



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

The Line

Olympia, Wash., January - February, 2019 | Volume 1 | Issue 5

FREE

PCS CANCELS CONTRACT. OLYSOL WINS!

by x374450

Pacific Coast Security (PCS) has canceled its contracts with the downtown businesses that were being organized through the Olympia Downtown Association (ODA). As we reported in a previous issue, PCS was operating what they inappropriately called “safety teams”, unless by “safety” they were keeping people safe from sleeping. They hired guards to sweep houseless folks from doorways and awnings in front of businesses.

Olympia Solidarity Network (OlySol) and other concerned citizens have been demonstrating against the sweeps for the past several months, letting the ODA and PCS know that this is not the way to proceed.

OlySol has shown once again that direct action gets the goods. The cancellation of the PCS contracts is a great win in the battle against gentrification, but there is still more work to be done. The police and conservative elements within the city government are supporting the ODA. The Artesian Commons remains closed and the city has considered selling the public lots it owns downtown in order that a private owner could then legally force the occupants off.



Additionally, four anonymous business owners have filed a lawsuit against the city for the mitigation camp downtown. However, in one of their declarations to the court, which was apparently leaked on reddit, “John Doe 1” spends most of his time talking about anarchists. He says the “character of the homeless people has changed...” and that “There is a group amongst the homeless that are exploiting this tragic situation to create a political power keg.”

This sounds like he is upset that homeless people are standing up for themselves, that he would prefer they knew their place. No one is “creating”

a political situation here. It already IS a political situation. An economic system that profits off the backs of others and exacerbates the gap between the haves and have nots is a political situation!

“John Doe 1” seems to think that the homeless can’t think for themselves. That they can’t see how they are being unfairly treated by the Powers That Be. He, and others, unjustly equate homeless people with danger. While there very well may be dangerous people who are homeless, and or, people driven by desperation, there are also very dangerous people among the housed and yet we do not blanket condemn them.

Who would be the most vulnerable to the potential dangerous people downtown if not other homeless people? The people who have nowhere to go that is at all safe. These are the people who cannot rely on the police, the very police who are only barely being restrained from beating them and deporting them from town.

Perhaps these business owners are afraid that the city’s actions will hurt their business. Maybe even drive them out of business. Who knows, then they themselves may end up on the street, through no fault of their own. Then maybe they would

> PCS, Cont. on the Back Page

Table of Contents

2 *News From
Around the
Union*

3 *IWW South Sound
General Education
Union History (so far)*

4 *International
News*

5 *Upcoming
Events &
Trainings*

6 *Movie Review of
Brisbee 17*

We here at *The Line* wish you a happy New Year! This is our 5th issue since we started back in May of 2018 and we are going strong. The IWW has lots of great things planned for 2019, so look for us at a shop near you!

We accept submissions from workers. If you are interested in submitting something please email us at 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 February 10th.

In Solidarity,
Dylan B. - Editor


The Line

Official Publication of the Olympia IWW.

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Press Date: January 1st, 2019

Published Bi-Monthly.
Articles not so designated
do not reflect the IWW's
official position.

Burgerville Workers Union Wins Third Shop!

Workers at a 3rd Burgerville location have filed for a National Labor Relations Board election. 20 out of 25 workers at the Hawthorne Boulevard store have signed on to holding the election. The workers are a part of the Burgerville Workers Union (BVWU) which is part of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

BVWU is in negotiations with Burgerville for two other stores that have already won NLRB elections. The union wants a \$5/hour across-the-board raise (currently, substantially all crew members earn within

a dollar of the \$12/hour Portland area legal minimum wage); 15 minute rest breaks instead of the 10 minute legal minimum; one free meal per shift (currently workers get a 70 percent discount); agreement that tip jars may be placed next to cash registers; standard union rights like “just cause” and “progressive discipline;” and a halt to employer efforts to verify that employees are legally allowed to work in the United States.

The fight continues on the shop floor. Burgerville continues to fire workers for organizing and the workers continue to stand up for better working

conditions. As we reported in issue #4, workers at the Glisan St. location were told that they could not wear “Black Lives Matter” and anti-ICE buttons in contradiction to previous Burgerville past practices and the fact that the company did not discuss this with the BVWU before taking this action.

Combined with shop floor action and this latest win, it’s clear that workers are not going to take being pushed around by the bosses! 

