

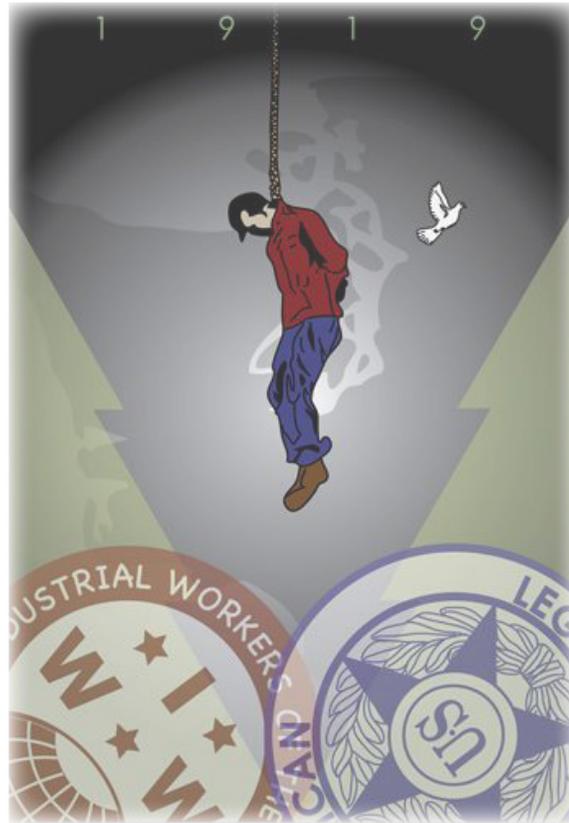
PUBLISHED FOR PRINCIPLE,  
NOT FOR PROFIT

# The Line

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

Olympia, Wash., November - December, 2018 | Volume 1 | Issue 4

FREE



What the Hell happened  
in Centralia? AKA  
The Centralia Tragedy  
Page 4

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

In November We Remember. There are so many things to remember these days. As the years go by there are more and more martyrs. On November 19th, 1915 Fellow Worker Joe Hill was executed by firing squad in the state of Utah, for organizing the working class.

Prior to the execution he had written to "Big Bill" Haywood - then General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW - and said "Don't waste time mournin', organize!" So in honor of that we will try not to waste much time now. With that in mind - here is one of the ways the owners are still trying to kill us...

Putting things in perspective. Houselessness is a product of capitalism. It

is not people being lazy. It is not people choosing to live this way. This is true even if you personally know someone who is lazy, or someone who does "chose" to be houseless.

We treat dogs better then we treat our brothers and sisters. If you walk into a pound you don't look at the dogs and think of all the bad choices they have made. How they were too lazy to be good dogs. No, you feel bad for their condition and I bet, if you could, you would help them. We see other humans starving on the street and all we can think about is how it is their fault.

There is a battle going on in Olympia. This battle is going on in many places. There is a danger to see the parts of this battle as a series of one-off events.

However, this would cause us to lose our perspective on these events.

In the last issue of *The Line* we published a piece on how the crisis of houselessness is being pushed as a crisis of optics. That is, the police, the Olympia Downtown Alliance (ODA), the city staff and some on the city council, would have you believe this is not a moral problem, that it is not a problem that our brothers and sisters are starving on the streets and have no place to go. But rather that this is a problem because this interferes with business as usual. And I do mean interferes with business.

On August 24th, city staff chose to close the Artesian Well Park. This is not an isolated event, but rather,

> **Houseless**, Cont. on Page 6

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I have been talking with Wobblies from some other parts of North America whose branches have their own newsletters. The IWW has a long history of publications. In this issue of *The Line* we feature two articles from other IWW publications. On page 3 you will see pieces from the *Seattle Worker*, published in Seattle, and, *Combat Syndical*, published in Montreal. We hope to continue to publish pieces from other IWW newsletters in the future. We are also excited to announce the IWW General Education Union! You can read all about it on page 2.

We accept submissions from workers. If you are interested in submitting something please email us at [Organize@OlympiaIWW.com](mailto:Organize@OlympiaIWW.com). The Line is published six times a year on the 1st day of every odd month. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month before publication. The next deadline is December 10th.

