

# LAST INNING FOR AMERICAN-MADE BASEBALL CAPS



America's pastime is being tainted by an even older, more insidious tradition: the exploitation of women in order to line the pockets of bosses.

The New Era Cap Company was founded by the Koch family in 1920 as a family run organization. Now it holds an exclusive license for manufacturing on-field caps for Major League Baseball among other lucrative contracts with various professional and college sporting organizations. Its success for over 80 years can be attributed to the loyal support and consistent productivity of its workers in Derby, New York. Here is how the current owner, Chris Koch has sought to "reward" his loyal employees:

- **New Era Cap Company** demands drastic wage cuts amounting up to \$5.65 per hour
- **New Era Cap Company** has implemented a policy of outright union busting; harassing union stewards every day at work, and trying to bargain away the union
- **New Era Cap Company**, while attempting to turn its domestic operations into virtual sweatshops, has been employing the work of sweatshops in Bangladesh and China that in some cases pay as little as 22 cents an hour

Carpel tunnel syndrome and needle punctures round out the workday



Age and injury discrimination!  
If you're over 40, you're too old to make baseball caps for NewEra.

Are these the business tactics we want to support in Pittsburgh? Roberto Clemente, one of the most famous Pittsburgh Pirates dedicated his life to fighting this sort of oppression. Do we want these injustices tarnishing his memory?

The Derby, New York, factory workers, with the support of the United Students against Sweatshops (USAS) is now in its 9th week of striking in order to improve their working conditions and to show the world that workers and students united have more power than the bosses could ever wield.

E-mail Chris Koch ([chris.koch@neweracap.com](mailto:chris.koch@neweracap.com)) and tell him that you don't want his hands, stained with the sweat of oppressed workers, marring the great American sport of baseball. To view the 7 page USAS report visit <http://www.usasnet.org>. To help turn up the heat on the Pirates to deal with their sweatshop problem, contact the Industrial Workers of the World, Industrial Union 450 - Pittsburgh.



## GET YOUR PUPPET ACTION HERE:

### September 2001

- 12 - Demand More for Public Education: Harrisburg - 1st Monthly Vigil with Good Schools PA
- 18 - UE Rally in Mellon Square - Free Trade is NOT Fair Trade; We don't trust George W Jr. at all
- 28 -30 Mobilization for Global Justice Washington DC
- All Sept Long - I.U. 450 Organizing Stuff

### November

- Close down the School of the Americas with Puppets too!

### Spring 2002

- The Puppet engine is greased!

Puppeteers, Painters, Artists  
People of all stripes, the call is out

**DRAW YOUR PUPPET.  
FILL YOUR TRUNK  
WITH SUPPLIES.  
LET'S BUILD!**



I.U. 450

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