

# News and Views

C.E.P. Local 433

Volume 10 Issue 1

March 2006



## Fighting the WCB

Sarah O'Leary

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Next meetings are March 16th, April 20th and May 18th. All meetings start at 8 p.m.

All too frequently I hear members saying that they can't win in a fight with the WCB. That is just not true.

Often doctors or well-meaning friends will tell an injured worker not to bother even trying. This just doesn't help. After almost two decades of fighting the WCB, I can tell you that it is always worth the fight and that we very often win.

Here are few CEP members who have recently won their appeals:

One of our Sisters suffered a serious back injury while lifting on the job. This injury has left her with a permanent disability which prevents her from doing her good-paying union job. The WCB decided that she had recovered from her temporary disability and could go back to work. They cut her off cold. With the help of the Local, the Sister won her WCB appeal. She has now been given a permanent disability pension for chronic pain. The struggle continues for this member however as we fight the new Liberal era pension law.

This law, passed by Gordon Campbell and the Liberals within a year of taking power makes it very difficult for working people to get a realistic pension. Gordon Campbell thinks that losing \$15.00 an hour from your wage is not significant enough to merit a replacement pension. However the appeal tribunal, the WCAT, has a somewhat more realistic view. While the WCB has granted our Sister a pension only for her pain and not for her lost wages, we are hopeful of getting her a larger pension on the appeal which is in progress.

One Brother had a very serious and permanent injury on the job. He has been on wage loss benefits for almost two years as he continues to recover. In calculating his wage rate in order to figure out what his compensation benefits would be, the WCB refused to add in the amounts he earned in overtime. This was very significant to our member as he worked huge amounts of overtime on a regular basis. The Local represented him on appeal and won the right to

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**Last year** was a bargaining year, and this year is shaping up to be a year of arbitrations. We do have some bargaining this year, as we will be negotiating contracts with Western Newsprint, Buckeye, Landmark Dairy, Custom Paper, and Iron Mountain.

Our main focus however looks like it will be arbitrations. So far this year, we have had two arbitrations (at Crown and Unisource), and have settled two others (again at Crown and Unisource) just before they went to arbitration. That is four arbitrations either heard or settled before the middle of February.

We have two other cases currently set down for hearings, and have at least seven other cases which have a very real potential to end up in arbitration.

I should also take this opportunity to make a few points about arbitration. As a Local Union we try and avoid arbitration. We do this for a number of reasons. First of all, arbitrations are expensive. Second, it usually takes a long time to get a matter heard before an arbitrator. And third, and probably most important, when you go to arbitration you are relying on a

*News and Views*

third party to make a decision for you. Quite often you end up with a decision that neither the Company nor the Union is happy with. My advice is always, if you can make a deal you can live with, then you should take it, because you never know what the outcome of an arbitration will be. The key though, is it needs to be a deal you can live with.

As a Local Union, we always try to reach a resolution with an employer before we proceed to arbitration. If we are unable reach an agreement with an employer, then we need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed to arbitration. Generally speaking, this decision is made on the basis of whether or not we think we can win. If we think we can win, we go, if don't think we can win, we don't. As I mentioned earlier however, even with all of the investigation and preparation we do before we make this decision, we still don't always win when we initially think we can. New evidence can come forward during a hearing; a witness does not do well on the stand; something comes out in cross examination you were not prepared for; any number of things can happen that can turn a good case into a bad one. Arbitrations can be a real roll of the dice.

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**Articles appearing in *News and Views* express the views of the authors. They are not necessarily the policy of the CEP or views shared by the editors or CEP officers.**

**WCB** continued from page 1

I'd also like to make a quick mention on how members can help themselves to avoid discipline situations that may end up in arbitration. If you did something in the workplace that is going to end up in discipline, you should admit to your employer what you have done, and express remorse. Do not lie to your employer. Arbitrators take a very dim view of employees who lie to their employer. It is almost always better to admit what you have done and express remorse. I can't promise that by admitting something it will result in no discipline, but it will usually result in less discipline than if you lie about a situation and then are found out.

