San Francisco Hotel Labor Dispute Embroils Academics
by Alan Karras

Most LAWCHA members are aware that a labor dispute involving fourteen San Francisco hotels forced the relocation of the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians earlier this spring. Meeting in San Jose in early April, the OAH attracted much smaller than usual attendance and will face substantial financial losses as a result. Yet many OAH members expressed satisfaction with the organization for taking a difficult, principled, pre-labor position. OAH President James Horton, President-elect (and LAWCHA member) Vicki Ruiz, and Executive Director Lee Formwalt worked tirelessly in the weeks preceding the meeting to canvass the membership, explore alternative arrangements, and surmount a number of major logistical problems involved in the relocation. Despite the flurry of email communications and broadcast memos, the background to the San Francisco hotel dispute is not well known.

On 29 September 2004, UNITE HERE (Local 2), the Hotel Workers' Union, called a two-week strike against four hotels in San Francisco. The union designed its strike to raise local consciousness about degrading wages and benefit conditions for its members in some of the city's biggest conference hotel venues. Pickets went up, and for two days, 1,400 workers informed both hotel residents and city residents that they had worked for six weeks without a contract. Many faced falling real wages and, at the same time, dramatically increasing health insurance premiums.

On 1 October, management of the fourteen-hotel management group, known as the San Francisco Multi-Employer Group, locked out 4,300 workers at its fourteen hotels. Pickets went up at all of these hotels immediately. Members of the public routinely heard "don't check in, check out" as they walked the streets surrounding Union Square. The hotel management group had hired strikebreakers in order to keep their properties running. Guests complained about delays in room service and housekeeping, but the hotels remained firm in their tactics.

Faced with a growing public relations problem, and a union-friendly Board of Supervisors (eight of the eleven attended a rally in support of the hotel workers), San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom attempted to bring the parties together through mediation. The management team refused to budge. After twice rejecting his efforts to mediate the dispute, the mayor carried through on his promise to walk the picket lines with workers. He joined the picket lines at the Westin St. Francis on 26 October. City hotel business declined, causing inconvenience to many and putting the city's economic rebound at risk. Meanwhile, the workers kept their picket lines staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Other area unions, including the California Faculty Association (the Union for California State University Faculty), joined the picket lines in solidarity with the hotel workers.

With the approach of the holiday season—traditionally one of the busiest for travel to San Francisco—management finally agreed to a 60-day cooling-off period. They allowed workers whose benefits were coming close to exhaustion to return to work on 20 November 2004. The pickets went down, the noise stopped. But the dispute remained.

To say the least, bargaining has been very slow—despite both sides private ly saying a deal is possible. The cooling-off period ended in mid-January, but bargaining has not taken place since 14 February. The union has said that it made the last proposal and that it is waiting for a (cond't on page 11)

The Wobbly Centenary: Celebration and Show
by Paul Bulhe

A few months ago, I asked the Northland Poster Collective to make a up a new button reading: "2005: It's a Wobbly Year." It was a natural move. Many of us labor historians, labor educators, labor historians and card-carrying Wobblies had been talking about the upcoming Centenary for several years. Local labor choruses were forming up. Scattered groups, especially but not only in the Northwest, started making plans. Then it got closer. Now it's nigh time to ask: What does it mean for us?

This is a fascinating question because it brings back into view so much of what the history of the labor main-stream has often lacked — romance, bohemianism, bickering, satire, connections with the itinerant and the homeless, and something that I've called the "American version of socialism." That is, the collective quest for something like "workers' control" (in David Montgomery's sense) has never been far from apex of strike movements or the (cond't on page 6)
Greetings from Jim Green
President of LAWCHA

It's a pleasure to take this opportunity to recognize and thank a few special LAWCHA members.

First of all, I appreciate the excellent work of our Program Committee Co-Chair and Board member Nancy Gabin, who has teamed up with Don Wilson, representing the Southwest Labor Studies Association, to put together a wonderful program for our joint meeting with SWSLSA in Santa Barbara on 5-7 May. Check it out—It is a pleasure to be with us if you can.

Special thanks are due to Board member Zarinosa Vargha for coordinating the Santa Barbara meeting, and also to Nelson Lichtenstein for the support he has provided.

Dan Bendir, the other Program Committee Co-Chair, was responsible for setting up several LAWCHA panels at the OAH in Minneapolis, including a luncheon session chaired by Eileen Boris concerning current organizing among direct care workers. This session was left out of the original printed program, so Dan had to work with the OAH to make sure our activities are featured in the new program to be held in San Jose. He deserves our thanks for everything he has done on the OAH.

