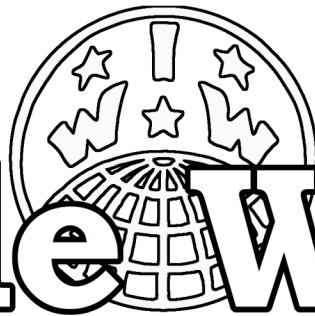


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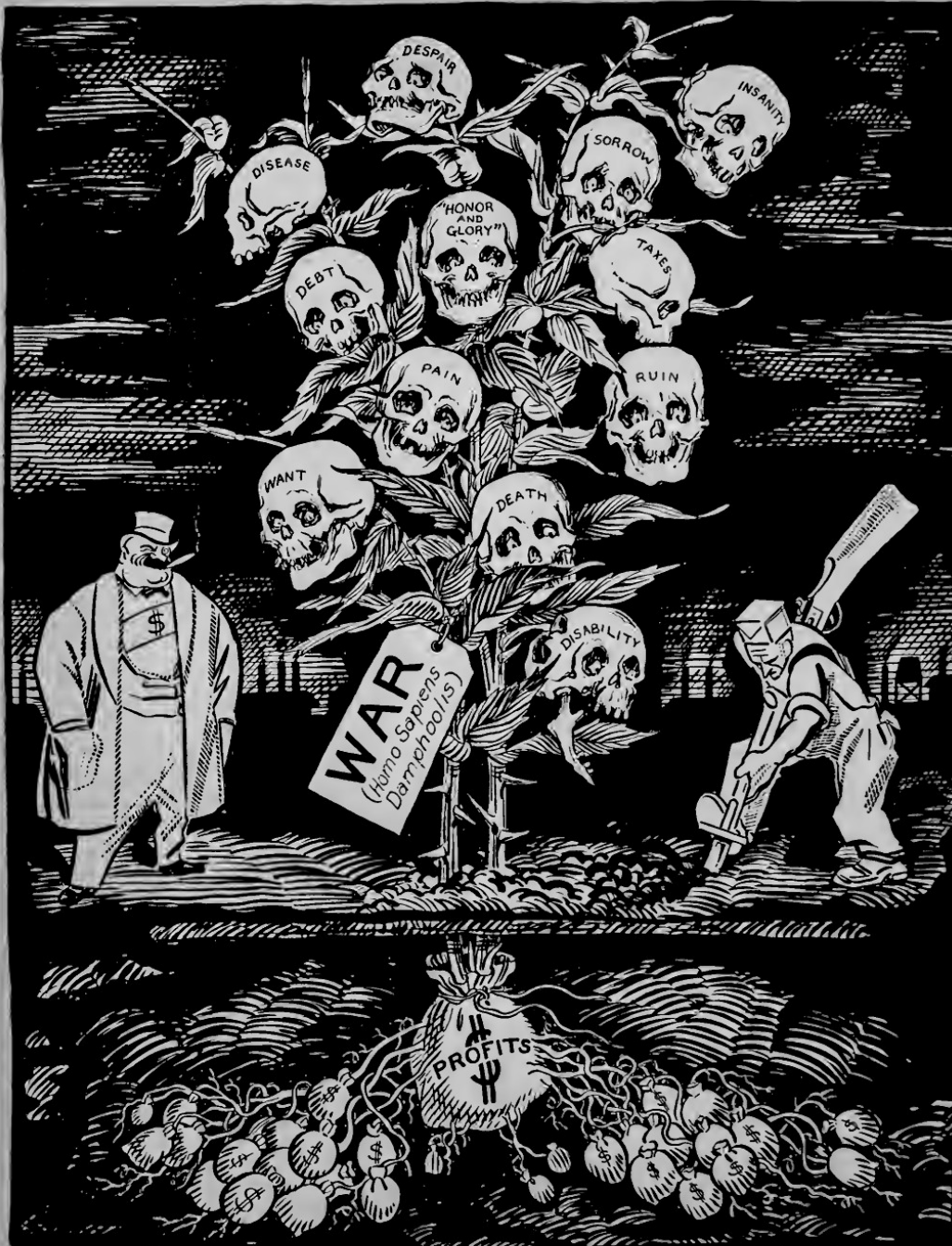
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BIG BUSINESS (to Labor, generously): "My good fellow, you'll be well paid for your patriotic action in 'tending this glorious plant; you shall have all the fruit above the ground—I'll take **ONLY** the roots!"