In Solidarity,  
Dylan B. - Editor

## BVWU STRIKES BACK

Burgerville is at it again. Telling workers that they can't wear buttons that promote such crazy ideas as "Black Lives Matter" and that immigrants are people, too. But the workers, organized with the Industrial Workers of the World in the Burger-ville Workers Union (BVWU), have struck back!

The corporation broke its word yet again, because they had already negotiated with the union that these sorts of policies would be brought to the workers beforehand instead of imposed on them. You know, they would treat their workers like people with thoughts and ideas instead of like, say, brooms.

Workers at several locations walked out on strike on September 18th. Below is a statement from BVWU.

### WE ARE ON STRIKE!

Workers at the Montavilla Burgerville have walked off the job in protest of bad faith bargaining from corporate.

This August, dress code policies were updated to prohibit workers from wearing buttons displaying any personal or political messages.

Not only was this change specifically meant to quiet support of Black Lives Matter and Abolish ICE, but changing this policy during its debate at the bargaining table and making changes during bargaining is illegal.

The BVWU refuses to allow Burger-ville corporate to go back on their word and to blatantly break labor law. 

## Message from the CNT to the 2018 IWW Convention

Dear comrades:  
I'm pleased to send our best wishes for your convention on behalf of the Spanish CNT [Confederación Nacional del Trabajo] and of the liaison committee of ICL [International Confederation of Labor].

For some time now, CNT has had the chance to learn more about IWW's organising and struggles. I can now say that our understanding of your model, and how you adapt to realities and con-

## Announcing the IWW South Sound General Education Union

The Olympia Industrial Workers of the World are organizing in the education industry! Under the banner of the IWW South Sound General Education Union (IWW-GEU).

This means if you are a student, a teacher/professor, staff, or otherwise work in the education industry, and want to get involved in bettering your conditions and controlling your industry then get in touch! Email:

OlyIWWGenEd@Protonmail.com.

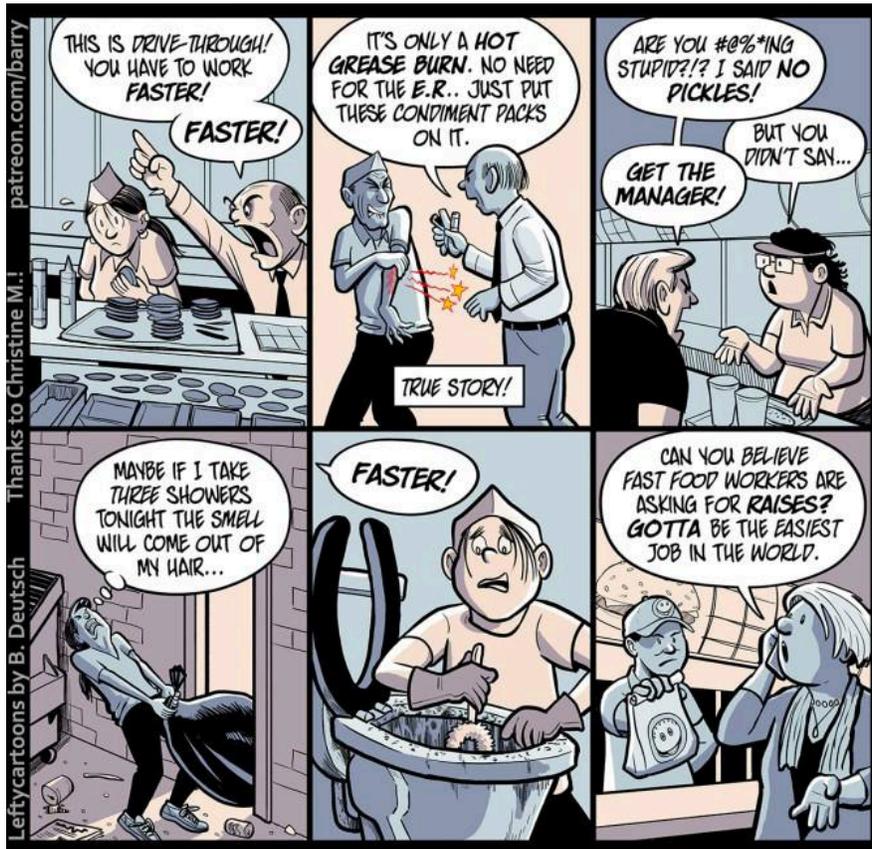
The IWW-GEU is currently focused on post-secondary but if you are in primary education we still want to hear from you.