Some of the less visible but quite valuable contributions to LAWCHA are those made by our extremely competent Treasurer Tom Klug, the director of our fine website, Cindy Hafemann, the head of our Membership Committee, Heather Thompson, and our superb Executive Secretary, Mary Nash, who has been putting in extra hours for us because we have grown so much in the past year. I also appreciate the excellent advice I received from LAWCHA Secretary Cefe Bucci, and our Vice President, Alice Kessler-Harris, as well as our past President Joe Trotter in preparing an agenda of important items for the Board of Directors to consider in Santa Barbara.

I am not finished yet: Much of the success of LAWCHA in recent months is due to the quality of our journal, Labor, and the accomplishments of its editor Leon Fink and, in a related way, to the enormous support Duke University Press provides our association.

It is a pleasure as well to recognize the accomplishments of our Board member Dan Wilson, whose book, The Violence of Justice: Sagas of Race, Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age, won the National Book Award this year, and also to 11:00 am-4:00 pm LAWCHA members Toby Higbee and Bob Konrad, co-winners of this year's Philip Taft Labor History Award, for their work (respectively), Indigenous Outcasts: Hobo Workers and Community in the American Midwest, 1880-1930, and Civil Rights Unions: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South.

A final note—in the next few months I will be speaking at several public events where I will be able to promote LAWCHA and recruit new members.

"May 1 in Chicago, for a talk on the international dimensions of the Haymarket case and its enduring memory at the annual meeting of the Illinois Labor History Society. The meeting will be followed by a reception, whose book, The Violence of Justice: Sagas of Race, Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age, won the National Book Award this year, and also to 11:00 am-4:00 pm LAWCHA members Toby Higbee and Bob Konrad, co-winners of this year's Philip Taft Labor History Award, for their work (respectively), Indigenous Outcasts: Hobo Workers and Community in the American Midwest, 1880-1930, and Civil Rights Unions: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth-Century South."

"June 4 at the University of Colorado Pueblo, where Jonathan Rees is organizing a seminar on the Ludlow massacre and the recently troubled history of the monument.

"June 5 at the dedication of the restored Ludlow monument, where the United Mine Workers have organized a program and asked me to speak for LAWCHA. Betsy Jameson, co-chair of our Ludlow Committee, will be there too, and will report on the progress of the work she is leading to have the site declared a national landmark."
Great news:

LAWCHA has far more members in March 2005 than it did a year ago! This wonderful growth can be attributed to several successful outreach efforts that took place over the last year. First of all, we reached many important labor organizations and many new individuals in unions and labor studies groups – such as the United Association for Labor Education, Labor Notes, the Center for Working Class Studies, the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, the Illinois Labor History Society, the North American Labor History Conference, and the Newberry Labor Lecture Series – thanks to the hard work of Duke University Press in promoting LAWCHA in mailings and at conferences where Labor was displayed. It also bears noting that some LAWCHA folks went beyond the call of duty and personally took the time to distribute our brochures (by the boxful) at various large labor functions over the past year. Speaking of the brochures: these have been going like hotcakes. As it turned out, the new brochure is a wonderful way for us to advertise LAWCHA.

This summer and next year, the Membership Committee is planning to embark on several new outreach activities, including increasing our presence at national historical conferences and approaches specific labor organizations to explore ways in which we might more effectively reach their members.

The LAWCHA Newsletter is published twice yearly and mailed to all paid-up members of the Labor and Working Class History Association. A PDF version (and back issues) are available via the Association’s website:

www.lawcha.org

Copy for the Fall issue is due on 15 September 2005 and can be sent to one of the co-editors:

Rick Halpern, University of Toronto, rick.halpern@utoronto.ca
Dan Letwin, Penn State University, letwin@psu.edu

New LAWCHA Board Members

This past fall, the following members were elected to the LAWCHA Board:

Rick Halpern (University of Toronto)
Ruth Needleman (Indiana University)
Michael Merrill (Empire State College)
Lisel Orenic (Dominican University)
Paul Ortiz (UC, Santa Cruz)
Francelle Rusin Wilson (Maryland)

They join the following continuing Board members:

Jefferson Cowie (Cornell University)
Elizabeth Esch (New York University)
Dana Frank (UC, Santa Cruz)
Matt García (Brown University)
Dave Richele (United Transportation Union, Local 650)
Carmen Theresa Whalen (Williams)

1,000 RED CARNATIONS

NEW YORK 1913

THE PAGEANT OF THE PATERNOSTRIKE

BY SABRINA JONES
Wobbly's (cont'd from cover)

artist's quest in every medium for control of the particular means of reproduction. Where "socialism" as a word has been absent, the feeling has been widespread that the corporate hierarchy (or the government hierarchy, in public service work) is working against the workers. Its authorities don't know or care much about the real problems of the job; and those who do, could probably do it better themselves.