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Submissions welcome! Email articles, article ideas, news items, editorials, artwork, and photographs to:

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The cover image is from the June 1925 issue of Industrial Pioneer. The text reads:
Big Business (to labor, generously): "My good fellow, you'll be well paid for your patriotic action in 'tending this glorious plant; you shall have all the fruit above the ground—I'll take ONLY the roots!"



Wildfire smoke is becoming a regular part of our summers. It makes us uncomfortable and we are encouraged to stay indoors and protect ourselves. But what about workers that labor outdoors? How do they protect themselves and what responsibilities do employers have to protect them?

Smoke carries extremely dangerous particles and chemicals that have long been known to harm us. The harm isn't limited to eye irritation or shortness of breath. Once inhaled, these chemicals can cause long term damage. At high levels, the smoke can cause permanent decreased lung function and heart attacks.

Washington State is finally establishing rules to address the issue. These new year-round protections went into effect in January of 2024. Employers will now be required to monitor air quality, provide protection equipment, and adjust working conditions during unsafe periods. The rules also require employers to provide immediate medical attention and relocation to a safe environment for workers experiencing symptoms of smoke inhalation.

The rules apply to almost all workers in Washington who do any part of their job outside, including agricultural and construction workers. Employers must have a well-defined wildfire smoke program that includes communicating the hazards of wildfire smoke to workers. The employer must communicate the plan to all employees, and instruct workers on how to protect themselves.

We hope these rules are a wake up call to employers. They need to recognize and respond to the continuing environmental crises that are putting their workers at risk, and they need to prioritize protecting their workers.

Unfortunately, we cannot rely on employers to protect workers, even when it is mandated by law. Workers must educate themselves and protect each other's health. Don't automatically think that your work situation is safe. Stand up for your rights and demand that you be protected.

Solidarity is Power

A complete explanation of the new rules can be found at:

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/wildfire-smoke>



Greenwashing Effects on Environmental Unionism

by FW Noah

As many consumers and fellow workers are aware, major businesses want to appear more environmentally-friendly to consumers. Even though some businesses reduced their carbon footprint and output of hazardous waste, or have adhered to regulations regarding both, many businesses attempt to put on an environmentally-friendly face to distract the working class from their business's true environmental impact. This is commonly known as "greenwashing".

Rarely do union campaigns directly criticize employers for environmental damage, such as the lack of controls over its hazardous waste production. Many employers avoid this criticism by greenwashing to distract workers from seeing environmental damage as a collective concern. Instead, corporate propaganda portrays charitable contributions and progressive branding, which easily sways workers into thinking that the environmental effects of the business's activities are not a problem of any major concern. By highlighting their so-called contributions to protecting the environment, not only can they avoid criticism by the general public and especially by their own work force, but they also receive benefits such as tax breaks from financial contributions to nonprofits, and praise from the corporate-owned press for their alleged concern for the environment. They avoid accountability when they fail to uphold their own self-aggrandized environmentally-friendly image.

As unionists who have a deep concern for the ongoing climate crisis and damage to the environment by a variety of industries, we should take it upon ourselves to make the working class more aware of what greenwashing propaganda is, how to recognize it, and, more importantly, how to integrate it into organizing campaigns in our workplaces. Oftentimes in organizing campaigns, the environmental impact of a shop or industry is not discussed, and we see few serious concessions from employers regarding environmental protections, outside of personal protective equipment for potential exposure to certain chemicals or ingredients.

Our strategy of agitation and education in workplace campaigns should highlight and criticize the environmental impact of our employers, with the hope that more fellow workers can become aware of the ongoing climate crisis and how their particular industry might contribute to it. If an organizing campaign becomes successful to the point of the formation of a union and collective bargaining is taking place, environmental concerns and regulations should become a part of the conversation that we have with our employers along with our other concessions. We can focus on reducing our shops' environmental impact through a demand to work from home when possible, improving safety standards, having companies provide PPE, a greater allowance for sick time, and investing company funds towards carpooling or higher efficiency vehicles for work. The options are endless.

Together, we must ensure that our demands don't just get us paid better, give us better benefits or better hours. We must also demand that the fight to save the climate and protect the earth are also met. Safeguarding of our environment and our communities is what allows us to share the common inheritance of all workers: a world capable of living on, for a world worth living in.



