



Workers Solidarity

NEWSLETTER OF THE MELBOURNE IWW GMB • No. 3 AUGUST 1999 • DONATION

Melbourne Local News

Marathon Foods Victory

Members of the AMWU Food Preservers division at Marathon Foods in Kensington picketed in May and won after a week of direct action. Hot Dogs, Dim Sims & Bad Bosses said the graffiti on the wall of the factory.

The unionists won most of the 12 issues at dispute eg no victimisation of activists, any overtime to be distributed evenly properly accredited Health & Safety reps to be trained.

Niddrie Quarry Barricaded!

On Saturday May 22nd the local residents and unionists barricaded the entrance to the site of the proposed toxic waste dump at Niddrie in Northern suburbs. The residents out in Werribee stopped CSR and State Government from a toxic waste site with a series of blockades, protests (15,000 people turned out for a night time rally!) by local market gardeners, unionists, families, CSR lied, went to Court, used the media but finally had to back down and cancelled the Werribee plan. Jeff "He Who Must Be Obeyed" Kennett spat the dummy at the uppity peasants victory. The lesson of direct action has not been lost and Niddrie has resolved to fight the dictates of Corporations and Governments.

No McDonalds in Pascoe Vale

For 96 days locals opposed a McDonalds being built, demolition of a 110 year old and 3 other local homes with a 24 hour community picket. A series of planning permit battles and other legal challenges took place as traffic problems will escalate with so many people avoiding the City Link toll gates (by turning off the Tullamarine Freeway and down Bell Street). The CFMEU Construction Division has kept bans on the site to date 14.7.99 although Officials from the old FEDFA were abusive putting their temporary jobs above that of the local environment. Behind two fences, 80 AD Security and 200 police secured the site for demolition. Senior police via helicopter coordinated horseback mounted police and extra vans and coaches full in blocked off Sussex Street as back up. A quick ladder over the fences and security saw one protester "lock on" with a bicycle D lock to a roof beam and delayed demolition for an hour.

Bizarrely ignorant, Brian Boyd from Trades Hall went to the media after the demolition blaming the residents for not "allow-



A McPoliceman guards the entrance to No. 1, Sussex St., Coburg, site of a future McColony.

ing McDonalds to move the historic house to another site"....The House is historic because it was the first house built North of Bell Street; so its location was its significance! McDonalds have always been anti-union for their work-force: sacking youths who organise. The McLibel two in London have been fighting McCensorship and intimidation for 6 years. October 16th is the worldwide day for action against the McEmpire.

The Residents Against McDonalds can be contacted at

PO Box 103, Pascoe Vale, 3044 email <ram@taz.net.au>; visit web page <<http://taz.net.au/ram>> which has a diary of the picket, background to the struggle, press statements etc.

Earth Worker

The caucus of unionists and greens held a meeting at Trades Hall which saw Friends of the Earth, Electrical Trades Union and others speak out for a united "Red, Green and Black" movement to keep jobs and the environment. Former News South Wales Builders Labourers Federation Secretary Jack Munday spoke on Green Bans in the early 1970s. Earth Worker are planning a NO JOBS ON A DEAD PLANET education tour in November to publicise their strategies of sustainable jobs.

Ten unions and several Green organisations have affiliated to Earth Worker. Contact PO Box 2027, Lygon Street, North East Brunswick 3057.

Federation Square

A 36 hour week agreed to by the unions and the employers Multiplex (owned by Dallas Dempster of WA Inc.eg the Burswood Casino in Perth) was attacked by the Federal Government Reith and Victorian Kennett but the workers and their officials challenged the interference under the Workplace Relations Act. The stand-off resulted in an extra day off per month as the workers returned to a 38 hour week.

Bosses Kill Workers, Laugh All the Way to the Bank

CFMEU and others organised a protest on Wednesday 14th July about deaths and injuries on job sites (higher than the road and heroin deaths toll). Despite the Workcover advertising spectacle

the reality is workers had their common law rights removed so they can't sue negligent bosses. The Longford gas plant which makes huge profits for Esso exploded; two workers killed and nine were injured. Esso Bosses blamed the workers killed and injured for the blast which left Victoria without gas for a fortnight last Summer. An inquiry found Esso negligent...but only businesses which lost profits can sue and Esso has not apologised for insulting the dead and injured workers. Jeff Kennett, the Premier bully, who closes schools, hospitals, sells off everything is quiet, obedient to his Corporate Master's Voice, no surprises there!

