

STRIKE!

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OCTOBER 2005

-- Anarchist News
and Commentary--

Roadkill! Big 3 Runs Over CAW

by Jeff Shantz

Generally speaking, you might expect any union executive wrapping up negotiations that will see the loss of around 3500 members to be feeling as though things had gone dreadfully wrong. Yet there was Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) leader Buzz Hargrove announcing the loss of almost 1500 GM jobs (following losses of 1100 at Ford and at least 1000 at Daimler-Chrysler) by claiming: "I'm absolutely elated."

The Ford deal will have a devastating impact on Windsor which will see the closing of a casting plant and reductions at the city's engine plant, while St. Catharines too will suffer another severe blow with over 700 jobs lost from parts operations. The CAW exec has tried to soften the blow of the Chrysler cuts by once again delivering the tantalizing promise of a \$575 million paint shop in Windsor. The paint shop was used by the union to sell the previous agreement with Chrysler which left hundreds of members on

regular layoff. Yet as residents of Windsor know the shop was built and then dismantled without a single autoworker stepping inside the place.

Hargrove has built his reputation on a supposed refusal to negotiate concession contracts and perhaps the 0.9% wage increase Ford workers will be looking at in the last two years of their contract will allow him to cynically continue that claim. Yet as CAW members in Windsor have related to *Strike* these latest contracts continue a long line of union losses that have left in their wake job cuts, layoffs, health and safety atrocities and increased company surveillance and disciplining of workers.

These same rank-and-filers suggest this flows from the entrenched business unionism of a CAW leadership in auto that sees itself as fixers for the missteps of company management. The watchword is 'working together to find solutions for improving production efficiency' (as if this is a union's job). "There's a good mood," Hargrove said. "People know the union, and the company, by the way, have done an excellent job in terms of dealing with what was a very difficult situation."

While some might think that such cuts would be cause for a strike it should be remembered that there hasn't been a strike against any of the Big Three in nine years (almost 20 years for Chrysler). For many rank-and-filers there's a sense that that weapon has been permanently retired ("Partners" don't strike 'partners' after all).

"Instead of solely resisting change, we've put the focus on managing change in a compassionate way." So I guess the 3500 folks who will soon be former autoworkers --and their families and communities-- can consider this a big ol' hug from Buzz.

Hunger Strikers at Detention Centre

by Mac Scott

Recently, a lot of attention has been centered on the issue of security certificates since two men, Mohammad Mahjoub and Hassan Almrei being detained based on these certificates held hunger strikes demanding such radical things as being able to see their families and receive proper medical care.

Though it seemed as if the state was prepared to let them die, both men ended their hunger strikes feeling optimistic, Hassan naming the huge popular support as his main motivation for ending, while Mohammad ended after finally receiving assurances that he would receive proper care for hepatitis C which he contacted in jail.

(cont'd on page 4)



.....inside this Strike!
3 Cheers for the
Engineers at
Hydro One
see page
3

Air Rail Link P3: War Pigs Profit off Public

by PJ Lilley

You'd think with the high gas prices these days that politicians might start to consider working families will increasingly need better public transit options. This makes sense to us, and when we heard the GO Train might expand and improve service to our neighborhood, we were initially pretty excited.

Then we discovered that the Liberals (Federal and Provincial governments) and GO Transit are moving along quickly with their proposal to use public money to build a high speed rail link that will be privately owned and operated. According to the plans, it won't even stop in our area, AND it'll cost a person \$20 one way to breeze through here from downtown out to the airport.

A subsidiary of SNC Lavalin won the P3 deal (public-private-partnership) which would route along some existing GO train tracks. The 'Blue 22' is the proposed private train, connecting the downtown with the airport, exclusively for business travelers. In the neighborhoods of Weston, Mount Denis, and the Junction, many people are concerned about the environmental damage wrought by the new routings, the speed and number of trains — which won't service these areas — and of course, the desperate lack of public study or debate on the plan.

Besides the controversial Highway 407 (which is by now widely considered to have been a huge public rip-off), SNC Lavalin has its snout in several other public money troughs. In Vancouver, it's won a bid for another Air-Rail Link between Richmond and Vancouver airport worth millions.

