

WORKERS

SOLIDARITY

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Domino Sugar Still Ain't Sweet

In the last issue of **WS** we reported on the struggle of Allied Industrial Workers in Indiana against Domino Sugar and its parent company, the British-owned Tate & Lyle conglomerate. In addition to this fight, workers at Domino's Brooklyn, NY refinery have been on strike since October '92.

The strikers, members of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1814, are fighting Domino's efforts to seek major givebacks on sick and holiday pay, as well as Domino's efforts to combine, transfer and eliminate jobs. The company is also seeking to give lump-sum bonuses instead of wage increases.

In an effort to force the strikers back to work, or permanently kick them out of their jobs, the company has hired scabs to run the plant. The workers are building solidarity in an effort to foil the bosses' plans. In early February strikers leafletted a Domino plant in Baltimore. In response to the informational pickets, nearly half the Baltimore workers refused to enter the plant.

In addition, the AIW workers in Indiana have scored a win by forcing A.E. Staley Manufacturing (another Tate & Lyle subsidiary) chairman Robert Powers to resign from the board of directors of First of America bank. This was the direct result of their corporate campaign, which earlier forced FOA-Decatur

president Philip Wise to resign from Staley's board. Despite these resignations, AIW Local 837 says the boycott of First of America will not end. Some UAW Caterpillar local unions are also participating in the boycott. Caterpillar Vice Chairman James Wogland sits on the First of America board as well.



Nigerian Awareness League Members Released on Bail

The four members of the Nigerian Awareness League (Anarcho-Syndicalists) who were arrested during a pre-election government crackdown, have been released on bail pending a review of the charges against them. The four were in such poor physical condition from their months of confinement that they were immediately hospitalized. Their appearance in the district court of Calabar was the first the first time their comrades had seen them in seven months. According to letters received from the Awareness League, thousands of other Nigerians are still held in inhumane conditions within the military prisons

of that country. Legal expenses are still outstanding and the League is requesting that concerned groups and individuals send financial contributions to:

Awareness League
c/o Samuel Mbah
PO Box 28
Agbani, Enugu State
Nigeria

Mail theft is rampant in Nigeria, so donations should be sent in the form of International Money Order inside neatly sealed envelopes in such a way as to conceal its contents. Contributions may be sent by express mail service to the above address.

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Massive Layoffs Produce Rank and File Rebellion in Connecticut

The wholesale layoff of workers at the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft plant in East Hartford has caused a massive fightback by rank and file workers. The rebellion has spread to three other P&W shops organized by the Machinists and has taken a number of forms: plant gate demonstrations, rallies at P&W's headquarters, a months-long slowdown, mass grievances and leafleting at P&W-sponsored public events.

In January of 1992 P&W's parent company United Technologies announced a sweeping restructuring of their aircraft engine production holdings. The plan is to layoff 25% of the hourly workforce by June 1993. As the Machinists district bureaucrats seemed to stall in the

face of the job cuts, members and stewards organized a rank and file formation to carry their fight forward. It evolved into the Concerned Workers Network (CWN). The Network soon spread throughout the plant and established a flourishing press of bulletins and newsletters. The CWN has organized most of the actions and has established a parallel structure to that of the local Machinists leadership.

CWN has pursued an in-plant strategy similar to that being carried out by workers at Caterpillar, including a popular t-shirt which reads "In The Plant and In Your Face". Production in the east Hartford plant has all but ground to a halt.

P-9 Strikers Oust Scabs

On December 11, 1992, a slate of former strikers swept control their local from the hands of scabs who had run the union since 1986. This remarkable show of staying power and resilience was capped on January 12, when a P-9 striker won a run-off election for local president. All local officers and 8 out of 9 executive board members are now veterans of the 1985-86 Hormel strike portrayed in Barbara Kopple's pro-bureaucrat documentary "American Dream".

The Hormel strike ended in the summer of 1986 when the international leadership of the UFCW imposed a trusteeship on Local P-9, removing all officers elected by the rank and file and ordering union members to return to work unconditionally. The appointed trustees--one of which later took a position in Hormel management--negotiated a contract that left all the strikers (more than 1000) "permanently replaced" by scabs. They were informed that they had been placed on a preferential rehiring list in order of seniority. The scab leadership of the union renamed it "Local 9" and renegotiated the back-to-work agreement so that it docked former strikers' seniority, giving the scabs "super-seniority" over the returning strikers. This was in violation of UFCW promises that returning strikers would not lose seniority.

