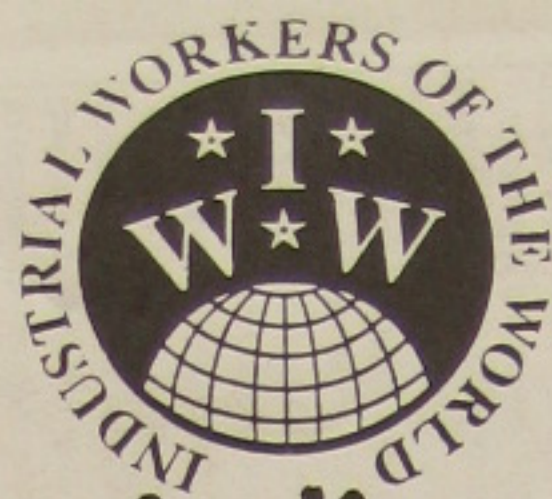


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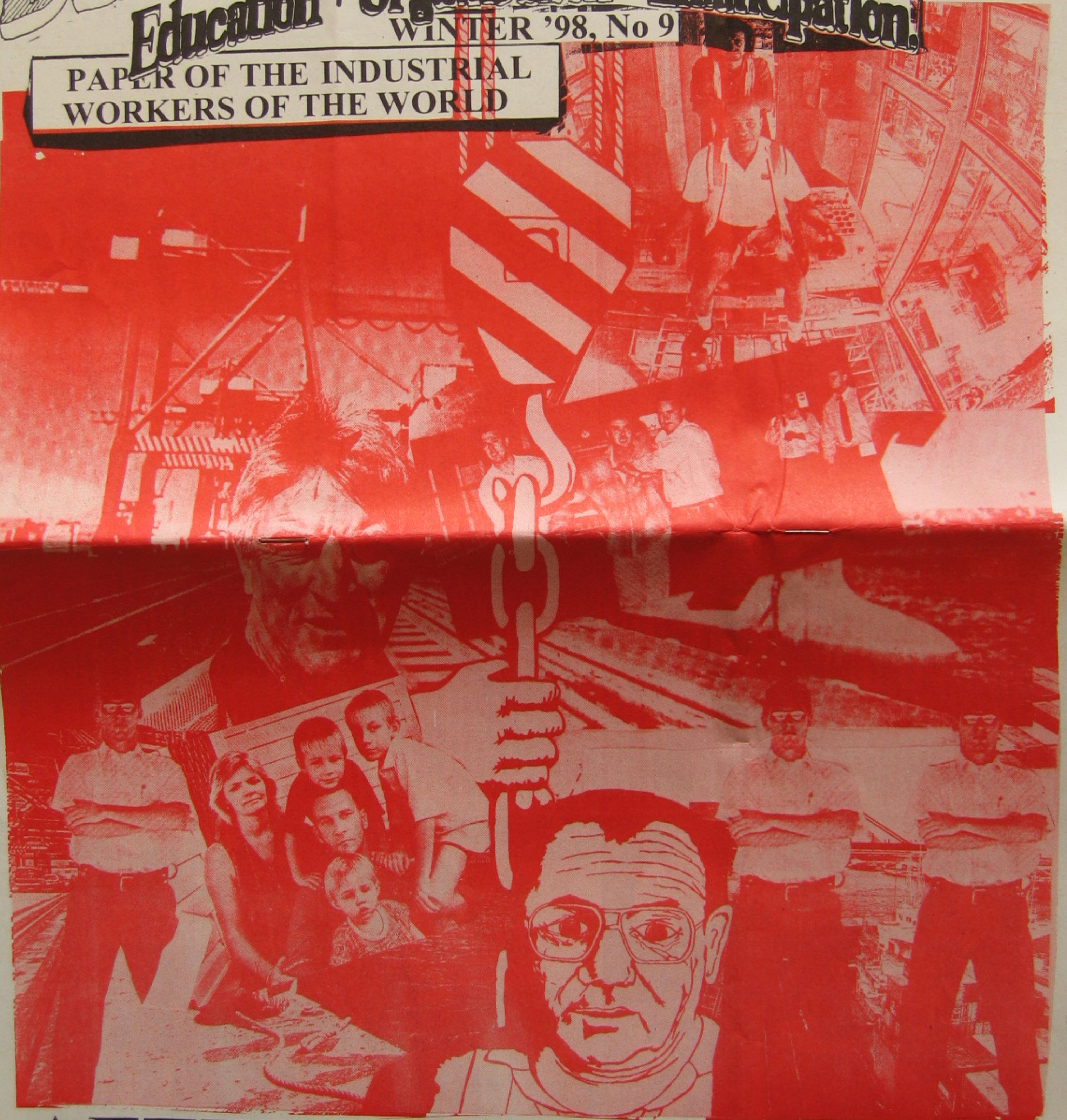


ACTION

Education + Organisation = Emancipation!

WINTER '98, No 9

PAPER OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD



AFTER THE WHARFIES ... IT'S YOUR TURN.

Industrial Workers of the World Preamble to the Constitution

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 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 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".

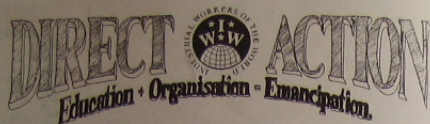
It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

IWW - An Affordable Union!

Monthly Income	Dues
up to \$1000	\$5
\$1000-\$2000	\$10
over \$2000	\$15

Initiation fee equal to one month's dues.

You can join for as little as \$10!



Editorial

Cranky with the kids, snarl at the dog. Angry, so angry on the day that war came to the waterfront. A midnight assault with military precision, to drive men from their jobs. The extent of what has happened is still sinking in.

Reassured by the anger of so many others. And so many people I didn't even think of as union supporters, who are angry and sickened.

And the hope grows that this time, this time....

The wharfies in Fremantle, as we go to press, will not move from the wharf, in the face of police requests and mounted horses. And the emotion charged voice of the wharfie who will not be pushed back any further.

And the fury of the wharfies at the Newcastle gates, who will not let the scab bus through.

Maybe we can make sure they *have* gone too far this time!

In this Direct Action we cover aspects of the waterfront story, and we look at the quiet rise of poverty in Australia. We also have a look at the Jabiluka uranium mine protest, with the arrest of a wobbly in Darwin.

I've managed to slip in some pages from *Collectivities* out of India, which is my favourite "critique of work".

Thanks to the Lismore IWW for help with layout, and to @ Press in Melbourne for the print job. Also to the Melbourne wobblies who are doing the distribution of this *Direct Action*, number 9, for winter of 1998.

Wal Larkin
Editor

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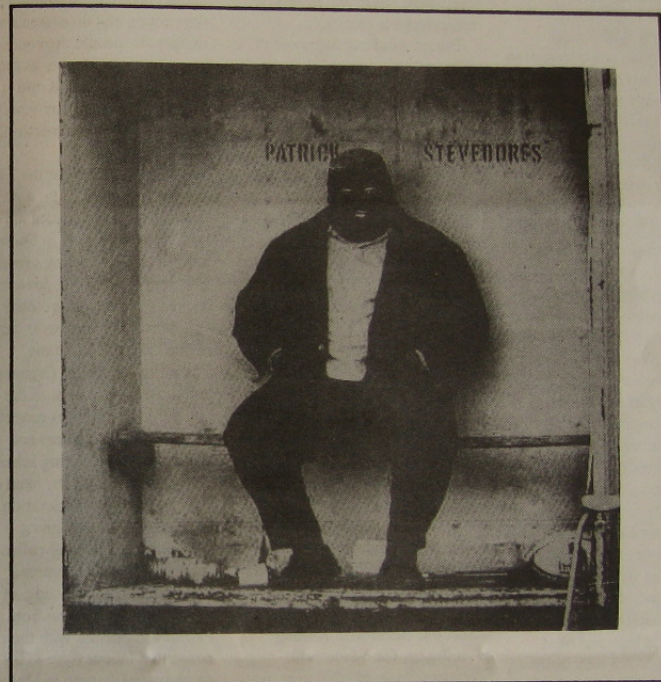
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Howard's New Australia



Coming soon to a jobsite near you...

