

UC BERKELEY
**LABOR
 CENTER**

On the Move

A publication of the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education

Spring 2004

LABOR'S NEXT GENERATION:

Berkeley's First Student Labor Teach-In

In March, more than 200 students from across California and beyond gathered at UC Berkeley to participate in the inaugural session of the California Student Labor Teach-In, a three-day event designed to increase student awareness of labor issues and provide them with relevant training.

The teach-in is the latest in a series of programs organized by the UC Berkeley Labor Center as part of its effort to build bridges between the campus and the community. It provided university students, along with workers and academics, with opportunities to learn new organizing and research skills, and bring energy to ongoing social justice campaigns.

The program consisted of three main pillars: 1) giving participants general education on issues such as labor, race and gender; 2) developing their skills to effectively conduct research and power analyses; and 3) teaching them how to take action to achieve social change.

Raahi Reddy, a labor policy specialist at the Labor Center who organized the teach-in with undergraduate student Camilo Romero, explained that the wide range of workshop topics allowed students at all levels of labor knowledge to find sessions that fit their needs and interests. Hillary Lehr, a sophomore at UC Berkeley, deemed the "Labor 101" workshop "perfect."

"I knew nothing about labor at all. We don't learn about it at school, we don't learn about it in the newspaper. So it's great to learn about it here."

Laurel Tan, a first-year student in the UC Berkeley School of Public Policy, found the teach-in provided her with ideas about labor-focused career opportunities. "I'm trying to move into labor policy. The teach-in was a good introduction to the campaigns" (continued on page 11)

Letter from the Chair Celebrating Our 40th Year

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Center for Labor Research and Education at UC Berkeley. Throughout its history, the Labor Center has been a valuable

resource for working people, through programs that train and inspire emerging union leaders and research projects that point to new directions for the labor movement.



KATIE QUAN
 Labor Center
 Chair

We're proud of our history, and on June 3, 2004, we're going

to celebrate it! We invite our friends and allies to join us for an evening of fun and celebration, at which we will also honor some people who have been particularly important to working people recently.

The first is Tom Rankin, who has tirelessly led the fight for working people at the State Capital and who will soon retire as president of the State Fed. Second, Senate President Pro Tem John Burton will be honored for his crucial leadership on the health care bill known as SB2, which will provide health insurance to over one million Californians. Our third honoree is HERE, which has shown outstanding leadership on immigrant worker issues.

We are also pleased to announce that Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President, will join us on June 3 and give the keynote address. (continued on page 5)

PHOTO: JENIFER MAGGILLVARY



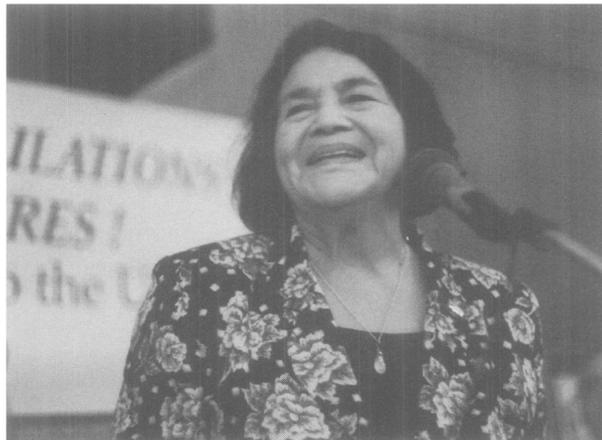
The Student Labor Teach-In brought over 200 students from more than 20 California universities to the UC Berkeley campus for a weekend of workshops, presentations, and student activist networking around labor issues.

SIGN UP FOR THE CONFERENCE ON "WORKER ORGANIZING AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS." SEE PAGE 10.

LABOR HERO:

Hundreds Celebrate Dolores Huerta's Tenure as UC Regent

PHOTO: ERIC GILLET



DOLORES HUERTA

Larry Martinez drove from his home in San Pablo to UC Berkeley in early December to see a woman he met nearly four decades ago.