The total workforce at Hormel's Austin plant was reduced from 1,750 to 900, including sub-contracted workers from Quality Pork Processors, which were hired for \$6.50 an hour (against the \$10.50 being paid by Hormel) to take over formerly in-plant operations.

Hormel also closed its Ottumwa, Iowa plant, where more than 500 workers had been fired for honoring P-9 picket lines. A small group of Ottumwa workers were able to transfer to Austin under a loophole in the Hormel contract.

By the spring of 1992 the Austin local included around 300 P-9 strikers and about a dozen Ottumwa workers. They found many of the Quality Pork new-hires receptive because the scabs had failed to improve those workers conditions.

Late in 1992 the former P-9 strikers and the Ottumwa veterans began meeting and discussing strategy. Dale Chidester, an Ottumwa activist, ran for Secretary Treasurer, defeating prominent scab John Morrison (who may be remembered as the scab who wept as he betrayed his brother in Kopple's documentary). Dick Koski, a P-9 veteran with 25 years at Hormel, defeated another prominent scab, John Anker, for the position of local president.

The victory of the P-9 strikers seems to validate the slogan coined by UAW supporters of the Austin strike: "Tough times don't last. Tough people do."

Bureaucrats Betray Machinists

Machinists District Lodge 143, representing machinists, baggage handlers, ticket agents and clerks employed at Minnesota's Northwest Airlines and elsewhere, was placed into trusteeship by IAM's International bosses on November 16, 1992. IAM VP Peterpaul justified ending democracy at the District Lodge--with over 50 locals and 27,000 members--by claiming that the democratically elected leadership of the Lodge was guilty of "failing or refusing to comply with lawful directives" issued by the International.

The lodge president and the 23-member executive board were suspended. Peterpaul then took direct control of negotiations with Northwest Airlines. Two days later management announced that all the unions at Northwest had agreed to a package of \$900 million in concessions.

Lodge 143 had been working without a contract since May. Northwest, threatening bankruptcy, demanded major concessions from all unions. The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) leadership signalled their willingness to ante up \$300 million in givebacks which was to be ratified by ALPA's leadership without a vote by the membership. The Teamsters, representing flight attendants, were also willing to talk. But earlier concessions and the imposition of a "two-tier" system left many Teamsters at Northwest earning entry-level pay (\$13,200 a year).

The Machinists announced that they would not consider concessions until they had a contract "comparable to the industry's standard". Their position reflected the mood of the membership, many of whom were wearing red buttons which read: "No Cuts. No Givebacks. No Way." They had Northwest in a corner, and it seemed likely that they would get the contract they demanded. Until Peterpaul arrived to do the bosses work.

It's ironic that this kind of business union authoritarianism should transpire at roughly the same time as the members of Local P-9 (also in Minnesota) were regaining control of their local union. The Machinists members and other workers at Northwest need our support.

Letters of protest should be sent to: John Peterpaul, General Vice President, International Association of Machinists, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD. 20772.

Immigrant Workers Unite in Silicon Valley

On December 19 several hundred immigrant workers employed in the Silicon Valley computer industry marched for Immigrant Workers Rights in San Jose, California. The workers represented Latino and Asian American workers employed at three Silicon Valley operations. The majority of the workers in all three plants are women.

Workers at Versatronex, a PC board manufacturer in Sunnyvale, made history in October by being the electronics workers in the Valley to go on strike. They walked when Versatronex fired their spokesperson, Joselito Munoz. Munoz had delivered workers complaints about low wages, poor benefits and disrespectful treatment at an official company meeting. The workers contacted the United Electrical Workers (UE) for assistance. On November 30, after the NLRB filed a complaint against Versatronex for firing Munoz, the strikers returned to work. The company refused to allow 12 workers to return, claiming it didn't need them. A petition has been filed with the NLRB for a union election.

UE has taken the struggle directly to the companies that con-

tract with Versatronex, mainly IBM and Digital Microwave. Before returning to work they staged a hunger strike at Digital. Versatronex has threatened to relocate their facility "off-shore" if the union wins.

