

october:

fire your boss!



janice tiefenbach

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# Why do we have bo\$\$e\$ and how can we fire them?

David Bernans

"Why should workers agree to be slaves in a basically authoritarian structure? They should have control over it themselves. Why shouldn't communities have a dominant voice in running the institutions that affect their lives?" - Noam Chomsky

If you had the resources that you required to provide for your own needs, would you still be flipping burgers at the local fast food joint? Probably not.

Indigenous farmers, fishing peoples and hunter-gatherers around the world were getting by just fine before some general or admiral from some imperialist army or another came along, ordering soldiers (who used to be peasants themselves but had their land stolen from them) to force the Indigenous Peoples from the land.

Once robbed of the means to meet their own subsistence requirements, people found themselves in a relationship of dependence. They found themselves dependent on the people who stole their land. In other words, they got a bo\$\$.

Bo\$\$e\$ (A.K.A. the global capitalist class) now own the vast majority of the resources that we need to feed and cloth ourselves. The top 200 multinational corporations profits are almost double the yearly income of the poorest 4/5 of humanity. There is a very simple answer to Chomsky's question: "Why should workers agree to be slaves in a basically authoritarian structure?" The alternative to slavery is hunger.

Yet, there may be another alternative. We may be able to fire our bo\$\$e\$.

It is true that bo\$\$e\$ have wealth, power and armed men at their service to make sure that they keep their wealth and power. Nevertheless, non-bo\$\$e\$ form the vast majority of the global population. We are many and they are few. By uniting our forces, we can collectively fire our bo\$\$e\$!

This section of Uprising is dedicated to this noble project. In it you will find inspirational stories about the ongoing struggle that you would be well-advised to join if you want to FIRE YOUR BO\$\$!



WORK RATE TOO FAST  
(APPLY RESISTANCE)

# When a Community and a Union Fires their Bo\$\$e\$

Oct.

David Bleakney

Writing about the role of Unions in anti-capitalist struggle without reflecting on labour history and identifying the building blocks that lead to the present is a difficult task. A discussion regarding labour unions and capitalism is incomplete in the absence of history.

Some will simplify things by using an "all or nothing" approach. Either the labour movement is fantastic since it brought us the weekend, the eight hour day, etc, or it is completely useless and sold out long ago to maintain capital through mitigation of its worst aspects.

During the recent free trade summit in Quebec City there were many voices calling on labour unions to turn left rather than right. A turn left would have taken 65,000 workers directly into a confrontation at the wall. The right turn led to a park far outside the core of the city and away from the action.

Some will say that the fact 65,000 working class people marched in Quebec City against the free trade area of the Americas was an impressive display of solidarity in itself. That is a story that will come again and again and it is a story for others to tell.

In the course of anti-capitalist struggle, we must keep in mind that no meaningful social change will happen without workers. They are the ones with their fingers on the machine. They can bring it to its knees with little effort. They are an incredibly powerful force. Nevertheless, precisely how this can happen at the local level is a very complex question. How can we organize effectively in local communities? Building local struggles is hard work. What kind of

models are there?

Many workers have families or homes. They have paid their dues and spent their lives try to claim a patch of security within a capitalist framework. The notion that one is a paycheque away from eviction is never far away. Working people do not take striking lightly. They risk personal or financial loss by becoming an example.

Bosses will fire you in a second for an illegal wildcat. Governments will fine you on a daily basis (during the last Canadian postal strike workers were threatened with personal fines of \$50,000 a day for leaders and \$1000 a day for members). Mass working class power requires things like unity, long-term strategies, understanding, respect,

safety in numbers, the motto that an injury to one is an injury to all and the philosophy that we are in this together.

Some unions have been engaged in coalition work for several years. As that relationship develops (too

slowly for some-too fast for others) the capacity to unify around an effective banner for real social advancement becomes tantalizing. One such story shows how practical local solidarity can work as a living laboratory in the exercise of self-control of the workplace and class struggle while blurring the boundaries between the mainstream and the radicals...

In the fall of 1998 things were bad at Station E in Toronto. This Station is a letter carrier depot in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It consists of two hundred letter carriers or so and a handful of wicket clerks. Workers were going through a rough time. They were



photo by zev tiefenbach

routinely disciplined or fired for the most ridiculous reasons. Union activists were hunted down with glee and isolated by the employer. Complaints got nowhere. Grievances were taking a long time.

When Denis Doherty, a temporary worker for four years, stopped to pick his children up in his mail van and drop them off a few blocks later they were thrilled. He had been stopped at the side of the street when his kids waved and asked for a lift. That sentiment soon turned to devastation when it was discovered that a Canada Post manager had followed the vehicle and fired Doherty because he had picked up passengers. Incidentally, every year Ontario, the largest province in Canada, sponsors "bring your kid to work" day. Last year two people got killed while spending their school day in an auto plant. No one was fired for that. At any rate it in Station E it had gone too far. Someone suggested that maybe the bo\$\$e\$ should be fired instead.

From a small idea things took off. The Toronto Local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) are long time supporters of the labour council, poverty coalitions, rights organizations, etc. Also, the letter carriers had a good report with their "customers". The station served a strong ethnic working class neighbourhood.

