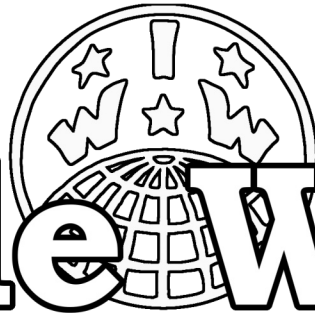


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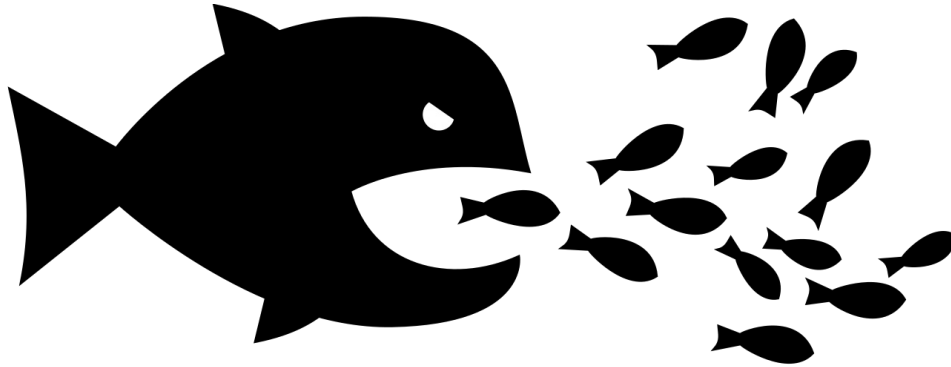
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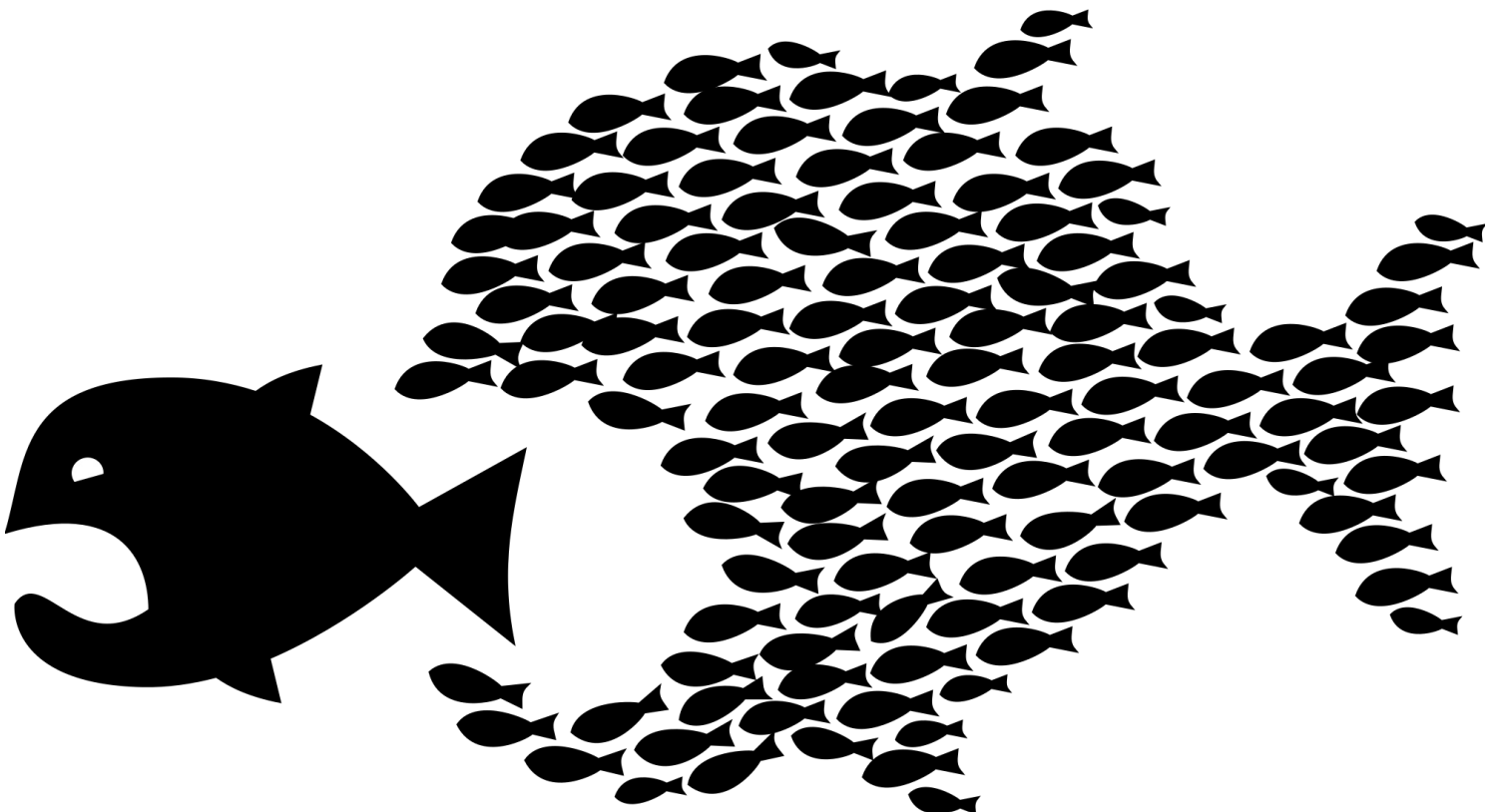
# Seattle Worker

