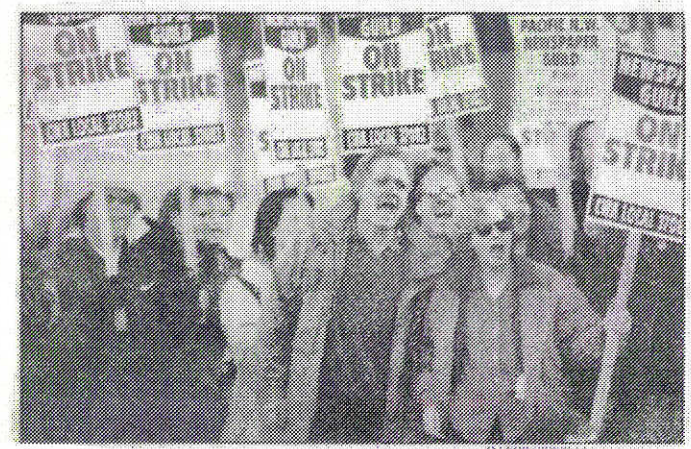


# RIFF RAFF #3

15

A zine by the Olywobs  
Media Collective



SCABS  
GO  
HOME!

Seattle Newspaper Strike

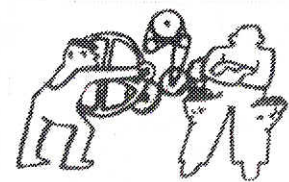


Contact us @:  
Olympia IWW  
P.O. Box 2775  
Olympia, WA 98507  
olywobs@hotmail.com  
956-3713

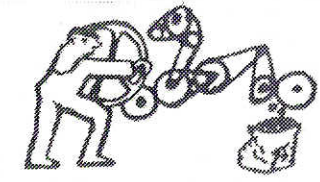
bosses



beware



The boss needs you



You don't need the boss

Olympia General Membership Branch  
Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)



So, #3 is on the rack. We've stepped up the news around the world, next state over, & down the street. Lots has been happening & we're givin' it direct. Let us know what you think, better yet - come help with the next issue. We want to read your stuff, not ours. Send contributions to: P.O. Box 2775, Oly. WA 98507 or call 360-956-3713. Art, words, and the like. Let's get ready to



54 revolution, the Olywobs Media Collective RIFFRAFF!



PREAMBLE  
OF THE

Industrial Workers of the World



The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands make the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchwords, "Abolition of the wage system" It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

\*if this is your 1st intro. to iww stuff, this is the basics of what our union believes in....

# Remember the Battle in Seattle



Celebrate our victories & recreate the magical energy of WTD this N30. There's a bunch of events happening, so plug in or arrange your own way of remembering.

\* F. Y. I. Starfucks just opened a shop in the Forbidden City in China - looks like we didn't break enough windows!



So, this is the space i'm supposed to say good bye to Olympia. you are an amazing & inspiring community! I'll miss you all. Keep doing all the RAD stuff you do. My email is: workingclassgrrl@hotmail.com, so let me know what your doing.



Don't mourn organize! ♡-Lupin

La la la la la  
Whatever Happened to singing in the Union?

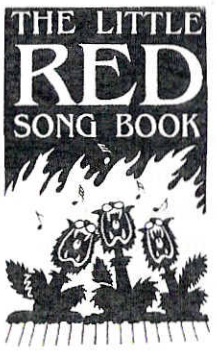
The IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) was the singangest union--started in Chicago in 1905 by Big Bill Haywood, of the Western Federation of Miners. The IWW grew to 150,000 members before World War I when in was put down because of its anti-war stance. They were defiantly radical organizers whose ambition it was to sign up all the workers into One Big Union so they could call a General Strike to decide who would run the world. With every new union card they handed out a Little Red Songbook "To Fan The Flames of Discontent" with about 50 songs, many parodies of well-known melodies featuring the songwriting talents of Joe Hill and RALph Chaplin.

