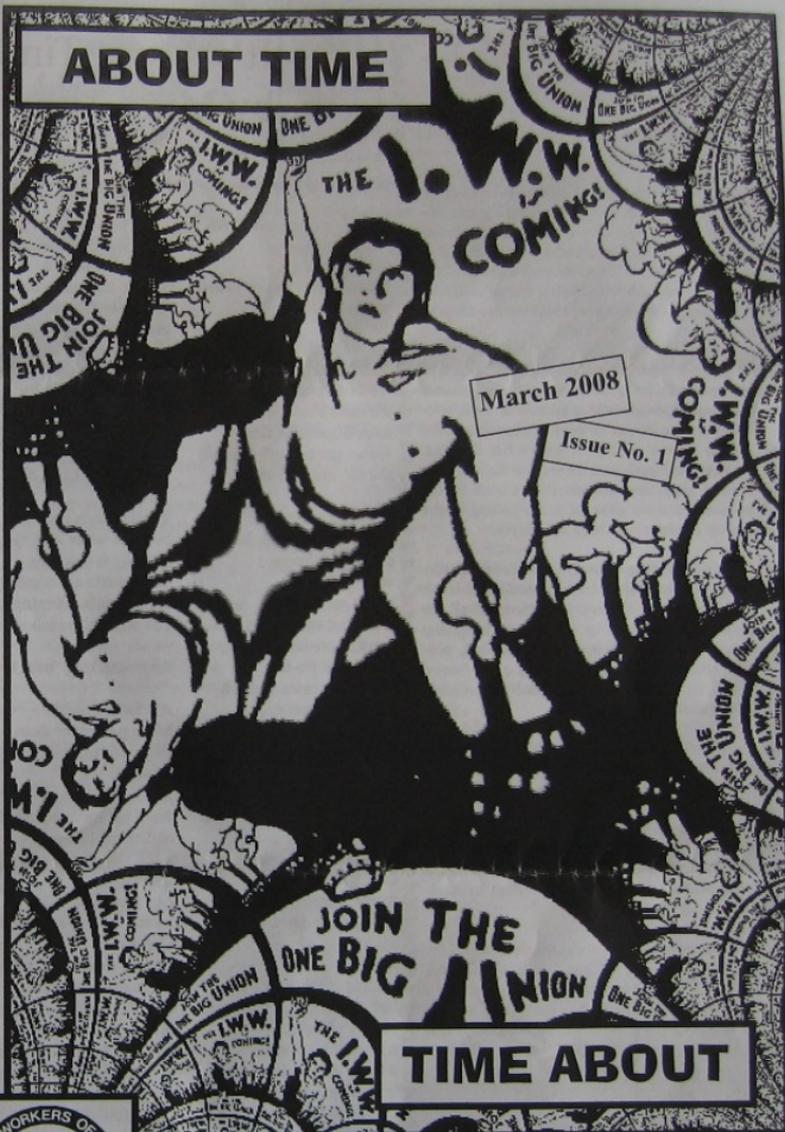


**ABOUT TIME**



March 2008

Issue No. 1

**JOIN THE  
ONE BIG UNION**

**TIME ABOUT**



What's this??? Spiralling into control and incorporating the One Big Union Advocate, it is an unofficial rag of discussion and news generated from within the Industrial Workers of the World – Australian Region

About Time? you ask. What the Hell is that sort of drippy title to do with the serious business of enhancing the position of working folk through education, organisation and emancipation?

And when you ask it should become clear. About bloody time - you bet!

Certainly it is about time that all the reverses of the Howard junta are put behind us. Starting with the ABCB and going right the way through the industrial relations set-up. The crumbs that Rudd and co have thrown out - hoping to distract us no doubt - while preserving faith with the big end of town can only be looked upon as a very basic start to the process.

But it goes far beyond that. It is about the time that our planet has left to be fixed while the juggernaut of industrial capitalism slides blithely onward, oozing carbon dioxide as it goes. Either we make things hot for our masters or we all feel the heat. The poorer, and less powerful you are the more the thermostat slips into the red. (We are all in the same boat here - but some of us are pulling on the oars while others are cracking the whip.)

Its about time that the runaway growth of inequality in our world was halted and reversed. In this we claim ourselves as the real champions of all the progressive movements in history. If inequality continue to increase then even the limited, proscribed, chartered, phoney democracy of the bosses state will be weakened and eventually, inevitably become a total farce.

Its about the time of our lives that is not ours because we have to sell it in order to live. Its about the time we steal back when it is sold because a forced contract is never regarded as binding. Its about the time we spend in a world that is made in sell in order to live. Made in dead time. You surely didn't think things could be this fucked by accident?

After a hundred years it is about time our union, the IWV, picked itself up and, here in Australia, generated a bit of traction. We all want to see it but, unfortunately, it is unlikely to happen all by itself.

In the end we have nothing of our own but time and a fairly short span of it at best. It is up to us to create structures worthy of the lives we live in time. And to make the time spent in the struggle worthy ...