Jan-Feb 2024

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# ***ORGANIZE!***



# From the Editor

***Hello, fellow workers!***

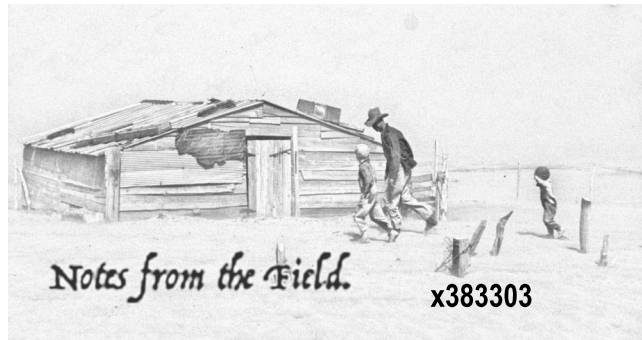
As your new editor for the Seattle Worker, I am thrilled to have the opportunity of contributing to a local publication that stands for workers rights, fights against the horrors of capitalism, and represents some of the best fellow workers I know from the Industrial Workers of the World. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to contribute to a publication which informs and emboldens workers everywhere to organize and fight for their collective interests, and to stand with a union that seeks to build a new world where the working class is at the helm. I hope that what I can give to this publication serves both the reader and the writer well, and that you continue to find knowledge, humor, history and a common dream from the words within.

**Solidarity!**

FW Noah

Fellow workers, it's been a great run. After serving several years as Seattle Worker editor, I'm ready to pass on the torch. Please join me in welcoming FW Noah as our new editor! Noah has written and edited many articles for us and has contributed to the Industrial Worker as a writer, and to Wob Radio as a producer. I look forward to seeing where he takes us! In solidarity,

FW Kristin



**2**023 was a great year for organized labor. Almost 500k workers participated in over 300 strike actions in the US. Auto workers, nurses, pilots, and delivery drivers; just to name a few. Most of these unionized workers won big, most winning 20% and greater wage increases, plus cost of living increases, increased benefits, and improvements in work rules.

What about those that didn't strike or aren't unionized? It has long been touted that the benefits of unionization flows across all workers. As a result of the UAW contract, we can see what is meant by this.

***continued on page 4***

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# Why Campaigns Fail (And How to Win Instead)

by FW Noah

A worker has insightful discussions with their coworkers, but can't get them to criticize their low wages or bad working conditions. Other workers have shared demands for increased pay, but they don't form an organizing committee and instead make their requests to their employer individually. Still other workers take direct action in their workplace and even a call for a union election — but their coworkers are not interested or invested in the idea, and are content with their employer. They miss their chance to democratize their workplace and lead more comfortable and rewarding lives.

Watching such events unfold is disheartening and demoralizing. It can set back even the most ardent and determined union organizer and create feelings of resentment or hopelessness. Failed union drives highlight the power our bosses have over us and can reinforce a culture of fear, submission, and loyalty to our employers. These failures chill any idea of an alternative to the arrangement of power in our workplaces.

While many unionists and their supporters prefer to focus on successful campaigns and how they succeed, unpacking the failed campaigns is important, too. The exercise raises tough questions and challenges about why coworkers with common demands and ideas lose. Understanding the mindset or experiences of our coworkers can offer better strategies as to how to motivate a group of workers to act, rather than give in to the power of the boss.