The Wobblies sang at meetings, picket lines, in jails, on trains, on soap boxes. Labor songs before the IWW were sung during strikes but often forgotten once the dispute was settled. Some Northern city unions like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union printed songbooks in the '20s and '30s and reflected their old world traditions by forming choruses which performed at rallies and May Day parades. The organizing drives of the (black) Southern Tenant Farmers Union provided many songs, including "We Shall Not Be Moved", "It's that Union Train A Comin'" and "Roll the Union ON".

During the Cold War American Labor Unions kicked out its radicals, which included most of their singers and songwriters. Today a few unions publish songbooks, and a few have choruses, but since only an average of 3% of members attend union meetings except during crises, the songbooks are unused.

--from the Incompleat Folksinger, by Pete Seegar

So, why don't we form a union chorus here in Oly? Interested? call Eric @ 956-3713

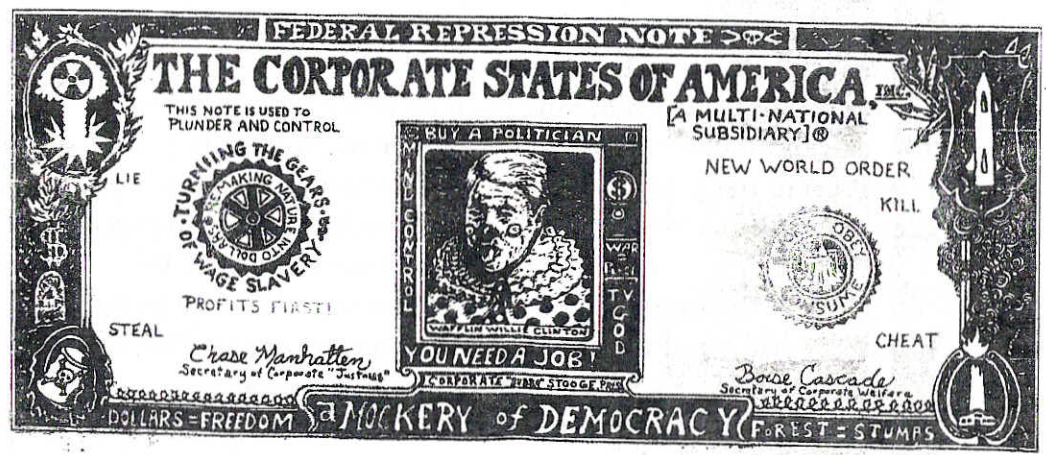


### So What's Going On Now?

The Olympia IWW Branch meets the second and last Sunday of every month at 5PM at Bread & Roses on Cherry St., downtown. Here are some updates:

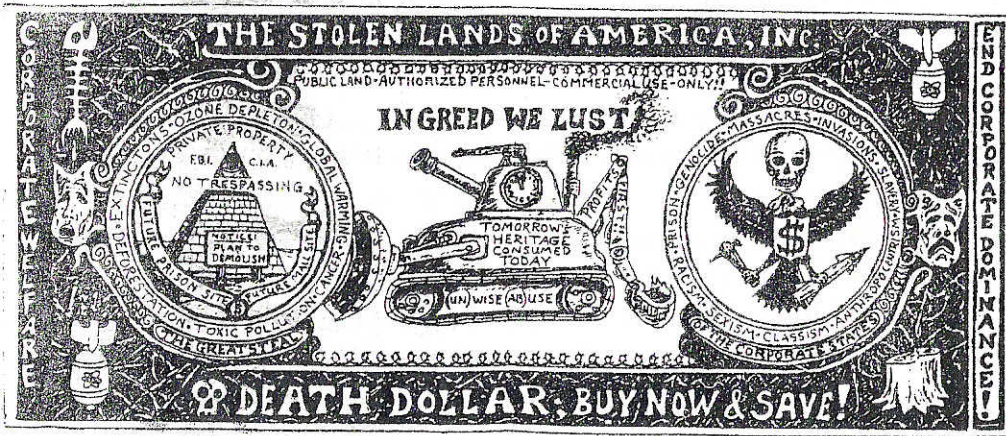
\* If you didn't figure it out already, The Seattle Times and P I workers are on STRIKE. Their union, the Pacific Northwest Guild has been in negotiations for months with no common ground being reached with the companies. This has been the first newspaper strike at these papers in nearly 50 years. The workers are most importantly demanding respect and a living wage. They have been on strike since November 20<sup>th</sup> and need our support in various ways, especially on the picket line. See the inside article to find out how you can help.