## It's About Time by Mike Ballard

We came out of Africa ages ago

But our numbers have grown  
We're hitting six billion  
We don't need any more  
We need a rest  
Some disposable time  
We've got enough families  
and too many swine

We need a shrink  
We're working too long  
driving for hours  
with ring-toned  
bright mobiles  
stuck fast to our ears  
jammed 'twixt car bumpers  
to-ing and fro-ing  
producing more gadgets  
than we'll ever use

And what's most of it for

To profit the powers  
**THE POWERS THAT BE**  
increasing their greed  
immersing our planet  
in fads become junk  
twelve percent plastic  
and toxic to boot

Yes  
truth is still beauty  
but look what WE'VE got  
beauty's become  
a ware to be bought  
a thing to be sold  
In this day and age

cheapness's the measure  
of market-share gain  
It's just so much fools'  
gold  
What happened to leisure  
Why so much pain  
Come on fellow workers

Let's turn the page  
Our faire Sister is groaning  
under this weight  
We've created more wealth  
than ever before  
measured in money  
and we're still insecure  
Output per worker  
has shot through sky  
do-dads are humming  
boss profits are high  
while needy go hungry  
and poor children die  
Yes

by thousands each day  
because water is dirty  
and boy is it scarce  
The deserts are coming  
the planet is warming  
and pundits are talking  
they're talking 'bout more

All for the bosses  
More power for them  
to grow their damn  
business  
and lest we forget  
we'll get more landlords  
and rent hikes galore

Oh my god  
can't you see  
by the dawn's early light  
Come on  
all you workers  
wage slavery's a bore  
It's taking up your life  
and taking up mine  
Let's make something real  
something useful for us  
for us and our planet  
before we go bust  
Let's grow us some FREE-  
TIME

Give it a think  
We've piled enough crap  
up  
We need a shrink



**OH NO THE "C" WORD !!!**  
no not CS%T

**- CAPITALISM & CLASSWAR !**

Millions of American workers have already lost their homes to the sub-prime mortgage crisis, and as the economy contracts in recession, millions more stand to lose their jobs, and thus face poverty, homelessness and utter destitution. No future but the bloody army?

.... And when we say bloody ...

KRudd Inc has media-spun us all that China's demand for "our" raw materials will supposedly shelter us - the 'lucky hard working folks' living in "unprecedented prosperity" - from the fall-out of the US recession.

Who are these people beyond higher rents & mortgage bondage debts, more expensive fuel, food, gas, water, electricity???

Why its the good old captains of Industry, the Capitalist ruling Class, the (your) employers, the rich, the Masters who buy the earth's resources and our labour.

Then they sell us stuff back at inflated prices and laugh at our passivity all the way to the Bank.

The same bankers who give their Capitalist mates the best deals, loans at cheapest rates etc increase rates for the rest of us wage slaves.

That's always been the Banker's racket to rip off the millions while serving the millionaires - oops updated to serve Billionaires.

## The Viola Raves

"Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie, but rather mourn the apathetic, throng the coward and the meek who see the world's great anguish and its wrong, and dare not speak." **Ralph Chaplin,**

**WELL WHAT ABOUT THE WORKERS ?**

The working class is all of us who work for a wage and have your job defined by a boss. The capitalists have the wealth to buy and run businesses, whose sole motive is to make a profit out of whatever gets produced.

The capitalists do not physically produce these commodities themselves, instead workers are casually hired to do it, paying them less than their work is worth, and thus making a profit.

The working class don't own businesses or the machinery and other resources needed to make products. We sell our time and energy, at work in order to survive, this is exploitation.

The lower your wage, the bigger the capitalists' profit. Workers' and capitalists' class interests are therefore at war, this is class struggle.

**WHITE COLLAR,  
BLUE COLLAR,  
WHAT THE COLLAR?**

The colour of your uniform, whether you work at a computer or on an assembly line, are a "teacher" or a "labourer", wear a suit or a reflective jacket, do a "green" job or a polluting one... you are still a wage earner, a worker.

How much better could your "job" be if not only you took over your workplace and stopped the Boss bludging off you but across the industry and across all industries, throughout society the capitalist class Gangster or CEO was sacked instead. What a life we would live then !

While the media declare the majority of the population to be middle class they cannot explain why such "old fashioned" things as unions are still the biggest organisations in Australia, with around 2 million members.

Politicians spin us and divide us so

Capitalism can continue but only the IWV - the workers of the world - end this exploitation once and for all.

**YOU WANT THE WORLD ?**

The tragic state of the planet the whole environment must put to rights with a through-going transformation. But there is no way our rulers are going to give up their power voluntarily. The ruling class are prepared to impose their will by blood and steel if they cannot co-opt those who want to see a different society.

Well-intentioned reformers don't wind up dead, but instead find that what is changed by their efforts is not the system but themselves.

The ALP is not "mislead" by Rudd or other rival Politicians; it has always sold out the workers in the name of trying to reform the system from within - a "fair days work for a fair days wage".

Under capitalism even if you win government, you don't win power. Real power resides in the boardrooms of globalised Corporations, the government bureaucracy, and the apparatus of the military, the police, the judicial system and the corporate media. Either you adapt to that reality or you don't get ahead. The process is self-selecting. Any 'radical' who makes it to the top has had their principles murdered by a thousand cuts - by the time you get there you have made so many compromises that you are totally beholden to the whims of the rich who allowed you to do so; or you shall be replaced by another also explicable politician.

Only the mass of people can overthrow Capitalism, create social power based on direct democratic control, to win fundamental change.