The Industrial Workers of the World has, of course, always epitomized the cross-border and transnational quest for labor solidarity — especially south of the border, whence a considerable bulk of the post-1965 immigration has come. Wobblies also welcomed Asian workers when the AFL scorned them, offered powerful examples of black/white collaboration, and if utterly indifferent to struggles like the one for women's suffrage, nevertheless broke down gender barriers in important ways. It was and even now remains an inspiration to labor songsters (Ani DiFranco's recording with Utah Phillips is likely to be the best widely heard labor music in the last decade).

The idea of the IWW never quite went away, even when the ranks of the old-timers dwindled badly. A large number of Americans over fifty, at least into the 1980s, would recognize the word "Wobbly," as a sort of literary reference, even if they had never met a live Wob. Cultural icons stay alive somehow. To take one example: a statue of the "Old Wobbly" was erected in downtown Santa Cruz, California, by a left-leaning local government in the 1980s, after a late resident who often occupied that spot. Of course, Wobbly songs have remained alive as ever in the songbooks for labor events of all kinds, from picket-line to Labor Day picnics to choral concerts.

It should have been no surprise that students for a Democratic Society organizers, their national office in Chicago, should have started wearing IWW buttons during 1965-68 and affecting what they took to be Wobbly lifestyles, as National Secretary Greg Calvert called for "Student Syndicalism." After a waving of crossed black and red flags at the 1966 convention, Maoism took hold and it seemed as if the Wobbly phase had been a phantom. But not quite. The mixture of bohemianism and anarchism at the local level, in the counter-cultural communities like Santa Cruz (also alive in Eugene, Portland, Seattle, the Bay Area, Madison, and so many other places), evoked a wobbliness part theater, part organic. To take another example, this one from Wisconsin: graduate teaching assistants thought about the Wobbles even as they resolved to affiliate with the mainstream.

The connection of Wobbles and cartoons or comics was historic, if only occasionally seen in the Underground Press and the left-wing press (outside, of course, of the Industrial Worker, always struggling onward). Mister Block, drawn by Ernest Riebe, was after all the first comic book published in the US (in 1912), more than twenty years ahead of the commercial trade. Wobbly cartoons, some of them by the fabulous Joe Hill, have been reprinted so many times, from Joyce Kornbluth's Rebel Voices to Labor's Heritage of the AFL-CIO, that we recognize many of them instantly, old friends to the labor historian.

The emergence of the graphic novel in the chain stores set me into motion to find comic artists, and the milieu of youngish artists around the militant peaceknick annu-

For further information, contact Derek Seidman at derekseid-
man@yahoo.com, or Paul Buhle and Paul_Buhle@Brown.edu

At World War 3 Illustrated was defi-
New England

Front New Haven
Lisabeth K里程碑
On 14 January 2005, President Lawrence Survivors of Harvard University made his controversial argument that "inequity" difference between men and women might explain why men are more likely to advance in academic science. On January 17, graduate

strikers at Yale University, members of the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESOUHITIE HERE) staged a walk-in on Yale's Provost, Andrew Hamilton, demanding negotiations with the union toward policy changes that would remove many of the structural impediments to the advancement of women and people of color in the American academy, including access to childcare, dependent healthcare, fair promotion standards, and a grievance procedure. One month later, 150 graduate
teachers held a speak-out in President Richard Levin's office, demanding that he implement these changes and speak out against Lawrence Summers's comments, which he has as yet refused to do.

In early March, GESOU — in conjunction with Graduate Student Employees United at Columbia and Graduate Employees Together—UPenn (GET—UP) — released a report called "The UnChanging Face of the Ivy League" (available at www.geso.org), with endorsements from the Rainbow Push Coalition, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and other civil rights
organizations. The report argues that Ivy League universities have made little progress in hiring women and people of color into tenure-track jobs. Instead they are hiring them into "casual" or temporary jobs — as graduate teachers and researchers, postdocs, and adjuncts — which have little or no job security, low wages, and poor benefits.

