



# WOBBLY

AN INJURY TO ONE IS  
AN INJURY TO ALL

# CITY

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC BRANCH

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### Action At Amersino by FW Tomer Malchi



On March 20th at 5:30 AM workers at Amersino, a produce distribution warehouse in Brooklyn, met in a deli to sign IWW membership cards and prepare to stand up to an abusive boss. On that chilly Monday morning close to 20 Latino workers along with a diverse IWW contingent, including workers from Handyfat, Starbucks and Mayday books, marched on the boss demanding the immediate reinstatement of fired workers, an end to violations of minimum wage and overtime laws as well as respect from the boss.

As the boss drove up in his new Mercedes Benz, workers march with bikes in hand ready to demand justice. The showdown between the workers and their boss is just one example of the class conflict that exists in NYC. The workers organized to end the harsh treatment from the boss who would yell racist remarks at workers while paying them far below what they earned. Meanwhile the boss used the money he was stealing to build a collection of trucks he is using for his long haul operations and other business endeavors.

The workers surrounded the boss as IWW organizer Billy Randel negotiated. After exchanging some words and laying out the demands two fired workers were immediately reinstated. In addition the boss agreed to temporarily agree to all demands. Although that did not mean much it was enough to prevent a strike. Workers returned to work proudly wearing their IWW buttons.

Within the same week the Boss began to engage in his anti-union campaign. In an attempt to intimidate workers the boss fired 2 workers claiming that since he rehired the other 2 workers he now has to fire these 2 workers. In addition the boss refused to talk to IWW representatives and made it clear that he was not looking to negotiate. (continued on page 2...)

(continued from cover story...)

On Saturday March 25th Amersino workers once again met at 5:30 AM with the intension of going on strike unless their demands were met. With the help of Bert Picard workers engaged in a consensus based decision making process. Workers decided that unless the boss reinstated the fired workers they would be going on strike. The workers marched on and confronted the boss. The boss claimed he did not have the money to pay everyone, the boss asked workers not to be influenced by outsiders, the boss red baited and declared his passion for America. Workers stood their ground as the boss rambled nonsense. Finally after the seeing that the workers were ready to strike the boss rehired the 2 fired workers.

The boss at Amersino is still violating the law and stealing from workers, however workers are backed by the IWW and Make The Road by Walking who together are building power for an underclass of undocumented workers in Brooklyn. Immigrant workers in Brooklyn are standing together and organizing in demand of an end to the abusive condition of work, an end to disrespect and an onset of having their voice heard. An NLRB election is set for Friday April 28th.

Photographs from the Amersino Action are available on the internet at:

[www.wobblycity.org/photo-gallery/2006\\_amersino\\_nyc/](http://www.wobblycity.org/photo-gallery/2006_amersino_nyc/)

**Editor's Note:**

Amersino workers were locked out on April 30. The lockout lasted until May 2nd at which point most of the workers returned. However, the Boss fired five workers who are currently attempting to get their jobs back - in the interim the IWW has established a strike fund for these workers unjustly fired. Wobblies wishing to contribute to the fund may purchase assessment stamps (see page 3). Others may send checks - contact Tomer Malchi at 646.753.1167 for more information.

## May Day Observations by FW Thomas Good

FW Thomas Good observed several May Day marches for the Lawyers Guild and filed this report...

May Day saw several large marches and one civil disobedience. At around noon approx 200 marched from the UN to the US Mission to the UN, many wearing orange prison jumpsuits and black hoods to protest the US policy of using torture on prisoners. Despite over 50 protestors blocking the entrance to the Mission the owner refused to allow the NYPD to make any arrests, stating that he agreed with the protesters and wanted the US mission out of his building.

At 3pm Make the Road, NYC IWW and the Chinese Staff & Workers' Association assembled at Grand & Chrystie at 3:00 pm for a feeder march. A boistrous march processed up Houston and then 4th Ave, arriving at Union Square in time to witness a huge immigrants' rights rally. There were no incidents or arrests. At 14th Street police were



(May Day Observations continued...)

overwhelmed as feeder marches appeared out of nowhere. Very inspiring.

At around 5pm a permitted march left Union Square and processed to Foley Square. It was the third time in a month hundreds of thousands demanded civil rights for all who reside in the US.