Each and all of us are needed to combine, unionise to strengthen our solidarity where we live and work; strug-



WHAT TIME IS IT?  
IWO  
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER  
TIME TO ORGANIZE  
JOHN PEARSON

gle to not just take over society but transform it to "live in harmony with the Earth".

Sooo .....Why not join us ?

#### **CHARITY FROM THE GUILTY RICH ?**

Those dupes hoping the profiteers increased wealth shall "trickle down" are deluded... 'trickle down' - money sticks to the rich... those who meekly wait and wait for "prosperity" just around the corner and around the corner and around the next corner and around the corner after that....

As they step around the bodies in the street the media-spinning Rich big note themselves with a Tax-write off or two to worthy charities for those "deserving poor" who pull themselves up, inside out and apart for any casual job they can get and thus be patted on the head.

Last year, the Business Review Weekly revised the minimum fortune required to make its Rich 200 list up from \$130 million to \$180 million and noted that the number of billionaires had increased from 21 to 30.

The total wealth of the top 200 swelled from \$101.5 billion to \$128.6 billion.

Andrew Forrest of Fortescue Metals is now the "richest" capo in Oz since Jamie Packer got busy buying Casinos in Macau etc.

#### **TIGHTEN YOUR BELT ! (UNTIL YOU CUT YOURSELF IN HALF ?)**

The Government's pets aka 'gumpets' are now expected to follow the Prime Minister KRudd's example: to forgo for the next year any wage increase... in the National Interest, for Australia mate! for 100 more days of labour Government (or the rich may bring the Liberal-National Coalition back)

No wage increase is alright if you earn a politicians whack and got a 9% increase of that lot last year ; even better if like Rudd you are a millionaire and have a partner who is a multi-millionaire so the \$ flow in anyway!

Contrast that posturing for the servile media with a low paid prole who is told any wage increase of more than 3% - of fuck all in the first place - would push "inflation."

Mr KRudd and his pollicie cronies have asked nicely for the CEOs of Oz to also just be laid back for year on their salaries. The bosses get more than the pollicies do and have shares and other 'investment' earners always on the go so they can make a big deal in the same servile media of how they will just survive on millions.

#### **SLOW PAY COMISERATOR**

The Low Pay Commissioner looking to his Mammon hating Gawd has decided those on \$15 an hour or less can only have a pittance per week more, well how benevolent when he gets himself .... a great big increase for his services to the Bosses by keeping wages low, and wage slaves everywhere desperate....

#### **UNWAGED ?**

"unemployment rates lowest rate in decades." The figures are dodgy because anyone who works for as little as an hour a week is deemed to be employed, Casual work now makes up most working lives in Oz so many have two, three, four even five jobs in a week not as "workers" but subcontractors who are self-employed to do their own tax etc paper work and thus beat themselves up and save the employers the effort.

The Reserve Bank of Australia sees the "low unemployment rate" as a bad thing; the key indicator of the labour market, measures the reserve army of workers, as running out, which will unleash a wage explosion hence politicians saying wage restraint and importing on 457 visas desperate wage slaves who will exploit themselves harder and keep wages low.

With the exception of small numbers of workers in strategic industries like mining/resource extraction, the median wage has actually fallen in recent times, as a result of the WorkChoices laws and other government and employer attacks.

#### **CONGRATULATION TO THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS.**

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. So with all the highly paid theologians of Mammon dreading a wages outbreak that is exactly what the working class should be aiming for

Congratulation to the West Australian teachers who at the end of February defied an order of the West Australian Industrial Relations Commission to rally on the Perth foreshore, closing 46 government schools for the morning.. With the state heading for a record \$2 billion surplus and corporate profits and executive salaries rocketing it is about time a bit more of the readies found their way into the pockets of the wage slave. The closed classrooms should be instrumental in teaching students lessons more important than the academic stuff that they might have been afflicted with and brings a welcome whiff of reality. If you don't fight you loose, Premier Alan Carpenter yesterday labelled the teachers' union grossly irresponsible, a day after he was lunged at during a rally of furious taxi drivers striking at Parliament House.

Yet it is the law of supply and demand for commodities comes out and smacks us all. The state "Labor" Government in WA doesn't call landlords irresponsible for raising their prices (the rents); but is calling teachers who pay those rents irresponsible for asking for an increase in their price/aka wages. Meanwhile, tax revenues are up because of the boom in sales of state located natural resource commodities to China and India. The profits of natural resource owners are up too because of the laws of supply and demand for these resources. No state government official has called this price gouging "irresponsible".

And so it goes....the workers are being set up to be blamed for causing inflationary price rises and we all know increased wages cause inflation because 'our' media and 'our' government tell us so. Yes bosses love us... Meanwhile, in the resource-rich Pil-

bara, Workers wage-slaving for the Government were forced to live in share houses where the rent was \$2000 a week for "an ordinary four-bedroom place".

#### **HOUSING FOR ALL ?**

##### **Not just the Rich !**

In Melbourne the average house price is just short of \$450,000, and median mortgage payments eat up a massive 50 per cent of post-tax income, while median rents are at 30 per cent. This is mainly because the rich have been buying up real state for their investment portfolios, thus driving up housing prices and rents to unprecedented levels.

