

We walk, we hold,  
for Fellow Workers,  
we do not cross



# The Line

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## Independence Day Issue



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artwork, and photographs to  
[organize@OlympiaIWW.com](mailto:organize@OlympiaIWW.com)



After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which He made a SCAB. A SCAB is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water-logged brain and a combination backbone made of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts he carries a tumor of rotten principles. A strikebreaker is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class!

—Jack London, 1904

# A Worker's Independence Day

We the Industrial Workers of the World fight for a better tomorrow. We believe "It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old."

It is important to emphasize that by fighting for "bread and butter" issues on the job with the intention of building One Big Union organized industrially that has as it's aim the overthrow of capitalism, we, as workers, are bringing together more and more workers towards the goal of their own interests.

We believe that Labor creates all wealth and we want what is our due.

We believe in organizing for a better world in the here and now. We believe in organizing for better pay and better conditions, and for worker control on the job. Because it is the right, just, and sane thing to do. Some like to think of it as being revolutionary, we like to think of it as common sense.

The IWW was founded in 1905, but our ideals are those of working people going back centuries. They go back as far as working people have been held down. We have a saying "Labor creates all wealth." Even before the revolution workers in New York were already saying "By Hammer and Hand All Arts Do Stand," and in Charleston, "Industry Produceth All Wealth." On July 4th we celebrate independence. But independence from what? We, as workers, are not independent. We are not free.

When we go to work we leave our rights at the door. We no longer have the right to talk about certain things. We may not have the right to talk at all. We could be fired for something we say. For

instance one could say they don't like the president and the government could not stop you or retaliate against you for this. However, if you said you hate your boss, you may be fired, or otherwise retaliated against. Our jobs are not a democracy. We don't have much say in how we do the work. When we do have some say it is only by happenstance. It is not fundamental.

This Independence Day we urge you to think about this, and more than that, to do something about it. Political democracy, such as it is, did not come from no where in this world. It came from people fighting for it in many ways. We have to keep fighting for it

"It is we who plowed the praries, built the cities where they trade, dug the mines and built the work-shops, endless miles of railroad laid, now we stand outcast and starving amid the wonders we have made."

because it is eroding. But more importantly we have to ask "why don't we have workplace democracy?" We have to ask ourselves, not the bosses. Because we are the ones that can take action to implement workplace democracy.

We don't need the bosses, they need us. The workers do the work. We can stop doing the work. But it is not just about showing the bosses and owners that we have the power. It is un-

derstanding this ourselves. It has been so long since workers have used these muscles. We have to test them, to understand the power that we have. Sometimes it only takes thinking about it to see that it makes sense that our work should be controlled democratically. Other times it takes seeing it. It takes seeing workers stand up for themselves, before we realize that it can be done. In any case the point is to start. Start organizing with your fellow workers.

This July 4th, and on all days, let us not say nationalism, but rather let us say - Freedom.

 <p><b>The Line</b></p>	<p>Editorial Committee Olympia IWW Branch Secretary          Dylan Brooks Alejandro Roa Chaves          Roger Royset</p>	<p>Published Bi-Monthly.          Articles not so designated do not reflect the IWW's official position.</p>
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# Interview with Ballentine Palubinsky

DB: How old are you Ballentine?

BP: 36

DB: Where did you grow up?

BP: I grew up in Las Vegas Nevada, I have been in Olympia for about 4 years now.

DB: What was your first job?

BP: The first time that I ever worked was at a movie theater inside of a casino. I was 17 and they had me cleaning theaters when the movies were done. I made \$5.45 an hour.

DB: Were you still in school at the time?

BP: Yes.

DB: How long did you work there?

BP: December 1999 to April 2000.

DB: What happen when you left that job?

BP: Well I had been applying for a job at the mall where I wouldn't have to wear a uniform. So I really wanted that mall job because not only was there no uniform but I could wear dresses and nail polish. So I upgraded jobs was all. I worked at the mall selling cloths for 5 years.

DB: How much did you make there?

BP: I took a pay cut. I made \$5.17. When I left after 5 years I made \$7.25.

DB: What was that like working in the mall, in retail?

BP: There were parts of it that sucked, but there were parts that were cool. The mall in itself was like its own community. You got to know people that worked at other shops and there was a friends circle of just mall people. It was close to my house, I could walk. They were flexible and I told them that I was going to college to be a teacher so they would only schedule me when I didn't have class and I was living at home at the time so I could get away with working 15 hours a week and it wouldn't be a big deal. In that way it was kind of cool.

