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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BARGAINING IN AN ATMOSPHERE of fiscal crisis is difficult. There is a temptation to maneuver conservatively, hoping only to hold one’s ground. However, for those of us who are graduate employees, the current and future stews of higher education, the ground is shifting beneath us. The proliferation of contingent instructors on college and university campuses is already well entrenched. Contrary to the increasing-ly fantastic picture of university faculty as securely tenured and handsomely paid, contingent instructors have no job security, work on a part-time or temporary basis, and are almost always paid less than the permanent full-time faculty who do the same work. Nationwide, roughly 70% of higher education instructional units are taught by contingent instructors: adjuncts, graduate employees, visiting faculty, post-doctoral associates, or other employee designations that are euphemisms for “more work for less pay.”

Calls on the part of graduate employees for equitable and just pay and working conditions are often dismissed as naive and unrealistic. After all, the logic goes, graduate students are like apprentices, working hard for little reward now in order to achieve the security and prestige of a tenured faculty position in the future. Yet these positions are increasingly rare, while achieving the security and prestige of a tenured faculty position is already well entrenched. Contrary to the increasing condition of precarity, a phenomenon made possible by a surplus of qualified workers and the exploitative opportunities of neoliberal economic imperialism. Though it is by no means the only solution, unionization of students and workers is a crucial response to this worsening economic outlook. Organized labor in higher education provides an immediate mechanism to address the economic needs of workers who are increasingly exploited. Moreover, organized labor in higher education provides an urgently needed reassertion of democratic alternative to the short-sighted corporate governance that leads to the proliferation of contingent workers on campuses, skyrocketing tuition, and the privatization of public institutions of higher education. The Graduate Employees’ Organization represents more than 7,200 Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois. The GEO negotiates contracts, responds to grievances, and protects the rights of graduate employees. The GEO also works in solidarity with other unions and progressive organizations both at the University and in the larger Champaign-Urbana community, toward equality, dignity, and justice for working people of all occupations.

On Tuesday, April 21, the GEO met with the University’s bargaining team to begin negotiating a new contract. Notwithstanding the University’s claims that this is a time for “belt-tightening,” the GEO contract proposal seeks simply to protect the interests of some of the most exploited workers on campus who face low incomes, enormous obstacles to raising children, inadequate healthcare, and the erosion of basic benefits that make it possible to pursue a graduate degree in the first place.

An important component of the GEO contract proposal is the provision of a living wage for all graduate employees. Under the current graduate employee contract, the minimum wage for a 9-month, 30% appointment is $13,430. This is the standard appointment for most graduate employees and is the maximum appointment available to most international graduate students. Meanwhile, the University itself publishes an estimated annual cost of living of $16,086 (www.osfa.univ.edu/cost/gradmones_0910.html.) Almost 60% of teaching assistants at the University make less than this amount, and 30% earn the minimum stipend, $12,656 less than the University’s own estimate of the annual cost of living. None of those figures take into account the nearly $1,000 in fees that graduate employees must remunerate to the University during the course of the academic year.

The current GEO contract expires on August 15, 2009. Negotiations are expected to continue throughout the summer.

Welcome To The Prekariat!

[From Wikipedia] Precarity is a condition of existence without predictability or security, affecting material or psychological welfare. The term has been specifically applied to either intermittent work or, more generally, a confluence of intermittent work and precarious existence.

It is a term of everyday usage as Precariad, Precarisation, Prekariad, Précarité, or Precariat in a number of European countries, where it refers to the widespread condition of temporary, flexible, contingent, casual, intermittent work in postindustrial societies, brought about by the neoliberal labor market reforms that have strengthened the right to manage and the bargaining power of employers since the late 1970s. Precarity is a general term to describe how large parts of the population are being subjected to flexible exploitation or flex proletarization (low pay, high blackmailable/s without union, intermittent income, etc.), and existential precariousness (high risk of social exclusion because of low incomes, welfare cuts, high cost of living, etc.). The condition of precariousness is said to affect all of service sector labor in a narrow sense, and the whole of society in a wider sense, but particularly youth, women, and immigrants.

While contingent labor has been a constant of capitalist societies since the industrial revolution, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri have argued that the flexible labor force has now moved from the peripheral position it had under Fordism to a core position in the process of capitalist accumulation under Post-Fordism, which is thought to be increasingly based on the casualized efforts of creative, affective, immaterial labor. There is scattered empirical evidence in support of this thesis, such as the growing share of non-standard employment on the overall labor force, particularly on new hires. For example, in Western Europe, between a quarter and a third of the labor force now works under temporary and/or part-time contracts, with peaks in UK, Holland, Spain and Italy.

More problematic is the fact that precariousness seems to conflate two categories of workers that are at opposite ends of labor market segmentation in postindustrial economies: pink collars working in retail and low-end services (cleaners, janitors, etc.) under contractive but standardized employment norms; and young talent tempting for cheap in the information economy of big cities around the world; the creative class of strongly individualistic workers illustrated by managerial literature.

It also remains to be seen whether the inside/outsider division that economists observe in European labor markets means that the young, precarious, non-voting, and non-owning outsiders have fundamentally conflictual aims with respect to older insiders, who tend to work full-time, long-term contracts, enjoy relatively high pension benefits and who command a disproportionate weight in European public opinion and political debate.
As the University of Illinois department where I teach, the golf pencils used in student evaluations of faculty at semester’s end have to be signed out and dutifully returned to staff. Obsessive re-collecting of the tiny pencils always gets a laugh from students, who know that it symbolizes the absurd hand-to-mouth existence of a flagship state university. The few dozens of “lost-pencil” dollars possibly saved cannot possibly equal the amount of labor spent in bureaucratising the process, but within the logic of chronic shortfalls the policy makes perfect sense.

The false economy of golf pencils gets written in larger ways at the University of Illinois, especially as a real economic string of years of systematic underfunding during the relatively good times. And yet, with all of the panic going around, the most obvious source of new revenue—increasing numbers of out-of-state students—seemingly remains fully off the table.

In 2006, when Chancellor Richard Herman proposed a modest increase in such students, he did so for very good reasons. Illinois has been repeatedly targeted by circumstances requiring new revenue, and more excellence. When legislators balked, the retreat of the administration was sad and total, but Herman’s initial arguments were not wrong. The educational costs of running perhaps the most provincial major state university in the nation are high and, as it turns out, so are the financial ones.

To say as much is of course not to say that students individually are narrow. Illinois is a very cosmopolitan state and some of the University’s students fully reflect this. However, bow to political pressure against admitting out-of-state students and to fail to break through towards greater class and race diversity of in-state students has left the university homogenous in many ways. Such factors also lead to the campus being more isolated from the communities than any peer institution with which I am familiar.

