

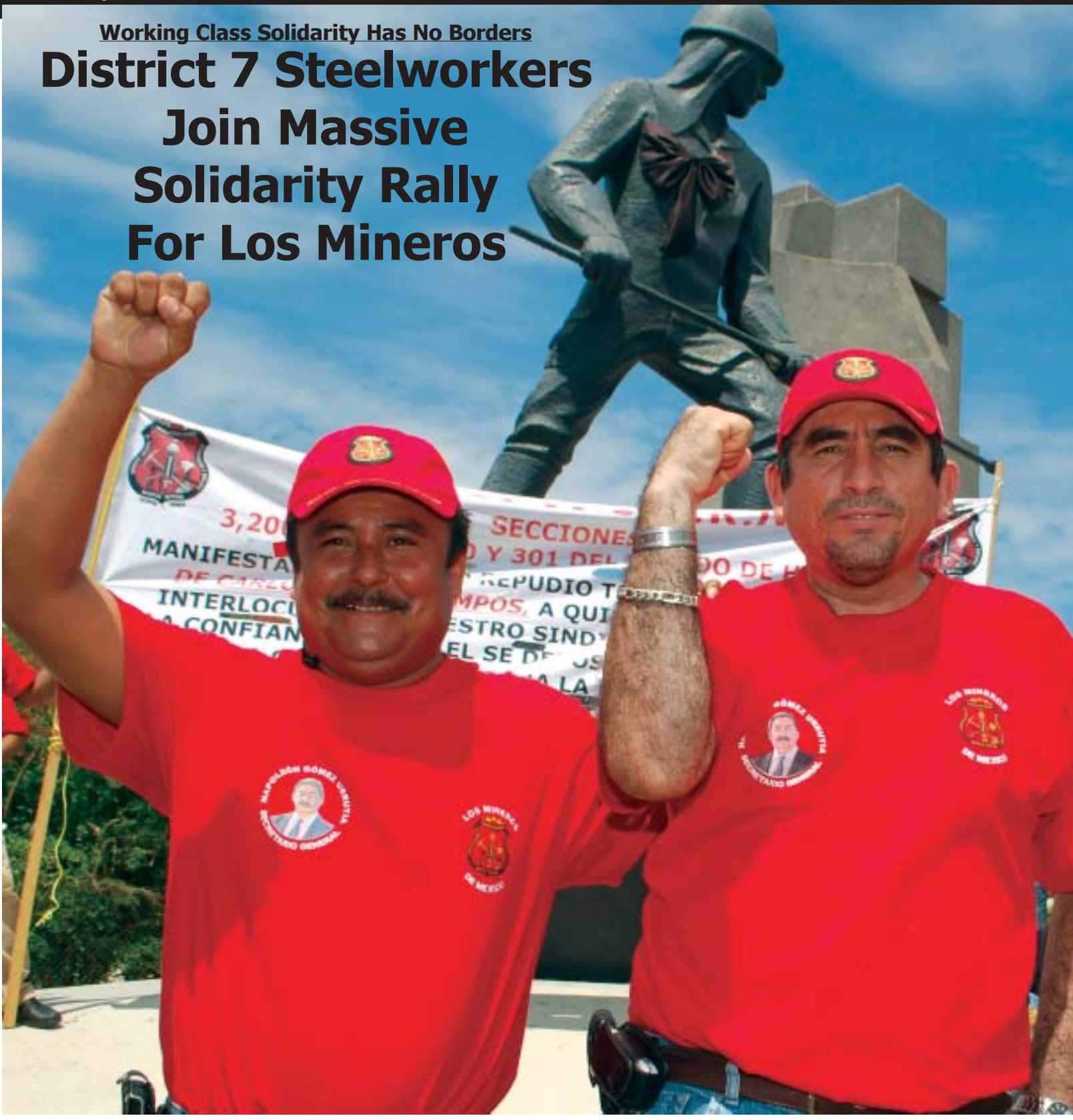
AGITATOR

Covering the United Steelworkers in Indiana and Illinois - AUGUST 2009 - #34

Steelworker Solidarity Motorcycle Run & Roast Sept. 12, 2009 to benefit Los Mineros (Miners) who have been on strike since July 2007. The Run begins and ends at McBride Hall 1301 Texas Street, Gary, IN 46402. If you don't ride you can still join us for the roast at 4 pm for a nominal donation. To register Blanca Morales at 219-886-2596 or 800-932-8007.

Working Class Solidarity Has No Borders

District 7 Steelworkers Join Massive Solidarity Rally For Los Mineros



LaPorte County commits to buying American

LAPORTE IN: Wednesday, April 08, 2009

The LaPorte county commissioners voted to “Buy American” for projects funded by federal stimulus money. The resolution was introduced by Councilman Rich Mrozinski on behalf of the United Steelworkers.

Mrozinski said tax dollars should be used

to boost job creation by buying materials such as steel that are made in America.

"Let's stop buying stuff from China if we can, where we can. It might cost a couple of dollars more, but let's look out for the American taxpayer," Mrozinski said.

Flowers for outgoing Local 70 officers



Portage IN: Local 70 members thanked outgoing Local union president Wanda Mazur (right), Recording Secretary Judy McDaniels (center) and Vice President Lora Hess at their union meeting in May.

Granite City stepped up to help laid off USW members

Granite City Steelworkers can always be counted on to support a good cause in the community. On April 22, 2009 the community played it back when several hundred community leaders, families, and laid off steelworkers gathered at the Gateway International Raceway in Madison, IL to relieve some of the strain the poor economy is causing in St. Louis Metro-East area.

With the US Steel mill idle, many local businesses are feeling the poor economy. Local governments are feeling the pinch too because tax revenues used for police and fire protection as well as other vital services are down because of shrinking payrolls and sales.

The Granite City Rotary Club organized the Rotary Rally (using a “Monopoly” type game board – not race cars) at the Raceway to raise emergency relief funds for laid off Steelworkers.

Cindy Galvisky, president of the Granite City Rotary explained that the money raised goes into a restricted account with the United Way, then, under guidelines set up by USW local union presidents, United Way would issue

emergency funds to help pay for food, rent, health needs, and other basic personal and family needs. Ms Galvisky estimated \$3000 to \$4000 would be raised at the Rally.

The “phantom” race, sponsored by nearly 100 local businesses and civic organizations was an overwhelming success. As the evening closed in this huge racing arena Cindy Galvisky announced that her prediction was badly mauled by the true spirit of the people in the

Metro-East. The final tally was almost \$15,000.00 to be donated to the emergency fund.



PHOTO: Mike Lamka of LU 68

Cindy Galvisky, president of the Granite City Rotary (second from right) presents a check for \$18,000.00 to officers of USW Locals 68 (Jeff Evans, 2nd from left), 50 (Jason Chism, 3rd from left) and 1899 (Dan Simmons, center). The funds were raised to support laid off Steelworkers during the idling of USS Granite City Works in December, 2008. The money will be administered by United Way under guidelines created by the USW. Also shown in the photograph are Al Schuler, Gene Hudson, Rick Fancher, Granite City Mayor Ed Hagnauer, Ken Kohnen, and Missy Churchmann. As we went to press US Steel had begun calling back some of the laid off members.

