

On the Line

SSSP Labor Studies

Editor's Introduction

By Corey Dolgon

Welcome to our Winter edition. We have some interesting pieces to share with you all, as well as some important information about our upcoming annual meeting. We also have another installment of our shameless plugs section. It may be a welcome commentary on the quality of character embodied in the Labor Studies' membership that we haven't received many submissions to our shameless plugs division, but I would hope that the tongue-in-cheek title of the section hasn't turned anyone off. Rueben and I really want to offer the members a place to share their work, not necessarily boast. On the other hand, as Dizzy Dean used to say, "It ain't bragging if you can back it up." Baseball fans or not, it would be nice to know what members are working on and successfully sharing with the reading (or listening or viewing) public.

Please check out page 4 and the call for submissions to our sessions scheduled for the Annual Meeting in August. We need to keep up our sessions and their success depends on your contributions. Also consider volunteering to be commentators or facilitators.

We also have an interesting article from one of Rueben Roth's students who did a field placement at a Union local in Northern Ontario. It's important to remind ourselves that our teaching, our courses, and our programs make a big impact on students. We might



Newsletter Editor Corey Dolgon (Worcester State College) and Glenn Johnson (Clark Atlanta University) look on incredulously as section chair, Rueben Roth, explains why Canadian spelling of "Labour" is more revolutionary. He will make a motion to have it changed in the SSSP Constitution.

agree that our political work cannot be reduced to our teaching, but our work with students is an important political act.

Finally, I have a short piece about performing my singing lectures on folksong and U.S. Labor in the South. A good lesson about the color Line (red and blue, not black and white). And there's plenty of miscellaneous information to keep the reader amused throughout. Please enjoy.

A Message From the Chair

by Reuben Roth

Greetings to our members, both old and new, and best wishes for the holiday season. As I write this column from a snowy northeastern landscape, NPR's Buffalo affiliate is airing a sad story about the death of a 17-year-old from Glendale, California. Nataline Sarkisyan died just a few hours after Cigna Health Care, her

medical insurer, hastily approved a liver transplant that they previously described as "too experimental." Nataline died a day after dozens protested Cigna headquarters. From this Canadian's point of view, it seems almost archaic that health care remains such a hot topic in 2007, but it was a key demand made by the "Big Three" U.S. automakers during negotiations earlier this year, when retiree health care costs were jettisoned and subsequently taken up by the UAW. (continued on page 2)

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Message from the Chair (cont.)

Contract changes will save GM about \$4 billion in labor costs annually, while Ford expects to cut its spending on health-care for active and retired employees by \$2 billion. Overall, under the new agreements the average wages of workers at all three domestic manufacturers will be frozen at about \$28 per hour, while new hires will see an average of only \$16 per hour. Welcome back to 1984 and the advent of the two-tiered wage. This was the very reason that the Canadian division of the UAW broke away from our U.S. partners and established a Canadian auto union.