IWW Joins the International Confederation of Labor

From IWW.org

In its annual referendum, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) North American Regional Administration voted overwhelmingly to officially join the recently

formed International Confederation of Labor (ICL). The ICL is an international organization linking together revolutionary unions in eight different countries in Europe, Latin America, and North America.

The focus of the ICL is building a visible model for revolutionary unionism, a way to build unions that are based on solidarity, direct action, and which prefigure a world which has shaken off capitalism. ICL unions have already begun to coordinate their activity among app-

based workers, such as those working for Deliveroo and Foodora, leading to coordinated strikes against Deliveroo in multiple countries.

The IWW brings to the table our growing experience organizing in prisons through the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC). The ICL and its member unions endorsed the U.S. #PrisonStrike earlier this year, which was co-led by IWOC. Through the ICL, the IWW has begun to make contact with unions of prisoners in other countries.

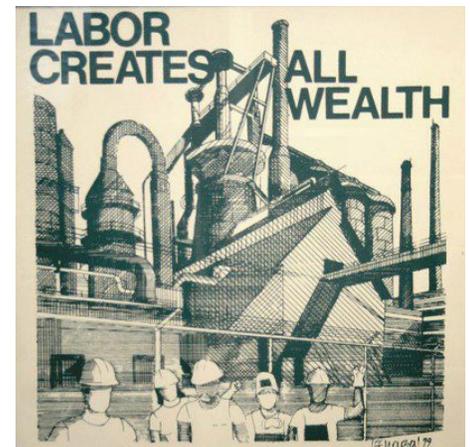
Aside from day-to-day organizing practice, the ICL allows member sections to share experience about mass working class struggles. Earlier this year, the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT – the Spanish section of the ICL) played a major role

in coordinating a Feminist General Strike on International Women’s Day on March 8, which the CNT and ICL will try to build on for 2019.

The IWW’s vote to join the ICL culminates several years of joint work between these unions to bring the new international into existence. We hope to continue to develop our mutual projects and build relationships in other parts of the world. The IWW will share its experience and learn from the experience of others – to inspire and be inspired. With the continual economic, ecological, and political crises that capitalism is bringing on to us and intensifying, we need a vibrant and internationalist revolutionary unionist movement now more than ever.

Long live the international! 

When the body was first created, there was this big argumet about who was going to be the boss. The brain said: “Since I’m the nerve center that does all the thinking, I should be the boss.” The feet said: “Since we carry all the friggin’ weight, we should be the boss.” The hands said: “Since we have to do all the manual labor, we should be the boss.” The eyes said: “Since we have to look out for all of you, we should be the boss.” And so it went with the heart, the lungs, and all the rest of the body, till there was nobody left but the anus. When the anus made his claim, all the others laughed: Whoever heard of an anus being boss of anything? This upset the anus so much that, in a fit of anger, he closed himself off completely and refused to function anymore. Soon the brain was feverish. The eyes burned. The feet were too weak to walk. The heart, the lungs and all the rest had a rough time to keep going. So they all finally gave in to the anus, and he bacame the boss. And while they did all the work, the anus just basked and let out a lot of hot air.



IWW South Sound General Education Union History (so far)

by x387514

We were born June 3rd of 2018, on the rooftop of a “leftist” shop called Kinoki in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Our initial meeting was inspired by the struggles that the working class were fighting throughout the world. However, we were especially awed by the statewide teachers’ strikes occurring in the United States this past year, and the revolutionary uprisings which the CNTE (National Organizers of Education Workers), a radical union of Mexican teachers, initiated.

formed. This version emphasized our desire to organize education industrially rather than by craft, and to have schools be run democratically by the people who attend and work in them (students, faculty, and staff).

The months of September and October were a long grind: revising the union’s points of unity, forming our own preamble and deciding how we would gain power.

We slowly acquired a consistent membership and we gained a consistent core once we, the IWW South

ignored them.

To debut our union and campaign, we conducted a rally on the central square of the Evergreen State College. Over 100 people showed up, making it the largest protest that happened on campus since the 2017 Spring uprising. We also marched into the office of the president and provost to read our demands, handing over the demand letter. We dispersed after the demand delivery. As of this writing, the administration has responded by portraying us as “illegitimate”. They wish to co-opt



ed—such as the 6 month long 2006 Oaxaca Commune in response to police repression of the union’s yearly occupation of the city’s main square, and the caucus’s blockades of major roads and airports in retaliation to their demands being unfulfilled.