MELBOURNE IWW GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH NEWS

The Melbourne GMB of the IWW has been meeting monthly, using the upstairs meeting room at 3CR, 21 Smith Street Fitzroy on second Saturday of the month at midday. Next meeting Saturday 14th August 1999 at 2pm. We are planning a series of educational meetings and outdoor speaking events. If you want speakers for your area of interest please Contact the Secretary for details: PO Box 145 Moreland 3058, email <melbourne@iww.org.au>, or see our web site: <http://www.iww.org.au/melbourne>

Literature Committee

The Melbourne IWW distributes publications like *Direct Action* (our regional paper) stickers, posters, pamphlets *How to Sack Your Boss: A Workers Guide to Direct Action*, *One Big Union* and *Tom Barker & the IWW*. There are also books

like Wendy Lowenstein's *Weevils in the Flour*, *Weevils at Work & Under the Hook*; Verity Bugmann's *Revolutionary Industrial Unionism*; Frank Cain's *The Wobblies At War*; and Zeldia D'Aprano's autobiography. A wide selection of overseas IWW publications are also available the monthly *Industrial Worker* and *IW Little Red Songbook*. There is also IWW caps; one size fits all (velcro strap).

Dissenterlink

The agitation amongst the unemployed continues with wide distribution of the *Dissenterlink Update* outside Centrelinks in several areas eg Moreland, Melton, Dandenong, Geelong & Darwin! Centrelink workers and the unwaged have responded well especially to the humour.

If you want to contribute an article, joke, cartoon etc or just see a copy write to PO Box 145 Moreland 3058 or <melbourne@iww.org.au>.

Indonesia & East Timor

Melbourne IWW members have been joining protests against the Indonesian Bosses Military thugs in East Timor and around the Islands. A member of the IWW in Finland has been travelling in Asia and spent some time in Indonesia meeting radical students, workers associations. He visited Melbourne and talked to some of us about his experiences. Also Free Indonesia network members have been in constant contact with people there particularly farmers Free Indonesia network. PO Box 756 Brunswick Lower 3056 email <zd@xchange.anarki.net>.

Education Wobs Organising

IWW members within the education industry in Melbourne are organising. Having reached the minimum number of ten members within the one industry required under the IWW constitution to form an industrial branch, wobs in Industrial Union 620 are meeting and will shortly be applying for a branch charter, which should be well underway by the time you read this.

Occupations of the wobs involved in this new development include library assistants, researchers and secondary school teachers, with the potential to include university lecturers and tutors and primary school teachers, amongst others. The group also includes a number of secondary and tertiary students, in line with the IWW philosophy of not remaining simply within a narrow framework of wage-workers, but of also involving unwaged members of the working class in its activities.

Potential activity for the new group in coming months includes some form of opposition to the cutbacks to education (particularly in non-business related areas), as well as the government's Voluntary Student Unionism legislation, which aims to strip student organisations of their ability to collect funds under the guise of choice, without allowing for any alternative sources of funding.

A similar organising move to the one presently being undertaken in Melbourne was made last month in the United States, where another IWW IU620 branch was chartered in Boston, Massachusetts. IWW members petitioning for the right to act officially as an industrial branch of the IWW included world-renowned linguist and social critic Noam Chomsky, who was been a member of the IWW for over two years. IU620 wobs in the United States have produced a pamphlet containing education industry-related articles taken from the IWW paper "Industrial Worker" and their own education industry bulletin.

If you would like to find out more about what education wobs are up to, or to become involved yourself, write to the IU620 group c/o the Melbourne IWW GMB, or email the group directly at iu620@melbourne.iww.org.au.

Don't moan, organise!

JFK Death a "Tragic Waste" Say Radical Dissenters

NEW YORK, July 20, 1999 (CP) - An unorthodox controversy is currently raging in radical circles about the recent plane crash and deaths of John Kennedy Jr, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and Lauren Bessette.

Not surprisingly, many in the radical milieu have mocked the mainstream media's "fawning" coverage of the affair. "Get a life!" was the response of one Socialist caller to the distraught listeners of a popular New York City talk-radio show.

A Washington-based radical media source announced the missing JFK plane story with a headline reading, "Worthless rich person pilots plane into ocean."

Many self-described "class struggle" anarchists have expressed morbid satisfaction in the occupations of the crash victims. They worked, respectively, as a former New York City prosecutor, a Calvin Klein PR executive and, most appropriately, a Wall Street investment banker and venture capitalist.

Other extremists criticized John Kennedy Jr's widely-reported charity efforts as the "cleansing of liberal guilt" and "poverty pimping." "If you provoke us with yuppie hagiography, we're going to continue to take wicked glee in this so-called tragedy," threatened Chicago-based radical, Lucy Parsons.

The radicals are blaming "inane commentaries" for their headline and seemingly heartless stance in the face of national and international mourning for America's "crown prince." One man keeping vigil at JFK's apartment in New York City described John Kennedy Jr as "just a normal guy" as he laid flowers at an *ad hoc* memorial.

This prompted one anonymous bystander to yell, "Ya, a fucking normal guy who owns a \$30,000 plane and has multi-million dollar trust funds set up by his anti-Semitic bootlegging granddaddy and Greek fascist capitalist pig shipowning stepfather." The heckler was promptly arrested by the NYPD, and criticized by some Greenwich Village Ralph Nader supporters for "divisive, ideological rhetoric."