As well, when expressing remorse it should be sincere and it should be done immediately. This does not mean you need to grovel. It just means that an apology has to be sincere and well intentioned. This makes a difference to most employers and to all arbitrators. Arbitrators will look to see if someone has apologized just because they want their job back, or were they really sorry for their actions.

I hope the above gives you a better idea of some of the homework the Local Union does before we make a decision to proceed to arbitration, and also some of the things you should do if you are caught in a disciplinary situation.

have his overtime included in calculating his wage rate.

Another member had a permanent disability and received a pension. However the WCB refused to acknowledge all of his disability, saying that part of his ongoing problems were not from his WCB injury. We won his appeal on this issue and he now is receiving a larger pension which covers his total disability.

These are just a few of trials that face injured workers everywhere. In my years doing Disability Law at the Legal Services Society and the Workers Advisors, and as an Appeal Commissioner, I saw many tragic cases where non-unionized workers struggled, without representation, to get justice in the Workers Compensation system. The system today is tougher and meaner to injured workers. It's a reflection of the mean-spirited government that passed the new compensation laws.

Fortunately for the members of CEP 433, you have a union that cares about its injured members. When you are injured, you are not alone. But you must be willing to appeal and you must be willing to fight, in order to win.

Sarah o'Leary

### **Executive of C.E.P. Local 433**

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 Inner Guard - Brad Johnson  
 Outer Guard - Greg Duff



*are the "U"  
in UNION!*

## The other nuclear threat

### Let's not abet US weaponization of space.

Dateline: Sunday, February 26, 2006

by Linda McQuaig

With all the focus on Iran's nuclear intentions, it's easy to forget that there's another — arguably more crucial — front in the battle to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

At UN-sponsored negotiations in Geneva, dozens of countries have been trying to prevent the arms race from spreading into space, where experts say it could more easily trigger a nuclear war.

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#### **Denying missile defence is linked to space weaponization is like denying HIV is linked to AIDS.**

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The graveness of this threat has been appreciated since the late 1950s, when the Eisenhower administration led the push for a ban on weapons in space, culminating in a unanimous 1963 declaration by the UN General Assembly that “the use of space shall be carried on for the benefit and in the interests of all mankind.” In 1967, ninety-seven nations signed the Outer Space Treaty banning space weapons.

While there's been strong international pressure in recent years to toughen that 1967 treaty, the US has reversed its stand on the issue. It is now the only major nation resisting a more comprehensive ban.

The battle against militarization of the Earth's orbit is, by any reasonable standard, one of the major struggles facing humanity. It's also the main reason why Canada should continue to refuse to participate in Washington's ballistic missile defence system.

Much of the debate over Canada's participation — a debate the Harper government has signaled a willingness to reopen — has centred on the impact of our decision on Canada-US relations.

But our decision also has repercussions for the decades-long struggle to keep weapons out of

space; a struggle that Canada has supported, along with the European Union, Russia and China. Even Harper's Conservatives officially oppose weapons in space.

But some here in Canada have played a devious game, denying missile defence is linked to space weaponization.

This is like denying HIV is linked to AIDS.

Key players in the Bush administration have been less coy about acknowledging the connection. Indeed, before taking office, some of these hawks openly linked the two.

Just months before becoming senior officials in the Bush administration, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz were key figures in a high-powered group called the Project for the New American Century.

The group produced a document, *Rebuilding America's Defenses*, which called for a massive military buildup “to maintain American military preeminence.”

Missile defence was central to their plans and as the document explains: “No system of missile defences can be fully effective without placing sensors and weapons in space.”

It also argued: “Maintaining control of space will inevitably require the application of force both in space and from space, including but not limited to anti-missile defences... space control cannot be sustained in any other fashion.”

Missile defence lies at the very heart of ambitious plans, long nurtured by hawks now in power in Washington, to achieve military mastery of the world through control of outer space.

Dwight Eisenhower opposed such plans as contrary to the well-being of humanity — and so should we.

