

The Public i, a project of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, is an independent, collectively-run, community-oriented publication that provides a forum for topics underreported and voices underrepresented in the dominant media. All contributors to the paper are volunteers. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit articles or story ideas to the editorial collective. We prefer, but do not necessarily restrict ourselves to, articles on issues of local impact written by authors with local ties.

The opinions are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the IMC as a whole.

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THE PUBLIC I

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You don't need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The Public i is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), to post a story to the web site (<http://www.ucimc.org>), or to contact one of the editors.

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- Make a tax-deductible contribution.
- Help distribute the Public i around the Champaign-Urbana area.
- Help with fund-raisers.
- Join the editorial board.

"It's a Taste of the Middle East"

by Marcia Zumbahlen

Jerusalem Restaurant, on the corner of Wright and Healey in Urbana, has been serving Middle Eastern Cuisine to the C-U community since 1998. Three years ago one of the workers moved up to become its new owner.

"I've worked here since it opened," Hamid said, "I haven't changed a thing." And here's why.

Jerusalem Restaurant is a wonderful alternative to the Green Street fare: the cookin' is good and the meals are within the price range of students. You can even ask for a special dish. "It's up to the customers," Hamid said, and customers love it!

Jerusalem Restaurant is also a gathering place for international students, faculty, and socially progressive groups who want to share a meal while they discuss their lives, academics, and politics. When the campus empties during holidays, many



Hamid, owner of the Jerusalem Café

international students find "home" at Jerusalem Restaurant, the artifacts alone give them a taste of life abroad but Hamid's cooking sears the experience. "We're open every day except Sundays. We're even open during Christmas time and Thanksgiving when most other places are closed," Hamid said.

Jerusalem Restaurant is happy to support the Public i because it creates the kind of discussion Hamid likes to see in his restaurant. Those of us at the Public i appreciate Hamid's support and we hope you stop by Jerusalem Restaurant between 11 am and 9 pm, Monday-Saturday to enjoy a falafel, some hummus, or another Middle Eastern dish to your liking. And feel free to talk to your heart's desire. You won't be rushed to finish your meal and you're welcome to hang out as long as you like.



A patron reading the Public i

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A Paper of the People

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The Dignity

of Labor



Left, immigrant worker's rights supporters marching down Green Street in Champaign on May Day. Right, the Champaign County Worker's Memorial.



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MAY DAY 1886 AND THE EIGHT-HOUR-DAY MARTYRS

By David Johnson



During the summer of 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades called for May 1st 1886 to be the beginning of a nationwide movement for the eight-hour work day. Both state of Illinois and federal employees were already covered by an eight-hour work day law since 1867. The problem was that the federal government failed to enforce its own law, and in Illinois state employers forced workers to sign waivers of the law before being hired.

The eight-hour work day movement caught the imagination of workers all over the country. After almost two years of organizing, nation-wide demonstrations were held on Saturday May 1st, 1886. Chicago had the largest turn-out with 80,000 workers marching up Michigan Avenue, chanting "eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, eight hours for what we will!"

The unions most strongly represented were the Building Trades. This show of worker solidarity shocked many employers, who feared a workers' revolt. Although thousands of police and National Guard troops were mobilized along the parade route, no incidents of violence occurred and all ended peacefully. Protests continued the next day, Sunday May 2nd, without any problems. However the following day the Chicago police, led by Captain Becker (whose hatred of unions was well known), attacked and killed four picketing striking workers at the McCormick Reaper plant.

This attack by the police provoked a protest rally scheduled for the following evening, Tuesday May 4th, at Haymarket Square (corner of Des Plaines between Randolph and Lake St.) About twenty-five hundred people attended the Haymarket protest, which lasted about two hours. Many people had left early due to the rain, and just

when the meeting was ending, with only about 200 people remaining, several hundred Chicago police on horseback attacked the crowd. A few minutes into the attack a bomb exploded, killing a police officer. The police at that point panicked and began shooting into the crowd, killing four workers and six fellow police officers by mistake.

The next day martial law was declared nation-wide. In Chicago, labor leaders were arrested, and union newspapers were closed down by the police. Eventually eight union organizers were selected from a cross-section of the labor movement in Chicago and held for trial. Six of the eight defendants were not even at Haymarket when the police attack occurred. The two-month trial that followed ranks as one of the worst miscarriages of "justice" in U.S. history. Eventually, three of the eight men were sent to Joliet Penitentiary and the other five men were condemned to be murdered (hanged) by the state of Illinois, despite many witnesses for the defendants and no credible evidence presented by the prosecution.

One of the imprisoned defendants, Louis Lingg, supposedly committed "suicide" by placing a dynamite blasting cap in his mouth while he was in solitary confinement. In June of 1893, Illinois Governor John P. Altgeld (name-sake for Altgeld Hall on the U of I Urbana campus) pardoned the surviving Haymarket defendants.

The Haymarket affair took on international significance in July of 1889, when a delegate from the U.S. AFL (American Federation of Labor) recommended at a labor conference in Paris, France, that May 1st be set aside as International Labor Day, in memory of the Haymarket martyrs. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Today, over one hundred years after the fact, almost every industrialized country in the world celebrates May Day as Labor Day. The irony is that the country where May

Day originated is the country that does not celebrate it officially or in large numbers by U.S. citizens.

For nearly thirty years May Day and the first Monday in September were celebrated as Labor Days in the U.S., until the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia. Because of the Russian Communist party's "borrowing" of the celebration of May Day and the pre-cold war propaganda of the U.S. corporate media, many workers in the U.S. felt uncomfortable celebrating May Day.

However, many U.S. workers and union activists have slowly but surely begun to bring back the May Day celebration over the last ten years or so. The significance of May Day is now being recognized. That is the fight for the eight hour day, decent pay, benefits, and working conditions, as well as a worker's right to join a union of her or his choice. Probably no single event has influenced the history of labor in Illinois, the United States, and the world, more than the Chicago Haymarket affair.

Now more than ever, with the eight hour work day and general economic standards of working people being attacked by corporate greed and control, with millions of native-born Americans losing decent paying jobs, with millions of undocumented workers being exploited and blamed for taking the jobs of U.S. workers, May Day is needed as an annual solidarity day of celebration and action by ALL working people.

Despite our differences, May Day should be the day where we ALL join in solidarity and annually renew our commitment to continue the fight against our common enemy, the corporate state, and struggle for a new society that is TRULY of the people, by the people, and for the people, here and throughout the entire world!

