2002, the workers' assembly voted to start up production without a boss. Many at the plant believe that the rank-and-file workers' movement gaining control of the existing union catapulted the fired workers into occupying the factory and starting up production after the company closed its doors.

Future of Autogestión

Autogestión obrera—workers' self-management—implies that a community or group makes its own decisions, especially those decisions that fit into the process of production and planning. One of the major feats of FASINPAT was putting into production a massive beast of a factory with an organization based on equality and democracy without trained professional managers, punitive systems, or hierarchical organization.

The FASINPAT collective grew from 250 workers to 470. They began by producing 5,000 square meters of ceramics per month when they first occupied the plant in 2001. They soon managed to increase their production to 14,000 square meters per month. By 2008, FASINPAT produced 400,000 square meters a month, a record for the worker-controlled process at the factory.

Although they continue to have the capacity to produce at those levels, demand has dropped lately, leading to the decision to adjust production levels. "In 2009, because of the crisis, we've dropped production to 250,000 square meters per month," said Bermuda, who

participates in technical planning at the plant.

Due to the economic crisis and the slumping construction industry in the region, sales of ceramics have dropped by 40 percent. Unlike their capitalist counterparts, however, the FASINPAT worker enterprise has taken on the task of cutting costs, not personnel. "We now have the legal aspect resolved; now we have to resolve production and fight for energy subsidies," said Omar Villablanca, general secretary of the provincial ceramists union. He visited Buenos Aires shortly after the victory to provide support for workers on strike at the Terrabusi cookie corporation who are fighting against layoffs and voluntary pay cuts. "Factories that shut down are generally the result of a management that doesn't want to invest a peso of profits toward saving jobs."

A major challenge to worker-run factories is to devise production plans to respond to uncertain markets. FASINPAT's legalized status will allow the workers to focus on production and implementing technology. But they don't plan to eliminate their worker training programs. The factory assembly, which is the decision-making body at the plant, has voted to start up a primary school and high school for workers who weren't able to finish schooling. More than half of the workers at FASINPAT do not have their high school degrees. "We are working to train our workers. Primary and secondary schools are one aspect. The next step would be to prepare a few compañeros to go to a university for engineering, or whatever they would like to study."

In a 2004 article on Zanon, Latin American social movements researcher Raúl Zibechi wrote, "The ex-Zanon workers hope that the Argentine government will decide to recognize their status and let them continue to operate under their own control." Many experts—who researched the role of the government and its persistent refusal to recognize that Argentina's 200 recuperated enterprises have created over 10,000 jobs—predicted that a definitive legal solution would take years, and it did. As a writer who has followed the development of workers' self-management at Zanon, I also shared the disbelief, joy and emotion at the good news.

In more than nine years of legal battles and uncertainty, the workers running Zanon were able to create more than 200 jobs; build health clinics and homes for families in need; donate ceramics to hundreds of cultural centers, libraries, and community projects; support strike funds for workers fighting for better working conditions; build a network of social movements; and devise a democratic assembly and coordinating system within the factory that replaced hierarchy, not to mention successfully run a factory that the previous owner wanted to close for good. Imagine what they can do now.

At FASINPAT, workers constantly use the slogan: "Zanon es del pueblo" ("Zanon belongs to the people"). The workers have gone to great lengths to ensure that the community benefits from worker control at the factory.

"I feel as if the law is our contribution to the working class; it's our grain of sand for workers to recuperate hopes that they can change things," said Raul Godoy, a worker and steadfast activist from the factory. While other recuperated enterprises are fighting eviction threats and other legal challenges, they can now look to the FASINPAT collective as a beacon of success. And other workers who are facing firings will be more inspired to follow the example of the Zanon workers to run their own factories and put them at the service of the people.



Photo: radiouniversidad.wordpress.com

World Labor Solidarity

A COLUMN OF 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.