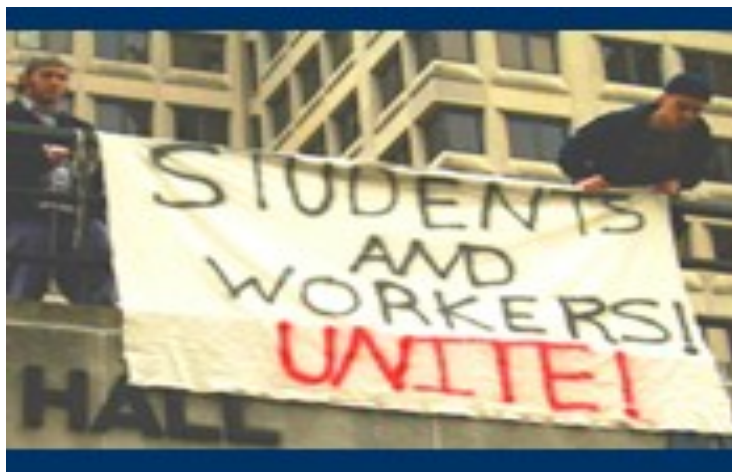
Whether it's health care, bargaining, union density, minimum wages, immigration, or youth organizing – 2007 brought major developments in all of these key areas, and there's certainly no shortage of issues to discuss at Boston in 2008. In Manhattan we held a spate of deeply engrossing and informative sessions and next year's labor studies sessions look even more promising. With the title "Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization and Social Justice," those of us who research and write about labour issues can rightly label ourselves at the forefront of this year's theme. Next year's labor studies division sessions cover "Labor, the Dems and the '08 Election," "Globalization and Transnational Labor," "Participatory Research in the Labor Movement," and "Working in the Health Care Sector," among others. I want to encourage everyone to respond to the call for papers posted online at the SSSP website and 'snail mail'. You can also read more about the session themes and organizers later in this newsletter. Submit your paper soon – we'd like to see a huge bump in participation by labor studies members at the '08 annual meeting. In short, we need panelists, discussants, and paper submissions. Don't forget the deadline is January 31, 2008. When we meet in Boston next summer we can also discuss our collective progress, activism and our possible collaboration with the labor movement during hard times.

I'd also like to urge Labor Studies members to have their graduate students submit papers to the Harry Braverman award committee, for the best paper by a graduate student. If you have an interested grad student, have them e-mail the Braverman Award Committee Chair, Chris Baker at: (chris.baker@ws.edu). Details of the competition are listed in this newsletter and on the website.

Last, but not least, I want to laud the hugely successful efforts of our talented newsletter editor, Corey Dolgon, who has single-handedly revitalized our division newsletter. It's thanks to Corey that you can read about the recent developments in our division. It takes a real commitment to produce this twice-annual newsletter, which is our major unifying vehicle.

I wish each of you the warmest wishes for the holiday season and a happy 2008. Enjoy

JOBS WITH JUSTICE Student Labor Action Project



Jobs With Justice, a well known national labor support organization, has stepped up its organizing among college students. Below is taken from its website and describes its work. For more info, check out <http://www.jwj.org/projects/slap.html>

College campuses have become an important battleground for addressing economic inequities. Colleges and universities employ large numbers of people - graduate students, janitors, cafeteria workers, and professors - and so have power over the quality of life of entire communities. These institutions are also large purchasers - spending billions of dollars each year on everything from sweatshirts, to books, to building materials. They can therefore control the standards under which the goods they purchase are produced. And, of course, universities and colleges have the responsibility to provide quality education to a diverse student population. Throughout the U.S., students are fighting for a voice in decisions on important issues such as how their tuition money is spent, how the institution behaves as an employer and member of a community, and who has access to higher education.

The Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) is a joint initiative of Jobs with Justice and the United States Student Association that engages student organizations in economic justice campaigns. JwJ coalitions around the country house local SLAPs that connect students from multiple campuses. SLAP supports the growing student movement for economic justice by making links between campus and community organizing, providing skills training to build lasting student organizations, and developing campaigns that win concrete victories for working families. Additionally, SLAP partners with student organizations such as United Students Against Sweatshops, MEChA, Student-Farmworker Alliance, Student Action with Farmworkers, and Not With Our Money to build a strong student movement for workers' rights and economic justice.

Shameless Book Plugs

Matt Desmond, *On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters*. University of Chicago Press, 2007.

“Drawing on intimate ethnographic research of a wildland firefighting crew as well as content analyses of official documents from the U.S. Forest Service and similar agencies, *On the Fireline* investigates how a high-risk organization motivates its workers to participate in life-threatening activity. It analyzes how organizations that demand much from their workers—indeed, sometimes their very lives—tap into and rely upon America’s economic inequalities, how individuals’ classed lifestyles and backgrounds influence their decision to sign up for jobs that could kill them, and how individuals’ specific paths through life predispose them to the rigors of risky work.”