Today It's Their Jobs - Tomorrow It Will Be Yours!

There's been a lot of nonsense on television and in the newspapers about the dispute between the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and Patrick Stevedore. A lot of misinformation and confusion has been spread, either deliberately or because it's a confusing situation. The history of this dispute is long and complicated and there have been several bizarre twists to it!

But what lies behind it all is neither confusing nor complicated. The government and the bosses have embarked on an all-out battle to destroy the unions in Australia!

When the unions that now make up the MUA were founded, about a hundred years ago, all workers in this country lived in extreme poverty and virtual slavery. They worked long, long hours, in very dangerous conditions for very little money. Now, most workers in Australia get reasonable wages and work reasonable hours.

But conditions haven't improved because the bosses were feeling generous! Every single improvement - whether in pay, in hours or in working conditions - have been fought long and hard for. And that fight has only been possible because workers have united in unions to stand up for their rights.

Now the bosses want to take it all back. Every gain we've made over the last century is being attacked because of their greed. The bosses produce nothing. It's the workers that produce the wealth in this country and it's the workers who are entitled to it, not the parasites in control of our industries!

If the bosses and their mates in government smash the MUA, it won't take them long to start on

the rest of us. If they can sack the wharfies for belonging to a union, they can sack anyone, any time they want. And with over ten percent of the population unemployed and struggling to survive, they'll never have a shortage of cheap and desperate replacement labour.

But no good can come out of taking another person's job. You're certain to be treated worse and paid worse than the people you've replaced - otherwise, why would they bother replacing them? And in the long term scabs find themselves out of a job too, as the bosses find new ways to get rid of more and more workers and increase their profits accordingly.

We must join together and fight for our unions now, before it's too late! The wharfies have always stood up for other workers, now it's time for us to stand up for them!

The Background To The Sackings

A leaked memo dated the 10th of March last year, shows that the Government was meeting with both major stevedoring employers that month, canvassing the possibility of dismissing the whole waterfront workforce. Among other things, the memo said: "Stevedores would need to activate well-prepared strategies to dismiss their workforce and replace them with another, quickly, in a way that limited the prospect, for example, of the commission ordering reinstatement..."

In September last year a new stevedoring company in Cairns, North Queensland, tried to replace MUA members with scab labour. Rapid international support organized by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) involving affiliates in Singapore and the United States

defeated this attempt at union bashing. The Australian federal government admitted to backing the scheme.

The action in Cairns involved a supply ship from Freeport in West Papua, an operation which has caused massive environmental destruction and dispossession of indigenous people. It probably wasn't a co-incidence, as that's the sort of greedy, callous and irresponsible company who would benefit from the destruction of the MUA.

Then, in December the MUA received a tip-off about a group of currently-serving Australian soldiers being flown to Dubai to train in cargo handling operations. This was obviously a government-backed plan to train military strike-breakers. However, action by the ITF, MUA and the International Labour Organization led to the government of the United Arab Emirates cancelling the visas of the trainees and suspending the training scheme.

In January, after the head of the National Farmers Federation denied they were planning it, the NFF set up a company called Producers and Consumers Stevedores. They leased part of a terminal in Melbourne from Patricks to operate with their own non-union labour force. This began an industrial dispute in Melbourne which recently spread to Brisbane and Sydney and has led up the sackings of Patricks workforce.

On February the 15th, Special Air Services (elite military unit) shock troops were ordered onto the ship Australian Enterprise, off Fremantle in Western Australia for what was described as an "anti-terrorist exercise". During this "exercise" a seafarer and MUA member was injured when he was thrown to the floor in a choke hold and had an automatic weapon pointed at his head.

Reform or Revolt?

While I'm totally disgusted with the federal government, Patricks and the NFF, and in complete support of the wharfies and the MUA, I can't help but feel *we told you so!*

Well, not *us* personally, of course, but our wobbly predecessors certainly made it very clear to the predecessors of the MUA that in the opinion of the IWW, forming *trade* unions, rather than *industrial* unions was a recipe for disaster. It leaves you wide open to the type of wedges that Howard, Corrigan, McGauchie and the rest of the greedy, parasitic thugs are currently trying to drive into the working class in Australia.

The IWW was founded in the same era as the Waterfront Workers Federation (WWF) and the Seaman's Union - both now united as the MUA. Its principles were those of industrial unionism - that is, all workers in the same industry (transport, for example) in the same union - and the *One Big Union* - that is, all industrial unions are component parts of the same international organization. They also believed that capitalism could not be reformed, it must be destroyed completely - to try and reform capitalism, that is to work within it and alongside it, leads you into the sort of disaster that the wharfies find themselves in today.

Those were the principles of the IWW nearly a hundred years ago and they're the principles of the IWW today. Nearly ninety years ago, Australian wobblies were making their beliefs very clear - so clear, in fact, that many of the most active members spent long periods in jail and most were eventually thrown out of Australia and scattered around the world.

And the actions and beliefs of the *One Big Union* did have quite an impact on the development and policies of trade unions like the

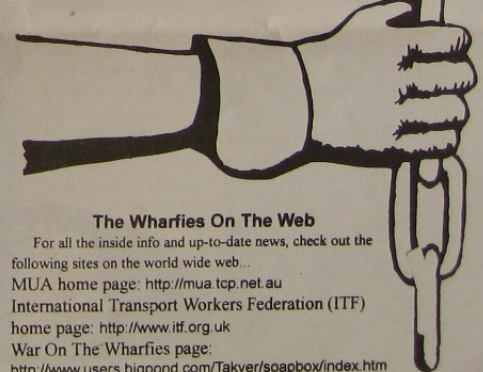
WWF. But they didn't have enough impact, because the union movement developed in a way that has left it wide open to being systematically divided by the bosses and their lackeys, the government.

They also had a big impact on our greedy, blood-sucking rulers! Such a big impact that they went all out to smash the IWW - and they *nearly* succeeded! For many years, the ideas of the wobblies were laid low, suppressed and almost forgotten. But you can't kill an idea - especially when you're trying to bring about a return of the poverty, hunger and exploitation that gave birth to that idea in the first place! The wobblies are back - and we're angry!

However, in case you think I'm promoting the IWW at the expense of the trade unions, I must say I don't think *our* predecessors had it completely right either - if they had, there would have been a revolution by now and the system of wage slavery would have come to an end!

We've got to learn from history and we can only hope that the rest of the union movement will too!

By the way, in case anyone mistakes my intentions, this article was written from a point of view of complete respect and support for the wharfies and the MUA.