The number of families calling homeless services has jumped 46% in the past decade. An article in The Age commented that the "paradox at the heart of homelessness today...is that prosperity has accentuated the problem". Old proletarian saying: For every millionaire there are a million who are not !

Workers are expected to accept cuts to their wages and living standards, and

to services like education, health and social welfare on which they depend. "Inflation" is just the latest pretext to call for wage restraint (i.e. cuts in real terms) and the slashing of government spending.

That's Capitalism, thats injustice ... so just when do we ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY ?

#### **VIC SOLIDARITY**

On Friday March 7th unionist teachers who work in the "independent" - eg Catholic - Schools struck and marched on Victorian Parliament.

Not there as always was Premier John Brumby. Ironically he is a former teacher and unionist BUT since being "bumped into Parliament" by the ALP to become the Treasurer and lately Premier has kept Victorian teachers wages the LOWEST in Australia ! Absolute power corrupts absolutely - absolutely eh!

This is "natural", notorious historical precedents abound:

#### **ALP - ANOTHER LIBERAL PARTY**

Billy Hughes joined the Socialist League in 1892. He was astreocratic speaker for the Balmain Single Tax League and an organiser with the Australian Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Shearers' Union and then won the Legislative Assembly seat of Sydney-Lang for the Australian labour party by 105 votes. While in Parliament he became secretary of the Wharf Labourer's Union. In 1900 he founded and became first national president of the Waterside Workers' Union.

In Labor Government as Minister and then Prime Minister he pushed Conscriptio in World War I and losing then in 1916 & 1917 referendums blamed the IWW amongst others. (We did our bit!) Hughes banned our Direct Action paper and the IWW organisation itself, jailed organisers and deported Tom Barker etc.

John Curtin was a factory worker & secretary of the Timberworkers' Union. During World War I a militant anti-conscriptioist and member of the Victorian Socialist Party and then the ALP. By World War II he was Prime Minister and ... introduced conscriptio.

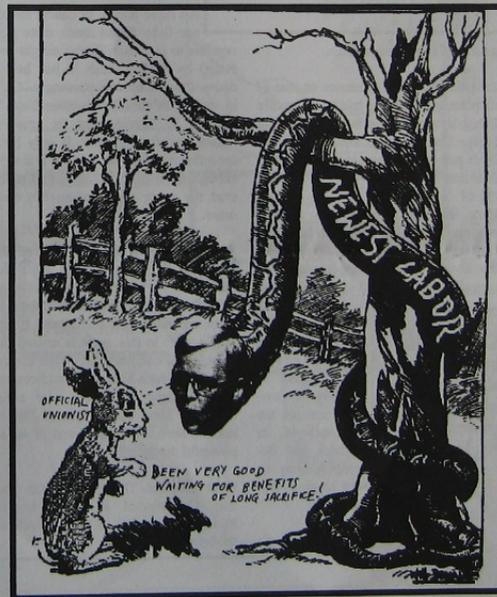
In 1949 former train driver Ben Chifley as Prime Minister sent in the military to break the coal strike.

The ALP has never challenged the anti-collective bargaining & solidarity busting Sections 45D and 45E of the 1977 Trade Practices Act 1974.

Bob Hawke former Australian Council of Trade Unions Secretary became leader of the ALP & Prime Minister to used the military to crush the 1989 Airline Pilots Dispute (see <http://www.takver.com/history/pilotsdispute1989.htm>)

KRudd Inc have maintained the anti-union Inquisition, the Australian Building & Construction Commission (2004) see <http://www.constructingfear.com.au>.

so why her & his story ?  
so we learn from the past  
so we do not present ourselves with  
future misery



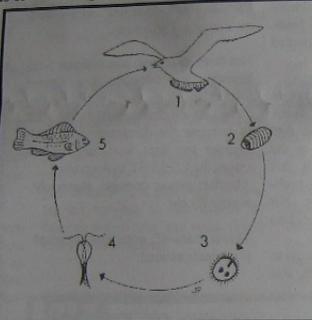
# Did we get here by creation or evolution?

## God's planning revealed in some of life's "simplest" creatures.

**F**licking through a couple of magazines dropped off by a pair of local Jehovah's Witnesses I was pleased to find that the continued attack upon satanic Darwinism has been maintained. Yet I found it curiously half hearted. There were the usual Disneysque pictures of butterflies, bright coral reef fish, flowers, penguins and the rest. It seemed to me then that this putting a very anaemic, pretty pretty, picture really was undermining the true marvel of God's creation and was therefore, indeed, practically pandering to the evolutionists. By ignoring these organisms these fair weather creationists are, in effect, suggesting that there is something in the creation to be ashamed of which is unbiblical for in Genesis "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

immaculately fitted to its environment as is any orchid or gazelle.

The first case that has thrust itself to grip my attention is that tapeworm that biologists have named *Ligula intestinalis*. There is nothing dramatically unusual *Ligula*; it is broadly typical of a



I therefore decided that its ABOUT TIME that someone should launch a proper no holds barred defence of true revealed religion.

Well over half of the living creation are parasites, all the larger beasts, plants (and humans) have several and even the parasites have parasites. Clearly then they must have an important place in the divine plan. Humans even have two species of lice - one intelligently designed for the head and the other for the pubic regions. Further each parasite is as lovingly crafted, as complex and perfect in its internal workings and as

swarm of similar organisms.