“*On the Fireline* is a riveting account of firemen of the U.S. Forest Service tackling wildland fires, as well as a detailed chronicle of the training, preparation, and bonhomie of depot life. By exploring how joining a firecrew matches, confirms, and extends the values of the rural culture within which the recruits grew up, Desmond offers a unique perspective on the social and psychological motivations for firefighting. The richness of the data he uncovers and his arresting style of presentation make this a distinctive and evocative work.”—Paul Willis, author of *Learning to Labor*

Michael Wallace. 2007. "After Taft-Hartley: The Legal-Institutional Context of U.S. Strike Activity, 1949-1980." *The Sociological Quarterly* 48:769-799.

A. Aneesh. *Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization*. Duke University Press, 2006.

This study explores the rapidly growing, but little researched, practice of online labor-flows from India to the United States, and compares it to the corresponding physical labor migration of programmers called body shopping – a practice of bringing programmers from India to the United States, and arranging work visas for them to work onsite in the US. In the words of Saskia Sassen: “Virtual Migration is an exciting, innovative, and brilliant examination of how software flows replace people flows. It joins the urgent effort now under way in the social sciences to map a new field of inquiry.”

Why America Lost the War on Poverty—And How to Win It (New Book from UNC Press)

By Frank Stricker (Professor of History at California State University, Dominguez Hills)

In a provocative assessment of American poverty and policy from 1950 to the present, Frank Stricker examines an era that has seen serious discussion about the causes of poverty and unemployment. Analyzing the War on Poverty, theories of the culture of poverty and the underclass, the effects of Reaganomics, and the 1996 welfare reform, Stricker demonstrates that most antipoverty approaches are futile without the presence (or creation) of good jobs. Stricker notes that since the 1970s, U.S. poverty levels have remained at or above 11%, despite training programs and periods of economic growth. The creation of jobs has continued to lag behind the need for them. Stricker argues that a serious public debate is needed about the job situation; social programs must be redesigned, a national health care program must be developed, and economic inequality must be addressed. He urges all sides to be honest—if we don’t want to eliminate poverty, then we should say so. But if we do want to reduce poverty significantly, he says, we must expand decent jobs and government income programs, redirecting national resources away from the rich and toward those with low incomes. *Why America Lost the War on Poverty—And How to Win It* is sure to prompt much-needed debate on how to move forward.

“Frank Stricker’s iconoclastic book uses historical analysis to challenge the conventional wisdom about the nature of poverty in America. This is a sobering but engrossing account of an important subject, written with scholarly authority in an entertaining, even inviting, style.”—Edward D. Berkowitz, George Washington University

SSSP Labor Studies Sessions

Below are our thematically sponsored sessions and co-sponsored sessions. For more information and submission materials and guidelines, go to: <http://www.sssp1.org/> or contact Labor Studies Section Chair, Rueben Roth at rroth@oise.utoronto.ca

Session 1: **Participatory Research in the Labor Movement: A Double Edged Sword.**

Organizer: Chris Baker, chris.baker@ws.edu
(423-318-2578)

Session 2: **Labor, The Dems, and the '08 Elections: Prospects and Perils.**

Organizer: Ted Brimeyer, (912-681-5763)
tbrimeyer@georgiasouthern.edu

Session 3: **Globalization and Transnational Labor: Race Ethnicity and Gender Issues.**

Organizer: Jennifer Johnson, jajohnson3@vcu.edu
(804-828-6826)

Co-Sponsored Sections

Session 44: **Working in the Health Care Sector** (with the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services section)

Organizers: Corey Dolgon, cdolgon@worchester.edu
(508-929-8534) and Amy Schulz, amy@shulz.com
(734-647-0221)

Session 49: **Politics of Crossing Labor Migration in Global/Transnational Context** (with Institutional Ethnography Section)

Organizer: Li-Fang Liang
liliang@maxwell.syr.edu

Announcement from ASA Labor Division

International Conference on Chinese Labor: Call for Graduate Student

Graduate students working on Chinese labor issues are invited to submit paper abstracts to attend an international conference on Chinese Labor sponsored by the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University on September 26-28, 2008. This conference will feature paper presentations by leading scholars from the United States, Australia and Asia working in the field of Chinese labor. A special student panel will showcase the best research papers solicited in this call for papers. ILR will provide partial funding and local accommodation for the selected authors. Please send a 300 – 500 word abstract by February 10, 2008 to Professor Sarosh Kuruvilla (sck4@cornell.edu). Decisions will be announced by the end of February 2008