The Wharfies On The Web

For all the inside info and up-to-date news, check out the following sites on the world wide web...
MUA home page: <http://mua.tcp.net.au>
International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) home page: <http://www.itf.org.uk>
War On The Wharfies page: <http://www.users.bigpond.com/Takver/soapbox/index.htm>

Corrigan A Very Rich Man

You'll read a lot in the bosses' press about wharves' wages but little about Chris Corrigan's wealth.

He bought Craig-y-Moor, a Wolsley Rd, Point Piper, mansion for \$8 million back in '89. He also owns historic Raeburn, an 1872 victorian homestead on 150 hectares near Golburn.

Then there is the italian villa... A magnificent italian villa at Flesole in the hills behind Florence. The villa has its own chapel and olive grove that yields a highly prized oil.

Corrigan owns Lang Corporation. It has become a single purpose company - stevedoring. Lang has poured all money into stevedoring after selling all its other ventures. The company has assets of more than \$240 and debts of \$140 million.

If Corrigan wins the war on the docks then the earnings of Lang Corp will soar. So will Lang's share price. And so will the personal wealth of Corrigan, who has a substantial holding in Lang.

Forget crane rates. Forget efficiency. The wharf dispute is about rich men like Chris Corrigan screwing down their workers to make money for themselves.

Portrait of a Scab

Tim Buckley, 26, is a scab on Melbourne's Webb dock. He has come straight from his parents' farm in the central west of New South Wales. This is a rich farming area, some of the best fine merino land in the country. We are not talking about struggling farmers here.

"My father would be here, if he could" says Tim. "...if we can help make the wharves more competitive, we can get our produce out of the country..."

Think about this. This is not a poor man who needs a job. Tim even admits he's "not doing it for a permanent job."

"People from all over, from all walks of life are here," says Tim. "They are great people to work with. We are having a great time, there is a great sense of camaraderie."

We are looking, dear reader, at a member of the union breaking force, built up of the old loyalties of class and wealth. A plan long prepared, and a careful long-term recruiting campaign. No poor men desperate for work here, not yet. They will come later after the gung-ho holiday-makers.

Quote of the Week

"The main priority, and it must be understood, of any police service is to protect the community from criminals. It's not to stop people exercising their democratic rights." - New South Wales police minister, Paul Whelan (ABC 15/4/98)



Darwin Wobbly Arrested Without Cause

Darwin IWW member, Stuart Highway, has been unjustly arrested and charged following a Darwin Parliament House demonstration. The demo, on Thursday 26th February, was in protest at the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine and co-incided with the visit to the parliament of Slime Minister, John Howard.

This is Stuart's story:

Howard arrived shortly after 2pm in a chauffeur-driven car which pulled up in front of the main steps. People wanted to be allowed in to go up to the public gallery. After a while we were allowed entry. I went inside the building with my friends

The police told me to leave, but my friend Vaughan called for commander Bob Fields, the senior police officer on the scene, to come and sort out the problem. I said that, yes, I would like to speak to commander Fields. But uniformed police had already grabbed me and tried to eject me from the building. I protested and struggled to break free. This made the police more violent as they struggled to restrain me and push me towards the door. Somewhere around this time I was told I was under arrest.

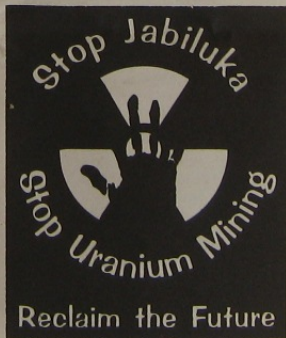
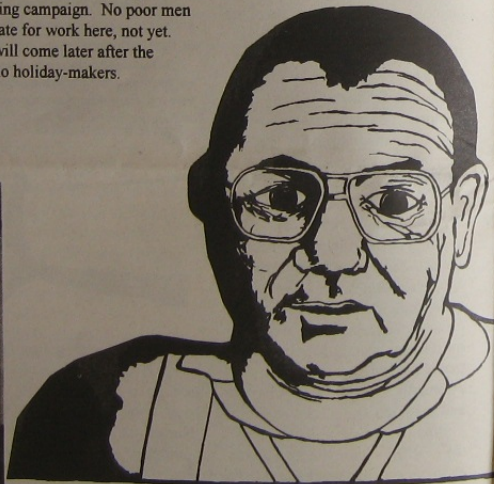
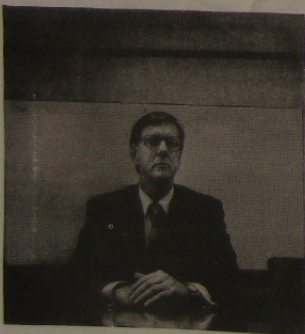
More police joined in trying to subdue me and we ended up on the floor near the door next to the front counter. We wrestled and rolled around on the floor until finally they managed to pin me down on my stomach while they handcuffed my hands behind my back. I was picked up and escorted out the door.

I shouted "What am I being arrested for?" I was put in a paddy wagon and locked in the cage, taken to Berrimah P.C. There I stated my full name and address by refused to answer most of the other questions. I refused to have my fingerprints taken, so was kept in police cell M3 until about 6.30pm. I consented to have my prints and photo taken and was released at about 6.46pm.

Using the phone on the front counter, I rang my friends and they came out to Berrimah to pick me up.

Stuart is facing serious charges of trespass and resisting police and is set to appear in court in July. He would appreciate letters of support. If you have a minute, write to:

Stuart Highway
P.O. Box 614
Nightcliff
NT 0814
Australia



THE POOR GET POORER . . .

In June 1994 there were 186,000 families with an average of 2 children on wages of less than \$20,000 a year. These families receive the Family Payment which is just sufficient to keep them above the Henderson Poverty line of \$21,560 a year.

Between Parramatta and the Central Business District of Sydney there is virtually no affordable housing for unemployed people or for single parents. What can you rent for \$113 a week which would be about all a single parent with one child could afford to spend on rent. In the west of the city it is not much better - a family with four children would find nothing cheaper than a house for \$220 per week which is miles beyond the budget of the unemployed.

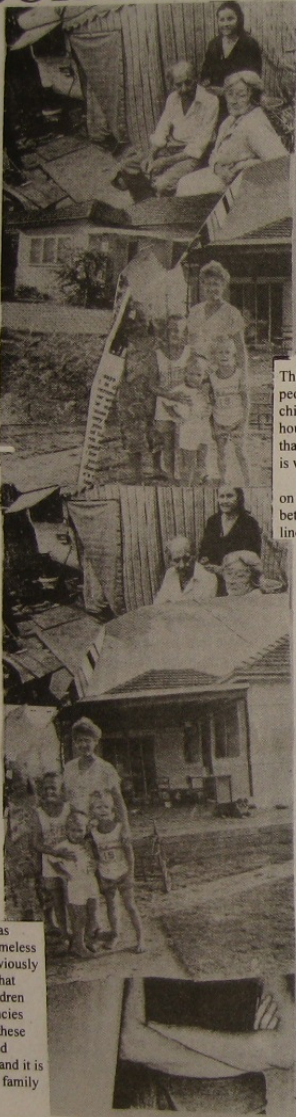
If you are on unemployment benefits about 50% of your income will be spent on rent or mortgage.

The Sydney City Mission tells of 400 private renters from a western Sydney suburb who had sought help from the Mission. These renters were paying on average half of their income on rent, and most of these families were going without meals.

In the face of these figures the Federal Government is pulling \$200 million out of public housing over the next 2 years.