Workers knew they risked severe discipline (probably firing) if they engaged in an illegal picket. Local allies sprung into action. Labour Council representatives, poverty activists, full time union people, students, seniors and other communities were mobilized. They would become the picket line!!!

When workers arrived at Station E on D-Day they were met by a cheering mob. Then, in a pattern unheard of for most postal workers they crossed the line. Well, not actually. The line opened and they were embraced like heroes. Inside the station there was a huge banner hanging that said "harassment free zone". It's a much friendlier message to receive in the workplace than the usual "work will set you free" type of slogans.

Meanwhile, outside, for everyone to see, was this huge banner that said something like "stop

privatization - for good jobs and service in the community". Not too radical but enough to keep the radicals and the community on the same page through a radical action. As the bosses arrived they received notices of a disciplinary interview for crimes against workers. They huddled. Their pack moved down the street a bit and just kind of hung out while shuffling around looking at their feet. They looked a bit lost. The workers were inside helping each other put up their walks before hitting the street. A workplace meeting was called and a motion was put forward that the bosses would be symbolically fired. It carried unanimously. The motion was read out to cheering protestors and citizens from the local community. Without management around the mail made it out to the street an hour earlier than normal and (almost) everybody was happy.

It was not a complete victory. Dennis Doherty didn't get his job back but the bosses were moved on, some of them sentenced to the banality of a desk job in Canada Post with no people to squash. The practice of firing bo\$\$e\$ did not continue. For one fall day, however, letter carriers engaged in a meaningful participatory event with their community about working class power. Workers confirmed that it was they who ran the post office and didn't need bosses to do it. Friends were made. Legitimacy and respect flourished. For a short while the Union regained control of the shop floor. It worked because it spoke to community, it unified workers, it strengthened the activist community, it got good press (it never hurts but it's not something you can usually count on) and it helped move some bosses down the road to pasture.

Is it enough? Of course not. Like many ideas it waits for another day when workers and their communities embrace practical ways that dissolve our differences, reawaken a buried history and fan the sparks of dissent into a raging fire.

*David Bleakney is the National Union Representative of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). <http://www.cupw-stfp.org>*

## Who are the BO\$\$E\$ at Con U? (and how can we fire them)

Oct.

David Bernans  
CSU Researcher

All Concordia students have bo\$\$e\$ but not everyone knows who they are. There is the person that orders you around for 8 hours a day in your non-unionized low-paying job at the call centre, the restaurant or the office. These are bo\$\$e\$ that most students have, but students also have a set of bo\$\$e\$ that they share as students. Fortunately, Concordia students also have a union - the Concordia Student Union (CSU).

You might not realise it, but you don't just work for bo\$\$e\$, you learn for them as well. Corporations dominate Concordia's Board of Governors (BOG), the highest governing body of the University, they have engaged in various partnerships with the university, they have even gone so far as to set up their own academic programs on Concordia's campus. Corporations have been progressively privatizing the University in order to train the "human resources" that they need to maximize profit.

Whirlpool Corporation Chairman David Whitwam expresses corporate expectations of public education when he argues that "universities must listen to the needs of corporate customers and then quickly marshal the resources to solve the learning requirement." Universities are not expected to teach critical thinking about important social issues but rather to solve the narrow requirements of capitalist enterprises.

This means that students don't learn about the ethically questionable things that Concordia bo\$\$e\$ are doing around the world - little things, like mass

murder (see all of the various *Con U Facts* in this publication).

In the fall of 1999, Concordia students voted to fire their bo\$\$e\$. Almost 90% of undergraduate students voted in a university-wide referendum to put forward a plan to democratize the University where the corporate representatives who dominate our BOG would be replaced by representatives elected by students, faculty and staff. Not surprisingly, even with such an impressive mandate and a three day strike to back it up, it proved difficult to convince the self-appointed corporate representatives that run Concordia to give up their power and privilege. The idea that we can simply vote our bo\$\$e\$ out of office is based on the false assumption that public institutions are run on democratic principles.

Referenda, limited strikes and occupations, sticker campaigns, demonstrations, boycotts, etc. have been effective in winning limited but important gains; a freeze on tuition (Quebec, 1995), a freeze of the administration fee (Concordia, 1999), student tables in the lobby of the Hall building (Concordia, 2001), etc.

Nevertheless, if we want to fire our bo\$\$e\$ on campus, it will take much more radical action. The only cases where students have actually succeeded in doing this (albeit for relatively short periods of time) have been cases of strikes and occupations done in solidarity with strikes and occupations of workers who were likewise trying to fire their respective bo\$\$e\$; Mexico in May of 1968, Paris in May of 1968, Quebec in October of 1968, Mexico in April 1999 to February of 2000, etc.

**You might not realise it, but you don't just work for bo\$\$e\$, you learn for them as well.**

## CON. U Fact: MAKING A KILLING

Bell Canada Enterprises (BCE) and Nortel Networks are major players in the Colombian telecommunications sector. As the Colombian telecommunications industry is privatized, these corporations expect to expand their operations and their profits. Privatization is happening over the dead bodies of unionized public telecommunications workers, literally. In 1998, resistance to privatization in the form of strikes led to the assassination of seven unionists and the arbitrary detention of thirteen more. The same military and para-military forces responsible for the massacres of Colombia's indigenous peoples (as part of the so-called "war on drugs") also kill hundreds of union organizers every year.