Champaign County Worker's Memorial

By Belden Fields

On May Day we celebrate the struggle for the eight-hour day and other workers' rights. In the above article, David Johnson recounts the history of May Day that is too little known in this country.

Workers who try to organize are still being shot in countries such, Colombia and Guatemala. And while we are rapidly losing the eight-hour day and the right to strike (e.g., the use of "replacement workers," known to the labor movement as "scabs") for which so many struggled and died, it is the rare case indeed when workers or union organizers are actually shot in the United States. However, work is often dangerous, and becoming more so with the Bush administration's emasculation of OSHA, the federal body that is supposed to enforce health and safety conditions for U.S. workers. Of course, not all accidents are due to violations of health and safety regulations.

In September 2, 2002, there was a dedication of Worker's Memorial in memory of workers who have lost their lives on the job in Champaign County since 1950. There are presently 108 names engraved on the memorial. A leading role in the creation of the memorial and research into people who died was Bill Bland, a former president of the AFL-CIO of Champaign County, and subsequently mayor of the City of Champaign. Funds for the project were raised through grassroots donations, local trade union and contractor donations, and a grant that was obtained through the office of Representative Timothy Johnson. The labor to construct the memorial was donated by members of the building trades unions.

The Worker's Memorial is an impressive, solemn, and peaceful site. Its marble tablets and flag pole sit in Dobbs Park, on the road to Parkland College from Mattis Avenue. We encourage our readers to visit it, to pay their respects to the people who died on the job in our county, and to reflect on how many people gave their lives in order to get their right to unionize recognized by the government and employers in this country—and how that right is being eroded and denied today.





Public Square Commentary on AWARE

by Jan Kruse



Jan Kruse, member of AWARE and of the local Independent Media Center.

If you have seen the local newspaper recently you may have read that some in the community think AWARE, the local anti-war anti-racism effort of Urbana Champaign, is some kind of radical group of subversives out to overthrow the government. In a recent commentary I voiced opposition to violence carried out with US tax dollars and in our name. But it seems there is just no way to convince the anti anti-war people about who we are through the print media. So I decided to try the WILL Public Square.

Actually, AWARE doesn't mind all the exposure and publicity we have recently received. It seems when you are working hard for peace and justice (that is; the alternative to war and racism) some folks may be fearful of the results that may come forth and affect their lives. Some people's lives may be impacted by AWARE's efforts. Here is an example of the effect AWARE might have on you and your life. With the help of our vast network of influence AWARE was able to legally place referenda on the annual township meeting agendas. And because of this effort,

next February local township residents in Champaign and Urbana will be able to cast advisory votes on issues such as ending the funding for war, voting to help fund assistance for the poorest among us, voting to regain the basic rights of citizens, and voting to keep war with Iran off the US agenda. Giving citizens the opportunity to cast ballots... pretty radical stuff.

I imagine the reason some folks are not too happy with AWARE and its tactics might be due to our ability to bring together the usual suspects. That would be your neighbors. We are teachers, retirees, ordained ministers, university folks, high school students, medical staff, librarians, school administrators and veterans.

Each time a letter to the editor appears and mentions AWARE and gives credit to our humble group for so many positive undertakings in the community, we smile knowing how impressive our reputation has grown! AWARE has come out of the shadows and though some say AWARE is a radical cult of blind followers there seems to be no stopping AWARE as we continue to gather strength and momentum.

Since AWARE meets publicly each Sunday at the local Independent Media Center at the old post office in Urbana, it's extremely difficult to keep secret our schemes of working to end a war based on lies, and of working for peace & justice and to oppose racism. Especially since all

are welcome to attend and help plan the next venture in global intrigue at the local level.

There is no secret knock or password, just walk on in. You may be surprised at our humble group. Although it's probably best to keep the actual member list "off the record," it is possible someone you know might be a member of AWARE and is working for peace and justice in the community.

If you are brave, believe in free speech, have an opinion, and may or may not work well with others, but care about humanity and how we engage the world, then you might like to join us next Sunday at 5:00 PM at the IMC. Come on in and join the effort.

The preceding commentary was heard on public broadcasting station, WILL-AM 580, during "The Public Square," a weekly 3-minute opinion piece from any member of the community on any subject of interest to him/her. "The Public Square" airs at 4:45 pm and 6:45 pm Fridays. Commentaries are archived on WILL's website. To submit a commentary of your own for broadcast, visit <http://www.will.uiuc.edu/community/publicsquare>.

What Happens When Women Seek Justice In Champaign County: The Case of Brian Silverman

By Brian Dolinar



On April 9, 2007, local Urbana attorney Brian Silverman began a nine-month suspension handed down by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) in Springfield. They found credible the allegations made by a girlfriend of one of Silverman's clients that he had extorted her for money and sexual favors. She says she performed sexual acts for Silverman in exchange for his assurance that he could get the State's Attorney, who he said was a friend and "will do just about anything I say," to go easy on her boyfriend. The State's Attorney was Tom Difanis, now Presiding Judge of the entire Champaign County criminal justice system. According to the woman, she was not only forced into sexual relations with Silverman against her will, but she was asked to provide \$5,000 "under the table" for Difanis and find someone to "be good" to him.

Silverman came to town when he was hired as the first full-time Public Defender in Champaign County. One woman who was a member of the County Board that hired Silverman in 1979 told me that in his first week on the job he made sexual advances toward her. She was in his new office when he closed the door, pinned her up against the wall, and kissed her without her consent. If this was how he would treat a County Board Member, how was Silverman treating the poor women he was defending?

This man made his career by defending the indigent as a Public Defender and by serving as counsel for many women as a divorce lawyer. What is most disturbing about Silverman is that he was hired to protect these people, and yet he sometimes further victimized and mistreated them when they were already in a difficult situation.

An unscrupulous attorney, Silverman remains defiant and still accepts no wrongdoing. He even had the nerve to appeal the ARDC decision. The appeal was rejected. A nine-month suspension is light punishment for the many years Silverman took advantage of his clients.

JUSTICE FOR SALE IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY.

At least six women have come forward to say they were sexually harassed by attorney Brian Silverman. On September 23, 2004, a complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. It claims that Silverman engaged in improper sexual misconduct with four women: a client, a prospective client, and the girlfriends of two clients. It also includes two counts of improper communication with individuals without their lawyers presence. Outside of the ARDC complaint, two other women – a local attorney and a Champaign County Board member – have said that they were also sexually harassed by Silverman.