In Australia there are 1.7 million people living below the Henderson poverty line - for a couple with 2 kids this is \$419.32 a week.

The Council for Homeless Persons has calculated that the total number of homeless in Australia is probably twice the previously accepted figures. The council claims that 147,000 people, including 46,000 children have sought shelter with various agencies over the course of one year. A lot of these children are under 5 years old and find homelessness particularly traumatic, and it is usually impossible to house an entire family in suitable accommodation.



To adequately feed a typical Australian family with 2 kids should cost you about \$185 a week just for food, not including other groceries. It would be a modest diet but nutritionally adequate. If you spent very wisely you could push this down to about \$150 a week on food and still be adequately feeding the family.

However a family with two kids on the dole of about \$400 a week would typically be spending about \$120 a week on their entire grocery bill, and some families are spending a lot less than that.

The North Coast is home to the poorest people in NSW with about 60 per cent of children under the age of 15 living in households with a gross income of less than \$24,000 per year. And the situation is worsening.

Often these families are getting by on total weekly incomes which are between \$12 and \$33 below the poverty line.

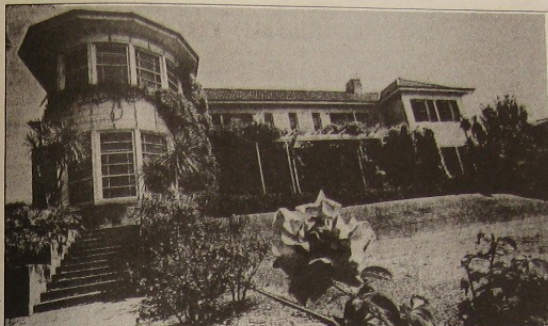
In Australia 20% of the population holds 48% of the nations wealth.

More than one in two families are living beyond their means. Sole parent families are faring worse with 68.8% living beyond their means. These figures have risen markedly over the last 20 years, as have the percentage of families who cannot meet their basic needs - who are too poor to buy clothes, except for their children and too poor to organise household repairs.

Poverty affects 40% of Australian children.

Twenty years ago a male full-time worker in the lowest 10% of wage-earners earned 36% more than the dole. A decade later the margin was 18%. By 1991 the difference was 11%. We are now seeing tens of thousands of working families becoming the 'working poor'.

THE RICH GET RICHER . . .



Custom built . . . the Coolong Road estate is regarded as one of Sydney's top 10 waterfront properties.



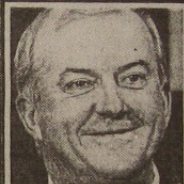
GEORGE TURNBULL BHP
The American chief executive's salary was \$2.47m - but he was in the firing line over a share scheme giving him 5m free shares next year - worth at least \$10m.



ALLAN MOSS Macquarie Bank
The long-term executive's \$2.8m salary just a part of a package. A big winner from the bank's sharemarket listing, he is sitting on just over 1m shares, worth \$31.5m. No options disclosed.



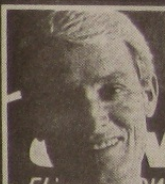
JOHN PRESCOTT BHP
Shares in the Big Australian crashed in 1997 and profits dried. But the boss still got \$2.38m. He has 243,918 shares worth \$1.2m and 1.8m options at undisclosed exercise prices.



TED MINNEL Foster's Brewing
Times are good again at the brewer. Kunkel has a \$1.8m salary and a parcel of just 1,000 shares. But there are 3.6m options exercisable in 2000. The parcel is worth about \$1.4m.



BOB ROSS Westpac
Base salary \$1.8m, but then there's the executive option package. He got to come to Australia in 1993. The yearly Westpac share price makes the package worth about \$28m.



JAMES STRONG Qantas
The airline chief took home a \$1.69m salary. He has a parcel of shares worth \$2.26m for his efforts in lifting profits during tough times for the industry.



The Queen Anne revival Caerleon, the Bellevue Hill house that Charles Fairfax built in 1885 . . . more than \$8 million expected.

NEWS FROM MELBOURNE

ON THE WATERFRONT

The Wharfies at Web Dock are into their 60th day of a 'peaceful assembly'. So-called, as picketings illegal! As it is they had to move their site, away from the gates of Patrick's docks, down the road.

The National Farmers Federation financed Producers & Consumers Company, which is scab-herding-union-bureaucrats, has slowed down training-24 hours to a couple of hours per day.

A recent visit by a delegate from the Japanese dockers, as part of the International Transport Federation ("5 million affiliates") interest in the dispute, cheered up the rank & file.

It seems any scab loaded ship will find it very hard to find a friendly port, anywhere! Time is on the side of the wharfies as the attempt, to build the Maritime Union of Australia, has already cost \$6 million.

The National Farmers Federation affiliates who have turned up, to the meetings of the MUA, have been holding around Victoria and Australia, have been shocked.

The list, told about the MUA, are exposed and NFFers are aghast at how many debt-plagued/mortgaged/warehouse beaten farmers can get no aid from the NFF, yet all that money is being passed against the wall by their mis-leaders!

BOSS'S SPLIT

The Western Australian farmers have backed away from the NFF scam.

The Australian Peas Shippers Association have split the dummy, saying industrial turmoil will continue until Patrick's quits the water and competitors are allowed to run rival P&O Ports as more reliable while the dispute grinds.

Lindsay Fox, trucking Capo is putting in a bid for Webb Dock to end the confrontation. Patrick's head honcho, Corrigan is looking more stressed every day as losses mount and shareholders and unions are being teased. Bosses split his demise.

DUBAI DUBIOUS

SAS (the elite military unit) members who trained in Dubai, were on special leave granted by the Defence Minister.

McLachlan. They have since been seen at Webb Dock.

McLaughlin (alloway to the Bank) is the former NFF big banana. His brother is one of the largest Patrolarians in Australia.

Back in the 80's McLachlan tried to bring in Indonesian shears to break the South Australian shearer union.

He then wanted them sent back to Indonesia so as not to become residents and inevitably unionists here. He was also instrumental in pushing the 'War Chest' strategy of the NFF to legally strangle unions at Mulgoburner Abolitor, Dollar Sweets sweatshop and other disputes at canneries etc.

He broke Aboriginal Law when he opened the 'secret women's business' package during the Hindmarsh Bridge inquiry in South Australia.

After the failure to make Cairns non-MUA (the union made direct contact with the employers overseas and locked out the politicians), the exposure in the media of the Dubai -SAS exercise, came the Webb Dock set up.

Meanwhile, during an 'anti-terrorism exercise', a WA based SAS team, took over a merchant ship, seized the MUA crew and tied them up. Again McLachlan is head honcho so knew of it not ordered the 'exercise'.

The Webb Dock boss Chris Corrigan originally denied NFF etc. involvement in Dubai; but in Court, brought in as a witness, admitted it was planned. He & NFF have still withheld incriminating documents about Government collusion.

THUGS, SCABS & SPIES

In the early clashes with private security guards (whose firm boss is ex-Police Chief Kel Glare) some Prison issue riot shields, still marked Dept of Corrections, were seized by picketers. A nearby car was also found to contain agent Govt. issue tear gas and batons.

Kel Glare was in charge when the Special Branch political police were officially 'dissolved' and their files destroyed by the '80s Can lead Labour regime.

