

Seattle Worker

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May Day 2018

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• A GARLAND FOR MAY DAY 1895 •
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Seattle Worker
Official Publication of the Seattle IWW

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*In support of revolutionary industrial unionism,
this publication is written by union members. It
is printed with union and volunteer labor.*

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Seattle IWW Endorses the Call for a Decentralized, Anti-Capitalist May Day

The workers of the Seattle General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) are endorsing the call for a decentralized, anti-capitalist May Day. The Wobblies overwhelmingly voted to support this call ahead of International Workers' Day, a celebration and remembrance of the labor movement, which will take place May 1. We believe that this year's May Day events should be throughout the city at different times and different locations and hosted by various groups in order to prevent direct repression by the Seattle police and to make disruptions of our events by outside agitators more difficult.

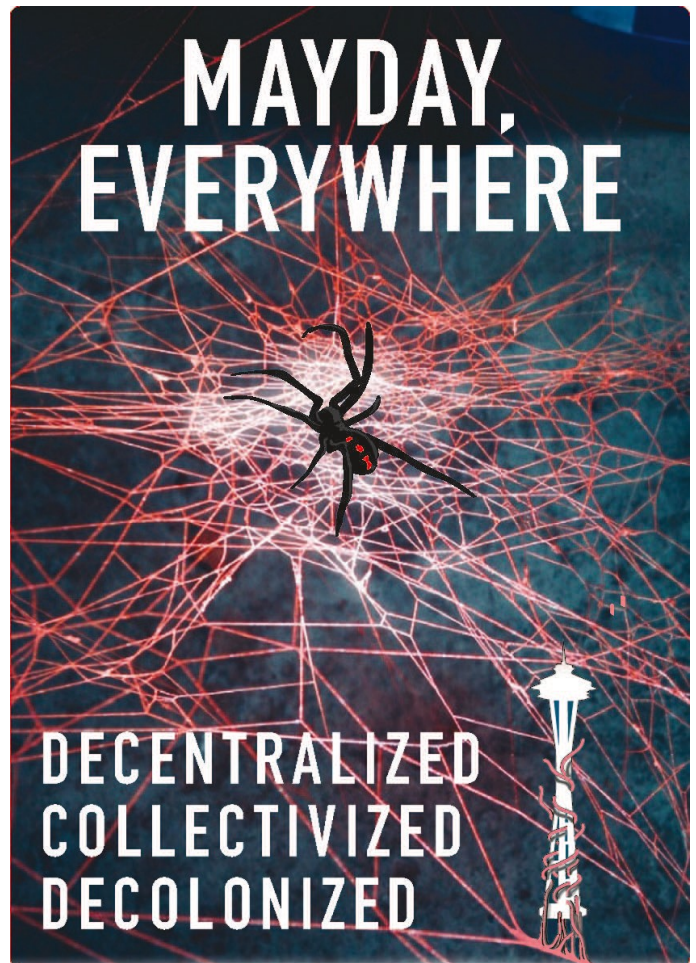
We encourage other groups in the city to follow the example set by numerous other anti-capitalists who are participating in the decentralized May Day.

For too long, workers and activists in this city have congregated in a central location, which has made us easy targets for the Seattle Police Department. This year, fascists and other hate groups from around the city are also planning on disrupting the May Day events. By holding one event in an easily predictable location, we will be putting ourselves at needless risk.

When considering participating in the decentralized event, consider as well that this is an opportunity for many groups to disrupt the daily activities of capitalism. Meeting for one largely symbolic march or event does nothing practical for our anti-capitalist struggle. We should embody the spirit of May Day by holding events across the city that allow us to directly disrupt and oppose capitalism.

We remember that May Day became an international day of remembrance following the Haymarket Affair of 1886, when seven anarchists were executed for having the audacity to protest police brutality against striking workers. We should not make ourselves easy targets for further brutality, but should act according to the needs and goals of our individual organizations to oppose, undermine, and criticize capitalism.

[Statement voted on and adopted April 4, 2018]



Poster courtesy of Puget Sound Anarchists



From the Rain City Wobblies Branch Secretary

Introducing the Seattle Worker, Official Publication of the Seattle IWW

Greetings from the Seattle General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, the “Rain City Wobblies”! This is the inaugural edition of the *Seattle Worker*, a publication in the spirit of the *Industrial Worker*, the long-running voice of the IWW. Our paper will be an opportunity for the Rain City Wobblies to engage directly with the people of the Seattle region as we continue our organizing efforts to empower the workers of our home city.