The IWW-GEU will be holding a rally on November 7th on The Evergreen State Collage campus at Red Square. Starting at 1pm. There will be speakers and all are welcome.

Currently the South Sound General Education Union is working on getting Evergreen to hire more professors instead of cops. There has been a series of layoffs of professors and teachers seemingly due to

budget cuts and yet the college somehow has the money to hire more cops and to buy AR-15s.

Check out the GEU on social media:  
Instagram: @iwwsouthsoundgened  
Facebook: IWW South Sound General Education Union  
Twitter: @IWWSouSouGenEdU 



Lefty cartoons by B. Deutsch. Thanks to Christine M. patreon.com/barry

texts that are very different from ours, has improved a great deal. Ultimately, we share the goal of building a unionist and revolutionary alternative that is relevant to the workers. But local conditions impose different solutions.

In that regard, we've found some of your initiatives truly inspiring. From GDCs' [General Defence Committee] efforts to tackle the rise of the far-right

> CNT Message, Cont. on Back Page



Official Publication of the Olympia IWW.

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Olympia IWW Branch Secretaries Published Bi-Monthly.  
Alejandro C.  
Kelly F.  
Press Date: November 1st, 2018

Articles not so designated do not reflect the IWW's official position.

# Organizing Tech

## Insights into the tech world's sudden rebellion

by x389552

Originally published in the  
*Seattle Worker*  
Vol. 1 Iss. 3

In early April of this year, Google workers went public with a petition against an artificial intelligence project they'd learned was slated to be used in military drones. Over 4,000 workers had already signed onto the letter that begins, "We believe that Google should not be in the business of war," and ends with the demand that the company cancel the contract with the Pentagon.

Worker organizers reported to the media that at least 13 of their fellow employees had quit their jobs in protest. Google placated, justified, minimized – and eventually gave in, announcing two months later that they wouldn't renew the contract. Soon after, as ICE's policy of family separations became big news, workers at Microsoft published their own letter demand that the company cancel its \$19 million contract with the agency:

"As the people who build the technologies that Microsoft profits from, we refuse to be complicit. We are part of a growing movement, comprised of many across the industry who recognize the grave responsibility that those creating powerful technology have to ensure what they build is used for good, and not for harm."

Just days later, Amazon workers followed suit with their own petition against Palantir, a surveillance contractor that hosts ICE's database of immigrants on Amazon's servers, and Amazon's recently exposed practice of marketing and selling their facial recognition tool to police departments:

"Technology like ours is playing an increasingly critical role across many sectors of society. What is clear to us is that our development and sales practices have yet to acknowledge the obligation that comes with this. Focusing solely on shareholder value is a race to the bottom, and one that we will not participate in. "We refuse to build the platform that powers ICE, and we refuse to contribute to tools that violate human rights."

This movement has been reported by the mainstream media and tech press as worker "dissent," "activism," and "an uprising." It can and should also be understood as the next wave of worker organizing in an industry where business unions have long failed to gain traction.

Tech workers have tried to join bureaucratic unions several times before. A minority branch of Communications Workers of America (CWA) at IBM at one time had 400 dues paying members in the US but shut down in 2016 after almost two decades. WashTech, which formed 1998 to organize Microsoft contractors with CWA, never reached a critical mass and is now primarily a protectionist advocacy organization that fights offshoring of tech work. Most recently, when software workers at startup Lanetix won a nearly unanimous card check to join CWA in January, the company suddenly "laid off" their entire 14-person department. The workers' NLRB complaint is still ongoing.