With live Mexican folk music resounding through a reception hall, Martinez plowed his way through the crowd to greet Dolores Huerta, and told her that he was among the supporters when the vocal labor leader co-led a 340-mile march from Delano to Sacramento in 1966 to seek better pay and contract for farm workers.

Martinez, who grew up helping his parents do farm work in Colorado, kissed Huerta on her cheek: "I have wanted to do this ever since 1966," he said.

Martinez and his son Raymond, 40, both clad in the United Farm Workers (UFW) union's trademark red T-shirts and baseball caps, were among some 300 people who gathered at UC Berkeley Alumni House on December 4, 2003, to celebrate Huerta's recent appointment as a UC Regent.

The farm labor icon, who co-founded what would become the UFW with the late Cesar Chavez in 1962, was appointed to the UC Board of Regents in September by former Governor Davis to serve the remaining six months in the term of Norman J. Pattiz.

The celebration was hosted by the UC Berkeley Labor Center, the UC Institute for Labor and Employment, and the UC Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations.

"I think it is a breath of fresh air and a very important voice for all people in California that she brings

to this board," Chancellor Berdahl said in his opening speech. "She brings a voice that we are not accustomed to hearing on the Board of Regents."

Many speakers and participants shared concerns about Governor Schwarzenegger's move to cut the budget for public education and eliminate state funding for labor research projects. "We know that a part of the Republican strategy is, has been and continues to be to privatize education," Huerta said. "You cannot destroy education because you don't want to tax the rich. We have got to have a real movement...Don't let them get away with this," Huerta urged.

"Dolores is a tremendous fighter for social justice," said Tom Rankin, president of the California Labor Federation, who first met Huerta in Delano during the days of the grape boycott in the 1960s. "Dolores is going to be a great fighter for working people and their place in university," Rankin said.

Robert Balgenorth, president of State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, introduced Huerta as "one of the toughest women" he knows of. "During the period of (boycott of farm products in the '60s), Dolores was spit on, kicked, locked up in jail, knocked unconscious, went on hunger strikes. This raised awareness of exploitation of a group of people who never should have been exploited," Balgenorth said.

Many UC students also joined the blessings.

"It's really exciting that labor actually has a voice in the Board of Regents, which has been lacking for many years," said Jon Rodney, a UC Berkeley student and a member of the Berkeley-based Students Organizing Justice for the Americas (SOJA).

Meanwhile, to Latinos like Martinez, the appointment of Huerta means something even more special. "We are very proud that fighting for Latinos got her to where she is. It gives a great feeling to have somebody like her on the Board of Regents after all these years Latinos have been discriminated against," he said. "I think it's a great day."

For information on the effort to retain Dolores Huerta as a UC Regent, go to www.unionvoice.org/ufw/all-alerts.html.

Union Leadership School: A Strategic Intelligence Hub for Union Leaders

In September 2003, the California Federation of Labor AFL-CIO and the University of California's Institute for Labor and Employment (ILE) successfully launched the inaugural session of the California Union Leadership School. The week-long program was designed exclusively for top union leaders who are seeking to further improve their strategic planning and decision-making skills. Twenty-four union leaders based in northern California participated in the Leadership School, which was held in Pacific Grove.

Training ranged from traditional lectures and presentations to interactive case studies and problem solving. Each participant was challenged to develop a strategic plan to deal with a real-life problem that his or her organization is facing.

"The objective of the school was to enable top union leaders to find their strategic bearings," said Peter Olney, associate director of the ILE. "If you are running an organization and don't have the capacity to assess constantly your external environment or understand the forces that are playing on your organization, and on its ability to do its job, you are lost."

To analyze their own organizations, students evaluated and assessed both the external environment, including politics, and their organization's internal capacity, and then drew up a plan for improvement.

"The school taught us some very powerful 'campaign' and 'internal organizing' strategies," said Roxanne Sanchez, president of SEIU Local 790 BART Chapter. Also of interest to Sanchez was the

"If you don't have the capacity to assess constantly your external environment, you are lost."

discussion of the correlation between declining union density and increasing disparity between the wealthiest class and the rest of the American population.