The graduate teachers' unions at both Yale and Columbia, who continue to seek union recognition and negotiations toward contracts, held card counts in mid-December 2004 certify that each union represents a clear majority of the graduate teachers on these campuses. At Yale, GESOU represents

over sixty percent of the teachers. Both union leaders and the universities, in their administrations, are considering striking this semester. GESOU is also working in federations at Locals 24 and 30 at North, 1199 at the Yale—New Haven Hospital, and the Community Organized for Responsible Development, which is fighting for a community benefits agreement between Yale—New Haven and the New Haven community.

Lisabeth K里程碑 & Organizing Coordinator for UNITE HERE Graduate Employees and Students Organization, Federation of Hospital and University Employees

Mid-Atlantic

From New York
Gail Halsenger
The annual meeting of the New York Labor History Association, held on the evening of September 22nd, featured a lecture on "Gotham during World War II" by Pulitzer

Praewarning history Mike Wallace of the History Center at the City University of New York. Wallace thought that nothing tall was aocompleted version of several chapters of the forthcoming second volume of Gotham: A History of New York City. On October 5th the NYLSA co-hosted a book party for David Von Drehle's Triangle: The Fire That Changed America, at the Wagner Labor Archives, NYU. On November 9th the Association hosted its annual John Commerford Labor Education Awards reception at the headquarters of the United Federation of Teachers; this year's awardees were legendary arbitrators Theodore (Ted) Kheel and the Jewish Daily Forward Association. On February 22 NYLSA hosted a Black History Month lecture by Professor Clarence Taylor of Binghamton College on race issues and the teachers Union of New York during World War II. On May 9 at 6:30 we will co-host (with Actors' Equity Association and the Wagner Labor Archives, NYU) a panel discussion on "Broadway and the Blacklist" — featuring actors Madeline Clifford, Richard Masur, and Peter Friedman, and Actors Equity archivist Kewney Blase. Free and open to the public, at Actors Equity head

quarters, 165 W. 48th St.

From Washington DC
Joe McCarthy
More than 20 Georgetown University students and faculty hunger strikers from 15—24 March 2005, demanding that their university pay a living wage to all employees, including those subcontracted to perform janitorial and food services on campus. At issue were the wages and benefits of 450 contract employees at Georgetown's Washington, DC, campus. The Georgetown Solidarity Committee, the student organization which coordinated this strike, won some significant concessions from the university. These include: a 14.7% increase in the university's minimum total compensation rate for contract employees by 1 July 2005; a 7.7% increase in minimum compensation by 1 July 2006; annual COLAs tied to the local cost of living in the D.C. area; equal access to the library privileges, Esplen as a Second Language courses, transportation services, and other benefits enjoyed by regular university employees; and a statement by the university that "all working members have the right to freely organize and associate, and that the University will respect the rights of employees to vote for or against union representation or without intimidation, unjust, pressure, or harassment in accordance with applicable law." The hunger strike drew substantial support from local unions and community and religious groups, as well as international union leaders. In addition, students on sever

al other campuses engaged in solidarity events to express support for the Georgetown stu

dents.
Midwest

From Chicago
Toby Higbie

Labor history is alive and well in Chicago. Thanks to the energetic leadership of LAW-CHA members Leon Fink and Toby Higbie, the Newberry Library Labor History Seminar has attracted a steady audience to discuss scholars' works-in-progress in a supportive and rigorous workshop setting.

The seminar takes a broad view of "labor his- tory." Topics in the 2004-05 season ranged from African-American women and the informal economy of early 20th-century Chicago, to working-class autobiography and prison labor, to labor movement strategies for deal- ing with contemporary globalization. At ap- pers are pre-circulated to seminar partici- pants, so the discussions are lively and in- formed. There is still time to submit a pro- posal for next year's seminar.

For more information contact Ginger Shuf- ford at newberry.org, 312-255-3524. The seminar is co-sponsored by the Newberry Library, the History Departments at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northern Illinois University, and LAWCHA.

Chicago
Liseal Orenic

On 16 February 2005, the Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies (www.working- classstudies.org) celebrated the printing of THE LABOR TRAIL: Chicago's History of Working-Class Life and Struggle, at Columbia College. To an audience of about 100 including labor activists, students and faculty, Leon Fink (University of Illinois-Chicago), Jeff Helgeson, Dan Harper and John Flores (graduate students at UIC) and Liseal Orenic (Dominican University) present- ed segments of the map and talked about the powerful heritage of Chicago's workers, their communities and institutions. The evening included comments by three longtime Chicago activists: Tim Leehy, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Katie Jordan, President of the Chicago chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and Ed Sudowski of the Steelworkers District 31.

The Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies launched this project in October 2002 as an effort to literally put Chicago's working-class history "on the map." Support for the project has come from the Illinois Humanities Council, the Chicago Metro History Education Center, the Illinois Labor History Society, the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Newberry Library, and the UIC History Department. Copies of the map are now available at www.labortrail.org.

This April 2nd the CWCS will hold its sec- ond (and annual) Getting Paid to Cause Trouble: Organizing for Social Justice event. Funded by the Weilbold Foundation, this forum is designed to bring together national and local organizers and Chicago area col- lege students. With over 60 students in atten- dance last year, Nancy Maclean (Northwestern University), Doreen Warren (University of Chicago and CWCS), Liseal Orenic (Dominican University), and Michelle Couturier (Illinois Education Association, NEA) anticipate an even bigger turnout this time around since the forum will be held in the new University Center, a multi-university dorm in downtown Chicago.

From the Twin Cities
Peter Rachefeft

Twin Cities LAWCHA members have helped plan several events for the monthly public programs of the St. Paul Labor Speakers Club, based at the St. Paul Labor Center/Trades and Labor Assembly. On January 31, we screened "The Tailor," Naomi Klein's documentary about factory tailors in Argentina. On February 26, we celebrated a labor back at the history of the civil rights movement with three eye-witness partici- pants: Frank Hillman, who grew up in a small town in South Carolina, and is current- ly chairman of his United Transportation Union local, herded in Duluth; Arthur McIntyre, a retired high school teacher whose mother was president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in the '60s; and Paul Moore, who taught at Atomic A & M in the early '80s. On March 26, our program was "Under the Sterly Plough--The Irish Labor Movement," with Michael Cavan, a former member of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, who is today a staff

person with the Minnesota Nurses Association, and Rex Finlin Moore, who was born in Dublin and whose grandfather was a founding member of the Irish Clann Lector Union.

We are looking ahead to our seventh annual collaboration with the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library known as "Untold Stories: A Celebration of Labor History." This year's program will begin May 8 with a talk by Lisa Feiferstein on women workers at Wal- Mart, followed by a local panel of union and community activists who have challenged Wal-Mart's human rights of the urban Twin Cities. Other programs will highlight the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World, including a walking tour of IWW historical sites led by LAWCHA member Dave Rieke, and a panel discus- sion on the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of the AFL and the CIO in the Twin Cities.

From Madison
Will Jones

On 1 May 2005, The Wisconsin Labor History Society will observe the 119th anniversary of the 1886 attack on an 8-hour- day demonstration in Haymarket, a working- class community in Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin Labor History Society will hold its annual meeting on 7 May at the United Auto Workers Hall in Janesville. Speakers will include Duvo Thom, who will relate his experiences as the first black woman hired in the Janesville General Motors plant, and Wisconsin Black Historical Society director Clayborne Carson, who will discuss the underground railroad in Wisconsin.

From Urbana
Bryan Nichols

At a March 10 rally volunteers from the Graduate Employees' Organization confront- ed the Board of Trustees for the University of Illinois. Inside the meeting, GEO member Rachel Shulman criticized a plan to modest- ly increase graduate employee health bene- fits as grossly inadequate. Summarizing a recent survey of UIUC grad students about their health insurance, Shulman argued that the university must increase the employer contri- bution to catastrophic and dependent cover- age, and implement a prescription drug plan. Dramatic increases would be required for
Illinois to be competitive with the grad union movement, led by other Big 10 universities such as UVa, Madison and UM, Ann Arbor.

Outside, forty protesters held aloft signs that read "No Recessions, No Peace!" and "UCU: Destine dea or die in the Fight." Despite the persistence of an icy breeze which, the spits of the protesters were high and their voices were clearly audible to the trustees inside.

**South**

**From Florida**

Robert Ziger

On February 14, the United Faculty of Florida (NEA/ AFT) won a major victory in its two-year struggle to retain bargaining rights for the core academic faculty and staff at the University of Florida. In a sweeping ruling, Florida's First District Court of Appeals overturned a ruling made two years ago by the state Public Employee Relations Commission that held that changes in the governance of the university system had abrogated a twenty-five year collective bargaining relationship and required re-certification of each of the 11 UFF chapters. The court cited a wide range of precedents and a plethora of legal analysis, rejecting PERC's ruling that the new boards of Trustees were not successor employers, a ruling that UFF challenged.

