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In support of revolutionary industrial unionism, this publication is written and printed by union members.

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Submissions welcome! Email articles, article ideas, news items, editorials, artwork, and photographs to:

seattleworkeriww@gmail.com

Cover image: IWW

Little Red Songbook (39th Edition)



Arlington IWW Band (1910)

The ad hoc Committee for the production of the 39th Edition of the IWW Songbook - *To Fan the Flames of Discontent* is reaching out to Fellow Workers for assistance in artwork production.

Project Specifications

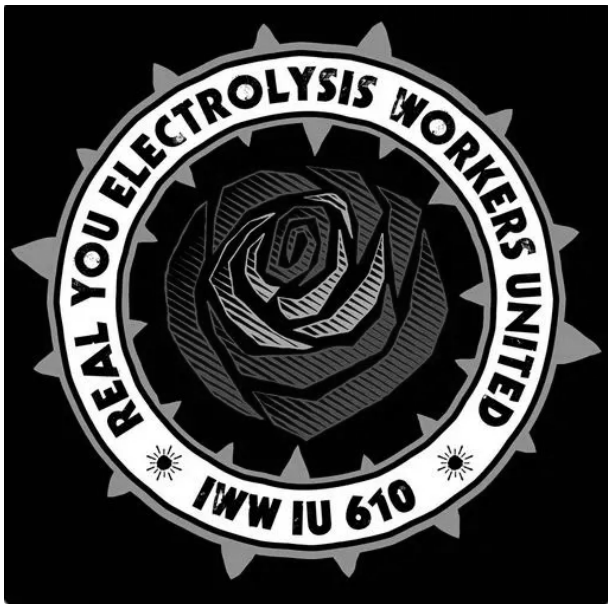
- **Project Name:** Little Red Songbook #39 (LRS39)
- **Item Type:** Saddle-Stitch (stapled) book.
- **Finished Size:** 4.25" x 5.5".
- **Number of Pages / Sides:** 72 pages + Cover
    - The current LRS#38 version can be used as an example.
- **Color Requirements:** Black & White
- **Artwork Status:** Work docs of individual songs, art work, and text provided.
- **Artwork Deliverables:** Document ready for print (Press-ready PDF)
- **Exchange:** Bid should be structured as a fixed price with hourly additional.

Bids and additional information can be directed to
FW Phil Reichel - **lrs-39@googlegroups.com**

IWW Strikes in Vancouver & Lakewood, WA
RYE Workers United

— Real You Electrolysis Workers United (IWW IU 610)

The following collection of bulletins was first published by Real You Electrolysis Workers United (reprinted with minimal edits by Seattle Worker Staff). As previously posted by IWW Bellingham, the new union is entirely trans, and they work to provide gender-affirming care to their largely trans clientele. The owners of Real You Electrolysis are therefore doubly impacting and exploiting vulnerabilities of the community they claim to support.



RYE-WU Vancouver's artist members created their own logo.

05/26/26

Real You Electrolysis Workers United (IWW IU 610) was formed on May 2nd, 2026, through the collective organizing of 11 out of 15 electrologists employed by Real You Electrolysis in Vancouver, WA.

On the morning of May 20th, 2026, we served our employer with a petition for voluntary recognition of our Union. A few hours later, our lead organizer was terminated. The remaining members of the Union staged a formal walkout in protest of this retaliatory termination. In response, the owners of Real You Electrolysis immediately terminated our employment, demanded we all return our keys to the office, and barred us from the premises.

We have been on strike since that day, demanding the reinstatement of all Union members, the recognition of our Union, and the commencement of negotiation for a fair labor contract. The owners of Real You Electrolysis have issued a formal response refusing to voluntarily recognize our union.

We are not giving up, because we believe that with the support of our community, direct action can change the minds of our employers. Since we are without pay during this strike, we have set up [a] fundraiser so that the community can have a way to directly support us financially through the IWW.

Your donations of any size will go directly toward keeping us fed, sheltered, and able to make it to the picket line every day, allowing us to continue to fight the union-busting practices of the managers of Real You Electrolysis.

We all thank you for helping us stand up for our rights!

06/08/26

Y'all, the outpouring of support has been giving us LIFE, literally! Unfortunately it looks like this struggle is going to be a long one.

Things ARE in motion with the NLRB, but moving slowly. We are prepping for another NLRB hearing to establish that our terminations were retaliation for our union organizing, and that means some of us are getting a crash course in federal labor law in order to prep witnesses, evidence, and documents for the hearing. That hearing is the one that determines whether the NLRB will actually be able to help us resolve this matter. Now that we've seen the official statements from management, it's clear that they intend to fight us until the bitter end. Even if we win and the NLRB

agrees we were fired unlawfully, RYE's owners will likely try to force us to settle for money rather than let us have our jobs back.