This call posted by our member Ching Kwan Lee



Session Presenters Jennifer Johnson and Sarah Mutterko have a chuckle at the expense of moderator, Corey Dolgon, who apparently misplaced his introduction notes in his daughter's Dora the Explorer coloring book. "Dios mio."

Community-Based Education: The Student Experience

Introduction

by Rueben Roth

“Community-based learning is an educational process where students learn from experiences/ interactions outside the classroom and academia generally, in a community setting (Christopher Dale, “Community-Based Learning” in *Humanity and Society*, (29) 3-4: 193).”

I’m citing Christopher Dale’s excellent 2005 overview of community-based learning to précis a wonderful article (below) by a former labor studies student, who aptly summarizes her 150-hour internship experience. Shannon Fleury, came to me in the fall of 2005 as a fairly typical undergraduate; her views of unions were largely extracted at the feet of her manager-father, and she was fairly typical in her lack of sympathy to the plight of labor. But after several sour experiences in her Commerce courses, Shannon fled to our program as an antidote to the demand for unquestioning obedience.

I teach our Labor Studies program’s third and fourth-year research placement /internships that all labor studies students must attend, but the truth is I’m not sure that I had very much to do with Shannon’s paradigm-shift. Over the course of two years she not only soared as a student of labor legislation, grievance procedures, health and safety laws, arbitration and the like – the usual mainstay of programs like ours at Laurentian University – but Shannon grasped some of the subtleties of working-class consciousness and the challenges that face unions in an era of declining density. I credit much of this to my colleagues, but also to the contrasting experience between Shannon’s two research placements. The first took place at a corporate HR department and the second at a regional office of a union, and I believe that it was an inside view of the unvarnished inner-workings of each organization that sensitized Shannon to what makes the labor movement unique – and crucial. I often tell my students that if unions had to produce a business plan prior to startup, they’d never exist. In short, unions aren’t entirely business-oriented organizations; they operate largely on volunteer labor, and often have aspirations that fall outside of the boundaries of the employer-employee bargaining relationship. While unions may not work on paper, they *do* work in practice – and that’s largely due to the collective commitment of their members, and a (hopefully) broader vision of a humane society.

I believe that for these and other reasons, Shannon’s tale is both significant and heartening to those of us working in academia. Some detractors may toss her experience off as the training of yet *another* union bureaucrat, but those of us searching for signs of hope, or evidence of a revitalized labor movement, may see Shannon’s story as an expression of the “better angels of our nature.” Enjoy her story.

My Labour Studies Placement Experience

By Shannon Fleury, Union Representative RWDSU, Northern Ontario Region

Recently I had the pleasure of completing a placement at RWDSU (the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union) through the *Labour and Trade Union Studies program* at Laurentian University.

During my short few months at the RW union office I was able to gain a better understanding of what unions do and what they stand for. From October 2006 to April 2007 I designed a union leadership course aimed at elected officials. To my surprise, the leadership course was not the only project I completed. Typically, I would go to the office twice a week and do research for the course. I divided the course into the following modules: identifying different characteristics of leadership, developing some of these characteristics more broadly, building credibility, dealing with culture diversity, distinguishing between a leader and a manager and running a meeting effectively. Once I decided the contents of the course I began developing different activities for each module.

(continued on page 6)



Community-Based Education: The Student Experience (cont.)

During my placement I was also able to sit in on some of the other courses the union offered including Union Steward Training Level 1 and Level 2. Once I completed these courses I really began to understand the goals of a union. For starters, unions believe in fair treatment for all workers, fair wages and scheduling by seniority, just to name a few. About midway through my placement I was offered a sixteen week internship at the Union to commence in May 2007 (once I completed my four year Bachelor of Arts degree in the Labour and Trade Union Studies program and Political Science at Laurentian University). I gladly accepted the internship position. It was a great feeling to know I had just graduated from university, and through my research placement with the Labour Studies program, I had received this great opportunity to further my skills and experience in the trade union sector.