Naturally, while UFF was confident of its case in the legal arena, it has nonetheless proceeded to re-establish bargaining rights on the individual campuses. Either through elections or through card counts, UFF chapters have been validated and collective bargaining has been re-sumed at 10 of the 11 campuses, with new contracts now in operation at several.

At UF (which is in Gainesville), a card-signing drive yielded 72% support for UFF. The UF administration and trustees, however, remain resolute in its continued unwillingness to bargain with UFF, which has been in stable existence since 1978. PERC has not issued a definitive ruling on the question of bargaining unit, thus the status of UFF in Gainesville has remained unsettled. While the conditions of the old contract remain in force, and while UF grant-aided somersets are functioning capacity to ensure that its terms are being observed, PERC's procrastination deliberations on the bargaining unit issue have delayed a definitive vote.

The recent District Court ruling would seem to obviate the need for a bargaining unit ruling, and would seem to require the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Labor Archives to resume the bargaining relation that had prevailed for a quarter of a century. The clarity of logic of the decision would be to require immediate resumption of recognition and immediate beginning of collective bargaining but we have learned that "Justice delayed is Justice denied." In no idle adage. The administration continues to "asses re the implications and possibilities" of the ruling and it is unclear at this writing as to how the decision will actually play out. UFF morale has boosted UFF morale and has made the resumption of bargaining relations in the near future a virtual certainty.

Robert Ziger is Vice President of the United Faculty of Florida.

**West**

**From the Bay Area**

Don Watson

The featured speaker at the February annual meeting of the San Francisco Labor Archives and Research Center at IWW Local 34 hall was Richard Steven Smith, political labor historian and photographer. He is author of two recent books: Photographing Farm Workers in California and Beasts of the Field: A Narrative History of California Farm Workers in California, 1978-1993.

The Bay Area Labor History Workshop opened this Spring with a presentation by Dan Walzem on "Labor and the Lettuce Grower-Shripper Bud Ater." Further BALHW presentations are planned this Spring, starting with Lynn Bonfield and Carol Croquet (April 17) on the archival collections from IWW founder Harry Bridges and his wife Nahoko Sawade Bridges. Their topic title is "New Treasures from the Collections of Harry and Nahoko." Moby Munch and Mestrdess follow on May 1, with a presentation on "Women in the Building and Construction Trades." Finally this year's BALHW annual dinner - June 1 at Johnn's Restaurant - will feature a talk by Eugene V. West, IWW archivist, on IWW's educational programs.

This year's Elaine and Karl Yorke Memorial Award goes to Walter Johnson, retired leader of the San Francisco Labor Council, for his decades of work in support of lower paid workers and people of color. It will be presented in May at this year's Southwest Labor Studies Association conference at UC Santa Barbara.

Meanwhile, editors and authors who created the Rutgers University Antology "American Labor and the Cold War" will be honored with appearances on radio station KPFA (April 4) and at the Berkeley Public Library (April 5). The book was based on papers given at the SWLA conference in San Francisco in 1992.

Also documentary filmmaker Mario Brooks recently presented at the Port of San Francisco a work-in-progress showing of Whipping Out: The Story of America's Women, Sexworkers. She is still raising funds to complete this project.

**Canada**

**From Alberta**

Alvin Finkel

The Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI) has been video-taping Alberta labour pioneers and rank-and-file in an effort to create an oral history record of labour struggles and workers' lives in this province. ALHI is currently planning to create a web site that will include many of these videos and transcriptions. ALHI has also been producing a time line with hundreds of key events in Alberta labour history for the website. Alvin Finkel, secretary of ALHI, has written a paper on what we are learning from the videotapes, to be presented at the Oral Labour History panel at the Congress of Historical Sciences conference in Australia this July. You can get a copy from Alvin at alvin@telusplanet.net.

**From Vancouver**

Mark Leder

The Centre for Labour Studies at Simon Fraser University has compiled an annotated bibliography of children's and young adult literature on labour themes. It may be found at www.sfu.ca/labour. Currently the centre is working with IWW Local 560, Vancouver, BC, on an oral history project with retired members. Researchers at the Centre have completed a historical brief on the strike as political protest for the Hospital Employers'
Union as part of a labour relations board hearing and its ongoing struggles with employers and the provincial government. Work is nearing completion on the "Death of a Miner" website. Offering primary historical material, it invites readers to learn about and analyze the 1914 death of Joseph Meir, an activist in the 1912-14 Vancouver Island coal mining strike, who died in prison while serving a sentence for "voting."