Indeed in comparison to most of its peer institutions, the most astonishing fact of life at Illinois is the provincialism—the extreme and limiting inward-looking logic—of its undergraduate student enrollment policy. According to current statistics provided to Princeton Review’s online college guide, out-of-state U.S. students make up 7% of Illinois undergraduates. This proportion is less than a fifth of Iowa’s and Purdue’s undergraduate student bodies. It is between a quarter and a fifth of Michigan’s, Indiana’s, Penn State’s, and Minnesota’s. No matter how cosmopolitan, or not, the image of the state and school involved, all far outdistance Illinois.

Since some states cooperate to grant each other’s residents reciprocal in-state tuition, and since in- and out-of-state tuition vary from place to place, calculating the dollars sacrificed to provincialism is complex. But a comparison with University of Michigan gives us some sense of the hit taken by the University of Illinois in order to defend a status quo it has at times rightly regarded as educationally undesirable.

Again from Princeton Review figures, Michigan has about 9000 out-of-state students among its 26,000 undergraduates. Illinois has just under 22,000 out-of-state undergraduates from a total of 31,000. Since the gap between in- and out-of-state tuition at Michigan is about $20,000 per student per year, the out-of-state students potentially add about $180 million to revenues. At Illinois, the tuition difference is about $14,000 per year between in- and out-of-state students. Thus those U.S. students currently coming from beyond Illinois add potentially a paltry $31 million.

Although complications abound—some out-of-state students get financial aid for example—the huge gap in out-of-state revenues goes a long way to explaining the mystery of why, in a devastated state, University of Michigan has been able to maintain a consistently higher ranking than Illinois. It benefits from the cosmopolitanism those out-of-state students bring and from their dollars.

Put positively, if Illinois were to double its proportion of out-of-state students, it would add a further $31 million annually to its budget. If it reached something like the proportions at peer institutions mentioned above, it would add about $125 million per year. It would take less of hir- ing freezes and Global Campus dreaming to reach anything like such amounts.

It pains me, as someone believing in education as a right and therefore against tuition altogether, to write this piece. It goes without saying that revenue thus produced ought to be used in significant measure to make the university affordable to poor and working class students and to stop the patterns that have led to a doubling of in-state tuition over the past decade. A $30 million increase in revenue, for example, could immediately be used to renew hiring. It could create spaces for nearly the numbers of in-state student slot lost in the increasing of out-state students, while maintaining existing faculty-student ratios. Such slots, and increased revenue, should be used to diversify the faculty and the in-state student body.

However, if we continue to bow to the fiction that provincial admission policies somehow make the campus more accessible to “Illiniouians,” rather than to a very selective slice of Illinoisians, we will not get to begin these debates. Moreover, we will be trapped in talk of crisis, of inevitable scarcity, and of vague talk about bold, creative solutions while too little creativity and boldness are on offer.
A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD at the Inde-
pendent Media Center with the family of
Oluwatofumunti Kaiyewu, a 23-year-old medical
student who was killed by police on April 6, 2009. This bizarre
murder took place in the former “sun-
down town” of Villa Grove, 15 minutes
southwest of Urbana, led to a car chase, and ended on
Interstate 74 with five bullets fired by officers from three
departments University of Illinois Police, Champaign
County Sheriff’s Department, and Vermilion County Sher-
iff’s Department.

The Kaiyewu family, mother Abiy, father Victor,
and their three siblings, learned of his death from his drives from Texas on April
22 to hold a press conference and visit the site where
his son was gunned down. They were joined by Jan
Seuler of the People’s Law Office, a graduate of the Uni-
versity of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and known for
her defence of Puerto Rican political prisoners. They had
heard little from police about what happened and want-
ed answers.

The incident occurred in Villa Grove, a small town
where blacks are rarely ever seen. As James Loewen docu-
mented in his book Sundown Towns, Villa Grove was one of
hundreds of towns throughout Illinois where blacks were
do not be caught on the streets after sundown. However, the
‘get out of town’ area that was soundproofed at the end of
every day is still on top of the tower in the center of town. Accord-
ing to an initial press release, on Monday night, April 6, a local police officer in Villa Grove saw a “suspi-
cious” vehicle a Toyota Camry given to Kaiyewu by his parents with Texas plates at a convenience store along
Route 130. The officer witnessed a traffic violation and he
proceeded to stop the car.

Police say the driver got out of his car, refused to follow
orders, pushed the officer, got back in his car, and took off.
A chase ensued that involved at least a dozen squad cars from
several local police departments. When police finally blew out
his tires, they say Kaiyewu came at them brandishing a
machete and a handgun. Police fired Tasers which Champaign County Sheriff’s
officers are allowed to carry but say they failed to subdue Kaiyewu.

When he began swinging the two weapons, police say they fired
their “duty weapons” fatally shooting the suspect.

At the press conference, members of the family said
that Toto was a good Christian who was going to medical
school and planned in the future to do missionary work in
Africa. Although he was born in the United States, his par-
ents came here in 1980 from Nigeria.

Several others came to the press conference to show
local support for the Kaiyewu family, including individuals from the Center for African Studies, Minnelor Alliance, and Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice.

Letters of support have poured in from Toto’s friends in
Texas and Carbondale, where he was studying at SIU. One
wrote on the website of the Independent Media Center,
“My confidence with Toto’s family, he was a good friend of
mine in med school, great guy I’m gon’ miss him.”

Due to what was called “wild and totally inaccurate
speculation in the media,” police released their own pre-
pared statement just hours after the family’s press confer-
dence. Delivering the statement in front of his office, Cham-
paign County Sheriff Dan Walsh responded to some of the questions raised by the family, information no one was
previously willing to give them. It took a trip to Urbana
and more than two weeks for them to get that much.

Walsh addressed the question of profiling, but failed to
mention racism. “It is non-sensicle,” he said, “to suggest
that police ‘profiled a seven year old Toyota vehicle and its occupants.’ Of course, at some point you have to
make up his car. As the family asked Would this have happened to a white student
driving a Toyota through Villa Grove?

A toxicology report is still pending and the Sheriff says
that when the investigation by the Illinois State Police is
finished, video may be released to the public.

Oluwatofumun “Toto” Kaiyewu

Students Shut Down CIA Recruitment at UIUC

On April 9, MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS ANTIWAR NETWORK, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the International Socialist Organization joined forces for a third annual protest of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruitment session at the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign. However this year, students and activists were
recruitment session at the University of Illinois at Urbana-

-Champaign. According to the International Red Cross, the CIA fre-
quentely used techniques against prisoners held in secret
overseas detention centers or “black sites” that “constitut-

ed torture” in violation of the Geneva Conventions. Prison-

ers received cruel and degrading treatment, including
beatings, sleep deprivation, extreme temperatures, strip
searches, starvation, scare tactics utilizing canines, and
waterboarding. Some detainees then faced “rendition,” the transferring of
prisoners and outsourcing of torture to other countries where the CIA
operates, especially those known for
committing human rights violations, such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

“Throughout the CIA’s history, these prisoners become
ghosts,” detainees whom officials refuse to give information about the
location or status of to either family

members or lawyers on the grounds that their incarceration is needed for
long-term interrogation.