\* An SEIU union of adult care workers in Olympia are having trouble with the bosses right now. Two workers were put on administrative leave for "being too involved in giving the clients choice". One was hired back, but one was fired. The workers know it was a set-up because these two women were highly involved in union business. The workers have just passed in a 15 point complaint form with management and are going through legal procedures for the woman fired. These scare tactics are not new, but they need to be stopped. To find out how you can support these workers, contact Athena @ 357-9299.



\* The Oly. Branch and several other community groups are in the process of looking for a place downtown for a community resource center and office space. There are a handful of potential spaces being considered right now. All ideas are being considered about what the space will ultimately be used for.

Ideas being considered include an infoshop/bookstore, a temporary labor hall, and meeting space. Other groups interested in office space or other aspects of the project are welcomed and encouraged. Last month, the IWW raised approximately \$1,000 to go towards the space. Thanks to everyone who helped with the raffle and the benefit show. To get involved with the space project, contact Andrew at 943-7149.



\* Fine Host workers, the food service workers on Evergreen campus, are in the middle of an organizing campaign. They have met opposition from Fine Host as well as the campus administration. Recently, the workers brought their request for recognition to the bosses, who refused to recognize the union. A successful informational picket followed, educating students and asking people to not buy food from Fine Host until they recognized the union. More actions are sure to come in the future. If you want to find out how you can support the Fine Host workers, contact Jason @ 236-0136.

For more information: [ringfingers@yahoo.com](mailto:ringfingers@yahoo.com)

Ask Emma



Dear Emma,

What is the relevance of a love relationship when no one understands the importance of it? Joey from Oly

Sweetheart, although all love is revolutionary in a society that commodifies everything including love, we mustn't fall into the trap of making our own love into a mere statement. Our relationships should be more than tokens for revolutionary ideas, but live and breathe the revolution on their own merit! Don't worry if other don't understand your love or the significance of it, that is for you and your significant other(s) to revel in.

My Boyfriend is apolitical but I love him dearly. He doesn't want to have anything to do with organizing, demonstrations or any of my friends. What should I do, I love him? Rico from Oly

Although, there may be some wonderful apolitical people, I've found that those who, for some mysterious reason, shun all progressive and radical thought, action and community are generally hiding something. He sounds like he may have some elitist aspirations or is just using you for a bounce in bed. It doesn't sound like he is very supportive of you or your friends. Ditch the creep and find yourself a nice revolutionary idealist or at least someone who is open to your ideas.

When are the stupid, lame, uninspired people going to exit the planet and when will the revolution really begin? Rain from Oly

Rain, honey, you're suffering from burn out. We cannot start the revolution with only a handful of revolutionaries. The revolution is of the people not lead by a few of us "in the know". Yes, yes I tire of yacking with some SUV driving trustafarian as much as the next person, but we need to bring those people into the revolution. If they are uninspired, we must inspire them. The list is already very long of those who will probably end up being fertilizer when the revolution happens. Most of them are living in this country. Perhaps you need a little vacation for a while. Don't burn out completely, we need you Rain. Maybe you should go camping on the Peninsula or hop into bed with someone unexpectedly.

## TESC Food Service Workers Update

As many people already know, the food service workers at the Evergreen State College have recently asked the Fine Host Corporation to voluntarily recognize their union, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 47. On Monday November 20, four workers and two representatives from the ILWU met with Fine Host management to discuss the corporations response.

According to Dan Twohy, regional manager for Fine Host, an election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board (which takes a minimum of 2 months and has a success rate of 47%) is faster than the company recognizing the union voluntarily on the spot.