IWW to Send Delegation to Palestine this November

The International Solidarity Commission is sending a five-member delegation to the occupied West Bank Nov. 21-Dec. 2, to meet with workers in the Federation of Independent & Democratic Trade Unions & Workers' Committees in Palestine, and the Democracy & Workers Rights Center, although we plan on touching base with other unions and workers' rights groups in Palestine. The delegation hopes to learn about worker organizing within the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and determine ways that the IWW can support our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

We will be shooting video and photographs, and also documenting the trip daily on our blog <http://iwwinpalestine.blogspot.com/>

We would like to bring our fellow workers in Palestine some material aid and are asking IWW members and allies to make a donation to support worker organizing there. Just make a check out to the "Industrial Workers of the World" with the memo "Palestine delegation—material aid" and send it to GHQ:

IWW General Headquarters, PO Box 23085, Cincinnati, OH 45223-3085

Please contact us to let us know you have made a donation so that we can track it.

Although the delegation will focus primarily on workers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, individual members will be meeting with some Israeli unions and workers' rights groups after the official delegation ends.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or know of any important contacts in Palestine/Israel please email iwwinpalestine@gmail.com or call 267-455-9279

Massacre Of Unions And Other Protesters In Guinea

On Sept. 27, approximately 157 people were killed in the small West African country of Guinea, as Guinea's military government massacred grassroots protesters near a stadium in Conakry, the capital. Demonstrators had massed to protest against the expected decision of Moussa Dadis Camara, the country's military leader, to stand in forthcoming elections.

Guinea has been ruled by a neocolonial military dictatorship since 1984, when Lasana Conté overthrew the Guinea Democratic Party in a military coup. The military government dissolved any regional democracy and worker self-management, instead replacing them with military appointees. Conté adapted neocolonial policies and abandoned any notion of state socialism; during his rule his government signed many treaties with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increasing privatization and corruption. Guinea also became the worst country for labor union freedom and repression in all of

Africa, according to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

Many children are also exploited and sold into slavery in Guinea. Conté set up a half-hearted constitutional regime in 1993 in an attempt to look good to his western backers. In 2007 a general strike occurred because of his appointment of a prime minister from the old guard of the dictatorship. It was the biggest uprising since the end of French rule. Lasana Conté died in 2007 and a second coup by Gen. Carmara occurred, re-establishing military rule and martial law.

The Sept. 27 demonstration is the most recent protest against military rule. Many unions from around the world have condemned this massacre. The world's largest trade union federation, the ITUC, is calling for solidarity from trade unions around the world to condemn the massacre in Guinea.

Against Military Violence: CNT-F Supports the Guinean People's Struggle

The Confédération Nationale du Travail-France (CNT-F) stands firmly side by side with its Guinean comrades as they face yet another bloody repression. "Half a century of civil and military dictatorship is enough!" ... These are the words you can hear from the Guinean workers' mouths today. After the regimes of Sékou Touré (1958-1984) and of Lansana Conté (1984-2008), it is now the junta led for the last nine months by Moussa Dadis Camara that is suffocating the Guinean people's thirst for freedom with its butchery and brutality.

Yet, for more than one month at the beginning of 2007, Guinean workers and the population stood up and answered the call from the L'intercentrale Syndicale Guinéenne—representing the Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinée (CNTG), l'Union Syndicale des Travailleurs de Guinée (USTG), l'Organisation Nationale des Syndicats Libres de Guinée (ONLSG) and Union Démocratique des Travailleurs de Guinée (UDTG)—to claim their rights to freedom and dignity. The cost was 157 deaths and thousands more wounded.

Still today, the Guinean people are demanding nothing less than their due. We give them our full support in their struggle to put an end to the reign of this neo-colonialist African dictatorship that flouts the workers' rights, treats the population with contempt, and blocks youth in a dead end.

We invite all trade unions and individuals everywhere to circulate the enclosed declaration of the Guinean social movement and send us messages of support at africa@cnt-f.org; we will forward them to our CNTG comrades.