Software engineers who make six figures straight out of an undergraduate degree might seem too content to organize. But concerns about punishingly long work hours, the two-tiered system of salaried employees and contractors, surveillance and lack of autonomy in the workplace, identity-based harassment and discrimination, and capricious discipline are rampant. Many other tech workers I talk to want to work somewhere that prioritizes people over profits, where they can work for the social good rather than the bottom line. These new campaigns are the first stirrings of their realization that finding a "better" job at a "better" company can't bring them that. Only organizing with their coworkers can.

A persistent problem in organizing tech workplaces is the muddying of the line between the working class and the employing class. Line managers typically have authority over only 5 to 10 workers and most spend time as rank-and-file workers before graduating to management. The class background shared by CEOs and their workers makes it easier for workers to see themselves not as an oppressed proletariat but temporarily embarrassed founders (apologies to Steinbeck).

So why have police and military contracting agitated workers when so many other concerns have not? It is because those issues finally make clear the gulf between what corporations say and what they do, and

seeing that gulf sets workers on the path to understanding that appealing to their management's personal ethics doesn't get results. Neither do external advocacy campaigns like the ACLU's petition against Amazon's facial recognition. Workers have power at the point of production, and some small groups of tech workers have extraordinary structural power in their workplaces. All we need is organization and the will to take militant action.

It's too early to know what the future holds for worker organizing in the tech industry. But workers fighting together to get a demand met is a potentially transformative experience for the workers involved. Technology doesn't spring like Athena fully formed from the head of capital into the workplaces where it surveils, intensifies, and automates work. It's built by people who are workers themselves. What could we win if Uber programmers stand with drivers, if Amazon programmers stand with warehouse workers? 

## Subtitlers and Captioners from Montreal form a Union

by x000000

Originally published in  
*Combat Syndical*  
May, 2018 #10

Translated from French

On March 15, 2018, a new community of skilled workers from Montreal chose to join the Industrial Workers of the World in their fight against exploitation.

Subtitlers and captioners working for telecommunications giant Ericsson, which produces subtitles for broadcast in Canada and the UK, have seen the quality of their work deteriorate, as have their working conditions.

Employees of Ericsson Canada are under the direction of Red Bee Media, an English subsidiary owned by Ericsson. Red Bee Media is responsible for producing and shipping Canadian subtitles for Corus Entertainment (Global News). This service is essential to the Canadian deaf and hard of hearing community and deserves the highest quality.

However, while the captioners and subtitlers of Ericsson and Red Bee Media in France, Australia, Spain and the United Kingdom are unionized, the company has chosen to

> **Montreal.** Cont. on Page 6

## We received the following email...

[Some context. The YPG-YPJ are freedom fighters in the Syrian Civil war. There is a new campaign called "Women Rise Up For Afrin." Please check out their website. [womenriseupforafrin.wordpress.com](http://womenriseupforafrin.wordpress.com)]

We're in the city of Qamislo which is, at the moment, split between the regime and YPG-YPJ held areas. The regime has the airport as well as some other parts of the city.

It's not super tense here but there are signs of war: sandbag barricades built facing the regime forces, occasional arrests and hostage exchanges, a shootout a month ago. For the people that live here, in many ways, the physical war is a rather distant thing.

There's a thriving street life of bakeries, people relaxing drinking chai while children gather and play in the streets. Houses and apartments are being built all over the city, people are expecting European migrants to return after the war is over, and there are many internal refugees who won't end up moving back to Afrin, Raqqa, etc.

We know a number of families who have relocated from Afrin. One of them used to have 250 olive trees, and his father had 1,000. The parents were wounded in a bombing and lost some limbs but, in spite of all this, are truly generous, open, joyful and welcoming people.

It's hard to get video or photos about the actual situation ongoing there, I hear nobody wants to speak on-camera for fear of repercussions from the Turkish-backed occupation forces.