The workers suspected that the corporation wanted to use the extra time to conduct an anti-union campaign, and despite many promises to the contrary, the corporation began the next day by posting a letter above the time-clock that repeatedly referred to the union as an "outside corporation". The letter also claimed that the workers *wanted* a NLRB election.

Needless to say, the workers are not going to stand for an NLRB election, and are now planning their campaign to persuade Fine Host to do the right thing and recognize the union voluntarily. However, they need support from the community. So, if you are interested in helping, please call Jeremy at 867-0419 or Jason at 236-0136.

BRING YOUR  
LUNCH FROM  
HOME TO  
SUPPORT THE  
WORKERS!



\* IWW Raffle and Music Show. As many of you all know we held a raffle of some really nice gifts recently. The drawing of which was at the music show at the Capital Backstage on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. One of the performers, Calvin Johnson of K Records gave an impressive short talk on the IWW and the Centralia Massacre. All in all, we made around \$1000 to go towards an office space. Thanks in a big part to Lupin and all who participated in getting this thing off the ground. Our top sales in tickets was Long Hair Dave who earns \$20 in credit toward all Wobbly merchandise.

\* The Centralia Massacre Teach In went on without a hitch. 17 or so people showed up, (only 3 wobblies), and then four of us drove to Centralia to see the mural and Wesley Everest's grave.

Our Branch boasts 39 members that are or have been current in the past 3 months. This reflects the growth felt throughout the IWW especially in the Northwest US. Please remember to pay dues, talk to your fellow workers and organize, organize, organize.



\* WE GOT A GRANT! The olywobs applied for a grant through the Community Sustaining Fund for the new Labor School that we are going to be starting. We were granted \$550 towards the project which will be a great start. Local support for rad projects rock! We NEED lots of help getting the school going, so please contact Jeremy @ 867-0419 to work on this exciting project.

\* There is a new Olywobs email list being formed that will be limited to only meeting updates and labor announcements. A separate web bulletin board is being created for dialogue and discussions. If you wanna get added on & we don't have your email, drop a note to [olywobs@hotmail.com](mailto:olywobs@hotmail.com).

\* Hey Literature people! We got the Literature CD from Mark Damron of Red Dawn Press. What does this mean for us? Well we don't have to cut and paste so much and we now have access to all official and most unofficial IWW literature! This will save a lot of money, time and stomach lining for those of us who spend lots of time and money making pamphlets and such. Wanna get involved? Call Soph at 704-7674 or Eric at 956-3713.

\* UNION HONEY! Ed Glidden has re-upped and Hans Seldenbach has signed IWW. Their company (no employees), Paradise Honey, will be petitioning the General Executive Board for job shop status soon. What does this mean? Well, we now have union honey and another job shop here in Olympia! To order bulk honey, call Hans at 786-0864 or email at [paradise@olywa.net](mailto:paradise@olywa.net).

**I.W.W.**  
**WHAT WE STAND FOR.**

MORE WAGES.  
BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS.  
SHORTER HOURS.  
EMANCIPATION  
W I W  
**SOLIDARITY**  
ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM  
SHOP DEMOCRACY  
GOOD PAY OR BUM WORK

THINK IT OVER.  
JOIN THE  
**ONE BIG UNION**  
FIGHT FOR THE FULL PRODUCT  
OF YOUR LABOR

Nevertheless, there is potential for the strike to drag on, in which case the Union Record could become an institution in its own right. Already there are rumblings about whether The Seattle Times Co. is even needed to deliver the news. In the Union Record's letters section, two of six missives openly suggest a permanent departure from the Seattle media establishment.

One reader asks "Why not maintain your own publication and run it democratically through your union?" Another notes that "If your current employer doesn't pay you what you would like, you can start your own company."

The Guild has access to an abundance of staff from both papers and has already shown itself capable of producing a solid publication. However, production problems may make printed editions difficult to produce. The first issue was printed by Bellevue's Eastside Journal. However, the EJ backed out of future runs under pressure from Times publishers, claiming it was unaware that it was a strike paper. The Guild has reportedly found a new printer for three runs a week, but isn't saying whom.