*Lingula* begins its existence as one of umpteen million eggs laid by its mother living in various species of fish eating birds. The eggs are voided with the birds poo and if *Lingula* is lucky, this falls into the water.

Here the egg hatches into a free-swimming larval stage known as an oncosphere. If lucky it does not have to free swim for long before it is eaten by a small crustacean. Bit of a tricky point

as to who has eaten whom really for *Ligula* immediately makes itself at home by burrowing through the gut wall of its predator and developing into its next stage a proceroid.

Following God's

plan the crustacian is in its turn eaten by a fish and here *Ligula intestinalis* really shows the wisdom in creation. From an almost microscopic form it can grow, in its new plerocercoid larval stage, to some 10 to 100cm in length and up to 1.2cm in width (they are sometimes known as belt worms).

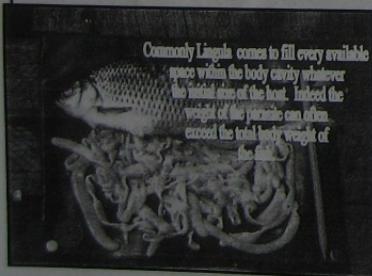
Commonly *Ligula* comes to fill every available space within the body cavity - whatever the initial size of the host. Indeed the weight of the parasite often comes to exceed the weight of the fish.

The fish shows some other changes. They become infertile for one thing but also undergo more sinister effects. They become less streamline and darker in colour. They also tend to hang around the water surface or at the shallow edges of lakes.

All these things, of course makes our fishy friend much more susceptible to predation (being caught and eaten) by birds. Which is just honky doory for the unseen passenger. Only in the gut of these birds does *Lingula* finishes its development by growing into a reproducing adult. It only lives for a few days in after this but it is time enough for it to lay its eggs and push-start the cycle of cestodian life once more.

Let the Darwinian and the atheist come up with some explanation for this. Here we have a simple worm go through five development stages in three separate host organisms. If any single stage in this cycle is missed out then *Ligula* can not exist. What are the chances of such a complex and coordinated scheme of things ever come about by blind chance alone? Do we not see here the loving hand of an all powerful designer?

**Next edition:** The Evolutionists Further Confounded & God's Loving Mercy as revealed in the lifecycle of the Ichneumon Wasps



Commonly *Ligula* comes to fill every available space within the body cavity whatever the initial size of the host. Indeed the weight of the parasite can often exceed the total body weight of the host.

Oh the freedom of the press  
The freedom of the press  
They give us all the news  
They want us to get  
They valiantly go to the fore  
Where none has gone before

And never ever tell us any lies

Oh the freedom of the press  
The freedom of the press  
The best thing for humanity  
Since they sliced the bread.

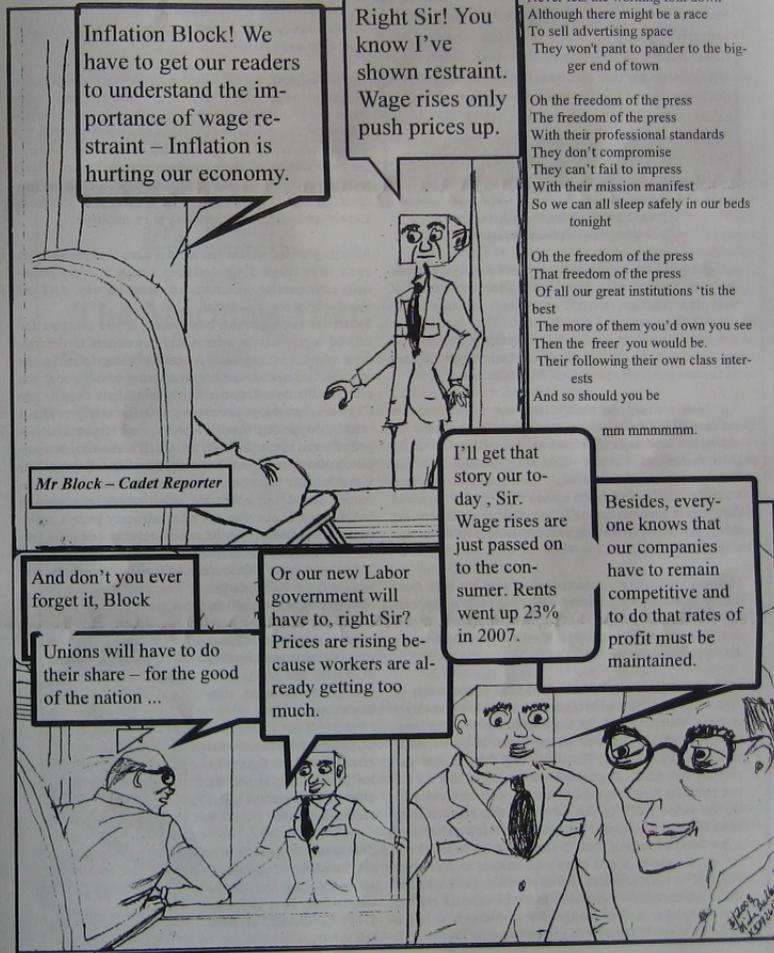
Of all our liberty  
It is a sovereign guarantee  
But don't let it go up to your head

Oh the freedom of the press  
The freedom of the press  
Never lets the working folk down  
Although there might be a race  
To sell advertising space  
They won't pant to pander to the big-end of town

Oh the freedom of the press  
The freedom of the press  
With their professional standards  
They don't compromise  
They can't fail to impress  
With their mission manifest  
So we can all sleep safely in our beds tonight

Oh the freedom of the press  
That freedom of the press  
Of all our great institutions 'tis the best  
The more of them you'd own you see  
Then the freer you would be.  
Their following their own class interests  
And so should you be

mm mmmmm.