Considering the national decline in union membership, the resurgence of reactionary and fascist politics, and the stagnation of the American job market, it certainly feels as though we are at a turning point in US history. How we revolutionaries and radicals act in the next decade may decide the fate of the US labor movement and, by extension, the fortunes of the entire working class. Therefore, we are obligated to organize in this region a concerted union of workers dedicated to improving their lives and controlling their own labor. We hope that the *Seattle Worker* will help us accomplish this goal.

This paper will be home to news, editorials, photos, art, and essays detailing organizing campaigns, labor news, and the history of the Seattle IWW. We will profile workplaces, local organizations, activists and organizers, local and regional events, and other efforts around the Puget Sound. We hope to inform, educate, and collaborate with our fellow workers in the area to facilitate our goals of organizing the working class.

When I became Secretary of the Seattle branch this year, I said that my top priority was growing the union's membership and ensuring that we are a force for change in the lives of workers across the region. As we assert ourselves and become more active, I expect our membership to continue growing. However, it is imperative that we build not just a group of dedicated workers who want to change the world for good, but that we build a movement that threatens this city's employer class and sends the message that we are going to take back what we deserve.

We have a lot to be excited about. Our IWW branch is bigger than it has been in decades, and we're growing. We have multiple organizing campaigns, ranging from the



successful unionization of fundraising canvassers to brand new campaigns aimed at some of Seattle's powerhouse industries. We have artists, musicians, and writers who are creating new and interesting works for the liberation of the working class. And we are building a new labor movement in Seattle, a labor movement that doesn't stop at contract negotiations and pickets, but one that has its sights set on dismantling capitalism and the exploitation of all workers.

We also hope that this paper will help invigorate members and empower them to engage or re-engage with the union. This is a union that is built by, and completely reliant on, its members. We want to reach out to members, new and old, to share stories and news, collaborate on new projects, and increase involvement with the union's work.

This branch also has a long history. When the IWW was founded in 1905 in Chicago, the Seattle branch was one of the first charters in the country. Within a year, we had 200 fellow workers organizing across the region. Most of our success came from organizing lumberjacks (nicknamed “timber beasts” at the time), miners, shipyard workers, and other so-called “unskilled” workers. The IWW helped organize the Seattle General Strike of 1919, one of the most infamous events in US labor history.

A concentrated crusade of state repression in the following years significantly undercut the union's membership, and our chapter was inactive for years. But we never disappeared, and a Wobbly resurgence has now put us squarely in the midst of a historical moment that has breathed new life into radical organizing. We will share these historical episodes in the pages of the *Seattle Worker* as well.

Most importantly, we invite you to join us. Membership in the IWW is open to all workers, regardless of skill, craft, training, education, or employment status. All workers are welcome in the IWW. We hope that this publication will provide a space for workers to reach out to one another and share their experiences, their frustrations, their triumphs, their goals and aspirations and ambitions. We are all working for the same objective: the emancipation of the working class from the bonds of capitalism. On behalf of the Seattle GMB, the Seattle Worker Editorial Committee, and all of our fellow workers of Western Washington, thank you for reading this.

In solidarity and for the One Big Union,

Lindsay Mimir

My Journey to the IWW

By JOE COSTELLO

I am a 33 years old, and I have had many negative experiences under capitalism. My existence as a proletarian has shaped me in many ways; living under oppressive conditions changes a person in ways that they don't normally think about, from interpersonal relationships to developing a social life and especially child rearing. The damage that this economic system and the whole of class society has caused is almost incalculable. Capitalism is parasitic and exploitative in nature. In my experience, the effects of living under a system that places priority on money and profit over human life can produce unforeseen and lasting consequences.

I am subsisting on meager wages and am just one paycheck away from outright destitution. Most people I know are making less than \$15/hr. There are exceptions I know, but what I see is a wage decline. Ten years ago I was making \$15/hr. I work three jobs right now. If I lose my any of my jobs, then it's pretty much hopeless. This is terrifying.

The struggle to survive with little or no money is hard enough without the social stigma attached to it. In my family, that stigma was damaging for many people involved. There is a common conception that people who have fallen on hard times have only themselves to blame and they should pick themselves up by their so-called "bootstraps." The stigma gets worse when you find yourself continually impoverished.

What I saw around me was a decadent class of liberal professionals who were gentrifying our town and driving us working-class people out. Learning about the whole labor history of the United States, it really jump-started my awareness and I began taking interest in anarchism and communism. I began to develop my understanding about why the world was the way it was. Now, after discovering Marxism-Leninism, I am politically rejuvenated and my need to engage in conscious class struggle is something I can no longer ignore. The IWW is a fundamental tool in engaging in positive struggle and I am proud to be a member.