*"If you can't go to Colombia, protest the symbols of Plan Colombia where you live."*

*- Edilsa Beltrán,  
Coordinator of  
Colombia's Popular  
Women's Organization  
(OPF)*

BCE and Nortel are part of a telecommunications corporate consortium that has established the multinational and multi-campus International Institute of Telecommunications (IIT). IIT has not only influenced the curriculum at Concordia, it has negotiated the creation of an entirely new programme of study - telecommunications. It is a safe bet that Concordia telecommunications students will not learn much about the social impacts of the privatization and deregulation of the telecommunications industry.

## Ontario Coalition Against Poverty: Fighting on Many Fronts

Serena

OCAP is an organization dedicated to political struggle against an economic system that maintains and profits from the inequality, indignity, and needless suffering of poverty. OCAP believes that the system operates for the benefit of the rich, while poor and working people slave their lives away for little in return. OCAP knows that the system will change only when people force it to change, through organized resistance and struggle. OCAP is made of people who have decided to stop complaining and start fighting.

OCAP is waging a battle in a province headed by an archetype of capitalist greed: Premier Mike Harris has spent his years in power slashing spending to water sanitation programs with the end result being death, jailing squeegee youth, rewarding those who can afford private education for their children while tightening the screws on spending to public schools, openly promoting union decertification, imposing new 'child welfare' legislation allowing for a staggering increase in the number of children under state custody, the majority of whom are aboriginal ... all the while making Ontario an ideal place for corporate interests to flourish.

OCAP has mounted its resistance to injustice on many levels, both through larger-scale campaigns and daily casework. The system is immense and relentless, so OCAP fights on many fronts: welfare, housing, prisons, immigration. The number of obstacles most people face in their struggle to create homes and families is staggering, and this is particularly true of refugees and immigrants in Canada, many of whom have been forced to flee from civil war and poverty unlike anything most Canadians have ever known.

Discriminatory immigration policy separates people from their loved ones for decades, relegates people to temporary, unskilled and underpaid employment, and denies them access to affordable housing, health care and schooling - basic rights to which everyone is supposedly entitled.

In its battle against Immigration Canada, OCAP has for four years used direct action to force bureaucrats to recognize refugees as people, with lives and families, and not just numbers to fit quotas that favor 'newcomers' who are of wealth and privilege. Immigration Canada forces a mother of three from Uganda to make an impossible choice: take her Canadian-born kids to a country wracked by poverty and instability and destroy the marriage and work and life she has established here, or leave her family behind, to return alone to a country where she has been imprisoned for anti-government activity. This not uncommon situation occurs because a Canadian Immigration officer has decided she does not face 'substantial' enough risk to grant her citizenship rights in Canada.

OCAP, however, stands beside this mother, mobilizing large groups of people, which include union flying squads, students, and community members, to attend appointments intended to finalize deportation

arrangements. Such a show of force, a disruption to the usual number-crunching routine of Immigration bureaucracy, forces government officials to treat people as members of a community which refuses to let them be swept aside.

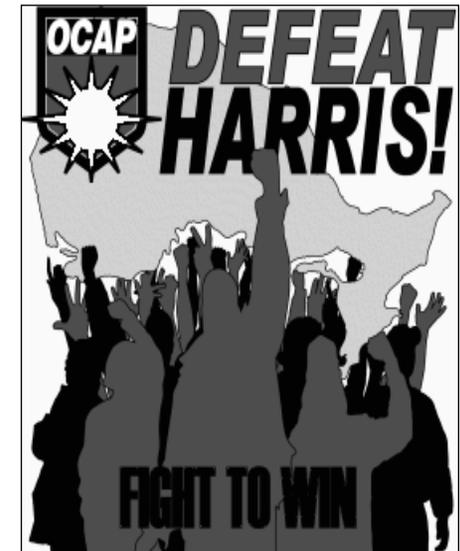
OCAP tactics are built upon the idea that we must stand together in strength and numbers and anger, to show the forces that govern without decency or compassion, that we will not accept life on their terms.

OCAP welcomes efforts to build alliances and support with those who do battle beyond the borders of Harris' Ontario. It is only by broadening our hard resistance to the destructive forces of capitalism that we will succeed.

*Contact OCAP for information or to make a financial contribution to our ongoing legal battles, casework, and campaigns:*

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## McDonald's : un succès mondial sur le dos de la jeunesse

Pascal Mcduff

*Ex-porte-parole du Syndicat des travailleuses et des travailleurs du Mcdo-CSN*

Vous êtes-vous déjà demandé pourquoi McDonald's était présent de par le monde, pourquoi la multinationale faisait des milliards de profit en étant le numéro un de la restauration rapide ? Il y a 55 ans, il n'y avait qu'un seul restaurant McDonald's au beau milieu de nul part. Que s'est-il alors passé ? Si Mcdo est rendu là où il est rendu, c'est grâce à nous, les jeunes. Des jeunes que l'on exploite, et ce, dès la tendre enfance où on nous attire par une publicité bien ciblée. Quel enfant peut résister au sourire d'un clown, à un sac à lunch cachant une surprise, à un parc pour enfant ? Aucun. Chez Mcdo tout est pensé. La publicité, le logo, les décors, le mobilier, le menu, il n'y a rien d'innocent là-dedans.