Local 1010 and 1011 grievors take arbitration class



Made in the USA clothing store opens in Farmington MO

by Dennis Barker

On a recent field trip Jeff Rains and I attended a public town hall meeting for health care reform in Farmington Mo.

Arriving early in Farmington we took the opportunity to visit the City Hall to contact the Farmington Mayor and Local School Board to ask for their support for the Buy American resolution.

Across from the City Court House we found an all American Clothing store shop under construction opening soon.

We went inside and thanked

the new owners for their dedication to American made products and we told them we would promote there new store wherever we could.

So the next time any of us are traveling down highway 67 in Missouri stop by Farmington and across from the Courthouse, on the South



side, visit an all American Clothing store.

Hennepin steelworkers appeal their case to the next level

HENNEPIN IL: More than 150 people gathered outside the Arcelor-Mittal Hennepin mill on July 22 praying for divine intervention to save the jobs of the 300 steelworkers laid off from the plant. "We came here today to pray for our futures," said Putnam County Board chairman Duane Calbow and ArcelorMittal employee.

The members of USW L.U. 7367 say that the Hennepin plant been one of the most profitable steel finishing plants in the United States and Arcelor is refusing to sell the building as a way to drive up the price of steel and limit competition.

State Rep. Frank Mautino, told the News Tribune that, "This plant has always produced a profit even at 50 percent capacity. We're trying to show Arcelor-Mittal you can't profit



Putnam County Board chairman Duane Calbow

by destroying American jobs. They are doing this in other places and transferring our assets to other countries. Our steel caucus needs to make a decision and it needs to start right here."

Local union president Dave York said that California based North American Trading Co. has been interested in purchasing the facility. But all efforts to purchase the company have been stonewalled by Arcelor.

Mike O'Connor L.U.7367 who has 37 years at the plant summed up the feelings of the crowd, "Here we have an American businessman wanting to buy the plant and create jobs but we have a foreign company with its own agenda that won't sell and is killing us, "It's just not the right thing to do."



ArcelorMittal Annual Meeting Draws a Crowd

LUXEMBOURG — ArcelorMittal's annual shareholders meeting in Luxembourg was attacked by over 1000 laid off steelworkers from Belgium and France who set off smoke bombs and broke down the front door to protest layoffs.

The workers threw cobblestones and tore down steel fencing at the building to smash windows and tore down moldings from the ornate building.

Riot police arrested one protestor who broke through their lines and into the building. He was released several hours later after a smaller group of steelworkers continued to fight with police at the entrance demanding his return.

Journalists were force to flee the first floor of the building as it filled with smoke. An ArcelorMittal spokesman said that the annual meeting on the second floor was unaffected.

ArcelorMittal Steelworkers in Algeria win 15% pay increase after two day strike

ALGERIA: July 8, 2009; - Seven thousand steelworkers at ArcelorMittal Annaba won a 15% pay increase after a two-day strike, according to their spokesman Smain Kouadria. "We obtained a rise of 15% in the basic pay scale, and re-evaluation of some key jobs making up three percent of the total pay roll, said Kouadria.

Mob beats Chinese steel factory executive to death

Thousands of workers gathered in northeastern rust belt city of Tonghua to protest the takeover of their company and threatened layoffs.

TONGHUA CHINA: Chinese state media confirmed July 27, 2009 that a steel factory executive was beaten to death after thousands of workers gathered to protest the takeover of their company.

Chen Guojun, an executive at Jianlong Steel Holding Co., died Friday after an angry mob in the northeastern city of Tonghua beat him and then blocked ambulances from reaching him, according to the China Daily.

The protesters worked at the state-owned Tonghua Iron and Steel Group, which was going to be sold to Chen's privately owned Jianlong Steel. Chen sparked the riot by announcing 30,000 workers would be laid off, the newspaper said.

They dispersed later only after they were assured by authorities the sale would not go through.



Leo Gerard address JOBS rally in St. Louis



You are invited to the Indiana Blue-Green Alliance's

First Labor-Environmental Educational Summit

My Job or My Planet...

Real Choices

VS.

False Choices

The newly formed Indiana chapter of the Blue-Green Alliance brings together blue and white collar Union workers with environmental activists who share the goal of a clean, green and prosperous economy.

Our first Educational Summit will address these questions:

*With the severe economic crisis happening now, why should Union members focus on the crisis of global warming?

*How can we ensure that Indiana workers reap the benefits of renewable energy component production and installation?

*How can we support a significant reduction in carbon emissions while protecting Indiana's manufacturing base?

*How can we create "green" jobs that are good jobs, with good wages, benefits and decent conditions?

*What federal and state policies should we be supporting that brings together all these concerns?

When: October 17, 2009

Registration 9 a.m.

Summit- 10 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Airport Indianapolis, IN

Who: All members of Blue Green Alliance State & National Partner organizations are invited- American Federation of Teachers, Communication Workers, Laborers, National Resource Defense Council, Save the Dunes Council, SEIU, Sierra Club and United Steelworkers.

Lunch speaker: National Director of Blue-Green Alliance Dave Foster

Contact Robin at 219-8862442 for more information.

Local 1636 in tough battle

Montgomery IL: June 2009: Steelworkers of Local 1635 have been in tough negotiations since February of this year to reach a fair and equitable contract for their members. The Company Lyon Workspace Products came to the table with 155 takeaway demands to rewrite the whole contract. On their hit list was a reduction in holidays and vacation, daily overtime, severance pay, COLA, contracting out and major insurance changes. Manny Aponte, the President of L.U 1636, said, "The members have carried the company on their backs for years and now the company wants to break those very



photo: Joe Fabbre

backs that have kept this Company profitable." Negotiations are now proceeding through a mediator. Larry Beck, John

McKinney, Carlos Delgado, and S. T. Pryor make up the rest of the local bargaining committee.

UAW says restructure Chrysler in the U.S.



FENTON MO: July 24, 2009: The UAW rallied in Fenton to protest taxpayer dollars from the domestic auto restructuring being used to transfer the Dodge Ram truck assembly from the St. Louis suburb Chrysler plant to their Mexico facility. Approximately 1,500 people attended the event with Jeff Rains, SOAR and ReUnion Coordinator, as one of the many featured speakers. Several USW members from District 7-Sub 2 composed a part of the audience. PHOTOS: Doug May L.U. 1899



Steelworkers meet with Senator Durbin

In late May, a roomful of Steelworkers met with Sen. Dick Durbin and his staff at the Nameoki Township offices to discuss issues like the economic crisis, national healthcare, and EFCA. Locals 50, 68, 1063, 6063 and 1899 were well represented.