For further information, contact Mark Leier at leier@sfu.ca, or go to www.sfu.ca/labour.

RANDOM NOTES

From Dan Conforth:

A copy of the California History Labor-Map is now obtainable from the California Department of Education. The cost is $5, plus a $1 handling fee. To order a copy, call 800-895-4099. This is the only means by which a copy can be ordered. The map was commissioned by the California Assembly's Speaker's Committee on Labor Education. Work on the map was overseen by the California State Library in 2003-04. Dan Conforth (San Jose State University) was the project's historian and David Fuller (California State University, Northridge) was the cartographer. The map is four feet by three feet in size. It contains, and locates, with short descriptions, 282 major events in California labor history. The map also provides smaller inset maps of California and text with important contextual information.

In conjunction with this project, a California Labor History website has been mounted, containing, among other things, a California labor history chronology of 1,100 events, and a range of long and short essays on California labor history. The design and development of the website was overseen by San Francisco State University. The website address is calpedia.sfsu.edu/labor.

From Steve Early, CAW District 1:

In the midst of current debates about AFL-CIO restructuring and strategy, the Labor Education and Research Project in Detroit -- publishers of Labor Notes -- has produced a 372-page manual on how to re-build union strength from the bottom-up. Targeted at workplace activists, stewards, local officers and staff, and bargaining committee members, A Troublesolver's Handbook: 2 recovers winning tactics and successful campaigns, but also examines the reasons of past union defeats and failures. The book has 72 contributors, plus additional material from hundreds of activists interviewed by editor Jane Slaughter. According to Cornell ILR School professor Kate Bronfenbrenner, Troublesolver's provides "a wealth of information" on "everything from researching multinational companies, to mapping workplace hazards, running a local, developing leaders, building community labor coalitions, bringing immigrants into the union, and running comprehensive organizing and bargaining campaigns."

For further information, go to www.labornotes.org/bookshelf.htm#9.html. The book can be ordered at this website, by mail at 7435 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48209, by phone at 313-842-6002, or by fax at 313-842-0227. The price is $24 plus $4 shipping.

LaborArts.org, a web museum of art by and about working people, has posted a new web exhibit -- Art from the Waterfront, featuring portraits by Pete deluque of longshoremen in the year after the 1934 maritime strike, and oil paintings by Joseph Groose of waterfront work scenes from the 1950s. These newly-restored paintings, which hang in the San Francisco headquarters of the International Longshore Workers Union, are being made available to a broader audience for the first time. The IWW has collaborated with LaborArts.org to present this striking collection of art online, the second in an ongoing series of images from the restorant.
Random Notes (cont'd)
working-class context of the disaster is apparent, particularly in the lack of work alternatives for miners in a declining industry, coupled with strong pressures from the company to mine illegally under the river. The volume also examines the ways in which the working-class community of the former "hard coal" areas around Scranton and Wilkes-Barre has faithfully memorialized the disaster over the past 46 years.

The centenary of the Industrial Workers of the World (see Paul Buhle's piece in this issue) is being marked this year in a variety of ways. On Saturday, May 7, a "Conference and Celebration" - "One Big Union": The Dream, the Reality, the History...The IWW and a Century of Radical Labor Activism, 1905-2005 - will be held at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University (Newark). Here's how conference organizer Jennifer Guglielmo describes the event:

In the spirit of May Day, join us for a day of powerful information, thought-provocative, and onesty celebration of the history of the IWW. In plenaries and workshops, distinguished scholars such as Roselyn Ravandahl, Steve Golun, Joyce Kombulah, Nunzio Perrone, Jeffrey Pery, Salvatore Salerno, and current worker-activists from the Vermont Workers Center, the Garment Workers Solidarity Center, the International Longshoremen's Association, the Committee for Welfare and Social Progress, and the Industrial Workers of the World, will discuss the significance and relevance of the historic IWW for organizing today with scholars, actors, artists, and other worker-activists from around the country, punctuated with performances by Phyllis Capello ("The Lilac Lady") and the Solidarity Singers, as well as book and art exhibitis, including "The Traveling Wobbly Show."

Our closing "gala" celebration will be the New York City launch of Wobbles: A Graphic History, with co-editor Paul Buhle (Verso, 2005). The gathering will take place on Saturday from 6:30 pm at the historic Chemung's Bar, 86 Bedford Street, in the West Village, Manhattan - a center of IWW organizing in New York City during the heyday of the organization.