Transit isn't SNC's only interest however. This huge multinational is also a major war profiteer, part of a consortium selling bullets made in Canada to the US military, (as well as local cops and 70% of all Canadian armed forces ammunition.) These bullets are used in Iraq - bullets that are killing and wounding thousands of innocent people. The US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq has already killed more than 100,000 civilians and continues to destroy Iraqi lives. SNC's International arm also has several highly profitable contracts with direct interests in the

occupations of Haiti, Afghanistan and Palestine. And, of course, SNC is one of the federal Liberal Party's top 10 donors, so clearly, the push for "public-private partnerships" is really working for them.

But where does that leave the rest of us? We are stuck between the price gouging at the gas pumps and the rising costs of the slow bus service — which takes us over an hour just to get downtown when the train can do it in 11 minutes. We want to see the end of the war and occupations and all the profiteering that comes along with it. And, we want eco-friendly, non-profit, public transportation systems accessible to working families!

For more info, or to back the petition to Labour Council against BLUE 22, go to www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca



STRIKE!

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"an organization of revolutionaries coming from different movements of resistance who identify with the communist tradition within anarchism. The federation's activities are organized around theoretical development, anarchist propaganda, and intervention in the struggle of our class, be it autonomously or by direct involvement in social movements."

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for more info, or to contribute(!),
get November events listed, etc. ...

please contact:
<punchingout@nefac.net>

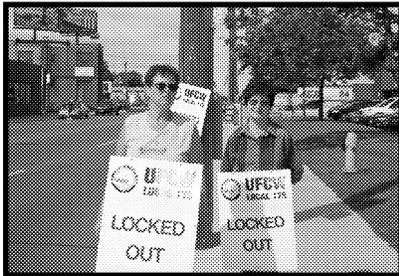
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M9N 3W9

Labour donated.



Grocery Lock Out

TORONTO - 90 unionized employees represented by Local 175 of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) have been locked out since August 25th. This IGA at Runnymede and Dundas St. West has been a staple in the neighbourhood for the past three decades. The store has now been closed for over a month with only security guards remaining on duty stationed at the front doors, making it very difficult for many seniors in the area to get their groceries.



“They’re trying to take everything away from us... things we’ve negotiated for over the years,” says Negotiating Committee member Sandra MacEachern.

The scrooge-like employer wants to reduce pensions, eliminate paid sick days, cut the daily rest period to one half-hour unpaid break, reduce vacation time and weaken union seniority. The company is also demanding that workers now pay half the cost of their uniforms – and is refusing to grant even minimal wage increases.

“The employer wants to gut the collective agreement,” says union representative Linval Dixon. “And that’s clearly unacceptable to these men and women who work hard to support themselves and their families. They’re prepared to fight for a good contract, and the Union will support them for as long as it takes.” Workers at a number of other Sobeys-owned stores in the GTA have been forced out to the picket line before achieving fair contracts.

REVOLT RADIO:
in Hamilton on
CFMU 93.3 FM

ANTI-POVERTY REPORT:
in TORONTO on
CHRY 105.5 FM

**News & Analysis
every thursday
@ Noon-12:30
LISTEN !**



McMaster- Union Busting University

by Wesley Morgan

HAMILTON - Casual custodians at McMaster University hit the picket lines Thursday, September 29th, fighting for a first contract and their jobs. Earlier this year, the administration attempted to force through major concessions in bargaining with the SEIU local representing full-time custodial staff, resulting in an overwhelming strike vote. The university administration backed off of concessions in bargaining with the full-time workers; but when the part-time custodial staff organized with SEIU, the administration attempted to break the back of this new local, representing the most marginalized group of workers on campus. Just before the certification vote, the administration fired the entire group, who then voted unanimously to unionize with SEIU. While it has since officially reinstated these workers, the university has contracted out their jobs, refusing to schedule the majority of these workers, who have not been paid in months.

Poetic Victory for Engineers

Hydro One’s management thought they could win concessions by cutting future hires’ wages, benefits and pensions. They thought the union could be isolated from the broader labour movement and from public support. They were very wrong on all three counts.

<http://www.fairnessfor1professionals.com/news/striker.html>

Here is an excerpt from a poem by a member of the Society of Engineers who just won their 105-day ‘solidarity’ strike against Hydro One...