At the meeting, Dir. Robinson encouraged Sen. Durbin to call the Republicans' bluff of filibustering the Employee Free Choice Act. He told the Sen. that he wanted to "see some idiot from Oklahoma on CNN at three o'clock in the morning reading the Bible out loud."

-Gary Gaines

Solidarity Motorcycle Run Sept. 12

USW District 7 is hosting a International Solidarity Motorcycle Run on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 for Los Mineros (The Mexican Miners Union) and their families who have remained united in the face of many injustices from both the government and their employer Grupo Mexico during their strike which began July 30, 2007.

The *Steelworkers Solidarity Run & Roast* begins at McBride Hall 1301 Texas Street, Gary, Indiana 46402. Registration is from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST) (waiver and map run provided).

The first bike out is at noon and last bike returns at 4:00p.m. when the entertainment and pig roast begins.

The single rider donation is \$25.00 which includes hog roast, entertainment and event t-shirt. Passenger donation is \$10.00 which includes hog roast and entertainment. Additional event t-shirts are \$15.00.



The *Run* is a scenic ride with interesting stops. Music, raffles and games will be available during the pig roast.

Non-riders are invited to attend the festivities at McBride Hall from 4 to 10 p.m. for a \$15 donation.

If you have any questions call Blanca Morales at 219-886-2596 or 800-932-8007.

Southern Illinois Women of Steel at it again

The Women of Steel in Southern IL have raised over \$50,000 in recent years for the Phoenix Crisis Center in Granite City.

When Mary Jo Ann Hollenbeck, the sister of WOS activist Joyce "Sweetpea" Hayden (LU 1899) succumbed to breast cancer, the group decided to remember her through a benefit for the "Susan G. Komen for the Cure" fund.



A good time was had by all.

Local businesses and individuals gave generously, and \$2,400 was raised for the charity. The members of Polish Hall, in Madison, IL generously donated their facility for the event. The WOS presented a plaque to Polish Hall President Tom Gordon Jr. in recognition of their long time support



The SOAR Chapter in Sub 2 helps fund its activities by holding an annual BBQ. Despite bad weather the event was a success thanks to a large crew of volunteers.



Joyce "Sweetpea" Hayden L.U. 1899, Tom Gordon Jr., Norma Gaines L.U. 68



Local President addresses local media before testifying in Congress on trade policy failures

By Doug May USW L.U. 1899 Editor

GRANITE CITY ILLINOIS: June 15, 2009

USW Local 1899 President, Dan Simmons, District 7 Sub-2 Director Dave Dowling and USW Local 50 President Jason Chism briefed a packed room of steelworkers and St. Louis and metro area print media reporters on their testimony the following day before a Congressional Committee.

Havy rains forced the organizers to move the event from outside the US Steel building to a meeting room at the Granite City Labor Temple.

Simmons said he would tell Congress that trade policy problems still exist. Trade deficits that will reach a trillion dollars this year and unenforced trade laws have contributed to the idling of the Granite City Works;

“US Steel is as competitive as any foreign manufacturer when they are presented with a level playing field. We are not asking for handouts, just enforcement.” Most of the questions from union members concerned the strangely coin-

cidental start-up of Granite City Works and when they could expect to begin working again.

Simmons was also asked about the need for healthcare reform in the U.S.. Many Granite City steelworkers were grappling with this issue as there healthcare coverage with U.S. Steel had expired.

As Local 1899 member asked Simmons, “Since you will be speaking directly to the Congressional members of the Steel Caucus, will you be asking Rep. John Shimkus-R Il. who is a member of the Committee, if he is finally going do something about the lack of trade enforcement? He represents over 500 Local 1899 members who are not just disoriented and fearful because they have too much idle time on their hands. The lack of enforcement has been going on and affecting our entire society for over a decade and we want him to do what is right for Americans.”

Simmons said he does not know if he will have the opportunity to speak directly with Shimkus; but if he does, he intends to bring this concern to his attention.

The Greater Madison County Federation of Labor

surprised Norma and Gary Gaines with “Special Appreciation” awards presented by Marty St.Peters Fed President at the June 2009 Labor Awards dinner. Both held Executive Board positions for many years on the Central Labor Council.



When it comes to bikes

Steel is Best

When you talk about how safe a bike is, you're talking about how it responds to different forces that wreck it, how quickly it gets wrecked, and how much warning it gives you before it'll cause you to crash. This is all a matter of strength. But there are different kinds of strength, and they all matter.

Impact strength is how much impact a part can take before it fails. It matters, but any impact that tests a bike or part's impact strength will send you to the ground long before the part is damaged, and once you're down, who cares about the part?

Fatigue strength is how a material responds to repeated stress, usually flex. It is important because there's always flex happening, as you push on the pedals and pull on the bars. Aluminum has the worst fatigue strength of any common frame material, but aluminum bicycle frames can be made with oversized tubing to eliminate most of the flex. **High quality steel has the best fatigue strength of any frame material.**

Toughness is about cracks; namely, a material's ability to stop a nick from growing into a crack, and a crack from growing into a failure. **Steel creams aluminum, titanium, and carbon fiber in this area, too.** That's why hammers, nails, rebar, and bridges are steel.

Tensile strength, the most commonly cited gauge of strength, is measured by playing tug-o-war with a skinny cylinder of material and measuring the force required to rip it in half.

Tensile strength of tubing is important, but its importance is greatly exaggerated with regards to bikes. Bicycle frames don't fail in tension. Frames and parts almost always fail due to fatigue, notch-sensitivity, lack of toughness, or impact.

Tensile strength affects safety, but any of the materials used in bicycles has plenty of it. There are more important factors than tensile strength.

Failure mode is one of those "more important factors." It is how suddenly failure occurs after the first crack, hole, or gouge. Nobody talks about it, but it's really, really, really important.

Materials that fail fast are said to fail "catastrophically." Of all materials used in bikes, none fails more catastrophically than carbon fiber, and none fails more slowly than steel. You want your bike stuff to respond to trauma by bending and denting, not shattering and snapping. Metals tend to do that. And once that's covered, you want plenty of time and lots of warning between the onset of failure (a crack, for instance) and total material separation. **Steel is the first place winner here, too.**

Reparability is desirable, too, and steel wins that one, also.

Another quality to consider in a frame material is how well it ages; the degree to which it stays strong as it gets old, and environmental stress in the form of ozone, ultraviolet radiation, salt air, and temperature extremes affect it.



In this regard, metals are far superior to rubber, plastic, and carbon fiber. The resins used to hold the layers of carbon fiber together degrade with exposure to ultraviolet.

Steel critics cite rust as a weak point of steel. But rust and corrosion ("rust" being steel-specific) are protective responses to environmental conditions, and once a layer has built up, they help protect against further corrosion. Super thin tubes are more vulnerable to rust than are thicker ones, and that's a good argument for avoiding 0.35mm walls in steel bicycle frame tubes. But if rust were the tube-killer some would have you believe, there wouldn't be hundreds of thousands of 30-year old, routinely neglected steel-framed bicycle roaming the planet. Even so, it is best to prevent corrosion in super-thin-walled steel tubes by using an anti-rust spray or if you like the old ways, linseed oil.