Mais l'exploitation de la jeunesse ne s'arrête pas là. Vers l'âge de 15, 16 ans, ces mêmes enfants que l'on a habitué inconsciemment à venir manger chez Mcdo sont à la recherche d'un emploi pour payer leurs études. C'est ennuyeux à dire, mais l'éducation gratuite au Québec est une utopie. Bref, ces jeunes se font embaucher chez Mcdo pour s'y faire exploiter. On leur promet une carrière, un bon salaire, des avantages sociaux concurrentiels, du plaisir, etc. Mais il n'en ai rien. Au delà de l'apparence, il y a la vérité. On se sert d'une main-d'œuvre docile, peu coûteuse, productive, disponible, des jeunes qui ne connaissent pas leurs droits, qui ne connaissent pas les avantages indéniables d'être syndiqué. Certains jeunes vous dirons : Mcdo c'est l'école de la vie, on y apprend à trimer dur. Est-ce que c'est parce qu'on est jeune qu'on doit s'en remettre à la maigre

pitance que nous réserve cette multinationale. Pendant, que les Mcactionnaires encaissent les milliards de dollars de profit, les employés travaillent fort pour quelques miettes. Où est la reconnaissance envers ces jeunes qui aide cette compagnie à grossir ?

La vérité est que Mcdo s'est bâti sur le dos des jeunes. Burger King, Harveys, Dunkin Donut's, Wendy's, ont copié la méthode gagnante. Résultat : les jeunes doivent être pris avec un emploi précaire. Et que dire de la philosophie Mcdo qui affirme dans le guide de l'employé model que l'éducation n'est pas importante car : " il y a des clochards couverts de diplômes dans la rue. "

Maintenant, quand les jeunes se mettent ensemble pour se munir d'un syndicat pour améliorer leurs conditions de travail, Ronald n'est pas content. J'ai vécu le mépris de la multinationale envers les jeunes en tentant avec succès, d'implanter avec mes collègues un syndicat au Mcdo de la rue Peel. Intimidation, menaces, inflation de procédures juridiques, la multinationale a tout mis en œuvre pour nous empêcher d'améliorer notre sort. Voyant que nous avions gagné, Mcdo a décidé de fermer boutique.

À l'heure de la mondialisation des marchés, des négociations de traités de libre-échange, nous devons nous poser la question suivante : voulons-nous vraiment donner plus de droit à des multinationales comme McDonald's qui exploitent les jeunes et qui se foutent du droit fondamental d'association, des valeurs de la société québécoise et canadienne ? Poser la question, c'est y répondre. La prochaine fois que vous aurez le goût d'un Big Mac, pensez-y bien.

## The IWW: Firing Bo\$\$es since 1905!

Oct.



PJ Lilly & Jeff Shantz with thanks to the Education Workers Industrial Union 620

Work got you down? Sick and tired of rotten jobs, long hours, lousy pay, lack of respect and bad work conditions? Think life might be better without bosses but not sure about mainstream unions? If you're looking for a real alternative, a workers' organization that doesn't accept the bo\$\$' crumbs but asks for the whole cake then try the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The IWW knows that employers and wage earners have nothing in common and has a proud history of fighting for workers' fair share - everything.

Since 1905 the IWW has worked to organize all workers, regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation, or nationality

into One Big Union. All workers means anyone who has to sell themselves for a wage in order to survive - full time, part-time, temp unemployed, all are members of the working class. The only restriction on membership is that you can't be a bo\$\$, you can't hire or fire.

Unlike mainstream unions, the IWW is an industrial union that organizes workers by class, not by trade, craft or skill. One Big Union, not a bunch of little unions which divide workers from one another based on separate contracts with the bosses. For example, at Concordia the IWW would organize all university workers (profs, TAs, custodians, staff) into one university-wide industrial union. When TAs strike all university workers go out - a sure recipe for a short and victorious strike.

This kind of power is crucial as the numbers of part-time, assistant, and non-tenure-track instructors increase. Administrators have turned to contingent



photo by zev tiefenbach

labour for a very simple reason - it's cheaper and more flexible. Those of us who actually keep the university running face stagnating wages, sub-contracting and privatization, with increased workloads, little benefits, no security, and ever-fewer full-time jobs to chase after.

The power to fight this trend lies in organization. The administration bosses only respond to those who are organized. The IWW is a fighting union, determined to reverse the race to the bottom. It is this kind of solidarity that ultimately has the vision to contest the administrations' control of our institutions and communities.

The IWW doesn't buy into suggestion boxes, total quality management, bargaining or any other management schemes to rip workers off. Never trust the bosses to do it for you. Do it yourself. You know what your needs are better than any manager. That goes for union bureaucrats too. The IWW does without them, members run all of the union's affairs in their own interests. While that means the IWW lacks official CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) accreditation, it also means dues go right back into organizing, not into the pockets of administrators or politicians. By organizing the worker, not the job, it demonstrates a whole other kind of unionism - not about government certification or employer recognition, but about

workers coming together to directly address common concerns.