Other workers at the demonstration were from USM Corp., another PC Board manufacturer. USM workers were called out of the plant and told they no longer had jobs. The workers are mostly Korean and other Asian American women and the company still owes them 8 weeks back pay.

Also participating in the march were the Latina janitors employed by the Litton Corp. who have organized with SEIU Local 1877. They were displaced when Litton fired it's janitorial company and brought in a non-union contractor.

Efforts are continuing to get the Versatronex workers a union, the USM workers their back pay, and make Litton a union contractor. To support union efforts in Silicon valley contact:

UE
Box 21062
Oakland, CA 94620
(510) 534-0232

Women's Pay Gap Widens

Women earned 70 cents for every dollar earned by men in 1991, down from 72 cents in 1990, according to a study conducted by Working Women magazine.

Although women's wages jumped to 75 percent of men's during the first quarter of 1992, that was due to dramatic reductions in men's wages and not because women's wages went up. The magazine reported that the wage gap widened in 1991 because retail and finance, two fields that employ many women, were hit hard by layoffs. Manufacturing, where more men are employed, had suffered the bulk of layoffs in previous years.

Before widening in 1991, the gap had been narrowing by about 1 penny per year since 1985. At that pace women would have reached pay equity with men by the year 2018.

The Demand for Human Sacrifice

On January 20th the Clinton administration officially took power in Washington DC, culminating a suspicious election process by which he was able to win the presidency with fewer votes than Michael Dukakis received when he lost the election in 1988. The reason for this strange turn of events can be traced to the spurious campaign of millionaire industrialist H. Ross Perot, who managed to soak off sufficient support from George Bush to allow Clinton to win.

It became very clear during the election campaign that no substantial differences existed between the candidates. The biggest differences were in style and circumstance. Clinton claimed to represent "change" (as did Perot and, pathetically, Bush), but he also professed to "care" more about people. All three candidates embraced the trickle-down economics of Ronald Reagan, believing that deregulation and tax incentives for capitalists would revive the economy. Clinton claimed to have an ambiguous plan for a public works program. He also promised a tax break for the middle class. All three agreed that any hope for American capitalism would entail sacrifice on the part of the American people.

Out of these three fundamentally identical candidates, Bill Clinton won. Why? It seems clear that the above-mentioned campaign of Ross Perot was instrumental in getting Clinton into the White House. Perot's early withdrawal from the campaign, at a time when Clinton held a huge lead over Bush, resulted in a rush of support for Bush. The longer Perot stayed out of the race, the closer Bush came to winning re-election. Curiously, in the last quarter of the campaign, Perot re-entered, stopping the rise of support for Bush and dooming the incumbent to unemployment.

Unless we are naive enough to believe that all things which happen during a contest for supreme power in the United States happen above board (which Watergate and the Iran-Contra scandals should have completely disproved), we have to look beyond the obvious and examine motives and results.

By any analysis, Bush was a failure as a conservative president. He had tried to "hold the course" set by



"...and we are all being asked to make sacrifices..."

Reagan, allowing capitalists to continue their looting of the economy and maintaining a hardline internationally. But, unlike Reagan, he was unable to advance the conservative cause, and was beginning to face opposition from the American people and congress. He lacked the personal charisma, the sales ability, of Reagan. He was unable to force through hateful and harmful domestic policies by the power of his personal popularity, which was Reagan's long suit.

If we jettison the belief that the ruling elite of the United States has some overwhelming loyalty to either of the capitalist political parties, the idea that they could seek to engineer the defeat of the candidate of the most conservative party in favor of a conservative candidate from the more liberal party does not seem infeasible. If their interests are viewed as maintaining capitalism above all else, then facilitating the election of the candidate most capable of doing that, whatever his party affiliation, seems a logical move. It's no accident that Clinton owes his election to the overt actions of a millionaire industrialist. He probably also owes it to the covert actions of many others.

The capitalist reorganization begun under Reagan could no longer continue under Bush. With that reorganization pushing more and more people into poverty, a crisis of legitimacy was looming on the horizon. A social system which can no longer provide the basic needs of a large portion of it's population can expect nothing else.