Toxic Industrials in Our Neighborhoods

by FW Cedar

As many of you know, toxic industries are often concentrated in the poorer parts of many cities and countries. This is because the people who live in these areas don't have the wealth to fight back, and have often come together as a community to organize against this dynamic. Governments tend to look the other way as these industries tend to bring in a lot of money, and, much like the rest of the world, our country is 'a profit-over-people enterprise'. The harm to people is mostly ignored until it starts affecting wealthier people. Seattle is one such 'segregated riskscape'. Let's delve into more of what this means.

According to Troy D. Abel, Jonah White, and Stacy Clauson, writing for Toxic News in their article titled "Seattle's Segregated Riskscape", Asthma rates are "3x lower in North Seattle than in the Duwamish Valley. Most visitors and residents marvel at our waterfront and our surrounding forests and mountains, but ignore the darker side of Seattle. The city's South Side harbors the industrial heartland of the city, where many people work in toxic industries. Surprisingly to some, toxic industries are not only from manufacturing. Some are in our food as well.

Monsanto was sued by the State of Washington in 2020 for a pittance of 95 million dollars after decades of poisoning our water, fish, plants and people with PCB's, according to an AP News report.. Unfortunately, even with all of the money awarded by different lawsuits against Monsanto and Bayer, and even though they are expected to pay from poisoning people and the environment with PCB's, it still doesn't amount to much for the barons that own much of our agricultural infrastructure. These chemicals have led to a host of health effects to people such as cancers, and are still poisoning our salmon population as well.

Oregon is another state where examples of toxic industries have had great impacts. The Hanford nuclear site in Washington, just 35 miles from Oregon's Border, is yet more cause for concern for the PNW. In 2015, a worker named Abe Garza made his way with other employees to do a routine inspection of the holding tanks. He began having nosebleeds that wouldn't stop, while other workers reported terrible headaches and another reported a smell like onions. A potentially lethal cloud of chemicals had been released. Garza was later diagnosed with heavy-metal poisoning and toxic encephalopathy, a dementia-like condition that is often fatal. Furthermore, according to the article, about 60% of workers at Hanford have reported exposure to hazardous materials, and this isn't the only problem.



credit: Independent.co.uk

During the eight decades that Hanford's site has been in existence, radioactive waste has seeped into groundwater, while radioactive particulates have also blown into the air, causing concern for the neighboring city of Portland 230 miles away. Local Native American Children have an "extremely elevated risk of immune diseases", and many local residents have increased rates of cancer linked to local pollution, according to The Oregonian. In 2021, a leak was found in a single-shell tank that was discharging 1,300 gallons a year into the ground and groundwater. Many of these tanks also reached their life expectancy 50 years ago, and watchdog groups warn that all it would take is a massive earthquake and the radioactive waste stored there might turn into a second Cheronobyl. Our government is, of course, perennially under-funding cleanup of the site. If tanks are left in place, the materials will likely continue to contaminate the Columbia River.

My ask to readers is that you draw attention to and educate others on these issues. Protest against toxic industrials and put the feet of our government officials to the fire and make them do something productive. Whether this be sit-ins at council meetings, protests in the streets or by their homes, we can make them feel pressure to actually do something to help the working class for once. We all have rights as people to hold our government to account. They seem to have long forgotten that they serve the will of the people; not the corporations.

Solidarity on the Montgomery Riverfront

Bruh threw his hat up in the air like the bat signal and help came immediately 🤝🤝🤝



Immediately, Black dock workers come to the rescue. A sixteen-year-old worker, Aaren, jumps off the boat and swims to help Aquamayne!



By FW Kristin

In August 2023, a group of ordinary Black folks went for a two-hour cruise on a city-owned riverboat, the Harriot II. On returning, it turned out some rich white assholes had just parked their private pontoon boat in the only place the riverboat could dock. The captain of the ship asked them to move it, they responded with obscenities and racial slurs, then ran off. Stymied, the riverboat captain called some deckhands to shore in a boat, including the co-captain, or Senior Deckhand First Mate, Dameion Pickett. The job of the First Mate is to ensure the safety of the passengers and crew, and acting on captain's orders, he untied the pontoon boat and moved it four paces to the right -- just enough so the riverboat could dock. That should have been the end of it. But instead, the boaters decided to try a four-on-one pileup on Pickett.