All the files were moved to a house in Daly Street, West Brunswick which was the operating base for what is now the Forward Intelligence Unit who snoop, infiltrate and provoke aka the old 'Reed Squad'.

The Age newspaper was given files numbered for Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the spy Victorian cove classification.

Undercover cops learned to do radio reading and computer coding at community radio 3CR as well as join and watch all the left & issue campaign groups.

Glare now helps privatised the Police, who outnumber the corrupt State ones, at about 2 to one.

They are seeking increased numbers and power.

The push by multinational corporations who bring in their own company security police behind this is obvious especially in the Private prison industry.

PRISONS FOR PROFITS

We are constantly told we are 'overpriced'; eg, once there was 700 offences which you could be brought for. If you were lucky you could be transported to the British Colonies instead of 'terra nullius' Australia.

Among the second Fleet to arrive in Australia 200 years ago was a private prison bulk. To make more money there was less food, no medical treatment, more crowding and less guards subsequently over half the convicts died on route.

Subsequent outrage saw a return to the State run Fleet. This was still harsh, but did not kill as many slaves, and so was more 'efficient' in the eyes of the exploiters of their labour.

Today in Victoria, over half of the prison population are in private prisons, a world first in modern times. At least half of the people deprived of their liberty are on remand, awaiting trial, and it is usually recognised they have been punished by being locked up.

Maltreatment is excessive abuse of Authority and/or profit seeking businessmen.

To get the contract, competing corporations undercut each other so food quality, rehabilitation, safety, number of guards etc is all cut back and automation like an electronic zoo is the norm.

The Special Operations Group, not style cops, come in when prisoners are pushed to rise up from bore-dom, abuse etc.

The Port Phillip Private prison is an isolated concrete box in outer suburban Laverton. It is run by Group 4 originally a British corporation now global. Its inmates are barely supervised, poorly fed and have inadequate medical access.

Bashings, deaths, drug overdoses and suicides are rife. Since opening 6 months ago there have been six deaths there. Finally, on March 13th one could tell it no longer, and protest. They called for transfer to other jails. But as this was not on, they rioted, smashed up the place, burned what they could causing "\$300,000 damage" and 23 hour lock-down. Forty-four cons were transferred out.

Six 'singledeers' remain seque-gosted and facing Internal regime inquiry and further abuse and punishment.

Group 4 were furious the media even wanted to know what happened, hiding behind 'commercial confidentiality' of the contract.

The Premier, Kennett, tried diverting attention by blaming drug and stating their would be no further contact visits allowed.

Obviously somebody advised -he who must be obeyed- that this was likely to cause further uprisings and so he (unusually) quietly backed down.

CIA agent and head of Vic. Prisons Inc. is John van Groningen. He is investigating himself, for ignoring the design of the prison cells, with several hanging points, after all the "suicides". The results of this farce remain private a State secret.

In 1980's at the former State run Pentridge prison Division Jula Jula a fire killed 5 prisoners. Fire officers called out now to Laverton force a similar tragedy by poor design & safety and low staff numbers.

This is deliberate, a fearfilled society is easier for the rulers to manipulate. Fear of losing your job, fear of going to jail to passify the poor.

AGED HOME NURSES

12,000 nurses are fighting for a pay rise (none in 7 years) and guaran-teeed nurse-patient ratios.

The bosses want to cut numbers of nurses, have fewer qualified nurses and use nurses to clean, cook and cater as well.

As accidents and deaths will increase patients, their friends and relatives, are supporting the nurses who are banning duties like laundry, cleaning and catering.

The Federal Govt tried recently to push upfront fee increases onto aged home

residents. Much protest ensued and they backed down but profit-seeking Employers are eager.

STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Primary, Secondary & Tertiary teachers, students and parents have been involved in rolling waves of protests and strikes against Government funding cuts.

Staff associations losing jobs and hard-won working conditions while students face rising fees, less subject choices, overcrowded classes and under resourced libraries.

Private Catholic school teachers have for the first time, or for a very, very long time, taken industrial action too.

WERIBEE DON'T WANNABE A TOXIC WASTE DUMPSITE

Residents, workers, students the whole community in Western sub-urbs Werribee are protesting CSR plans to turn the local quarry into a toxic site to dump cancer causing arsenic, asbestos, cadmium & chrome oxides.

Poison will leak into the system that makes most of Melbourne's vegies. Worse the local high winds will blow toxic dust and smoke from incinerated crap all over the area. This 'food' will end up in Markets and chauffers all over the metro area. Locals fear kids will get asthma or worse cancer.

McDonalds, which buys its lettuces from Werribee farmers, says it may buy from elsewhere if the dumpsite goes ahead!

Poisoners, bureaucrats and CSR PR 'experts' have downplayed the health threat (but would not live next to such a site themselves if it was as put in Toorak, Brighton or Mt Eliza).

Irish locals, some 6,000, from Werribee, Hoppers Crossing and Laverton turned out to protest at a local meeting and plant direct action.

On Wed. March 25th, 2,000 block-aded the quarry blocking trucks from leaving. They then took over the Prince Highway in a convoy of trucks, tractors and cars.

Last month they drove into the City to Parliament House to publicise to Melbourne people their protest.

A boycott CSR products call has gone out and "vigils" will greet public appearances of Premier Kennett and planning Minister Mullanell.

THIRD RUNWAY

Like Sydney, Melbourne residents are suffering from increased noise levels of air traffic. A third runway expansion at Tullamarine is proposed by the new private owners.

Australia Pacific Airports, a consortium of British Airports Authority & the AMP Society.

GAGA CAR CHOKEHOLD ON CITY AIR

In the two decades since 1976 the number of car journeys to work has risen from 3 million to 4.3 million daily. This is about 70% of all journeys to work. The population of 18 million has 6 million commuters.

Public transport has been reduced what remains is automated moving-railway

station staff, train guards and now tram conductors. Safety has driven many especially women into cars.

Suburban sprawl has expanded way beyond areas reached by PT. Cycling, walking and motor cycling have declined and cars are not shared. Traffic congestion, air & noise pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions have increased too.

To speed up this mess we have the humungous City Link (aka shirty Strink) project linking all major Freeways in Smebhan via 2 km tunnels under the Yarra etc. It is an eyesore to behold and bloody dangerous to exit your car from due to fumes and speeds of other vehicles.

Opposition to this gaga car frenzy has taken the form of Critical Mass cyclist gatherings last Friday o every month to travel safely in numbers.

Now it is the pedestrian turn. Reclaim the Streets is more than a demo or rally, it's a street party (five and DJ'd music, speakers, theatre, chairs, squatted

Cabernri in 1961. He went through the Depression, said to be a swaggie and made up quite a few good yarns and poems on route.

He used to correspond with the IWW and his parody *Shirkers of the World Untile* and other jokes cheered the audience I sat with.

Although 83 minutes the film is a very intense 'avante-garde' experiential, wild, call it what you will, style that seemed longer.

The audio track features Hooton reading from his death bed amidst computer generated sound.

The pics are collased (ala Monty Python's Terry Gilliam) of polities of the period eg Nixon, Bolte, welding, the Sydney Opera House, clouds waves stars, industrial machinery the lot with split screen, tri-colour splashes etc. Certainly different and at times a good laugh. Hooton's poetry is in libraries only these days.

REITH'S WREATH WRITES OFF RIGHTS

When he's not shutting up wharfies Peter Reith the Federal Government's Industrial Relations Monster is busy making it easier to sack any wage-slave for bosses big & small.