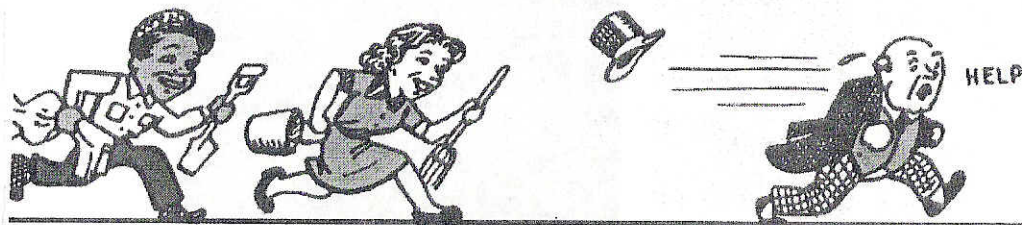
The primary issue of the strike is of pay, with much distance to cover between the two sides. Talks have broken down with the Guild asking a \$3.05-per-hour raise, and management offering only 45 cents.

Both sides appear to be hunkering down for a long haul, and one thing that is hampering the Guild's cause is that numerous workers are crossing picket lines.

The Times alone has workers divided into seven unions with 17 contracts, and some have clauses in their contracts prohibiting them from joining their striking co-workers. Picket crossing has been common, and even in the strike's first week solidarity is proving difficult to maintain, because not all workers are engaged in the present struggle.

Nevertheless, the presence of the Union Record is providing a visible alternative to reading scab papers in Seattle, reporting on news throughout the metro area, as well as giving voice to the striking workers.

It remains to be seen what long-term effects will come of this strike, but the strikers are continuing to do what they do best, putting words on paper even without the comfort of paychecks.



Seattle's two-headed media outlet, the Hearst-dominated Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Seattle Times, is getting a run for its money by the upstart Seattle Union Record, published by striking members of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild.

The Union Record is providing area news coverage through daily updates to its website, as well as a printed version that came out on Nov. 24.

Rather than sitting by and playing into management's claims that the strike is depriving Seattle residents of local news coverage, the Guild is keeping busy publishing an alternate paper, named after an old union rag. And while the Union Record is far from radical in its overall tone, it does make a nod to rowdier times.

Union Record managing editor Chuck Taylor's explanation of the newspaper includes a little nugget of radical history

"This is not the first edition of the Seattle Union Record. We take the name from history. The original Union Record was a labor-backed paper during the time of the general strike of 1919, during which 65,000 Seattle workers silenced the city for five days. Before it began, Union Record editor Anna Louise Strong predicted it would lead 'no one knows where!' We know how she felt."

Despite this lofty rhetoric, the Union Record is publicly distancing itself from more militant tactics, as evidenced by an editorial decrying one striker's spitting on a picket-crosser.

"There are occasional instances of violence and near-violence. They are ALL wrong. They are inexcusable. They are stupid. And they damage the cause."



NO THANKS!  
I ALREADY  
READ THE  
UNION RECORD.  
YOU CAN  
STICK THAT  
SCAB RAG  
IN YOUR  
BOTTOM!!!

WORKERS WORLD

# NEWS<sup>®</sup>

CINCINNATI, Ohio --

On November 16th, the Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) began their annual CEO conference in Downtown Cincinnati, Ohio at the Omni Netherlands Hotel. Over 200 US and European top business and government leaders gathered in a private forum to discuss issues that impact transatlantic trade and their informal steering of the WTO. The TABD was met by thousands of demonstrators from all over the United States. Even though police abuses were rampant, demonstrators were successful in bringing attention to the near absolute control of global corporate power.

CALIFORNIA, USA --

The Quadrtech corporation was ordered by a federal judge to keep its operations in the country. The company, as the New York Times reported on November, 23, 2000, was planning to move its jewelry operations south of the border to Tijuana, Mexico, and fire 118 newly unionized workers. Most of the workers are Latina, from Mexico and other countries, immigrant and earning a whopping \$5.75/hr.

The NYT's Anthony Depalma writes, "The judge's order comes at a time when footloose corporations and the formation of an economy that moves freely across borders with little or no concern for workers left behind." This is the first time a company has had injunctions of this kind placed on its movement.