Many of our coworkers are trained to think that the employer's power over workers is a natural or logical arrangement, rather than an arbitrary and one-sided relationship. Our coworkers, hoping for better pay or promotions, are encouraged to agree to our employer's demands

in the hopes of one day becoming managers or supervisors themselves, that achieving such a position in the workplace will benefit them materially, albeit individually.

This dog-eat-dog mentality between coworkers creates a quiet friction undermining solidarity. It reduces sympathy between fellow workers and frustrates efforts to meet collective needs and build cooperative power. In conversations with coworkers, we should focus on the realities and unlikelihood of promotion, as they are often decided based on favoritism or seniority. Instead, we should recognize the merits of cooperation and teamwork, and the real power of solidarity in achieving higher wages and benefits. This shift in focus challenges the power of the bosses as well as encourages coworkers to act effectively.

Another large roadblock to creating a successful union drive or cooperative direct action in the workplace is the experience of failure in earlier actions, such as one-on-ones or meetings with the boss. Sometimes when coworkers do get agitated enough to confront their employer, they often take action by making requests of the employer individually or in a small group. While these actions can see some small successes, they often give the impression to the employer that the worker grievances are only coming from a smaller body of disgruntled coworkers, and do not represent the majority. Small actions can also make workers vulnerable to targeted interrogation, or retaliation by

management. Bosses will divide and conquer when it comes to labor complaints or other workers that they might deem as “problematic”. Coworkers will likely be demoralized once they see that such smaller actions are not as fruitful as they hoped. They could be discouraged from making larger, more collective demands of their employer.

Informing and encouraging other coworkers to act with other coworkers as a larger body



helps to prevent retaliation. Collective strategies make it harder for employers to target individual workers or groups in the workplace. When speaking with our coworkers, we should highlight the small successes that they did manage to get from individual or smaller collective complaints, and emphasize that a larger action could potentially yield



more from their employers. Larger, collective actions tip the power dynamic of the workplace in favor of the workers. As this escalation and interest in larger collective action hopefully grows, the capacity for larger actions to be taken grows as well, and can result in a larger body of workers that can demand greater concessions from the boss.

Finally, even if the collective coordination and action of a larger body of workers ultimately leads to further retaliation from the bosses, or a failed unionization vote, it's important to maintain morale as well as agitation and inoculation, for the continued campaign to survive. Minority unionism is a strategy that we Wobblies are well acquainted with, and has been successfully employed in a variety of workplaces. Even if a larger body of workers is unable or unwilling to organize, a smaller, more militant body can still bring forward the demands of the collective and yield results. Furthermore, unionization in your workplace is still possible even if an initial vote, or a demand for voluntary recognition, fails to gain traction or achieve a union, and maintaining the strength and solidarity of your fellow workers for the months ahead can still keep alive the hope of a union in your workplace.

# Notes From the Field (continued)

Just days after the UAW (United Auto Workers) announced 25% wage increases, bolstered by inflation adjustments, there were announcements that non unionized Honda and Toyota would match the contract terms for their workers. This is exactly what we are talking about. Fighting for a union benefits all workers.

When Kaiser Permanente nurses strike, they're striking for you. When Starbucks workers strike, they strike for you. When your local delivery drivers strike, they strike for you. We are all in this together.

The final word is that when you see a strike — honor the strikers. Don't cross their picket lines and boycott their products. Support the workers, who are fighting for all of us.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All.

A Win by One is a Win for All

The UAW has put a pin on their (and our) calendars: May Day 2028. The union picked April 30, 2028 as the expiration date for their contracts. The UAW is encouraging all unions to coordinate their contract expiration dates.

UAW President Shawn Fain said, "We invite unions around the country to align your contract expirations with our own, so that together we can begin to flex our collective muscles. If we're going to truly take on the billionaire class and rebuild the economy so that it starts to work for the benefit of the many, it's important not only that we strike, but that we strike together."

What could this look like? Could there be hundreds of coordinated strikes? Does this have the makings of an almost General Strike? We certainly hope so.

The IWW has long felt that the path to a new future will run through the workers joining together to build a new world within the old. Once the working class withholds our labor — business will fail and we will see the ushering in of a new day of worker control.

Pass the word about May Day 2028.

Support the call for the One Big Strike.