DB: Then you became a teacher?

BP: Yeah, I was in college. I student-taught for a year, well like 6 months then I got hired, well I was a substitute teacher for about 2 years and that was

the worst job I've ever had. Nobody respects a sub. You roll into a different school everyday and then you never see those people again. Everyday is like your first day but you are expected to work.

DB: Going back to the retail job, what was the worst thing about working there, if anything?

BP: So it was super cool the first year, ... And then we got bought out by the gap. Shit changed real quick. ... They were all about loss prevention. They said you had to catch so many people a quarter. And I just never would do it. ... And if you didn't meet [the quota] you didn't get a raise. So sometimes I just wouldn't get a raise. I would go 6 months and when it came up for review everything was perfect but I didn't catch so many people shoplifting so I didn't get a raise.

DB: What were the raises?

BP: 25 cents was the top one.

DB: and by the end of it you were still making minimum wage anyway?

BP: Yeah and this was completely without benefits.

DB: Did you consider yourself political at this time?

BP: Yeah, but at that time in Nevada in the early 2000s there wasn't anything going on. ...the entire time I worked at the mall I think the only thing I was involved in was some pretty minor anti-war protests.

DB: With the Iraq war?

BP: Yeah

DB: Was there anything defining about becoming political that happened for you?

BP: ... I realized that [the FBI] did terrible things. The real kicker was that they sent MLK a letter telling him to kill himself and I was like I'm not onboard with the United States it turns out. It went against everything I was ever told. Then when I got to high school my government teachers showed me two videos one about the Zapatista, and one about the Battle in Seattle.

DB: You're a wobbly, right?

BP: Yes

DB: When did you join?

BP: 2012 was when I signed up. During Occupy there was an effort made by people in Las Vegas to make a branch of the

**Continued on Page 7.**



# IWOC Endorses National Prison Strike and Pledges Support

Whereas, trusted comrades, collectives, and networks behind the prison walls have convened, called for a “National Prison Strike” from August 21 to Sept 9, 2018, issued a set of demands and guidelines and requested outside support,

Whereas, we, the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee of the IWW have heard their call for support and find the strike and its goals completely aligned with our material work and with all points of our Statement of Purpose,

Be it resolved, we endorse the strike, pledge our support and furthermore, embrace the work of solidarity.

We, as the national body of the IWOC network strongly encourage all outside branches and members-at-large to take on the support work to the utmost of their capacity and according to their best judgement.

As the strike develops, the scope of work will also develop and will need further guidelines and ratification, so we offer this motion as a framework and a beginning. Further motions to amend are entertained as the work demands and teaches. The areas of work appropriate to our network, as we see them now, are as listed below:

1. Immediately add our name to the list of endorsing organizations and solicit other organizations to endorse and support.

2. Spread the word of the strike and demands inside as best and responsibly as we can so that our inside members and contacts can make informed decisions as to their positions and possible actions.

3. Media

a. National Media Committee: assist and coordinate with the Jailhouse Lawyers Speak/Millions for Prisoners media representatives according to their

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protocols in fielding and fulfilling media requests, strategizing, spreading social media, and assisting in generating original works in all available mediums.

b. Locals: generate, share and publish educational and agitational material in all available mediums.

c. Make available whatever vetted media representatives we can muster regionally and nationally to speak on the strike to groups or to media outlets (according to the prisoners’ protocols for media requests).

4. Anti-repression

a. To immediately begin building networks of outside supporters committed to phone blasts, demonstrations, and pressure campaigns of any type to combat repression and retaliation against prisoners. Repression is already underway and prisoner groups are already making requests for support.

b. Educate all IWOC members and groups, all other support groups and public at large on the tactics and depth of retaliations undertaken against pris-

oners.

5. Local demands: Outside IWOC groups can aid prisoners in their area in adding their own demands to local strike messaging. Such addition has been approved by existing inside strike leadership.

Let the work begin.

For solidarity over the walls and wire,  
For a world without prisons,  
For liberation!

To learn more about IWOC see the following website.

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/>

If you are intersted in getting involved in IWOC locally please contact us.