We've been on the picket line every day the business has been open, for coming up on the 4th week now. It's taking its toll on everyone's mental and physical health, but we're determined to keep it up as long as we can! The picket line is the only way we can reach incoming new patients and new hires, so it's vital we keep up our presence there to keep the pressure on RYE's management.

We've made contact with some lawyers to discuss other avenues outside the NLRB. We won't be able to share what those avenues are unless the lawyers tell us to, but we do want all of you to know we are not relying solely on the strike and the NLRB to resolve this situation.

Most importantly, we believe we can win this! We have a very strong case, and incredible dedication to this cause. One way or another, we're going to get back to being electrologists at the end of all this.

You've all been so generous that we've had to raise our goal multiple times now, just to keep up with the donations! We are so incredibly grateful for the support, not just because you're helping to keep our most vulnerable members safe, fed, and sheltered, but because it reminds us that our community sees us and cares about us. It means so much more than we can ever hope to convey. We are so tremendously grateful for whatever y'all can continue to offer, because this fight is just getting started!"

06/27/26

Hi everyone! We wanted to post a quick update to thank y'all for your generosity!

At this point we have provided everything necessary to the NLRB and are awaiting their decision on holding the official union election as well as a hearing regarding our Unfair Labor Practice charge against our employer. We are also in process through other legal avenues, which we cannot discuss for obvious reasons, but there has been some progress there.

Unfortunately, all of this is taking its time, and despite all of your incredible generosity, we are getting close to exhausting our funds. Several of us aren't eligible for unemployment, and in the coming weeks will have to leave the picket line to take temporary work.

It's hard to ask for more support, considering how much all of you have contributed already, but every little bit helps us keep up our presence on the picket line. Real You Electrolysis's management is continuing to try to get new patients in to make up for those who have chosen to boycott them over their anti-union practices, so keeping up our picket is crucial to reach these people. We will keep up our presence even if it's just a few of us, but it does help a lot to have more than a couple!

We're hoping that the NLRB will make some decisions soon—with any luck, we'll have some significant updates to report here soon!

—

To support and show solidarity with RYE Workers United:
Follow: @ryeworkersunion.bsky.social#UnionStrong
Contribute to their strike funds:
Vancouver – tinyurl.com/yc3b78f6
Lakewood – tinyurl.com/ekwv95sm

Updates:

Unionizing RYE Workers in Lakewood, WA voted in early June to solicit the IWW's endorsement of their union's formation and to join the Tacoma GMB. The Tacoma GMB proudly endorses RYE Workers United in Lakewood, and welcomes our fellow workers into Health Service Workers Industrial Union 610 (Department 600 – Public Service).

RYE-WU Lakewood successfully engaged in direct action to partially recover repeatedly unavailable pay. On 7/6, FWs began a seven-worker, three-day walkout campaign that included visiting the employer's bank to demonstrate their paychecks all bouncing upon attempts to collect wages—and repeated it daily until all workers received their last paycheck.

As of 7/16, Vancouver's strike has now extended to 57 days.