Defect tolerance is the ability of a material to be safe even when defective.

This matters because perfect quality control is impossible, no matter how white-coated engineers in sterile rooms you have monitoring production. Some bug or bubble will work its way in, and then what?

Then you want a material that maintains its integrity.

The least defect-tolerant material used in bikes is carbon fiber. (And most carbon fiber comes from China, as a matter of fact.) **The most defect-tolerant is steel.**

Shock absorption, vibration damping, and comfort get talked about a lot in bicycle media.

Shocks get absorbed by movement, either compression or deflection or a combination, but there's a notion among bike riders that they can get absorbed without movement. Folks who ought to know better claim that carbon forks offer a "plush, shock-absorbing" ride, even though they don't compress at all, and are designed not to deflect enough to make a difference in comfort. Yet, the media and so many "experts" who work in retail shops and at the manufacturing level continue to praise their shock-absorbing qualities. If you want shock absorption, ride higher volume tires at lower pressure, and don't grip the handlebar as though though it's a jackhammer. Suspension forks absorb shocks, but only by moving.

Vibration damping is another largely misunderstood quality whose real benefits may or may not be detectable by a human riding a bike. It is how long a material continues to vibrate once it has started to vibrate; presumably, when it hits a bump. Wind chimes don't dampen vibration well, which is why they bother your neighbors. Vibration is high-frequency flex. But a bicycle isn't a dangling metal cylinder; it's a composite of metal, rubber, air (in the tires) and other materials, and there's a body on it. The water is so muddied that there's no way for a human to accurately isolate "vibration damping" from all the other things going on during a bike ride.

How comfortable you are on the bike can be increased with a few suggestions: Raise the bars to take weight off your hands. Scoot your seat back an inch or more farther than the experts tell you to. Ride bigger tires at lower air pressure. Relax your body and grip. Ahhhh.

We like steel bikes best, and lugged ones most. But the material and method mean nothing unless the bike is not only well-designed, but well-designed for you, and right for your kind of riding.

Frame weight is 1/4 as important as bike weight, and bike weight is 1/10 as important as body weight. If you want to go fast, ride harder and more often. We're not suggesting you should want to go fast unless you're racing, but if you do, that's how you'll achieve it. You can buy a Lightspeed, but it won't make you light or give you speed.

It has been said many times that engineering matters more than materials. But it's not as simple as that. Yes, you can make a strong bridge out of styrofoam, or bike frame out of almost anything, but certain materials have inherent qualities that plain make them more desirable. Steel has been around a long time. People who don't even ride bikes, but cock an ear when they hear tech talk and Tour de France and Lance and all...they "know" that steel is old and heavy and not good anymore. **They're wrong as can be. As a strong, safe, repairable, beautiful, practical, and rugged frame material, steel is still the best. -**

From Rivendell Bicycle Works- <http://www.rivbike.com/>

Union Leaders Visit Mexico to Support Mineworkers Union



(Left to right) - Kurt Mullins L.U.6787, Martin Muniz L.U. 1011, Max Carrasquillo, L.U. 1010, Juan Negrete L.U. 1011, Alfredo Cadena L.U. 1011 and Godofredo Chavez L.U. 1011.

U.S. Congress Urges Calderón to Meet

Mexico City – Trade union and parliamentary leaders from 13 countries visited Mexico to support the National Union of Mine and Metal Workers, which has been under attack by the Mexican government and the Grupo Mexico mining company.

In addition, twenty-seven members of the U.S. Congress wrote to Mexican President Calderón asking him to meet with the delegation. “Continued efforts by the Mexican government and Grupo Mexico to repress this democratic union in Mexico have raised serious questions about labor practices in your country,” the letter stated.

The delegation, organized by the International Metalworkers’ Federation (IMF), the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions (ICEM), and the United Steelworkers’ Unions (USW), is seeking a meeting with President Felipe Calderón to discuss his government’s handling of the Mineworkers conflict, which has been criticized by the international trade union movement.

“Workers around the world are outraged at Mexico’s attacks on the Mineworkers union,” said USW President Leo W. Gerard.

The Mineworkers are one of the few unions in Mexico that continues to strike for higher wages. The union has won a series of strikes this year with wage increases above 8 percent, well above the 4.5 percent limit imposed by the government. The union has also criticized the government’s labor law reform proposals and the lack of health and safety protections for workers.

“We intend to let our governments and employers know what is going on in Mexico, and to discourage them from further investments until it is clear that workers’ rights are being respected” - Manfred Warda, General Secretary of the ICEM.

In response, the government has twice removed the leader of the union, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, from office. The Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labor Organization (ILO), ruling in a complaint brought by the IMF, found that “the labor authorities engaged in conduct that is incompatible with the right of workers to elect their representatives in full freedom.”

The government has repeatedly filed criminal charges against the union leadership, although these have been thrown out by the courts. The government has also tried repeatedly to declare illegal a strike at three Grupo Mexico mines which has run for nearly two years, but the courts have rebuffed these efforts. The government has also supported Grupo Mexico in establishing company-dominated unions at eight other facilities.

Four union members have been killed in the conflict. The government has not investigated or prosecuted these cases.

“We are concerned that the Calderón government, which claims to be fighting for rule of law, practices impunity when it

comes to the rights of the mineworkers” said IMF General Secretary Jyrki Raina.

In Mexico City, the delegation met with Congressional and union leaders and will visit Mineworkers’ official Juan Linares Montufar who has been jailed by the government.

The delegation attended the Mineworkers’ 75th anniversary in Lázaro Cárdenas,

Michoacán and will visit the Pasta de Conchos mine where 65 workers were killed in an explosion in 2006. An ILO report this year concluded that “the Government of Mexico did not do all that was reasonably expected of it to avoid or minimize the effects of the accident which had such devastating effects with the loss of life of as many as 65 miners.”



District 7 Director Jim Robinson

The delegation was headed by Jack Layton, leader of Canada’s New Democratic Party (NDP) and includes parliamentarians from Australia and Peru. The delegation includes District 7 Director Jim Robinson as well as trade union leaders from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Norway, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United States.

“We intend to let our governments and employers know what is going on in Mexico, and to discourage them from further investments until it is clear that workers’ rights are being respected” said Manfred Warda, General Secretary of the ICEM.



Mexican miners tell Mexican Government

We pick our o



Down leaders



"Raise Your Voice" for Real Health Care Reform

by Dennis Barker

EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS: JUNE 6, 2009 More than twenty-five active and retired steelworkers joined members of the United Congregations of the Metro East [UCM] and the Downstate Democrats For Change at the Goshen Farmers Market in Edwardsville promoting a Single Payer health care system. Hundreds of flyers and pamphlets were distributed.