Neil Struthers, chief executive officer of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, said the school helped him realize "the severity of the situation for labor in this country. Too many people are confident that

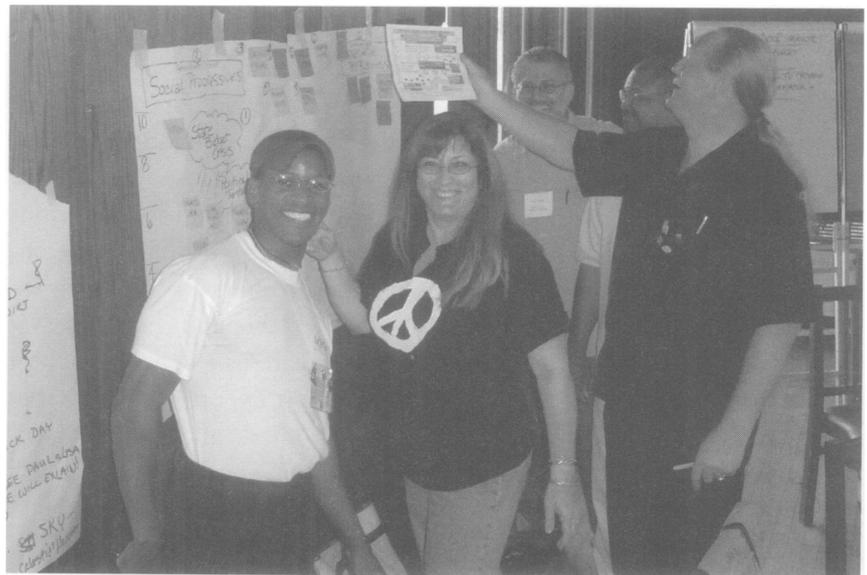


PHOTO: ELAINE BERNARD

somebody else is dealing with the issue."

"Research about members' and the general public's perception of unions is very, very important for us to understand, and then to use this information to organize and change public opinion," Struthers said. "Communication is the key to our success. I don't believe that we have understood it all that well in the past."

In early December, Leadership School participants from 10 different unions reunited in Berkeley for a two-day follow-up session during which they evaluated progress on the strategic plans they had prepared in September. These senior union leaders also reflected on the political temblors rocking California since their last meeting.

The next week-long California Union Leadership School session is scheduled for June 6–11, 2004 in Pacific Grove. Please contact Peter Olney at 510-643-7931 or polney@uclink.berkeley.edu for more information.

Participants in the inaugural session of the California Union Leadership School.

Labor Organizers Around the World Gather in Thailand to Discuss Problems in EPZs

More than 50 labor leaders from around the world gathered in Thailand last fall to discuss ways to protect workers from exploitative labor conditions imposed by export-oriented foreign companies, often in Export Processing Zones. During the four-day conference in Bangkok, with UC Berkeley Labor Center staff facilitating, labor leaders and organizers from 17 different countries shared strategies and tools for addressing the problems workers face in export-oriented industries.

Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are special industrial areas, often in developing countries, designed to attract foreign companies and capital investment. EPZs offer these companies various

incentives including exemptions from some local laws—often labor and environmental regulations—and waivers of import/export duties, tax subsidies, and government-subsidized infrastructure.

Labor leaders have found that many companies in EPZs take advantage of special low-wage and anti-union policies to exploit and abuse workers. The problems emerging in EPZs range from sexual harassment and illegal layoffs to political oppression and unsafe working conditions.

In March, 2003, the AFL-CIO's American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center) launched a program to identify and disseminate best practices in organizing as a strategy for addressing exploitation of workers in export-oriented industries. The Solidarity Center contracted with the UC Berkeley Labor Center to document organizing successes in EPZs around the world, and use those practices to produce training materials for rank-and-file union activists, organizers and NGO workers.

The Labor Center sent researchers to nine countries to study how local labor leaders have

tackled—and in some cases solved—problems with EPZs. Those countries are Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Lesotho, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Swaziland.

During the conference in Thailand, labor leaders discussed some of the case studies from these countries, pilot-tested training materials developed by

“Workers around the world face the same problems, and the employers and the governments practically ‘deodorize’ the situation for the glory of the market and opportunities of globalization.”

the Labor Center, and shared their own organizing experiences with each other.