North of the border, Canada's national newspaper, the *Globe and Mail*, ran a

front-page column which uncritically quotes from Kennedy biographer, John Collier. He writes of the Kennedys, "There is something riveting about people who live and die more dramatically than we do."

The quote caused one Montreal activist to unceremoniously vomit his eclectic breakfast of soy milk, bananas, croissants and fresh raspberry jam.

Dissenting radical opinions, however, are being heard above the predictable radical din. Michael Eikhenbaum, a Long Island anti-authoritarian, described the crash as a "tragic waste." He explains: "From what I can gather, the plane was six-seater, so the crash was really 50% effective from my point-of-view. Using a simple math formula, I've determined that at least three others could have fit into the plane comfortably."

His colleague, Mollie Steimer, agrees: "Too bad they couldn't have flown at least a few more annoying Kennedys, or at least one of those pasty white Gore kids."

Eikhenbaum and Steimer's sentiments were countered by Paul Bousse, another radical agitator. "It's all relative really," he said. "I'm an optimist, so I like to think the plane was half-full rather than half-empty."

Oddly, some Buffalo-based activists have announced the formation of a "Munir Hussain Society" in the aftermath of the crash. The society is loosely modeled on the secretive "Henri Paul Memorial Society" formed in the immediate aftermath of Princess Diana's 1997 death.

Henri Paul was the driver of Diana's limousine, which helps explain the society's motto: "Every royal parasite deserves a drunk French chauffeur!" Munir Hussain is believed to be the man who sold John Kennedy Jr his ill-fated plane three months ago. He is not known to be a radical.

Meanwhile, Quebec media sources are reporting that the statue bust of John F. Kennedy Sr in downtown Montreal has again been defaced with graffiti reading "Ho, Ho, Ho...Ho Chi Minh!" It was apparently written by a local anti-imperialist with a black marker, an irrational grudge and a long memory.

I.W.W.
WHAT WE STAND FOR.

MORE WAGES
BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS
SHORTER HOURS
PARTICIPATION
IN THE
SOLIDARITY
ACTION - NO STRIKE
UNION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
SHOP DEMOCRACY
GOOD PAY OR BUM WORK

THINK IT OVER
JOIN THE
ONE BIG UNION
FIGHT FOR THE FULL PRODUCT
OF YOUR LABOR

Yikes, its the Yanks!

This test consists of one (1) multiple-choice question (so you better get it right!).

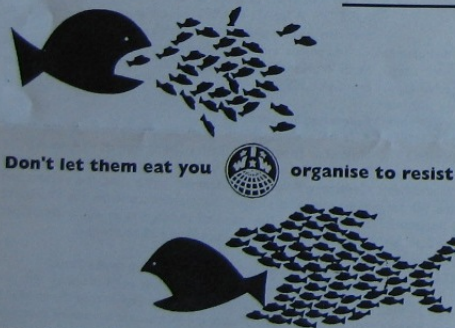
Here's a list of the countries that the U.S. has bombed since the end of World War II, compiled by historian William Blum:

China 1945-46 • Korea 1950-53 •
China 1950-53 • Guatemala 1954 •
Indonesia 1958 • Cuba 1959-60 •
Guatemala 1960 • Congo 1964 •
Peru 1965 • Laos 1964-73 •
Vietnam 1961-73 • Cambodia 1969-70 •
Guatemala 1967-69 • Grenada 1983 •
Libya 1986 • El Salvador 1980s •
Nicaragua 1980s • Panama 1989 •
Iraq 1991-99 • Sudan 1998 •
Afghanistan 1998 • Yugoslavia 1999

In how many of these instances did a democratic government, respectful of human rights, occur as a direct result?

Choose one of the following:

- (a) 0
(b) zero
(c) none
(d) not a one
(e) zip
(f) a whole number between -1 and +1
(g) zilch



IWW 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 the 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 organise 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 organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in 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 organised, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Direct Democracy! All policy decisions of the IWW are made by referendum, not by a few big knobs in some smoky back room. Worldwide, the IWW has just one moderately-paid officer—the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the membership of the IWW. All officers are recallable by referendum. Job and General Membership Branches are autonomous; they decide bargaining and strategy for themselves.

To Join: Cut out or photocopy and complete the form to the right. Send it to: IWW, PO Box 145 Moreland VIC 3058.

The IWW: An Affordable Union! For monthly income up to \$1000, \$5 dues pcm / between \$1000 - \$2000, \$10 / over \$2000, \$15. Initiation fee is equal to one month's dues. You can join for as little as \$10...

Don't Moan, Organise!

- I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer
- I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations
- I agree to study its principles and acquaint myself with its purposes

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Postcode:

Occupation:

Phone:

Email:

Membership includes a subscription to **Direct Action**



Workers Solidarity
c/ Melbourne IWW GMB
PO Box 145
Moreland VIC 3058