Such barbaric deeds are a gross violation of international and U.S.

constitutional law and are crimes
against humanity on par with the

Japanese American citizens during
World War II and the “gulags” of
the Soviet Union. Among these prisoners are possibly hundreds of innocent
people, whose only crime is to be
Arab, Muslim, and a person of color.

Moreover, such tactics by no means keep “America safe” but rather alienate local populations by its heavy-handed
nature, and provide a window of opportunity for terrorist

CIA Director Leon Panetta reiterated the Obama
administration’s commitment to continue several Bush
administration policies in the so-called war on terror

Panetta told reporters the US will continue controversial
CIA drone attacks in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of

President Obama can still approve harsher techniques using wartime powers
and that the “CIA retains the authority to detain individu-
als on a short-term basis.”

Activists and students should stand up to the CIA
whenever they attempt to recruit on college campuses or
in your community. With even a small number, you can
shut down their recruitment meetings and score an impor-

tant victory for peace and justice. As Campus Antiwar Net-
work member Eric Hem explained, “I was pretty shocked
when I found out that we managed to cancel the meeting.
Finally have a visible victory was a huge morale boost.
The CIA needs to be opposed when and wherever it
appears because it is nothing but an agent of empire that
destroy democracy and helps establish US hegemony
across the globe through force and brutality.”

LOCAL RESOURCES:
• socialiriscconference.org
• internationalsocialist.org
• haymarketbooks.org
• socialistworker.org
• toreview.org
• ISO Champaign Meetings, Mondays, Greg
3 www.ucimc.org / www.publici.ucimc.org

May 2009
There Is a War Going On For Your Mind: Labor Media in Central Illinois

By Fellow Worker X

Until the late 1970's, every major newspaper in the United States had at least one labor reporter with regular stories about unions and working class issues. Labor related news stories were also heard regularly on radio stations, and beginning in the early 1980's seen on television. With the increased consolidation (monopoly control) by the corporate media and fewer locally owned newspapers, radio and television stations, as well as the shredding of the 'Social Contract' by corporate America and the beginning of the neo-liberal/neo-conservative 'class war', labor news stories are extremely rare.

When labor news stories are reported in the corporate media today, they are always biased and distorted, and placed in the 'Business Section'.

Likewise in films, television programs, documentaries, books, magazines, public school history classes, and other genres of U.S. culture, unions and working class people are nowhere to be found. Therefore, 'out of sight, out of mind'.

For example, the classic art print of 'Rosie the Riveter' (the woman worker in the World War II defense plant) who became a popular feminist icon, originally showed Rosie with her union button prominently displayed on her work-shirt. But today, trying to find a copy for sale anywhere that doesn't have her union button "whitewashed" is almost impossible. Locally, Merry Ann's diner in downtown Champaign provides a classic example.

The Illinois Labor Hour Radio Program

A labor struggle in nearby Decatur Illinois from 1992–1996 was a pivotal event for the beginning of labor media in Central Illinois. When local labor activists Peter Miller (a union teacher) and Bill Gorrell (a union construction laborer), attended solidarity support actions in Decatur for the locked-out Staley Workers, they were often facing police tear gas and beatings. Because of this experience, Miller and Gorrell were outraged at the lack of media coverage and the biased media reporting (when it did occur) against the striking workers. This compelled Miller and Gorrell to begin a labor radio program in 1996 called the Illinois Labor Hour, on WEFT community radio station (90.1 FM). Originally the show was broadcasted every other Sunday morning, the program soon moved to a weekly time-slot on Saturday mornings from 11AM – 1PM (90.1 FM). Since 2004, and has broadcast every Saturday since, within a range of about 50-miles of downtown Champaign.

In 2002, Peter Miller moved to New Hampshire to take a job as a Union Organizer for the NFA Teachers' Union, at which point a local union carpenter and former Vice-President of the AFL-CIO of Champaign County, David Johnson, became a co-host.

In 2008, WEFT radio began live worldwide webcasting at www.weft.org, at which point the IL Labor Hour was broadcasted every other Sunday morning. In 2007, the show was moved to a weekly time-slot on Saturday mornings from 11AM-Noon, and has broadcast every Saturday since, within a range of about 50-miles of downtown Champaign.

Hosted by Jim Eyman (a retired Railroad Worker from Milwaukee and IWW member) and David Johnson (from the Illinois World Labor Hour), Labor's View began broadcasting in March 2009, with a weekly program that is presented by UPTV (Urbana Public Access Television) and radio program at www.weft.org, at which point the Labor Hour was broadcasted every other Sunday morning. In 2007, the show was moved to a weekly time-slot on Saturday mornings from 11AM – 1PM (90.1 FM). Originally the show was broadcasted every other Sunday morning, the program soon moved to a weekly time-slot on Saturday mornings from 11AM – 1PM (90.1 FM). Since 2004, and has broadcast every Saturday since, within a range of about 50-miles of downtown Champaign.

Another venue for labor issues emerged in early 2001. With the creation of the Urbana-Champaign IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) Chicago, and a labor film class at the Labor Institute of the University of Illinois, taught by Professor Joe Berry. According to Johnson, "Television is a more difficult medium than radio because of the visual element added, like the difference between two-dimensional chess and three dimensional chess. But, simultaneously it is a very powerful means of conveying information."

By July of 2009, viewers will be able to watch Labor's View TV on-line live, and past episodes, anywhere in the world on-line via the UPTV archive.

Your Labor Media

The Illinois World Labor Hour radio program and Labor's View TV always needs guests to participate for an interview, or to hear from people about program ideas. Likewise, the Labor's View is always wanting articles for upcoming issues written by local people.

After all... IT IS YOUR MEDIA! Take advantage, and be a part of it!

