

# STRIKE!

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(Ontario Edition)

SEPTEMBER 2005

-- Anarchist News  
and Commentary--

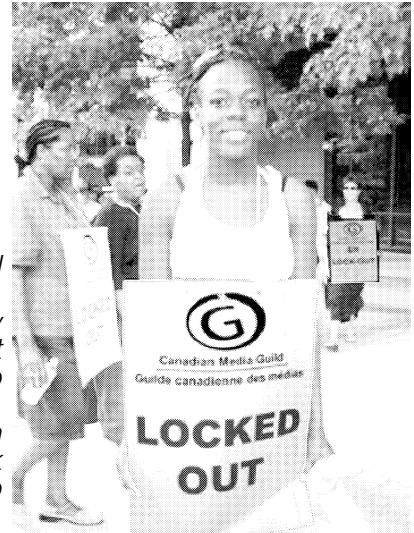
## CBC Workers Locked Out

by Jeff Shantz

On August 15 management at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) locked out 5 500 of its workers, including technical, support and editorial staff as well as on-air hosts, reporters and commentators. The CBC bosses are using the lockout to attack workers' job security and impose a contract that allows the corporation to hire more workers on a part-time and contract basis. As most media commentators have suggested this is a potentially devastating move by the CBC, one that has already led to a substantial loss of viewers and listeners in a competitive market.

So why would the public broadcaster turn to such an aggressive and risky tactic as a lockout? Perhaps the CBC's taking a cue from one of their main clients, the National Hockey League, which only recently locked out its players for over a year — costing the loss of an entire season — in a successful

*As a casual employee, Garvia Bailey is not entitled to benefits, vacation days, sick leave, or job security.*



attempt to win a series of major concessions from the Player's Association. Defeats of labour organizations, especially high profile ones, always embolden other bosses to go after unions in their own industry. It is crucial that workers come together to support the locked out CBC workers. To find out more, contact the Candian Media Guild at: [www.cmgtoronto.ca](http://www.cmgtoronto.ca).



**Nearly 30% of CBC employees already have non-permanent status. CBC management wants to make that number grow. Their plan is as bad for public broadcasting as it is for the people who make CBC work.**

## Community Power vs. Fire-power: Getting to the Root of Gun Violence in T.O.

by George Sweetman

As Toronto's gun-related homicide rate climbs, the media sensationalizes, the politicians bluster, and the police 'crack down' on poor communities we need to take a fresh look at the problem of shootings and anti-social crime in general.

Let's be blunt, having shootings, muggings, rapes, and assaults happen on a regular basis in our neighborhoods is scary. You're concerned for your friends and family's safety. People are pissed off at the situation, but feel that it's too big a job and too dangerous to be able to contribute to the solution.

The state's solution to this problem is to send more police into neighborhoods that already bear the brunt of racist 'targeted policing'. The right-wing media is clamoring for tougher sentences, more cops, in short — establishing a police state.

The liberal left generally agrees with the right but also ask for more social programs and stringent enforcement of laws regarding illegal importation of firearms. They generally say that poverty is the root cause of anti-social crime.

One's the stick and the other's the carrot, but the drivers of the overall policy are the same - they're

(cont'd on page 3)

# “Anarchy” in New Orleans?

by pj lilley • Sept. 2, 2005

Death and devastation. A chemical factory explosion. Fires rage & tempers rise. Capitalist media around the world screamed the headline “ANARCHY” today. Days without food, water, medical supplies.

It’s very important to the war-makers, law-makers, and oil investors to submerge the real definition of anarchy: mutual aid without government, cooperation in solidarity, and ORDER. Their authoritarian control is deeply threatened by their own complete failure to meet basic needs. Their authority has rested on the divides of class, on misogyny and racism. Capital’s media pitches images of black men with bags as “looters”, while a lighter-skinned man is carrying “something he found.” They didn’t get pictures of the corrupt police, allowed into WalMart for “relief measures” instead loading their car trunk with DVD’s and dogfood. The rulers have no humanity, only profit interests. They continue madly pouring billions into war, while expecting “charities” will bail out New Orleans.