*Linda McQuaig is an award-winning journalist and a columnist with the **Toronto Star** in which this column originally*

# Flexia

Flexia was purchased by Intertape a few months ago, and we were told they were willing to and are planning on putting more capital into Flexia. So of course everyone was happy to be bought by a company willing to put some new machines into the plant and possibly create more jobs.

They have also made it clear they wanted to have a better relationship with the union members. So what have they done to improve that? Well, besides saying that they wanted better communication with the workers they have increased our workload and cut one of our senior brothers job by giving all of us a piece of his job!

They have posted a letter a few months ago stating if we would like a new coffee machine in the plant that we all had to sign some sort of agreement ("Ya Right"). The agreement was that no one was allowed to leave the premises on there breaks!.

The company who had said they wanted better communication between the employee's and the

Company. Yet did not ask the Plant Committee but made it clear they were not going to ask for the plant committee's opinion but just do what ever they wanted.

We have also had a Team Leader come in from Texas hired by the company to help us get some teams together in the plant to be more efficient. Well as of now most of the employee's have spoken to me directly and stated how much they did not like the fact the Company has shown no appreciation for their efforts. And in one case a brother came up with a great idea and would be saving the company around \$90,000 over the next year, and what did he get for that?

Anyhow enough of my ranting .On a more cheerful note we have no layoffs as of now but the morale of the brothers in the plant is down but if we all unite and show our solidarity we will rise to the top!

Jason Odegard

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## Day of mourning

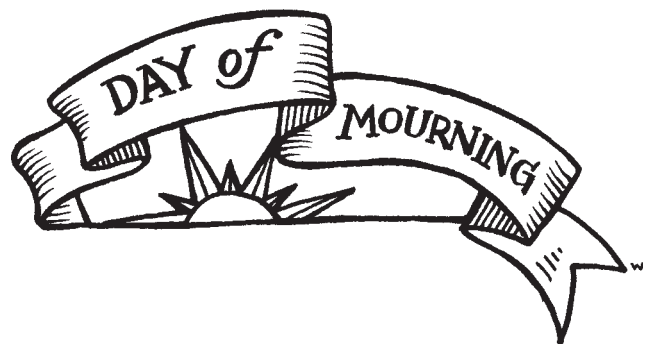
InsideOut/CUPW Edmonton

**Another year** has come and gone,  
 We mourn still with poem and song  
 Sisters and brothers injured and some are gone  
 Why does this inhumane suffering still go on?  
 Dad, why can't you carry me? my little boy  
 asked  
 Now that I'm injured it's an impossible task.  
 Mommy, let's play, my little girl said.  
 Tears filled my eyes as I lay on the bed.  
 There is no excuse for this to take place!  
 Not one worker should be injured in the  
 workplace.  
 The laws must be tougher for this is a disgrace.  
 Work should not take one member of the human  
 race.  
 Like you I grow tired, angry, frustrated and  
 weary,

My heart filled with despair, and my eyes always  
 teary.

We must get together across this great land  
 Every nation of workers, united we must stand.  
 Let us make a promise you and I  
 Work will not cause one more sister or brother  
 to be injured or to die.

- M.J. Tarnawski, an injured worker



# Crown Packaging

**Brothers and Sisters.** Once again we face uncertain times. This is becoming a regular theme in our working lives with this employer. Good news is a thing of the past, job loss and controversy is how we live. As you are all aware, labor relations are at an all time low. Trust and honor are apparently things of the past. Sound familiar, for those of us that have been through plant closures it sounds very familiar.

Could it be that the company has great plans for us and that we should embrace change? Well, now would be a good time to standup and speak. Brother Jim Britton of the national union is trying to arrange a meeting with the company ownership, we wish him well. Our attempts to arrange such a

meeting were met with a resounding NO. In fact, the company announced plans to install a hand scanner monitored by a remote camera. I guess we have all been stealing and cheating on our time cards, who knew. Intimidation and insults will never translate into greater corporate profits; rather, it is a pattern of Union busting.

No matter how hard you work, or how devoted you are to the success of the business, your union services aren't wanted. The non-union entities of this company continue to grow, as we continue to shrink. Have we wasted our time working so hard for this company? Well, thanks for the memories.