I first entered the working world when I was in high school. I was brought up to have a strong work ethic and I always took work seriously. But, this wasn't just a hobby or an activity to pass the time or for me to gain work experience. My family needed the money. If my brothers and I didn't

work, I don't think we could have survived. Even with our extra income, it was still tough. That work was only in the winter. In 2003, I began to work in Alaska as a seaman. From then on, mostly every summer I was working up in Alaska. I wanted to be home. I hated being up there. I missed my friends and I wanted a social life.

I did that kind of work for about 10 years. Looking back, it was a bad career choice. The hours were long, it was dangerous, the pay was not good, and I had no job security. Then, when I would come home, I would have to start looking for work again. I went to work at a shipyard, and that was a nasty job. We built one tugboat and I was laid off. Then I got another job through the union at another shipyard. Real good guys my co-workers were, but I was laid off again.

Then a few of my friends helped me get into the union. I began working commercial construction with my buddies and they started me at journeyman wages even though I was an apprentice. So I told my supervisor I was being overpaid. I didn't feel right about being paid for skills I did not have. A few days later the boss came down and ordered me to pay back the money. I refused. So they fired me. My union rep didn't support me. I continued to work in commercial construction until the crash of 2008 happened. I was working another construction job and one day, the boss laid off the whole jobsite. No more money coming in, he said, and the investors pulled all their money.

The struggle never ended. It just changed from year to year. I was still somewhat involved in commercial fishing and was continuing to try and find a job that I enjoyed and that paid enough for me to live.

That didn't happen. Rental prices in the Northwest were steadily increasing, even in the worst parts of town. Hard to survive. In the winter of 2011 my wife and I found out she was pregnant. No savings, no house, not even a reliable vehicle. The house we were living in had black mold, lead paint, and there was a galvanizing plant and an asphalt production facility across the highway. We had to get out of there. By the time my son was ready to be born, I was flying home from Alaska and only a week later she was ready to have the baby. We continued to live in that house for another year because we couldn't find anything we could afford. So we got on a low-income housing list back

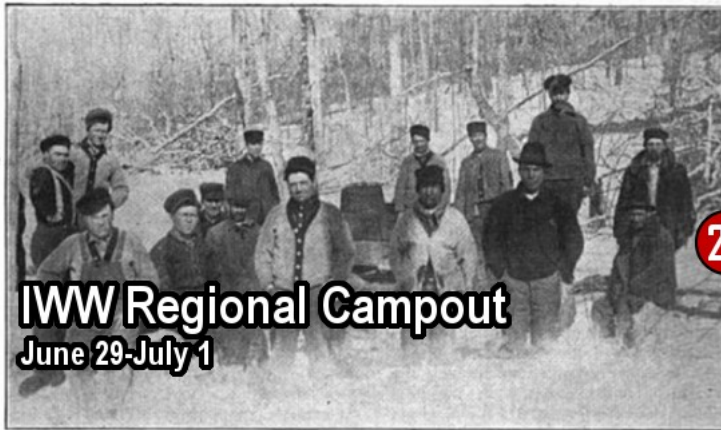
I am politically rejuvenated and my need to engage in conscious class struggle is something I can no longer ignore.

where I grew up and we've been here ever since.

All the bad shit is still here. And it's getting worse. The economy is bad, the inequality is bad. The drug problem is bad. And most people don't think about the working poor, but every Wednesday that food bank is packed. We are here. We exist. We aren't going away. The problems of capitalism aren't going away.

Capitalism relies on exploitation of people. America, as an empire, depends on exploitation to function. Will we see a real revolution or will the proletariat be fooled again by shiny promises of achieving the so called "American dream?" Michael Parenti speaks to the fallacies of the American social order: "In societies that worship money and success, the losers become objects of scorn. Those who work the hardest for the least are called lazy. Those forced to live in substandard housing are thought to be the authors of substandard lives."

A version of this essay was originally published on planningbeyondcapitalism.org. The full-length essay is available there.



IWW Regional Campout
June 29-July 1

WAITING FOR DINNER UP IN THE WOODS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

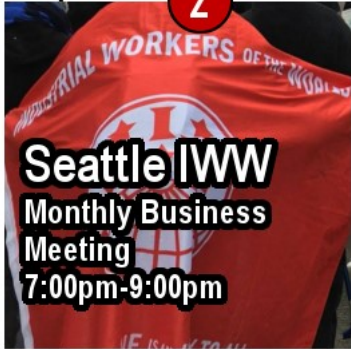
May

1

International Workers' Day

Events begin at 6:00pm.
Contact the IWW and GDC for details.