So, in steps Bill Clinton, with a soothing speaking voice, a calculated similarity to John Kennedy, and an overwhelming desire to be president of the United States. Clinton's fiscal conservatism and sales ability, demonstrated during his tenure as governor of Arkansas, made him an extremely attractive candidate for the ruling elite. As a Democrat, his potential ability to control congress, something Bush could never do, likewise increased his appeal.

The course of the Clinton administration has already become clear since November 3rd. The promise of middle class tax cut (a cynical ploy to gain votes in any case) has been immediately abandoned. The promise of a reorganized healthcare system has been turned into a program of "controlled competition" which benefit no one but the insurance

East-West Anarcho-Syndicalists Meet

Anarcho-Syndicalist from several countries met in Berlin between November 25-29 to discuss "The Prospects for Anarcho-Syndicalism in Eastern and Central Europe". Delegates from Anarcho-Syndicalist unions and groups came from Bulgaria, Hungary, Russia and the Ukraine. The conference was hosted by the Berlin group of the Free Workers Union (FAU-IWA). Also present were members of the FAU from around Germany and the Secretary of the International Workers Association. Guests from other organizations were also present at various times, including a delegation from the Swedish Workers Cen-

industry. The Clinton cabinet is so full of pro-business conservatives that any chance of "change" can be immediately dismissed. It will merely be a continuation of Reaganistic capitalism, as many of the conservative economists that supported Reagan, abandoned Bush, and supported Clinton, well know. Clinton is more like reagan than Bush ever could be, party affiliations notwithstanding.

Clinton's inauguration speech, with it's overriding stress on sacrifice, bodes ill for the working people of America and the world. The victory of the Clinton administration has cynically rekindled the hopes of millions in the peaceful transformation of a destructive and unjust economic system, and that is also it's worst crime. Hope without substance is a pathetic thing, and a cynical lie demands retribution.

The hope of the working class is not in the maintenance of slavery. It is in the revolutionary transformation of society from a system based on competition and abuse to one based on freedom, equality and solidarity.

Mike Kolhoff

tral Organization (SAC) and members of several German Anarchist groups. Greetings to the conference were received from WSA-IWA, the Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS) and the Workers Solidarity Movement of Ireland.

During the first two days discussion centered on the possibility of setting up a "Center for Information and Coordination", serving Anarcho-Syndicalists in all ex-soviet bloc countries with printing facilities and other services. All agreed that this was necessary. However, problems of infrastructure (unreliable postal system, telecommunications, lack of printing and paper supplies, etc.) and the relative instability of some organizations, no concrete plans were made in this regard.

There was also a proposal from the IWA Secretariat that IWA comrades from various sections could be invited to do speaking tours on Anarcho-Syndicalism in various ex-soviet bloc countries, offering practical help and solidarity to the comrades who are reorganizing after long years of oppression. It was noted that Swedish syndicalists have already done this with mixed results. It was decided that such speaking tours could be organized if suitable speakers and translators could be arranged.

On the third day early discussion continued on details involved in these two projects. Information was exchanged about the needs of different organizations and how the IWA and Western organizations could be of help. It was agreed that the first step would be to form an Information and Coordination Bulletin. The Initiative of Revolutionary Anarchists (IREAN, Russia) has already produced two issues of a Russian language "A-Infos" bulletin. There are also other publications, but nothing specifically for the Anarcho-Syndicalist movement. It was also suggested that it was

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Southern California Anarchist Gathering

On December 4-6 Anarchists from the western states and around the country gathered at the California State University campus in Long Beach to celebrate libertarian socialism and share information. The gathering was organized by southern California Anarchists in general, with specific assistance from the united Anarchist front, Long Beach Food Not Bombs, and the Los Angeles Anarchist Youth federation. Workshops were held on such topics as radical environmentalism, sexism and the history of Anarchism. The proceedings included a locally produced play about the Haymarket martyrs (The Chicago Eight).

A planned musical concert on Saturday the 5th was disrupted by a massive invasion of Long Beach

police. The organizers had planned to use the concert as a fund raiser to pay for the gathering and also to donate funds to the local Food Not Bombs group. A police riot quickly ensued and several people were arrested. A Canadian woman's arm was broken in the melee and one organizer was arrested for asking for an officers badge number. The police claimed that the building was condemned, but organizers legally rented the space (which had electricity and running water, something most condemned buildings don't have). 250-300 people attended the gathering, which closed with a "free fair" in a local park, where participants freely distributed clothing, books and other items to the homeless and the needy.