For more information, contact David Johnson at unioneyes@ameritech.net
Executive Pay at the University of Illinois

By Brian Dolinar

Many have expressed outrage at the $2 billion in bonuses handed out to Wall Street executives, even as they were receiving bailout assistance from the federal government. As the "business model" has crept into the university, we find the same excesses among top administrators at the University of Illinois. In September 2008, when service workers were told they were only getting a 5% pay raise, administrators already making six-figure salaries received 8%-9% increases, even up to 12% for the Athletics Director. As President B. Joseph White has publicly commented, "You can't pay too much for good administration." President B. Joseph White: $450,000

GLOBAL CAMPUS

Global Campus CEO Chet Gardner: $344,880 (2008) $313,500 (2007)—9% raise

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Assoc. Chancellor Jesse Delema: $303,660
Assoc. Chancellor James Oliver: $193,515
Assoc. Chancellor Margaret O'Donoghue Rawles: $165,500

DEANS LIST

Graduate College Dean and University Vice Provost Richard Wheeler: $322,950
Engineering Administration Dean Ilesanmi Adesida: $309,466
Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences Dean Robert Easter: $254,095.04
College of Business Dean Larry DeBrock: $203,425
Vice President for Business and Finance Douglas Beckman: $237,930
Director of Public Affairs Robin Kaler: $167,100
Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Ruth Watkins: $232,617

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATORS

Provost Linda Katehi: $352,500
Associate Vice President and Finance Douglas Beckman: $237,930
Director of Public Affairs Robin Kaler: $167,100
Athletics Director Ron Guenther: $600,000 (2008) $525,000 (2007)—12% raise
Men's football coach Ron Zook: $455,000

Assistant football coach Michael Woodford: $131,560
Assistant football coach Thomas Sims: $140,000
Assistant football coach Reginald Mitchell: $189,200
Assistant football coach Eric Wolford: $185,000
Assistant football coach Ann Mallory: $154,480
Assistant football coach James Pry: $151,200
Assistant football coach Thomas Sams: $140,000
Assistant football coach Michael Woodford: $131,560
Men's basketball coach Bruce Weber: $200,000
Assistant basketball coach Jermaine Howard: $120,000
Assistant basketball coach Wayne McClain: $138,000
Assistant basketball coach Jack Price: $125,000
Total sports salaries: $2,794,460

THE REST OF US

Assistant Professor, Gender and Women's Studies: $38,000
Non-Tenure Track Instructor, English Dept.: $48,000
Graduate Student in History: $15,000
Janitor: $32,000

These figures can be found in the "Grey Book" at the Main Library's information desk or online at: http://www.archive.org/details/UniversityOfIllinoisSalaryList2008-2009

Further, Hilary Clinton for insisting that the Palestinians needed to have a state of their own: "You came here from the world's greatest and strongest democracy. Well, Israel democracy has spoken. Most Israeli citizens do not wish to establish an Arab terror state in our homeland. If your democracy is real, you should of course respect the democracy of others as well.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS IMAGINE THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Since its inception in 1948, the State of Israel has been defining itself as "Jewish in essence and democracy in character." The 1948 Declaration of Independence from the British Mandate in Palestine maintained that "the state of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The hypocrisy of this proclamation is evident in the same year's Supreme Court's ruling that this document cannot be used to challenge the laws passed by Israeli legislature, the Knesset---allowing the government to pass discriminatory laws without impunity. Another fact that escapes too many people is that Israel, although required by the Declaration of its formation, has failed so far to draft and ratify a written constitution. Such a document would have to guarantee equality before law for all citizens, including the Palestinian minority, who could then challenge in courts of law, the legality of all the government's harsh measures against them, and possibly receive fair rulings.

DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

The Palestinian citizens of Israel have been subjected to discriminatory administrative, judicial, and social measures, and outright illegal actions; the Israeli state has managed so far to control and keep down its Palestinian population. The list is long: urban and rural land confiscation, house and neighborhood demolitions, preventing Palestinian refugees to return home while subsidizing the immigration of Jews from their homes abroad to Israel and the Occupied Territories, barring non-citizen Palestinian spouses of Israeli citizens from residing in Israel, creating all-Jewish towns and quarters, discriminatory allocation of governmental funds to restrict economic, social, and educational opportunities for non-Jews, restrictions on political mobilization and participation in politics, etc.

Israel state refers to its Palestinian population as Arab. This designation helps Israel Jews to dismiss the rationale for the establishment of a bi-national state and to continue the suppression of the national aspirations of the Palestinians and their desire for equality. The Israeli leadership has also been aware of the little potential Arab nationalism has for inspiring political mobilization and thus find the term 'Arab' less dangerous to their supremacy than 'Palestinian'. In addition, a potential future transfer of this "Arab" population to any generic Arab country, most likely either Jordan or Egypt, would be less objectionable than forcing a distinct minority to be absorbed in a non-democratic society that would have been called "Oriental Jews", and Arab Bedouins of Israel are not identified as 'Arab' signifies that, rather than any ethnic criteria, political motivation has determined the usage of this term.

THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ISRAEL

The shifting of the politics of Israel towards ultra-right, as demonstrated in the results of the recent elections, is an alarming reflection of the fear the colonizers develop of those they colonize. In the case of the Israeli Jews, the fear is deeper since the colonizers have familial and ethnic bonds with the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and in Diaspora and can hardly be expected to have loyalty to an exclusionist state. In addition, the Israeli Jews preserving the Palestinians as a "demographic threat" to the Jewish character of the state, based on faulty statistics which sets the former's birth rate at a much lower level than that of the latter. Recently, a governmental Demogra- phy Council has been convened with the specific task of finding ways to increase the birth rate of Jewish women!

Politicians and rabbits stir up this xenophobia by openly violating the Palestinians of Israel, calling them fifth column, traitors, cancer and vermin. Avigdor Lieberman, once on the Lunatic Fringe of Israeli politics, has turned his party into the third-largest political party and is now the most vocal in asserting that Jewish Arabs, who are called "Oriental Jews", and Arab Bedouins of Israel are not identified as 'Arab' signifies that, rather than any ethnic criteria, political motivation has determined the usage of this term.
**The Internationale**

The original French words were written in June 1871 by Eugène Pottier (1816–1887, previously a member of the Paris Commune) and were originally intended to be sung to the tune of La Marsellaise. Pierre De Geyter (1846–1932) set the poem to music in 1888. His melody was first publicly performed in July 1888, and became widely used soon after.

**THE INTERNATIONALE**

Arise, wretched of the earth
Arise, convicts of hunger
Reason thunders in its volcano
This is the eruption of the end.
Of the past let us wipe the slate clean
Masses, slaves, arise, arise
The world is about to change its foundation
We are nothing, let us be all.

**Chorus:**
This is the final struggle.
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race
There are no supreme savours
Neither God, nor Caesar, nor tribune.
Producers, let us save ourselves
Decree the common welfare.
That the thief may bare his throat,
That the spirit be pulled from its prison
Let us fan the fire ourselves
Strike the iron while it is hot.

**Chorus:**
This is the final struggle.
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race
Hidious in their self-glorification
Kings of the mine and rail
Have they ever done anything other Than steal work?
Into the coffers of that lot,
What work creates has melted
In demanding that they give it back
The people wants only its due.

**Chorus:**
This is the final struggle.
Let us group together, and tomorrow
The Internationale
Will be the human race
Holy Rollers and Jumpers come out
And they sing and they clap and they shout
‘Give your money to Jesus,’ they say,
‘He will cure all diseases today . . .
Working folks of all countries, unite
Side by side we for freedom will fight
When the world and it’s wealth we have gained
Guns in the air, and break ranks
This is my last will and testament—
You will eat, by and by.
When you have learned how to cook and how to fry
Chop some wood, it will do you good
Then you’ll eat in the sweet by and by—
that’s no lie!

