

The *Public i*, a project of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, is an independent, collectively-run, community-oriented publication that provides a forum for topics underreported and voices underrepresented in the dominant media. All contributors to the paper are volunteers. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit articles or story ideas to the editorial collective. We prefer, but do not necessarily restrict ourselves to, articles on issues of local impact written by authors with local ties.

The opinions are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the IMC as a whole.

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You don't need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The *Public i* is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), or to contact one of the editors.

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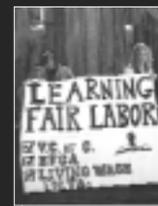
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A Paper of the People
May 2009
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The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse lead the 'People First March' before the G20 Economic Summit in London



GEO and a Living Wage
John Gergely and
Dave Bates
Page 1



Toto Kaiyewu Incident
Brian Dolinar
Page 3



Israel's Other Citizens
Niloofar
Shambayati
Page 5



Employee Free Choice Act
Bob Naiman
Page 9

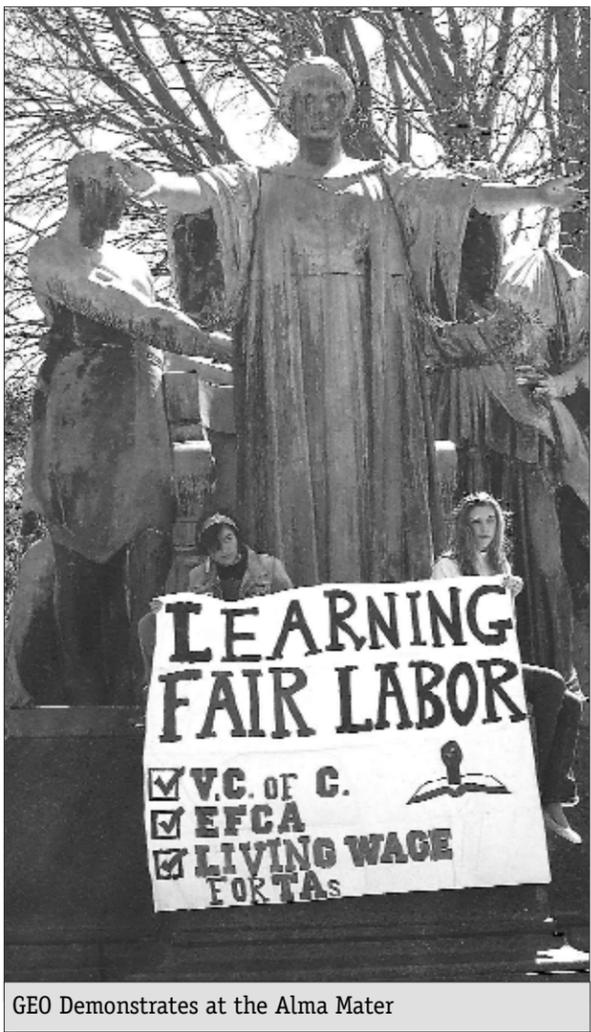
GEO Fights For A Living Wage

By John Gergely and Dave Bates

John Gergely (co-president) and Dave Bates (bargaining team member), Graduate Employees' Organization IFT/AFT 6300.

BARGAINING IN AN ATMOSPHERE of fiscal crisis is difficult. There is a temptation to maneuver conservatively, hoping only to hold one's ground. However, for those of us who are graduate employees, the current and future stewards of higher education, the ground is shifting beneath us. The proliferation of contingent instructors on college and university campuses is already well entrenched. Contrary to the increasingly fantastical picture of university faculty as securely tenured and handsomely paid, contingent instructors have no job security, work on a part-time or temporary basis, and are almost always paid less than the permanent full-time faculty who do the same work. Nationwide, roughly 70% of higher education instructional units are taught by contingent instructors: adjuncts, graduate employees, visiting faculty, post-doctoral associates, or other employee designations that are euphemisms for "more work for less pay."

Calls on the part of graduate employees for equitable and just pay and working conditions are often dismissed as naïve and unrealistic. After all, the logic goes, graduate students are like apprentices, working hard for little reward now in order to achieve the security and prestige of a tenured faculty position in the future. Yet these positions are increasingly rare, while enrollment in graduate degree programs climbs steadily. The inevitable result is a pool of qualified workers who, out of desperation, compete for jobs as contingent instructors, the only positions available for the vast majority of applicants.



GEO Demonstrates at the Alma Mater

At present, nationwide hiring freezes and budget cuts in higher education are compounding this cycle. The jobs that were scarce five years ago are simply non-existent this year. At the same time, universities are taking graduate employees unable to find work and rolling them directly into their own pools of adjunct instructors, creating, in the extreme case, an endless supply of overqualified, underpaid, contingent labor.

Is this the future of higher education? As universities, including the University of Illinois, adopt a market-driven corporate model, it is hard to see any alternative. As public universities accept diminishing government funds, they come to rely on tuition as the primary source of revenue, creating an incentive system that puts profits over educational priorities. Meanwhile, students bear the burden and debt of increasing tuition because they believe they are investing in future careers. For many, however, the reality is that, they again find themselves holding credentials for jobs that have been converted from stable careers to contingent positions, a phenomenon made possible by a surplus of qualified workers and the exploitative opportunities of neoliberal economic imperialism.

Though it is by no means the only solution, unionization of students and workers is a crucial response to this worsening economic outlook. Organized labor in higher education provides an immediate mechanism to address the economic needs of workers who are increasingly exploited. Moreover, organized labor in higher education provides an urgently needed rebuttal and democratic alternative to the shortsighted corporate governance that leads to the proliferation of contingent workers on campus, skyrocketing tuition, and the privatization of public institutions of higher education.

The Graduate Employees' Organization represents more than 2,700 Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois. The GEO negotiates contracts, resolves grievances, and protects the rights of graduate employees. The GEO also works in solidarity with other unions and progressive organizations both at the University and in the larger Champaign-Urbana community, toward equality, dignity, and justice for working people of all occupations.

On Tuesday, April 21, the GEO met with the University's bargaining team to begin negotiating a new contract. Notwithstanding the University's claims that this is a time for "belt-tightening," the GEO contract proposal seeks simply to protect the interests of some of the most exploited workers on campus who face low incomes, enormous obstacles to raising children, inadequate healthcare, and the erosion of basic benefits that make it possible to pursue a graduate degree in the first place.

An important component of the GEO contract proposal is the provision of a living wage for all graduate employees. Under the current graduate employee contract, the minimum for a 9-month, 50% appointment is \$13,430; this is the standard appointment for most graduate employees and it is the maximum appointment available to most international graduate students. Meanwhile, the University itself publishes an estimated annual cost of living of \$16,086 (www.osfa.uiuc.edu/cost/grad/nonres_0910.html.) Almost 60% of teaching assistants at the University make less than this amount, and 30% earn the minimum stipend, \$2,656 less than the University's own estimate of the annual cost of living. None of those figures take into account the nearly \$1,000 in fees that graduate employees must remunerate to the University during the course of the academic year.

The current GEO contract expires on August 15, 2009. Negotiations are expected to continue throughout the summer.

Welcome To the Prekariat!



[From Wikipedia] *Precairity* is a condition of existence without predictability or security, affecting material or psychological welfare. The term has been specifically applied to either intermittent work or, more generally, a confluence of intermittent work and precarious existence.

It is a term of everyday usage as *Precariedad*, *Precariedade*, *Précarité*, or *Precarietà* in a number of European countries, where it refers to the widespread condition of temporary, flexible, contingent, casual, intermittent work in postindustrial societies, brought about by the neoliberal labor market reforms that have strengthened the right to manage and the bargaining power of employers since the late 1970s.

Precairity is a general term to describe how large parts of the population are being subjected to flexible exploitation or flexploitation (low pay, high blackmailability, intermittent income, etc.), and existential precariousness (high risk of social exclusion because of low incomes, welfare cuts, high cost of living, etc.) The condition of precariousness is said to affect all of service sector labor in a narrow sense, and the whole of society in a wider sense, but particularly youth, women, and immigrants.

While contingent labor has been a constant of capitalist societies since the industrial revolution, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri have argued that the flexible labor force has now moved from the peripheral position it had under Fordism to a core position in the process of capitalist accumulation under Post-Fordism, which is thought to be increasingly based on the casualized efforts of affective, creative, immaterial labor. There is scattered empirical evidence in support of this thesis, such as the growing share of non-standard employment on the overall labor force, particularly on new hires. For example, in Western Europe, between a quarter and a third of the labor force now works under temporary and/or part-time contracts, with peaks in UK, Holland, Spain and Italy.

More problematic is the fact that precariousness seems to conflate two categories of workers that are at opposite ends of labor market segmentation in postindustrial economies: pink collars working in retail and low-end services (cleaners, janitors, etc.) under constrictive but standardized employment norms; and young talent temping for cheap in the information economy of big cities around the world: the creative class of strongly individualistic workers illustrated by managerial literature.

It also remains to be seen whether the insider/outsider division that economists observe in European labor markets means that the young, precarious, non-voting, and non-owning outsiders have fundamentally conflicting aims with respect to older insiders, who tend to work full-time, long-term contracts, enjoy relatively high pension benefits and who command a disproportionate weight in European public opinion and political debate.



The High Costs of Provincialism

By Dave Roediger



IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS department where I teach, the golf pencils used in student evaluations of faculty at semester's end have to be signed out and dutifully returned to staff. Obsessive re-collecting of the tiny pencils always gets a laugh from students, who

know that it symbolizes the absurd hand-to-mouth existence of a flagship state university. The few dozens of "lost-pencil" dollars possibly saved cannot possibly equal the amount of labor spent in bureaucratizing the process, but within the logic of chronic shortfalls the policy makes perfect sense.