Inflation Block! We have to get our readers to understand the importance of wage restraint - Inflation is hurting our economy.

Right Sir! You know I've shown restraint. Wage rises only push prices up.

Mr Block - Cadet Reporter

I'll get that story our today, Sir. Wage rises are just passed on to the consumer. Rents went up 23% in 2007.

Besides, everyone knows that our companies have to remain competitive and to do that rates of profit must be maintained.

And don't you ever forget it, Block

Or our new Labor government will have to, right Sir? Prices are rising because workers are already getting too much.

Unions will have to do their share - for the good of the nation ...

## Open-Mouth Sabotage, Networked Resistance, and *Asymmetric Warfare on the Job*

Whatever you can do with computers and electricity type wizardry there is no substitute for actually talking to (and eventually organising) the fellow workers on the job and putting the alternative where it matters. Also some of us have doubts that what is described below is as efficacious as the author thinks. It will obviously be easier for some fellow workers than for other. On the other hand the IWW is not so holy. Working people have been through a bit lately and anything that can help to even the odds should be payed careful attention to ...

from: Kevin Carson, mutualist.org -  
Source: blog.p2pfoundation.net

... given that the majority of corporate employers follow the same "work 'em to death and replace 'em" model of workplace relations, and that open-mouth sabotage is impossible to suppress and almost risk-free, it's safe to assume that the coming decades will see revolutionary changes in management-labor relations as the new potential makes itself fully felt.

... Most recently, the phenomenon was demonstrated in the case of Wikileaks, where a judge's order to disable the site didn't have any real impact on the availability of the Baer documents. Because Wikileaks operates sites like Wikileaks.cx in other countries, the documents remained widely available, both in the United States and abroad, and the effort to suppress access to them caused them to rocket across the Internet, drawing millions of hits on other web sites.

This was yet another demonstration of what has been facetiously labelled the "Streisand effect": efforts to suppress embarrassing information leading to embarrassment several orders of magnitude worse, from publicity attracted by the suppression attempt itself.

Meanwhile, in late 2004 and 2005, the phenomenon of "Doocing" (the firing of bloggers for negative commentary on their workplace, or for the expression of other non-approved opinions on their blogs) began to attract mainstream media attention. The interesting thing is that employers, who fired disgruntled workers out of fear for the bad publicity their blogs might attract, were blindsided by the far worse publicity—far, far worse—that resulted from news of the firing. Rather than an insular blog audience of a few hundred reading that "it sucks to work at Employer X," or "Employer X gets away with treating its customers like shit," it became a case of tens of millions of readers of the major newspapers of record and wire services reading that "Employer X fires blogger for revealing how bad it sucks to work at Employer X and how shitty Employer X

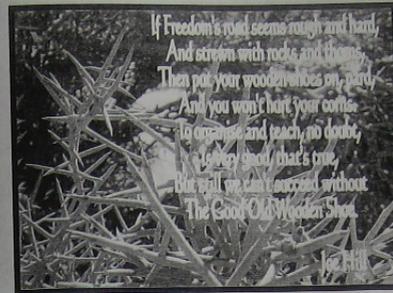
treats its customers." Again, the bosses are learning that, for the first time since the rise of the giant corporation and the broadcast culture, workers and consumers can talk back—and not only is there absolutely no way to shut us up, but we actually just keep making more and more noise the more they try to do so.

The current potential for open-mouth sabotage, and for networked anti-corporate resistance by consumers and workers, is positively breathtaking. The anonymity of the writable web, the comparative ease with which disgruntled workers can set up anonymous sites of their own (witness the proliferation of [www.employernamesucks.com](http://www.employernamesucks.com) sites), and the possibility of simply emailing large volumes of embarrassing information to everyone you can think of whose knowledge might be embarrassing to an employer.

All a disgruntled worker has to do is keep his eyes and ears open, write things down, and keep a copy of every potentially embarrassing document that comes his way. And just about everything is potential fodder for organizational humiliation, if you compare the official happy talk in memos and newsletters to descriptions of what management is actually doing (often in the same memos and newsletters, as a matter of fact), or if you compare the now-forgotten happy talk of six months ago ("Oceania has always been at war with Eastasia") to what's actually happening now. It's pretty easy to put it all together into a single damning textfile. It's also easy to compile a devastating email distribution list: all your employer's major customers, contractors and outlets, the community social and charitable organizations management hobnobs with, consumer and labor advocacy groups, mainstream and alternative press at both local and national levels, etc. Just save that draft email with file attachment, pre-addressed to your distribution list, and hit "Send" the day you get fired. Or maybe just set up a dummy email account and send it anonymously right now. Either way, the subsequent barrage of emails and phone calls will hit the executive suite like an atomic blast.