**JOE HILL’S LAST WILL**

Joe Hill

**By Joe Hill**

My last will is easy to decide
For I have nothing to divide
My kin don’t need to weep and moan
Moss does not cling to a rolling stone
My body? oh, if I could choose
I would to ashes it reduce
And let the merry breezes blow
Moss does not cling to a rolling stone
Perhaps some fading flower then
Would soon rise up and grow green again
This is my last and final will
Good luck to all of you,
Joe Hill

**Socialism 2009: building a new left for a new era**

Chicago, June 18-21

The world economic crisis has shattered the free-market consensus that has dominated politics for the last generation. Meanwhile, the end of the conservative era and the election of the first African American president has raised expectations among working people that long overdue change is at hand. With capitalism in crisis, even some in the mainstream media are admitting that Karl Marx was right.

There has never been a better time for those who want to see fundamental change to get together to debate, discuss and organize for a new society—a society based on the needs of the many instead of the whims of a few. We need to organize a new left to meet the challenge of this new era.

That’s the purpose that Socialism 2009—expanded to two sites this year—has set for itself. Gather with activists from around the world to take part in dozens of discussions about changing the world: How can we end racism? What kind of organization do we need? What would a future socialist society look like?

Yes we can organize for socialism in the 21st century! ¡Si se puede!


For more information, visit: socialismconference.org
Six People From an Amerikan Tradition They’ll Never Teach You About In School

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (August 7, 1890–September 5, 1964) was a labor leader, activist, and feminist who played a leading role in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Flynn was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a visible proponent of women's rights, birth control, and women's suffrage. Late in life, she became chairperson of the American Communist Party. Flynn died in the course of a visit to the Soviet Union, where she was accorded a state funeral.

Emma Goldman (June 27, 1869–May 14, 1940) was an anarchist known for her political activism, writing and speeches. She played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political philosophy in North America and Europe in the first half of the twentieth century.

John "Jack" Silas Reed (22 October 1887–17 October 1920) was an American journalist, poet, and communist activist, remembered for his first-hand account of the Bolshevik Revolution, Ten Days that Shook the World.

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (August 1, 1837–November 30, 1930), born in Cork, Ireland, was a prominent American labor and community organizer, a Wobbly, and a Socialist. As a union organizer, she gained prominence for organizing the wives and children of striking workers in demonstrations on their behalf. She became known as "the most dangerous woman in America," a phrase coined by a West Virginia District Attorney Reese Blizzard in 1902, at her trial for ignoring an injunction banning meetings by striking miners. "There sits the most dangerous woman in America," announced Blizzard. "She crooks her finger—twenty thousand contented men lay down."
Some Notes On the Social Forum Phenomenon

By Paul Marcob

May Day, Then and Now

By Joe Benso

This May 1st will mark the fourth large scale celebration of May Day (International Workers’ Day) in the United States. This holiday, which was born of events in Chicago in 1886, was suppressed and became almost completely lost to American workers until immigrant workers recovered it for all of us with massive national demonstrations on May 1st, 1969. The irony of an American holiday being rediscovered on American soil by immigrant workers is just one of a long chain of ironies that have marked the workers’ movement in the United States. So, in the interest of a little remedial education, let me share a brief version of the history of May Day.

The year was 1886. For over a year, many workers’ organizations, including the new American Federation of Labor, had been calling for a national 8-hour day to be granted by employers with no loss in pay, and to be enforced by a federal law. The epicenter of this movement was Chicago.

The slogan was: Eight hours for work
Eight hours for sleep
Eight hours for what we will.

Chicago was the radical center of the labor movement nationally and world-wide at that time, and the movement there was led largely by political radicals, anarchists, small-c communists, and socialists of a hundred different stripes. This was, remember, long before the Russian Revolution.

The majority of the leaders of this movement were immigrants, but that was not surprising since the majority of the workers in Chicago was immigrants and their children – largely from Germany, but also from a dozen other countries, including Norway, Bohemia, Hungary, Ireland and Finland. The most prominent native-born leaders were Albert Parsons and his wife Lucy, who had come to Chicago a few years before. They had left Texas to escape the post-Reconstruction anti-miscegenation laws which made the marriage of a white ex-Confederate print-er turned Radical Reconstructionist and a black/Latino/Indian ex-slave, outside the pale of law.

The national movement had called for demonstrations across the country, calling for 8 hours of work, and for workers to walk off the job and demonstrate. In Chicago, demonstration drew 80,000 – Chicago’s largest up to that time – and was led down Michigan Avenue by Albert and Lucy Parsons. As radicals and anarchists/socialists, they saw the 8-hour movement and the freeing up of workers’ time that would result, as an important step toward building a revolutionary movement. The movement was largely peaceful and many workers in Chicago and nationally did gain the 8-hour day.

However, at McCormick Reaper, the massive farm machinery plant in Chicago, the striking workers were not so lucky. They were attacked by police and two were killed on May 3rd. Many workers were outraged and, to protest these killings, a demonstration was planned for May 4th at Haymarket Square. Chicago’s history of radicalism and the widespread demonstrations of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationship between Mankind and between it and the Earth.

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Like many emergency demonstrations since then, it was not very well organized and most of the expected speakers weren’t even there when the rally started. It was a few thousand people. Eventually, speakers arrived and spoke from a wagon, string at the head of an alley just at the edge of the square itself. The only violence was the words of the speakers who took turns to use every occasion to remind the audience the control that the capitalists had over the law and the police and the need to resist.

To the south, across Randolph Street, police were massed, but so was the popular pre-labor mayor, Carter Harrison, who found no fault with the rally. Harrison left when it started to rain, just before the rally ended, telling the police commander John Bonfield that he was going home, that there was nothing happening, and that the police should to the same. By this time rain had begun and the rally was down to about 200. Unfortunately, Bonfield, who had also been in charge of the police who killed the workers at McCormick, only sent part of his men home. With his remaining men, he formed up in dense formation and marched to the edge of the demonstration. At that point, he called out to the remaining demonstrators that this was an illegal assembly and that they should disperse immediately. The final speaker, Samuel Fielden, called out that they were peace-able, but before he could finish his sentence, a bomb went off in the middle of the massed police, killing some imme-

These events caused the city government to start a manhunt for all radical labor leaders, labeling them as dangerous, terrorist cop-killers. Within a few days many were arrested, except for Parsons who fled to Wisconsin, but came back to join his comrades on the dock for the trial. Most of those arrested were not physically present at Haymarket, so they were charged with conspir-acy; their real crime, as was freely admitted at the time, was being radicals and building a movement among working people. No one ever established who threw the bomb.