The false economy of golf pencils gets written in larger ways at the University of Illinois, especially as a real economic crisis follows years of systematic underfunding during the relatively good times. And yet, with all of the panic going around, the most obvious source of new revenue—increasing numbers of out-of-state students—seemingly remains fully off the table.

In 2006, when Chancellor Richard Herman proposed a modest increase in such students, he did so for very good educational reasons: more diversity of experiences and more excellence. When legislators balked, the retreat of the administration was sad and total, but Herman's initial arguments were not wrong. The educational costs of running perhaps the most provincial major state university in the nation are high and, as it turns out, so are the financial ones.

To say as much is of course not to say that students individually are narrow. Illinois is a very cosmopolitan state and some of the University's students fully reflect this. However, to bow to political pressure against admitting out-of-state students and to fail to break through towards greater class and race diversity of in-state students has left the university homogenous in many ways. Such factors also lead to the campus being more abandoned on weekends than any peer institution with which I am familiar.

Indeed in comparison to most of its peer institutions, the most astonishing fact of life at Illinois is the provincialism—the extreme and limiting inward-looking logic—of its

undergraduate student enrollment policy. According to current statistics provided to *Princeton Review's* online college guide, out-of-state U.S. students make up 7% of Illinois undergraduates. This proportion is less than a fifth of Iowa's and Purdue's undergraduate student bodies. It is between a quarter and a fifth of Michigan's, Indiana's, Penn State's, and Minnesota's. No matter how cosmopolitan, or not, the image of the state and school involved, all far outdistance Illinois.

Since some states cooperate to grant each other's residents reciprocal in-state tuition, and since in- and out-of-state tuition vary from place to place, calculating the dollars sacrificed to provincialism is complex. But a comparison with University of Michigan gives us some sense of the hit taken by the University of Illinois in order to defend a status quo it has at times rightly regarded as educationally undesirable.

Again from *Princeton Review* figures, Michigan has about 9000 out-of-state students among its 26,000 undergraduates. Illinois has just under 2200 out-of-state undergraduates from a total of 31,000. Since the gap between in- and out-of-state tuition at Michigan is about \$20,000 per student per year, the out-of-state students potentially add about \$180 million to revenues. At Illinois, the tuition difference is about \$14,000 per year between in- and out-of-state students. Thus those U.S. students currently coming from beyond Illinois add potentially a paltry \$31 million.

Although complications abound—some out-of-state students get financial aid for example—the huge gap in out-of-state revenues goes a long way to explaining the mystery of why, in a devastated state, University of Michigan has been able to maintain a consistently higher ranking than Illinois. It benefits from the cosmopolitanism those out-of-state students bring and from their dollars.

Put positively, if Illinois were to double its proportion of out-of-state students, it would add a further \$31 million annually to its budget. If it reached something like the proportions at peer institutions mentioned above, it would add about \$125 million per year. It would take lots of hiring freezes and Global Campus dreaming to reach anything like such amounts.

It pains me, as someone believing in education as a right and therefore against tuition altogether, to write this piece. It goes without saying that revenue thus produced ought to be used in significant measure to make the university affordable to poor and working class students and to stop the patterns that have led to a doubling of in-state tuition over the past decade. A \$30 million increase in revenue, for example, could immediately be used to renew hiring. It could recreate spaces for nearly the numbers of in-state student slot lost in the increasing of out-state students, while maintaining existing faculty-student ratios. Such slots, and increased revenue, should be used to diversify the faculty and the in-state student body.

However, if we continue to bow to the fiction that provincial admission policies somehow make the campus more accessible to "Illinoisians," rather than to a very selective slice of Illinoisians, we will not get to begin these debates. Moreover, we will be trapped in talk of crisis, of inevitable scarcity, and of vague talk about bold, creative solutions while too little creativity and boldness are on offer.

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Press Releases From The Native American House

PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT AT NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSE VANDALIZED AGAIN

APRIL 7, 2009

Three signs that are part of the "Beyond the Chief" exhibit outside Native American House and American Indian Studies buildings were vandalized between Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon.

The damaged signs include the ones naming Meskwaki, Sac, and Potawatomi. The signs, located on the 1200 block of West Nevada Street on campus, are bent and permanently damaged.

"I find it distressing that this art exhibit which is meant to educate everyone on campus about the indigenous history of Illinois has been repeatedly targeted in this destructive way," said Robert Warrior, director of Native American House and American Indian Studies.

These signs are just the latest to be vandalized. On or about March 15, the sign featuring the Peoria tribe was similarly damaged.

The signs are valued at \$10,000 each. To date, no arrests or citations have been issued in connection with the damage.

The signs are part of an exhibit by Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds and was designed to "remind the campus community whose land they occupy," according to the



Native American House Web site. The signs represent 12 different indigenous peoples with homelands in Illinois.

ARTIST OF VANDALIZED EXHIBIT RETURNS TO CAMPUS; OPEN FORUM ON BIAS ANNOUNCED

APRIL 22, 2009

Native American House and American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign held an open meeting called "Vandalism and Bias on Nevada Street" in response to destruction of pieces from the art installation titled Beyond the Chief.

Last month, at least three of the 12 outdoor sign plates displayed at various locations on the 1200 block of West Nevada Street on campus were vandalized and will have to be replaced. The damaged signs include the ones naming

Meskwaki, Sac, and Potawatomi.

At the open meeting on Wednesday, April 29, at 4pm at the Asian American Cultural Center, Edgar Heap of Birds, the Cheyenne-Arapaho artist who conceived the exhibit, was among the speakers. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano was part of the meeting. This meeting provided an opportunity for people on campus to discuss the significance of the recent vandalism and other crimes directed towards American Indians and other people of color in an open forum.

In his curator's statement about the exhibit, Warrior said, "As the University values diversity and seeks to create and support an environment that celebrates the cultural histories and contributions of all groups and individuals, Mr. Heap of Birds' artistic intervention provides a unique opportunity for the community to gain greater knowledge about the local and national history of Native Americans."

The following co-sponsors have participated in the exhibit and are committed to seeing the damaged Beyond the Chief signs restored and to raising community awareness surrounding the issues of vandalism and bias: Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural Latina, Asian American Cultural Center, Department of African American Studies, Asian American Studies.



Racial Profiling Incident Leads to Police Shooting of "Toto" Kaiyewu

By Brian Dolinar



A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD at the Independent Media Center with the family of Oluwatofunmi Kaiyewu, a 23 year-old medical student who was killed by police on April 6, 2009. This bizarre series of events began in the former "sundown town" of Villa Grove, 15 minutes

southeast of Urbana, led to a car chase, and ended on Interstate 74 with five bullets fired by officers from three departments University of Illinois Police, Champaign County Sheriff's Department, and Vermilion County Sheriff's Department.

The Kaiyewu family his mother Abby, father Victor, and brothers Frank and Tobi drove from Texas on April 22 to hold a press conference and visit the site where their son was gunned down. They were joined by Jan Susler of the People's Law Office, a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and known for her defence of Puerto Rican political prisoners. They had heard little from police about what happened and wanted answers.

The incident occurred in Villa Grove, a small town where blacks are rarely ever seen. As James Loewen documents in his book *Sundown Towns*, Villa Grove was one of hundreds of towns throughout Illinois where blacks were not to be caught on the streets after sundown. In fact, the 'get out of town' siren that was sounded at the end of every day is still on top of the tower in the center of town.

According to an initial press release, on Monday night, April 6, a local police officer in Villa Grove saw a "suspicious" vehicle a Toyota Camry given to Kaiyewu by his parents with Texas plates at a convenience store along

Route 130. The officer witnessed a traffic violation and he proceeded to stop the car.

Police say the driver got out of his car, refused to follow orders, pushed the officer, got back in his car, and took off. A chase ensued that involved at least a dozen squad cars from several local agencies. When police finally blew out his tires, they say Kaiyewu came at them brandishing a machete and a handknife.

Police fired Tasers which Champaign County Sheriffs are allowed to carry but say they failed to subdue Kaiyewu. When he began swinging the two weapons, police say they fired their "duty weapons" fatally shooting the suspect.

At the press conference, members of the family said that Toto was a good Christian who was going to medical school and planned in the future to do missionary work in Africa. Although he was born in the United States, his parents came here in 1980 from Nigeria.

Several others came to the press conference to show local support for the Kaiyewu family, including individuals from the Center for African Studies, Ministerial Alliance, and Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice.

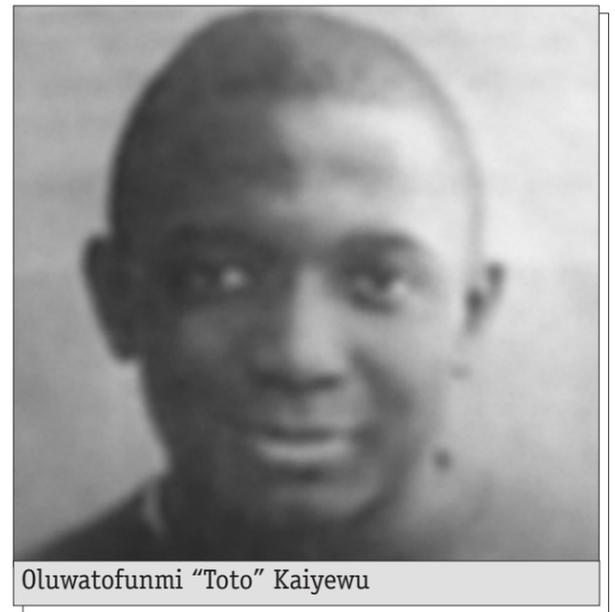
Letters of support have poured in from Toto's friends in Texas and Carbondale, where he was studying at SIU. One wrote on the website of the Independent Media Center, "My condolence with Toto's family, he was a good friend of mine in med. school, great guy I'm gon' miss him."