During my internship I had completed my leadership course and had an opportunity to really test myself. I taught the leadership course to a small group of people in the Muskoka area, just north of Toronto. From this pilot course I was finally able to get some *real* feedback from participants. With only a few minor changes I felt I had really designed an effective course. The participants who attended the course agreed .

But my experience during my internship was not the only thing I gained working at RWDSU. About halfway through my internship in early July 2007, I was approached by the Union President and Secretary Treasurer and I was asked to join the RWDSU team as a union representative. I gladly accepted the position and that's when the real fun began. From that point on I can definitely say *I hit the floor running*. I shadowed some of the experienced union representatives in the office, and with them I would attend ten sets of negotiations (bargaining new collective agreements), attend several grievance meetings, assisted in a couple of organizing campaigns and was on the picket line as an organizer for a local strike at Sudbury Downs, a Northern Ontario racetrack. By early October I was on my own, working as a representative for twenty-two bargaining units.

I face many challenges in this type of work, although there are many rewards as well. I enjoy being able to interact with a wide variety of people and learn about different cultures. I also think it's great to see – first-hand – some of the material I read in Dr. Roth's Labour Studies placement class. For instance, I finally believed that the number one issue in workers' satisfaction is not wages (although wages are a key motivator), but *respect*. Simply put, workers want respect and a say in their workplace. Wages and respect are also probably the most common issues I deal with on a regular basis as a union representative. I can honestly say that every day is new, and even if wages and respect are the common issues, you never really know what to expect day-to-day in this field.

However, I am grateful to have the opportunity to make a difference in the workplace. I would not have ended up becoming a Union Representative if it were not for my placement at Laurentian University, through the Labour Studies program. With that being said, I hope more people join the Labour Studies program and have a great experience from their placements. I know I did.

Shannon Fleury graduated from Laurentian University's undergraduate Labour and Trade Union Studies program in May 2007. She's now a full-time union representative for the Northern Ontario region of the Retail, Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU)

THE LABOR STUDIES DIVISION - Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Award Deadline: 6/01/08. One of the most important activities of the Labor Studies Division is to recognize the work of graduate students. As in the past, the division is soliciting graduate student papers that build on the legacy of the late Harry Braverman. The Award consists of a \$200 cash prize and a ticket to the annual SSSP awards banquet. The Braverman tradition includes work in a variety of areas, including (but not limited to): labor process studies, critical organization studies, research on the intersections of gender, race, and class at work, technical and organizational change and its impact on work culture, labor movements and resistance in the workplace, critical perspectives on labor markets and occupational transformation. Papers co-authored with faculty members will not be accepted. Single authored papers by graduate students and papers co-authored by graduate students are welcome. All papers will be evaluated by a committee composed of at least three Labor Studies Division faculty scholars. E-mail your paper and a short letter of submission identifying your graduate program to: Dr. Chris Baker, Chris.Baker@ws.edu. Or 'snail-mail' to Dr. Chris Baker, Professor of Sociology, Walters State Community College, Morristown, Tennessee 37813.