Up to now a Boss had to prove 'valid reason for dismissal'. Now, a worker has to prove the dismissal was "unfair, harsh or unjust."

Probationary employees are not entitled to claim, costs may be awarded against workers: a return to absolute power for the Boss.

2.9million workers in small busin-esses are to lose the right to compo. Recently we have seen NSW miners locked out and all their back wages and super etc fly off with the dead departed despoits.

These Captains of Industry do not need to reorganise their Biz and the 'jobs of remaining workers' (sic) by making compo to those they have sacked.

Employers impose and workers submit this is industrial tyranny!

Stability for this bloody system is provided by high unemployment.

This is all a 'flash back' to the pre-Liberal Party, the United Australia Party of the 20's & 30's union and worker bashing.

Some would argue it belongs even further back in the 'laissez faire' days of open slavery itself.

FAITH PATRICK

IWW member of long standing, 82 year old songstress Faith Patrick identified herself as Local 630 San Francisco

area during per-formances here in Melbourne.

She is spending a couple of months here, eg. at the Festivals in Port Fairy, Illawarra, Brunswick, Canberra and at Fairbridge, W. A.

She can perform 1,000 songs, and those heard here were witty, humorous and well performed.

An inspiration to us all! Keep those ears open & see her if ya can!

Last year it was Scottish performer Andy Irvine's turn at the Folk Festivals to 'come out' as a GPO Wobbelly, so keep a smile on yer lips and a song in yer heart while building the new world in the shell of the old folks!

HARRY HOOTON

It is great to be alive! H.H.

A film made in 1970 about the poet-philosopher, by Arthur & Corinne Cantrill was shown in March. He was born in England in 1908 died in Canberra in 1961. He went through the Depression, said to be a swaggie and made up quite a few good yarns and poems on route.

He used to correspond with the IWW and his parody *Shirkers of the World Untile* and other jokes cheered the audience I sat with.

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We must take spanners, dies, pens, blueprints in our hands...
While we build heaven in no man's land.

STARVATION BARMY Part 17

The Salves, beloved by the Boss as safe alternative to alcoholism, anarchism & atheism amongst the poor (who will always be with us so only the deserving get charity from the gully rich) in ye olde Englan have grown to a world wide Corporation. Thank Capitalism (not just Christ) for the Salves. Their latest venture is the privatisation of welfare. Their zero tolerance stance on drugs forced the ACT to abandon its heroin trials as Howard and locally Kennett take up the Barmy's issue.

For further info check out the Starvation Army pamphlet distrib-butted by

SCAM publications.
PO Box 756,
Brunswick Lower 3086.

a ballad against work

A PUBLICATION FOR **collectiVities**

MAJDOOR LIBRARY, AUTOPIN JHUGGI, N.I.T., FARIDABAD 121001, INDIA

Managing the effectivity of seduction

Several pathways blend to form a network of seduction : family, school, religion, academia, national culture and the media are some of the nodal points.

The attempt of the managers of seduction is to convince us, to make us believe, to instil in us that

work is meant to make our lives easier,

work is meant to make the world a better place,

technological research is geared to reduce work,

money makes social interactions simpler,

it is a sin to live without working for a living,

the wages we get are equal to our contribution in production,

the militaries, governments, leaders and representatives are there for our benefit.

The most ingenious task entrusted to the managers of seduction is to make us believe that most of us believe this make-belief.

We are seduced to internalise and desire discipline and authority.

We are seduced to hand over our produce.

We are seduced to surrender our voice.

..its counter ingenuity

The other ingenuity of our times, an insurgent ingenuity, lies in resistance...



Blue flu virus of everyday resistance

In 1994, hospital workers in Chicago took a cue from researches in biological warfare and invented a new sickness - the blue flu. On the 9th of February, more than a thousand workers of four hospitals notified themselves as suffering from blue flu and took leave. The workers included specialists, doctors, nurses, technicians and sweepers.

Researches have shown that virus, such as those causing the blue flu, attach themselves particularly to workers weakened by excessive work-load and low wages. The anxiety caused by new agreements, which reject workers' demands for wage-increases and more employees, makes them even more susceptible to these virus. Such conditions generate turbulent emotions in the workers and they decide to fall sick collectively. In this particular case, managements had observed the symptoms carefully and their prognosis suggested that the workers were going to fall ill. They reasoned that the questions of legality and illegality must have an impact on such a pestilence. They warned the workers that falling sick in this way was illegal, but this did not deter the virus.

INGENUITY CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST

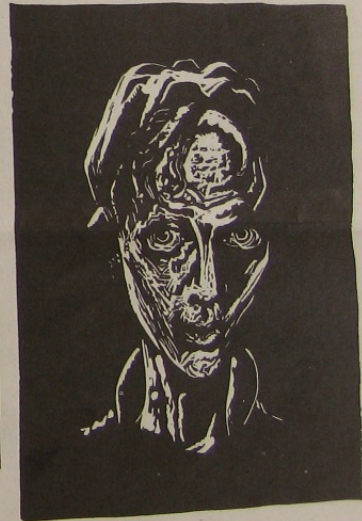
Women workers in Malaysia have to look through micro-scopes and weld different parts together. A worker saw a ghost through a microscope; within minutes all the workers on the assembly line fainted. The managements got unnerved and called in both rationalists and ghost catchers to practice their respective crafts. Sociologists were also invited to do micro and macro studies for long-term solace.

The holy ghost changed its form and reappeared as rumours of some poisonous gas leak in a factory in the US. In this shoe factory, workers began feeling dizzy as boxes containing glue were opened. Complaints of headaches, dizziness, body-aches, chest-pains permeated throughout the factory - the management got the factory vacated. Chemical-biological warfare experts, with their state-of-the-art gadgetry, checked every nook and corner but could not identify the poisonous gas. Management got the work recommenced. However, after some time again the same symptoms and the same measures followed. The results were also the same as before. With this routine almost

established, the ghost was ready to show some more tricks but the management took remedial measures, and called in experts in psychology and sociology ...?

The information about these ingenuities travelled fast and reached the Bata shoe factory at Faridabad in India. There it conspired to produce another ingenuity. The management had installed new fully automatic lines to replace the earlier semi-automatic lines. The workers were given a target to make 2400 pairs per line per shift instead-of the 1660 pairs they were making on each semi-automatic line. Right after the installation of the new lines, workers started complaining of headaches and dizziness due to the constant movement. They gave a production of only 1400 pairs per line. This went on for one and a half years after which the management dismantled the fully automatic lines and had to give up its retrenchment scheme.¹⁰

Our resistance to discipline, to seduction, to extraction and to work takes diverse forms, varying from stopping work to working for free. Resistance is directed against governments, against managements, against planners, against media, against wars, against authority, against surveillance, against representatives and against dominant values. Some times it appears as collective defiance of authority, at other times it may even be masked as individual submission to power.



Arm caught in the conveyor
No-one's near.
two hundred sixty-one
safety breaches
in this timber mill.

After this
things will be better
only two hundred -
sixty
after this.

Car on blocks -
hitch into town
rehab. but there's
no work
for a one-armed man.



What's wrong with the M.A.I?