Direct action in the workplace is the best way to overcome the day to day drudgery and indignities of wage slavery. Workplace direct action is any activity that messes with the boss' ability to exploit your labor and results in the satisfaction of your own demands. Among the most useful forms of workplace direct action are: slowdown, sit-down strikes, sick-ins, dual power (ignoring the boss), work by rule (following every rule to the letter), good work strikes (transit workers providing free rides for example). We do the work, we should make the decisions. Go ahead, fire your bo\$\$!

<http://iww.ca>



cartoon from sawmill strike, Northern Minnesota, 1916

Pablo  
written in 2000

Montréal's temp agencies are thriving as a mainly immigrant work force falls victim to labour code non-enforcement, a stagnating minimum wage, and a job climate which makes full-time employment a rarity. As one agency subcontracts an estimated three hundred to five hundred workers to Montréal factories daily, it is under criminal investigation for apparent tax fraud amounting to \$57 000.

Every morning, when he was out of work, Rajan\* left the house at five. Hurrying through the November cold to catch the day's first metro, he made his way to the back door of an industrial building in the town's West end. Beyond his arrival, Rajan recalls little: a rusty staircase, the gabble of several languages, the pressure of some fifty bodies in a small triangular room at half past five with one toilet...

In his mid thirties and quadrilingual, Rajan seems cautious as he speaks of Yott, the Ville St. Laurent-based temp agency which was his official employer for two months. "I knew things would be hard," he ventures, detailing the economic instability that impelled him to leave his position of two years' standing with an American company in Azerbaijan to pursue his "dream" of employment in Canada.

Rajan pauses as he reviews the thirteen-hour shifts assembling lamps, the changes from one factory to another, the long weeks on minimum wage, the CV's sent off to full-time employers and left unanswered. "I wish they could have found me a job in my profession," the Bengali-born, Soviet-educated

environmental engineer concludes softly.

While Canada's official unemployment rate drops, attention is being drawn to the underemployed- the unionized and temporary workers tied to a minimum wage that last year remained static, and in general has failed to keep pace with inflation. As Montréal agencies like Yott (which pays few fringe benefits, and subcontracts to some two dozen factories or warehouses) expand, they become a Mecca to a mainly immigrant workforce whose ignorance of Canadian labour law makes them easy prey to recurring labour and safety code violations.

Carmen, an ex-Montréalaise whose story bears close comparison to Rajan's is critical of Yott: "That business makes millions," she charges, on the phone from B.C. "All they do is.. take advantage of people's need."

Carmen goes on to describe 12-hour shifts performed several times weekly with fifty other Yott workers in a toy factory. Carmen states she was never paid a cent for her overtime- this despite provincial regulation which at the time required employers to pay one and a half times the base salary for every hour past the forty-second worked in a week.

Another apparent example of a labour infraction is given by Rajan, who notes Yott made daily deductions from his paycheck for the safety boots they loaned him. Rajan's account is confirmed by another employee, Sergeï, who places the daily levy at five dollars, and frequently went to one job, which involved carrying heavy boxes, in sandals to avoid the fee.

Alain Perreault, of Québec's Commission pour la Santé et Sécurité au Travail

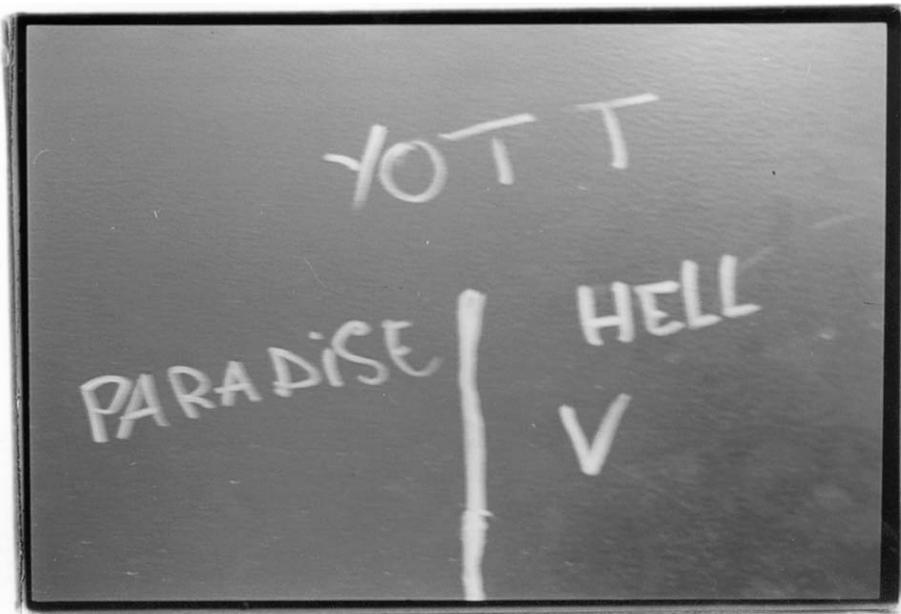


photo by zev tiefenbach

(C.S.S.T.), explains that where safety boots are required, they are considered part of the work uniform, and must be supplied free of cost by the employer. Perreault adds that a \$500 fine is stipulated for a first infraction under article 236 of the C.S.S.T. code.