Due to what was called "wild and totally inaccurate speculation in the media," police released their own prepared statement just hours after the family's press conference. Delivering the statement in front of his office, Champaign County Sheriff Dan Walsh responded to some of the questions raised by the family, information no one was

previously willing to give them. It took a trip to Urbana and more than two weeks for them to get that much.

Walsh addressed the question of profiling, but failed to mention racism. "It is non-sensicle," he said, "to suggest that police 'profiled' a seven year old Toyota vehicle and its occupant." Of course, at issue is not the make of his car. As the family asked Would this have happened to a white student driving a Toyota through Villa Grove?

A toxicology report is still pending and the Sheriff says that when the investigation by the Illinois State Police is finished, video may be released to the public.



Oluwatofunmi "Toto" Kaiyewu

Students Shut Down CIA Recruitment at UIUC

ISO Press Release

ON APRIL 9, MEMBERS OF THE Campus Antiwar Network, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the International Socialist Organization joined forces for a third annual protest against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruitment session at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. However this year, students and activists were stunned by their victory when the CIA canceled the session at the last minute, shamed by our tactics which exposed the Agency's dark history of assassinations, political sabotage and torture.

Outside the session door, one activist donned a black Grim Reaper cloak and stood with arms extended on a milk crate to greet potential recruits and remind them of the brutal atrocities conducted at Abu Ghraib with CIA complicity. Another used a simple pillowcase as a hood and knelt with arms clasped behind his back to show the treatment by prisoners common at Bagram Air Base and Guantánamo. Others passed out informational leaflets and challenged attendees to consider the lies to be presented by the CIA, which claimed in their campus ad to be "looking for a diversity of people for the important job of keeping America safe."

Campus police showed up at the request of the CIA operative in attendance who, according to the officers, requested to "have us removed." However, the policemen checked our campus IDs and then notified us that we could stay as long as we did not impede traffic. Five minutes later after our continued vigilance, we were thrilled when we heard that the CIA would cancel the session, claiming that since the student newspaper had shown up and taken pictures

for an article featuring our protest, "security had been compromised." We suspect their true motive for cancelling was their embarrassment over our collective message: "Say NO To The CIA Recruiting on our Campuses!"

According to the International Red Cross, the CIA frequently used techniques against prisoners held in secret overseas detention centers or "black sites" that "constituted torture" in violation of the Geneva Conventions. Prisoners received cruel and degrading treatment, including beatings, sleep deprivation, extreme temperatures, strip searches, starvation, scare tactics utilizing canines, and waterboarding. Some detainees then faced "rendition," the transferring of prisoners and outsourcing of torture to other countries where the CIA operates, especially those known for committing human rights violations, such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Many of these prisoners become "ghosts," detainees whom officials refuse to give information about the location or status of to either family members or lawyers on the grounds that their incarceration is needed for long-term interrogation.

Such barbaric deeds are a gross violation of international and U.S. constitutional law and are crimes against humanity on par with the U.S.-run concentration camps of Japanese American citizens during World War II and the "gulags" of Soviet Russia. Among the prisoners are possibly hundreds of innocent people, whose only crime is to be Arab, Muslim, and a person of color.

Moreover, such tactics by no means keep "America safe" but rather alienate local populations by its heavy-handed nature, and provide a window of opportunity for terrorist-group recruitment.



UIUC students protest CIA

CIA Director Leon Panetta reiterated the Obama administration's commitment to continue several Bush administration policies in the so-called war on terror. Panetta told reporters the US will continue controversial CIA drone attacks in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of civilians. He also said that while CIA interrogators will have to abide by the Army Field Manual, President Obama can still approve harsher techniques using wartime powers and that the "CIA retains the authority to detain individuals on a short-term basis."

Activists and students should stand up to the CIA whenever they attempt to recruit on college campuses or in your community. With even a small number, you can shut down their recruitment meetings and score an important victory for peace and justice. As Campus Antiwar Network member Eric Heim explained, "I was pretty shocked when I found out that we managed to cancel the meeting. To finally have a visible victory was a huge morale boost. The CIA needs to be opposed when and wherever it appears because it is nothing but an agent of empire that destroys democracy and helps establish US hegemony across the globe through force and brutality."

ISO Resources:

- socialismconference.org
- internationalsocialist.org
- haymarketbooks.org
- socialistworker.org
- isreview.org
- ISO Champaign Meetings, Mondays, Greg 319@UIUC, 6PM. All are welcome
- Socialist Worker & Haymarket Books Tabling, Tuesdays, Main Quad@UIUC, 2-4PM. (during inclement weather, we will be inside the Student Union)
- Socialist Happy Hour! An evening of informal political discussion, Fridays at 8:00PM: All are welcome, Blind Pig (120 N. Walnut St.)



There Is a War Going On For Your Mind: Labor Media in Central Illinois

By Fellow Worker X

UNTIL THE LATE 1970'S, EVERY MAJOR newspaper in the United States had at least one labor reporter with regular stories about unions and working class issues. Labor related news stories were also heard regularly on radio stations, and beginning in the early 1950's seen on television.

With the increased consolidation (monopoly control) by the corporate media and fewer locally owned newspapers, radio and television stations, as well as the shredding of the "Social Contract" by corporate America and the beginning of the neo-liberal/neo-conservative 'class war,' labor news stories are extremely rare.

When labor news stories are reported in the corporate media today, they are always biased and distorted, and placed in the "Business Section."

Likewise in films, television programs, documentaries, books, magazines, public school history classes, and other genres of U.S. culture, unions and working class people are no where to be found. Therefore, 'out of sight, out of mind.' For example, the classic art print of "Rosie the Riveter" (the woman worker in the World War II defense plant) who became a popular feminist icon, originally showed Rosie with her union button prominently displayed on her work-shirt. But today, trying to find a copy for sale anywhere that doesn't have her union button "whited-out" is almost impossible. Locally, Merry Ann's diner in downtown Champaign provides a classic example.

THE ILLINOIS LABOR HOUR RADIO PROGRAM

A labor struggle in near-by Decatur Illinois from 1992-1996 was a pivotal event for the beginning of labor media in Central Illinois. When local labor activists Peter Miller (a union teacher) and Bill Gorrell (a union construction laborer), attended solidarity support actions in Decatur for the locked-out Staley Workers, they were often facing police tear gas and beatings. Because of this experience, Miller and Gorrell were outraged at the lack of media coverage and the biased media reporting (when it did occur) against the striking workers. This compelled Miller and Gorrell to begin a labor radio program in 1996 called the *Illinois Labor Hour*, on WEFT community radio station (90.1 FM). Originally the show was broadcasted every other Sunday morning, the program soon moved to a weekly time-slot on Saturday mornings from 11AM-Noon, and has broadcast every Saturday since, within a range of about 50-miles of downtown Champaign.

In 2002, Peter Miller moved to New Hampshire to take a job as a Union Organizer for the NEA Teachers' Union, at which point a local union carpenter and former Vice-President of the AFL-CIO of Champaign County, David Johnson, became a co-host.

In 2008, WEFT radio began live world-wide webcasting at www.weft.org, at which point the *Illinois Labor Hour* became the *Illinois World Labor Hour* with a four member collective including ; Bill Gorrell, David Johnson, Tom Thomas, and Bob Paleczny.

With regular listeners from small towns in Central Illinois and Champaign-Urbana, as well as listeners from as far away as Oakland California, New York City, Dublin, Berlin

and London, the *Illinois World Labor Hour* produces a weekly mix of labor news, music, live interviews with guests from around the world as well as local in studio guests, the 'Cultural Corner' with labor poet Tom Thomas, and the occasional commentary and rant from Wobbly soap-box speaker Bill Gorrell. In addition to all this, there is Bob Paleczny rounding out the mix with his financial analysis, PC/radio equipment technical expertise and news story research.

The program has not been without controversy in the past within the labor community, in particular it's interviews and coverage of local and national internal union problems of corruption and rank and file union member democracy dissidents. For example, in 2007 during a local controversy involving a union member who filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against his union, there was much subsequent criticism of the *Labor Hour* for interviewing the union member. The show was criticized as being 'anti-union' by a local union official. In defense of *The Labor Hour* Bill Gorrell stated on the air, "We are always pro-worker, but NOT always pro-union official."

Past episodes of the *Illinois World Labor Hour* can be accessed at www.radio4all.net.



davep of the UCIMC *Public i* newspaper.

THE IMC: THE PUBLIC i NEWSPAPER AND WRFU RADIO

Another venue for labor issues emerged in early 2001. With the creation of the Urbana-Champaign IMC (Independent Media Center), which is part of a global network of independent news outlets. Part of the Urbana-Champaign IMC was the creation of the *Public i* newspaper. In 2001. Though not exclusively devoted to labor issues, the *Public i* covers issues important to working class people, both locally and world-wide, though always with a local writer. Naturally labor issues are often covered along with environmental, criminal justice, and civil liberties topics.

One of the main editors of the *Public i* is davep, a member of the Central Illinois IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) union, who in addition to submitting an occasional article, is responsible for many inserts in each issue that includes photos and cartoons with provocative working class messages of consciousness and resistance.

The *Public i* is an open forum newspaper, hence anyone in the community can submit articles for publication. Over time this has included articles written by and about rank and file union members, and on general labor issues of the day. A free monthly paper, the *Public i* is available at many local businesses and public places.

Later, a low-power station WRFU radio (104.5 FM) was created by the IMC in 2005. Amongst the diverse programs is a labor/public affairs program called *Critical Ear*, hosted by Andrew O'Boaill (a member of the GEO, Graduate Employees union) and Robert Naiman (labor activist involved in the local Jobs with Justice organization), which is broadcast every Thursday from 7PM-8PM.