What is to be Done? Public Sociology in Theory and Practice

The **Association for Humanists Sociology** [AHS] would like to invite submissions for our 2008 Annual Meeting at the *John Hancock Center* in Boston, Ma, November 6-9. Our conference theme is "***What is to be Done? Public Sociology in Theory and Practice.***" While public sociology has attracted excitement in recent years, sociology as a resource for social action is not new. From Marx and Mills, to Dubois and Jane Addams, to Al Lee and Francis Fox Piven, the reemergence of public sociology is really the product of a long march by politically interested and socially engaged scholars through educational institutions, professional associations and publications, and other places where sociology is done. Yet, public sociology remains a contested terrain, criticized as "too political" by some and "not political enough" by others. Since our inception in 1976, AHS and its members have been contemplating and practicing public sociology, mostly from the margins of the discipline. Now that public sociology is front and center, we ought to have much to say about it: historically, theoretically, ethically, politically, and practically. This Annual Meeting is an opportunity to examine the past, evaluate the present, and begin to shape the future of a public sociology that matters. Paper submissions should address some aspect of public sociology and its relationship to teaching, activism, policy or community-based research, or other aspects of sociology as they relate to incorporating humanist goals with sociological work. Please send papers, abstracts, posters or session/workshop ideas to Program Director Daniel Egan, Daniel_Egan@uml.edu or AHS President, Corey Dolgon, cdolgon@worcester.edu

A Commonwealth of Toil: Folksongs and the U.S. Labor Movement

Corey Dolgon's "singing lecture" is a hit. Those who attended his presentation for the U of L Labor-Management Center from union retirees to active union member to academics and management were entertained and enlightened. A good time and good learning.—John Ralston, Director, University of Louisville Labor-Management Center



Corey's work weaves together a coherent and accessible narrative about labor struggles with a tour de force of labor songs that move an audience with workers' own articulate Descriptions of their conditions and Inspiring visions of movements to Improve those conditions.—Chris Dale, Sociology

Corey Dolgon, a Ph.D in American Culture and Sociology Professor for over 10 years, has put together a singing lecture on the role of folksongs in the U.S. labor movement. Corey is a long-time labor activist and organizer and has used folk songs to build soli-darity on the line and engage students in the classroom. This lecture covers labor history from a multicultural perspective and examines the role of folk songs in workers' lives. For info contact Corey Dolgon at cdolgon@worcester.edu

Red States, Blue Mountains, and Purple Haze

By Corey Dolgon

I started on Interstate 26 North from Spartanburg to Asheville and then looped around and merged onto the Blue Ridge Parkway until I reached Balsam. It was a scenic route to Cullowhee and Western Carolina University where I was to give a singing lecture on folk songs and the U.S. labor movement the next day. I had performed the night before at Wofford College in South Carolina, and while the audience was small, it was appreciative. But what stuck me while I wound my way through a brilliant Autumn afternoon, woodlands ablaze and my mind as rambling and scattered as the clouds above, was that the region's cultural and political landscape was not what I had expected. Far from the fundamentalist, liberal-hating populous the Northern Left fears and the mainstream media caricatures, the life of the south seemed far more rich and nuanced, just like the rainbow vista around me. (continued p. 8)

Call for Panel Members Southwestern Social Science Association

Place Your Bets: Approaches to Engaging The Riviera Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

March 12-15, 2008

The Southwestern Social Science Association would like to invite SSSP members to organize panel discussion on Approaches to Engaging the Social Sciences in Social Problems Scholarship. This idea arose from discussions that took place during the SSSP pre-conference planning retreat held in August, 2007. The SSSA is the oldest social science association in the country and is composed of seven affiliates: Sociology, Political Science, History, Economics, Women's and Gender Studies, International Studies, and Social Work. I would be interested in organizing a panel composed of SSSP members from each of these disciplines to speak about the topic above in an effort to build relationships between the two organizations. Please Contact: Tracy L. Dietz, Ph.D. tdietz@mail.ucf.edu By December 15, 2007

Red States, Blue Ridges (cont.)