There hasn't been much news about what the future holds there, but there are numerous kidnappings happening currently, sometimes children and young girls, and houses are getting filled by families of the Turkish forces. 🇹🇷

## What the Hell happened in Centralia? AKA The Centralia Tragedy

The history of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is filled with tragedy, as well as victory. Many of the events took place in the month of November, and several of them took place here in the Northwest. One of these such events is known as the Centralia Tragedy, when members of the American Legion attacked and lynched members of the IWW. What follows is a brief history of that event which will have its 100th anniversary next year.

Even to this day some people still have strong feelings about the tragedy. For almost 100 years there has been a monument to the American Legion at this site. Only as recently as about ten years



ago was a mural created in Centralia recognizing the tragedy for the Wobblies.

The American Legion in its early years was little better than a collection of fascist sympathizers and organized vigilantes. In 1923, just a few years after the Centralia Tragedy, American Legion Commander Alvin Owsley cited Italian fascism as a model for defending the nation against the forces of the left. Owsley said: "If ever needed, The American Legion stands ready to protect our country's institutions and ideals as the Fascisti dealt with the deconstructionists who menaced Italy!... The American Legion is fighting every element that threatens our democratic government - Soviets, anarchists, IWW, revolutionary socialists and every other red... Do not forget that the Fascisti are to Italy what The American Legion is to the United States."

> Tragedy, Cont. on Page 6

## Statement in Support of Just Housing

Capitalism is not in crisis. It is the crisis. As long as the United States has existed, even before the Revolution, the ruling class has been pushing the narrative that the rich are wealthy by virtue of their own hard work, and that the poor are so because they are lazy. This is a lie and always has been. The rich get their money on the backs of the poor and working class.

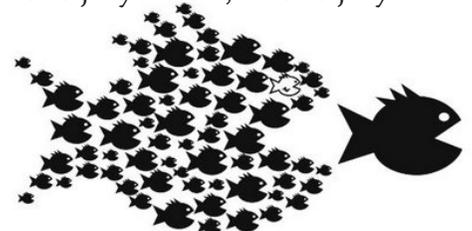
The Industrial Workers of the World was founded, to organize the workers and the poor, to destroy capitalism.

As it says in the preamble to our constitution. "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."

Here in Olympia this struggle is happening. You can easily see it in the streets. The business class and their lackeys in the city government want to sweep the houseless away. This is their solution to the "problem." The business class's problem is the people themselves.

Just Housing has been in this fight on the side of the poor for years now. We the Olympia Industrial Workers of the World wish to express our solidarity. We stand with Just Housing in their fight to help the houseless have more of the better things in life and not be pushed around by the cops and the hired security of the business class.

An injury to one, is an injury to all. 🇺🇸



# ORGANIZE!

# Calendar of Events and Trainings

*Nov. 3rd & Jan. 5th*

**I.W.W. Orientation**  
3pm to 5pm  
Olympia Center  
Learn about the  
Union and how you  
can get involved!

*Nov. 11th*

99th anniversary of the  
Centralia Tragedy.  
Wobblies from all over  
will gather in Centralia to  
remember those who have  
fallen.

*Nov. 16th & Dec. 21st*

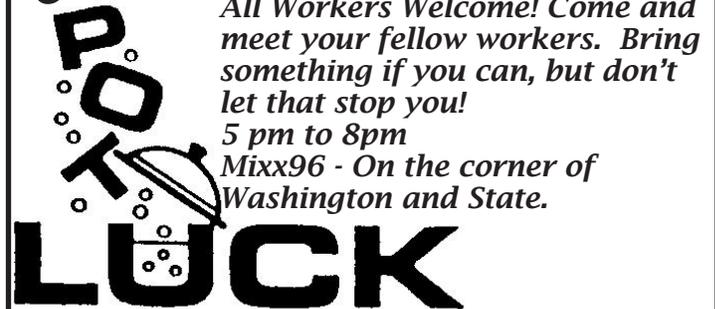
Join us every 3rd  
Friday for Radical Movie  
Night. In November we  
are watching 30 Frames a  
Second.