LABOR'S VIEW TELEVISION

Continuing in the tradition of labor media, the 'new kid on the block' is *Labor's View Television*. After many years of discussion and false starts, local labor media has finally entered the medium of television.



Wobblies on Screen: David Johnson and Jim Eyman of *Labor's View TV* on UPTV.

Hosted by Jim Eyman (a retired Railroad Worker from Milwaukee and IWW member) and David Johnson (from the *Illinois World Labor Hour*), *Labor's View* began broadcasting in March 2009, with a weekly program that is presented by UPTV (Urbana Public Access Television) Comcast cable channel 6, every Sunday from 4PM-5PM.

Jim Eyman and David Johnson provide a format that includes discussion and films about labor history and current labor issues, that often times overlap into issues like Public Schools vs. Charter Privatized Schools, and U.S. foreign policy. As Jim Eyman states, "Anything that effects working class people IS a labor issue!" Jim Eyman is also an accomplished musician who specializes in early American folk and labor music, playing both banjo and mandolin, and occasionally performing an old or newly composed labor song during the program.

Most of the films shown are from ; Labor Beat TV in Chicago, Labor on the Job Productions in San Francisco, Labor Vision TV in St. Louis, and Rosemary Feuer from North-Western Illinois University. Some of the future films will be full length films (90-minutes plus) about labor history or labor drama, both Hollywood and documentary/independent productions, that will be serialized over two or more episodes with discussion.

For David Johnson, much of his inspiration for finally making *Labor's View TV* happen was an old friend Martin Conlisk from Labor Beat TV in Chicago, and a labor film class at the Labor Institute of the University of Illinois, taught by Professor Joe Berry. According to Johnson, "Television is a more difficult medium than radio with the visual element added, like the difference between two-dimensional chess and three dimensional chess. But, simultaneously it is a very powerful means of conveying information."

By July of 2009, viewers will be able to watch *Labor's View TV* on-line live, and past episodes, anywhere in the world on-line via the UPTV archive.

YOUR LABOR MEDIA

The *Illinois World Labor Hour* radio program and *Labor's View TV* always needs guests to participate for an interview, or to hear from people about program ideas.

Likewise, the *Public i* newspaper is always wanting articles for upcoming issues written by local people.

Afterall... IT IS YOUR MEDIA! Take advantage, and be a part of it!

For more information, contact David Johnson at unionyes@ameritech.net



left to right ; Bill Gorrell, Bob Paleczny, Tom Thomas, and David Johnson of the *Illinois World Labor Hour* collective from WEFT radio.



Executive Pay at the University of Illinois

By Brian Dolinar

MANY HAVE EXPRESSED OUTRAGE at the \$20 billion in bonuses handed out to Wall Street executives, even as they were receiving bailout assistance from the federal government. As the "business model" has crept into the university, we find the same excesses among top administrators at the University of Illinois. In September 2008, when service workers were told they were only getting a 1.5% pay raise, administrators already making six-figure salaries received 8-9% increases, even up to 12% for the Athletics Director. As President B. Joseph White has publicly commented, "You can't pay too much for good administration."

President B. Joseph White: \$450,000

GLOBAL CAMPUS

Global Campus CEO Chet Gardner: \$344,850 (2008) \$313,500 (2007)—9% raise

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Chancellor Richard Herman: \$395,500 (2008) \$362,500 (2007)—8% raise

Assoc. Chancellor Jesse Delia: \$303,650

Assoc. Chancellor James Oliver: \$193,515

Assoc. Chancellor Margaret O'Donoghue Rawles: \$165,500

Assoc. Chancellor William Berry: \$135,500.60

DEANS LIST

Graduate College Dean and University Vice Provost Richard Wheeler: \$252,950

Engineering Administration Dean Ilesanmi Adesida: \$309,466

Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences Dean Robert Easter \$254,095.04

College of Business Dean Larry DeBrock: \$203,425
Executive MBA Assoc. Dean David Ikenberry: \$220,020

Education Administration Dean Mary Kelantzis: \$250,428

Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Ruth Watkins \$232,617

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATORS

Provost Linda Katehi: \$352,500

Assoc. Vice President of Business and Finance Douglas Beckman: \$237,930

Director of Public Affairs Robin Kaler \$167,100
Sports

Athletics Director Ron Guenther: \$600,000 (2008) \$525,000 (2007)—12% raise

Men's football coach Ron Zook: \$405,000

Assistant football coach Michael Locksley: \$255,000

Assistant football coach Reginald Mitchell: \$189,200

Assistant football coach Eric Wolford: \$185,000

Assistant football coach Curt Mallory: \$154,480

Assistant football coach James Pry: \$151,200

Assistant football coach Thomas Sims: \$140,000

Assistant football coach Michael Woodford: \$131,560

Men's basketball coach Bruce Weber: \$200,000

Assistant basketball coach Jerrance Howard: \$120,000

Assistant basketball coach Wayne McClain: \$138,000

Assistant basketball coach Jack Price: \$125,000

Total sports salaries: \$2,794,440

THE REST OF US

Assistant Professor, Gender and Women's Studies: \$58,000

Non-Tenure Track Instructor, English Dept.: \$4,800/class

Graduate Student in History: \$15,000

Janitor: \$32,000

These figures can be found in the "Grey Book" at the Main Library's information desk or online at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/UniversityOfIllinoisSalaryList2008-2009>

Democracy and Israel's Other Citizens

By Niloofar Shambayati



MAY 15 IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE establishment of the state of Israel which is celebrated every year with pride and jubilation. The Palestinians in Israel, however, have very little to celebrate. Although most of them are citizens, they have been subjected to institutionalized

discrimination, socio-economic apartheid, and mounting racism. Their continued plight exposes the myth of Israeli democracy and the inherent contradiction of defining Israel as "democratic and Jewish."

Sadly, public discourse in the United States fails to analyze the morality and political rationality of injecting this regime with 10 million dollars a day of our tax-money and failing to hold Israel accountable for its violations of human rights and international law. As is evident by the following examples, the lack of constructive debate within this discourse is due to the subtext that permeates it: that Americans have a duty to support "the only democracy in the Middle East" which was built by the toils of the victims of the European Holocaust. Not accepting this premise has been tantamount to anti-Semitism and lack of commitment to democracy. It is this subtext, dominant since the foundation of Israel, which we need to challenge in order to be able to formulate and implement a new Middle East policy, based on the principles of justice and democracy.

THE SUBTEXT OF THE AMERICAN DISCOURSE ON ISRAEL

Testifying before a House Subcommittee in April 2003, Howard Kohr of AIPAC stated that, "...the United States and Israel have forged a unique and remarkable partnership, made even more evident after September 11. This relationship is based on a common set of values, a shared commitment to democracy and freedom, and comparable histories of providing safe haven to oppressed peoples."

Similarly, in a document commissioned by the private Wexner Foundation, entitled "Israeli Communication Priorities 2003," the pro-Israeli lobbyists are reminded that "So far, one of Israel's most effective messages has been that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East... As a democracy, Israel has the right and the responsibility to defend its borders and protect its people." Six years later, the same sentence is uttered by President Obama to justify Israel's three-week-long bombardment of Gaza (Pi, March 2009).

The weapon of democracy is used again by Knesset member, Aryeh Eldad to admonish Secretary of State

Hillary Clinton for insisting that the Palestinians needed to have a state of their own: "You came here from the world's greatest and strongest democracy... Well, Israeli democracy has spoken: Most Israeli citizens do not wish to establish an Arab terror state in our homeland. If your democracy is real, you should of course respect the democracy of others as well."

THE FOUNDING FATHERS IMAGINE THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Since its inception in 1948, the State of Israel has been defining itself as "Jewish in essence and democratic in character." The 1948 Declaration of Independence from the British Mandate in Palestine maintained that "the state of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The hypocrisy of this proclamation is evident in the same year's Supreme Court's ruling that this document cannot be used to challenge the laws passed by Israeli legislature, the Knesset—allowing the government to pass discriminatory laws without impunity. Another fact that escapes too many people is that Israel, although required by the Declaration of its formation, has failed so far to draft and ratify a written constitution. Such a document would have to guarantee equality before law for all citizens, including the Palestinian minority, who could then challenge in courts of law, the legality of all the government's harsh measures against them, and possibly receive fair rulings.

DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

Through legislation, administrative statutes, emergency measures, and outright illegal actions, the Israeli state has managed so far to control and keep down its Palestinian population. The list is long: urban and rural land confiscation, house and neighborhood demolitions, preventing Palestinian refugees to return home while subsidizing the immigration of Jews from their homes abroad to Israel and the Occupied Territories, barring non-citizen Palestinian

spouses of Israeli citizens from residing in Israel, creating all-Jewish towns and quarters, discriminatory allocation of governmental funds to restrict economic, social, and educational opportunities for non-Jews, restrictions on political mobilization and participation in politics, etc.

Israeli state refers to its Palestinian population as Israeli Arabs. This designation helps Israeli Jews to dismiss the rationale for the establishment of a bi-national state and to continue the suppression of the national aspirations of the Palestinians and their desire for equality. The Israeli leadership has also been aware of the little potential Arab nationalism has for inspiring political mobilization and thus find the term "Arab" less dangerous to their supremacy than "Palestinian. In addition, a potential future transfer of this "Arab" population to any generic Arab country, most likely either Jordan or Egypt, would be less objectionable than forcing a distinct minority to be absorbed in a foreign country. The fact that Jewish Arabs, who are called "Oriental Jews", and Arab Bedouins of Israel are not identified as "Arab" signifies that, rather than any ethnic criteria, political motivation has determined the usage of this term.

THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ISRAEL

The shifting of the politics of Israel towards ultra-right, as demonstrated in the results of the recent elections, is an alarming reflection of the fear the colonizers develop of those they colonize. In the case of the Israeli Jews, the fear is even deeper since the colonized has deep familial and ethnic bonds with the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and in Diaspora and can hardly be expected to have loyalty to an exclusionist state. In addition, the Israeli Jews perceive the Palestinians as a "demographic threat" to the Jewish character of the state, based on faulty statistics which sets the former's birth rate at a much lower level than that of the latter. Recently, a governmental Demography Council has been convened with the specific task of finding ways to increase the birth rate of Jewish women!

Politicians and rabbis stir up this xenophobia by openly vilifying the Palestinians of Israel, calling them fifth column, traitors, cancer and vermin. Avigdor Lieberman, once on the lunatic fringes of Israeli politics, has tuned his party into the third-largest political party and is now the most powerful government figure. He advocates the citizenship be taken away from the Palestinian citizens since they are disloyal to the "Jewish state".

Continued on page 11



The Internationale

The original French words were written in June 1871 by Eugène Pottier (1816–1887, previously a member of the Paris Commune) and were originally intended to be sung to the tune of La Marseillaise. Pierre De Geyster (1848–1932) set the poem to music in 1888. His melody was first publicly performed in July 1888, and became widely used soon after.

THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise, wretched of the earth
Arise, convicts of hunger
Reason thunders in its volcano
This is the eruption of the end
Of the past let us wipe the slate clean
Masses, slaves, arise, arise
The world is about to change its foundation
We are nothing, let us be all

Chorus:

This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

There are no supreme saviours
Neither God, nor Caesar, nor tribune.
Producers, let us save ourselves
Decree the common welfare
That the thief might bare his throat,
That the spirit be pulled from its prison
Let us fan the forge ourselves
Strike the iron while it is hot

Chorus:

This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

The state represses and the law cheats
The tax bleeds the unfortunate
No duty is imposed on the rich
'Rights of the poor' is a hollow phrase
Enough languishing in custody
Equality wants other laws:
No rights without obligations, it says,
And as well, no obligations without rights

Chorus:

This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

Hideous in their self-glorification
Kings of the mine and rail
Have they ever done anything other
Than steal work?
Into the coffers of that lot,
What work creates has melted
In demanding that they give it back
The people wants only its due.

Chorus:

This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

The kings make us drunk with their fumes,
Peace among ourselves, war to the tyrants!
Let the armies go on strike,
Guns in the air, and break ranks
If these cannibals insist
On making heroes of us,
Soon they will know our bullets
Are for our own generals

Chorus:

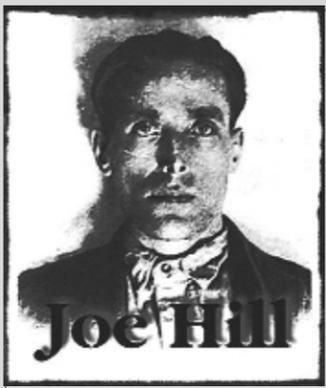
This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

Labourers, peasants, we are
The great party of workers
The earth belongs only to men
The idle will go reside elsewhere
How much of our flesh they feed on,
But if the ravens and vultures
Disappear one of these days
The sun will always shine

Chorus:

This is the final struggle
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race

Joe Hill



Joe Hill, born Joel Emmanuel Hägglund, and also known as Joseph Hillström (October 7, 1879 or 1882–November 19, 1915) was a Swedish-American labor activist, songwriter, and member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW, also known as the Wobblies). He was executed for murder after a controversial trial.

LONG-HAIRED PREACHERS

By Joe Hill

Long-haired preachers come out every night
Try to tell you what's wrong and what's right
But when asked about something to eat
They will answer in voices so sweet

'You will eat, by and by,
In that glorious land above the sky
Work and pray, live on hay -
You'll get pie in the sky when you die' - that's a lie!

And the Starvation Army they play
And they sing and the clap and they pray
Till they get all your coin on the drum
Then they'll tell you when you're on the bum . . .

Holy Rollers and Jumpers come out
And they sing and they clap and they shout
'Give your money to Jesus,' they say,
'He will cure all diseases today . . .

Working folks of all countries, unite
Side by side we for freedom will fight
When the world and it's wealth we have gained
To the grafters we'll sing this refrain:

You will eat, by and by,
When you've learned how to cook and how to fry
Chop some wood, it'll do you good
Then you'll eat in the sweet by and by - that's no lie!

JOE HILL'S LAST WILL

By Joe Hill

My last will is easy to decide
For I have nothing to divide
My kin don't need to weep and moan
Moss does not cling to a rolling stone

My body? oh, if I could choose
I would to ashes it reduce
And let the merry breezes blow
My dust to where some flowers grow

Perhaps some fading flower then
Would soon rise up and grow green again
This is my last and final will
Good luck to all of you,
Joe Hill

Socialism 2009: building a new left for a new era

Chicago, June 18-21

The world economic crisis has shattered the free-market consensus that has dominated politics for the last generation. Meanwhile, the end of the conservative era and the election of the first African American president have raised expectations among working people that long overdue change is at hand. With capitalism in crisis, even some in the mainstream media are admitting that Karl Marx was right.

There has never been a better time for those who want to see fundamental change to get together to debate, discuss and organize for a new society—a society based on the needs of the many instead of the whims of a few. We need to organize a new left to meet the challenge of this new era.

That's the purpose that Socialism 2009—expanded to two sites this year—has set for itself. Gather with activists from around the world to take part in dozens of discussions about changing the world: How can we end racism? What kind of organization do we need? What would a future socialist society look like?

Yes we can organize for socialism in the 21st century! ¡Sí se puede!

Sponsored by: Center for Economic Research and Social Change, publisher of *International Socialist Review* and Haymarket Books; International Socialist Organization, publisher of *Socialist Worker* and *Obrero Socialista*.

For more information, visit: socialismconference.org



Six People From an Amerikan Tradition They'll Never Teach You About In School



Emma Goldman (June 27, 1869–May 14, 1940) was an anarchist known for her political activism, writing and speeches. She played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political philosophy in North America and Europe in the first half of the twentieth century.



John "Jack" Silas Reed (22 October 1887–17 October 1920) was an American journalist, poet, and communist activist, remembered for his first-hand account of the Bolshevik Revolution, *Ten Days that Shook the World*.



Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (August 7, 1890–September 5, 1964) was a labor leader, activist, and feminist who played a leading role in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Flynn was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a visible proponent of women's rights, birth control, and women's suffrage. Late in life, she became chairperson of the American Communist Party. Flynn died in the course of a visit to the Soviet Union, where she was accorded a state funeral.



William Dudley Haywood (February 4, 1869–May 18, 1928), better known as Big Bill Haywood, was a prominent figure in the American labor movement. Haywood was a leader of the Western Federation of Miners, a founding member and leader of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and a member of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America. Haywood was an advocate of industrial unionism, a labor philosophy that favors organizing all workers in an industry under one union, regardless of the specific trade, or skill level. His belief that workers of all ethnicities should be united also clashed with many unions. His strong preference for direct action over political tactics alienated him from the Socialist Party, and contributed to his dismissal in 1912.



Lucy Eldine González Parsons (1853–March 7, 1942) was an American labor organizer, anarchist communist, and is remembered as a powerful orator. Parsons was born in 1853 in Texas, likely as a slave, to parents of Native American, Black American and Mexican ancestry. In 1871 she married Albert Parsons, a former Confederate soldier, and both were forced to flee north from Texas to Chicago by intolerant reactions to their interracial marriage.

Described by the Chicago Police Department as "more dangerous than a thousand rioters" in the 1920s, Lucy Parsons and her husband had become highly effective anarchist organizers primarily involved in the labor movement in the late 19th century, but also participating in revolutionary activism on behalf of political prisoners, people of color, the homeless and women.



Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (August 1, 1837 – November 30, 1930), born in Cork, Ireland, was a prominent American labor and community organizer, a Wobbly, and a Socialist. As a union organizer, she gained prominence for organizing the wives and children of striking workers in demonstrations on their behalf. She became known as "the most dangerous woman in America," a phrase coined by a West Virginia District Attorney Reese Blizzard in 1902, at her trial for ignoring an injunction banning meetings by striking miners. "There sits the most dangerous woman in America", announced Blizzard. "She crooks her finger—twenty thousand contented men lay down."



May Day, Then and Now

By Joe Berry

THIS MAY 1ST WILL MARK THE FOURTH large scale celebration of May Day (International Workers' Day) in the United States. This holiday, which was born of events in Chicago in 1886, was suppressed and became almost completely lost to American workers until immigrant workers recovered it for all of us with massive national demonstrations on May 1st 2006. The irony of an American holiday being rediscovered on American soil by immigrant workers is just one of a long chain of ironies that have marked the workers' movement in the United States. So, in the interest of a little remedial education, let me share a brief version of the history of May Day.

The year was 1886. For over a year, many workers' organizations, including the new American Federation of Labor, had been calling for a national 8-hour day to be granted by employers with no loss in pay, and to be enforced by a federal law. The epicenter of this movement was Chicago.

The slogan was:

Eight hours for work

Eight hours for sleep

Eight hours for what we will.

Chicago was the radical center of the labor movement nationally and world-wide at that time, and the movement there was led largely by political radicals, anarchists, small-c communists, and socialists of a hundred different stripes. This was, remember, long before the Russian Revolution. The majority of the leaders of this movement were immigrants, but that was not surprising since the majority of the working class in Chicago was immigrants and their children – largely from Germany, but also from a dozen other countries, including Norway, Bohemia, Hungary, Ireland and Finland. The most prominent native-born leaders were Albert Parsons and his wife Lucy, who had come to Chicago a few years before. They had left Texas to escape the post-Reconstruction anti-miscegenation laws which made the marriage of a white ex-Confederate printer turned Radical Reconstructionist and a black/Latina/Indian ex-slave, outside the pale of law.

