

...César Chávez

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well. Ross clearly understood the centrality of women in the organizing of immigrant communities, but his organizing style comes across as distinctly male. And what of the fact that Ross was an Anglo organizer working in a predominately Spanish-speaking union, but never became fluent in Spanish? Those things wouldn't be as acceptable in union organizing campaigns today as they were in the early '60s. Thompson doesn't explain all of Ross' contradictions, but he does give us a powerful introduction to a fearless organizer who was an exemplar of his own axiom—"A good organizer is a social arsonist who goes around setting people on fire."

Marcus Widenor, a former organizer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Alabama, retired in 2012 from the faculty at the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center.

HAPPENINGS

Steelworkers plan anti-TPP rally in Salem

The United Steelworkers Legislation & Education Committee will rally at the State Capitol in Salem on Tuesday, Aug. 23, in a show of opposition to Gov. Kate Brown's recent endorsement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement. The rally starts at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Following the rally, members of the Steelworkers will meet with the governor to express their concerns about her support of "the job-killing trade deal that is like NAFTA on steroids."

The TPP is a legally binding deal between 12 governments, including the U.S., that was negotiated in total secrecy with hundreds of corporate lobbyists helping draft the text. It poses a grave threat to good paying jobs, the environment, internet freedom, food safety, and our basic democratic process.

Congress could vote on the pact before the end of the year.



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