An outrage to one is an outrage to all! International syndicalist solidarity! Long life revolutionary trade unionism!

With files from the ISC, the CNT-F and John Kalwaic.

More Bossnappings, Labor Unrest In France

By John Kalwaic

The labor unrest in France continues to grow. On Sept. 29, there were a series of walkouts across the country in solidarity with France Telecom workers who have committed suicide as a result of bad conditions and forced relocations. Workers demonstrated against the work pressures that lead to the deaths of 24 former workers within an 18-month period. Hundreds of workers walked off their jobs at the Telecom plants in Annecy-le-Vieux and Bordeaux, and held a demonstration at the regional headquarters in Lyon.

Also on Sept. 29 in Lyon, 20 workers occupied parts of the head office of Keolis, the company responsible for the city's public transport. Workers were protesting against management's attempts to remove a large number of conditions from their contracts. After six days of strike action, workers took the decision to occupy the building in



France Telecom headquarters in Lyon. Photo: libcom.org

protest at the failure of management to make concessions during negotiations.

Another group of workers kidnapped Christian Siest, the director of the Rohm and Hass chemical factory, after he attempted to close the Loire Valley chemical factory on October 5. The factory is owned by the Dow Chemical, as U.S.-based company. Workers said they wanted management to either retract the decision to close the factory, or pay each of the 97 employees a "decent" sum of money.

Wildcat Strike In U.K. Chicken-Processing Plant

By John Kalwaic

On Sept. 4, 100 workers at Two Sisters Foods, a Smethwick-based chicken processing plant in Black Country, England, went on strike over a racist comment made by a plant security guard to a shop steward, Zohib Javid, who said that management refused to discuss the issue with him. Javid said that the greater issue is that workers feel that the management is taking advantage of them, and that there have been disputes in the past. More protests are planned because Two Sisters suspended 60 workers.

The predominantly Asian staff took offense to the comment and the fact that the management did nothing about it. The staff launched a wildcat strike against the company without the

authorization of Unite The Union, which represents them.

When the workers went on strike police were called in to prevent the protest from "getting out of hand." There was another demonstration outside the company headquarters in Bevan Way. Although the security guard was sacked, the workers said the guard was only sacked because of the strike. Unite claims that it took the allegations of racist abuse seriously and urged the striking workers to work with Unite. The union is urging Two Sisters to listen to the workers' "lawful representatives" so there would not be any wildcat action. The company claims that the issue is unimportant because it only affects 10 percent of all workers.

Egyptian Phone Workers Stage Sit-In

Some 1,200 employees of Egypt's Maasara Telephone Company (MTC) staged a 12-day sit-in which ended on Oct. 13. During the action, workers held company board and syndicate members captive for ten hours.

The workers complained that they had not received monthly salaries for September, Eid el-Fitr holiday bonuses or promised annual salary increases. Labor syndicate president Salah Heikal called on Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif and Minister of Manpower Aisha Abdel Hadi to intervene in order to resolve the impasse.

Frustrated workers only agreed to

free the captive bosses after Parliament Member Mustafa Bakri assured them they would receive unpaid salaries and bonuses by Oct. 18.

With files from Al-Masry Al-Youm and Egypt.com News.

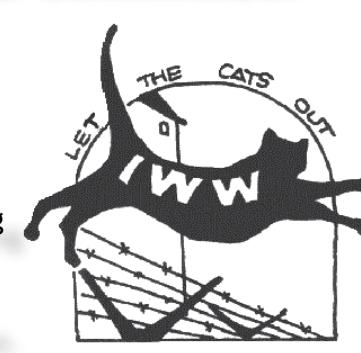


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- Join so you can edit a GDC column in the Industrial Worker.
- Join so you can sign new members up and caucus with the GDC at the 2010 IWW Delegate Convention.
- Join so that you can become a GDC Delegate.
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