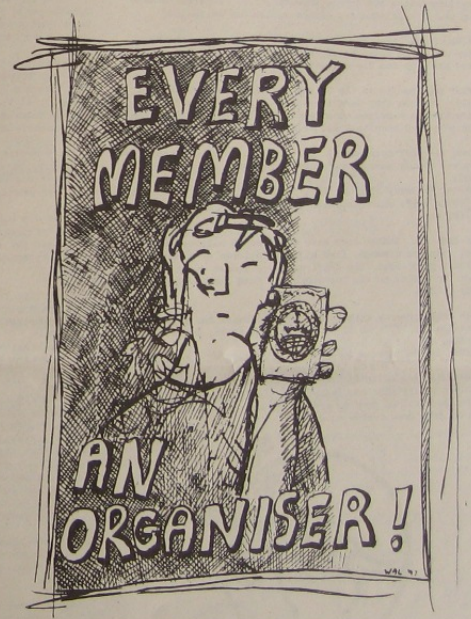
You may have heard of the M.A.I or then again you may have not. The Multilateral Agreement on Investment is a somewhat secret agreement between the richest companies in the world and the richest governments in the world. The M.A.I aims to free up foreign investment rules to protect multilateral co-operations right to plunder the economies of any country they choose to, by ensuring that foreign investors are no less favourably treated than local investors. In effect this means that laws protecting environmental standards, restrictions on foreign ownership, local employment initiatives such as the right to a fair and minimum wage (to name but a few) could all become illegal.

The M.A.I is being negotiated between O.E.C.D member countries only. Other countries are invited to join only after the investment agreement is finalised. This means that non-O.E.C.D countries, invariably the poorest in the world, will have no negotiating power and will not be able to raise their own country specific reservations. Its a bit like these rich countries holding a gun to the head of the poorer ones "Nice economy, it'd be a shame if anything happened to it." Under the M.A.I as it presently stands all governments will have to give multinationals equal funding at the same rate that they presently fund institutions such as hospitals, schools and government broadcasting (A.B.C). The effects of this will be increasingly destructive, as public money dries up. Can we really afford to subsidise these huge multinational conglomerates, many of whom have larger economies than the countries represented in the M.A.I.

The top 200 multinational companies have a combined annual sales larger than the combined economies of 182 of the worlds 191 economies.

Under the terms and agreements of the M.A.I, companies will be able to sue governments for any legislation passed which could decrease their profits. Such things could include environmental and wage protection. The M.A.I is due to be signed by Howard and his cronies on May 6. If you care about the future of your job/ education/environment etc, then let the puppets in Canberra know. We cannot let the M.A.I go through.

STRIKE
ON
fast
workers
die
young
THE
slow
down
and
live
JOB
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD



UNITED STATES: Activists Arrested for Feeding the Homeless

by Walder Rizvi

WASHINGTON, Jul 19 (IPS) - Feeding the homeless can get you a jail sentence in California.

More than 700 social activists have been arrested in the west coast city of San Francisco in the past two years for the "crime" of distributing free food to homeless people, according to the U.S.-based Institute for Food and Development Policy.

Robert Kahn of the social action group 'Food Not Bombs' was sent to jail for two months, beginning Jun. 17, following a two-year trial. He was sentenced despite an appeal by the district attorney to set him free. He had been charged with handing out free food to the homeless in public.

Activists say San Francisco Police continue to arrest and harass homeless people as well as food rights groups under a California state law that forbids distribution of free food to the homeless without permission from authorities.

Officials contend the law is to ensure that the food is safe for human consumption, but civil rights and human rights advocates allege it is a device that the police are using to persecute activists and to drive the homeless out of the city.

"The repressive measures of the authorities are disguised attempts to push the hungry and the homeless out of public places to promote the tourist industry," says Alice Klokner of the Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), a Germany-based group that tracks economic rights violations worldwide.

FIAN claims there are five million children in the United States who go to sleep hungry each night and that there are 23,000 children who die of poverty-related causes each year.

FIAN says people in the United States lack adequate food mainly "because they have insufficient incomes," and that California has experienced a deep and prolonged recession in which jobs have been lost and wages eroded.

Over the past four years, 'Aid to Families With Dependent Children' grants have been cut by 14 percent. The maximum monthly grant for a family of three fell from 694 dollars in 1990 to 594 dollars in 1995, which represents an almost 30 percent loss in real dollars.

In addition, budget cuts have deprived 26 million children of school lunch programmes, five million children of school breakfast programmes, and deprived 5.9 pregnant women of food stamps, according to the Institute for Food and Development Policy (IFDP).

The child poverty rate in the United States has risen from 18 percent in the 1980s to 22 percent in the 1990s, which, according to IFDP, is the highest among the industrialised countries.

Rejecting the official argument of a lack of resources, food activists insist that the state must take the responsibility to ensure the right to food by providing jobs and adequate social security for those unable to work.



Karen Parker, a lawyer specialising in international human rights law, notes that "The United States is the largest exporter of agricultural products, yet the agricultural surplus in the United States by no means indicates that everyone is well fed in the country."

Both the London-based Amnesty International and the United Nations Human Rights Commission are investigating charges of police brutalities against the 'Food Not Bombs' activists.

Amnesty International sent several letters last year to U.S. authorities, including the U.S. Department of Justice, seeking explanation for the arrests and police harassment of 'Food Not Bombs' activists in San Francisco.

In a letter to California governor Pete Wilson dated Jun. 14, Amnesty said it was disturbed at evidence suggesting the law may have been used against the activists "because their beliefs and activities were unpopular with the city administration."

Amnesty and others have been dissatisfied with the response to their appeals.

"There's a complete silence from the U.S. side on this issue," says Parker who is closely assisting the U.N. Human Rights Commission in investigations into police harassment of food activists.

"It's really shameful..."

'Food Not Bombs' activists say they are harassed, not because of their charity work, but for political reasons.

"We don't merely distribute free food, we make political and social statements at public places," says Hugh Mejia, a spokesman for the group.

"We try to make people aware of their basic human rights."

'Food Not Bombs' says it has applied for the official permit for free distribution of food 130 times, but that authorities have never responded to their requests.

"To them, we are just a bunch of anarchists who pose a great threat to the prevailing economic and political system," says Mejia.

Human rights advocates say police harassment of those increasing public awareness about the right to food is a gross violation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which recognises the right to "be free from hunger, the right to adequate living, and the right to work."

The United States has yet to join over 130 nations that have already ratified this Covenant.

"It's questionable how the United States can justify its role as a world leader in international affairs when it does not promote universal standards of wellbeing on its own soil," said the San Francisco Bay Guardian in a recent editorial on Kahn's arrest.

Imagine what the United States would say if this occurred in another country, added Parker. "If the military dictatorship in Burma arrested people for feeding the poor, the United States would condemn them. Here in San Francisco, there is silence."

(END/IPS/BR/XJC/96)

DISHRAG

February 98

30¢
where
sold



"MY MUM ALWAYS SAID TO GROW UP TO BE A DIRTY LITTLE SCRUBBER..."

CONTENTS

DISHWASHER PETE'S ODYSSEY - DISHES IN THE US CLEANING UP THE WEB - KITCHEN WORKERS ON THE 'NET WHITE SLAVERY - KITCHENS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY BOOKS ABOUT US - DISHING ROUND THE WORLD AND SO MUCH MORE - WELL, NOT MUCH MORE, TO BE HONEST



A CLEAN KITCHEN IS A PHONE CALL AWAY

Up to now, finding a kichenhand has always a tricky process: you have to ask your friends and contacts if they know anyone who wants a job and can do the work, or you have to spend time and money advertising for and interviewing potential employees.