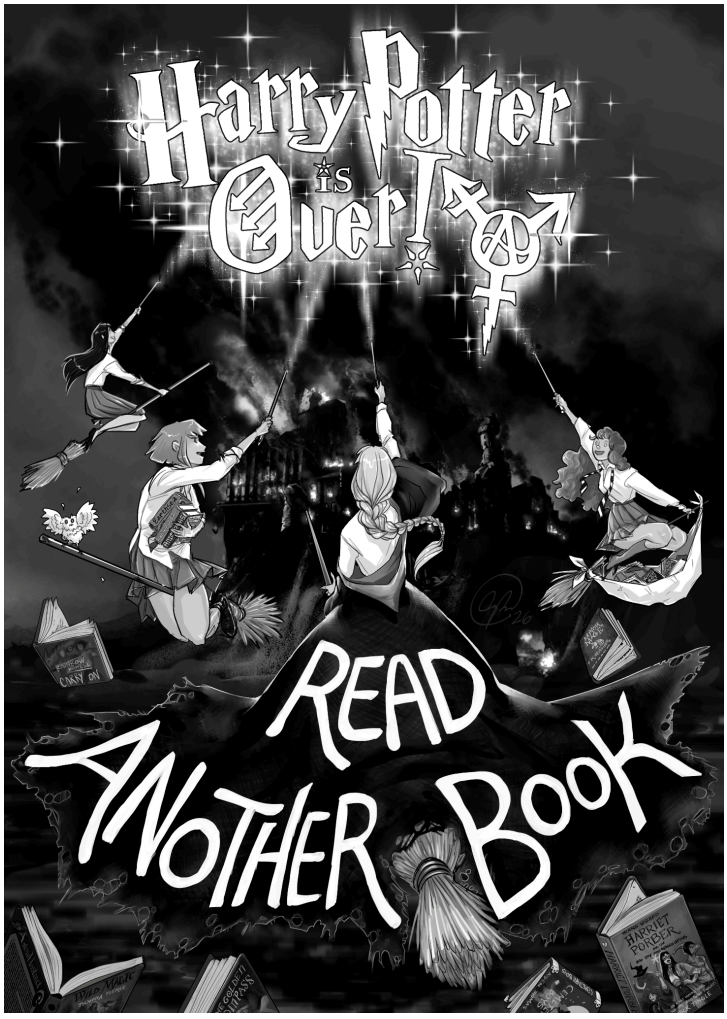


RYE-WU workers on the picket line

FW Deja picketing Real You Electrolysis (Vancouver)



Original art submitted by Caspian Priebe (cpriebe.carrd.co)



Organizing within Detention Walls: Union of Kidnapped by ICE

Josefina Mora-Cheung, Director of Organizing with La Resistencia



Art by USI

Resistance inside immigration detention centers is happening and has happened throughout the history of immigration detention. La Resistencia, a grassroots impacted led group working to shut down the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, last supported Colectivo de Detenidos NWDC (*Collective of Detained People in NWDC)* back in 2014, where large groups of people detained organized dozens of hunger strikes over the course of at least 3 years, and were even awarded with the City of Seattle Human Rights Award in 2014.[1]

Today, we see organizing inside detention happening across the country with hunger strikes in Adelanto and Delaney, breaking open organizing across prison walls in new places and with new people. Locally, La Resistencia received a letter on May 19, 2026 with an official communication from Union de Secuestrados por ICE/Union of Kidnapped by ICE (USI), declaring that over 140 people from Torrance County, New Mexico and NWDC, Tacoma "firmly denounce that the current operations against immigrants are not driven by security concerns… but rather by a system that has turned human suffering into a business." USI also stated that the detention of immigrants will "go down in history as one of the most shameful chapters this nation has ever faced."

USI organizer Rogelio Bolufe had let La Resistencia know that USI was planning a 200 person hunger strike on May 26, but when La Resistencia contacted folks from USI that day, they said that although 10 people had begun a hunger strike, 9 of the 10 participants were immediately removed from the unit and set to be transferred or deported, including Rogelio Bolufe. This swift retaliation caused fear in many USI members, and La Resistencia is waiting for next steps from the leadership of USI members in detention.

Rogelio Bolufe, a Cuban national, was deported to Guayaquil, Ecuador, and shared the retaliation he faced during his organizing inside detention, including being transferred 7 times across 10 months in detention.[2] Mr. Bolufe stated to La Resistencia, ""Its important that the people of the United States open their eyes as to what is happening, because at any moment it could affect them... In my personal case it has been terrible, they have violated all my rights." Mr. Bolufe vows to continue supporting his friends in detention, and supporting their ongoing organizing.

La Resistencia calls on the public to show solidarity with USI and all people detained at NWDC by showing up outside NWDC at Solidarity Days, and by spreading the word about NWDC and the organizing happening inside.

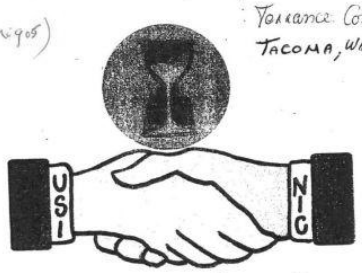
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1. The Stranger. "Seattle Human Rights Commission Gives Award to Immigrant Prisoners in Tacoma" https://www.thestranger.com/news/seattle-human-rights-commission-gives-award-to-immigrant-prisoners-in-tacoma-21208332/
2. The American Prospect. "Feds Deport ICE Detainee Organizer to Ecuador" https://prospect.org/2026/06/12/feds-deport-ice-detainee-organizer-to-ecuador/

USI communication (next page) was published by La Resistencia https://laresistencianw.org/2026/05/22/usi-official/

(FAVOR COMPARTIR CON MEDIOS, REDES, AMIGOS)

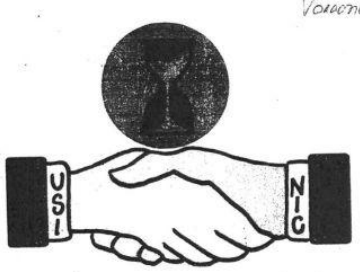
04/05/2026
Torrance County, NM.
TACOMA, Washington 98424



Comunicado Oficial de USI
Union de Seres Raptados de ICE.