With the rising worldwide movement of education workers, we sought to bring this struggle into the south Puget Sound region.

Because the bureaucrats in the education business unions have consistently undermined worker militancy and solidarity by negotiating with the capitalists without the consent of the rank and file, we decided to form a revolutionary alternative to these craft unions.

As we were packed inside a van leaving a Zapatista municipal center known as Morelia, our first version of the union’s points of unity were

Sound General Education Union, decided on our first campaign. This campaign demanded that the Evergreen State College not hire another cop, and instead fund two full time teaching positions; one in political economy and one in the arts (either theater or photography).

These demands were formed as a result of the college laying off over 20 positions during the summer of 2018, primarily in the art departments. As well, a political economy faculty member was not hired that summer, despite the fact that the department was labeled “top priority” for hiring.

As of this writing, the school seeks to hire another cop, using the excuse of “mandated budget allocation” to not concede to our demands. Many students were angry about the layoffs as well, with some of them organizing large petitions to prevent the layoffs; yet, the administration ultimately

the union into avenues they can more easily control such as the faculty union and the student union, which is really more like a student government organization and does not have co-governance.

The South Sound General Education Union will keep fighting! If you work in the education industry, whether K-12 or higher ed, whether as a teacher, student, or a cook, get in touch with us and get organized! 



German Railway Workers Announce Strike

From the International Solidarity Commission

On 8 December 2018, the German Railway and Traffic Workers Union (EVG) announced that its members will launch a nationwide strike on the morning of 10 December after talks with rail operator Deutsche Bahn failed.

The strike will begin at 0500 local time (0800 UTC) and end at 0900 local time, disrupting travel during the morning rush hour.

EVG stated that the 10 December strike is a warning and that the union will carry out additional strikes ahead of the holidays in December if their demands for a 7.5 percent wage increase and changes to working hours are not met.

EVG representatives have not specified the dates on which they plan to carry out additional strikes. 🗳️

General Strike in Tunisia

From the International Solidarity Commission

On 22 November 2018, the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) staged a countrywide strike following failed negotiations with the government to secure better wages.

Thousands of demonstrators heeded the union's call and gathered outside the parliament building in the capital Tunis during the strike.

Elsewhere in the country, strike-related demonstrations took place near government buildings in Gafsa and in the southeastern city of Sfax. While the labor action disrupted services at hospitals, educational institutions and government offices, public transportation remained largely unaffected.

The union is demanding a pay increase of 17-34 U.S. dollars per month for approximately 673,000 government employees in the country. 🗳️

Amazon Workers in Europe Walk Out

by x374450

Once again workers at Amazon warehouses in Europe have staged a walkout during one of the company's busiest times of the year - Black Friday. Workers in Germany struck for 24 hours on Black Friday and in Spain on Friday and Saturday. They are demanding better pay and working conditions. Workers make as little as 10.78 euros (\$12.23) an hour.

The owner of Amazon, Jeff Bezos, is currently the richest person in the world, according to Forbes. Over the past year he has made roughly \$80,000,000,000 or \$38.5 million an hour.

Workers in the United Kingdom and Italy have also gone on strike.

"Our European Fulfillment Network is fully operational," Amazon said in a statement to The Washington Post. "And we continue to focus on delivering for our customers and reports to the contrary are simply wrong." Jeff Bezos also owns the Washington Post.

Earlier this year Amazon also announced that it would be opening two more U.S. based headquarters. One is in Northern Virginia and the other in Long

Island City, areas that are already greatly gentrified. This gentrification will only get worse as they will likely follow the path of Seattle which has been pricing its citizens further and further out of the city.

Additionally, earlier this year, workers struck on "Prime Day," another big sales day for the online giant. Workers in Germany have been agitating for better pay and working conditions for several years now at Amazon warehouses - or as Amazon calls them - fulfillment centers.

"The conditions our members at Amazon are working under are frankly inhuman," said a statement by Tim

> Amazon, Cont. on the Back Page



Calendar of Events and Trainings

Jan. 5th & Mar. 2nd

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

*See website
for more
details on
all events!
www.OlympiaIWW.org*

Jan. 18th & Feb. 12th

*Join us every 3rd
Friday for Radical Movie
Night. @6pm @Mixx96
In Jan. movie = Sorry to
bother you.*

Jan. 25th & Feb. 22nd

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

Olympia IWW Announces Upcoming Classes

Issued by the
Workers Educating Workers
Committee

Workers Educating Workers, a committee of the Olympia Industrial Workers of the World, organizes classes/programs to educate our fellow workers, whether they are members of the IWW or not. The IWW believes that all parts of the worker education process, from planning and decision-making to taking action, should be in the hands of the workers themselves as we combat capitalism and plant the seeds of a new world in the shell of the old.