Nonetheless, indicates Perrault, in the event of an actual first infraction, fines are generally waived in the interests of "settling the problem". André Perrault, at the Commission des Normes du Travail, likewise states fines "are not a priority" for labour infractions (such as unpaid overtime) once the money due the workers has been paid.

Such under-enforcement fuels criticism that employers have no incentive to respect the law until and unless they are caught.

Rudy Slerlj, a Montreal area employer who uses Yott services explains that many factories can simply no longer find a place for employees in the full-time market. "The nature of industry has

changed," he says, noting that with the end of any form of planned economy shipments are a business of short-term orders and "nobody" among his supplyees "will sign a long-term contract." As a result "a small company can not afford to hire a big staff", with its incumbant risk of paying for slack time, and will instead contract temp workers, who are "last to come and first to go", in the event of a rush delivery.

"Most of the people [Yott employs] they're taking advantage of," Rudy sighs but states he sees no practicable alternative. He adds he has been using Yott workers for about a decade, but that the degree to which he relies on them has jumped sharply over the last three years.

Rudy notes that all over the supply and manufacture field, the percentage of temp workers employed is higher now than it was even a few years ago. "And you can expect that percentage to rise," Rudy concludes sobriely.

# Poverty

Oct.

Kaarla Sundstrom  
& Alex Boutros

systems analysis  
something is amiss  
i lost my wish list  
in the gears of the machine  
and now my dreams are growing lean  
and hungry  
and there's not enough food  
or money  
see, we all want to be wealthy  
but we can't be  
my child  
when i was just a little girl child  
so meek and mild child...  
last to have a hand held...

there goes a little girl child  
so meek and mild child and just a little wild  
child  
no taller than a hydrant  
whose story sounds the taunt  
to do better, try better, or live a little lie  
better  
tethered to a social class  
told the grass is always greener,  
shown the image of a dreamer  
growing just a little meaner  
see to live nice someone else pays the  
price  
who's today's sacrifice?  
a little girl child, no taller than a hydrant  
girl, go get me some  
butter, eggs and cornmeal  
i'm gonna batter me up  
this here eggplant  
butter eggs and cornmeal  
making up a chant  
and the bobbing of her pigtails a sweet a  
sobbing descant  
impales the heart to the sleeve  
exploitation, without so much as by your  
leave  
on the way to the store to do her  
Grammy's chore  
butter eggs and cornmeal and maybe  
something more

the stock boy's toil at the mini mart  
everyday a new display  
a temporary work of art  
and here comes the girl child  
no taller than a hydrant  
her mouth filled with yearning  
she can't possibly grant  
resisting the temptation of this packaged  
plantation  
is such a tall order for such a small one  
but she buys the bare necessities  
and shuns the sweet Mephistopheles  
butter eggs and  
cornmeal...  
chocolate chips and ice  
cream...  
she buys the bare necessities  
and shuns the sweet Mephistopheles

outside its growing darker  
her size a glowing marker in the  
eyes of the jerk who  
lurks in the city park  
where she walks, kicking rocks  
oblivious to his thoughts  
oh he's got his own chant  
secret wants and let's  
make a deal...  
butter, eggs and  
cornmeal...  
stealing closer undercover  
he stalks, up to no good  
the thievery of childhood  
at the bottom of the bucket  
there are those who try to wreck it  
who try to pull you under  
and tear your world asunder  
and as he draws nearer  
some god, oh my god, thank the gods  
fills her up with dread  
at the back of her head  
at the nape of her neck  
and she glances back  
checks the scene  
screams...  
and the bobbing of her pigtails...  
the fear a rising chokin'...  
oh god the eggs...

must be...broken...

when the fear rises chokin'  
something always gets broken  
or at least leaves a token  
deep in the psyche  
on the wings of Nike  
feeling like a refugee  
she runs towards safety  
greatly relieved as she  
opens the door  
home from the store

make it folklore  
see it, sell it, tell it  
the story of the poor  
don't sweat it, forget it  
there is a hole in the bucket  
so there's always room for more

disposable statistic  
cycles are implicit  
birthing numbers that  
are misfit  
there's a hole in the  
bucket

but when she stands tearstained  
and trying to explain  
and as the broken eggs drip  
from their broken Styrofoam  
Grammy gets angry  
thinking that its overblown  
thinking all day about  
paying rent, battered eggplant and now  
she  
can't, she shan't

one for my troubles  
one for my pain  
one for the little girl  
whose life is to blame

systems analysis  
something is amiss  
i lost my wish list  
in the gears of the machine  
and now my dreams are growing lean  
and hungry  
and there's not enough food  
or money

see, we all want to be wealthy  
but we can't be can't be  
all that you can be

And there goes my little  
boy child

so meek and mild child  
and just a little wild

child  
no taller than a hydrant  
my sweet covenant

and it's taking its tell tale toll  
keeping this waif safe, a goal  
in a bucket shaped world  
where the cycles hold  
and poverty  
is captivity in its infancy  
my baby born amidst strife  
rife with hand-me-down  
pie in the sky lies  
lord knows i tries  
and that's why  
when he comes home tearstained  
and trying to explain  
something looks the same  
oh daddy is angry  
thinking all day of rent spent and money  
lent  
and now he wants to vent

one for my troubles  
one for my pain  
one for the little boy  
whose life is to blame

but there's a hole in the bucket  
a hole in the bucket  
and i'm not the culprit  
tired of all this bullshit  
from the suits who say i'm unfit  
slamming their counterfeit pulpits  
damn those hypocrite half wits...