- Desde Estancia, Condado Nuevo México
- **A todo el Pueblo** de los Estados Unidos, **a los medios** de prensa nacionales e internacionales, y **a las autoridades** de esta nación:
- Hoy alzamos nuestra voz, no como números, no como estadísticas, sino como lo que somos: seres humanos.
- Denunciamos con firmeza que las operaciones actuales contra los inmigrantes en los Estados E.U.U no responden a razones de seguridad ni a necesidades operativas reales. Lo que vivimos es otra cosa:
- Un sistema que ha convertido el dolor humano en un modelo de negocio, nos han reducido a (mercancía), pero afirmamos con dignidad: No somos mercancía; somos vidas familias historias. Lo que hoy ocurre - este sistema de detención masiva, esta tráfica humana institucionalizado - pasará a la historia como una de las páginas más vergonzosas que haya vivido esta nación. La gran mayoría de nosotros no tenemos antecedentes criminales. Apenas un mínimo porcentaje, y aun así; es de conocimiento público la existencia de prácticas abusivas, incluyendo acusaciones fabricadas por parte de instituciones que deberían proteger la ley, no manipularla.

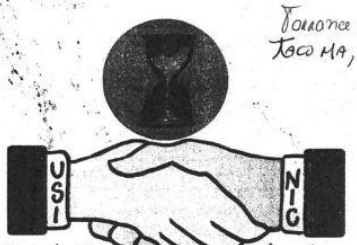
04/05/2026
Torrance County, NM



- Estamos siendo recluidos en prisiones de alta seguridad, bajo condiciones punitivas, sin derecho a fianza, en abierta contradicción con los principios fundamentales de la constitución de los Estados Unidos.
- Hoy denunciamos algo aún más grave:
- Instituciones debilitadas y sometidas a intereses políticos, una minoría movida por el racismo y el poder económico dictando el destino de miles, derechos fundamentales siendo socavados. Hoy la Quinta Enmienda está encarcelada, la Primera Enmienda está herida de muerte, y la Constitución entera está en peligro. Esto no es solo nuestro problema. Esto es un llamado a la conciencia nacional: Hacemos un llamado urgente a todos los ciudadanos: A defender la democracia, a proteger su hija más sagrada: la República, a ponerse del lado de la Constitución, y a no ser cómplices, por silencio o indiferencia, del sufrimiento de millones de seres humanos. Derechos están siendo violados sin fundamento. Y la dignidad humana está siendo ignorada. Hoy más que nunca, preguntamos: ¿Qué significa realmente para Estados Unidos grandeza otra vez, si no es defendiendo la justicia, la libertad y la humanidad? La historia juzgará. Y nosotros no guardaremos silencio.

Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo. A#:
USI Union de Seres Raptados por ICE

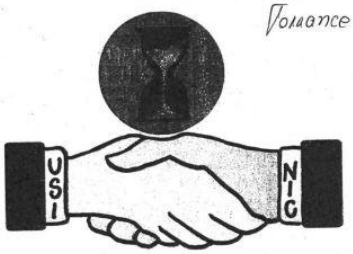
04/05/2026
Torrance County, NM
TACOMA, Washington 98424



Official statement by USI
Union kidnapped by ICE.

- From Estancia, County of New Mexico
- **To The people** of The United States, To national and international **media**, and **To The authorities** of this nation:
- Today we raise our voices - not as numbers, not as statistics, but as what we truly are: human beings. We firmly denounce that the current operations against immigrants in the United States are not driven by security concians or legitimate operational needs. What are we experiencing is something else: a system that has turned human suffering into a business model. We have been reduced to "merchandise" but we declare with dignity: we are not merchandise - we are lives, families, and stories. What is happening today - this system of mass detention, this institutionalized human trafficking - will go down in history as one of the most shameful chapters this nation has ever faced. The vast majority of us have no criminal record. Only a very small percentage does, and it is widely known that there have been abusive practices, including fabricated charges by institutions that are meant to uphold the law - not manipulate it. We are being held in high-security prisons, under punitive conditions, without the right to bail, in direct contradiction to the fundamental principles of the United States Constitution. Today, we denounce something even more alarming:

04/05/2026
Torrance County, NM



- Institutions weakened and subordinated to political interests
- A minority driven by racism and economic power dividing the fate of thousands. Fundamental rights being eroded today, the Fifth Amendment is imprisoned, the First Amendment is mortally wounded, and the Constitution itself is in danger. This is not only our struggle this is call to the conscience of the nation. We urgently call upon all citizens: To defend democracy, To protect its most sacred daughter: the Republic, To stand on the side of the Constitution, and to refuse to be complicit - through silence or indifference - in the suffering of millions of human beings. Families are being separated without just cause. Civil rights are being violated without justification. And human dignity is being ignored. Now more than ever, we ask: What does it truly mean to make America great again, if not by defending justice, freedom, and humanity? History will **JUDGE**. And we will not remain silent.

Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo. A#:
USI Union kidnapped by ICE

GASP. "Won't Someone Think of the Landlords?"

– FW John (x430192)

"No person whose primary income (over 50% for at least 90 days) comes from being a landlord, shall be allowed membership, and any member who becomes one shall be expelled. Members who collect rent from housemates, renting out the other half of a duplex, and members who are renting out their second home shall be exempt."

—Article II, Sect. 1 (e). *Preamble, Constitution & General Bylaws of the Industrial Workers of the World, 2025 Edition*

Landlords (with exceptions) are one of only three groups explicitly prohibited IWW membership on the basis that their "employment is incompatible with the aims of this union"—the others being trade/craft union or political party officers (with exceptions) and law enforcement officers and prison guards (no exceptions).

This incompatibility is what the Tenant Union Foundation's Tara Raghuveer and John Washington call the "landlord-tenant contradiction": "the inherent conflict of interests between tenants and the individuals or institutions that own their homes."[1]

It sorta flips the dynamic of workers and employers—landlords extract money earned via labor, bosses extract labor and withhold money. It's a simplistic description, but it fascinates me because the more I talk to tenants or get involved with Tacoma's tenant union movement, the more vulnerable to organizing that inverse seems.

Landlords recognize this precarity, too. It's why their opposition to Tacoma's tenant union movement exposes many landlords' attempts to manufacture belief in their right to be a landlord while reinforcing a ridiculous fear of how we'd function without them.

—

"No. This took us almost a month to write. We sent it over to you, do your job," Isaac describes the response to the lease he drafted with another tenant to counter those given by landlords Rob and Candy Hoover via Narrows Property Management. Weeks earlier, I first heard of these 'forced leases'—"presented as 'or else you're evicted'"—and about Isaac, a member of North Slope Tenant Union (NTSU), flipping the normal dynamic by drafting his own contract.

Isaac describes their contract's scope as absurdly broad, because "Narrows handles not just apartment buildings but like town homes, actual home-homes that they rent." Clauses covered fireplaces, water spigots, and things uncommon in apartments. "It was very clear they didn't care—they were just throwing a lease at us."

Not merely generic but exploitative too, Isaac found it included "a lot of junk fees," including "a 'post it fee', which was $65 to put a piece of paper on your door saying, 'You're in violation. Go A, B, or C or whatever'—on top of the fine they're trying to get out of you."

Another major concern was tenants' liability. Leases might normally stipulate maintenance reporting before issues exacerbate, but this contract's scope included "lots and lots of things that really throw all of the responsibility on us as tenants to maintain the building. We're like, 'Hey… This building is so old…' You can't make us responsible for all that." If an old pipe burst inside the wall, and Isaac couldn't see it or he was at work, the lease from the Hoovers and Narrows could still be used to hold him liable.

Isaac discovered more mismanagement, including having to repeatedly tell Narrows to stop trying to charge him again for the original $1500 deposit. "I paid a security deposit to Reames Realty two companies ago. [Narrows] tried to charge me three or four separate times after the fact." Isaac finally said, "Well, figure it out."

Narrows didn't bother. Isaac "sent them a picture of the money order when we were in negotiations for this lease. So, they knew. And then during negotiations, they tried to ask me again." Isaac noticed a "couple months later, they just stuck a $500 payment on top of my rent without telling me." He told Narrows, "Hey, take this off, or you're not getting rent this month."

The Hoovers, it must be reiterated, ultimately bear responsibility for any predatory collection practices. As previously published, the landlords swapped property management companies three times since last June. Either the Hoovers do a shit job choosing, or it's intentional. During the Newcastle Tenant Union (NTU) launch, union-member Kenny stated the previous two managers, when asked, said the Hoovers dropped them "because he wasn't squeezing rent out of the tenants" and "for doing too much maintenance and ownership couldn't afford it."

—

Narrows kept pressuring Isaac to sign the bogus contract. "It was very much like 'Sign this or get out,'" while hearing "over and over again, 'We do not do month-to-month."

"We were telling them that—'We want to stay here, we want to continue paying rent and be renters here, but we will not sign the lease you've given us.'" Finally, Narrows ok'd "a little negotiation."

After that small victory, Isaac explains, "We took the lease that they gave us, copy/pasted, took all the things that didn't pertain to an apartment out, took out all the unreasonable junk fees, and things like that." They added "basic protections for us," such as limiting liability with "a clear distinction between damage and something we can see," and language like "'visibly'—make sure it's obvious for the tenant, lots of stipulations to protect us from extra litigation." They planned ahead for landlords and property managers "to take whatever they can and turn it into a situation that's good for them."