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Iranian Unionists Freed

Two Iranian worker activists who have been held incommunicado since 1991 have been released by the Islamic government, largely due an outpouring of international support including support from Workers Solidarity Alliance.

The two activists, Saeed Saedi and Zahed Manouchehri were imprisoned in the western Iranian city of Sanandaj. Saedi, a welder, has been an activist with the Sanatagar Union and was among the speakers at May Day rallies in Sanandaj. Manouchehri is a garment worker and has been an activist in the tailor's union and was one of the organizers of the same May Day rallies

Mike Harris

IWW Fights Bingo Bosses

The Lehigh Valley branch of the IWW has been waging a bitter seven-month struggle to unionize workers at a bingo hall in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Boulevard Bingo, run by two non-profit organizations as a fundraising source, employs 15 part-time workers.

In January 1992, management attempted to impose a new set of work rules upon the employees, including provisions for mandatory drug testing and strip searches. The workers sent letters of protest to management and considered forming a union. John Havassy, the manager of the hall, began a campaign of retaliation, including verbal harassment and intimidation. Between February and June 1992, four workers were fired for being "troublemakers".

In mid-June another worker was fired for her organizing activity. In response five workers hit the streets demanding the reinstatement of the fired workers. All five were fired. Havassy hoped that the picketers would simply give up and go home. Instead all ten joined the IWW which filed charges on their behalf with the NLRB, joined the picket line and organized a boycott of the hall.

Havassy and other managers have threatened physical harm to several of the picketers. Scabs hired by Havassy have also tried to run their cars into the picket line, and Havassy's wife rammed her truck into the car of one of the IWW organizers.

Despite a favorable ruling from the NLRB, Boulevard management is refusing to rehire the fired workers and has stepped up pressure on union supporters still employed by the hall. Further charges have been filed, but broad support for the fired workers is needed.

Letters of support and financial donations can be sent to the workers via the Lehigh Valley IWW, POB 4133, Bethlehem, PA 18016 (215) 253-5057.

Letters of protest, demanding the ending of such harassment of workers and union-busting in the strongest terms, should be sent to: John Havaasy, President, PASCAL, 1514 Union Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103, and to Joseph Fillman, President, Allied Air Force, 1730 Vultee St., Allentown, PA 18103 (PASCAL and Allied Air Force are the two non-profits which operate the hall). Copies of letters sent to Havaasy or Fillman should be sent to the Lehigh Valley IWW.

necessary to produce translations in several East European languages of such classic texts as "The Principles of Anarcho-Syndicalism" by Rudolf Rocker.

The third day ended with the delegate from the Confederation of Independent Unions in Zaporozie giving a summary of the situation in the Ukraine.

The early part of the final session centered on hammering out practical details regarding the bulletin, including choosing the IREAN Moscow group as initial coordinator of the publication. They will produce four issues, in both Russian and English. The name of the bulletin will be "A.S. Info:Open Bulletin of the Friends of the IWA". Issues will be available to subscribing organizations for postage costs.

To continue the work begun in Berlin it was agreed that a second conference would be held in Zaporozie in the Ukraine, for the summer of 1993. The conference will be hosted by the CIU of Zaporozie. A new editorial group for the bulletin will be chosen at this meeting.

Temp Workers Union Formed

Office Workers United first put forth the call to form a temp workers union and hiring hall at the Clerical and Bank Workers Conference in March, 1992. Several people contacted us and expressed interest in organizing such a union and hiring hall. At the first meeting, however, only three people showed up (two WSA activists and an unaffiliated temp worker). Further outreach for the project was undertaken and a second meeting attracted seven people. At the third meeting the project actually began to take shape.

The Temp Workers Union was chosen as the name of the organization and a start date of March 1st was chosen for the hiring hall. \$700 in donations have been raised (including a generous grant from the Industrial Workers of the World) and an office has been secured.