Rod Peat, Plant Chairman, Crown.

## The birds and the bees -cyber style

Internet/CALM

**A little** boy asked his father, "Daddy, where did I come from?"

The father answered, "Well, son, I guessed one day you would ask that, so this is the way it happened.

"Your mother and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then we set up a date via e-mail to meet at a cyber-cafe.

"We installed ourselves in a secluded room, where your mother agreed to do a download from my hard drive.

"Just as we were ready for the transfer, we discovered that neither of us was using a firewall, and it was too late to hit the cancel button.

Nine months later a little pop-up appeared, and it said, 'You've got male!'"

## Online campaigns work

LaborStart/CALM

**The effectiveness** of LabourStart's global online campaigns was recognized in the Toronto Star under the headline "Firms get tough on labour—unions resist by forging global links."

LabourStart is an online news service for international trade union movement. News is collected by a network of more than 300 volunteer correspondents and appears in 15 languages.

The Toronto Star article said, "Fierce worldwide competition is making companies more militant during contract negotiations, while unions are pushing back by globalizing the labour movement, according to a report by the Conference Board of Canada..."

"Philinda Masters, a researcher at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto...said the website [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org) is another example of how labour movements are attempting to pull together around the world. It provides a possibility of immediately sending a letter to management saying, "We're concerned with what's going on with your labour situation.'

"The unions can circulate thousands of protest letters aimed at management. It's beginning to have a huge impact as individual companies see that there's a global arena out there that's aware of different protests."

# Unisource

**As I sit** at my Computer and wonder what I will submit as an Article to the Union Newsletter , there is only one thought that comes to mind and that is:

IF YOU CAN'T SAY ANYTHING GOOD, DON'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL.

Brad Johnson  
Unisource

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## Product placement

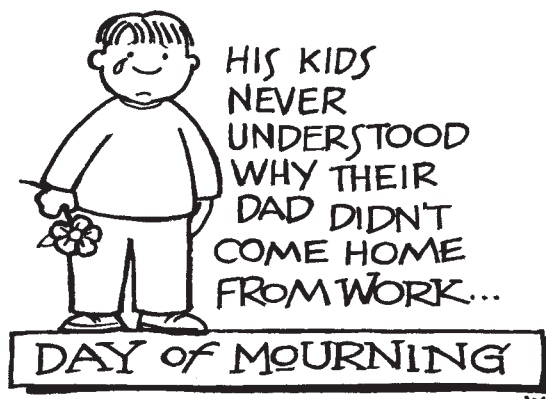
Labor Notes/CALM

**Hollywood unions** representing writers and actors are calling for a "code of conduct" to regulate the growing use of product placement as free advertising in movies and on television.

According the Screen Actors Guild and the Writers Guild of America, product placement, which can range from a can of Coke in a sitcom to a film hero's job as a Wal-Mart executive, generates billions of dollars in advertising revenue for the entertainment industry, but workers in the industry do not receive their share.

The WGA claims that writers "are being told to write the lines that sell merchandise and to deftly disguise the sale as a story."

The Guild's effort is linked to its campaign to unionize writers, producers and editors who work on reality TV shows.



## Fight for the living, mourn for the dead

by Tracie Edward Palmer/Update/OSSTF/CALM

**April 28** is an official day of mourning to honour those who have died, suffered or experienced an injury in the workplace.

The Day of Mourning is recognized in about 80 countries. The date was chosen to commemorate Canada's first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act enacted in Ontario in 1914 . The date was officially recognized by the Canadian government in 1991, eight years after it was established by the Canadian Labour Congress. Hundreds of workers die each year at work, thousands more die from work-related diseases and hundreds of thousands more suffer work injuries.

In 2002, in Canada, an average of two employees died from accidents at work each day. These numbers don't include recognition of those whose cancer or other diseases that may be related to their workplace.

The majority of injuries are slips, trips and falls, but there are also indoor air quality concerns, infectious diseases, violence and repetitive strain injuries. Often the results are minor but sometimes recurring and occasionally they can be debilitating. Not only should the focus be on prevention, but also the obligation to ensure the dignity of workers after a workplace injury through accommodation and adequate compensation.