After a trial, now universally rec-ognized by historians as being a travesty of justice, all seven of the defendants were convicted and sentenced to hang. Two had their sentences commuted to prison terms and one, Louis Lingg, died in his cell, the night before execu-
tion, with a blasting cap. By the time of the executions, a world-wide movement had arisen demanding, at least, clemency for the accused. But that was not to be in Chicago. As his final words, August Spies shouted: "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today! And Albert Parsons’ final words being,"Let the voice of the people be heard.

Continued on page 11

Some Notes On the Social Forum Phenomenon

By Paul Marcob

Through the months of 2000 around Brazil and parts of Latin America, there was concerted effort to bring together parts of civil society, historically disenfranchised over decades of dictatorships and economic hegemony by the Northern Connexion. The most talked about time was the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in late November. The culmination was the 1st World Social Forum in Brazil based organization: Friends of the MST, http://www.mst-brazil.org/

Given the economic, environmental and social turmoil of the day, one might add to the slogan: Another world is possible, the urgent call: Another world is necessary.

2) The World Social Forum at Porto Alegre was an event localised in time and place. From now on, in the certainty proclaimed at Porto Alegre that “Anoth-
er World Is Possible,” it becomes a permanent political difference, a political force that cannot be reduced to the events supporting it.

Of course, in the corporately globalized world, the Forum was partially a response to the gathering of those captains of capital who had been meeting regularly in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum. It’s also the case that the Battle in Seattle, where the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference of December 1999 was destined to set off a wave of outrage and less developed countries opposition, resonated at WSF 1. The awareness that there were activists inside the northern behemoth who shared the critiques of the IMF/World Bank/WTO invigorated the meetings at Porto Alegre.

Northerners from the overdeveloped world joined the movement, by going to the south as well as having awareness that there were activists inside the northern behemoth who shared the critiques of the IMF/World Bank/WTO invigorated the meetings at Porto Alegre. Northerners from the overdeveloped world joined the movement, by going to the south as well as having awareness that there were activists inside the northern behemoth who shared the critiques of the IMF/World Bank/WTO invigorated the meetings at Porto Alegre.

A visitor to the 3rd forum Noam Chomsky, perhaps the most noted outside of the US than within, found his largest single audience in Porto Alegre where he spoke before nearly 30,000 attendees. In his speech he chose to champion the Brazilian landless Movement (MST), perhaps the most disenfranchised group in all of the world, with the help of the Sao Paulo’s largest landless based organization: Friends of the MST, http://www.mst-brazil.org/

Given the economic, environmental and social turmoil of the day, one might add to the slogan: Another world is possible, the urgent call: Another world is necessary.
Fix U.S. Foreign Policy, Pass the Employee Free Choice Act

By Bob N羞nan

SOMETIMES A "strategic" opportunity for reform comes along which changes the playing field for efforts to win other reforms in the future. The passage of the National Labor Relations Act was a strategic reform. It empowered the people previously excluded from power, and thereby reduced the power of corporate interests. The same is true of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

The passage of EFCA is easy to justify on the basis of guaranteeing the human rights of working Americans. When it is signed into law, millions of private sector workers will have greater protection from having their rights violated.

What difference would that make? Ask Steve Arney. He used to be a reporter at the Bloomington Pantagraph, a newspaper in Illinois owned by Lee Enterprises. A majority of employees at the Pantagraph signed cards to support forming a union with the St. Louis Newspaper Guild. Lee Enterprises responded with a campaign to defeat the effort forming a union with the St. Louis Newspaper Guild. Lee

As part of Lee's anti-union campaign, Steve Arney lost his job. He was working as a Features writer. Arney says:

"I had to take the severance, because I didn't make enough to save up a bunch of money. So I accepted the severance, so I lost my right to sue. Had I sued, the out-

come, at best, two and half years later, the way the system

existed in the early years of the

movement to have more

foreign policy for the labor

unions and what we know today as the peace

and international solidarity movements. Saul Alinsky
described the labor movement in the thirties this way in his book "Rules for Radicals."

"The agendas of those labor union mass meetings were 10 per cent on the specific problems of that union and 90 per cent on the conditions and needs of the southern Okies, the Spanish Civil War and the International Brigade, raising funds for blacks who were on trial in some southern state, . . . raising funds for anti-Nazi organiza-

tions, demanding an end to American sales of scrap iron to

the Japanese military complex, and on and on.
"The labor movement that exists today may be a far cry from your grandfather's labor movement that existed in the 1930s. But it's also a far cry from your father's labor movement that existed in the 1960s.

In January 2007, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney denounced President Bush's proposal for military escalation in Iraq. In March the General Executive Council of the AFL-CIO called for the end of the U.S. military occupation of Iraq and a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. forces. These statements played a significant role in aligning Democrats in Congress in favor of a timetable for U.S. withdrawal for Iraq. And the position of Demo-

crats in Congress—especially presidential candidate Barack Obama—in favor of a timetable for withdrawal decisively strengthened the hand of the Iraqi government in successfully demanding from the Bush Admin-
istration a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

The internal struggles over the U.S. labor movement's foreign policy are by no means over and would likely never be. But the direction of motion is toward an American labor movement that opposes foreign military and economic policies that are in the interest of the majority. A dramatic expansion in the ranks of organized labor will help push labor in a more progressive direction on foreign policy. That's why Americans who want to end U.S. foreign policies based on war and economic institutions dominated by corporate interests, and who want policies based on peace, economic development, and diplomacy have a stake in the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.
Five Ring Circus: Olympics and Resistance

By Neil Partham

The Olympics have been mythologized as a venue where athletes from all over the world can be unified in a contest of the world’s greatest athletes. However, reality is that the Olympics have been and continue to be a highly commercialized venture with political considerations commandeering the decisions.

One name is synonymous with the Olympics of the 20th century. Avery Brundage. It was under his leadership that the Olympics became deeply intertwined with politics, despite his protests that sports and politics should never mix. Brundage was a graduate from the University of Illinois in 1909. After serving as president of the American Athletic Union, he became president of the United States Olympic Committee during the 1930s.

The 1936 Games were to be hosted in Berlin, Germany. The organization Brundage pitched to the IOC — the Amateur Athletic Union — was vigorously demanding a boycott of the Olympics as Nazi racial discrimination was against Olympic rules and participation of countries in the Games would legitimize the Nazi regime. In late 1935, the American member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Ernest Lee Jahncke stated: “Neither Americans nor the representatives of other countries can take part in the Games in Nazi Germany without at least acquiescing in the contempt of the Nazis for fair play and their soulless exploitation of the Games.”

Brundage did not heed these warmings. He opposed a boycott since he had been given a brief stage-managed interview in Berlin and stated that Jewish athletes were being treated fairly. As the controversy increased, Avery alleged that there was a “Jewish-Communist” conspiracy behind keeping the US out of the Games. Brundage helped to give the Nazis significant political legitimacy by sending the United States Olympic team to Berlin.