That's when the whole thing turned into a real-life superhero situation, complete with the Bat Signal, Aquamayne, and the Folding Chair. The comic book goons throw the first punch and close in. But wait! The First Mate throws his hat up in the air. The Bat Signal!

Before he can arrive, the capable dock workers have de-escalated the situation. That should have been the end of it. But instead, the boaters put out a call to their pals. They haven't thought this through because now the riverboat is docking, with its crew and 200 passengers. Suddenly, in a Marvel Avengers moment, people are portalling in from nowhere.



There's a lot more (like the Sweet Tea Party, Wakanda, and the Folding Chair), but I'll skip to the end. White supremacists started this racist brawl and Black folks decisively won it in every way possible: physically, morally, numerically, legally, and on the media. For a perspective on why, check out this quote from TV host Joy Reid:

"The video is getting the visceral reaction it's getting from Black folks because we know our history. White men (and women) for centuries had the unchecked power to brutalize any Black person they wanted to for any reason or none at all — for looking them in the eye, for not calling them 'sir' or 'ma'am', for trying to register to vote. You name it. There were no consequences for them and deadly ones for us if we tried to fight back. Well that era is done and it ain't coming back, no matter how many sundown-town fantasy songs their country singers make. Seeing Black folk come as a community to that security guard's rescue, one guy even swimming over like Aquaman to help him, was a 'Wakanda Assemble' moment, in which a group of old school southern bullies effed around and found out. There's something deeply satisfying about that for a lot of people."

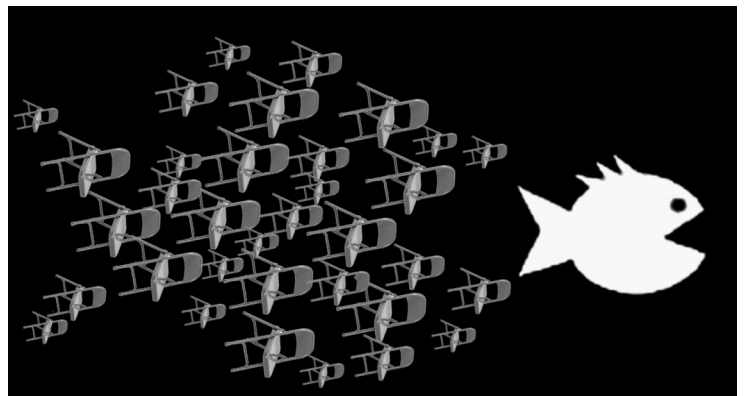
(<https://thegrio.com/2023/08/07/why-the-montgomery-riverfront-uprising-is-making-black-people-so-damn-happy/>)

Now let's take a step back and view it from a worker's perspective. The ugly truth behind white supremacy is that any effort to win back the Confederacy is an attempt to return to the abomination of chattel slavery, forced labor, on a wide scale. How about, not. If that ever came close to happening again, who would stop it?

In this moment, the workers did. And they did it by practicing what Wobblies preach. We say, "An Injury to One is an Injury to All." A four-on-one pileup was not just an injury but could have been deadly. Immediately, fellow workers came to his aid.

But what magic made that happen? The "bystander effect" is a well-known problem that frequently stops people from coming to the aid of others. People don't necessarily know what to do, unless they have organized and planned beforehand. The foundation of organizing a workplace as taught by the IWW and other unions is the simple act of talking to your coworkers and making a plan to address whatever the problem may be. Organization works best if the workers have planned ahead of time, and the crew of the Harriot II might or might not have done that. At the very least, they were organized informally—living in segregated neighborhoods, working in the same low-wage jobs, and experiencing on-the-job racist incidents likely helped with that organization. Either way, whether formally or informally, the crew of the Harriot II was organized and had each other's backs. Everyone was ready to act when the need arose.

Solidarity – that's how it's done.





No Power Greater Under the Sun

by FW Sean

Capitalism is destroying the environment. By even conservative estimates, unless we rapidly curb carbon emissions the planet will change drastically and many animals will perish. It will take many generations for balance to be restored. The Industrial Workers of the World is an ideal organization to stop capitalism and save Turtle Island. The purpose of the IWW is to carry on the struggle for the emancipation of the working class and to build through its industrial organizations an administrative structure for the continuation of production after the abolition of capitalism. Our path to freedom is a Union seeking to unite all workers to topple capitalism.