## April 29th Anti-War Festival by FW David Temple



The IWW table sponsored a table in the Direct Action tent at Foley Square on Saturday, April 29th. A number of books and other items were sold. The march was huge and many wobblies and friends stopped to say hello and support the Union by purchasing stamps, etc.

The tent was a moneymaker and a busy place in the Peace and Justice festival that followed the gigantic anti-war march. Sharing the tent with the IWW were Students for a Democratic Society, the War Resisters League and Witness Against Torture, all direct action organizations.

## Starbucks Benefit On April 15th by FW Daniel Gross

Through the hard work of many, especially Demien Schroeder and Richard Reta, we were able to turn a slow holiday weekend into a great benefit for the IWW Starbucks Workers Union! We raised funds for organizing, built support for the campaign, and created working class community. The performers were great and diverse as was the crowd. We will have some very useful material on video to use in future documentaries.

Many SWU and GMB members were instrumental in making the event happen: our MCs Laura De Anda and Sarah Bender; bartenders Pete Montalbano and Abe Walker kept the drinks were flowing, and; Bert got the suds over to the theatre. Two SWU members gave riveting performances, Ivan and Tina. We were also privileged to have FW George Mann play some labor tunes. Benjamin, Brendan, and Johannah were excellent at the door and an extra thanks to Benjamin for a top-notch event flyer. David Temple came through with a banner reading, "Abolition of the Wage System." Thanks to all who helped especially the cleaning crew.

## New NYC GMB Assessment Stamp by FW Benjamin Ferguson



Here's the brand new I.U.460 stamp approved by the New York City General Membership Branch to help raise money for our organizing drives and support the unjustly fired Amersino workers.

All Union members are urged to pitch in and help the organizing effort AND beautify their redcards simultaneously!

Union members can also mail their redcards to:

Benjamin Ferguson  
60 Porter ave. #3R  
Brooklyn, NY 11237

## Candlelight Vigil for Haymarket and Kent State By FW John Cronan

A candlelight vigil was held at Union Square on the anniversary the Haymarket and Kent State Massacres.

May 4th is anniversary of both the Haymarket and Kent State Massacres. The Pace University Chapter of Students for a Democratic Society and others converged at Union Square on the anniversary for a candlelight vigil to honor and remember those murdered by the state while struggling for freedom.

There was a reading the words of the Haymarket Martyrs, Malcolm X, Joe Hill, Martin Luther King Jr., and others. According to organizers, the point was not only to remember them, but to ensure that their message, heart, and struggle carries on, and never dies. It was a moving commemoration that was well attended and brought out the press (FW Lauren Giaccone had her photo appear in the Villager).

# Walking Out On April 10

## by FW Brendan Story

In the boroughs and nationwide, April 10th marked an important day for momentum against the criminalization of immigrants and immigrant workers.

It was an important day for a handful of Mexican workers who work in a warehouse in Bushwick run by Handyfat Trading Inc. They had voted to walk out a few days before at a foodstuffs workers' meeting at Make the Road by Walking, a nonprofit organization and community organizing center.

They're a proud part of the "May Day Coalition" which includes the "Workers In Action" project of Make the Road, as well as the NYC Industrial Workers of the World, and blends radical unionism with neighborhood community organizing. After several work-stoppages and a disputed and sabotaged election, Handyfat workers are negotiating a non-majority "solidarity union" agreement with the boss for wages, benefits, and respect. On April 10th they walked out to march with friends from Make the Road, the IWW, the anarchists, and other immigrant people of New York.

Handyfats was also joined by their fellow workers at Bread & Company, a deli restaurant in Manhattan, who are also negotiating a contract over wages. Another foodstuffs IWW/Workers-In-Action shop, the Amersino warehouse in Ridgewood, Queens, was not able to march on April 10th because they were on strike and picketing their shop over being denied wages by managers who had meddled with their time cards.

On and off the job, on and off the streets, New York is buzzing with a few pockets of immigrants who are linking arms and marching toward a world without borders or bosses. Hopefully they will continue to share inspiration with what seems to be a newly energized movement.



### ABOUT THE UNION:

The Industrial Workers of the World, NYC, General Membership Branch meets the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 3 pm at: Make The Road By Walking, 301 Grove Street in Brooklyn \*and\* the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at The New Valentino Market, 74 5th Ave., NY, between 13-14th St. (Take any train to Union Station or 14th Street.)

### HOW TO CONTACT US:

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