On April 28, we renew a commitment to prevent workplace injuries and illness by encouraging provincial and federal govern to support violence, harassment and ergonomic regulations.

Contact your local labour council and attend a Day of Mourning event. Ask your employer to lower flags to half-mast and observe a minute of silence on April 28.

### Longer shelf-life

CCPA MONITOR

"**There is** more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe, and stupidity has a longer shelf-life."

■ Frank Zappa

# President's Report



**First I'd** like to thank the membership of our Local for allowing me to serve another term as your president.

For this issue of our Local's newsletter I'd like to bring to light something very disturbing that is happening at Crown Packaging. The company has now installed a hand scanner (more will surely come) to further control the hourly workforce. This will allow the company to electronically record workers coming and leaving work. Tardiness and absenteeism control I suspect. From what I can ascertain staff employees will not be subject to this repressive move. They will continue on the honour system. Obviously, unionized hourly workers are thereby less honourable.

I've been working at Crown for nearly 20 years. I have hardly ever been late and do not leave early. As I am an hourly employee I feel insulted by this move. I am sure most of my co-workers feel the same.

Now at the same time the company is making a supportive gesture to workers (in *different areas of the plant*) that they approach the plant committee if they wish to have a different start time to their working day. In their notice, management is concerned with the inconvenience of traffic and sees this as an alternative. Nice of them.

Well, I sure as hell don't believe it. After all, if an entire shift is huddled at the hand scanner to get to work there will be people late. There will be some who will run with the company's idea

(agenda?) and approach the union for different start times.

This means, however, opening up our collective agreement to accommodate changes before we are in bargaining. Now ask yourself, if the company is so concerned over your inconvenience regarding traffic that they suggest you ask your union to change the contract, will they be likewise concerned as to other inconveniences? I find my pay rate inconvenient. Will they concern themselves that I get higher pay? NOT!!!!

The more workers ask their union to help make changes to the collective agreement outside of contract bargaining the more the union will be perceived as standing between members and their wishes. Now, isn't that what the company really wants? Less union solidarity is music to their ears. Please, members (all Local 433 members) don't make such requests of your plant committees. Your committees should be focused on enforcing the agreement in place. Your wishes, including different start times at Crown, should be part of the bargaining process.

Solidarity and upholding your collective agreements is what makes you strong. You need to rely on your collective strength when it is time to bargain your next contract.

Otto Wittenberg



# Norampac

**Things have** slowed down a bit after having one of the busiest January's in recent memory, no more overtime but no layoffs. Our latest machine, a two-colour flexo, continues to be fine-tuned and painted like all the others. It should enable the company to get more work for the summer, as previous summers our other flexos ran pretty much non-stop and the company had to turn away work. We've recently had three new pallet turntables installed at the end of our 2 main wards and Bobst. This should do a lot to alleviate the pressure these machines put on our forklift drivers. Money well spent there. The company recently dropped some cash and installed three electronic scrolling marquees in the plant, despite the fact that they continue to preach about penny pinching. The

wisdom behind this decision eludes us all, and the cheesy sayings that our plant manager puts up there just make us roll our eyes, if we read it at all. We continue to try and get more people to post into first-aid, as we've had a couple of our attendants off with serious injuries and at least one who won't re-new his ticket. We only had one applicant. I'm not sure why we can't get more people but it might have something to do with the fact that the rates for first aid attendants have not been adjusted since before 1988.

We have one termination grievance that is still ongoing, and a couple other grievances that have just been dealt with.

'Till next time, in solidarity, James Monks

## Sonoco New Westminster

**Sonoco has** just finalized the purchase of one of our non-union competitors, which will return some old customers' business to our plant, as well as some business from new customers. The equipment has been sorted out to several Sonoco plants, with several pieces of equipment at our location, most notably an Eberle trimmer which will increase our trimming capacity substantially. .In addition, a few employees are moving to our facility as casual employees with the goal of full-time employment, as the workload warrants. We are expecting to be very busy in March, while we absorb some of the business, with the possibility of increased hours in both spiral departments, as well as finishing.