2



16



June

6



29



Books & Essays | Podcasts

Audible Anarchist is a collective of volunteers from around the world dedicated to sharing anarchist ideas through audio recordings of books and essays, through podcasts, and through collaboration. Subscribe to our YouTube channel and discover the myriad resources available to you. Uploads several times each week.

- Recent uploads include:
- Peter Kropotkin, *The Conquest of Bread*
 - Mikhail Bakunin, *The Capitalist System*
 - Emma Goldman, *Anarchism and Other Essays*
 - Rudolf Rocker, *Anarcho-syndicalism: Theory and Practice*
 - Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, *Sabotage*

Find us on YouTube and LibriVox.

University of Washington Welcomes Fascists Back to Seattle

Counter-protesters defend Red Square while UW President betrays student body

By Lexi Owens

In what has become an all-too-familiar cycle, another fascist-sympathizing group has made Seattle a target of its hateful and bigoted message. Patriot Prayer—a far-right religious group based in Portland, Oregon—are attacking women at Planned Parenthood locations in Washington. They were invited to speak at UW by the College Republicans, who also invited alt-right spokesman Milo Yiannopoulos to campus on J20 and who actively campaign with the Cascade Legion, a neo-Nazi group.

The rally, held on February 10, attracted other fascists to campus, including the Proud Boys and genuine neo-Nazis. Patriot Prayer was met by counter-protesters belonging to numerous student and community groups committed to anti-fascism, including the Seattle Wobblies and Seattle General Defense Committee. All told, the Patriot Prayer rally was easily outnumbered 4-to-1.

However, the rally was not without controversy. Before the event, UW President Ana Mari Cauce warned students to stay away from campus because organizations “outside our university” had presented credible threats of violence while ignoring that the College Republicans have, on numerous occasions, invited violent groups to campus and incited counter-protest. Of course, Cauce was not referring to Patriot Prayer, but instead to counter-protesters: community members who believe that fascists have no right to invade the public space to call for violence against vulnerable communities. Cauce declined to cancel the event, even with the knowledge that the speakers advocate ethnic cleansing, murder of LGBTQ people, and deportation of immigrant students.

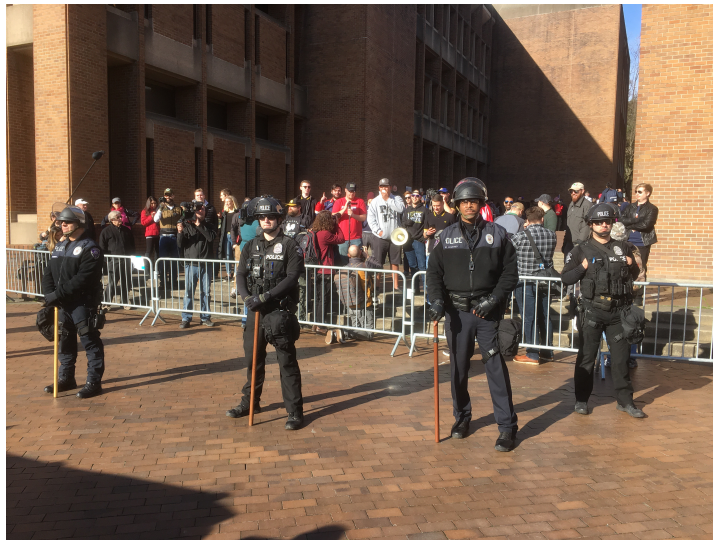
UW’s diversity webpage declares that it “strive[s] to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promote[s] access, opportunity and justice for all.” If Cauce and UW were truly committed to fulfilling these idealistic goals—and if UW cared about its multinational, multi-

cultural, multi-ethnic student body—then they would not have allowed Patriot Prayer and its fascist allies to hold a rally in the middle of the university.

It seems that President Cauce would rather provide a safe space for fascists to preach than protect the rights of multicultural students on campus. “Young, Gifted, & Black” cancelled an event for black high school students to visit campus. It is truly damning that a college recruitment group for students of color would have to cancel their event due to safety concerns resulting from the presence of violent fascists on campus.

Additionally, this weekend was supposed to be the opening of “A Book With No Pages” at the Jacob Lawrence Gallery, an exhibition and residency awarded to C. Davida Ingram who creates conceptual art around subjects of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and social relationships, but this event was also cancelled because of safety concerns.