Cast off that white collar, we’re no longer chained.
Chained to our desks we haven’t complained.
Worked through our breaks to make the deadline,
the thanks that we got was a trip to the line.
Backed into a corner we had no choice,
The only way out was to fight with our voice.
We stuck to the high road, we would not succumb,
to the gutter tactics of those management scum.
We didn’t back down and we didn’t cave in.
Through the waves of emotion the verdict came in.
Fought for the future, fought for what’s right.
Victory is ours lets dance through the night.

Mike DuBroy Sept. 14, 2005

Security Certificates

(...cont'd from pg. 1)

Neither of these men has had nor ever will have a trial nor a chance to defend themselves. Neither has been able to see the evidence being used to justify their detention, neither has been convicted of a crime. Both can potentially be held forever in the name of national security. And they've not even been allowed contact visits with their children.

They're being held under orders of a "security certificate" issued in the name of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and the Minister of the Border Protection Services Agency where they feel a person is a threat to national security. The certificates are issued and then reviewed in Federal Court, where the judge sees all evidence, but any evidence deemed to be dangerous to national security if revealed is withheld from the person who the certificate is issued against and their counsel.

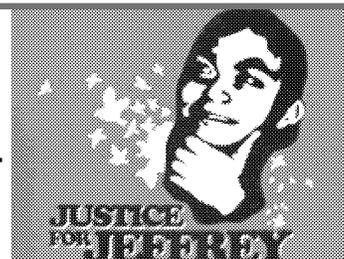
This is in an era when the capitalist empire is consolidating power through military might in Iraq, Haiti, Afghanistan and other areas. At the same time, they are militarizing the borders as right wing militias hunt so-called "illegal" immigrants crossing into the United States from Mexico or Canada. These racist "Minutemen" are even planning to patrol Vermont!

As capital stops the movement of poor people and working people around the world, they increasingly impose draconian conditions on workers and the poor here. As they attack people of colour and Muslim people in other parts of the world to justify their military expenditures and to consolidate their hold on the middle east, they need to vilify the same populations here.

If we are to build a better world, we need to build a world where poor and working people can decide where they want to live not states and large corporations. If you want to get involved with the fight to stop detentions, deportations and security certificates contact: No One Is Illegal [nooneisillegal@riseup.net], or the Campaign to Stop the Secret Trials [tasc@web.ca].

**Itigil ang karahasan ng pulis!
Stop police violence!**

**Justice for Jeffrey Coalition-
www.reodica.com/jeff**



In May 2004, 17 year-old Jeffrey Reodica was shot 3 times in the back by plain clothed Toronto police. Witnesses attest the plain clothes officers did not identify themselves as police and that Jeffrey was not armed. Jeffrey died 3 days later. His family and the community are still demanding answers...

**Saturday, Nov 5, 2005 @ 6pm:
"ALL FOR ONE" Dinner & Dance**

Fundraiser @ St. Nicholas Greek Community Church
(Greek-Canadian Community of Toronto: 3840 Finch Ave.
East - just west of Kennedy on the north side of Finch)

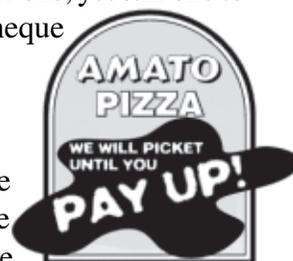
**Tickets \$25 proceeds go to the
Jeffrey Reodica Memorial Trust Fund**

Pickets Get the Goods: Amato's Pizza cuts a cheque!

Amato owners felt the pressure of pickets (including a spirited one on Labour Day co-organized by Punching Out), phone calls that jammed the delivery line, and letters demanding that they pay up. Finally they agreed to pay Michelle's owed back wages with certified cheques. September saw one, yet still one to go. Failure to pay the second cheque will be met by a lively picket.

**But what about other
Amato workers?**

Employers can break the law without consequence because labour laws are not enforced. The Workers Action Centre is going after bosses like Amato! They're also pressing the Ministry of Labour to enforce basic employment standards and penalize bad bosses.



For more info: contact
Mary at 416-531-2411
ext. 246 or [gellatlm@lao.on.ca]

**Do you have a problem landlord,
welfare caseworker or
bad boss? Need solidarity
to fight back?**

CALL the

**Anti-Poverty Working Group
CUPE-SCFP**

CUPE Local 3903 | York University, 104 East Office Building
4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario M3J-1P3 | Tel: 416-736-2100 X31099 Fax: 416-736-5480