One of the counts in the ARDC complaint was filed on behalf of a female client who hired Silverman to litigate a small claims case in 2004. She alleges that Silverman told her he would take her case for free if she would let him "flirt" with her, if she would "dress nice," and if she would discuss additional "conditions." The woman says she asked Silverman if he was married and he responded, "what [his wife] didn't know won't hurt her."

A second count involves a 2002 case with one of Silverman's clients who alleges that he made several sexual advances towards her. She claims that during one of their phone conversations she broke down crying and Silverman attempted to console her by telling

her the "only problem" was that she needed to have sex and then he began making licking noises over the phone.

A third count was filed regarding a client in a 1991 divorce case. This woman felt that she had been abused twice over: "I was getting a divorce from somebody that was mentally abusive towards me, and then I expected [Silverman] to help me. Instead it ended up being sexual harassment... throughout the whole time."

Yet she also felt further victimized because she was poor. She would have fired Silverman and hired another lawyer but says, "I didn't have the money to get another lawyer."

The ARDC found this woman to be a "credible and believable witness."

But the most egregious allegations made against Silverman were from the girlfriend of a client who says that in 1994 she was extorted for \$5,000 and sexual favors in order to get her boyfriend's sentence reduced. This was largely the basis for Silverman's suspension. This misconduct, in the words of the ARDC, "tended to bring the administration of justice and the legal profession into disrepute." They cited the testimony of this woman who said she felt as if "justice was for sale in Champaign County."

NO DEFENSE FOR THIS KIND OF DEFENSE

Brian Silverman became a licensed attorney in 1971. He has been a member of the local legal community since 1979 when he was appointed as the first full-time Public Defender in Champaign County. He held that position until 1987 when he opened his own private practice, now called Silverman and Associates at Main and Broadway in downtown Urbana. In almost 30 years of working in Champaign County, he has become known as a criminal defense lawyer, a divorce lawyer, and an entrenched member of the legal community.

On June 18, 1993, Ray Rowan was busted for drugs. Rowan hired Silverman as his attorney, but his girlfriend helped raise money to bail him out of jail and pay for legal fees. Rowan's girlfriend spoke to Silverman several times on the phone and also met him personally to talk about the case.

According to an affidavit by Rowan's girlfriend, Silverman invited her out to lunch to discuss Ray's case. She claims Silverman told her that then State's Attorney Difanis "does not like Ray" but that he and Difanis were good friends and that Difanis "will do just about anything I say." Silverman asked her out to lunch to discuss the case further. When she agreed and asked what he wanted to eat, she said he responded, "I want to eat you."

Continued on next page



Attorney Brian Silverman.



What Happens When Women Seek Justice In Champaign County: The Case of Brian Silverman

Continued from the previous page

Rowan's girlfriend, who lived in Chicago, took a bus to Champaign and was picked up at the station by Silverman. She recalled that he was driving a burgundy Lexus with his name on his license plate (his Illinois plates still read "BRIAN"). According to her affidavit, she says that Silverman told her the State's Attorney was "still trying to get a lot of time" for her boyfriend. She said Silverman told her he could get it down to two years, but it was going to cost \$5,000 "under the table," and she would "have to be good to him."

Yet according to this woman, besides getting his own favors, Silverman was also asking her for \$5000 to give to Difanis and to find a sexual partner for his friend. She says Silverman told her that "Mr. Difanis was in the middle of a divorce and if you can find someone to be good to him we can probably get the 2 years I stated." Difanis was, in fact, in the middle of divorce proceedings in 1993.

According to the woman's affidavit, Silverman said that Difanis was coming over to his house for a cocktail and they would talk about the case. Silverman then rubbed her leg and asked when he could see her again.

After raising the money, Rowan's girlfriend says she called Silverman at his home. Silverman's wife answered the phone and she asked to talk to her husband. According to testimony, Silverman's wife called out Difanis' name, then excused herself and said there was company at the house. Silverman's wife told the ARDC that Difanis had, in fact, been to their home on several occasions. According to Rowan's girlfriend, when Silverman got on the phone, he asked how she was doing and if he could "eat my pussy." When she questioned him about his marriage, Silverman said his wife was in the other room. Rowan's girlfriend said she would be back in Champaign the following Monday and Silverman offered to pick her up at the bus station.

IF YOU DO ME, I'LL DO YOU.

Rowan's girlfriend says she went to Silverman's office on August 16, 1993. She gave him \$5,000 in cash. Silverman took it and said, "what about the other thing." According to the woman, Silverman then started rubbing her leg, stuck his hands up her dress and said, "Come on. It's for Ray. Don't worry about it." She says he asked her to perform oral sex but she started crying and told him "no." She then describes Silverman taking off his pants and stripping down to a pair of white boxer shorts, black socks, and a t-shirt. She specifically remembered he was wearing a walking device on his legs.

Silverman has a debilitating disease, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a form of muscular dystrophy, and before his suspension he could be seen going to and from the courthouse in a motorized wheel chair.

Silverman allegedly said to her, "If you do me, I'll do you," meaning if she performed sexual acts, he would take care of Ray Rowan's case. He asked her to, "play with [his] penis" and then ejaculated on Lewis' buttocks. After he was done, she says he gave her a tissue and said, "don't tell anybody."

She did not tell Ray Rowan until just days before his pleading guilty on September 2, 2003 to case 93-CF-500. State's Attorney Tom Difanis had agreed to a plea bargain for a nine-year sentence to run concurrently with 15 months that Rowan still had to serve in prison because he had broken parole from a 1989 case. But Judge Delamar revoked the concurrent sentence and ruled that the sentences would run consecutively. Rowan faced over ten years in prison and felt betrayed by Silverman.

Rowan's girlfriend confronted Silverman at the courthouse because he "told me it was gonna be two years." She said Silverman replied, "Well, I lied" and told her, "so sue me."

A civil suit for \$15,000 and punitive damages was filed by the woman in 1994, with Ora J. Baer, II as attorney (94-L-1050). Despite Silverman's many attempts to get the case dismissed, it went to trial in 2000. The woman gave her account and testified that Silverman's conduct made her feel "sick, hurt, mostly ashamed that men in his business took an oath to help us, and he didn't."

The civil suit ended in a 6-6 split decision and was declared a mistrial. Just days before a second jury trial in 2002, the parties reached a settlement, the terms of which are confidential.