Employees service levels this quarter:

Ryan Abueg	1 year	January 13th
John Farina	17years	January 22nd
Paul Mui	32 years	February 28th

Lyle Mielitz  
SONOCO New Westminster

## Custom Paper

**Custom Paper** is steady. the afternoon shift has stopped for a few weeks but will probable start up again soon. we are expecting a new machine in April.

Brian MacDonald



"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened"-Winston Churchill

# Buckeye

**We are** in our “spring slow down” time, warehouse is getting quite full. This is starting to seem to be a yearly occurrence, and the company is trying to allow employees the ability to take either some primetime off during spring break, or work during this period. Last year we laid off employees at the end of summer after having numerous curtailments, thinking the work was not coming back. A majority of those laid-off employees took the buy-out rather than wait to see if the company could re-acquire the lost production. So there was some scrambling done to try and beef up our numbers once the product came back. So while we go through times of curtailments, we cannot afford to lose out members as generally production does pick up again, and with summer coming... Training seems to be getting to be an issue. There are fewer and fewer employees able to do the various jobs within our organization, and relatively no one doing the entry level jobs that would allow us to train up the ladder. Overtime is rather large, and with on again off again production, retaining people is a serious issue. We look forward to addressing this issue in the not too distant future.

There are various new products in our horizon that we are currently trying to market; from automotive insulation for doors and floors, to a ground covering that allows grass the time to grow while bio-degrading back into the soil, leaving virtually no reminder of what was once there. Getting into these new markets assure us the long and prosperous career we all want. Research and Development of new products keeps us fresh in the market place, and innovation is the key to our success.

So as you should be able to tell, we are in a bit of a confused state. The price of fuel and gas is a huge issue. Raw materials are getting more and more expensive, and in some cases, difficult to come by. Competition in the market place is very intense. Finding and retaining employees is difficult. But so far, the company and the employees have persevered throughout these trying times. We can only hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Troy Bacon

## The bottled water scam

Canadian Dimension/CALM

**The Canadian** Food Bureau has just announced that the consumption of bottled water in Canada now outpaces that of coffee, tea, apple juice and milk.

Many of us have bought a bottle of water thinking we were paying for a pure product taken from an abundant source and packaged in a clean container. Not so, says Tony Clarke, director of Polaris Institute and author of *Inside the Bottle: An Expose of the Bottled Water Industry*.

By buying that bottle of water, Clarke says we may not be only supporting dubious social and environmental practices, but also contributing to the privatization of our public water system. He

points out that, in the cases of Aquafina and Dasani, bottled water is no more than tap water taken from municipal water supplies, reprocessed and marked for resale.

Clarke points to a four-year study by Natural Resources Canada, which tested more than 1,000 bottles of 103 brands of bottled water and concluded that “about one-third of the water tested contained levels of contamination including synthetic organic chemical, bacteria and arsenic” and that bottled water “is not necessarily cleaner or safer than tap water.”

# Mouseland

As told by Tommy Douglas in 1944/CALM

This is the story of a place called Mouseland. Mouseland was a place where all the little mice lived and played, were born and died. And they lived much the same as you and I do.

They even had a parliament. And every four years they had an election. Used to walk to the polls and cast their ballots. Some of them even got a ride to the polls. And got a ride for the next four years afterwards too. Just like you and me. And every time on election day all the little mice used to go to the ballot box and they used to elect a government. A government made up of big, fat, black cats.

Now if you think it strange that mice should elect a government made up of cats, you just look at the history of Canada for last 90 years and maybe you'll see that they weren't any stupider than we are.

Now I'm not saying anything against the cats. They were nice fellows. They conducted their government with dignity. They passed good laws—that is, laws that were good for cats. But the laws that were good for cats weren't very good for mice. One of the laws said that mouseholes had to be big enough so a cat could get his paw in. Another law said that mice could only travel at certain speeds—so that a cat could get his breakfast without too much effort.