“We got workers from different continents, who actually have diverse experiences but fundamentally share the same goal of organizing and empowering the workforce,” said Katie Quan, chair of the Labor Center and head of the EPZ research project.

This assessment is backed up by Tos Anonuevo, a conference participant from the Philippines: “The mix of participants was excellent, country-wise, union-wise, and experience-wise. I learned that workers around the world face the same problems at the workplace, and the employers and the governments practically ‘deodorize’ the situation for the glory of the market and opportunities of globalization.”

Due to the success of the project thus far, the Solidarity Center has contracted with the Labor Center to continue its research and training of workers in EPZs. This spring, the Labor Center will test the toolkit in Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic.

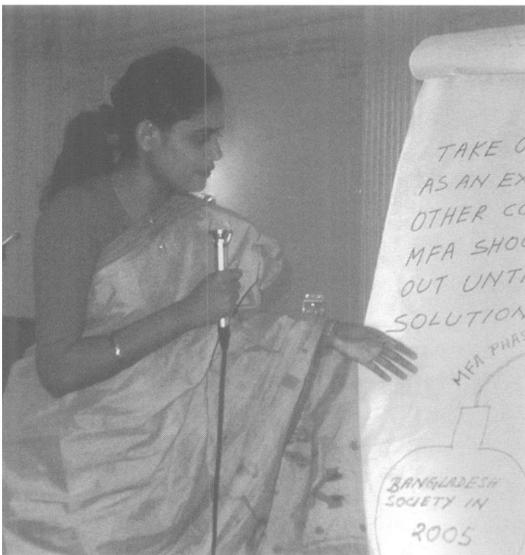


PHOTO: KATIE QUAN

Nazma Akter of Bangladesh discusses challenges workers face in her country. She joined other labor leaders in Thailand for a conference on organizing in EPZs.

Letter from the Chair *(continued from page 1)*

Our 40th anniversary party will not be your ordinary “rubber chicken” dinner. It will be held at the beautiful Rotunda Building in Oakland, and will feature food, drink, music, fun and friendship. It will be an evening not to be missed! For tickets call 510-643-6432.

Update on the ILE

Though this anniversary year is a time of pride and celebration, it is also a time of change and struggle at the Labor Center. By now most of you know that Governor Schwarzenegger made unilateral budget cuts that hit working families hard. Among those cuts was the elimination of funding for the UC Institute for Labor and Employment (ILE), which provides a substantial portion of the Labor Center’s funding. The governor’s cuts unfairly targeted labor research, while leaving business and other research areas relatively unscathed. The UC administration found funds to carry our staff on payroll through June, as we continue to struggle to get the ILE funded in next year’s budget. However, the Labor Center has already been advised by the UC administration to scale back its budget. We are committed to continuing our activities in the service of working families in California, and are therefore turning to charitable foundations, unions, and other donors as we seek new sources of funding.

Thousands of union members, students, faculty and community allies sent letters to the governor and legislators, and many leaders made well-placed calls, in support of the ILE. We thank you all. Soon we will be turning to you again. We hope we can continue to count on you to stand with us in the struggle to reinstate the ILE into the State budget, and to contribute to sustaining the Labor Center as a valuable resource for the education and future of working Californians well beyond our next 40 years.



New Labor Center Grants

Study on Making Consumer-Directed Homecare a Good Job. In partnership with Connecticut College. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Creating a Community College for Migrant Workers in China. In partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Observation in China. Funded by the U.S. Department of State.

Pilot Project to Expand Health Coverage for Direct Care Workers in Community-Based Services for People with Developmental Disabilities. Funded by the California HealthCare Foundation.

Creating an Organizer Tool Kit for Workers in Export Processing Zones. Funded by the AFL-CIO’s American Center for International Labor Solidarity.

State Policy and Organizing Task Force. For convenings to discuss issues around employment law reform, independent contractors and anti-union activity in California. Funded by the UC Institute for Labor and Employment.

Study on the Costs of Low Road Employment—Impact on Employers. Funded by the National Economic Development & Law Center/The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Study on the Costs of Low Road Employment to California Taxpayers. Funded by the National Economic Development & Law Center/The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Conference on Organizing around Work in the Black Community. Funded by the UC Institute for Labor and Employment.