The national movement had called for demonstrations across the country, calling for 8 hours of work, and for workers to walk off the job and demonstrate. In Chicago,

this demonstration drew 80,000---Chicago's largest up to then---and was led down Michigan Avenue by Albert and Lucy Parsons. As radicals and anarchists/socialists, they saw the 8-hour movement and the freeing up of workers' time that would result, as an important step toward building a revolutionary movement. The movement was largely successful and many workers in Chicago and nationally did gain the 8-hour day.

However, at McCormick Reaper, the massive farm machinery plant in Chicago, the striking workers were not so lucky. They were attacked by police and two were killed on May 3rd. Many workers were outraged and, to protest these killings, a demonstration was planned for May 4th at Haymarket Square in Chicago (at Randolph and Desplaines).

Like many emergency demonstrations since then, it was not very well organized and most of the expected speakers weren't even there when the rally began with a few thousand people. Eventually, speakers arrived and spoke from a wagon, sitting at the head of an alley just at the edge of the square itself. The only violence was the words of the speakers who took pains to use this occasion to demonstrate to their audience the control that the capitalists had over the law and the police and the need to resist.

To the south, across Randolph Street, police were massed, but so was the popular pro-labor mayor, Carter Harrison, who found no fault with the rally. Harrison left when it started to rain, just before the rally ended, telling the police commander John Bonfield that he was going home, that there was nothing happening, and that the police should do the same. By this time rain had begun and the rally was down to about 200.

Unfortunately, Bonfield, who had also been in charge of the police who killed the workers at McCormick, only sent part of his men home. With his remaining men, he formed up in dense formation and marched to the edge of

the demonstration. At that point, he called out to the remaining demonstrators that this was an illegal assembly and that they should disperse immediately. The final speaker, Samuel Fielden, called out that they were peaceable, but before he could finish his sentence, a bomb went off in the middle of the massed police, killing some immediately. The police opened fire, killing from their own and many demonstrators, the number never to be known for certain, since many of the dead and injured workers were not taken to hospitals for fear of arrest.

These events caused the city government to start a manhunt for all radical labor leaders, labeling them as dangerous, terrorist cop-killers. Within a few days many were arrested, except for Parsons who fled to Wisconsin, but came back to join his comrades on the dock for the

trial. Most of those arrested were not physically present at Haymarket, so they were charged with conspiracy; their real crime, as was freely admitted at the time, was being radicals and building a movement among working people. No one ever established who threw the bomb.

After a trial, now universally recognized by historians as being a travesty of justice, all seven of the defendants were convicted and sentenced to hang. Two had their sentences commuted to prison terms and one, Louis Lingg, died in his cell, the night before execution, with a blasting cap. By the time of the executions, a world-wide movement had arisen demanding, at least, clemency for the accused. But that was not to be in Chicago. As his final words, August Spies shouted, "The time will

come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today!" And Albert Parsons' final words being, "Let the voice of the people be heard."

Continued on page 11



Some Notes On the Social Forum Phenomenon

By Paul Mueth

THROUGH THE MONTHS OF 2000 around Brasil and parts of Latin America, there was concerted effort to bring together parts of civil society, historically disenfranchised over decades of dictatorships and economic hegemony by the North, mainly by the Monroe (en)Doctrinated United States. The culmination was the 1st World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in southern Brasil, which leaves a legacy to this day; it is arguably partially responsible for the independent direction that Latin America has taken away from the "Washington Consensus."

The eventual electoral of Pres. Lula's Worker's Party (PT) could also partly be credited to the opening aided by the Forum's activist agitation.

At the first gathering and there have been nine major forums subsequently, principles were formulated that have guided the world wide phenomenon. For a sense of the groups' vision, here are two of the fourteen approved and adopted in São Paulo, on April 9, 2001.

1) The World Social Forum is an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among Mankind and between it and the Earth.

2) The World Social Forum at Porto Alegre was an event localised in time and place. From now on, in the certainty proclaimed at Porto Alegre that "Another World Is Possible," it becomes a permanent process of seeking and building alternatives, which cannot be reduced to the events supporting it.

Of course, in the corporately globalized world, the Forum was partially a response to the gathering of those captains of capital who had been meeting regularly in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum.

It's also the case that the Battle in Seattle, where the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference of 1999 was derailed by activist outrage and less developed countries opposition, resonated at WSF 1. The awareness that there were activists inside the northern behemoth who shared the critiques of the IMF/World Bank/WTO invigorated the meetings at Porto Alegre.

Northerners from the overdeveloped world joined the movement, by going to the south as well as by having Forums in their own locales. There have been forums in Chicago, Milwaukee and US Social Forum in Atlanta. As the Public I goes to press, work is ongoing towards a Central Illinois Social Forum at the IMC on Saturday May 2nd. There will be a monthly People's Potluck to continue these beginning efforts.

A visitor to the 3rd forum Noam Chomsky, perhaps more noted outside of the US than within, found his



Greek students face down riot police in Athens

largest single audience in Porto Alegre where he spoke before nearly 30,000 attendees. In his speech he chose to champion the Brazil based Landless Movement (MST), perhaps the most disenfranchised group in all of the Americas. Their activities are chronicled by the Chicago-based organization: Friends of the MST, <http://www.mst-brazil.org/>

Given the economic, environmental and social turmoil of the day, one might add to the slogan: Another world is possible, the urgent call: Another world is necessary



Fix U.S. Foreign Policy, Pass the *Employee Free Choice Act*

By Bob Naiman



SOMETIMES A "STRATEGIC" opportunity for reform comes along which changes the playing field for efforts to win other reforms in the future. The passage of the *National Labor Relations Act* was a strategic reform. It empowered the people previously excluded from power, and thereby reduced the power of corporate interests. The same is true of the *Employee Free Choice Act* (EFCA).

The passage of EFCA is easy to justify on the basis of guaranteeing the human rights of working Americans. When it is signed into law, millions of private sector workers will have greater protection from having their rights violated.

What difference would that make? Ask Steve Arney. He used to be a reporter at the Bloomington *Pantagraph*, a newspaper in Illinois owned by Lee Enterprises. A majority of employees at the *Pantagraph* signed cards to support forming a union with the St. Louis Newspaper Guild. Lee Enterprises responded with a campaign to defeat the effort of *Pantagraph* employees to form a union. As part of Lee's anti-union campaign, Steve Arney lost his job.

Arney had worked at the *Pantagraph* for sixteen years. He'd been a writer in various departments and had had excellent evaluations. At the time of the organizing drive, he was working as a Features writer. Arney says:

"They said I was selected because they had decided to cut a job in Features, and I had the least seniority among three people who were writing for Features." To which I responded, 'Well, we know that's a lie, because I can work in any other department in the newsroom.' I had proven year after year that I was a very versatile reporter. I was selected because I was involved in the union, it's just that simple."

Firing someone for supporting a union is a violation of federal labor law. So, if Lee Enterprises fired Steve Arney for supporting a union, then Lee Enterprises should have gotten in trouble, right? Here's what Steve Arney says about that:

"I had to take the severance, because I didn't make enough to save up a bunch of money. So I accepted the severance, so I lost my right to sue. Had I sued, the outcome, at best, two and half years later, the way the system is rigged for the companies right now, I would have got my job back. Two and a half years later. After appeals, and fights, and all kinds of headaches. I would have been a fool not to take the severance. So they can say, 'Well, our hands are clean.' They aren't. They're dirty."

Eldon Smith worked at the *Pantagraph* as a shortage driver. "I delivered papers to people that did not get their papers," he says. "I had had several comments that I was one of the best shortage drivers that they had ever had."

About two weeks after he marched in a pro-union rally, Smith says, "they called me in and told me I was working too many hours, and they cut my hours back." After cutting his hours again, they told him his job was being eliminated. "There is no question in my mind why my job was eliminated," Smith says.

How would the EFCA change this situation? Anti-union employers will have less freedom to intimidate people, a key reason anti-union employers oppose this bill, Arney says,

"They'll lose a half a year... from the time that we turn in our cards that say our company workers want a union... and then they delay it—for the next months, they cajole, badger, intimidate, fire people... make life miserable for people who are in favor for collective bargaining. So the deck is stacked right now for management and they want that deck continually stacked for them. They don't care about our secret ballot. They care about their power and their profit."

These are examples of Americans whose basic human rights are being violated today, whose rights would be protected under the EFCA. Tens of millions of private sector workers who don't have union contracts today would benefit, both because they could more easily form unions and because the threat of unionization would drive up wages and benefits overall.

UNIONS AND CORPORATE POWER IN WASHINGTON

Suppose you're not a nonsupervisory private sector worker and don't believe you'll ever be in a union or that your working conditions will be directly affected by unions. Apart from your belief in fairness and in protecting the rights of others, do you have a stake in the passage of the EFCA? Absolutely you do.

If it bothers you that corporations have too much power in Washington and if you want to see the kinds of reforms in America that people hoped for during the Obama campaign, you have a huge stake in the passage of the EFCA.

Look at the northern European countries. They seem so different from the United States. Universal health care. Less poverty. Better education. Better family leave and childcare policies. What do these countries have in common? Working people in these countries have more political power than working people in the United States.

If the EFCA becomes law, more working people in America will join unions and, as America's labor unions become stronger, working people will have more political power. That's why there's a wall of opposition from Wall Street. It's not just about wages and benefits. Wall Street financial institutions don't pay their employees so badly. It's about the political power of working people—including the power to rein in corporations. And that's key to many other domestic reforms. If there were a more powerful counterweight to the insurance industry's political power, we'd already have universal health care. If there were a more powerful counterweight to the political power of the pharmaceutical industry, we'd all be paying Canadian prices for prescription drugs.