To that end Workers Educating Workers is announcing a series of classes to begin at the end of January.

They are as follows:

Demystifying Math: From Fractions to Functions

Whether it's for review or passing a placement or pre-apprenticeship test, studying math independently can be daunting. On top of this, how math is taught can vary widely from school

to school, leaving gaps in our understanding. It is our belief that math can be accessible to everybody. This is a six-week course meant for review and to fill holes left by our education system. We will be covering topics in arithmetic, algebra, and college math.

With such a wide net, there are no prerequisites.

We are all leaders: Survey of U.S. Labor History

The working class in the United States is largely disconnected from its past. Part of the reason for this is that we are not taught about important aspects of working class history within the U.S. This class will seek to provide a basic understanding of the history of the labor movement in the United States. This six week course will highlight the important events and times in the history of the labor movement in the U.S. You will learn about how the idea of

collective action developed, the two different paths – business and solidarity - that it has taken and where that has brought us to today.

Learning Nonviolent Communication: Theory, Techniques and Application

Do you have road rage? When you get into an argument with your partner, co-worker or family member do you think there is a point beyond which you feel out of control? This class is not advocating that people be passive, detached or turn the other cheek. The purpose of this class is to learn a very structured form of communication, which allows you to be assertive and fight for what you want without becoming aggressive. In this class you will learn how to be assertive, not aggressive.

All classes are open to public and are \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. They are six weeks long with one 2 hour class each week. No other cost or required items are necessary. 

For more information and to sign up please see our website: OlympiaIWW.org. Or email us at Organize@OlympiaIWW.com

Bisbee 17 Is a Deceptive Propaganda Movie, Not a Factual Documentary

The Bisbee 17 movie is an attempt to use the documentary format to rewrite history. It is slanted toward “might is right capitalism” and glaringly derogatory in its portrayal of the striking workers. Its slant is very apparent in the way it portrays the political and labor climate in 1917. The movie tries to make the war profiteering mine baron’s action as something that was “necessary” for the public good and the war effort. It is ludicrous to consider forgiving the heinous actions of Walter S. Douglas, the mine president and “boss” of the company town, if one bothers to research what really happened.

In 1917, the US president was Woodrow Wilson, a typical two-faced liar who ran on a peace platform, but actively sought to enter WWI. He vigorously crushed anyone opposing the war, deporting Emma Goldman and imprisoning Eugene Debs for encouraging young men to stay home and resist the unnecessary war. Do you know the reasons for WWI? The only one that has survived the test of time is the opportunity for capitalistic profit. Copper mine barons stood to make a fortune exploiting the Eastern European refugees fleeing warring Europe and the Latin Americans fleeing the US destabilization of Central America for corporate profit. Like today with Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, Ray McGovern and Medea Benjamin, there is no peace for the peaceful and anyone exposing or resisting the perpetual war machine is persecuted and called a traitor. Note how in this Bisbee propaganda piece, the Wobblies are described as “violent, communist, radical, and treasonous” without giving one example or any shred of evidence. This so-called documentary is actually a call to forgive the oppression, lies and needless war of yesterday so we can continue with the same today.

The film does nothing to elucidate the demands of the strikers, instead portraying them as gap-toothed fools. The miners’ demands: “They asked

for an end to physical examinations after shifts (used by the mine owners to counter theft), having two workers on each drilling machine, two men working the ore elevators, an end to blasting while men were in the mine, an end to the bonus system, no more assignment of construction work to miners, replacement of the sliding scale of wages with a \$6.00 per day shift rate, and no discrimination against union members. The company refused all the demands.” *

“World War I led to a sharp increase in demand and therefore prices for copper. With prices higher, attention to safety became even less of a consideration. Immigration trends also played to the Company’s benefit. A new wave of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe created a near limitless supply of potential miners. Anyone protesting the working conditions in the mine was blacklisted – and easily replaced.... These inexperienced miners, many of whom spoke no English, created their own safety hazard. Having no training, there were numerous incidents in which miners died (and/or caused the death of others) on their first day on the job.”**

May 17, 1917, Workers give demands.
June 8, 168 miners are killed in a mine accident in Butte Montana.
June 26, a peaceful, state wide strike starts in Arizona. July 5, the illegal Jerome deportation. July 12, 1917, the illegal Bisbee deportation. Now, deportations, “rendering” and other disappearances.