Speaking from the courthouse steps on solutions to the health care crisis were Dr. Pamela Gronemeyer from the Downstate Democrats For Change, Jeff Rains president of the Steelworker Organization of Active Retirees, Larry Evans from the United Congregations of the

Metro East and Mike Fultz USW L.U. 1899.

Mike Fultz USW L.U. 1899 was laid off by Stein Steel Mill Services, Inc., a contractor at Granite City Steel.

He and nine other co-workers continued their health insurance coverage under COBRA, a federal law that requires companies to continue coverage for laid-off employees who pay their own premiums for 18 months.

Because of a provision of the stimulus bill he pays \$300 a month for coverage for himself and his wife while sixty-five percent of the cost is subsidized by the government.

But he was notified that such coverage will end July 1 because there are no longer enough employees in the pool for the insurance company



Larry Evans, of Glen Carbon, speaks at a rally at the Land of Goshen Community Market in Edwardsville.

- But we have the best health care system . . .

Three simple charts destroy the GOP's scare tactics on healthcare

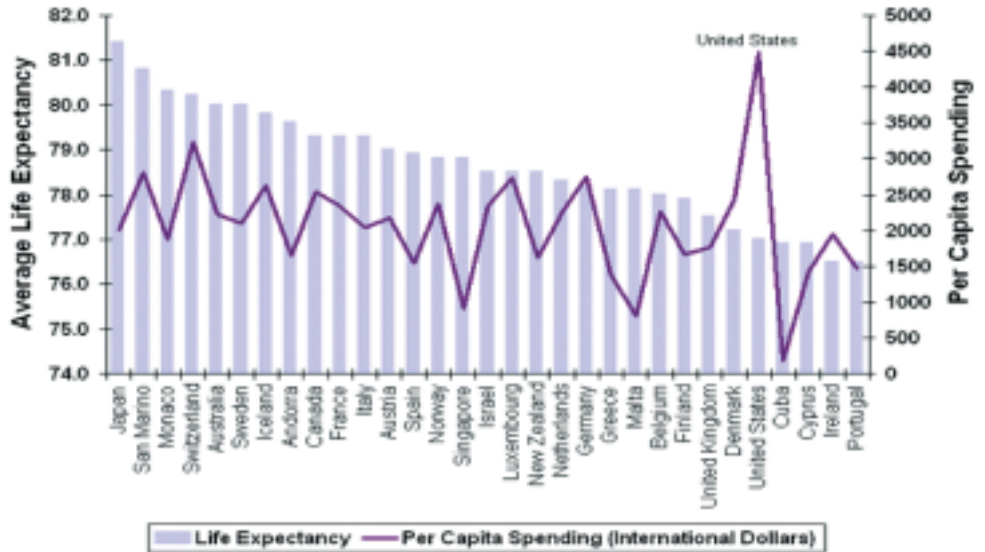
As Congress debates health care reform, the GOP, are salivating after recent polls showing a majority disapprove of the president's handling of health care. But those celebrations may be a bit premature because another poll shows they almost unanimously (85%) consider health care reform vital to saving the economy and making sure they personally have access to health care.

So how to explain this dichotomy? I think it can be summed up simply:

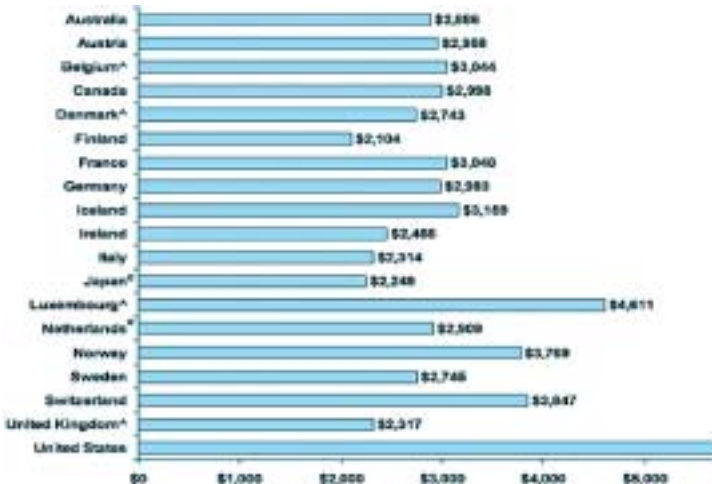
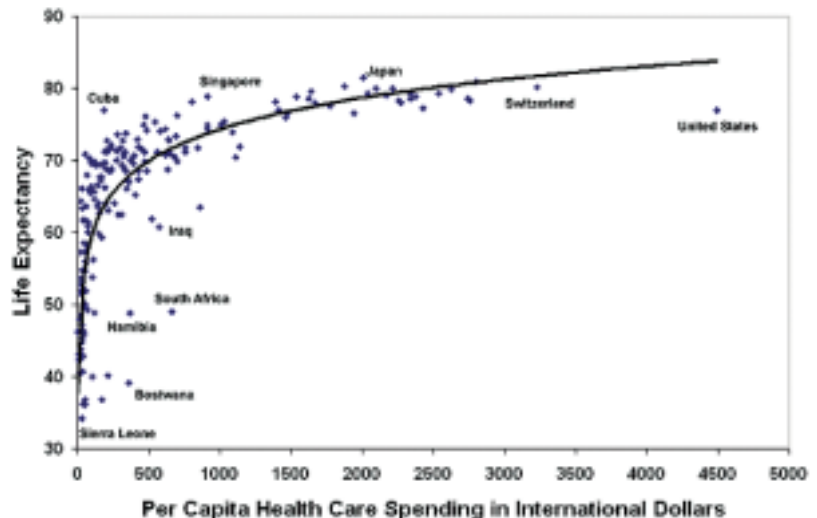
People have no idea how bad the current system is. They are fed the lie that we have the best health care in the world, and are vulnerable to GOP attempts to instill Fear Uncertainly and Doubt (FUD), about Obama's reforms. They are hoping the truth is too complicated to fit on a bumper-sticker, and thus they can obscure it indefinitely.

Enter these three simple charts. It is impossible to look at them and not see how bad things really are:

The Cost of a Long Life



Life Expectancy vs. Spending



to provide group coverage, therefore all of them, including the two who are still working, will lose their health insurance.

“If that happens, my wife and I will lose our house,” Fultz said. He said they won’t be able to afford it and pay the full cost of providing their own health insurance.

Studies show that over a million American families a year lose their homes to foreclosure because of unaffordable medical costs.

Dr. Pam Gronemeyer, a pathologist, who pays \$130,000 a year to provide health insurance coverage for her eight employees, says, “The high cost of health insurance is killing small businesses.”

The response from the general public attending the Farmers Market was very supportive of real health care reform with a single payer system option.

. .in the world

The bottom line is we are getting ripped off badly under the current system

We spend far more than any other industrialized nation on earth on health care.