SLEAZY SEXUAL PROCLIVITIES

In 1999, despite these allegations, Brian Silverman had the arrogance to run for a judgeship. He announced he was running in a *News-Gazette* article and basing his campaign on "family values." The next day, another woman, also a local attorney, was prompted to write a letter to the *News-Gazette*. She alleged that in August 1994 Silverman solicited her for oral sex. Referring to the pending civil suit against Silverman, she writes, "with this letter, at least two women have gone public with respect to Brian Silverman's sleazy sexual proclivities."

Why Silverman was never prosecuted on criminal charges remains a mystery. Did his relationship with State's Attorney

We were given permission to reprint this letter submitted to the *News-Gazette* sent from a woman who wishes to remain anonymous.

September 23, 1999
The *News-Gazette*
P.O. Box 677
Champaign, IL 61820

To the Editor:

Reference please the Champaign-Urbana *News-Gazette* article entitled "Attorney [Brian] Silverman says he's running for judgeship," subtitled "Republican will base campaign on family values."

Attorney Brian Silverman is not, in my opinion, fit to be a judge. Brian Silverman is certainly not, in my opinion, fit to be a judge based on "family values."

Brian Silverman has now publicly stated that the "core of [his] campaign philosophy "will be family values" that he want[s] to bring those family values to the bench with [him]." Thus, his non-existent family values and the horrible thought that he just might in fact get to the bench with those non-existent family values intact are a matter of great public concern.

In August, 1994, Brian Silverman solicited me for an act of oral sex. More graphically, he suggested that he lie down on the floor of my law office and I then 'suck him off.' At the time, Brian Silverman was married and living with his wife and children.

Brian Silverman has also been sued for soliciting the same or similar oral sex from the girlfriend of a client. Brian Silverman expressed, in my presence, a concern that that girlfriend might have had a tape recorder during the office conference at which his offer of a reduced fee in exchange for oral sex was allegedly made. At the time of this alleged money for sex exchange, Brian Silverman was married and living with his wife and children.

Thus, with this letter, at least two women have gone public with respect to Brian Silverman's sleazy sexual proclivities.

Neither female attorneys nor female litigants should ever be subjected to Brian Silverman's obviously Neanderthal and totally disrespectful attitude toward women and especially should never be subjected to such an attitude, whether overt or covert, in a judge deciding any case no matter what the topic.

The thought of such a total 'pig' on the bench ruling on such topics as sexual harassment, domestic violence, child custody, rape and other such matters requires, in the interest of an informed electorate, that I (and any others similarly situated) speak out loud and clear and often.

I apologize to Brian Silverman's wife for this necessarily public disclosure. I very much wish Brian had given greater consideration to you and his children, that is, I wish he had exercised some real family values, prior to once again stroking his massive and perverted male ego.

I have been an active Democrat; thus, Brian Silverman may suggest that this letter is just a partisan attack. Therefore, I note, in closing, that I would not ever vote, in either a primary or general election, for Catherine Barbercheck, the only declared Democratic candidate.

Difanis have anything to do with it? Judge Difanis would not return my phone calls to confirm or deny his knowledge of Silverman's sexual misconduct.

Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice has filed a formal complaint against Judge Difanis with the Judicial Inquiry Board for his rulings in the Kurt Hjort case and in the Patrick Thompson trial. The complaint also cites Difanis for injudicious comments he has made, comments that were printed in the *News-Gazette*. In 2004, Difanis said about one woman who was a drug addict, "She is a hopeless and useless junkie whose only accomplishment is that she's fertile and able to bring children into this world." In another

case, he referred to a male defendant as an "undereducated, underemployed bum."

If Judge Difanis is going to make such unkind comments about defendants, many of whom are poor and minorities, he should take a closer look at his own colleagues in the legal system.

This article is based on public documents included in the 1994 civil law suit against Silverman (94-L-1050) and decisions published by the ARDC (<http://www.iardc.org/>).

For a full text of this article see [ucimc.org](http://www.ucimc.org).



New Sanctuary Movement

By Rev. Mike Mulberry

This speech was given by Rev. Mike Mulberry, Community United Church of Christ (<http://www.community-ucc.org>), at the campus May Day "Stop the Raids" rally. The New Sanctuary Movement began on May 9, 2007, in faith communities nation wide.

For too long, our country has ignored the blueprint of our history, the history of communities, collective action, and organized workers which have built the backbone of wide-ranging prosperity within our nation. Rarely is that history taught in our schools. Rarely is that history celebrated with the pomp and circumstance afforded the display given to celebrations of greed and avarice, military power and death. The backbone is weighed over, threatening to break because the hands and the eyes reach out for values which destroy the whole body.

Throughout our nation's history there have been communities who have practiced worker justice in organizing labor, material support for those in need, legal counsel for those seeking civil rights, and prophetic hospitality for those in the underground railroad and the sanctuary movement. We know in our hearts how these communities have provided the moral backbone of our country, but rarely has this history made its way into popular consciousness because fear and greed have been the gospel

preached in the town hall, the daily newspaper, and, yes, sad to say, too often in our faith communities. Our first question is not, "What migrant trail, what desert path, what sojourn is God making among us?" Sadly, our first question has too often been, "What will be our liability?"

Once again the call has gone out to faith communities across the nation to be people who practice worker justice, material support, counsel for civil rights, and prophetic hospitality into a new sanctuary movement. The Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy has failed. Everyone, from right to left of the political spectrum agrees. No militarized border will keep people who face such grim choices in their country from the promise of hope in our country. People will travel to save their families. We would expect no less of ourselves.

A border policy which offers a gauntlet of death and separates families, one from another, is only akin to what our country did with the slave trade. This must not be. A border policy, proposed by our president, which gives all the advantages to corporate America, built to avoid legal liability, and does not allow for families to remain together is about the unjust status quo. This must not be. President Bush has said the American workers will not take the jobs of undocumented workers. We say to our president, "Respectfully, sir, American workers will take those jobs but will not work for slave pay. This must not be."

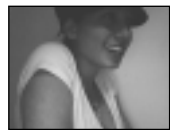
So ten faith communities have organized in New York. Ten faith communities have organized in Los Angeles. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus washed the feet of his migrant worker friends. So this Maundy Thursday, in San Diego, faith community leaders washed the feet of migrant workers. On that same day, during the week of Passover, San Diego faith community leaders delivered bitter herbs to the Federal Immigration office. They did this to say, "What we have now, what is being proposed, this must not be. We have more backbone."