Counter-protesters from student and community groups marched into Red Square just before the Patriot Prayer rally began. The counter-protesters were met by UW Police and Seattle Police Department officers in riot gear. The police



had erected two barricades to keep the rally and counter-protesters apart. The police were working in conjunction with Patriot Prayer to ensure that the speakers remained unharassed.

After an hour, the police allowed several fascists to cross the barricades and enter the counter-protest. They were met with silly string and glitter bombs. In three separate instances, when the fascists began shoving protesters, the police intervened, pepper sprayed the crowd, and arrested people in the vicinity. They used their bikes to shove protesters back and prevent the medics in attendance from giving aid to those affected.

Local newspapers have reported that counter-demonstrators instigated the violence, but anyone who was actually in attendance knows that the violence was instigated by the police in two ways—first by allowing fascists to cross the barricades, and second by intervening only against counter-protesters.

Fights broke out because fascists began shoving their way into the crowd, which they could do only because they were granted police protection. Outnumbered as they were, they could threaten the counter-protesters knowing that the



police would step in and protect them after they started a fight.

The two sides continued to hurl insults across the barricades. The alt-right and fascists recited the same tired excuses about how they were only there to promote “free speech,” a disingenuous justification that betrays the moral bankruptcy of their ideology: “Our speech is not technically illegal” is their rallying cry and only defense. More than an hour before their rally was scheduled to finish, they departed. After a constant barrage of noise, cheers, chants, and songs, they left. The police escorted them off campus.



They will inevitably claim a great victory: they marched into a liberal-dominated space, gave their speeches, and left after being made a persecuted minority. Their thwarted rally will bolster their claims that they are America’s true moral conscience, lost in the torrents of “liberalism,” “cultural marxism,” and “white genocide.”

It is for these reasons that we must continue to confront them. As their rhetoric grows more violent and more extreme, and these groups become more desperate for power, they will lash out at those who are vulnerable, as indicated by the spike in hate crimes since Trump’s election.

The Proud Boys were delayed during their exit. When

they returned to their trucks, they discovered that their tires had been slashed. Other fascists were seen receiving medical aid from the fire department just off campus. In an act of petty revenge, they assaulted the first young people wearing black clothes they could find.

Because the university and the police refuse to protect students of color and vulnerable communities from racist attacks, it falls to students and the community to protect themselves. The Wobblies are proud to be a part of these acts of self-defense. As long as fascists continue to attack people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and all other working peoples, we will continue to move against them. It is our duty as Fellow Workers to put ourselves on the line for these communities.

History Highlight - May Day

By Hannah Hopkins

International Workers’ Day commemorates the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago, Illinois. On May 1, 1886 labor unions across the US went on strike in support of the eight-hour work day. In Chicago, strikers were attacked and killed by Pinkertons, scabs, and the police. In response, workers held a rally on May 4 in Haymarket Square. The peaceful rally ended when an unknown person threw a bomb at the police and gunfire erupted. The police arrested anarchists August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Albert R. Parsons, Louis Lingg, Michael Schwab, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, and Oscar Neebe for their alleged involvement in the bombing. Engel, Fischer, Parsons, and Spies were then executed.

Mother Jones, Knights of Labor organizer and IWW cofounder, writes of Haymarket:

“The first of May, which was to usher in the eight-hour day uprising, came. The newspapers had done everything to alarm the people. All over the city there were strikes and walkouts. Employers quaked in their boots. They saw revolution... The police without warning charged down upon the workers, shooting into their midst, clubbing right and left. Many were trampled under horses’ feet. Numbers were shot dead. Skulls were broken. Young men and young girls were clubbed to death... On the evening of May 4th, the anarchists held a meeting in the shabby, dirty district known to later history as Haymarket Square... One of the anarchist speakers was addressing the crowd. A bomb was dropped from a window overlooking the square. A number of the police were killed in the explosion that followed... Only those who had agitated for an eight-hour day, however, were brought to trial and a few months later hanged... The Sunday following the executions, the funerals were held. Thousands of workers marched behind the black hearses, not because they were anarchists but they felt that these men, whatever their theories, were martyrs to the workers’ struggle.”



Canvassers Fight Back

By X358109

The world of fundraising is an interesting one. No matter what, you need money to operate an organization, and some are big enough that they contract out to other companies to do their fundraising for them. A lot of time you see people on the streets with tablets and shirts that say "Planned Parenthood" or "ACLU" on them. But these canvassers don't work for those organizations. They work for for-profit fundraising companies like Grassroots Campaigns Inc., or GCI.

An ACLU contract can bring in millions for GCI and it works like your typical "trickle down" scheme: it goes all to the top. The workers at the Seattle GCI office had enough of the same old, same old where they had no power in the workplace, so they decided to join the IWW.