Study on Transportation Policy Development: Labor as a Missing Stakeholder. In partnership with the UC Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations. Funded by the UC Transportation Center.

Summer Interns Still Available

The UC Berkeley Labor Center is still accepting applications from unions seeking summer interns through our successful “Labor Summer Program.” If you are looking for a UC student who can bring organizing or research skills to one of your campaigns this summer, contact Sybil Grant at 510-642-9358 or sgrant@berkeley.edu.

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF EVERYDAY LOW PRICES:

The High Cost of Low-Wage Work

The Southern California grocery strike, the legislative battles over SB2, San Francisco's minimum wage battle, Contra Costa's Measure L to ban big box grocery stores—all of these struggles have one thing in common: a growing public concern that low-wage jobs hurt not only the workers who are working in them, but hurt their communities as well.

The Labor Center, under contract from the National Economic Development and Law Center, will soon release a report that documents the costs to the state of low-wage employment. When workers must turn to public assistance to make ends meet, taxpayers pick up the bill—to the tune of billions of dollars each year.

The report, entitled "The Hidden Costs of Low-Wage Employment: Taxpayer-Funded Programs for the Working Poor," studies the employment characteristics of families enrolled in the ten largest public assistance programs in California, including Medi-Cal, the Earned Income Tax Credit program, TANF, and others. The study estimates that in 2002, \$10.1 billion, or 48 percent, of public assistance expenditures from these programs went to families with at least one member who worked at least 45 weeks per year. The study also found that \$5.7 billion went to families whose working members were paid on average less than \$8 per hour. About 90 percent of public assistance to working families goes to families in which all able-bodied adults work full-time.

This research also revealed the fact that employers in certain sectors—including business services, construction, and particularly retail—receive disproportionate amounts of these indirect subsidies. Families with workers in the retail sector received over \$2 billion of public assistance. In 2002, Wal-Mart workers alone received \$20.5 million worth of taxpayer-subsidized medical care, according to Arin Dube, one of the study's authors. In fact, Wal-

Mart provides its employees with an 800 number to help them enroll in public assistance programs for the poor.

Small improvements in wages could move many families off public assistance, freeing up scarce public resources to help families currently on waiting lists to get help. If workers currently enrolled in assistance programs earned a minimum of \$8 per hour, the state and federal government would save \$2.7 billion in program expenditures. Savings goes up the higher the wage. Likewise, if employers were to provide affordable health insurance, even at current wage levels, \$2.1 billion in expenditures could go to other uses.

One common argument against mandating increased pay and benefits for low-end jobs is that such increases could place an unbearable burden on firms that face competition from abroad. Yet, our report documents that the vast majority—some 82 percent—of workers receiving public assistance are employed in sectors that do not face significant inter-



by **CAROL ZABIN**
Labor Center Associate
Chair and Director of
Research



KEN JACOBS
Labor Center
Policy Specialist



and **ARINDRAJIT DUBE**
Institute for Labor and
Employment



national or out-of-state competition. In this context, raising labor costs is much less likely to result in significant loss of employment.

This is not just an issue of small businesses that simply cannot afford to pay employees more. Nearly

**“When workers must
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dollars each year.”**

700,000 employees who, along with their family members, receive assistance work for business with 1,000 or more employees—at a cost of \$250 million to state taxpayers.

In the context of today’s budget crisis, our safety net programs are being stretched thin. Many of the programs are under-funded and cannot meet the current demand for services. They are at risk of further budget cuts at the very moment when the economic downturn has increased the need. The Labor Center report underscores the central importance of combining public assistance to working families with measures to improve wages and benefits.

The UC Berkeley Labor Center

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Labor Education News

The UC Berkeley Labor Center continues to host numerous programs and trainings for both new and seasoned labor activists. This past January we again held our training on “Building Strategic Campaigns.” Over 20 unionists and community organizers attended the week-long training, which was facilitated by veteran labor educator Teresa Conrow. Participating in the training were union members and staff of SEIU Locals 616, 707, 715 and 790, CUE, and community organizations POWER and Young Workers United. “This training was very helpful to us because it made us think through the challenges we were facing in our campaigns and come up with real solutions based on research, power analysis, and building upon unifying issues,” said Karega Hart, Education Director of SEIU Local 790.

the ILGWU in New York and San Francisco. He currently manages finances for a non-profit based in Marin.