Constructing the lease took about a month. “We were checking in with lawyers, cross-referencing it with city code and stuff to make sure it was all good. We had a small committee,” figuring it could be a boilerplate lease for other tenants also being pressured.

However, Narrows felt the tenants hadn’t done enough of their work for them. “They said, ‘Ok, great. Highlight everything you changed… so we can compare and review, and we’ll see if we accept it.’” Isaac said, “No. That’s your job, actually. This is your job.” Narrows refused.

“They didn’t even look at our lease. Or so they said… But I am here month-to-month, as is another tenant and probably others… They’ve agreed to that—we’re paying rent, we’re just operating under the old Elev8 lease.” Narrows still spams Isaac with emails that “just say ‘Sign the Lease,’” but he’s holding fast.

—

Negotiating the lease with Narrows wasn’t the first time Isaac had seen tenants in his 10-unit building pressured. “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,” he counts. “There’s been 6 turnovers in the last 10 months to a year of people being like, ‘I’m done. This is ridiculous.’ There was four or five people in the building with cats, already existing. Elev8 didn’t like that, so they tried to throw the book at them.”

“The process of landlords really going after tenants is a lasting effect. People don’t want it to happen again. They’re just like, ‘I want a place to live.’ Don’t want to be thrown out of their home, especially people with families.” Despite growing support for tenant unions, Isaac understands the “hesitancy and the scaredness, because landlords have sowed that into people—you know, renting culture, for lack of a better term. Just fear of landlords.”

Drafting the lease wasn’t the first time Isaac’s done a property managers’ work. Reames hadn’t gotten the apartment ready for his move-in, so Isaac told them, “I do construction, I will get this place ready myself.” He didn’t pay rent for a few weeks in early 2025 while in the apartment “because I was doing their job for them.”

Shortly after, “there was a bunch of chaos with management, because the Hoovers took the rug out from under Reames Reality and put in Elev8 without Reames knowing.” Isaac had already signed his lease and paid the $1500 deposit, but when contacting Reames shortly after, he heard, “Apparently we don’t manage you guys anymore; we don’t know what’s happening.”

The Hoovers’ revolving door of management companies led to NSTU’s formation. “We were meeting outside on a regular basis on the front steps, like ‘What have you guys heard? What is going on? We don’t know where to pay rent to. We don’t know who to talk to.’ And this went on for a month… It was just constant chaos, and then Elev8 didn’t last very long—they did the same thing to Elev8 that they did to Reames.”

Like the Hoovers’ other unionized tenants, Isaac describes Elev8 as “really unprofessional” and lacking consideration, like not giving sufficient notice. “They would say, ‘Oh, we’re turning the water off in two hours’... ‘Oh, we’re coming in to inspect units tomorrow.’”

During “a bad flea problem last summer,” Isaac recalls tenants had identified the building’s exterior as the main issue, but Elev8 insisted on spraying inside units. “We have pets in here, we don’t know if that’s safe for them… It was a lot of ‘We don’t know what’s going on, don’t come in our units, we don’t know when you’re coming, what you’re doing, what you’re spraying.’”

He’d get “notice an hour or two later” after losing water, or it “shuts off in the middle of the night, and I can’t get a hold of anybody in management.” He set up “direct personal contacts with multiple maintenance people, or there would’ve been days without water.”

—

You've gotta go down and join the union
You've got to join it by yourself
Ain't nobody here can join it for you
You've gotta go down and join the union by yourself.[2]

Isaac and another tenant signed cards after hearing Hoover tenants were unionizing. “That’s when I started organizing.”

NSTU is unique as Tacoma’s first tenant union across multiple buildings—crucial for forming a city-wide tenant union federation. “We’re a smaller building, so we organized with other smaller buildings in the portfolio.” Collectively, tenants figured, “we’re both 10 or so units, we might as well come together; we’re not far from each other.” They built a “bigger, broader union. We work really well together; we meet often, at least like once every two weeks.”

Post-launch, NSTU’s forced the Hoovers and Narrows into “a portfolio-wide maintenance blitz, where everybody was just throwing stuff in to get things done,” but Isaac still calls the process “ridiculous.” He cites often needing “at least once or twice a month to reset the boiler because we didn’t have hot water all of a sudden.” The boiler is “ancient, it’s not working correctly. We’ve had lots of maintenance issues, and a lot of the fixes have been just little fixes—they’re resetting a pilot light or they’re changing out just one part. And then we’re calling them back a month later.”