GCI's Progressive Veneer

GCI is a "progressive" company. They advertise their jobs as learning to do activism for important causes, and ACLU and others certainly do some important work, but at its core GCI is led by a group of Democratic Party centrists who have no principles whatsoever. If they stand for progressive change, here is what they offer:

- Low wages for idealistic young people, working them to the bone until they burnout
- Work in rain, sleet, or shine but don't give them health coverage for when they get sick—fire them instead
- Make workers travel all over the city on their own dime—reimburse them sometimes, or maybe not
- Make workers wear dirty uniforms
- Have a union-busting lawyer as the company's general counsel

The IWW Comes to Town

GCI workers started getting organized and taking out Red Cards (IWW memberships), and the Seattle branch of the IWW began to work with them. And they took action, too! After getting everyone to sign a petition for an office fridge the workers marched on the boss and made their demands clear—we want to be able to bring our lunches to the office! Management caved. This wouldn't be the last time the company negotiated with the union and the union won. Not too long after this, their organizing committee began to collect union cards and within a couple months had the shop wrapped up. On February 13th, the workers at GCI filed for an National Labor Relations Board union election, but this was just a formality.

The union was already there. The union was already

winning.

GCI tried to pull legal tricks on the members of the IWW's General Office Workers Industrial Union #650. First they said they were going to challenge the bargaining unit. They said recruitment specialists shouldn't be allowed to be in the union with canvassers. The union held firm and said "No Way!" to their attempts to trick us into dropping union members from the struggle. Eventually the company caved, again! When March 9th rolled around, the union won its election 15 - 2 and the company not only had to accept the union, but had a Unfair Labor Practice slapped on it for refusing to rehire a worker for their suspected union sympathies.

IWW 650 Job Branch Established

The basic unit of the IWW is the Job Branch. At GCI, the IWW has established a IU650 Job Branch where the workers themselves are able to effectively handle the issues that come up at work. The idea is simple: the workers meet monthly, pay dues to an elected union delegate, and elect a job committee to handle grievances. When an issue comes up, they take collective action to address it. Through this form of organization, the union keeps the company in check and has even been able push back against unjust disciplining.

The workers entered into contract negotiations with GCI's Seattle director. On April 9, the director signed a contract with the bargaining unit. On April 19, the GCI workers voted to ratify that contract. This was a huge win for the workers as they won all of their demands!

The IWW is a member-run union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities. We want our workplaces run for the benefit of workers and communities rather than for a handful of bosses and executives. IWW members are organizing to win better conditions today and build a world with economic democracy tomorrow.

WANTED: Fundraising canvassers

Grassroots Campaigns Inc. is hiring Frontline Representatives to raise money for organizations like Doctors Without Borders, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and Planned Parenthood.

All workers are represented by IU 650 of the IWW
 Swift hiring turnaround
 3 days guaranteed pay - if you do well on on of those days, two weeks guaranteed pay
 No dress code
 Flexible scheduling
 IWW-organized coworkers

For more information, contact seattlecanvassers@gmail.com

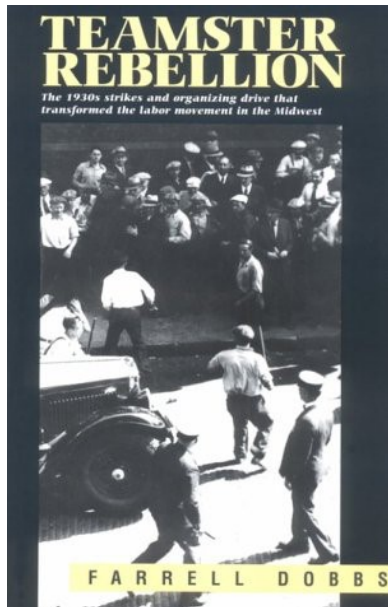
Five Books for Organizers

By X358109

In the IWW Organizing Program we tell people: read! Read the news, read about organizing, read theory! We say this because when Joe Hill said “Don’t mourn, organize,” he didn’t mean “Don’t think, organize!” Expanding our knowledge of history and theory can be important to help our rank-and-file organizers become big thinkers, to understand big-picture strategy, and to learn from the past and put new ideas to the test. But what should we read? I decided I would put forward five suggestions that I have personally found to be helpful for all these questions, books that I find myself referring to again and again.