Law is not order. Bush knew that levee would fail in at least 2001. Those who “chose not to evacuate” were the poor, black, elderly... while the rich had long left for their second homes, safe hotels and elsewhere. But it doesn’t stop there, as the ruling class seem determined to make things even worse. Now the Governor of Louisiana brings in the National Guard — many young shell-shocked soldiers freshly returned from Iraq — “M-16’s locked and loaded,” she says about their killing capacity, “and I expect they will.” They are sent in like so many other mercenaries, first to protect private property. [Remember that through the poverty draft, the south has already suffered among the heaviest casualties in Iraq, where doubtless many boys sit tonight wondering why they can’t just come home to help their families and neighbours, whether they themselves will make it out alive.] A decent journalist from Toronto is nearly shot on sight for taking pictures of flagrant police brutality.

If this was anarchy, there would be neighborhood bases established much earlier to coordinate relief. Direct action toward liberation. Many people actually said it was the looters that first

distributed food and water. Perhaps capital will not be able to recuperate. Possibly, finally, the bosses and their media lap-dogs may not escape the people’s wrath on this one. Will it become widely understood that another world is possible? “Disasters like this can only be met when ordinary people begin to work together on a human level, to the best of their abilities helping each other to get through, instead of relying on highly bureaucratic and irrational social abstractions to save them...” as “Shevek” put it to Indymedia. “Then there will actually be anarchy in New Orleans.” Justice? Just us. Get organized.

See also: demands & call for solidarity from the Capital Terminus anarchist collective in Atlanta:  
[http://www.anarkismo.net/newswire.php?story\\_id=1269](http://www.anarkismo.net/newswire.php?story_id=1269)

## STRIKE!

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**NEFAC:**

### **NORTHEASTERN FEDERATION OF ANARCHIST-COMMUNISTS:**

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from different movements of resistance  
who identify with the communist tradition  
within anarchism. The federation's activities are  
organized around theoretical development, anarchist  
propaganda, and intervention  
in the struggle of our class,  
be it autonomously or by direct  
involvement in social movements.*

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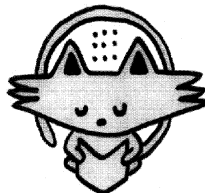
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Toronto, ON

M9N 3W9

Labour donated.

no revolution  
without  
revolutionary  
theory



# Guns in T.O.

(...cont'd from page.1)

rich and want to protect the status quo. Neither addresses the roots of the problems we face in our society because the problems are fundamental to its functioning. The drug and gun trade at the street level - to take the two most cited examples - are basically the same as any other business. The difference is that, unlike Bay Street CEOs, street level criminals can't call in the police or military when their investments are threatened. It's the gangsterism of the capitalist system laid bare.

The main part of the problem is the systematic disruption of collective life. The state wants to isolate us from each other because when we know each other on a daily basis we start to form networks of mutual support that can be turned against our class enemies: bosses, landlords, cops, and gangsters. That's why we face an ongoing removal of public spaces, such as community and recreation centers, swimming pools, public squares, parks, right down to the benches on street corners and bus stops. We live in some of the most densely populated places in the country, yet barely know our neighbors.

What we really need are strong, organized communities of working class people who can take back our streets from both the criminals and the cops. The way to build such communities is a dual strategy of participation in existing public spaces, as well as organizing around local issues: be it food, housing, transit, or safety. We need *more* co-operative kitchens, daycares, laundromats, recreation centers, community radio stations, union halls, tenant unions, and youth groups -- *not* more cops.

Lately there's been talk of "town hall meetings" organized by the city, corporations, and the police. They are a sham. They're meetings where a panel of so-called experts, most who don't even live in our neighborhoods, will give long speeches telling us what their all-seeing solution is for us peasants. Real public meetings, where we come together to solve our neighborhoods' problems, can be powerful spaces, but they must be controlled by regular working people who live there, not hi-jacked by politicians, bosses, and cops out for a public relations spectacle.

We need to take control, of our neighborhoods, of our workplaces, of our city, of our world. For it is only with this grassroots power- shared by all, invested in none - that we can truly take responsibility and start to solve the problems we're facing.

## COMMUNITY EVENT LISTINGS

Tues, Sept 6: *Just Say No To War*. 12noon - 1pm  
- Office of War Minister Bill Graham, 365 Bloor St.E.