For information about upcoming Labor Center trainings, please see page 10.

Updates from Bay Area Labor Education Programs

City College of San Francisco Labor Studies —by Bill Shields

Our department has taught three classes for our union partners so far this semester. This has included shop steward trainings for IAM Local 1782 and OPEIU Local 3 by Linda Gregory, and our ongoing health and safety class for the Asian Carpenters’ Training Program, taught by Pam Tau Lee. The latter

project is sponsored by Carpenters Local 22, Charity Cultural Services and the college, bringing the best in labor-community collaboration to the continuing task of opening the trades to all.

We also continue our work with the Chinese Progressive Association, on-site in Chinatown. CPA brings in the college’s ESL Department to teach English, and Labor Studies to teach workers’ rights. This is another good example of activist education, based in CPA’s assertive program of member organizing.

Continuing the theme of joint work, instructor Fred Glass is teaching our annual spring semester “California Labor History” class for members of United Educators, and the City/Laney Labor Heritage

Chorus, directed by Pat Wynne, continues to perform wherever labor’s musical voice needs to be heard.

Our most recent collaboration is a new class, developed by Labor Studies instructor Lamoin Werlein-Jaen of HERE Local 2 and Claire Van Zevern of the college’s Latin American/Latino/a Studies Department. It will be called “The Latino Worker in Latin America and the United States,” and should be



The “Building Strategic Campaigns” class of 2004 (above); workshop participants giving final presentations (right).

Also in January, the Labor Center hosted a hands-on “Financial Skills Workshop” for labor leaders. In attendance were union leaders from the IBEW International, IBEW Locals 192, 180, 332, SEIU Local 715, ATU Local 192, CUE and AFSCME Local 2019. The two-day workshop focused not only on the nuts and bolts of union financial management but also on the use of resources to support the strategic programs of the organization. The workshop was led Geoffrey Bauman, a former union staff person with over 25 years of union financial management experience with



PHOTOS: JEREMY BLASI (LEFT); RAAHI REDDY (RIGHT)

an exciting new item on our educational menu. It can be taught in English or Spanish in either a partial or full term format.

For more information on the Chorus or any of our classes, please call us at 415-550-4472 or email us at wshields@ccsf.edu.

Laney College Labor Studies—by Karin Hart

Like all public schools in California, the budget at Laney has been under attack and some classes were cancelled last year. We still have several good classes to offer. The best way to support Labor Studies at the community college is to sign-up for a class or encourage your activists to take them. Working with our partners at UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program, we have updated a class that will be offered Tuesday nights this fall, LABST 019: "Health & Safety on the Job." Participants can earn the new Worker Occupational Safety & Health (WOSH) Specialist certification as part of the course curriculum. Students will learn how to identify potential workplace hazards and uncover the causes of injury and illness, as well as actively participate in accident prevention efforts in the workplace. The class is a 3-unit elective in our certificate/AA degree program and just one of several course offerings at Laney this Fall. Other semester-long classes starting August 19th are "Grievance Handling" on Monday nights, "Labor Law" on Wednesdays, "American Labor Movement" on Thursdays, and the Rockin' Solidarity Labor Chorus on alternating Saturdays.

Laney College is located across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station in Oakland. For more information contact Laney College Labor Studies Coordinator Karin Hart at 510-464-3210.

Thank you, Toshi

Those of you who attended Labor Center events this past fall may have noticed a man with a tape recorder, documenting speeches and interviewing guests and participants. Toshi Maeda, a graduate student in the UCB Journalism program, provided top-notch reporting and writing for the Labor Center during the Fall 2003 semester, and is responsible for much of this issue of "On the Move." Toshi is finishing up his studies this spring. We wish him the best of luck as he embarks on his career, and thank him for his contributions to the Labor Center.