1. The *Teamster* Series by Farrell Dobbs

Okay, I broke my own set up already. Technically I’m choosing a four-book series, but hear me out! Farrell Dobbs was a coal trucker in Minneapolis who became a revolutionary. He was brought into the union struggle with the Teamsters at a time when their local was completely



moribund and it took the initiative of a group of socialists to make the local organize. Dobbs was eventually brought into the Trotskyist movement through his experiences. In this series, he not only talks about that experience, but of the Minneapolis Teamsters in the 1930s and 40s who went from 75 members to 3000 within a year, led a general strike, and initiated industrial union

organizing across the midwest. And it doesn’t paint it in broad strokes, he tells you exactly what happened in plain language. You can learn a lot from these books, from an analysis of class forces, to the nature of union bureaucracies, to how to organize and develop a strategy. It’s good stuff and I couldn’t put these books down when I finally got my hands on them!

2. *On War* by Carl von Clausewitz

Writings on military theory are some of the best things an organizer can read because they consider things from all the

angles, and they layout important structures to think from. Ideas like strategic, operational, and tactical levels of attack from this sort of theory are immensely important. “War is politics by other means,” says Clausewitz. In other words, it’s the same idea in both: impose your will on the opponent by expending a minimum of effort. Clausewitz doubles in importance because he not only teaches “how to think” in terms of strategy and tactics, but he was a Prussian intellectual influenced by the philosopher Hegel. Similarly to Marx’s work, Clausewitz also uses a framework for thinking called “dialectics” that stresses understanding that processes (in this case, war) are always in motion, put in motion by context and past actions, and he talks about how these contexts and processes change. Marx did the same thing, except for class struggle.

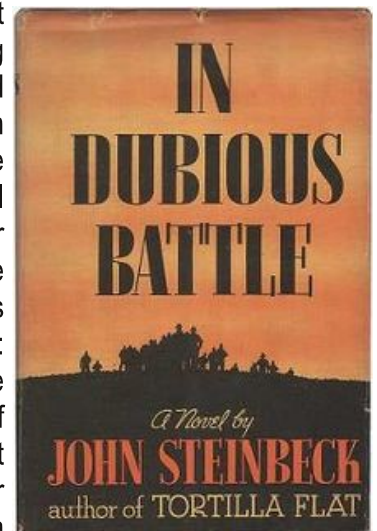
CARL VON CLAUSEWITZ



On War

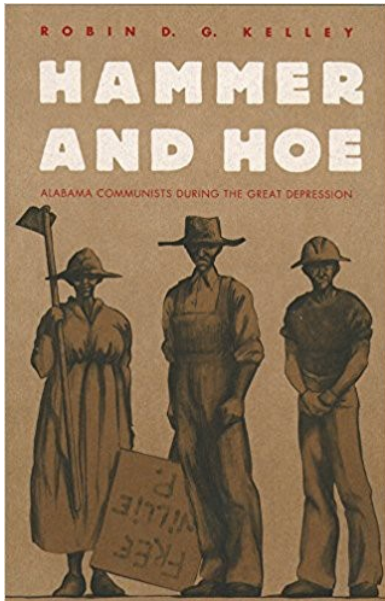
3. *In Dubious Battle* by John Steinbeck

The best work by Steinbeck, hands down. Steinbeck is a great author for a lot of reasons, one of them being that he was able to really write working-class stories. *In Dubious Battle* is the story of a young idealist joining the Communist Party and learning to organize by jumping head in with his mentor Mac. They head out to an orchard, start working there, and agitate and organize their way to an epic struggle between the bosses and the workers. I have never seen another book that encapsulates the hardship of union struggles so perfectly. It’s honest: organizing is shit work done by people with a lot of resolve. But they’re just people. There’s an old timer in the book who was a Wobbly back in the day and I love that. There was a not-so-great movie made recently in which the organizers are actually explicitly IWW members instead of Communist



4. *Hammer and Hoe* by Robin D. G. Kelley

The Reds came to Alabama and set up shop with a handful of people. In just a few short years the Communist Party of Alabama had gone from a couple white organizers to a black-led, multiracial, revolutionary party with hundreds of members. Robin D. G. Kelley's masterwork paints the

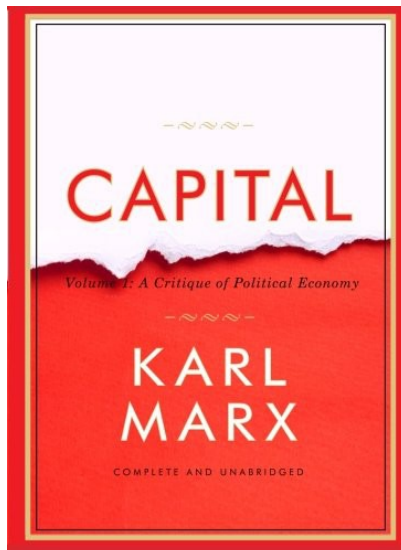


picture of the hard work the organizers did in the Deep South to organize sharecroppers into a union, industrial unions in all sorts of manufacturing, and the legal defense of black people's democratic rights. This is an inspirational story that we should all look to in our organizing work. There's a part I love in the introduction where Kelley talks about meeting to interview one

of the old CP members. He asked him "How did you do it?" and the old timer pulls out a copy of Lenin's *What Is To Be Done?* and a box of shotgun shells and says, "Right here. Theory and practice."