... As more and more disgruntled workers figure out the possibilities, it will be impossible to put the genie back in the bottle.

The twentieth century was the era of the large organization. By the end of the twenty-first, there probably won't be enough of them left to bury.



## *Asymmetric Warfare on the Job #2*

### The Morning After

One of the things I remember many years ago was getting a casual job cleaning an office building used by a firm a draftsman. There were six stories to it all carpeted out with tables for plans and diagrams and filing cabinets full of files and folders and all sorts of wonderful things. Nicely carpeted as well. It seems that they had sacked a chap a few days ago. For the IWW of course every dismissal is an unfair dismissal and the worker is always right.

The office complex looked far from its best the morning I turned up for my dose of wage-slavery. It seems that during the night something had set off the fire extinguishers on the sixth floor and the water, following gravities dictates, had not really stopped percolating through the system until it could get out the front door. Nothing could ever be proved of course. Accidents happen. But to say that suspicion was in the air would be very much an understatement.

My memory of this was triggered recently because, working at a tourist accommodation place I was told that a chap had been sacked. I did not really know him, as my cleaning shift tends to happen in the early morning before most of the toilers have their first cup of coffee, but we had exchanged nods and I thought that I saw a fellow rebel. Apparently, I was told, he was caught slacking. He had been warned before and he was out. Word was sort of being passed around by management in the sort of way that suggested that they thought an example had been set that we could all profit by.

A day or two later all the systems to the water treatment to the swimming pool and the spa seemed to go awry. One of the areas the sacked slacker had made his own. Taps

and valves seemed to have been turned off and on, specifications for chlorine and acidity levels were all over the place. Nobody seemed to know how to fix the problem as the other chap that usually did the job was on holiday. "It almost looks like sabotage," I was told.

Now this set me to wondering just how often these type of unfortunate accidents occur after a sacking or layoff. (Anyone out there got any further stories to add? ABOUT TIME would love to get more such stories)

Now after all the instinct is brutish and primitive but, lets face it, there is something enduringly pleasant about getting even.

Now it also strikes me that with someone given the push they become reason the focus of all suspicion. That being so perhaps others in the workforce have grudges they wouldn't mind expressing while attention was focussed in a different direction. Be careful with this one fellow workers. It is not below the police to create evidence to convict people that they "know" to be guilty. Even some that they don't is not unknown. Anyway I am not saying don't do it. I am just saying think about it pretty carefully first.

Personal satisfaction in a stuff-up nicely contrived is all very well but is there any benefit to the class as a whole. Not wanting in any way to knock self expression in this area or anything. Now, it seems to me that the answer must be yes. This is for three reasons:

Firstly, as the redress many employees had through unfair dismissal laws has been taken away (and were in any case patently inadequate) the practice adds to the potential cost of sacking an employee and thus acts as a discouragement to the practice. Especially this is so because there is a random element in the potential loss involved that is difficult to calculate. And of course the more it is effected the more certain the cost, the more uncertain the amount and the more the worry.

Secondly it reduces the psychological effect of the sacking upon the remaining workers. Rather than feeling intimidated and totally powerless in an economic relationship it reminds us all that although the dice is definitely loaded to the bosses advantage, no one is helpless. We should of course respond in kind. Rather than the speed up that they expect following such an event it would be good if workers responded by working just that bit slower for a while. It is well known that unhappy workers are much less productive but it does not hurt to underline the information a bit.

Thirdly it gets members of the class acting as rebels and actors — not slaves or victims and develops initiative and courage.

As a tactic it depends upon two important considerations.  
1 — They must know in their hearts who is responsible  
2 — They must be unable to prove it.  
Remember the eleventh commandment and ***DON'T GET CAUGHT!***

THIS MAG – OK it could be a lot better and we hope that in coming editions that it might. Thing is fellow workers – it's a start. It could fall flat on its arse end or it could be a tool to help the IWW break out of the ghetto and start percolating through the wider working class. In a lot of ways its up to you.

ABOUT TIME is not a replacement for either Direct Action or the Australian Members' Bulletin.

PRODUCTION – The idea is that it be fairly cheap and easy to put out and easy to read. That is our part. If you believe in it, or the IWW, or just like seeing the shit hit the fan you can help out by sending in material for us to use. A lot of the weakness of this first edition is because it is put together by just a few fellow workers. It is what is known as a pump primer. A first step to get more flowing. We want your ideas and stories, poems and observations, hopes and fears, dreams and nightmares. Generally we want to keep it light, tight, humorous and vicious – but we are not that particular. Drawings and comix especially welcome.

DISTRIBUTION – Well here is the big idea. Somehow ABOUT TIME has found you. If you have a liking for it or a sympathy with the program it advocates you can best respond by making a few copies. These you will give to workmates, friends, relatives, or other acquaintances who you have a fair idea might be interested or at least forgiving. If they like what we get then they will make a few copies ... but I am sure that you get the idea.