All the laws were good laws. For cats. But, oh, they were hard on the mice. And life was getting harder and harder. And when the mice couldn't put up with it any more, they decided something had to be done about it. So they went en masse to the polls. They voted the black cats out. They put in the white cats.

Now the white cats had put up a terrific campaign. They said, "All that Mouseland needs is more vision." They said, "The trouble with Mouseland is those round mouseholes we got. If you put us in we'll establish square mouseholes." And they did. And the square mouseholes were twice as big as the round mouseholes, and now the cat could get both his paws in. And life was tougher than ever.

And when they couldn't take that anymore, they voted the white cats out and put the black ones in again. Then they went back to the white cats. Then to the black cats. They even tried half black cats and half white cats. And they called that coalition. They even got one government made up of cats with spots on them: they were cats that tried to make a noise like a mouse but ate like a cat.

You see, my friends, the trouble wasn't with the colour of the cat. The trouble was that they were cats. And because they were cats, they naturally looked after cats instead of mice.

Presently there came along one little mouse who had an idea. My friends, watch out for the little fellow with an idea. And he said to the other mice, "Look fellows, why do we keep on electing a government made up of cats? Why don't we elect a government made up of mice?"

"Oh," they said, "he's a Bolshevik. Lock him up!" So they put him in jail.

But I want to remind you that you can lock up a mouse or a man but you can't lock up an idea.

The moral of the story

Mouseland is a political fable, originally told by Clare Gillis, a friend of Tommy Douglas. Tommy used this story many times to show in a humorous way how Canadians fail to recognize that neither the Liberals or Conservatives are truly interested in what matters to ordinary citizens; yet Canadians continue to vote for them.

The ending shows Tommy Douglas has faith that some day socialism, which recognizes human rights and dignity, will win over capitalism and the mere pursuit of wealth and power.



## Thanks Ken

**Recently Brother Ken Nelless** lost his termination arbitration grievance at Crown Packaging. Ken is the webmaster of the Local's web page, a co-editor of the News and Views and a Trustee of the Local.

I would like to thank Ken for his selfless work on behalf of the Local. From his duties as a Trustee, to his work on the web page and the newsletter Ken made this a better and more informed Local. A best wish in future indevours Ken and a big THANK YOU!

### Bottom line

by Jane Mitchell/Briarpatch 1997/CALM

**You're telling** me that the bottom line is a dollar sign?

That's not what I heard at my mother's knee,  
He said it was humanity, honesty, loyalty  
When I asked my dad that night  
He said standing up for what is right  
Always ready to fight the good fight  
My grandma said it's your daily bread  
It's the roof that you have over your head  
My grandpa said it's sharing the load  
Helping others you meet on the road  
My aunt said it's duty that's quietly done  
And poetry and dancing out under the sun  
My sister said it's a joke and a smoke  
And my family and a rum and coke  
My husband said it's to be who you are  
And still work with others who follow their star  
My kids say it's children and water that's clean  
and job that is useful  
And a world that's not mean  
And when I look up to the heavens above  
And the creator says, the bottom line, it's love.  
And you're telling me to believe  
The bottom line  
Is a dollar sign  
I decline.

## Gore warns Canadians of lobbying power of tar sands firms

CCPAMONITOR

**Former U.S. Vice-President** Al Gore recently urged Canadians to be vigilant about the lobbying power of Alberta tar sands developers with new Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"The January election in Canada," he said, "was partly about the tar sands project in Alberta. The financial interests behind the tar sands project poured a lot of money and support behind an ultra-conservative party leader in order to win the election, and to protect their interests."

He noted that Harper had promised to withdraw Canada from its Kyoto commitment, but was hopeful this backward move would be blocked by the opposition parties in a minority Parliament.

"Canadians must remain vigilant if they wish to remain on the moral side of the environmental debate," Gore declared.

He said he wasn't surprised by the absence of any tar sands talk during the election campaign, or even any news about the oil lobby's support for Harper and the Conservatives.

"Of course you didn't hear about it. Media concentration has taken a toll on democratic principles around the world, and Canada is no exception."

■ *The Vancouver Sun*