The hiring hall will initially be staffed by volunteers, and eventually a permanent office steward will be elected to handle office functions. TWU has a strictly democratic structure, with all paid staff elected and subject to immediate recall by a vote of the membership. TWU is independent of any existing political or union organization and answerable only to its membership. Our arrangements with employers will be as a worker-owned, non-profit temp agency, since anti-union bias in the business community would keep them away from the hiring hall despite whatever savings our non-profit status might give them. By being non-profit we will be able to keep more of the money we earn as temps while charging employers less than capitalist temp agencies. By undercutting the prices of the commercial temp agencies we hope to eventually unite the majority of temp workers in our union.

The hall will be financed by a nominal hall fee and dues assessment which will be used to meet current expenses and eventually expand services to include daycare facilities and health insurance. We envision the union and hiring hall as a vital part of the community and as an historic advance for workers employed at the bottom rung of the capitalist system.

TWU can be contacted at: Temp Workers Union, 1095 Market St. Rm 216, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Education Workers Network

EWN 1, Bosses 0

After a ten month fight (our first as a network), we have finally achieved victory at New College of California. Under pressure from a local boycott, picketing and national and international solidarity, New College management has at last sued for peace. They have offered to rehire faculty member Steven Kushner and are negotiating a financial settlement in my case (since I have found work elsewhere). There are lingering questions of legal action for defamation of character (they managed to get a local weekly to print the idiotic comments of college vice president Martin Hamilton in which he threatened me with physical attack and told the entire city I was fired), but enough evidence exists that management has "retired from the field" to claim victory for EWN.

International support from comrades in the French CNT and the British Education Workers Network, as well as strong support from comrades around the country, has proven that solidarity can and will win. Letters of support let management know that the struggle at New College did not take place in isolation. The number of international letters must have had an effect on their morale. There is definite strength in internationalism.

Our strategy of applying economic pressure through pickets of registration periods and an area boycott, as well as a "corporate campaign" aimed at major donors to the college, helped put New College \$400,000 in the red for the 91/92 school year. Many top managers deserted. Many staff workers have also quit in the face of repressive tactics. The re-entry of an EWN organizer will hopefully restore a workers opposition inside the college. We will continue to be actively involved in organizing New College. New College management still has debts to pay.

Mike Kolhoff

UC Berkeley Grad Employees End Strike

Under threats of mass firings and blacklisting, Graduate Employees at UC Berkeley have been forced to end their strike for recognition. Members of the Association of Graduate Student Employees (AGSE-UAW) have expressed frustration at a lack of democratic pro-

cess in formulating tactics and strategy in the fight. According to comments by an AGSE member published in the February issue of Labor Notes, no alternative tactics were discussed, no outreach to the Bay Area community was attempted and no attempt was made to link AGSE's struggle to the broader issue of education cuts in California (which would have spoken directly to all students on the UC campus). Instead a fairly conventional approach was adopted by the AGSE leadership which narrowed the focus of the struggle to union recognition and used such ineffective tactics as pickets and periodic demonstrations. No significant outreach was done to the local labor community (offers of aid from EWN were ignored) or to the generally progressive Bay Area community.

The option to renew the strike at any time is still open to AGSE, and AGSE president Andy Cowell has vowed to continue to press for recognition. Yet the traditional tactics of pressuring management seem to have little or no effect on the UC top bureaucrats. A more radical and rank and file controlled approach will be necessary to win at Berkeley.

Harvard Clerical-Techs Know What It Takes to Win

After nearly nine months of negotiations members of the Harvard Union of Clerical Technical Workers (HUCTW) have finally got a contract, and it's a good one. Union chief negotiator Bill Jaeger states: "These negotiations took months of hard work, but it's been worth it. We've produced one of the best contracts in the country." The contract includes: payraises of 15.5%; health coverage for domestic partners; a jointly administered childcare fund of \$240,000; and education fund with tuition scholarships of \$135,000; and a job security clause that allows workers who lose their jobs due to restructuring to be moved to other positions within the University.