We have the power because it is the workers of the world who build, fly, maintain, and unload the airplanes, trains, trucks, and ships. It is we who educate the children, and staff hospitals. Our power therefore lies at the workplace. If we put our hands in our pockets everything stops, and from there we can demand a more humane and just society with bread roses for all. In our hands is placed a power greater than the capitalist classes' hoarded gold.

We need to use this power because we are being slowly squeezed to death by despair as the capitalists continue their tax strike and war of austerity, destroying the planet in the process. The crisis is acute and the contradictions are deepening. The Imperialist American empire, too reliant on imports, having no industrial base, flounders in Ukraine, and encourages the world to oppose it by unconditionally supporting a failing settler colonial genocide in Gaza. At home the social crisis worsens, with two mass shootings a day, housing hard to come by and too expensive, while daily the costs of living rise. This decline,

with crumbling education, infrastructure, and healthcare systems, makes the Great Depression look quaint.

Capitalism is merely an economic and political system where the trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit. It can be changed to a workers commonwealth where industry is democratically owned and controlled by workers for the benefit of the community in harmony with nature.

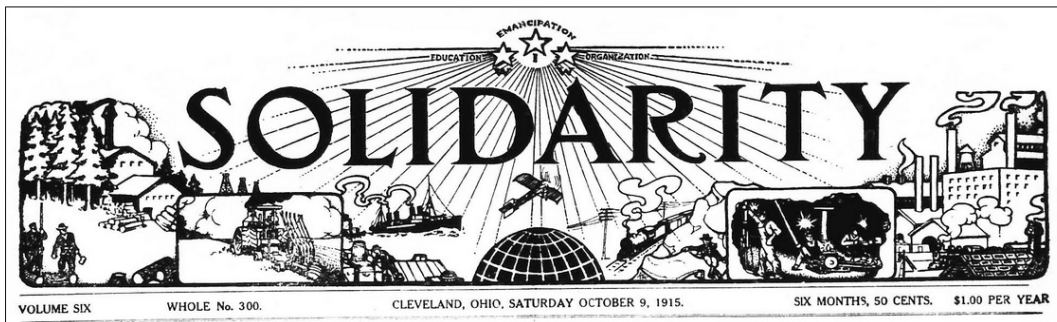
It will be difficult — look to the past and the travails of those first Knights of Labor, the Palmerist show trials of IWWs, the anti-communist Red Scare, and the murder, co-option and dilution of the civil rights movement. It's not a revolutionary struggle if the capitasts aren't fighting to protect their profits. It is a class struggle because there will be tests and difficulties. But we stand on the shoulders of giants like Martin Luther King and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

There is solidarity and emancipation if you join the Industrial Workers of the World. Solidarity is a recognition that race is a myth, a capitalist tactic to divide — and thus an injury to one is an injury to all. Solidarity is companionship and mutual aid, free from settler colonizer diseases of the mind. Solidarity is about living the oneness of humanity.

Emancipation is cultural, spiritual, and material freedom. With mutual aid we can feed, educate, and employ one another in harmony with nature. Once we start carving out material spaces for ourselves we'll be able to enjoy time with our families, do something other than work, and organize for a general strike.

Liberation also requires the collective power of workers to create a general strike in mining, fossil fuel production, healthcare, logistics, and education industries to topple capitalism, stop the degradation of Turtle Island, and usher in the worker's commonwealth. We must use the power we possess to stop the accumulation of profits and demand an end to the destruction of our home and our share of the good things in life.

To do this we must push and move, to keep the movement rolling, and in spite of the difficulties, we must always be moving towards emancipation. Only through direct action will we push capitalism aside. This means Wobblies need to put the "act" in direct action. Join up if you want to save Turtle Island, find meaning in life, empower yourself, and build a better world.



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.

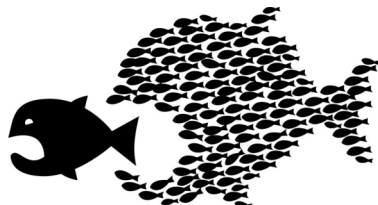
Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

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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ORGANIZE!



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