the plans i had to forfeit...  
and i am not a statistic  
so i'm pickin' up the  
pieces and i'm gettin' out of here  
pickin' up the pieces  
and gettin' out of here

# Fire Your Landlord

Oct.

Dan

Do you rent? Why? There is no real, just reason that anybody should pay one person for the use of an object created by a group of people who are no longer involved. Your landlord didn't build your building any more than you did, so why not just pay rent to yourself?

There are certain services that we have to pay for - electricity, sewage, water - but let us not confuse the right to charge for services with the right to profit through "ownership". If you pay the cost of maintaining your building and you pay for the cost of services provided for you, then what entitles the landlord to one more penny? The answer is simple, not a thing.

You don't get to chose if you need a place to live, not in Canada, and certainly not in winter, so you are in no position to enter a free and consensual contract regarding housing, Landlords have you cornered, unless you decide to ignore them, and not agree to pay them for what you can do for yourself.

Squatting is simply the acceptance of the illegitimacy of rent. Nobody has any right to charge you more to live in a place than it costs to provide you with the services you use. When the tenant walks away the landlord still has the deed. A mortgage is an investment, not a cost. Think about how much of your rent check goes to the bank, and ask yourself what you are paying them for.

Squatting in practice is simple, and it takes two forms, individual and collective.

An individual squat is a building you claim for your own use, that you fix to the extent that it meets your needs and you use for shelter and storage. Individual squats are generally secretive and temporary. If some real-estate manager comes banging on the door these squats tend to disappear since physical safety is more important than maintaining personal occupancy.

A collective squat on the other hand is an organized, long-term undertaking. With a dozen people or so a reasonably sized building can be occupied, significantly fixed and defended with less time than it would take to earn the money to rent the place. If a building in good condition is found, power and water can often be connected by the squatters.

In a collective squat it is vital to fix the place up, change all the locks, and get to know the people in the community. If you treat the place like you live there, and the community is behind you it becomes almost impossible for the police or the owner to move in without legal proceedings, and that, at the very least, gives you time. At best you could help set a legal precedent in support of squatting.



## The Lock:

The most important device for securing a squat is a set of lock cylinders. These will enable the residents to easily enter and exit the building. The occupants are safe from drawing undue attention that could lead to an assault by the "owner". Once inside an abandoned building the cylinders can easily be changed with a few standard screwdrivers, the instructions come with the locks.

# unions in your neighbourhood

## Concordia University Library Employees Union (CULEU)

### Library union

CULEU represents all non-professional library staff in the downtown Webster and Loyola campus Vanier libraries. The two groups merged last year after it was decided that such a move would be in the best interests of both parties. Both unions have a long history of working to improve working conditions, including salaries, benefits, procedures, etc. We are currently undergoing pay equity to correct historic gender based salary inequalities.

"L'Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante"(ASSÉ)  
ASSÉ is a Quebec-based student union federation that emphasizes a confrontational approach to social struggle. The ASSÉ includes student unions at both the Cegep and University levels. ASSÉ is committed to defending, by any means necessary, the material, professional, cultural, academic and social interests of students. It rejects all forms of reformism used by government and business to co-opt the student movement. While CSU members are not yet members of ASSÉ (this would require a university-wide referendum), the CSU has sent observers to various ASSÉ conferences and congresses.

### Canadian Federation of Students – Quebec (CFS-Q)

There is no such thing as a neutral educational process. Education is either an instrument used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity, or, as Paulo Freire suggests, it is the means by which women and men deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.

The Canadian Federation of

Students - Quebec's purpose is to achieve the goal of post-secondary education accessible to all, which is of high quality, and which recognizes the legitimacy of student representation and the validity of students' rights on campus and in society.  
*All CSU members (including you!) are also members of CFS-Q.*

Concordia University Continuing Education Part-time Faculty Union  
CUCEPTFU  
CUCEPTFU was accredited in September, 1991 and includes around 200 part-time instructors from Concordia's Centre for Continuing Education. In October 1995, the Union signed its first collective agreement with the University, an event which marked a significant improvement in working conditions and employment security for the faculty. CUCEPTFU is currently negotiating the renewal of its second collective agreement and has joined the ranks of part-time faculty unions throughout North America who are fighting for greater recognition of their contributions through participation in Equity Week.

Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association (CUPFA)  
"Unions exist because people are so innocent" It is this message spoken by the late Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farmworkers that underlines the reasons why CUPFA, like so many other labour organizations, exists. The contribution of part-time faculty to the survival of the University is not limited to excellence in teaching and to the pursuit of scholarly research. Part-time faculty are among the poorest paid employees at Concordia University and they have the lowest level of job security. CUPFA's objective is to enhance the working conditions of part-time faculty. Our members seek to be treated equitably and fairly under the principles of natural justice; and to be granted equal recognition.