Organize@OlympiaIWW.com

360-362-0112



# Upcoming events

*All  
Workers  
Welcome!*

*July 13th*  
&  
*August 10th* *Incarcerated Workers  
Organizing Committee  
Meeting*  
5:30pm to 7:30  
POWER (309 5th Ave SE)

*July 28th*

*Join us on Saturday July 28th at  
6pm in Sylvester Park in Down-  
town Olympia for our Summer  
Labor Concert in the Park fea-  
turing Fellow Worker David  
Rovics and others. See the web-  
site for more details.*

*July 7th*

*I.W.W. Orientation  
3pm to 5pm  
Olympia Center  
Learn about the  
Union,  
It's structure, goals,  
and history.*

See [OlympiaIWW.org/events](http://OlympiaIWW.org/events) for all  
events and meetings.



Are you a wobbler with music in  
your heart?  
Well the IWW is a singing union!  
Join the Music Subcommittee to-  
day and sing songs with us to fan  
the flames of discontent!

# Culinary workers are getting organized!

The Olympia Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World calls on you to join the Union!

Only together can we fight for better pay, shorter hours, and a better world! It is we, the workers, who do all the labor. We slave away in the kitchen, behind the bar, over the espresso machine, getting just enough money to survive. While the owners make all the profit off of our work!

If you are tired of these conditions then join the IWW!

We believe that workers produce all wealth. We are an all volunteer union.

That means we are workers just like you. We work hard and believe that we should get the total output of our labor. We fight hard on the job for ourselves and our fellow workers.

We have joined together to help each other better our working conditions and make the world a better place. And by that we mean worker democracy.

When the unorganized worker goes to work they leave their rights at the door. We ask the simple question of "Why do we do all the work and have none of the say?"

Workers in restaurants, bars, cafes, and other public service jobs are some of the worst treated workers in the US. We suffer degradation, low pay, terrible hours, and massive disruption to our lives. All to make a few dollars so that we can pay rent and bills, grab some food and do it all over again.

We in the IWW believe this is terrible, unfair, and has to come to an end. We also recognize that the workers have to help themselves. Not only are workers the only ones with the real power to fight for these gains, but in doing so we learn to understand our true power on the job.

Only together can we stand up for ourselves when the boss comes round.

So if you are tired of having to decide at the end of the month between food, bills, or rent.

If you are tired of the boss telling you how to do your job.

If you are tired of working long hours and never getting over time and hardly getting breaks.

If you are tired of the bullshit "open door policy." Where they never listen to you anyway.

Then the Join the Industrial Workers of the World today!



**"If the workers of the world want to win, all they have to do is recognize their own solidarity. They have nothing to do but fold their arms and the world will stop. The workers are more powerful with their hands in their pockets than all the property of the capitalists"**  
—Joseph Ettor, IWW organizer

And fight for these rights for yourself, for your fellow workers, and for a better world!

The Olympia IWW is actively organizing in this industry. Join the fight today at your shop!

Contact the Olympia IWW by email at [Organize@OlympiaIWW.com](mailto:Organize@OlympiaIWW.com) by phone at 360-362-0112 And check out our website for more information [www.OlympiaIWW.org](http://www.OlympiaIWW.org)

Continued from page 3 IWW. It didn't really work out.

DB: You rejoined the wobblies here in Olympia?

BP: Yeah, I rejoined when I was homeless.

DB: How long were you homeless?

BP: Off and on a couple times, but only for like 2 weeks at a time. It was always in between pay checks, just until I found a place.

Each time it was always wobblies that helped me out. Wobblies let me stay in their back yard, wobblies let me stay in their living room. Its hard with background checks and credit checks and my friend who I live with has an eviction on her record so we couldn't find anywhere to live.

DB: And your pretty involved with the IWW here?

BP: I'd say so. I go to a lot of the meetings, I am a chair of a committee, in the past I helped organize May Day. So I don't know what all I do...

DB: You do a lot

DB: Any advice for people?

BP: If there isn't a scene where you're at, then just start one. That's what I learned in Vegas. There was no shortage of people who wanted to do stuff but there was no one doing it.

DB: Thanks Ballentine

### Preamble to the Consitution of the Industrial Workers of the World

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the evergrowing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affirs whcih allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the smae industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class

to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease

work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

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

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The arm of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalist, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

*Join the IWW today!*  
 Contact us to meet with a delegate to learn more and get signed up!  
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 Phone: 360-362-0112  
 Website: OlympiaIWW.org