Now you can say goodbye to all that. Dish Pigs do the work for you: they find the people, they make sure they know what they are doing, and they check up on them periodically to make sure that you are happy and that everything is working out smoothly.

So, if you need a Dish Pig, give us a holler.

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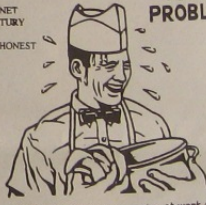
DISHRAG

"Dishpigs are a group of kitchen hands and dishwashers that work in Melbourne. We find each other, work collectively in workplaces where there is more than one dishpig... from as little as listening out for criticisms of others work so they can anticipate hassles to dealing with changing pay and conditions. For us, as well, we produce this mag to get our experiences out, have socials (this issue is out for a picnic) and have a laugh at a job that is hard and dirty."

A page on Kitchens on the Web from Hotel, Restaurant & Building Service Workers Industrial Union #640 off the IWW webpage The Silver Platter (sponsored by Wobs in Portland, Oregon USA) gets to the point: practice Direct Action on the job!

To get Dishrag send 45c stamp and 20c. & or send in cartoons, anecdotes, jokes, whinges, book extracts, info please to: PO Box 383, Brunswick, Victoria 3057.

COMMON DISHWASHER PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS



PROBLEM: You always arrive at work on time, you're courteous to your co-workers, and you perform your duties as an enthusiastic & professional mazeren - yet your boss seems to spend an inordinate amount of time glaring at you in a disapproving fashion.



SOLUTION: Often times the problem is nothing more than a simple dress code infraction. Check the restaurant's employee dress policy to make sure you're in compliance.



SLAD '95

Refreshments
Provided
Thurs. April 16th



80 Bay St
Broadway
1800 222 762

...Proudly Presents

MARK LATHAM
(SHADOW MINISTER OF EDUCATION)

who will talk about his book

**"CIVILISING
GLOBAL CAPITAL"**

Allen & Unwin

Thursday April 16th, 6pm at
Unlodge, cnr Bay St & Broadway



Civilising Global Capital!

You've got to be joking! What planet do these Australian Labour Party clowns live on?

As global capitalism goes into its "running amok" stage, Mark Latham has gone away with the fairies. Surely history shows it clearly - capitalism cannot be reformed. It's as simple as that. And that's why we're I.W.W.

**BECAUSE CAPITALISM
CANNOT BE REFORMED**

A dozen good reasons not to join the I.W.W.

We are all doomed anyway so why bother.

Increased automation of work is not a threat to employment. We do not need to slow down or reduce working hours. If everybody just does their bit and works hard everything will be all right.

Capitalism, the domination of the economy - and hence society - by those with lots of money has to expand to stay the same. It is clearly an ecologically sustainable system. We can sleep soundly knowing that our children and grandchildren will not have their quality of life impaired.

Our politicians are selfless individuals and have our best interests at heart. If we trust them to get on with the job they will look after us.

Information technology is an exciting way of making us all more efficient cogs in the machine. We certainly do not have to worry about increased surveillance or the erosion of our freedom. Only criminals or people with an improper attitude need bother about such things.

War is very unlikely in the future. We can rely upon the privileged elites who run the different countries to settle their differences without violence - especially as it is their own inferiors who would get hurt. Because of this the spread of nuclear weapons technology does not pose any big threat.

The Labor Party is committed to meaningful reform. Things will get very much better when this set of politicians have the top paying jobs and get driven around in the big cars.

Workers and bosses form a partnership. There has to be give and take. We should all pull together.

My union markets a very good industrial package. I pay my dues and can rely upon its bureaucrats to struggle very hard for me.

Russia proved that socialism can't work. If party officials, secret police and army chiefs can't create a just society it stands to reason ordinary working folk like us can't do it.

Life is all about competition not co-operation and about gaining things rather than getting along with people. Therefore we should not expect a civilised society and should not be surprised by a bit of social alienation in our communities.

The conditions and freedoms that I enjoy were all won through the sacrifices and struggles of previous generations. Therefore I don't have to do anything.

The Industrial Workers of the World or Wobblies are a militant union born in the USA out of fierce labour struggles at the turn of the century. The first local group in Australia was formed in 1907 and 'the Wobs' quickly gained a reputation for uncompromising industrial action. With a philosophy of "one big union" to cover all workers in any given industry the IWW became a real force among miners, itinerant rural workers and workers in the cities. They organised among low paid and unskilled workers who received little comfort from the established 'craft' unions and they also drew militant workers frustrated by the cosy club of trade unions, employers and Labor governments.

At public meetings and in their paper 'Direct Action' the Wobs were ferocious in their attacks on the rich who lived lives of luxury while their workers sweated. The IWW advocated 'class war' and believed in fighting to win. They saw the government as toolies of the rich and the established unions as being compliant with Capital in the exploitation of the working class. The IWW was almost entirely alone in opposition to the First World War when it erupted in 1914. They at first got little sympathy but as the extent of the slaughter became apparent they began to get a hearing. The Wobs argued that it was the wealthy who were profiting from the war but that it was the working class who were doing the dying. By 1916 war recruiting had begun to dry up and the Australian Government began pushing for conscription.

The Wobs took part in the Great Conscription Battles within a loose coalition of unions, church groups and pacifists. Conscription was beaten but it was the Wobs who were marked for repression. The State could see the real danger they posed to the partnership between Capital and unions that kept the lid on working class revolt. The Wobs were fanning the flames of discontent just a little too brightly for the comfort of the established order.

The IWW was declared illegal in Australia in 1917. Their offices were raided and their presses seized. But the Wobblies kept speaking out. Dozens were arrested and many were deported. Twelve members were imprisoned for terms of up to fifteen years as a result of a frame up. However, the Wobs did not disappear. The organisation survived in Queensland for a few years where repression was less than elsewhere and many members kept in good standing with the US administration of the union.

Wob influence was seen in the "one big union" movement, in the early communist party and right through to the present day. It was in the 1960's the fierce strikes at Mt Isa was won by miners who had elected a Wobbly, Pat Mackie, to lead them. Pat had become a Wob as an American merchant seaman in the 30's and is typical of the militant ideals of the IWW.

Into the 1990's the Wobs remain active in Australia with groups in Sydney and Melbourne and a commitment to radical grass roots controlled unionism.

DIRECT ACTION

WORKERS'

Members of Your
Class are in Long Bay
Gaol for TREASON

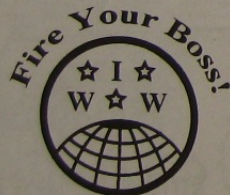
CLASS WAR
BROKEN HILL WORKERS
STRIKING
4.4 HOUR WEEK
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD
Sydney Local, No. 2
330 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Weekly Activities:

SUNDAY	Dominic Meeting Ballhurst Street Lecture in Hall	3 p.m. 7 p.m. 8 p.m.
MONDAY	ECONOMIC CLASS ALL WRITERS SPEAKERS	8 p.m. p.m.
TUESDAY	OUTDOOR	p.m.
WEDNESDAY	BUSINESS MEETING	p.m.
THURSDAY	OUTDOOR MEETING	p.m.
FRIDAY	Parramatta Meeting Ballhurst Street	p.m.
SATURDAY	Parramatta Meeting Ballhurst Street	p.m.



<http://www.iww.org>