No, the psychopathic, hyper-capitalist mine baron, Douglas, his minions, Sheriff Joe Arpaio and before him, Sheriff Harry Wheeler, and the vigilante thugs involved in the “deportation” are not forgiven. After their heirs relinquish their ill gotten fortunes and work for a more compassionate society, try again. Until then, this movie is just capitalistic, “war is good,” mock the victims, crap, possibly a training film for modern small town vigilantes. 🗡️

Mr. Trump

Words: John Burns

Tune: It Looks to Me Like a Big Time Tonight by Arthur Collins/Byron G. Harlan, 1908; Mr. Block by Joe Hill, 1913

Please give me your attention
And I’ll introduce to you
A man that is a disgrace
To the old “Red, White and Blue”
His head is full of poop
And organized like a dump
He is a common thief
And his name is Mr. Trump.

Chorus

Oh Mr. Trump
You were born by mistake,
You’re full of hate,
You are a fake.
Tie a rock to your rump
And go jump in a lake,
Kindly do that for liberty’s sake.

Yes, Mr. Trump is lucky,
He inherited a mint,
The shark got even richer,
By setting his slums for rent.
He brought himself to TV land,
Where he made a buck,
He grabbed girls’ pussies,
And people marveled at his luck.

[Chorus]

Moving on to Washington
Trump wallowed in his power,
He and his base worked,
To make the Constitution sour.
Trump attacked our Islamic friends,
Silly but intense,
And on our Southern Border,
He schemed to build a fence.

[Chorus]

Meanwhile Trump strived to ignite
An intelligence attack,
On our fellow workers,
Who are gloriously Black.
In Charlottesville the racists
Trump did loudly cheer,
Leaving all the rest of us
In a brand new Nazi fear.

[Chorus]

Still attacking migrants
Trump took joy in cruel play,
Taking babies from their moms
And locking them away.
Meanwhile Republicans
Performed a Grand Old Party show,
And with our eyes wide open,
They cruelly stole our dough.

[Chorus]

Where and how and when
Will Mr. Trump meet his filthy end?
The news media speaks of patience
My poor hard working friends.
While the Honorable Mueller
Moves at the speed of a sloth;
Remember that all politicians
Are cut from a Trump-like cloth.

[Chorus]

PCS

[Cont. from Front Page]

see things in a different light... but I doubt it.

There is forever talk of the deserving and undeserving poor. This concept has been with us at least since Reagan. It has seeped into our culture and is thus genuinely held by some to be true. However, it is code for racism from the days of the "War on Drugs" & welfare reform.

The issue we are battling here is the so-called "American Dream." That is, the idea that if you work hard enough you will get ahead. Inversely, if you are poor you have not worked hard enough. People assume that those on the streets have made poor choices in their lives and thus it is their own fault that they are poor.

This is reinforced by those of us among the poor and working poor who also hold on to the American Dream. People tend to place great weight on their own experience. Also, most of us have suffered so much at the hands of others that as soon as we are offered 25 cents more per hour and a bogus title it goes right to our heads.

We have been so powerless in our own lives that the thought of having power over others is very alluring to us. The point is we have to stand together. We have to break this dynamic in our own lives. Then we can manifest our solidarity.

We must make real the motto - An injury to one, is an injury to all! 🗑️

Amazon

[Cont. from Page 4]

Roache, General Secretary of the GMB, a trade union in the United Kingdom. "They are breaking bones, being knocked unconscious and being taken away in ambulances." He added: "We're standing up and saying enough is enough. These are people making Amazon its money. People with kids, homes, bills to pay — they're not robots. Jeff Bezos is the richest bloke on the planet; he can afford to sort this out." 🗑️

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.

IF JOB INTERVIEWS WERE HONEST



original at www.smbc-comics.com

Interested in joining the Industrial Workers of the World?

You can learn more about us on our website
www.OlympialWW.org &
www.IWW.org.

Please get in touch to talk with a delegate.
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