Participatory Research Conference

On February 6 the Berkeley Labor Center convened a group of approximately 50 professors, graduate students and other researchers for the "Workshop on Participatory Action Research in University, Labor, and Community Partnerships." The purpose of the workshop was to help develop the capacity of university researchers to contribute to social change through participatory action research (PAR), and to support this work in an academic environment.

PAR is research that involves close collaboration with a union, community organization or other group, in which members of the organization help: decide what research is needed to carry out their goals; find the necessary data or information; figure out what the data means; and use the research to help a social change project.

Sessions included presentations on successful cases of union members carrying out research that was used to improve conditions in the hotel industry and in homecare services; how to do PAR step-by-step; and how to support graduate students who are interested in carrying out PAR as part of their degree programs.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the UCLA Labor Center and the UCSB Center for Research on Women and Social Justice, and was held at the UCLA downtown Labor Center. The workshop was organized by Carol Zabin and Lea Grundy from the UCB Labor Center; Stuart Tannock, UCB Education; Eileen Boris, UCSB Women's Studies; and Linda Delp, UCLA Labor Center.

Toshi Maeda (left) interviews a UFW member at the Labor Center's reception honoring Dolores Huerta.

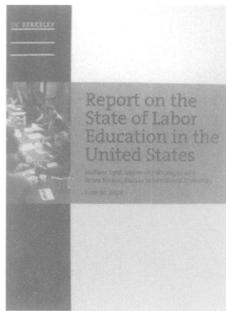
PHOTO: ERIC GILLET





Eyes on the Fries: Young Workers in the Service Economy

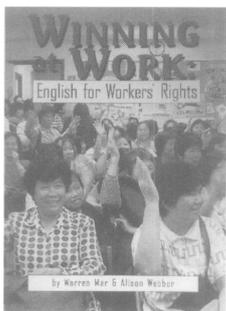
This half-hour documentary is the perfect primer to engage young people about their experiences in the workplace—and how they can take action to make their jobs better. Designed for educational use in classrooms and union halls, the film comes with an interactive curriculum kit, including workshops, fact sheets, and discussion questions.



Report on the State of Labor Education in the United States

By Barbara Byrd and Bruce Nissen

The *Report on the State of Labor Education in the United States* documents the current state of labor education, and considers what it should be and how we might get there. This comprehensive study is based on an examination of 44 labor education centers and programs, 36 union internationals, and 12 regional and other affiliates.



Winning at Work: English for Workers' Rights

By Warren Mar and Alison Webber

A new pilot curriculum guide for English as a Second Language instructors in both community college and union settings that combines language learning with a detailed discussion of legal protections at work and exercises on how to protect those rights. The three chapters presented here focus on wage and hours laws.



Trade Secrets: The Hidden Costs of the FTAA

A short documentary about globalization and the Free Trade Area of the Americas

The FTAA would extend NAFTA to the entire Western Hemisphere, including 31 more countries and another 400 million people. The short film *Trade Secrets* explains in clear, concise language what the proposed trade agreement would mean for ordinary people, the environment, and our democracy. Includes a 40-page curriculum packet with fact sheets, role plays, and background materials.

These and other materials can be ordered on our website: <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu>.

Coming Events

Trainings

San Francisco's Minimum Wage Ordinance and Organizing, May 6, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

This workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of the new law, case studies on how unions are using similar labor standards in their organizing, and an overview of the city's enforcement policies. Co-sponsored with NYU Brennan Center for Justice, ACORN, and Young Workers United. Held at SEIU Local 1877, 240 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. Registration is required. Contact Nato Green at 415-621-4155 or natogreen@sbcglobal.net.

Media Skills Workshop, May 12 and 19

A two-day workshop on how to promote a positive image of unions in the media. Come to one or both sessions. Held at the Institute of Industrial Relations, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley. Registration is required. Contact Raahi Reddy at 510-642-1851 or reddy@uclink.berkeley.edu.

California Union Leadership School, June 6-11

A week-long intensive course for union officers covering economics, politics, and strategic power. Training includes interactive case discussions and problem solving. Held in Pacific Grove. Registration is required. Contact Peter Olney at 510-643-7931 or polney@uclink.berkeley.edu.