The New Sanctuary Movement is now being organized in the Midwest. The central places for that movement are Kansas City, Missouri, Chicago, Illinois, and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

So as we seek faith communities, collective action in this community, we say we shall be the people who once again provide the blueprint for the life and health for all the people living and working in this area. When worker justice is needed in our community, we shall be the people. When material support is needed in our community, we shall be the people. When legal counsel for civil rights is needed in our community, we shall be the people. When sanctuary, Sabbath, rest, and prophetic hospitality is needed in our community, we shall be the people. This shall be, because we have the backbone. Amen.

A Victory For Free Speech

by Shara Esbenshade



In the February issue of the *Public i*, Shara Esbenshade and Cody Bralts wrote about police abuse of power in an incident last year. In November, 2006, the Champaign Police Department was called by Dana Brenner, the associate director of athletics at the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA), to the scene of the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) statewide high school football championships to stop community members from handing out flyers. Members of AWARE, the Anti-War Anti-Racism Effort, were passing out literature about military recruiting and the importance of getting recruiters' promises in writing. They were flyering in front of the Illinois National Guard's set-up in Tent City, and although they had previously attained permission from the University Police to do so, and had done so the year

before without incident, on Saturday, November 25, the Champaign Police Department (CPD) forced them to move away from the National Guard to flyer.

AWARE members Durl Kruse, Jan Kruse, Cody Bralts, and Shara Esbenshade pursued meetings with the police departments and the university to find out why their freedom of speech had been violated in this way. The University of Illinois' Student Code allows for flyering on University Property. In March, AWARE finally got a response from the University concerning its request for an appeal hearing. Chancellor Richard Herman's conclusion after reviewing the case was great news for those concerned about local civil rights. His written letter to Durl Kruse stated:

"Dean Riley has assisted me in reviewing the circumstances of this interaction, and spoken with the principal parties involved. It is my opinion that you were

inappropriately restricted from distributing your flyers on this day. The campus policy, as you have partially cited, would allow you to do so, unless there were appropriate time, place, or manner restrictions that required restriction or limitation of this distribution. I am not persuaded that limitations were necessary at this time."

He then went on to explain that the police and Memorial Stadium staff would be educated about these rules and policies, advised us to continue to communicate with the police about flyering activities, and reassured us that the University policy's purpose was to provide an environment that encourages free speech. Chancellor Herman had thus denounced Dana Brenner's actions as counter to the spirit of the U of I. We still do not know why Dana Brenner wanted us removed, but Anthony Holman, assistant executive director of IHSA, told Uni High principal Kathleen

Patton that it was the DIA that arranged for the National Guard's presence at Tent City. This raises questions about whether Dana Brenner was acting on behalf of the National Guard. We have tried repeatedly to schedule a meeting with Dana Brenner but he has stated that the University Police would speak for the University in this matter and recently he has completely ignored our requests.

Chancellor Herman's letter will hopefully ensure that such a violation of our freedom of speech does not happen again. However, there are still unanswered questions. The National Guard was allowed to continue to distribute things in an area we were prohibited on that day. We will continue to pursue our concerns about Dana Brenner's motives and why the National Guard received this privileged treatment.

Patrick Thompson's Conviction Overturned

by Brian Dolinar

Patrick Thompson's new attorneys Robert Kirchner and Ruth Wyman recently had a major victory in the campaign to clear his name. They overturned the guilty verdict of a man who was wrongly convicted – they did this without DNA testing and before years were served in prison. In 99% of cases, these attempts are unsuccessful, indicating the uniqueness of Thompson's case.

On April 24, 2007, Judge Harry Clem handed down a decision to grant a new trial to black activist Patrick Thompson. This could result in a third trial. Thompson's supporters demand that Special Prosecutor Michael Vujovich drop all charges and not spend one more cent of taxpayer money on this flimsy case.

In downstate Illinois, an environment of sundown towns and law-and-order Republicans, the police are as brutal as in Chicago. Here in Urbana-Champaign, the black community is kept segregated from the University of Illinois campus and is heavily policed. Starting a cop watch program in 2004, Thompson captured local police on videotape as they arrived in "arrest mode" when deal-

ing with the black community. For his media activism, the local authorities have come down hard on Thompson.

In July 2006, Thompson was found guilty of home invasion and sexual abuse. A 2005 trial in which Thompson defended himself pro se had ended in a mistrial. The guilty verdict in the second trial carried a sentence of 6-30 years. Thompson's supporters say the state never presented any evidence or witnesses, and that this case was retribution for his political activism.

Patrick Thompson, along with Martel Miller, is co-founder of VEYA (Visionaries Educating Youth and Adults). The two currently have a \$15 million law suit against the police departments of Champaign and Urbana, as well as the Sheriff's Department and the administration of the previous State's Attorney, for illegally pursuing charges of felony eavesdropping. In 2004, Thompson and Miller were videotaping police and out of their footage produced the documentary Citizen's Watch. The day after the first eavesdropping charges were filed, on August 24, 2004, Thompson was accused of sexual abuse and home

invasion by a white woman and arrested by Urbana police.

After Thompson was found guilty in July 2006, attorneys Bob Kirchner and Ruth Wyman took up his case. They filed a 90 page motion for a new trial, backed up by 800 examples of case law. Additional witnesses also testified in two days of court hearings. The basis of the request for a new trial was ineffective counsel, contradictory statements made by the accuser, and additional evidence that has not been heard by a jury.

Kirchner and Wyman are to be commended for their heroic efforts to save Thompson from the clutches of the Champaign County criminal justice system.

The Thompson family is very happy with the decision. But they should not have to live one more day with the threat of a third trial.

Special Prosecutor Vujovich should DROP ALL CHARGES!

For coverage of the post-trial hearings see [ucimc.org: http://www.ucimc.org/node/712](http://www.ucimc.org/node/712) and <http://www.ucimc.org/node/922>



McCarthyism, Blacklists, and Urbana-Champaign: A Community's Stand for Civil Liberties and One Family's Difficult Experience

By Courtney Cazden



Dr. Cazden is Professor Emerita at Harvard Graduate School of Education and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1953 with a Master's Degree in education.

The following was a talk given on April 17, 2007 organized by the College of Education. This transcription of the talk was shortened for the Public i due to space considerations.

This is a very special occasion for me in two ways. It's not often that you have a chance to retell the story of a personal past, in this case a 54 year-old past, to an audience beyond family and friends, an audience of strangers, to whom that story may still have meaning, and even some contemporary relevance. The story is your history, the legacy which you as citizens of this university and of this community should be very proud.