Thur, Sept 8: *International Demonstration against Sharia Court in Canada* - Queen's Park, 12:00noon - 2:00pm

Thur, Sept 8: *Limp fist meeting* - OISE 7th Floor South Peace Lounge, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Sun, Sept 11: *Anarchist Free University Disorientation Anti-frosh Picnic*, 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Trinity Bellwoods Park

Wed, Sept 14 *Punching Out (NEFAC) meeting*  
6:30pm - 8:30pm, Toronto Hip-Hop Cultural Arts Centre, 2842 Dundas West

Sat, Sept 24: *Anti-war demonstration*,  
1:00pm, US Consulate, 360 University Ave.

Sun, Sept 25: *Limp Fist meeting*, 3:00pm-5:00pm,  
OISE 7th Floor South Peace Lounge.

Tue, Sept 27 *Punching Out (NEFAC) meeting*  
6:30pm - 8:30pm, Toronto Hip-Hop Cultural Arts Centre, 2842 Dundas West



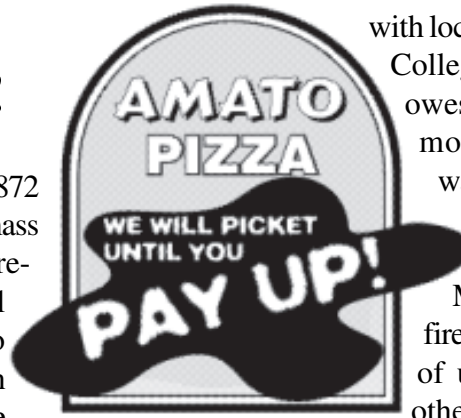
# Labour Day: From Parades to Pickets!

by Jeff Shantz

Labour Day in Canada began on April 15, 1872 when the Toronto Trades Assembly organized a mass workers' demonstration, in part to demand the release of 24 leaders of the Toronto Typographical Union who had been imprisoned for striking to gain a nine-hour workday. This was a time when unions were illegal and organizers could face charges of "criminal conspiracy." The march, which saw 10 000 people take to the streets, was an important show of defiance and determination in the face of stiff repression.

What began, in the heat of struggle, as a celebration of the dignity and honour of working people has become little more than a parade or picnic. In Toronto thousands of rank-and-file workers march to the CNE grounds where we are subjected to flyovers by military jets — a reminder of the firepower the bosses have at their disposal to make sure we stay in our place.

Labour Day could be so much more than it is, however. It's still the one time each year when thousands of members of different unions and different locals come together to stand in solidarity with one another. It's an opportunity to share information and ideas about organizing and our common struggles against the bosses. More than a chance to communicate, however, Labour Day could be a day of action. In Toronto, this Labour Day there are several workplaces where our fellow workers could benefit from the appearance of a lively assembly of trade unionists. In fact some workers are already planning to picket Amato's Pizza (Queen West and Bathurst), a previously popular stop for hungry Labour Day marchers, in support of unorganized workers who've been shafted on thousands of dollars pay. Labour Day was born of organizing and resistance — we need to remember our roots. We've got the equivalent of a mobile mass picket each Labour Day, why not use it?



Amato Pizza, the popular pizza chain with locations on Queen West, College, and St. Clair West, owes a former worker almost \$8,000 in unpaid wages.

After 6 years working at Amato, Michelle Spencer was fired for asking for months of unpaid wages. Many other Amato workers are

also owed wages, paid irregularly, or forced to quit when they are not paid.

Amato's refusal to pay workers' wages is one more example of ineffective enforcement by the Ministry of Labour which allows deadbeat bosses to continually break employment laws and abuse workers without consequence or penalty.

We will continue to demand that Amato pay Ms. Spencer's wages and we will inform Amato customers about this employer's illegal practices.

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**::PHONE BLITZ::PHONE BLITZ::PHONE BLITZ::**

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**\*\* EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT \*\***

from 6:30 to 7:30 PM,  
call Amato Pizza's delivery line: 416-703-8989  
*Let's jam their phone lines and let them know that  
you won't order pizza until the owners  
pay the workers their owed wages !!*

CALL as many times as you can during Friday's dinner  
hour to help us make the message strong and clear.  
BE SURE to let the phone line workers know that you want  
to make sure that they are getting paid properly too!

Every Friday, we will phone  
**blitz Amato's pizza delivery line, until they pay up!**

Save the date for our upcoming rally:  
**September 13, 2005.** Location and  
time to be announced.

**For more info:**  
**Workers' Action Centre 416-531-0778 ext 223**  
**Parkdale Legal Clinic 416-531-2411 ext 255**  
<emily@workersactioncentre.org>