Except for the inexplicable anomaly that is Luxemborg, we spend almost twice as much as even the other richest nations on earth and yet we are getting lousy value for our money:

You see how the US is way over by itself on the high end of the chart? You see anyone even close?

Notice what country is just behind the US in life expectancy while spending less than any other country on the list? Yup. Cuba. That “failed Communist experiment” several miles off our coast that still inexplicably drives right-wingers (whose houses are filled with made in China products crazy). That’s not just sad, it’s outright embarrassing.

Now we can and should argue about the causes of the incredible inefficiency in our system and how to fix it. Reasonable people can differ as whether the biggest culprit whether is excessive defensive medicine costs, The 25 percent overhead the insurance companies suck out, the fact that 93 million people don’t have access to early intervention, detection and treatment of their medical problems; or all of the above.

But once we start having that national conversation, we’ve already won the most important battle: Which is getting people to acknowledge that change must come and soon. As they say in various forms of recovery, the first step is acknowledging you have a problem.

The Bending Cross:

A Biography of Eugene V. Debs - By Ray Ginger

Ray Ginger's absolutely authoritative biography of the Terre Haute IN native, Eugene Debs, is a marvellous, well-written and well-researched book.

Ginger details Debs' life: his upbringing in a middle class merchant household in Terre Haute, IN, where he was taught the German and French romantic classics by his father (the name Eugene Victor comes from Eugène Sue and Victor Hugo), his first jobs and union involvement on the Vandalia railway, his early leadership in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, his move up through the union ranks, then the formation of the American Railway Union, the Pullman strike and destruction of the same, his periods in prison and conversion to Marxism, and finally his political career in the Socialist Party where he made himself immortal in the annals of radical history by winning 6% of the vote in 1912, and also being the only person in American history to win aalmost a million votes for President while in prison (1920).

The author depicts the absolute humanity, loyalty, intelligence, cordiality, and charity of Eugene Debs. Indeed sometimes it is astounding how one man could unite so many virtues and be so utterly uncorruptible, leading one to become suspicious whether Debs' reputation is not exaggerated, but fortunately biographer Ray Ginger is always careful to substantiate the claims and to apply criticism where deserved.

Ginger chronicles Debs connections with many of the important people of his time: Lincoln Steffens, Robert Ingersoll, Victor Berger, John Altgeld, Susan B. Anthony, and even a short conversation with Warren Harding in the White House. Debs had an infallible sense of the failures of both extreme left sectarianism and excessive reformism in radical movements and labor unionism, and it is rare that one can conclude he made the wrong decision. Debs had a supreme capacity for personal love and charity, and was capable of opposing the political decisions and strategies of many other union activists without in any way lessening his personal loyalty or affection for them, or blam-

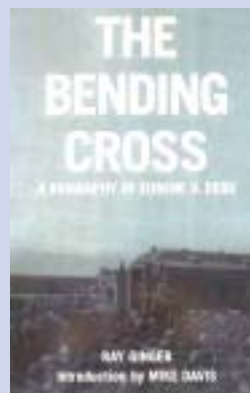
ing them in person for their views. While an inveterate opponent of all capitalism, he could make himself loved and respected even by his enemies - once he so effectively inveighed against a railroad director in his own office that the director started offering him high level



Eugene V. Debs was born and is buried in Terre Haute IN

jobs in the company!

Debs of course made American political history, not just with his prison campaign in 1920, victim to Woodrow Wilson's political terror; but also with the first campaigning train tour through America (the "Red Special"), with the highest percentage of votes in a Presidential election any left-wing candidate has ever received, and last but not least with his fierce opposition to American participation in World War I, when all tides were against him. But he equally deserves recognition for his remarkable goodness in his personal dealings: he refused all offers of careering and high wages, refused all attempts of union federations to lavish gifts or praise upon him, and was known for giving away large amounts of his money even when he could not afford it. When the ARU collapsed under the military terror of the American government, he personally took all the debts of the union on him, which it took him 18 years to pay off. He was even loved by all the inmates of the Atlanta prison during his stay there. Add to this his visionary and consistent support for the rights of women, blacks, and immigrants, when such things were radical even among radicals, and Eugene V. Debs indeed is nothing but an example to us all.





EUGENE VICTOR DEBS 1855-1926

Born: Nov. 5, 1855, at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Attended Terre Haute Public schools, dropping out of high school at age of 14 to take job as painter in railroad yards. In 1870 became fireman on railroad. In his spare time, he went to night classes at a local business college.

September 1874—At his mother's insistence he quit as a railroad fireman and worked as a billing clerk at the grocery firm of Hulman & Cox.

February 27, 1875—Became charter member and secretary of Vigo Lodge, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. He continued to work at Hulman & Cox and used his salary to help the fledgling local union and conducted its work at night. The same year he became president of Occidental Literary Club of Terre Haute. Brought Col. Robert Ingersoll, James Whitcomb Riley, Susan B. Anthony and many others to Terre Haute

1878—Became assistant editor of national Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman's Magazine.

1879—Elected to first of two terms as City Clerk of Terre Haute on Democrat ticket.

1880—Named Grand Secretary of Brotherhood of Railway Firemen and editor of the Magazine.

1884—Elected state representative to the Indiana General Assembly as a Democrat representing Terre Haute and Vigo County. Served in 1885.

June 9, 1885—Married Kate Metzger whom he loved and cherished until his death. They had no children.

1890—Built and moved into his Terre Haute home at 451 North Eighth Street, which is a National Historic Landmark and is now the Debs Museum.

1891—Retired from the Brotherhood of Locomo-

tive Firemen as its Grand Secretary.

1892—Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen prevailed on him to retain editorship of Magazine.

June 1893—Organized the first industrial union in United States, the American Railway Union.

April 1894—The American Railway Union struck Great Northern Railway. Not a wheel moved on Great Northern and at end of 18 days, the railway granted the demands of the union.

May 11, 1894—Pullman Boycott and strike at Chicago began.

July 23, 1894—Debs and leaders of ARU jailed.

May, 1895—Debs and leaders of ARU sent to jail for contempt of court in connection with Pullman strike. Finished sentences Nov. 22, 1895. Given triumphal welcome by thousands on his arrival in Chicago, from Woodstock, Ill. jail where sentence was served.

1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, 1920—Ran as candidate of Socialist Party for President of the United States in some of the most dynamic campaigning ever seen in the United States. Made his greatest showing in campaign of 1908 which featured the RED SPECIAL train which went to every section of the country.

1907-1912—Named Associate Editor of the Appeal to Reason published in Girard, Kan. The weekly magazine achieved a circulation of several hundred thousand.

1916—Ran for Congress in Terre Haute on the Socialist ticket and was defeated.

June 16, 1918—Debs made his famous anti-war speech in Canton, Ohio, protesting World War I which was raging in Europe. For this speech he

"Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again. I would have you make up your minds there is nothing that you cannot do for yourselves."