We will have to go back in time and imagine the political climate 54 years ago in the spring term of 1953. This climate is at one and the same time the larger context and the dominant rationale for the web of repressive actions later referred to as McCarthyism nationally, and for the Boyles Bills here in Illinois. From the top-down, there was a four-decade Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. There was a three-year Korean War involving the U.S. in a hot war against communism in North Korea, and China. During the same period here at home in the U.S., there was the arrest and trial of the so-called "atomic spies," Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, ending with their deaths in the electric chair on June 19, 1953. The effect – some, including myself, would say intentional effect – was to add the threat of the ultimate punishment, death at the hands of the federal government for so-called "un-American" activity.

In this atmosphere, anti-subversive legislation was introduced three times in the Illinois state legislature: in 1949, when it failed to pass; in 1951, when it did pass but was vetoed by then Democratic governor Adlai Stevenson; and again in 1953, which is where our story begins.

In February 1953, the bills were reintroduced. March to May was a period of increasingly intense activity against the Broyles Bills, led by the ad hoc Champaign-Urbana Committee to Oppose the Broyles Bills. Of course, anti-Broyles activity took place in Chicago and elsewhere in the state. But I think it's fair to say that in the decisions of the state legislature in many U.S. states, then and even now, rural areas carry disproportionate weight and this university – outside of Chicago, downstate, and the land grant institution with all the relationships and responsibilities that land grant status entails – this university community was positioned to play, and did play, a very significant role.

TWO LETTERS BY FIVE HOUSEWIVES

I will not detail all the speeches and statements and letters to the editor by named groups of students, faculty, religious and business leaders. I'm going to read excerpts from two letters to the editor in which five housewives, including myself, reported on the Senate hearing early in the campaign in March, and then reported on the House hearing much later in the campaign in May. Both letters were published in full in the local press.

Back in 1953, I was a part-time Master's student here in elementary education, wife of an assistant professor of music and, indeed, a housewife, with two small daughters, the younger born in Urbana in 1952. I participated then as a citizen and speak today in that same role.

The following is an excerpt from the first letter to the editor signed by the five housewives that appeared in the Champaign-Urbana *Courier* on March 23, 1953:

"We were present during the entire four and one half hour hearing and feel that many important aspects of the

proceedings have not been included in reports in the newspapers and on the radio. Eight persons were present to testify for the proposed bills. 32 persons representing diverse organizations from all parts of the state volunteered testimony against the [Broyles] Bills. Due to a defeat of a motion to adjourn [the Senate Committee hearing], only 13 of the 32 scheduled in opposition were allowed to speak. They included from this community Professor Russell Sullivan for the AAUP [American Association of University Professors] at the University of Illinois and Reverend Arnold Westwood of Urbana from the Chicago Area Universalist Unitarian Association.

"In his introductory statement, Senator Broyles called Senate Bill 101 and 102 the 'All American' bills to defend our Constitution and our liberties and frequently during the afternoon gave assurance that no loyal American would be harmed by them. But the spokesman for the anti-subversive committee for the American Legion gave a lengthy and frightening picture of those whom the proponents of this legislation considered 'current enemies,' including labor unions, the independent voters of Illinois, several prominent ministries in the Chicago area, the head of the Chicago Housing Authority, the American Friends Service Committee. How can we believe Senator Broyles' assurance that no loyal Americans will be harmed?"

"Additional indications of the kind of thinking which breeds such legislation, and which will oversee its enforcement if passed, appeared during the questioning of opposition spokesmen by members of the Senate Committee, following a statement by Ms. Carolyn Lee, a speaker from the University of Chicago concerning the dangers these bills present to education. Senator Myers said, 'the purpose was not to prohibit full exploration of ideas, just to prevent people from reaching the wrong conclusions.'

"Senate Bills 101 and 102 are now out of committee. To prevent their passage, legal arguments and principled objection must now become a groundswell of political pressure. Only by fullest exercise of the rights of the American people to think deeply and speak out courageously on vital matters of government policy can these rights be preserved."

The letter was signed by five women. Bernice Burnett was the wife of Professor of Science Education, R. Will Burnett, who was himself one of the leaders of the campaign throughout the spring. Jane Bardeen was not in my memory connected with Education, but her husband John Bardeen was a Nobel laureate and professor here in Electrical Engineering. Henrietta DeBoer was the wife of John DeBoer, professor in English education. John was the U of I faculty member most publicly attacked as subversive by the pro-Broyles forces, and for that reason played no active role in the campaign. Henrietta was the devoted secretary of the ad hoc Committee Against the Broyles Bills throughout the Spring. Phyllis Martin may have been staff or faculty, as well as a housewife, with the rest of us. As I remember, we five shared not only our housewife status, but also membership in the local chapter of the League of Women Voters. I should also explain that a half century ago, there were nepotism rules that left many well-educated, but unemployed, housewives in this university town.

Now for the second letter that ran in the *News-Gazette* two months later on May 25, 1953:

"On March 23, we wrote in a letter to the editor the frightening story of the Illinois Senate Committee hearings on the Broyles Bills, Senate Bills 101 and 102, and called for a groundswell of political pressure to bring about their defeat. Just two months later, on May 19, we went again to Springfield to the House Judiciary Committee hearing on this same legislation. While as a result of great community interest in these bills, the facts of this hearing have been much more adequately reported in the press, we feel that the significance of the proceedings needs emphasis so that the people may realize more fully the victory that was won.

"If the Senate hearing was characterized by the slander of organizations and individuals and the intimidation of witnesses, in the House Committee these were supplement-

ed by parliamentary tactics designed to silence the opposition. Although the hearings did not begin until after two o'clock and more than 40 people had asked to testify, a decision was made to vote on the bill at 4:30. A motion was hastily passed requiring that each witness be asked if he was or ever had been a member of the Communist Party, so that those who affirmed such associations or refused for any reason to answer could be denied the right to speak. But when the roll call votes were taken, the picture became clear. Those who seek un-American repressive legislation do not give up quietly. Their tactics are born not of strength, but of desperation. It mattered little that only four of the more than 25 people who asked to be heard in opposition were given time to testify, for during the past weeks, scores of organizations – religious, professional, educational, labor, and community groups, and thousands of individuals, wrote or wired to the legislators and to Governor Stratton. On the day of the hearing the Chicago *Daily News* reported the Governor's mail ran ten-to-one against the Broyles Bills.