*Nov. 23rd & Dec. 28th*

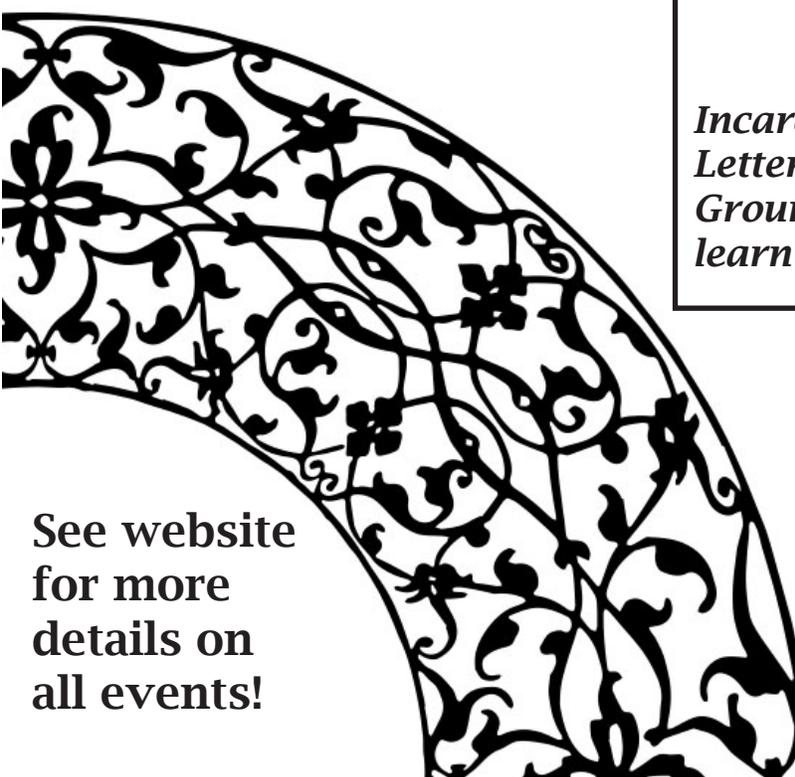
Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee  
Letter Writing Night Every 4th Friday at Burial  
Grounds. We write letters to prisoners. Come and  
learn more about IWOC!

*Dec. 17th*

All Workers Welcome! Come and  
meet your fellow workers. Bring  
something if you can, but don't  
let that stop you!  
5 pm to 8pm  
Mixx96 - On the corner of  
Washington and State.



See website  
for more  
details on  
all events!



## Workers Educating Workers

Education has been the backbone of the labor movement since its beginning. Members of the working class were always treated as simpletons by the ruling class, unable to understand the finer things in life. Even though we know this not to be true, the dynamic continues today.

Modern capitalism is creating new roadblocks to education. In some ways it is straightforward. Tuition in the U.S. is continuously increasing at a rapid pace. Access to loans and other sources of money is limited. People have to work full-time to support themselves and their fami-

lies and education therefore becomes a luxury, not a necessity.

Then there are the more subtle ways that the system keeps us ignorant. We are socialized to not like school and education in general. This is largely drilled into us in primary school. Even those of us who do see school and college as important mostly see it as important not because we value education but because we are told that it is the only way to get a good job. However, a bachelor's degree is no longer a guaranteed entry into a decently paying job.

The IWW, in much the same way as it teaches workers to organize, teaches workers to educate themselves. We do this by doing it ourselves, just as we would seek to organize our workplaces ourselves, as a class,

and for the benefit of our class. We seek to educate ourselves rather than getting our information, knowledge and often propaganda from the capitalists.

The Olympia IWW is carrying on this work with the creation of *Workers Educating Workers*. This school seeks to have workers teach other workers practical as well as theoretical knowledge. Everything will be included, from non-violent forms of communication to car maintenance, to labor history, to math review.

The IWW, and the radical labor movement, have a long history of such schools. Examples include the Work People's College and the Modern School, later the Ferrer Modern School. The Work People's College

> Education, Cont. on Back Page

## Montreal

[Cont. from Page 3]

relocate its production to North America. Leaving the door wide open for exploitation. Due to unsustainable wages, long working hours, inadequate breaks and disrespect for workers, consumers are receiving lower quality service.

The various deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Canada deserve better than subtitles created by tired and hungry workers.