HUCTW won this fight by a massive mobilization of their membership and actively seeking support from the local community. On December 1st over 3,000 union members and supporters marched through the streets to drive home the fact that the CT's were ready to fight. Numerous other actions were part of the building process, including demonstrations outside the



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347 W. Suttentfield St., Ft. Wayne,
IN. 46807 Specify size (S, M, L,
XL) PRICE: \$10.00 postage paid.
Make checks payable to: WSA

Calendar Notes:

***WSA 10th National Convention,
May 28-30th, San Francisco, CA.
Contact this newsletter for info.**

***Great Labor Arts Exchange, June
27-29, Silver Springs, MD.**

Contact: Rocky (202) 842-7880

***Pacific Northwest Workers
Heritage Festival, Sept. 4-5.**

**Contact: Ross Reider, (206)
524-0346**

president's home, rallies and a solidarity campaign on the shopfloor. "Everything we set out to get, we got," said union president Donene Williams. The most active word here is **we**.

The Education Workers Network is an independent nation-wide organization of people employed in all sectors of the education system. We seek to create militant and democratic workers formations which unite all education workers for the defence of, and expansion of, workers rights. We publish the bi-monthly newsletter **The General Assembly** (sample copy available for 50 cents) which covers the ongoing struggle in the education system. Membership in the EWN is \$4 per year. Make checks payable to: WSA, and send to:

Education Workers Network
c/o P.O. Box 40400
San Francisco, CA 94140

Public Workers Network

South African Public Sector Unions Discuss Unity

Three Public Sector unions affiliated to the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) met at the end of January to discuss a planned merger. The discussions involved the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, the South African Municipal Workers Union, and the Post and Telecommunications Workers Association. The three represent approximately 126,000 workers. These unity talks are in line with COSATU's policy of having a single union in each employment sector.

If You Can't Beat Em', Watch Em'

That's what two large unions seem to be doing to rank and file activists and dissidents. It's been discovered that surveillance by private detectives has been used as a way to stop opposition in the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) and in New York City local 32B-32J of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The leaders of OPEIU and Local 32B-32J hired private detectives to watch rank and file members who openly challenged their positions.

The "crime" of NYC SEIU dissident Carlos Guzman was his questioning of Local 32B-J president Gus Benova's salary, and the fact that Benova's son and wife were also on the union payroll. Benova made \$364,000 in assorted salaries and is one of the highest paid union officials in the United States. At the same time union dues were raised by 29%. Local 32B-32J represents building maintenance workers who earn an average yearly income of \$23,000.

Massachusetts Public Workers Finally Gain Contract

After working four years without a contract, nearly 50,000 public workers will finally see a pay raise. The pay raise will unfortunately only be retroactive to 1992.



Given the highly political and problematic nature of dealing with public employers, the coalition of state unions relied very heavily on political action. This mainly took the form of targeting selected elected officials and defeating them in the November election.

Despite this reliance on political action, some direct action did take place, such as a mass rally of 20,000 workers and supporters in Boston and a tactic of following the governor from place to place with picket signs and leaflets.

Besides wages, the issues at hand also included unpaid furloughs, health insurance cutbacks and privatization.

As public workers, militants and Anarchists, we need to find a counterbalance to the reliance on elected officials in our struggles. While it's important to put pressure on elected officials, such victories are only temporary when we rely on them to fund our contracts and provide essential services. Demonstrations alone won't do the trick, but believing that politicians will somehow serve the interests of both workers and the community at large certainly won't do the trick either.

Public workers, what do you think? We'd love to hear from you.

The Public Workers Network can be contacted by writing or calling:

PWN
c/o New York WSA.
339 Lafayette, Rm 202
New York, NY 10012
(212) 979-8353

Workers Solidarity Production Group:

Ed Elhauge, Mike Kolhoff, Faith Rach

Contributors: Mike Harris

Editorial Advisory Group: Barry Carpenter, Jake Edwards, Ginger Hutton, Angie Quin, Thad Metz

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Workers Solidarity Alliance

WSA is an Anarcho-Syndicalist organization with groups and contacts in all regions of the United States. We seek to build working class organizations based on the principles of direct democracy and direct action, both in the workplace and in the community. We place ourselves in opposition to the bureaucratic, authoritarian structures which have come to dominate our society and our daily lives. We seek to build living organizational forms which are completely under the control of working people. WSA activists are involved in a wide variety of projects (see contact list below) involving workplace organizing, international solidarity, and addressing specific social concerns that effect us all as working people. If you are interested in joining with us in these efforts or would like more information, contact this newsletter or the WSA group nearest you.

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