**Cada revolución comienza con una idea.**



**iwwsolidaridad.org**

# Report on the Centralia Monument Dedication

By Dave Tucker, Bellingham WA.

The weather miraculously cleared from strong winds and driving rain. Around 70 friends and fellow workers gathered in George Washington Park at 1 PM Sunday, November the 11th, for the unveiling of our plaque. There were FWs there from branches in Corvallis, Portland, Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, and Whatcom-Skagit [Bellingham]. Also, at-large members from the region.



Tragedy of 1919. Others stayed behind to dismantle the temporary monument until we can get the granite base made by the stonemasons and installed.

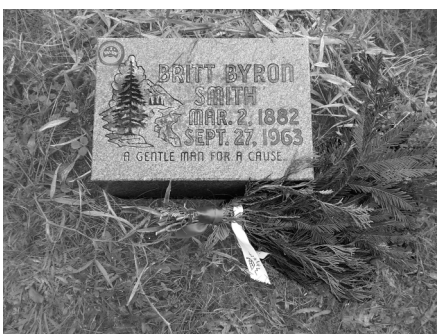
The IWW Monument Committee met up a couple hours early to install our temporary metal stand for the plaque and get things set up. FW Phil R. of Seattle GMB opened by greeting all of the FWs and friends of the union. We pulled the cover off to reveal the 2x3 foot, 75-pound bronze plaque.



FWs got a chance to see the site of the Roderick Hotel and the IWW offices in 1919, and paid respects at the graves of Wesley Everest, James McInerney, Elmer Smith, John Lamb and OC Bland.

Phil explained that we now have an agreement with the City Parks Department to install a 2.5-ton granite base for the plaque, and that we need more funds to accomplish that goal. Mary G., a long-time friend of the union and campaigner for construction of this monument, read a poem, 'The Last Soldier', by Jim Smith. Then, around 40 folks set out on an auto tour of the area, observing key locations related to the Centralia

We rented the refurbished railroad depot community room and heard a talk by author Tom Copeland on his recent discovery of FBI files showing that an agent was present on November 11 1919. The agent interviewed 'credible eyewitnesses' who stated that the attack definitely began before there was any gunfire. These



*Britt Smith, Secretary, Centralia IWW, 1919.*



*FW Wes Everest's grave in Centralia, WA*

interviews and access to the witnesses was not provided to the defense at the trial. Tom's work will be published next year. Then we heard a talk on the 'IWW today', focusing on our organizing methods and the concept of Solidarity Unionism. We capped off the evening with a two-hour free concert by FWs Aaron Jesch, Jess Grant and Pippa Breakspear, Linda Allen and Scott Slaba, and Mark Ross. We all sang along because

Wobs just LOVE to sing together!

So it was a good day, a busy day, a good time to meet up with FWs from other places and introduce a lot of people to our union's culture, our respect for our history and those who went before us.



Linda and Scott



Jess and Pippa



That old rascalion himself,  
Mark Ross

## Remembering Richard Brazier

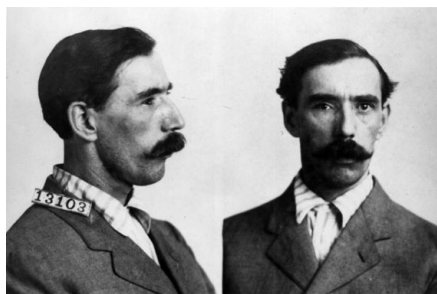
Richard Brazier was born in Birmingham, England on May 18, 1883.

At the age of 13, he began working in a brass foundry. Around 1903, Richard Brazier emigrated to Canada, working his way across the country doing various jobs.

In 1907, he crossed the border to Spokane where he joined the IWW. He was involved in early Free Speech fights.

When JH Walsh started the idea of the Little Red Songbook, Brazier enthusiastically supported it, writing 15 of the 24 songs which appeared in the very first edition of the songbook in 1909.

Brazier was elected as an executive member of the Agricultural



Workers Organization in 1916, and also became a member of the General Executive Board that year.

In 1917, Brazier was one of the 100 plus Wobblies arrested under the Criminal Syndicalism Act. Released from Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1923,

Brazier continued to speak out on behalf of working people and those oppressed by the State.