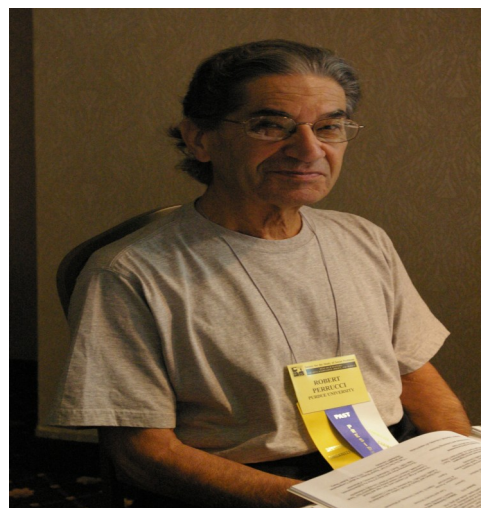
In Spartanburg, I found a warm welcome from very progressive and engaged faculty, and very spirited and curious students in the Sociology Department at Wofford. At WCU, I found a similar dynamic from a much larger department. Even more notable was the welcome and excitement from the folks at the Mountain Heritage Center on campus who hosted an evening performance and worked hard everyday to keep alive a powerful history of regional struggles for labor rights and human dignity—a history erased by corporate media and right-wing politicians for the same purposes of disinformation and disempowerment. It seemed that everywhere I went I sensed a welcome embrace for the messages embodied in the history and songs of labor. And where people were skeptics or even anti-union, I found an openness for discussion and an interest in finding common ground.

My favorite moment was a final meal in Spartanburg at Ike's Restaurant. Ike's is a semi-famous sort of hole-in-the-wall where a Bud and a Burger is standard fare. But, oh, those burgers! Fresh beef, seasoned and griddled to perfection, with mounds of cheese and real potato fries. As I sat and ate and talked baseball with the cook/waiter at the counter, "T.T." came in the door, yelled for a Bud Light, and sat down next to me. We chatted a minute, he asked where I was from and what I was doing in Spartanburg. He asked what "Sociology" was and said it sounded interesting. He said he wished he had known about the lecture because he likes acoustic music, especially blue grass. But, he said, "mostly what I know is billiards and cooking." Since I don't play pool, we talked about food. He was a chef at a local establishment and talked about the meals he prepared with the color and pride of a real craftsman. He shook my hand when I left, wished me safe travels, and invited me to "his restaurant" next time I was in town—he would "treat me right."

As I hit the road up North, I thought instinctively that T.T. was probably a Republican (although didn't seem to be much of a fundamentalist), and probably voted for Bush—although he didn't

seem all that interested in politics and maybe didn't vote at all). He was certainly from a RED state and I certainly came from a BLUE state (Massachusetts). But this dichotomy could not begin to describe or explain our experiences, our ideas, our conversation, or what seemed to be a most human moment of creating solidarity amidst a world of differences, but based on a bigger world of shared humanity. It has always seemed to me that this is the most powerful message from the songs of the labor movement—the building of solidarity among different racial, ethnic, religious groups. Despite differences, in songs people found commonality in their conditions as workers, and in their desires to live with dignity and security. From their struggles and their songs, they envisioned a different identity that but brought them together. I don't know what T.T. would say about the labor movement, but he was ready and willing to share a beer, some conversation, and, if I ever returned, his skill as a chef and his pride in being a host. It's the kind of relationship that any movement for social justice depends on. No red, no blue—but some aesthetic blend of color and experience and hope not yet captured in the commercial culture of corporate media and politics. As Woody Guthrie sang, "Nobody else can do it for us, we've got to do it for ourselves."

*Labor Division member, **Robert Perucci**, sharing some of his thoughts on the successes and failures of workers' efforts to control time. Bob's prodigious output (as chronicled in last issue's "shameless plugs" section shows that he has certainly slowed the hands of time.*



Letter from a Member

Brothers and Sisters:

I believe the novel - *No Country for Old Men* - and the movie based on it - both shed valuable light on working-class issues today in America. If you had not NOT read the novel and have now seen the movie, I would appreciate your sending me at any length your thoughts about 1) the story - What was it about?; and 2) the film - How good was it. or, not so good? Why? If you have read the book - and have since seen the movie, I would appreciate your sending me your thoughts about 1) ways in which the book and the movie MATCHED or did not MATCH, and 2) which did you like more - and why? I am writing an essay comparing the book and the film, with respect to working-class matters, and I want to know what others like members of the SSSP Section think in the matter.

Many thanks, fraternally,
Art Shostak,
Professor Emeritus of Sociology; Labor Educator,
Drexel University (shostaka@drexel.edu)

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