# Concordia Faculty and Staff Join North American Week of Action

Oct.

Maria Peluso  
*President of Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA)*

Did you know that the young woman teaching your Intro to Psych course is paid about 1/3 of what a full-time professor makes? Did you know that she is excluded from many important aspects of faculty life? Can we really talk about a University "community" when such blatant inequities exist?

This is why faculty activists across the US and Canada have banded together to designate October 28 to November 3rd 2001 as Campus Equity Week. Campus Equity Week will promote campus activities designed to highlight the poor pay and working conditions of part-time faculty.

About 43% of all teachers are part-timers. None of them have meaningful benefits, or even know when or what courses they will be teaching. They have no job security and receive 30 cents of the per faculty dollar. They are not equally integrated into the life of the University with poor or no representation on key committees where decisions are taken.

The Campus Equity Week coalition marks the first time that a multi-disciplinary and broadly based group of faculty have been able to join forces for such an international campaign.

Campus Equity Week, designed to educate the public and policymakers, will focus attention on issues of fairness and quality of education. Our message: teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions and equal work deserves equal pay.

Campus Equity Week will also take issue with declining labour standards and increasing use of

temporary and part-time labour for all campus work. Campus Equity Week endorses the adoption of equitable labour policies and standards that encourage fairness and dignity for all members of the campus community. Campus Equity Week is part of a growing movement among working people from all walks of life seeking to address the inequities of contingent work. Campus activism is directly linked to that broader movement through the professional organizations, labour unions and member organizations of the National Alliance for Fair Employment that support Campus Equity Week and constitute its steering committee.

**National and local representatives of the following organizations have formed a steering committee that continues to invite new participants to assist in planning for Campus Equity Week.**

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC)  
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)  
California Federation of Teachers (CFT)  
California Part-time Faculty Association (CPFA)  
Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA)  
Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL)  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CCC/CFT)  
Federation nationale des enseignants et enseignantes du Québec de la Confédération des syndicats nationaux (FNEEQ-CSN)  
Massachusetts Teachers Association / NEA (MTA)  
National Alliance for Fair Employment (NAFFE)  
National Council of Teachers of English/Conference on College Communication and Composition (NCTE/CCCC)  
National Education Association (NEA)  
Ventura County Federation of Teachers, Local 1828

# October

Monday

1

Last day to apply for re-evaluation of courses taken during the Summer Session 2001.

1838 "Trail of Tears" begins as Cherokee people are forcibly removed to Oklahoma.

Tuesday

2

1956 Cuban Revolution begins.

2001 World Bank and IMF meetings in Katar– protest global capitalism.

Wednesday

3

# October

Thursday

4

Friday

5

University Writing Test

5-7 CSU Teach-in toward mobilizing for radical alternatives and anti-capitalist student activism

Saturday

6

Replacement and supplemental examinations for Summer Session 2001 courses.

1969 Weather Underground blows up Haymarket police statue.

Sunday

7



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# ARENA

3 FLOORS 3 VIBES

1171 Ste-Catherine Est, Montréal 514.523.4429

# October

Monday

8

Thanksgiving-Colonialist Holiday. Take the day off to deface symbols of colonialist imperialism.

# October

Thursday

11

Tuesday

9

1967 Che Guevera murdered by Bolivian military under orders of the CIA.

Friday

12

Wednesday

10

Tentative Examination Schedule available at all Touch-Screen Terminals.

1984 Bishop Desmond Tutu recieves Nobel Peace Prize.

Saturday

13

1996 Karnataka Youth Counsel trashes a Pizza Hut in India as a protest versus trans-nationals

Sunday

14

1982 Direct Action blows up Litton Systems Plant in Toronto.

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# October

Monday  
15

*Isra/Me'raj (night after the 26 Rajab).*

# October

Thursday  
18

2000 World Day of Action against Nike

Tuesday  
16

2001- OCAP kick-off action for fight to win campaign against the Harris government.

Friday  
19

Wednesday  
17

Saturday  
20

1944 Guatemalan revolution vs. President Ubico begins

Sunday  
21

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# October

Monday  
22

Tuesday  
23

1915 35 000 women demonstrated for the right to vote.

Wednesday  
24

1940 40 hour work week goes into effect under fair labour standards act of 1938.

# October

Thursday  
25

Huey Newton and Bobby Seale found Black panther Party in Oakland California

Friday  
26

Saturday  
27

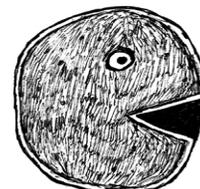
Sunday  
28

1997 Dominican Police arrest 500 to stop ongoing general strikes.

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food everyday... FREE!!!

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*— the people's potato*

# October

Monday  
29

Tuesday  
30

1997 Columbian General Bonett, asks guerilla's lovers to deny them sex in an unsuccessful effort to end the war!

*Hallowe'en*

Wednesday  
31

1891 1000 Tennesse miners take over a mine & set 500 convict miners free.

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