In July 1936, the IOC expelled Jahncke from his post and Avery Brundage was elected to take over. Jahncke became the only person to ever be expelled from the IOC. Despite the Berlin Olympics being used by the Nazis in their propaganda reels, Brundage claimed in 1971, “The Berlin Games were the finest in modern history.”

After the Olympics, Brundage became involved in the America First movement that urged a neutral stance towards Nazi Germany. He had given multiple speeches extolling the values of the Nazi regime and was eventually kicked off of the America First committee because of his pro-German leanings. His history of accepting discrimination and overt racism would be a cause of another Olympic protest 32 years after Berlin.

The 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City were rife with the world having seen the weaknesses of US imperialism at the Tet offensive in Vietnam; the Prague Spring where Czech students challenged the Stalinist tanks, the assassination of Martin Luther King and the mass revolts that followed, the growth of the Black Panther Party in the United States, and the largest general strike in world history in France. Then, On October 2, ten days before the Games opened, the Mexican security forces massacred hundreds of students in Mexico City who were occupying the “National University.” Despite the massacre, Brundage continued the Games.

The culmination of the upheaval, allowing apartheid regimes to participate in Olympics, was Francois de la Paille’s history of bigotry ended up being the immortalized image of US track athletes John Carlos and Tommie Smith on the podium with their fists raised in defiance. Smith, Carlos and the silver medalist Peter Norman were all part of the OPHR and utilized their moment as a means of bringing attention to the social problems in America and to continue pressure on the IOC. Within hours, Smith and Carlos had their medals taken off of their medals and sent home by Brundage — a man who helped introduce Juan Antonio Samaranch, a high ranking member of Franco’s Spanish fascist regime to the IOC in 1966 as a man whom Brundage “trusted and loved” (and who would take over as President of the IOC after Brundage’s tenure)—because Smith and Carlos blurred the lines of sports and politics.

Brundage roused out his career as President of the IOC during the traumatic 1972 Olympics in Munich. In the aftermath of the massacre of Israeli athletes by the terrorist organization Black September, Brundage not only continued the Olympic Games but also made a public statement where he equated the murder of the Israeli team to the elimination of a country who upheld apartheid ideals in South Africa. He said “The Games of the XXII Olympiad have been subject to two savage attacks. We lost the Rhodesian battle against naked political blackmail.”

Brundage’s connection is not only local. He also had a construction company in Chicago. His ignoble history as an Olympic leader is a reason that many citizens in Chicago support the elimination of a country who upheld apartheid regimes to participate in Olympics and Avery Brundage allowing apartheid regimes to participate in Olympics.

While the bid team gives out low cost estimates, these estimates, approximately $5 billion, should not be believed. London, the host of the 2012 Games is now expected to spend $16.6 billion, nearly twice their original estimate. This price is only compounded with Chicago’s history of building delays and cost overruns on the building of public projects. Millennium Park cost $475 million to build, which was $325 million more than its original projection. The most recent extensions of the riverwalk along the Chicago River have caused $22 million, double the original stated cost. According to No Games Chicago organizer Bob Quellos, the city has taken the city over 20 years and $290 million to build a yet to be finished train station which is now just a “taxpayer created giant concrete bunker” called Block 37.

While the IOC, was evaluating Chicago as a potential bid city in early April, No Games Chicago was able to give a presentation to the panel members. Bob Quellos, one of the presenters for No Games Chicago, stated that the city had discussed the city’s significant financial problems, the construction time/cost overruns and the corruption present in Chicago’s Illinois politicians. Quellos closed the presentation telling the IOC that if the Games come to Chicago, it could awakens a sleeping giant of resistance. This resistance would have seven years to organize for the Games after the October 2, 2009 announcement of the host city.

Quellos and No Games Chicago are not anti-Olympics. Instead of spending the funds on constructing temporary stadiums that will likely not be used after the Games, the supporters of No Games Chicago argue that it should be over for sure. If the billions are to be spent, let’s focus that money on providing better health care, secure housing, better schools and state of the art transportation. Let’s turn the potential site of a five ring circus into a first rate city for all of its inhabitants by saying “No Games, Chicago!”

Currently, the Chicago Public School system has a $475 million budget shortfall. The City of Chicago is in debt to the tune of at least $200 million. Recently, 1,600 more city workers lose their jobs in an attempt to balance the budget. The Chicago Transit Authority has stated that they will have to raise fares and limit service to areas throughout the city. The Authority also lacks the funds to repair and replace the public buses and train tracks when necessary. Outside of Chicago, the state of Illinois has a massive budget deficit as well.

While Chicago wallows in its extreme debt, Mayor Daley has increased fees and taxes on items that impact tourists as well as residents like movies, plays and hotels. These costs end up hitting workers living in the city and make their lives very difficult. At the same time, the Mayor is looking for ways to get more tourist dollars with a 2016 Games. Despite the significant economic problems, Chicago still wants the Olympics. The Chicago 2016 bid team promises that it will not cost the taxpayers a dime. However, taxpayer money is being lined up currently to help pay for the creation of the Olympic Village and for stadium construction efforts. The IOC demands a full state guarantee for any host site to pay for the Olympics and Chicago is not likely to get one, nor should it, given the severe economic problems currently facing Chicago and Illinois.

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Lumpenproletariat, me treasured private property wondering always how it comes, there's just no rest for such poor bums.

Born in 1909, Nelson Algren wrote novels of the underclass, those who Marx described as the "lumpenproletariat," before he became a celebrated writer for his book The Man With the Golden Arm. Algren attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, worked as a reporter for the Daily Illini, and graduated in 1931 with a degree in Journalism. This year is the centennial of Algren's birth. His novels brilliantly captured the experience of ethnic Americans who lived in Chicago's urban ghettos.

Originally named Nelson Abraham, as a young writer Algren changed his name to avoid the discrimination that many Jews faced in the 1930s. Yet perhaps because of his background, he continued to identify with the oppressed and the downtrodden. Born in Detroit, his parents moved to Chicago when he was three years old and he grew up in its working class neighborhoods playing with children of Jewish immigrants and daughters of Irish, Polish, and Jewish immigrants.

At the insistence of his older sister, Algren left home to attend the University of Illinois which then had only 100,000 students. His time in Urbana-Champaign was relatively uneventful. It is recounted in the biography by Betti- na Drew, Nelson Algren: A Life on the Wild Side. She says he lived the life of an ascetic, as a student, earning As in English and Journalism. Eventually, he got off campus. In later years, he recalled walking down Walnut Street looking for prostitutes, with "an very oppressive sense of sin." In his senior year he worked for The Daily Illini as a court reporter at the Champaign County courthouse. After he received a BA in Journalism, he became certified by the Illinois Press Association and moved back to Chicago to find work. The reporting skills he picked up as a student would later help him to document Chicago's underworld of gamblers, thieves, and drug addicts.