From an address on Industrial Unionism delivered at Grand Central Palace, New York City, Dec. 18, 1905.

was arrested and convicted in federal court in Cleveland, Ohio under the war-time espionage law. He was his own attorney and his appeal to the jury and his statement to the court before sentencing, are regarded as two of the great classic statements ever made in a court of law. He was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison.

April 12, 1919—Debs began serving his sentence in Moundsville, W. Va. State prison and was transferred to Atlanta, Ga. Federal prison two months later. His humility and friendliness and his assistance to all won him the respect and admiration of the most hardened convicts.

1920—For the fifth and last time, while a prisoner at Atlanta, he was nominated to run for president on the Socialist party ticket. **Conducting his campaign from inside the prison, he received nearly a million votes.** On Christmas Day, 1921 President Harding released Debs from prison, commuting his sentence to time served.

Dec. 28, 1921—Debs arrived home in Terre Haute from prison and was given a tremendous welcome by thousand of Terre Hauteans. Debs spent his remaining days trying to recover his health which was severely undermined in prison.

Oct. 20, 1926—Eugene V. Debs died in Lindlahr sanitarium. His body was brought back to Terre Haute where it lay in state in the Terre Haute Central Labor Temple. Great men and women from the world came over to Terre Haute for his funeral which was conducted by Norman Thomas from the front porch of the Debs home. Debs was cremated and his ashes were interred in Highland Lawn cemetery, Terre Haute, with only a simple marker. Ten years later his beloved wife, Kate, was buried beside him.

Local 1015L reminds Angola to Keep it Made in America at Independence Day Parade

ANGOLA IN: The annual Fourth of July parade in Angola welcomed a new entry this year. United Steelworkers Local 1015L joined in the festivities for the first time, bringing the membership together to celebrate the nation's independence and their local union solidarity.

Union members and their families were applauded and cheered as they drove the parade route, passing out candy and freeze pops. Their caravan included two golf carts and trailers, USW members Steve and Nikki Burrel on motorcycles and Mike and Stacie White in Stacie's 1970 Chevy Malibu with "Keep it Made in America" and USW signs all about. Stacie and Mike, both Local 1015L members drove the vintage car with USW "It's Your Fight Too" signs on either side. Talk about making it in America....what would you say the domestic content of Stacie's car is? We don't make'em like that anymore!



Ron Burk Union Steward

Local 10105L officers and members joining the parade were President Rob Waltz, Vice president Laura Gallogly, Bryan Leland, Dawn Pherigo, Kathy Powers, Dawn Reynolds, Scott Field, Mike Thatcher, Suann Mahaffey, Ron Burke, Steve and Nikki Burrell, and Mike and Stacie White and their families.



PHOTO: Background left, Rod Waltz Pres. L.U. 1015L, Tom Emerick, past president L.U. 9463 and Sharon Bowers, President L.U. 1108. Foreground 1970 Chevy Malibu

Schererville Says Keep in Made in America



Union members standing up for America at the Schererville Town meeting

SCHERERVILLE IN: The Town Council voted unanimously to adopt the Buy America Resolution last night.

Dan Murchek resident and President of Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor thanked Councils members for adopting the Buy America Resolution. Schererville's Councilman Tom Schmitt introduced the resolution and got strong support from residents, Steelworkers, Building Trades and Ironworkers members at the Councils meeting.



PORTAGE IN:

Pat Lane SOAR 6787 and Rosa Rodriguez L.U. 1010 (in photo below) spoke in favor of the Buy America Resolution at the Portage Common council meeting who followed their recommendation and voted unanimously to adopt it.





Communication Class 2009

Steelworker Summer School Champaign Urbana U of I 2009



Women of Steel Class 2009



USW Financial Officer 2009



USW D7 Year Four 2009



USW Collective Bargaining 2009



USW Year One 2009



Trustee Training 2009



USW D7 New Steelworkers Activists 2009



USW D7 Year Two 2009

Attention Be Advised:
Through a leak from the Manufacturers Spy Association of Illiana we have been told that these photos are being posted on company bulletin boards throughout District 7 with the caption that reads:
"Danger Educated Union Members"



USW Alumni 2009

If you are not in one of these photos and would like to be, you can apply and compete for a 2010 District 7 Summer School Scholarship. Your Local Union will be receiving these applications early next year.



USW D7 Year Three 2009



USW SOAR Class 2009



Safety Training Class 2009

Senator Bayh not in favor of "single payer"

IN TWO YEARS, WIFE EARNED \$2.1 MILLION FROM FIVE HEALTH COMPANY BOARDS

While many are fighting for a universal national health care plan, Indiana's Blue-Dog, junior senator, Evan Bayh has come out strongly opposed to a single payer system. After all, his wife, Susan, sits on the board of directors and collects a paycheck from five different health industry companies.

For Bayh, healthcare isn't just the latest political fight in Congress. It's a substantial part of his family's income.

THE BOARDS, THE BUCKS

Susan Bayh served on these five boards from 2006 through 2008. All have a stake in health-care reform: WellPoint opposes a public plan; biotech companies want a monopoly on drug molecules. Bayh's compensation during those years:

WellPoint- \$976,000

Indianapolis-based health insurer, includes Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

MDRNA* - \$388,169

Bothell, Wash., biotech company developing therapeutic to treat liver disease.

Dendreon - \$370,391

Seattle-based biotech company focused on cancer treatments.

Dyax - \$221,692

Chambridge, Mass., biopharmaceuticals company developing treatments for use in oncology and inflammation.

Curis - \$184,001

Cambridge drug-development company focused on cancer treatments.

Total - \$2,140,253

* Susan Bayh resigned in January.

Source: Equilar, a California-based research firm specializing in executive compensation company web sites.

Indy rallies at Senator's office for Universal Health Care Plan



INDIANAPOLIS IN: Over a hundred fifty auto workers, miners, clergy, nurses, physicians, students, the building trades and SOAR, of course, rallied for a "single payer" health care system in downtown. Steve Skvara, (SOAR) said, "It went great!"

Skvara said both of our Pace chapters along with 7-1, 7- IN-2, PC-1 PC-2, 31-5 were there and some of the locals had folks there also.

The police were called after the protesters invaded Evan Bayh's office, where they demanded to know how he could not consider it a conflict of interest, when his wife was paid \$347,000 last year for sitting on the board of



WellPoint. One of the cops told Skvara, "Make all the noise you want, but leave half the sidewalk clear, and they wished us luck because they are tired of their rates going up and UP."

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW!

It's time. Health care costs are skyrocketing, and last fall we voted for real change. Congress needs to support President Obama and pass health care reform in this session.

Corporate lobbyists and the Republicans stand in between you and your doctor. Don't let them block reform! It's time. Call you representative.

1-877-264-HCAN
(1-877-264-4226)

Call your representative and tell him your union and your family want our broken health care system fixed now.