Conferences

Worker Organizing Among African Americans,

May 22, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

This conference focuses on improving the quality of jobs in the Black community, and features sessions on Black activism in unions, labor-community alliances, new union organizing, and community-based worker organizing. Held in Berkeley at the Doubletree Hotel. Registration is encouraged. Contact Steven Pitts at 510-643-6815 or spitts1@uclink.berkeley.edu.

Summer Institute for Union Women, July 6-10

This five-day program bring together 150 union women from the AFL-CIO Western Region for exciting workshops and speakers on issues of interest to unions and women. Held at the UCLA campus. Registration is required. Contact MyMy Lu at 310-206-0812 or mymylu@ile.ucla.edu.

Student-Labor Teach-In

(continued from page 1) going on, and has given me a better idea of the types of roles I can play in the labor movement.”

In addition to the workshops, students heard first-hand stories of labor struggle. The teach-in opened



PHOTOS: JENIFER MACGILLVARY (ABOVE); JOHN MOMPER (RIGHT)

with a presentation by Esai Alday, who works at Albertson's in San Francisco and who discussed the southern California strike and recent contract, and what this portends for northern California grocery workers. Luis Adolfo Cardona, a trade unionist from the National Food & Beverage Union in Colombia, spoke of the struggles faced by workers in his country as they come up against the Coca-Cola company. Other guests included Harley Shaiken, Chair of the UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies, who discussed globalization, and Dolores Huerta, who provided closing remarks.

Students from throughout California and beyond participated in the teach-in. Twenty-five California colleges and universities were represented at the event, including Occidental College, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, Gavilan College, University of New Mexico, and Providence College in Rhode Island. In addition, staff and members of 25 unions and community-based organizations attended. “We were very impressed with the diversity of participants—geographic diversity, ethnic diversity, socio-economic diversity,” said Raahi Reddy.



The California Student Labor Teach-In provided opportunities for students to meet and learn from heroes of the movement for economic justice, including Luis Adolfo Cardona, trade unionist from SINALTRAINAL, National Food & Beverage Union, Columbia (above, third from left), and Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers (above, fourth from left).

Peter Evans, chair of the UC Berkeley Sociology Department, summarized the value of the weekend: “The teach-in raised a range of issues that are important to students: as young scholars who are trying to understand the dynamics of the local and global political economy, as people who will be employed in the contemporary global economy and will have to deal with the uncertainties it creates, and, perhaps most crucially, as citizens who want to create a set of political rules that will make California a better place to live and work.”

On the Move

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INSIDE:

STUDENTS & LABOR— pg 1
Berkeley's first Student Labor Teach-In

LEADERSHIP TRAINING— pg 3
A new week-long training for top union leaders

GLOBAL LABOR— pg 4
Strategizing to end exploitation in EPZs

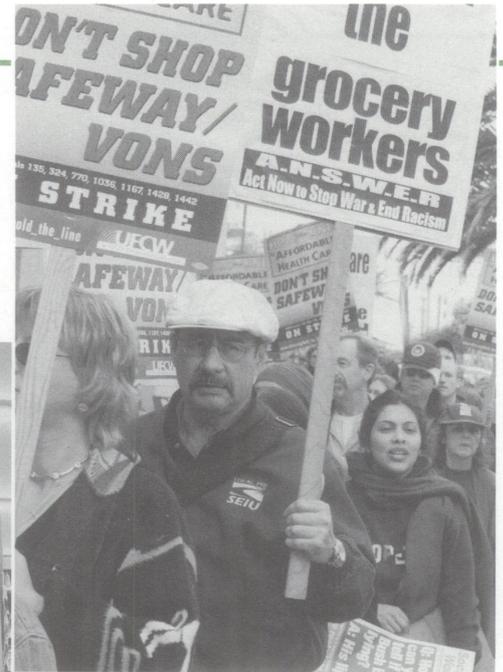
RESEARCH IN BRIEF— pg 6
Paying the high cost of low-wage work

Exhibit

Safeway Demonstration

January 24, 2004, San Francisco

Photographs by David Bacon



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