CHICAGO, Illinois --

Traveling this holiday season?!!! Well you just might be able to!!! Try flying Northwest and United. They're in the process of using the courts to make it harder for their workers to cause trouble. So if your ready to fly the scab, the browbeaten or the court mandated skies, you can.

The airlines have been whining for months because their workers, already shackled by court rulings against them, have been allegedly slowing down on the job. So now the companies are back in court, getting judicial *okays* to screw workers on things they *think* workers *might* be doing.

SEATTLE, Washington -

Stupid Mayor? Or smart resort planner? You decide.

The mostly inane mayor of Seattle has refused to grant interviews to reporters from the Seattle Times or PI while the two major city papers are on strike. He has pulled the gag off of other city officials and employees, who he said could make that decision on their own. Hmm... that's a first.

In other mayoral news, the mayor, still reeling from his blunder last November, has decided to revisit the violence conducted by his militia, the police, on the people of Seattle's streets. "They will be bolder, less tolerant and more prepared than last year." Great. If *restraint* was a vocabulary word in police manuals, the picture might look like a set on handcuffs on a four-post bed, cattle prod, dripping water, bamboo shavings....



SABOTAGE!



RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil--In auction proceedings guarded by 1,300 police officers, a private company purchased the state-run Banco do Estado de Sao Paulo as part of the ongoing Brazilian effort to privatize state holdings. Employees of the bank closed branches across the country as part of an indefinite strike. Workers are demanding that no branches--especially those serving poor and rural areas--be closed, and that no employees be laid off. (NY Times)

CARACAS, Venezuela--The Venezuelan National Assembly has introduced a referendum that would effectively destroy that nation's labor unions. If approved in the Dec. 3 election, the measure seeks to destroy nation labor organizations. It would also mandate new leadership for existing unions within 180 days, and the creation of a new government-controlled labor organization. National and international labor organizations are protesting the measure. (Labor Notes)

Burma--The United Nation's International Labour Organization has announced that it will recommend that businesses avoid investment in Burmese business, unless that nation's government approves legislation prohibiting slave labor. It is considered unlikely that the regime will meet the Nov. 30 deadline set for banning the widespread use of forced labor. (Labor Notes)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina--The country's three major unions, representing about 7 million workers, called a 36 hour general strike in response to a government announcement of fiscal, pension and tax reforms. These reforms are part of the government's "belt-tightening" policy aimed at paying off its International Monetary Fund loans. (NY Times)

SEATTLE, Wash.--Tugot Sound Energy employees are currently fighting efforts to turn their work over to sub-contractors. Approximately 700 workers--members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Association of Journeymen, and Apprentices of Plumbers and Pipefitters--would be affected by the "outsourcing" effort. Employers claim that the reorganization will lead to more efficient service, workers believe the change will lead to lay-offs, busted unions, and poorer service. (The Olympian)

Mechanics at United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, and Delta Airlines enacted work slowdowns in the past weeks--actions which have been particularly effective due to the increased holiday air traffic. The holiday travel period is a critical time for the airlines, but also a time when workers are asked to work more than they feel is fair or safe. According to Paul Hudson, executive director of the Aviation Consumer Action Project, airlines should reduce their schedules or add temporary help during the busy holiday season, "but that hasn't been the practice at many airlines. [Instead] they attempt to hide the problem or blame the unions." (NY Times)

Thanks to contract language in their agreement with the United Auto Workers, Ford Motor Company will be providing one of the most comprehensive benefits packages to its employees of any company in the U.S. The agreement will provide for health care, child care, services for retired employees, and sports teams and other services for teenagers. (NY Times)

Acting on a union complaint, a federal judge ruled that the California-based Quadrtech Corporation had broken the law when they announced their intent to move to Mexico one day after the Communications Workers of America was certified to represent the workers at the company. The court order will force the company to stay in California rather than seek cheaper labor abroad and is being seen by many as setting a new precedent for protecting worker organizing in this country. (NY Times)