A moderate is a person who throws a 12-foot rope to a man drowning 20-feet off shore and then congratulates himself for meeting him more than half way.

Who wouldn't be happy to see these guys?



Outside Illinois Senator Bill Haine's office foyer in the Capitol building, Springfield. (Illinois 56th District Senator), steelworkers were all smiles before their visit with the Senator.



Senator Haine had a tough time explaining why he was not supporting the insurance reform bill supported by USW and Healthcare Alliance (ie why he supports the insurance companies' position) with skeptical steelworkers from Subdistrict 2.

NAFTA disastrous for millions of Mexico's small farmers

NAFTA has been a disaster for millions of Mexico's small farmers, for Mexico's balance of trade, and for its state of food security.

In 1990, 2.5 million farmed small or medium-sized plots, most growing corn, beans, and other staples to sell in local and regional markets, as well as some export crops such as coffee.

NAFTA promised that these small producers would benefit from new "privileged" access to U.S. and Canadian markets. But NAFTA's "liberalized" of Mexico's already-developed export sectors, largely benefited big agribusinesses. NAFTA further reduced Mexico's import barriers, thereby allowing an influx of cheap (highly-subsidized) crops from the U.S. crushing small local producers.

Much of the food production market was taken over by a handful of agribusinesses and intermediaries (seven transnational companies control 70% of Mexico's corn imports and exports, for example), and because NAFTA eliminated all controls on imports, these corporations can threaten to import rather than paying decent prices to local producers.

With cheap commodities flooding the market and without adequate government controls to protect these victimized producers, the price of key smallholder crops including corn, beans, and coffee fell nearly 50% overall in real terms, resulting in the displacement of two million farmers since NAFTA went into effect.

After 4,000 years of corn cultivation and production, Mexico is now a net importer of its main staple. Agricultural imports from the U.S. grew faster than Mexico's exports, leaving the country with a negative balance of trade for the sector. Further, Mexico's export sector is now largely dependent on multinational firms that dominate global agro-food chains.

NAFTA gave Mexico "privileged" access to the world's largest consumer market, and Mexico paid the price as increasing free trade only deepened longstanding structural inequalities in the Mexican countryside, aggravated balance of payments problems, and failed to stimulate the kinds of productivity improvements promised by NAFTA's proponents.

Cause the last thing we need is "socialized" medicine.

There is a story that a pool reporter on Air Force One asked President Obama, "Are you a socialist?" We would like to offer some context for that reporter.

Air Force One was built to custom order and paid for by US taxpayers. The general design and that specific airplane were enabled by decades of big government spending on aerospace technology. Every nut and bolt in that plane and any other airliner was checked for flight worthiness by government inspectors making it, in GOP parlance these days, a "socialized" aircraft. As with all domestic flights, it is safely guided from take off to landing by a national network of highly trained government employees (socialized air traffic control) who are utterly dependent on an invention using radio detecting and ranging developed under the administration of a socialist FDR administration during World War II. Many of the pilots who fly Air Force One and its Marine counterpart were trained to navigate and fly sophisticated aircraft at considerable taxpayer expense in another big government "socialized" enterprise which is tasked with fighting wars and ensuring the survival of American democracy.

They may even called a "socialized" hotline alerting the "socialized" fire department to travel on the "socialized" transportation grid (county roads and city streets) to put out a fire.

That same reporter in all likelihood attended a public socialized kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school. They may or may not have gone on to a socialized state university. Throughout their life they depended on the local "socialized" police force, and may even called a "socialized" hotline alerting the "socialized" fire department to travel on the "socialized" transportation grid (county roads and city streets) to put out a fire. The reporter is old enough to remember standing transfixed in horror the day that thousands of those "socialized" heroes and union members rushed headlong into the burning World Trade Towers, before it collapsed in front of the eyes of millions of horrified viewers watching on television networks created and regulated by a "socialized" behemoth known as the Federal Communications Commission.

I know nothing about the health of the reporter but odds are close to 100 per cent that sooner or later their life, or the life of a loved one, will be improved, prolonged, or saved, again

and again, by drugs and treatments developed by big government "socialized" programs and overseen for safety and efficacy by a big nasty "socialized" FDA.

It's a statistical certainty that the reporter has friends and family spared the grinding poverty and spiraling morbidity that once was synonymous with old age prior to the advent of "socialized" medicare and "socialized" social security for the elderly. These programs are so successful that the reporter need not even contemplate them, knowing they will be there when he or she needs them, even if that reporter chooses to faithfully reproduce the talking points of right-wing politicians, each and everyone supported by the state and enjoying the benefits of comprehensive government healthcare provided at taxpayer expense, bitching and whining endlessly about the evils of socialism.

Every week or two, the reporter will probably make sure their paycheck is directly and/or correctly deposited into their online checking account. The internet making this possible is an outgrowth of a "socialized" Pentagon program. And even in the midst of the worst economic meltdown since 1929, the reporter can rest comfortably knowing their

hard-earned bank deposits are insured by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. The losses will be "socialized," the banks and brokerage houses stabilized, and in the event any of the above fails, the institutions will be nationalized. All modern commerce and the everyday welfare of every citizen in this nation depends on it.

But in closing we should note, in all fairness: the reporter was absolutely well within his or her rights to pose any question, report any answer, or provide any commentary and opinion of their choosing. Because in this country, the press is protected by an enumerated right enshrined in a "socialized" document written by radical progressives, since defended at enormous cost in the lives and limbs of countless members in the "socialized" Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, and beginning with a preamble that would stir any socialist's heart: "We the People ..."

Woodburn Indiana says keep making it in America

The Woodburn, Indiana City Council passed the USW Buy America resolution unanimously. The resolution was presented by Charlie Odier USW L.U. 715L. Though small in numbers with a population of 1,600, the town of Woodburn is witness to the benefits of domestic manufacturing every day as home to a BF Goodrich tire manufacturing facility, employing approximately 1200 members of Steelworkers Local 715L. Congratulations to Woodburn, BF Goodrich and USW Local 715L for Keeping it Made in America!



Charlie Odier L.U. 715L pushed the resolution through the city council.

Honduran workers launch general strike against coup

TEGUCIGALPA.—July 24, 2009- The three principal labor unions in Honduras are maintaining a general strike in the state sector for the second day supported by road blocks put in place by the popular forces repudiating the coup d'état.

On the second day of general strike in Honduras the country remained paralyzed for several hours due to the closing of several strategic routes by demonstrators.

Juan Barahona, president of the United Workers Federation, described the first day of the strike as a success, taking into account the road blocks and occupation of various state institutions by workers.

The popular actions cut off the country's principal ports on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as highways connecting the capital with the northern part of the country.



Steelworkers greet Obama in Wakarusa IN

August 5, 2009: - Hundreds of Steelworkers, SOAR members and concerned citizens were on hand to welcome President Barack Obama to Wakarusa, Indiana and to support universal health care and green manufacturing jobs. Photos Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees.



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