"The voice of the people could not be denied. The committee voted overwhelmingly against both Senate Bill 101 (21 to 15) and Senate Bill 102 (23 to 12). But even more important than the numerical vote was the magnificent expression of belief in democracy that was made by committee members who rose to speak in explanation of their votes. Representative Dixon, in the most applauded speech of the afternoon, explained, 'The essence of liberty is the right to be heard.' Here was democracy in its finest form, elected representatives given strength to speak their deepest convictions by the vocal support of their constituents. Evidently, because of complicated party politics, the House voted on May 20 to override the decision of its Judiciary Committee and place the Broyles Bills on the floor for final vote.

"In our earlier letter we wrote, 'Only by fullest exercise of the rights of the American people to think deeply and speak out courageously on vital matters of public policy can these rights be preserved.' The victory won in committee can become an even greater and a final victory on the floor of the House. There is yet time to preserve Illinois as a haven for freedom if the people will but speak again."

The people did speak again, and this time, the three-times introduced Broyles Bills were completely defeated. The Illinois House of Representatives voted against Bill 101. Bill 102 passed but was vetoed by Republican Governor William Stratton on July 1, 1953.

THE LEGACY OF OPPOSITION

Now to our family's personal experience. The story of any significant social movement is about two levels of actions and effects: the contending social issues at one level, and the fate of individuals on the other.

Here in Illinois, the Broyles Bills were defeated, but the careers of some U of I individuals were seriously effected nonetheless. My husband, Norman Cazden, was denied tenure, although to my knowledge never publicly attacked as John DeBoer was. Like DeBoer, Norman played no role in the committee. I remember engaging in what might now be called magical thinking. If only we could win this campaign, maybe Norman's job could be saved. And I'm sure those hopes, politically naïve as they turned out to be, added personal passion to my intellectual commitment to the campaign.

The fate of individuals should be understood as one more reason to fight about the larger social issues. Despite the negative impact on individuals, the larger successful movement against repression is your legacy. I hope that you feel rightfully proud. Implications of this legacy, I leave to you to consider. My only suggestion is the continuing importance for today of one of the characteristics of that 1953 campaign, the description of the campaign where citizens must not only be educated to the dangers inherent in legislation, but also given the courage to speak and write openly about of their opposition. That description may be one of the morals of this 1953 story for us now in 2007.



You Wanna Know How Wealthy I Am? Just Look At My Teeth

by Marcia Zumbahlen



Almost one year ago I wrote an article about the difficulties a local parent faced when finding specialty dental care for her child. I worried that the state All Kids Insurance Program, introduced in July 2006, would not address her difficulties, since many dentists were refusing to join the program. Alas, my concerns bore out: parents are still struggling to find local dentists who will take the All Kids insurance.

In an attempt to enroll more dentists, the state raised dental reimbursement rates. Below is a comparison between the old and the new rates.

In addition, dentists serving All Kids enrollees were given top priority for reimbursement. These changes stemmed from the *Memisovski v. Maram* (2004) lawsuit that addressed Illinois Medicaid's failure to provide enrollees (0-18 years of age) with medical services "to an extent equal to that at which such services were available to the general population" (www.illinoisap.org/Memisovski.pdf). The presiding judge agreed that the state had failed its obligation to provide children with timely access to preventive care equal to privately-insured children. The judge proposed a plan that would address provider reimbursement rates, payment cycles, Medicaid "hassles," provider and client notices, provider referrals, and other issues. However, this plan did not directly address specialty care.

The state has retained a consultant to determine what additional steps are needed to access specialty care. The results were due last year but according to Scott G. Allen, Executive Director, Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics:

"IDHFS has not yet completed the study – it was delayed and they've only recently decided on their methods and started the process. The best contact for information on this would be a group called Health and Disability Advocates (www.hdadvocates.org) – staff there participated in the lawsuit that is requiring the study, and I believe they are in contact with HFS about its progress."

PRESENT DENTAL OPTIONS FOR ADULTS ON A TIGHT BUDGET

While the state is striving to meet children's dental needs, it has yet to make significant progress in helping their parents. Although the improved reimbursements apply to adult care, parents enrolled in the state's Family Care Insurance Program still face the same paucity of dentists when seeking care for them selves. Like many adults on a tight budget, they get their teeth cleaned via one of the following dental programs:

1. Parkland College Dental Hygiene Clinic for \$10 (351-2221).
2. Champaign County Christian Health Clinic (398-2914) offers free dental care on Tuesday evenings (Call @ 5:30 pm on Monday to make an appointment).
3. Champaign County Health Care Consumers (352-6758) can get you an appointment with local dentists participating in their sliding-fee program.

The Parkland students give very good cleanings because they want to get a good grade and both CCCHC and CCHCC offer staff who appear genuinely concerned for your plight, offering emotional support if you want it. But in each case, especially Parkland, you have to block off a work day for appointment(s) and you won't get immediate care (wait-lists are 6 months long). Also, if you need specialty care (like a root canal), you won't receive that care through Parkland or CCCHC. CCHCC is a potential route to specialty care.

I met a guy last summer who held only backroom jobs because he was missing several front teeth. "Nobody wants a toothless guy for a sales clerk," he said. But the backroom jobs he held did not provide the dental coverage or the income he needed to get new teeth. He relied on public assistance to make ends meet. CCHCC connected him to a local dentist that gave him new teeth at an affordable rate. Now he's climbing out of his financial rut and saving taxpayers from donating more public assistance money.

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE?

Could using taxpayer dollars to cover specialty dental care (as in universal full dental coverage) actually save taxpayers from other hidden costs? Consider the following cases where these adults had state-funded dental coverage.

Case 1: (36-year-old mother in a nearby town): "I'm pretty lucky because my kids qualify me for All Kids. But when I had a toothache it was almost impossible to find a dentist who takes All Kids, let alone one who could see me right away. I can't tell you how much time I lost from my kids and work to take care of this."

As a check I called Doral Dental Services Illinois @ 1-888-286-2447 then visited www.doralusa.com to find a 3-page list of dentists who are supposedly participating in the All Kids Family Insurance Program. I spent one whole day calling several of the dentists on this list and could not get an appointment for someone receiving Medicaid or All Kids because most of them are no longer accepting the insurance. For example, Dr. Chung at the Dentistry by Design clinic at 1905 Convenience Place is listed on the All Kids Website, but they have an enormous waiting list and, as of April 1st, 2007, they stopped accepting the Medicaid/All Kids insurance, even for established patients. Evidently it was not the state's responsibility to warn this mom and she didn't find out until she called Dentistry by Design.