5. *Capital* by Karl Marx

My man Karl puts the capitalist system on blast. *Capital*, or "the brick" as we call it (well, maybe we don't), is a big, dense book. Maybe it's not for everyone, but it is the most comprehensive analysis of capitalism and capitalist



exploitation that's been written to date. In this book, Marx lays bears capitalism as the brutal system it is: how it categorizes people and forces them into impossible situations; how it breaks peoples bodies like mere tools; how it revels in the dispossession of the poor; and how it cannot be reformed. There is something deeply

humanistic in *Capital* and Marx puts forward a thought experiment that has inspired revolutions around the world: "imagine, for a change, an association of free men, working with the means of production held in common." Read this book and you'll understand exactly what we're up against.

Preamble to the IWW 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.

Want to become a member? Fill out this form and give it to a delegate.

Contact a delegate: seattleiww@gmail.com

Application for Membership Aplicación para Membresía

I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer. [Afirmo que soy trabajador/a y no soy empleador.]

I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization, and will study its principles and acquaint myself with its purposes. [Pacto de obedecer a la constitución y las reglas de esta organización, y estudiaré sus principios, y me informaré de sus objetivos.]

Name/Nombre: _____

Address/Dirección: _____

City/Ciudad: _____ State/Estado: _____

ZIP: _____ Country/ País : _____

Email: _____

Telephone/Teléfono: _____

Employer/Empleador: _____

Occupation/Ocupación: _____

I would prefer to receive copies of the IWW's General Organization Bulletin in paper form, by mail (Default is electronic, by email). [Prefiero recibir copias del Boletín General por correo. (No sobre e-mail)]

I would like information about the IWW's General Defense Committee. [Me gustaría recibir más información sobre el Comité de Defensa General.]

Dues Rate Based on Monthly Income

Under \$2,000 = \$11 per month
\$2,000 – 3,500 = \$22 per month
Over \$3,500 = \$33 per month
Initiation fee is equal to one month's dues.

Cuota Dependiente de Pago Mensual

Menos que \$2,000 = \$11 por mes
\$2,000 a 3,500 = \$22 por mes
Mas que \$3,500 = \$33 por mes
Iniciación = cuota de un mes

TO BE FILLED IN BY DELEGATE [PARA LLENAR POR DELEGADOS]

Date/Fecha:
month / mes day/día year/año

Member No. / Número de Miembro/a: X

Industrial Union No. / Número de Sindicato Industrial:

Delegate/ Delegado/a: _____

Delegate No. / Número de Delegado/a: -

Initiation/Iniciación: \$ _____ + Dues/Cuota: \$ _____ + Ass'ts/Tasa: \$ _____ = Total \$ _____

Please Return this Page to General Headquarters

What is the I.W.W.?

The **Industrial Workers of the World** is a radical, democratic, member-run labor union. We are committed to the liberation of the working class from the tyranny of capitalism. We believe that in our current economic system, wages are determined by a small number of elites who belong to the ownership class and we can no longer allow these people to determine our standard of living.

The IWW began in 1905 in Chicago, making it one of the oldest unions in the US. Seattle has a long history with the IWW, going all the way back to 1905. Wobblies—as members of the IWW are known—helped organize the Seattle General Strike of 1919.

We must unite together as workers into a single movement. Only through unity can we hope to revolutionize the economic system which strips away our freedom, our wealth, and our lives. Together, we can fight for what we deserve. But only if we act as one.

We believe in organizing a powerful labor movement—and that starts with **YOU!** Every union member is empowered to improve their life by winning gains on the job. We practice solidarity unionism because a union is first and foremost a group of workers who take action together in the workplace. We use a model called industrial unionism: we aim to organize as many workers as possible in a single industry to increase our leverage against our employers. The IWW represents all workers, from miners and farmers to teachers and retail clerks. And though the IWW has numerous industrial unions within it, we all belong to the One Big Union. **Everyone is equal in the IWW.**