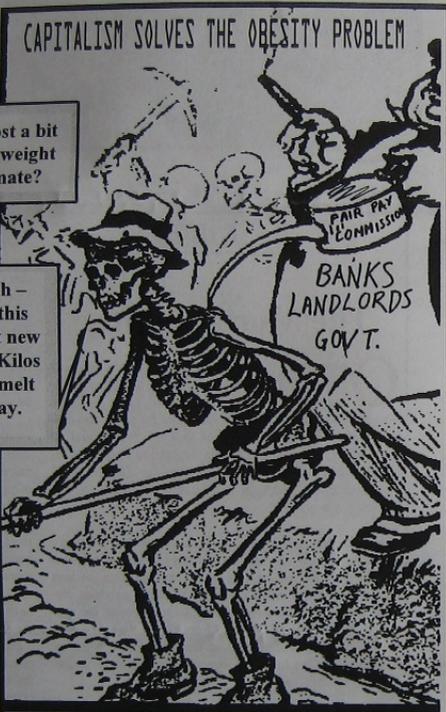
The making of copies is easy. You take your copy into a stationary shop that advertises photocopying and ask them to do it for you. Here in Albany they charge twenty cents for a double sided A3 sheet so the three such sheets that make up the mag should come to sixty cents. They should be able to print the pages in sequence so all that you need to do is to fold them in half and pass them on. If they ask much more than that then go look around a bit. Why not lash out \$6 and do ten copies and really go to town? This is – by the way – why ABOUT TIME is printed on white new paper rather than the nicer buff coloured, ideologically sounder, recycled. Come on now surely you know two people you could give it to?

Alternatively you might work in an office that has a state of the art photocopier that is left untended ...

If this is too difficult for logistic or other reasons send me the money plus postage and I'll get you as many copies as you want by return post.

Think positive. If you have an idea for a place to leaflet why not do a four page spread about the special concerns you have there and it can be folded up and put in the middle? Too hard for you or you lack the time send me the details and I will see what I can knock up.

Mick (entropy4@gmail.com)



Lost a bit of weight mate?

Yeah – got this beaut new diet. Kilos just melt away.

**Research by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, based on surveys and interviews with 1400 renter households and 400 recent home buyers, found that 26 per cent of low-income renters surveyed sometimes go without food and 42 per cent of low-income renters cannot afford school excursions. As many of 72 per cent of all renters surveyed worry constantly about finances.**

**From: Sunanda Creagh and Phillip Coorey - "Skipping meals to pay rent" - Sydney Morning Herald, February 22, 2008**

### a pessimistic song

Well the class-conscious worker has troubles enough  
Just to keep going when the going is rough  
The bosses are raking it in without fear  
An unequal world with no transcendence near.

Chorus:  
It's lonesome away from your kindred and all  
By the campfire at night where the wild dingos call  
But there's nothin' so lonesome, so dull or so drear  
As a class based world with no transcendence near

Now the politicians they grin with their teeth  
The batterer they promise all things the heavens be-neath  
But when the elections are over and done  
It is from big money that their orders come.

Chorus:  
Oh the media outlets are as full of lies  
As the dusty outback is buzzing with flies  
They want us all isolate and trapped in our fear  
The better to manage an unequal world with no transcendence near.

Chorus:  
Now all that is not transcended it rots  
And all that does rot will transcendence begot  
So it should go - the dialectic is clear  
So how come we're stuck in an unequal world with no transcendence near?

Chorus:  
The military complexes take away most years  
More than enough to wipe away most tears  
And the bring us instead death and destruction se-vere  
In an unequal world with no transcendence near.

Chorus:  
The union official it's sad to relate  
Is not always much help when action we take  
He looks after himself the implication is clear  
In an unequal world with no transcendence near.

Chorus:  
But all these good people its not them to blame  
They just follow their interests their wealth to maintain  
The workers are the ones who have not a peer  
Toiling selflessly for others with no transcendence near.

Chorus:  
Toil to foil their own interests and dreams  
A constant victim for their masters schemes  
If they should organise that One Big Union dear  
There would be hope at last and transcendence near

### Solidarity Forever

(Tune: John Brown's Body/Battle Hymn of Republic)  
(by Ralph Chaplin, January 1915 (9th edition, 1916))

When the Union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,  
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.  
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one?  
But the Union makes us strong.

Chorus:  
**Solidarity forever!  
Solidarity forever!  
Solidarity forever!  
For the Union makes us strong.**

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite  
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us with his might?  
Is there anything left to us but to organise and fight?  
For the Union makes us strong.

[chorus]

It is we who ploughed the prairies; built the cities where they trade;  
Dug the mines and built the workshops; endless miles of railroad laid.  
Now we stand outcast and starving, 'midst the wonders we have made;  
But the Union makes us strong.

[chorus]

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.  
We have laid the wide foundations; built it skyward stone by stone.  
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own,  
While the Union makes us strong.

[chorus]

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,  
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.  
We can break their haughty power; gain our freedom when we learn  
That the Union makes us strong.

[chorus]

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold;  
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold.  
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old.  
For the Union makes us strong.

[Chorus]

Praise Boss  
(tune Praise Gawd from Whom all Blessings Flow)

Praise Boss when morning work bells chime  
Praise Boss for bits of overtime  
Praise Boss whose Wars we love to fight  
Praise Boss, fat leech and parasite.  
Ah Boss.

## 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 organise 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 centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing 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 organisation 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 organised, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

### Websites

International – <http://www.iww.org/>  
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I am interested in joining the  
IWW. – Please send me more  
information/sign me up.

Name .....

email .....

Address .....