Likewise, there might not have been a housing bubble nor a financial crisis, and, even if there were, we'd be restructuring the banks instead of bailing them out with hundreds of billions in tax dollars.

LABOR UNIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY

Suppose what really moves you is reforming U.S. foreign policy. You're tired of the U.S. being an international outlaw, invading other people's countries, bombing their villages, killing their children, toppling their governments and killing America's youth in the process. Do you have any stake in the passage of the EFCA? Absolutely you do.

We're never going to get a foreign policy that reflects the values and interests of the majority of Americans until working people in America—the vast majority of the population—have more political power.

This might not be obvious to people who don't know the full history of the labor movement in America. The AFL-CIO backed the Vietnam War. Why would, then, it improve U.S. foreign policy for the labor movement to have more power?

But the labor movement that existed in the early years of the Vietnam War didn't drop down from the sky. It was the product of a deliberate government campaign to destroy the most progressive wing of the labor movement, following World War II. A key motivation for that campaign was to remove domestic political obstacles to foreign military and economic policies the U.S. government intended to pursue -- policies that weren't in the interest of the majority of Americans.

Prior to the purge, there was no boundary between the labor movement and what we know today as the peace and international solidarity movements. Saul Alinsky described the labor movement in the thirties this way in his book "Rules for Radicals":

"The agendas of those labor union mass meetings were 10 per cent on the specific problems of that union and 90 per cent on the conditions and needs of the southern Okies, the Spanish Civil War and the International Brigade, raising funds for blacks who were on trial in some southern state,..., raising funds for anti-Nazi organizations, demanding an end to American sales of scrap iron to the Japanese military complex, and on and on."

The labor movement that exists today may be a far cry from your grandfather's labor movement that existed in the 1930s. But it's also a far cry from your father's labor movement that existed in the 1960s.

In January 2007, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney denounced President Bush's proposal for military escalation in Iraq. In March the General Executive Council of the AFL-CIO called for the end of the U.S. military occupation of Iraq and a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. forces. These statements played a significant role in aligning Democrats in Congress in favor of a timetable for U.S. withdrawal for Iraq. And the position of Democrats in Congress—especially presidential candidate Barack Obama—in favor of a timetable for withdrawal decisively strengthened the hand of the Iraqi government in successfully demanding from the Bush Administration a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

The internal struggles over the U.S. labor movement's foreign policy are by no means over and would likely never be. But the direction of motion is towards an American labor movement that opposes foreign military and economic policies that are against the interests of the majority. A dramatic expansion in the ranks of organized labor will help push labor in a more progressive direction on foreign policy. That's why Americans who want to end U.S. foreign policies based on war and economic institutions dominated by corporate interests, and who want policies based on peace, economic development, and diplomacy have a stake in the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Interviews with Steve Arney and Eldon Smith were conducted by Marti Wilkinson. For the entire interviews, you can go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-N-hCOgrgoA>



Four of the 22 demonstrators arrested during the civil disobedience actions at the Blackwater training facility protests in Clearwater IL on April 26 were from Champaign's Catholic Worker House. Pictured from L to R, Kenny Bishop, Tyler Chen, Laurel Noblette, and Chris Watson.



Five Ring Circus: Olympics and Resistance

By Neil Parthun



The Olympics have been mythologized as a venue where athletes from all over the world can be unified in a contest of the world's greatest athletes despite political and social differences. However, the reality is that the Olympics have been and continue to be a highly commercialized venture rife with political considerations commandeering the decisions.

One name is synonymous with the Olympics of the 20th century: Avery Brundage. It was under his leadership that the Olympics became deeply intertwined with politics, despite his protestations that sports and politics should never mix. Brundage was a graduate from the University of Illinois in 1909. After serving as president of the Amateur Athletic Union, he became president of the United States Olympic Committee during the 1930s.

The 1936 Games were to be hosted in Berlin, Germany. The organization Brundage used to head -- the Amateur Athletic Union -- was vigorously demanding a boycott of the Olympics as Nazi racial discrimination was against Olympic rules and participation of countries in the Games would legitimize the Nazi regime. In late 1935, the American member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Ernest Lee Jahncke stated: "Neither Americans nor the representatives of other countries can take part in the Games in Nazi Germany without at least acquiescing in the contempt of the Nazis for fair play and their sordid exploitation of the Games."

Brundage did not heed these warnings. He opposed a boycott since he had been given a brief stage-managed inspection of Berlin and stated that Jewish athletes were being treated fairly. As the controversy increased, Avery alleged that there was a "Jewish-Communist" conspiracy behind keeping the US out of the Games. Brundage helped to give the Nazis significant political legitimacy by sending the United States Olympians to Berlin.

In July 1936, the IOC expelled Jahncke from his post and Avery Brundage was elected to take over. Jahncke became the only person to ever be expelled from the IOC. Despite the Berlin Olympics being used by the Nazis in their propaganda reels, Brundage claimed in 1971: "The Berlin Games were the finest in modern history."

After the Olympics, Brundage became involved in the America First movement that urged a neutral stance towards Nazi Germany. He had given multiple speeches extolling the values of the Nazi regime and was eventually kicked out of the America First Committee because of his pro-German leanings. His history of accepting discrimination and overt racism would be a cause of another Olympic protest 32 years after Berlin.

The 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City were rife with tensions. As Dave Zirin writes: "In the fall of 1967 amateur black athletes formed OPHR Olympic Project for Human Rights to organize a boycott of the 1968 Olympics in Mex-

ico City." The OPHR had three main goals—to get Muhammad Ali his title back after it had been stripped for Ali's refusal to go to Vietnam, disinvite South Africa and Rhodesia for their apartheid regimes and to remove Avery Brundage as head of the International Olympic Committee due to his bigoted and racist attitude.

As Zirin continues: "Already in 1968 the world had seen the weaknesses of US imperialism at the Tet offensive in Viet-Nam; the Prague Spring where Czech students challenged the Stalinist tanks, the assassination of Martin Luther King and the mass revolts that followed, the growth of the Black Panther Party in the United States, and the largest general strike in world history in France. Then, On October 2, ten days before the Games opened, the Mexican security forces massacred hundreds of students in Mexico City who were occupying the National University." Despite the massacre, Brundage continued the Games.



Gene Upshaw (1945-2008) had a Hall of Fame career with the Oakland Raiders and became the head of the National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA) from 1983 to 2008. His victories as a union organizer led to NFL players getting the right to free agency (instead of the reserve clause where a team perpetually owned the rights to a player.)

The culmination of the upheaval, allowing apartheid regimes to participate in Olympics and Avery Brundage's history of bigotry ended up being the immortalized image of US track athletes John Carlos and Tommie Smith on the medal stand with their fists raised in defiance. Smith, Carlos and the silver medalist Peter Norman were all part of the OPHR and utilized their moment as a means of bringing attention to the social problems in America and to continue pressure on the IOC. Within hours, Smith and Carlos were stripped of their medals and sent home by Brundage—a man who helped introduce Juan Antonio Samaranch, a high ranking member of Franco's Spanish fascist regime to the IOC in 1966 as a man whom Brundage "trusted and loved" (and who would take over as President of the IOC after Brundage's tenure)—because Smith and Carlos blurred the lines of sports and politics.

Brundage rounded out his career as President of the IOC during the traumatic 1972 Olympics in Munich. In the aftermath of the massacre of Israeli athletes by the terrorist organization Black September, Brundage not only continued the Olympic Games but also made a public statement where he equated the murder of the Israeli team to the elimination of a country who upheld apartheid ideals in South Africa. He said: "The Games of the XXth Olympiad have been subject to two savage attacks. We lost the Rhodesian battle against naked political blackmail."

Brundage's connection is not only local—He also had a construction company in Chicago. His ignoble history as an Olympic leader is a reason that many citizens in Chicago, a potential host city for the 2016 Summer Games, have rose up in resistance.

The main organizing coalition against the 2016 bid has been No Games Chicago. It is a grassroots organization with representatives from all parts of the city. It represents low-income residents that fear that they might be evicted/gentrified from their homes, parks advocates who fear the loss of public space and concerned citizens worrying about the priorities for spending their tax dollars.

Currently, the Chicago Public School system has a \$475 million budget shortfall. The City of Chicago is in debt to the tune of at least \$200 million. Recently, 1,600 more city workers lost their jobs in an attempt to balance the budget. The Chicago Transit Authority has stated that to remain solvent, they will have to raise fares and limit service to areas throughout the city. The Authority also lacks the funds to repair and replace the public buses and train tracks when necessary. Outside of Chicago, the state of Illinois has a massive budget deficit as well.

While Chicago wallows in extreme debt, Mayor Daley has increased fees and taxes on items that impact tourists as well as residents like movies, plays and hotels. These costs end up hitting workers living in the city and make their lives very difficult. At the same time, the Mayor is also quickly privatizing Chicago's public assets like parking meters and Midway Airport. To make up the budget deficit, these public goods are attempting to be sold off to the highest corporate bidder.

Despite the significant economic problems, Chicago still wants the Olympics. The Chicago 2016 bid team proclaims that it will not cost the taxpayers a dime. However, taxpayer money is being lined up currently to help pay for the creation of the Olympic Village and for stadium construction efforts. The IOC demands a full state guarantee for any host site to pay for the Olympics and Chicago is not likely to get one, nor should it, given the severe economic problems currently facing Chicago and Illinois.