In the early years of the Depression, Algren could not find a job at a newspaper. Gravitating toward other aspiring young artists, he became involved with the John Reed Club. He joined the Communist Party of the country set up among writers on the left, many of whom were in the Communist Party. There he met proletarian writer Jack Conroy, African American novelist Richard Wright, and the feminist writer Meridel Le Sueur.

Joining others among the unemployed, Algren took one of the many trains out of Chicago, "hob"ing from town to town in search of work. After being caught stealing a type-writer at a college where he was teaching, he spent five months in a Texas Prison. From these experiences he wrote his first novel, Somebody in Boots (1935), set in Texas, New Orleans, and Chicago.

Returning to Chicago, Algren took up residence in an area known as "the triangle," a Polish neighborhood at the intersection of Division, Ashland, and Milwaukee. This was the setting for his first novel Never Come Morning (1941), about the Polish boxer, Bruno "Lefty" Bicek. In the introduction, Richard Wright praised the book for depicting the "frustrated longing for human dignity residing in the lives of Poles of Chicago's North West Side." One of the most acclaimed writers of the day, Ernest Hemingway, said it was "about the best book to come out of Chicago."

While Algren had achieved critical recognition, it was not until The Man With the Golden Arm (1949) that he gained commercial success. Regarded as the first American novel about drug addiction, the story focuses on Frankie "Machine" Mjacmen, who has become addicted to morphine to forget his memories of being a soldier during World War II. An ace car dealer, he now relies on gambling to support his habit. Many today remember the 1955 movie adaptation of Algren's book starring Frank Sinatza. Algren was disappointed with the film and originally wanted Marlon Brando to play the lead role.

In 1947, while French existentialist Simone de Beauvoir was travelling the United States, governments and conservative labor leaders have gone out of their way to dismiss the covering of May 1, with Richard Nixon declaring it "Law Day." In 1973, despite being labeled as a foreign, subversive, and Communist holiday, May Day had a resurgence in the 1930's and 1940's, when the political left helped to revive the labor movement. During post-WWII Cold War, May Day celebrations receded under the pressure of anti-Communist repression and fear. It was only with the demonstrations of 2009, led especially by labor leaders who, which May Day returned to the consciousness of the people who had given it birth, the workers of Chicago. It has been reborn fittingly on the shoulders of this generation of immigrants, just as it was born initially out of the struggles of immi- grants looking for a decent life in this country. On May 1, 2007, the largest demonstrations in Chicago history (estimat- ed as 300,000-500,000), along with dozens more throughout the nation, reminded us of the heritage of May Day and its special role in the history of immi- grants workers in the US and Chicago. (see http://www.archive.org/details/CLET45009 for a film of the Chicago demonstration produced by Labor Beat in Chicago, for more on Illinois labor history, see http://www.illinoislaborthistory.org)

In Urbana-Champaign, May Day will be commemorated on May 2nd with the holding of the Central Illinois Social Forum to bring together all of the groups and individuals who are trying to assist the work- ing people to survive the challenges of the economic collapse and who are trying to organize to chart a way forward under the slogan, "Another world is possible." There is no doubt that the Haymarket Martyrs would approve.

Democracy and Israel's Other Citizens

By Continued from page 8

Even Trips Livni, in her capacity as for- eign minister in the last government, sees no place for Palestinians inside Israel: "My solution for maintaining a Jewish and democratic state of Israel is to have two distinct national entities...I will also be able to view it as my political responsibility to live among and respect the residents of Israel, those whom we call Arab Israelis, and tell them: Your national aspirations lie elsewhere."

Many Israeli progressives are alarmed by these trends as detrimental to genuine democratic values. Uri Avnery warns against fascism. Political geographer, Oren Perlman, calls Israel's political system an ethnocracy (a regime with some democratic features but lacking a democratic structure) and not a democracy, so on and so force.

The Palestinian citizens of Is- rael speak up

The Palestinians of Israel express their existen- tial dilemma by referring to themselves as "Palestinians in Israel." They realize that, as "Arab Israelis," they belong neither to Israel nor to a future Palestinian state. To end this predicament, a group of promi- nent Israeli Palestinians has recently devel- oped an extensive plan towards the cre- ation of a "consensual democracy for both Arabs and Jews" within which Palestinians could achieve "full citizenship and equality and institutional self-rule in the fields of education, culture, and religion." So far, though, this call has received only conster- nation from Jewish politicians and public.

The Israeli secret police, Shin Bet, has even warned that it would "disrupt the activities of any groups that seek to change the Jewish or democratic character of Israel, even if they use democratic means." Unless Israeli Jews decide to turn their back on paranoia and embrace with the Palestinians their common heritage and love for their ancestral land, they will find themselves isolated within an ethnocratic regime, searching a solution to their own existential dilemma. We, too, need to decide whether, for the benefit of all involved, we should start to be part of a just solution or continue to contribute to the perpetuation of violence and hatred.

May Day, Then and Now

By Continued from page 8

The executions and political scare had two important effects. One was to paint the entire political scene with the brush of dangerous, terrorist, radicalism, and to set back union organizing and activ- ity for a number of years. It ironically played an important role in the decline of the then dominant Knights of Labor, whose national leadership had not understood the significance of the May 1st demonstrations, even though Parsons and some others were proud members of a Chicago Knights Assembly.

The other was to create martyrs of these men, whose words and deeds came to be felt all over the world, wherever workers organized as workers, especially to demand shorter hours. In 1889 the Second (Socialist) International declared May 1st to be an international workers' holiday in commemoration of the Martyrs of Chicago.

It is now an official legal holiday in most nations of the world, but in the United States, governments and conservative labor leaders have gone out of their way to dis- courage the observing of May 1, with Richard Nixon declaring it "Law Day." In 1973, despite being labeled as a foreign, sub- versive, and Communist holiday, May Day had a resurgence in the 1930's and 1940's, when the political left helped to revive the labor movement. During post-WWII Cold War, May Day celebrations receded under the pressure of anti-Communist repression and fear. It was only with the demonstrations of 2009, led especially by labor leaders who, which May Day returned to the consciousness of the people who had given it birth, the workers of Chicago. It has been reborn fittingly on the shoulders of this generation of immigrants, just as it was born initially out of the struggles of immi- grants looking for a decent life in this country. On May 1, 2007, the largest demonstrations in Chicago history (estimat- ed as 300,000-500,000), along with dozens more throughout the nation, reminded us of the heritage of May Day and its special role in the history of immi- grants workers in the US and Chicago. (see http://www.archive.org/details/CLET45009 for a film of the Chicago demonstration produced by Labor Beat in Chicago, for more on Illinois labor history, see http://www.illinoislaborthistory.org)

In Urbana-Champaign, May Day will be commemorated on May 2nd with the holding of the Central Illinois Social Forum to bring together all of the groups and individ- uals who are trying to assist the work- ing people to survive the challenges of the economic collapse and who are trying to organize to chart a way forward under the slogan, "Another world is possible." There is no doubt that the Haymarket Martyrs would approve.