We demand that Ericsson Canada abide by the standards they have set for themselves in their professional code of ethics and respect the fact that "all people are free to form and join peacefully and legally unions of their choice and should have the right to bargain collectively" by voluntarily recognizing the Union and entering into negotiations in good faith.

The Industrial Workers of the World have several branches around the world, including in Montreal. The members are fighting for a union model based on a strong solidarity between the working class, called solidarity unionism. This model encourages direct action in the workplace, as our companions at Ellen's Stardust Diner in New York and Frite-Alors in Montreal can testify!

The IWW is pleased to welcome our comrades from Ericsson and Red Bee Media in the fight to improve working conditions. ☞

## Houselessness

[Cont. from Front Page]

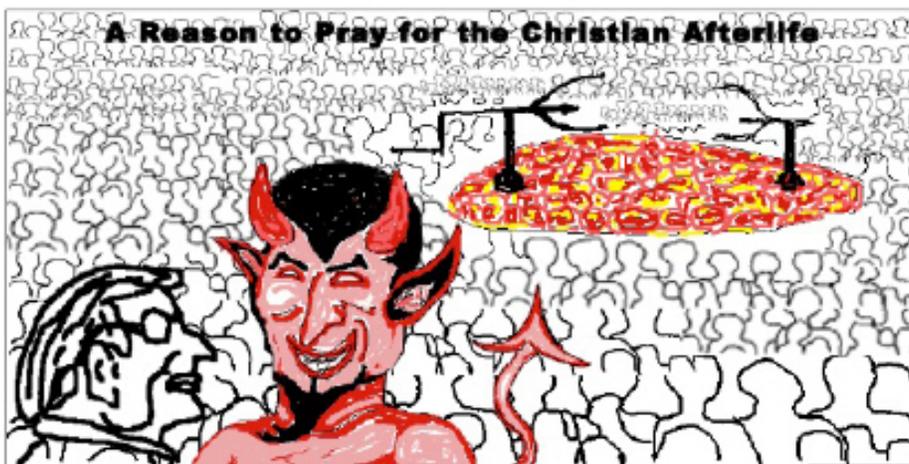
another front in the ongoing battle between the houseless and poor on one hand and the business owners and their government lackeys on the other. Make no mistake. This followed several positive measures taken by the city council. So the elements within the city government that support the business class, unilaterally and undemocratically, took action to hurt the poor and houseless by closing the commons that is the Artesian Well Park. We should include the capitalist press in there, too. As all the coverage of this and the events that followed, reported heavily from the business owners prospective and either didn't

bother to talk with houseless and poor folks or didn't use anything they said when they did talk to them.

Prior even to this, several business, organized through the ODA, contracted with Pacific Coast Security (PCS) to patrol downtown during the evening and nighttime and "sweep" people who were sleeping in doorways. These people, of course, had no other good place to go. Let us be clear. These owners hired thugs to clear out houseless folks, and call in the police if needed. This is what they have done.

When people tried to open the commons at the Artesian Well Park, and play basketball and have a good time, the police came in riot gear and attacked them - arresting several people.

Whatever their interests. Parts of the city government and the business "community" are working together



Paul Allen! We've been holding a spot for you wedged between Rockefeller and Carnegie - Hitler to your front and Genghis Kahn at your backdoor. Don't mind the spit. It's reserved for The Donald.

By Fellow Worker John B.

to try and crush any resistance to the owner's anti-houselessness agenda. As we said - houselessness is a product of capitalism. It cannot be addressed through half measures and snake-oil. It can only be done away with when capitalism is done away with.

There are groups in this town that are doing good work. That are working *with* houseless folks and not *for* houseless folks. The city oscillates between trying to scare them off and scare them into cooperation. I for one contend that for once we are winning this battle. The city and owners are scared. They don't know what to expect. They weren't thinking that people out there still cared.

Now more then ever we need to stand together. And we need you to stand with us.

Support the reopening of the commons!

Down with the contracts with PSC!