While the bid team gives out low cost estimates, these estimates, approximately \$5 billion, should not be believed. London, the host of the 2012 Games is now expected to spend \$16.6 billion, nearly twice their original estimate. This problem is only compounded with Chicago's history of building delays and cost overruns on the building of public projects. Millennium Park cost \$475 million to build, which was \$325 million more than its original projection. The most recent extensions of the riverwalk along the Chicago River have cost \$22 million, double the original stated cost. According to No Games Chicago organizer Bob Quellos, the city has taken the city over 20 years and \$250 million to build a yet to be finished train station which is now just a "taxpayer created giant concrete bunker" called Block 37.

While the IOC was evaluating Chicago as a potential bid city in early April, No Games Chicago was able to give a presentation to the panel members. Bob Quellos, one of the presenters for No Games Chicago, stated that they discussed the city's significant financial problems, the construction time/cost overruns and the corruption present in Chicago/Illinois politics. Quellos closed the presentation telling the IOC that if the Games come to Chicago, it could awaken a sleeping giant of resistance. This resistance would have seven years to organize for the Games after the October 2, 2009 announcement of the host city.

Quellos and No Games Chicago are not anti-Olympics. Instead of spending the funds on constructing temporary stadiums that will likely not be used after the Games, the supporters of No Games Chicago argue that it should be people over profits. If the billions are to be spent, let's focus that money on providing better health care, secure housing, better schools and state of the art transportation. Let's turn the potential site of a five ring circus into a first rate city for all of its inhabitants by saying "No Games, Chicago!"

GET INTO TROUBLE

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Nelson Algren, Chicago Author and U of I Grad, Turns 100

*Lumpenproletariat, me
trespassed private property
wondering always how it comes
there's just no rest for such poor bums.*

BORN IN 1909, NELSON ALGREN wrote novels of the underclass, those who Marx described as the "lumpen proletariat." Before he became a celebrated writer for his book *The Man With the Golden Arm*, Algren attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, worked as a reporter for the *Daily Illini*, and graduated in 1931 with a degree in Journalism. This year is the centennial of Algren's birth. His novels brilliantly captured the experience of ethnic Americans who lived in Chicago's urban ghettos.

Originally named Nelson Abraham, as a young writer Algren changed his name to avoid the discrimination that many Jews faced in the 1930s. Yet perhaps because of his background, he continued to identify with the oppressed and the downtrodden. Born in Detroit, his parents moved him to Chicago when he was three years old and he grew up in its working class neighborhoods playing with children who were the sons and daughters of Irish, Polish, and Jewish immigrants.

At the insistence of his older sister, Algren left home to attend the University of Illinois which then had only 10,000 students. His time in Urbana-Champaign was relatively uneventful. It is recounted in the biography by Bettina Drew, *Nelson Algren: A Life on the Wild Side*. She says he lived the life of an ascetic as a student, earning As in English and Journalism. Eventually, he got off campus. In later years, he recalled walking down Walnut Street looking for prostitutes, "with a very oppressive sense of sin." In his senior year, he worked for *The Daily Illini* as a court reporter at the Champaign County courthouse. After he received a BA in Journalism, he became certified by the Illinois Press Association and moved back to Chicago to

find work. The reporting skills he picked up as a student would later help him to document Chicago's underworld of gamblers, thieves, and drug addicts.

In the early years of the Depression, Algren could not find a job at a newspaper. Gravitating toward other aspiring young artists, he became involved with the John Reed Club in Chicago, one of several writers' collectives across the country set up among writers on the left, many of whom were in the Communist Party. There he met proletarian writer Jack Conroy, African American novelist Richard Wright, and the feminist writer Meridel Le Sueur.

Joining others among the unemployed, Algren took one of the many trains out of Chicago, "hoboing" from town to town in search of work. After being caught stealing a typewriter at a college where he was teaching, he spent five months in a Texas Prison. From these experiences he wrote his first novel, *Somebody in Boots* (1935), set in Texas, New Orleans, and Chicago.

Returning to Chicago, Algren took up residence in an area known as "the triangle," a Polish neighborhood at the intersection of Division, Ashland, and Milwaukee. This was the setting for his second novel, *Never Come Morning* (1941), about the Polish boxer, Bruno "Lefty" Bicek. In the introduction, Richard Wright praised the book for depicting the "frustrated longing for human dignity residing in the lives of Poles of Chicago's North West Side." One of the most acclaimed writers of the day, Ernest Hemingway, said it was "about the best book to come out of Chicago."

While Algren had achieved critical recognition, it was not until *The Man With the Golden Arm* (1949) that he gained commercial success. Regarded as the first American novel about drug addiction, the story focuses on Frankie "Machine" Majcinek, who has become addicted to morphine to forget his memories of being a soldier during World War II. An ace card dealer, he now relies on gam-

bling to support his habit. Many today probably remember the 1955 movie adaptation of Algren's book starring Frank Sinatra. Algren was disappointed with the film and originally wanted Marlon Brando to play the lead role.

In 1947, while French existentialist Simone de Beauvoir was travelling the United States and stopped in Chicago, Algren was introduced to her and the two had an instant attraction. Algren gave her one of his infamous tours through Chicago's seedy bars and cheap burlesques. Indeed, his novels about society's outsiders were in line with existentialist ideas. For 17 years, Algren and de Beauvoir had an affair. In the end, she would not leave Jean-Paul Sartre and her native France. Unlike other writers who fled to New York or to Paris to further their literary careers, Algren refused to abandon Chicago. Yet when de Beauvoir died in 1986, she was buried wearing a ring Algren had given her.

Throughout his life, Algren supported many social causes. In defiance of McCarthyism, he signed statements in defense of the Hollywood Ten and was honorary chairman of the Chicago Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. Miraculously, he avoided the blacklist during the 1950s.

When hired in 1974 by Esquire magazine to write a story about the boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, who had been convicted of triple murder, Algren was finally compelled to leave Chicago. He moved to Carter's hometown of Paterson, New Jersey to follow the story more closely. Esquire never published the article, refusing to address the question of Carter's innocence. Unfortunately, Algren never did find a publisher willing to release a book on the case he had spent three years writing.

The last year of Algren's life he moved to Sag Harbor, a small coastal town in Suffolk County, New York. On May 9, 1981, he died of a heart attack in the apartment where he lived.

Democracy and Israel's Other Citizens

By Continued from page 5

Even Tzipi Livni, in her capacity as foreign minister in the last government, sees no place for Palestinians inside Israel: "My solution for maintaining a Jewish and democratic state of Israel is to have two distinct national entities... I will also be able to approach the Palestinian residents of Israel, those whom we call Arab Israelis, and tell them: 'Your national aspirations lie elsewhere'."

Many Israeli progressives are alarmed by these trends as detrimental to genuine democratic values. Uri Avnery warns

against fascism. Political geographer, Oren Yiftachel, calls Israel's political system an ethnocracy (a regime with some democratic features but lacking a democratic structure) and not a democracy, so on and so force.

THE PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL SPEAK UP

The Palestinians of Israel express their existential dilemma by referring to themselves as "Palestinians in Israel." They realize that, as "Arab Israelis," they belong neither to Israel nor to a future Palestinian state. To

end this predicament, a group of prominent Israeli Palestinians has recently developed an extensive plan towards the creation of a "consensual democracy for both Arabs and Jews" within which Palestinians could achieve "full citizenship and equality and institutional self-rule in the fields of education, culture, and religion." So far, though, this call has received only consternation from Jewish politicians and public. The Israel's secret police, Shin Bet, has even warned that it would "disrupt the activities of any groups that seek to change

the Jewish or democratic character of Israel, even if they use democratic means."

Unless Israeli Jews decide to turn their back on paranoia and embrace with the Palestinians their common heritage and love for their ancestral land, they will find themselves isolated within an ethnocratic regime, searching a solution to their own existential dilemma. We, too, need to decide whether, for the benefit of all involved, we should start to be part of a just solution or continue to contribute to the perpetuation of violence and hatred.

May Day, Then and Now

By Continued from page 8

The executions and political scare had two important effects. One was to paint the entire American labor movement with the brush of dangerous, terroristic radicalism, and to set back union organizing and activity for a number of years. It ironically played an important role in the decline of the then dominant Knights of Labor, whose national leadership had not endorsed the May 1st demonstrations, even though Parsons and some others were proud members of a Chicago Knights Assembly.

The other was to create martyrs of these men, whose words and deeds came to be felt all over the world, wherever workers organized as workers, especially to

demand shorter hours. In 1889 the Second (Socialist) International declared May 1st to be an international workers' holiday in commemoration of the Martyrs of Chicago. It is now an official legal holiday in most nations of the world, but in the United States, governments and conservative labor leaders have gone out of their way to discourage the observing of May 1, with Richard Nixon declaring it "Law Day" in 1971.

Despite being labeled as a foreign, subversive, and Communist holiday, May Day had a resurgence in the 1930's and 1940's, when the political left helped to revive the labor movement. During post-WWII Cold War, May Day celebrations receded under

the pressure of anti-Communist repression and fear. It was only with the demonstrations of 2006, led especially by immigrant workers, which May Day returned to the consciousness of the people who had given it birth, the workers of Chicago. It has been reborn fittingly on the shoulders of this generation of immigrants, just as it was born initially out of the struggles of immigrant workers for a decent life in their new country. On May 1, 2007, the largest demonstration in Chicago history (estimated as 300,000-500,000), along with dozens more throughout the nation, reminded us of the heritage of May Day and its special role in the history of immigrant workers in the US and Chicago. (see

<http://www.archive.org/details/CLALB499> for a film of the Chicago demonstration produced by Labor Beat in Chicago; for more on Illinois labor history, see <http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org>)

In Urbana-Champaign, May Day will be commemorated on May 2nd with the holding of the Central Illinois Social Forum to bring together all of those groups and individuals who are trying to assist the working people to survive the challenges of the economic collapse and who are trying to organize to chart a way forward under the slogan, "Another world is possible." There is no doubt that the Haymarket Martyrs would approve.