Attendance is free. Lunch and all-day refreshments $15. The conference, partially funded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, is organized by the NJ May Day Committee and the Spirit of the Arts Foundation. It is co-sponsored by the Rutgers University Department of History, the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, and the American Social History Project (CUNY), with the American Labor Museum/Botto House and the MatteCa Collective of Italian American Women as cooperating organizations.

For the full conference program see www.maiiacollective.org/brochure.pdf. Contact Jennifer Guglielmo at jguglelmo@yale.edu, or 413-586-3712, for more information.

Meanwhile, Julie Hennada announces that Fifth Estate (www.fifthestate.org) will be joining in the centenary celebration of the IWW by dedicating its Fall issue to the topic of Wobbles and Work. Fifth Estate is looking for original articles on the history of the IWW, as well as articles that address the contemporary international radical labor milieu. Submissions of art and images are always welcome. Possible topics include work and anti-work, the unethical nature of the Protestant work ethic, the right to be latter, proletarian lifestyles, subproletarian subcultures, unemployment, unemployement, worker's comp scams, workplace sabotage, shop floor alienation, lockouts, factory occupations, and hobos.

Deadline for proposals: 1 July 2005; deadline for first drafts: 15 July 2005. For further information, contact fifthestate@pumpkinhollow.net, or Julie Hennada at jhennada@umich.edu.

On 20/21 May 2005, a Conference on Caring Labor will be held at the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington, Seattle. This conference will explore some central questions about the concept of caring labor. Caring Labor can be defined in any kind of work that requires an empathetic identification between the worker and the recipient of the worker's efforts. This would include all forms of health care, social work, childcare, teaching, etc. Historically, these jobs have often been low or unpaid "women's work." Core themes for the conference include: the mechanisms by which caring labor has become a surrogate for economic sacrifices; the challenges caregivers face in organizing to protect themselves within the marketplace; and the dynamics of public policies designed to support those who provide care within the family. The conference is intended to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners, and activists together to explore the contradictions of care in market economy and search for ways to resolve them. The keynote speaker will be Nancy Fisch, professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

For further information, write: c bizarre@uwashington.edu, or contact Sarah Laslett, Director, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, at 206-543-7149.
San Francisco Hotel Dispute (continued from cover)

response from the hotel management group.

The union called a boycott of the fourteen hotels, contacting meeting planners and suggesting that their business be moved elsewhere. Several meetings did so, including the American Anthropological Association and the Organization of American Historians. Other groups are in the process of pulling meetings now; still others have attended and have had members attend impromptu pickets put up in front of the hotels. The hotel industry's— and the city's economy—have lost yet more business. The hotels continue to play hardball with those who have sought to change their venues, unless they had earlier negotiated a cancellation clause in the event of a labor dispute.

Meanwhile, Mayor Newsom continues to refuse to attend any events in the affected hotels. Some local business leaders remain furiou s with him for this principled stand.

Mayor Newsom's argument has been that the hoteliers do not know the local situation. San Francisco, one of the USA's last remaining progressive cities, and one that has traditionally been respectful of unions, has found itself on the vanguard of what many believe is a large-scale effort to further erode union power. The hoteliers take their direction from their corporate parent offices, which are located outside the state. As a result, the mayor and others have argued that the hotels are not interested in local conditions and practices. This argument has generally been ignored.

As have many of the demands of the workers themselves. The most contentious issue has been the union's desire to sign a shorter two-year contract than has been the past practice. The goal here was to synchronize hotel contract expirations across the country, in order to gain more leverage at the next round of negotiations. The union has moved off of that goal, in large measure because locals elsewhere signed contracts of different durations, and is now focusing on other issues of more immediate concern to its members.

From their perspective, the remaining issues remain compensation and health care costs. At one point, management made a proposal to increase wages the grand sum of twenty cents per hour, per year, for a five-year contract. (That was for non-tipped employees.) They also proposed a wage increase of five cents an hour for those workers who were tipped. As anyone who has been to San Francisco knows, the cost of living increases have been much greater. Similarly, managers had proposed to raise the cost of health premiums from $10 a month to $273.42 a month, in the same five-year period. The contrasts are clear. In the most recent months, it has become clear that the health insurance premium increase has changed dramatically. Management has now proposed to keep the $10 per month cost UNLESS the increases that it faces are more than 10-12 percent each year. The union has countered with various proposals, depending on the length of the contract that is ultimately signed.

No end to this struggle is on the immediate horizon and San Francisco's reputation as a great place to visit remains at risk.

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