Stand in Solidarity! ☞

## Tragedy

[Cont. from Page 4]

This gives you an idea of what kind of people the Legion was made up of. November 11th 1919 was the 1st anniversary of the end of World War I. Then it was known as Armistice day. Today it is known as Veterans Day. That war was also called "the war to end all wars." Since that clearly wasn't the case they later had to celebrate the end of other wars. Or just celebrate war, who can tell.

In Centralia that day the Legion, as well as some other groups, had planned a parade. There had been talk that they would try to attack the IWW union hall. So the Wobblies were somewhat prepared. We should note that there were veterans of WWI on the Union's side as well, in particular, Wesley Everest. As the parade moved down the street towards the union hall,

it came to a stop in front. Legion members stormed the hall. As the wobblies were not entirely caught by surprise, they opened fire on the invaders. Across the street on a hill union members had been stationed with guns to set up a cross fire, if the Legion attacked.

A mob further attacked and burned out the union hall. Everest was one who fled the hall as it was being attacked. He was eventually caught and

dragged back to town to be lynched. However, the police intervened and put him in jail. Later that night vigilantes/Legion members went into the jail, without resistance, and took Everest to a railroad bridge that crosses the Chehalis River.

Everest was hung twice from the bridge because the first time his neck didn't break. The mob then used their car headlights to spotlight him as they took turns shooting at him. Some time during the night the body was cut down and taken back to the jail where it was put back in the cell with his friends to see for the rest of the night.

With the illogic of the time, since the Wobblies were the ones who were attacked, 12 of them were indicted for murder and six of them were later convicted.

This is what happen in Centralia. ☞

## CNT Message

[Cont. from Page 2]

to IWOC's [Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee] organising drives among incarcerated workers, IWW is active in areas where CNT is not so much. And your successes in these struggles definitely show a way forward that many other organisations can learn from, including ourselves.

Looking at the last months, there are many things that CNT would like to congratulate and thank you for. Congratulations on forcing the state to drop all charges in the J20 case.

Congratulations on being part of the organisation of the incarcerated workers' strike, which CNT and the newly formed [ICL] have proudly endorsed. And thank you for the extremely positive contribution that your delegates made to the foundational congress of ICL, back in May. I can confidently say that IWW's proposals were instrumental in unlocking some contentious issues, like fees. We were glad to take all these points on board, as they truly helped us moving forward in shaping ICL through consensus.

Considering this string of positive outcomes, I probably don't need to wish you for a productive convention. But I still do. I'm sure that the next year will build on the successes of the previous months. And I hope that CNT will continue to benefit from your insight, strengthening the solidarity between our two organisations.

Best wishes for the convention and for the struggles ahead. In solidarity,

Miguel Ángel Pérez, 2  
International Secretary CNT  
Acting Secretary ICL 

**Interested in joining the  
Industrial Workers of the  
World?**

**You can learn more about us  
on our website  
[www.OlympiaIWW.org](http://www.OlympiaIWW.org) &  
[www.IWW.org](http://www.IWW.org).**

**Please get in touch to talk  
with a delegate.  
[Organize@OlympiaIWW.com](mailto:Organize@OlympiaIWW.com)  
360-362-0112**

## Education

[Cont. from Page 5]

was founded in 1907 and didn't close until 1941. Students learned about economics, politics, history, as well as socialist programs and tactics.

The Modern Schools were founded in the U.S. in the early 20th century and were modeled after the schools of the same name in Spain that were created by Francisco Ferrer. They were an important part of the anarchist, free schooling, socialist, and labor movements in the U.S., intended to educate the working classes from a secular, class-conscious perspective.

With all of this in mind, as well as new and dynamic ideas from our members, the Olympia branch of the Industrial Workers of the World is



proud to announce that starting this winter in January of 2019 we will be launching *Workers Educating Workers!*

Check our website often for updates and more information. [OlympiaIWW.org](http://OlympiaIWW.org). If you are a member and want to get involved with *Workers Educating Workers* then contact the secretary ([Secretary@OlympiaIWW.com](mailto:Secretary@OlympiaIWW.com)). If you are not a member, join today! 

## Preamble to the IWW Constitution

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

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

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the evergrowing power of the employing class.

The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

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

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