750 Strong
Support Auto Mechanics Strike

Auto mechanics in the Seattle area, on strike for 12 months, led a march through the north area of downtown Saturday afternoon, April 1.

Workers from many unions and trades joined the march in solidarity with five unions: Automotive Machinists, Lodge 289; Auto Sheet Metal Workers, Local 387; Auto Painters, Local 518; Teamsters Garage and Automotive, Local 44; and Teamsters Salesmen, Local 882.

750 men and women marched past large auto dealerships—S.L. Savidge, Frank Hawkins, Westlake Chevrolet, and Frederick Cadillac—to protest the anti-union stand of these employers. The march ended with a fund-raising dinner at the Labor Temple, where more than $2,000 was raised to give material support to the strike.

The Issue: A Closed Shop

The mechanics are demanding a closed shop where all workers will be obliged to belong to and support the same union.

The security of the union and the strength of the workers depends on this issue being won.

The employers know an open shop divides and weakens the workers’ ability to protect their rights on the job. In an open shop non-union workers resent having no voice in what is negotiated by the union, while the union workers resent those who do not pay dues but receive the same benefits.

This strike is a concrete example of how the interests of employers are in total opposition to the interests of workers. It clearly shows the need for rank and file workers to organize themselves into a strong union.

This strike also points out the importance for workers in other trades to actively support the Auto Mechanics strike. If the Auto dealers get their way, employers in other industries will think they can do the same. If the mechanics win, employers will know they can’t run over workers who are organized and united to achieve a common goal.

What You Can Do

To support the strike, workers are encouraged to join the mechanics on their picket line in front of auto dealerships on Saturdays from noon to 4:00 p.m. And for heaven’s sake don’t dare cross any picket line, and boycott the anti-union dealerships.

The mechanics and their families can use all the financial support we can muster. Donations, no matter how small, should be sent to:

Auto Trades Strike Support Committee
2701 - 1st Ave, Room 300
Seattle, WA 98121

Finally, talk about the strike with family, friends and fellow workers. Make sure to point out the issue so folks are clear on just how important it is for the mechanics to win. If they win, we all will be in a better position when time comes for our respective contracts to be negotiated.

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Tribute to Working Women pg 4
Feedback on your Feedback

by Beverly Silver

It’s not easy putting out this newspaper when you’re not a professional, but work is still being done as a construction worker. So, we feel good about accomplishment, even though our efforts may not be exactly as expected. And we feel even better when we get that extra five or ten percent we needed for the community.

One of the most important features of the magazine is that it is not only about work, but also about community. It’s about people helping each other, and about giving back to the community.

The magazine is a public good. We do not charge for it, because we believe that everyone should have access to the information it contains. We hope you find it informative and enjoyable.

The only article we have on this issue is about Black Power. This is not a reflection of our politics but rather an attempt to give a voice to those who are often marginalized.

And feel sharing your feedback is a victim of reverse discrimination.

Black Attackes Affirmative Action

by Lawrence Waldorf

It has been 24 years since the Supreme Court ruled to end segregation in schools, but, according to the NAACP, there is still a long way to go.

By law and McIntyre, the lack of education in the South is due to the failure of the federal government.

The NAACP has been fighting to end segregation in schools, but the courts have been slow to act.

Labor’s Responsibility

Most of the black schools had to have the opportunity to get a fair education. This is not the case in many schools.

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Effects on Labor

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On March 11, 1978, approximately 80 people came together to commemorate International Women's Day, which since 1910 has been a day to celebrate the gains and contributions women have made for the progress and struggles of the people of the world.

Beverly Sims and Charles Drew served as mistress and master of ceremonies, while the people were entertained and educated by the July 26 Choreopoets, Margaret Greenwood, who did an outstanding reading of "For the Art for Art's Sake Artist", a poem by Tyrre Scott. Bee Smith, veteran performer, made an excellent contribution to the program, as did Bill Sutherland, who has lived and worked in Africa for over 20 years. Sutherland briefly shared what is happening with women in Africa and its relationship to people here.

After the program a cabaret began featuring the outstanding sounds of the Ernie Hatfield Trio, who set a mellow tone for the remainder of the evening.

Sponsored by UCWA and Third World Women's Task Force