Expressing what I’ve come to expect from construction workers, Isaac adds: “When they do these temporary fixes, it hurts everybody,” reasoning they “keep spending the money not only to fix the thing but to send somebody to fix the thing. If you just do a concrete, long-term fix…, we won’t have that issue. It’ll be better for everybody: we won’t have to bother you, you won’t have to come out and fix it… It’s common sense.”

NSTU is generating momentum, per Isaac: “We’ve been doing a lot of structure-building lately. So, we have multiple committees that handle different things, we have organizing committees in each

building, we have organizing committees portfolio-wide… it's been really cool to watch and be a part of."

—

Now as I look around, it's mighty plain to see
This world is such a great and a funny place to be;
Oh, the gamblin' man is rich an' the workin' man is poor,
And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.[3]

Discussing Nate Sanford's coverage of NSTU's May launch for KNKX, Isaac mentions a statement given by Sean Flynn, President of the landlord-lobbying Rental Housing Association of Washington: "Unions make sense in a situation where you have a single employer, for example, like the school district… But in housing, there's a myriad of different choices... If you don't like your housing options, people move, and each tenant gets to negotiate."[4]

Isaac disagrees. "It's widely successful in KC and San Francisco and New York—there are a lot of hotbeds where this is happening," he counters. "I think tenant unions are not going anywhere. They're popping up all over the country, and these movements are successful. They're rent striking… and getting their demands." He adds, "The best thing you can do is unionize your own building. Talk to your neighbors, because when there's more tenant unions, that gives each and every other tenant union more validity. Because now landlords coming into Tacoma can't avoid it; you've gotta deal with the tenant union."

Flynn's disingenuous statement also ignores the many tenants who rent from one landlord—like the Hoovers' $20+ million Tacoma portfolio. Sanford's article added: "Flynn does not think landlords will want to invest in rental property if they know they will have to deal with tenant unions," but Isaac and I share the same reply.

Ok.

"We don't necessarily want them all up in our life," says Isaac. "We're more than willing to work with them, like these are their buildings. But if they want to kick rocks and pick up and leave, someone will come in their place or we can co-op the building. There's ways around it. These buildings, these homes, these people are not going to wither away." Isaac later reiterated that their union intends "to work with them", to get their landlord to negotiate.

When Isaac mentions co-ops, he jogs a suspicion I've held about many of the properties receiving the investments Flynn calls for.

—

Landlord raised my rent and locked me from my door
And I ain't got a home in this world anymore.[5]

The City of Tacoma GIS provides a Rental Property Details Report, which lists just shy of 9,000 properties across the city.[6] ~1250 are 'Commercial', while ~4,500 are 'Single Family Homes' and another ~1750 are 'Duplexes', 'Triplexes', 'Fourplexes', or 'Townhomes'.

So, what would we do without landlords? Options include better housing stability and affordability for up to ~6,250 households.

That's also without the 'small landlords' that the Landlord Lobby continually frames as friendly 'mom-and-pops'. Some landlords I've talked to do seem fearful of Tacoma's tenants organizing and the Safe Homes for All ballot initiative (requiring them to negotiate face-to-face with majority tenant unions). One wasn't just offended but deeply hurt by the idea of accountability. Another talked about renting 10 homes for their retirement plan, which lined the street where we stood as they asserted being a good landlord—not like the slumlord that owns the one next door. They vaguely cite an inability to continue to afford being a landlord. An inability to afford tenants organizing—demanding basic respect and restitution for landlord violations? Why would a 'good landlord' be afraid?

Landlords are fundamentally incentivized by shelter scarcity—by increased demand for restricted housing supply. Landlords not only extract rent from neighborhoods, but they destabilize them by keeping the working people who build our communities at perpetual risk of being forced out of them (literally for Isaac). Landlords deny more workers their own opportunity to become homeowners—to build deeper roots in their communities and escape 'survival mode'.

"Renters' rights are workers' rights," Isaac sums up, as is heard around town while Tacoma's tenant union movement organizes itself to wield power.

But no one has the right to be a landlord; it's a business. As Isaac says, "They chose to get into the business of owning people's homes, which means they gotta deal with the people in those places. That's just part of the deal."

We endlessly hear about capitalism's love for competition or the gospel of austerity hocked as moralized fiscal responsibility. There's always someone all-too-eagerly beating the hackneyed dead horse of avocado toast, yet constant pearl-clutching is the too-common reply to demanding that landlords be accountable to regulations, codes, and fair leases—without also gouging tenants.

As Isaac stated earlier: That's their job.

Figure it out.