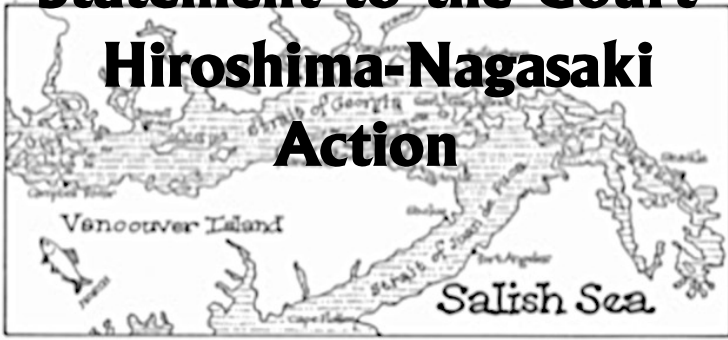
Possibly the last song Brazier wrote was titled "A Tribute to the Little Red Songbook." It was published in Labor History in 1968.

He died in New York City in 1973.

(sources: FW DJ Alperovitz's IWW Material Archives and files from FW Tara F.)

# Statement to the Court

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki Action



Then nuclear weapons abolition activists were removed from the roadway at 7am, Monday, August 7, 2023 by the Washington State Patrol after blocking the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, site of the world's largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons.

The civil disobedience followed a demonstration at the entrance to the Trident submarine base by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action which involved approximately 50 nuclear weapons abolitionists ranging in age from 16 to elders in their 80's and featured a flash dance in the roadway to the song, "War: What is it Good For?" Below is my statement to the court explaining my actions on August 7, 2023.

"Your honor, it's a pleasure to be here in homage to due process.

My name is Sean Makarin. I'm a member of the Qawalangin Tribe of the Unangax. I'm from a village on a chain of islands cradled by the pacific, blanketed by the sun, moon, and stars. Rich in salmon, seals, birds, and otters.

This island taught me to love everyone. More than anything I love my home Biorka. Biorka is a paradise, on a chain of islands

jutting into the great northern blue, blanketed by the stars, rich with salmon, birds, and seals. My love.

Because I am Unangax, it is my moral duty to protect my home for the next seven generations from our two greatest threats. The DOD, an entity that pollutes more in a day than I will in my life, and its abominable weapons. It is my moral duty because I would not be here today without seals, Mother Earth, and so I must protect them for the next seven generations.

For my Tribe it's kind of a no brainer — caring and loving the thing that sustains you — so descendants have a shot at the good life. It's a no brainer, preserving the bounty of the sun, moon, and stars so your descendants can have a shot at the good life. Because of how I feel and my moral duty, I engaged in non-violent civil disobedience by blocking traffic in front of the gates on August 7.

We can stop the war machine because it is everyday people who make history and it is in our collective power to choose to love and stop the war machine. It is everyday people, workers, who run these machines of death, and everyday people can choose to stop making the death machines run.

It's everyday people who can choose to stop working until the nuclear weapons are dismantled and the DoD carbon emissions stop. Thus, I protested the base on August 7 and I will do so until everyone in Kitsap county joins with me to dance in the streets.

It comes down to how much you really do love whatever it is you claim to love. So, when thoughts of violence and war creep into your head, your life, oppose them with the more powerful thought of peace and remember whatever it is you love.

Thank you honor. I've explained myself, thank you for this opportunity."



## About the Seattle IWW

Founded in Chicago in 1905, the IWW is open to all workers. Don't let the "industrial" part fool you: our members include teachers, social workers, retail workers, construction workers, bartenders and computer programmers. Only bosses and cops are not allowed to join. If you are currently unemployed, you can still join. We are a volunteer-driven union, and this means we run the union. Membership dues are used to maintain the union and assist organizing campaigns. As a result, monthly dues are low. To join, visit:

<https://iww.org/membership/>

### Take the Organizer Training!

The Organizer Training 101 (OT101) is an intensive, four-day training that teaches you all the basic skills and tools they need to build an organizing committee at your workplace—from the ground up. You will learn what constitutes a union, how to have one-on-one conversations with coworkers, the basics of labor law, and how to organize and carry out a direct action.

The Seattle General Membership Branch holds regular trainings—free during the pandemic. If you'd like to be notified of the time and date, visit:

<https://forms.gle/q9edxoGrEVXhMVd89>

### Organize Your Workplace!

The Industrial Workers of the World want to help you improve the conditions of your workplace. If you have questions, or would like to begin organizing your workplace, visit:

<https://seattleiww.org/organize-your-workplace/>

# 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.

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**Seattle Worker**



*In November, We Remember . . .*

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