"There must be something wrong if I don't even know that my dentist is dropping me," this mom said. (Rest assured, not all programs abandon clients. When heading the Rural Dental Health Program, Lisa Bell was required to send patients a letter if she would no longer be providing their child's care, a letter that included a list of one or two providers who might be able to help address their needs as well as allowing them to seek "emergency" care through her organization for 30 days.)

In short, finding a dentist for this mother was an extremely frustrating process, even for a person who didn't have a toothache or children to manage. How much did taxpayers cover in indirect costs for this case (e.g., this mother's lost wages, impact of parent's financial and health stress on her children, etc.)?

Case 2: (migrant worker in the community): This mother needed her tooth fixed because "there was a problem with the nerves." She couldn't see the dentist while she was pregnant so she called Dentistry by Design to schedule an appointment after her baby's due date. "They said to call back after my baby is born."

Like many offices, Dentistry by Design only made appointments for Medicaid patients two weeks in advance. But this woman only had dental care through the Moms & Babies Program while she was pregnant and for 2 months following the birth of her baby. She called during the early months of her pregnancy to schedule an appointment that would fall within the two-month window after her baby's birth, but the dental office wouldn't let her. "I called back after my baby was born but they did not have any openings for me." She was put on a waiting list with 500 other

people. As you might expect, she didn't get the appointment before the 2-month window closed and she is now seeking a way to fund the root canal she likely needs. I hope the underground dentist she knows in Chicago does a great job so she won't end up in the emergency room to use even more state dollars or spend even more time away from the child the state already supports.

Case 3: (72-year-old grandmother on Medicare living just south of Champaign): She paid \$150 for a botched filling; it hurt for months and she needed a specialist to have it capped. "I couldn't afford the \$500 so I had it pulled for another \$150." Since then the adjacent tooth has fallen out. "Now I can't afford to go back to the dentist and I have all these holes in my mouth."

She expects she'll have to get false teeth. Will a set of false teeth cost taxpayers more money than having saved a single tooth in the beginning? It seems that this patient doesn't even know if Medicare will cover false teeth. "You never know what they cover until you go. They only cover a portion of certain things. It's like most insurance where they only pay 50% of the provider's fee and by the time you pay the insurance you don't have money for the 50%."

Case 4: (28-year-old University of Illinois Graduate student): The University lumps graduate students with undergraduate students so they can offer a fairly cheap "student" insurance plan, but it is aimed at 18-22 year-olds, covering basic six-month cleanings and check-ups, not

Code	Service	2005 Rate	New Rate	Dollar (%) Increase
D0120	Exam	\$16.20	\$28.00	\$11.80 (73%)
D1120	Prophylaxis	\$25.40	\$41.00	\$15.60 (61%)
D1203	Fluoride	\$14.85	\$26.00	\$11.15 (75%)
D1351	Sealant (per tooth)	\$14.10	\$36.00	\$21.90 (155%)

preventive surgery. "My dentist referred me to a periodontist who told me that I needed a surgery that would cost over \$2000. This procedure was not covered [even though it] was preventing six of my bottom teeth from falling out! I called the benefits office and was told, very frankly, that the only thing I could do was to 'wait until my teeth fell out' and then file a health claim." She sought a 3-month emergency loan, but was unable to get money until the surgery was complete. So she charged the surgery to a credit card. She's still paying it off nearly six months later and has taken out more federal student loans to pay for the debacle. We already know how consumer debt hurts our economy.

CONCLUSION

The bottom line is that accessing specialty dental care is a real pain (pardon the pun) that involves more hidden costs than people realize. Had any one of these patients been dealing with a second diagnosis (diabetes, cancer, etc.) then the costs of an untreated infection could have potentially cost taxpayers even more. In some cases, it can leave blood on our hands (see the *Washington Post*, March 3, 2007, for a story regarding a poor Maryland boy who died after a tooth infection spread to his brain).

I'll leave you with one final thought. If you want cheaper dental care, try using the good ole' free market to trigger a price war (e.g., dentists might offer lower rates or a payment plan for uninsured patients who pay out-of-pocket because they don't want to mess with insurance paperwork). Although the prices will still take unbearable amounts from your income, it couldn't hurt to try bartering a deal and you might get in sooner than 6 months. Let me know if it works.

LaBoR/eCoNoMiCs

C-U May Day Solidarity Celebration

By Belden Fields

On Saturday, April 28, a May Day Solidarity Celebration was held at the IMC as a benefit for the Central Illinois Jobs with Justice Campaign. Also benefitting from the celebration were striking Steinway workers who had come over from Indiana to explain their struggle. There was food, drink, and a brief lecture by labor historian Jim Barrett on the world-wide significance of May Day as a symbol of the struggle for the 8 hour day and the right to organize unions. Mike Griffin came over from Decatur to talk about the effects of scabs, people who take the jobs of others who are striking or locked out during a labor dispute. Anne Feeney, a nationally renowned labor singer and song-writer, Paul Kotheimer, our own fantastic local song-writer and singer, and a number of other bands provided the music.

The combination of feelings of solidarity, great music, poetry, and the lecture on the significance of May Day which is so poorly known in our own country where the incident that sparked world-wide recognition of it as a Labor Day took place, are leading many to believe that this should be a yearly event.

On this Page are some photographs of the event.



Paul Kotheimer, local labor singer and songwriter.



Mike Griffin, a leader of the workers locked out of the Staley plant in Decatur for approximately two and one half years from 1993 to January 1996. Mike traveled around the US and even abroad as a "Road Warrior", letting people know of the suppression of worker rights by Staley Corporation. He continues to publish a newsletter called *From the War Zone*.



Deneen Seigler, one of the striking Steinway workers. Steinway has purchased a large number of US musical instrument manufacturers including Vincent Bach brass, C. G. Conn brass, and Selmer woodwinds, and has made unacceptable demands on its workers resulting in a strike. Steinway is currently moving to decertify UAW Local 364. A boycott of all Steinway brands is being organized. For more information, see www.ConSelmerStrike.com.



Jim Barrett, Professor of History at the U of I and member of the Socialist Forum and the Jobs with Justice Campaign.



Anne Feeney, musician and song-writer devoted to struggles for progressive causes, especially the rights of working people.