—

1. Tara Raghuveer and John Washington. "The Case for the Tenant Union (Jan – Mar 2023 P&R Issue)". https://www.prrac.org/the-case-for-the-tenant-union-jan-mar-2023-p-r-issue/
2. "You've Got to Go Down and Join the Union." The Almanac Singers with Pete Seeger and Chorus. *Talking Union and Other Union Songs*
3. "I Ain't Got No Home." Woody Guthrie. *Dust Bowl Ballads.*
4. KNXK. "'Stronger together': Renters in Tacoma are unionizing" https://www.knkx.org/law/2026-05-22/stronger-together-tacoma-renters-unionizing-landlords-housing
5. "I Ain't Got No Home/Old Man Trump." Missin' Cousins (written by Woody Guthrie).
6. Tacoma Open Data. *Rental Property Details Report (Tacoma)* https://data.tacoma.gov/datasets/tacoma::rental-property-details-report-tacoma/explore

IWWs gather at Peace Arch

by X331980



Industrial Workers of the World and a few friends met up at Peace Arch State/Provincial Park on Sunday, April 26 for our second annual 'Hands Across the Border' Wobbly potluck. Members came from Victoria, the Lower Mainland, various places in the northwest corner of Washington, and Seattle. We set up a pop-up canopy right on the border line complete with banners and Wob flags, directly across the road from the Peace Arch. We sang songs accompanied by FW Art on his guitar, and ate good food.

Fellow Workers could walk in from either side of the border and mingle—undisturbed by immigration officers. Everyone had ID handy 'just in case', but we barely even saw any law enforcement.

The weather was gorgeous. Loads of cars drove by a few feet away on the way to Canadian immigration, and couldn't miss the lovely 'Peace has No Borders' banner made by Carlos. Families set up picnics on the lawn near us. We were even joined by a young fellow from India who had just come to Canada—he was visiting Peace Arch Provincial Park and, like many before, was drawn to our music.

We will do it again next year, this time hosted and coordinated by the Vancouver IWW General Membership Branch. It will again be right around International Workers Day, and at the Peace Arch Parks.

Stickers, Posters, Graffiti, & Public Murals

(& Other Art For Uplifting Gormandizers)



Art submitted by X331980
Minneapolis, February '26

Stumble upon top-tier stickers, posters, graffiti, murals, or any other agitating art while in the weeds or about the 'tall grass'?

Whether it's a quality quip or astounding artwork (or peeped in perplexing-to-put places)—take a photo and send it our way! Our SPGP & OAFUG section features the Committee's favorite silent agitator from those received between issues.

Entries aren't geographically restricted to being around Puget Sound, but they must be:

1) Captured with camera or phone photography (by whoever shares it)

2) Easily discovered or positioned for public (or 'public enough') consumption

About the Seattle IWW

Founded in Chicago in 1905, the IWW is open to all workers. Don't let the "industrial" part fool you: our members include teachers, social workers, retail workers, construction workers, bartenders, and computer programmers. Only bosses and cops are not allowed to join. If you are currently unemployed, you can still join. We are a volunteer-driven union, and this means we run the union. Membership dues maintain the union and assist organizing campaigns. As a result, monthly dues are low.

To join, visit: ***iww.org/membership/*** *or email:*
seattle@iww.org *or* ***tacoma@iww.org***

To begin organizing your workplace, visit:
seattleiww.org/organize-your-workplace/

Take the Organizer Training!

The IWW Organizer Training 101 (OT101) gives you the skills to organize with your coworkers to flip workplace power dynamics—winning demands around conditions and wages, even without a formal union. It is focused on IWW's concept of 'solidarity unionism' and direct action tactics rather than legalistic NLRB processes.

OT101 is an intensive, two-day training—covering information that includes organizing conversations with coworkers, building organizing committees from the ground up, how to take direct action, and how to navigate with (and around) labor law.

For notice of the Seattle General Membership Branch's regularly held OT101s, visit: ***https://forms.gle/q9edxoGrEVXhMVd89***

Upcoming OT101s
[List of Upcoming OT101s].
Open to non-members on a space available basis. Registration:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y6m3aD3u2lRvzFo0y4Tk96FBpg2Z6BQT2ThFq37hU3l/

Preamble

To the IWW Constitution

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.

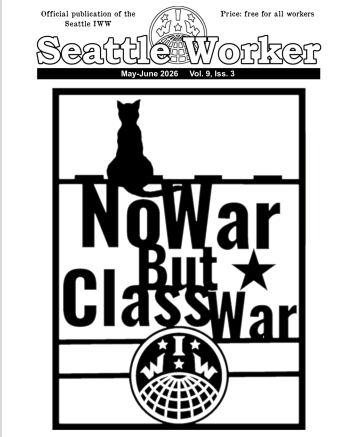
Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes 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 watchword, "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 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.



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