

The fight against politicians and big business



Dan Anderson
Staff Writer

Yesterday was payday. Like anyone, I trade a certain amount of my time and energy for money. Luckily for me, I work in a union shop and make eleven dollars per hour--significantly better than the typical part-time job for a student--and the trade seems a bit more fair. The arrangement almost always benefits the money-giver more than the worker. Even at that, I only received roughly 70 percent of the money I earned; the Man's associates in Salem and Washington D.C. pulled a fair chunk away. And like anyone, I require food and

shelter, so I cash some of my tokens in for those needs. But like anyone, I plug in to the media, supported by entities who crave my money; the Man lures me into buying things I don't need, such as media gadgets and fuel-consuming automobiles.

Like anyone, I'm pinched by the Man.

Incidentally, the Man is a convenient label I place on the global ruling class; the Man embodies, for example, the extremely wealthy, governments, oil companies, big business and political interests. There is no one "Man," although there do not seem to be very many Men (and virtually no

Women) controlling and forcing the consumption of the world's resources, to satisfy the Man's greed.

Since the Man controls the world's resources, at least the resources he can manipulate to sell to the workers, and controls the means by which these resources are processed, are transported to market, the markets in which the finished goods are sold, the advertising used to get more people to spend more money on these finished goods, and the media used to run the advertising--as well as selling the means to tap into electronic media and to transport oneself to each marketplace to buy--the Man needs help. Which is where the biased, disproportionate trade comes in. I get paid eleven dollars per hour of work to move the Man's boxes from pallet to pallet, for example.

Companies such as Wal-Mart and K-Mart, both immense conglomerates who force the few businesses only partially affiliated with the Man out of business through strong-armed, intimidating tactics, pay their employees in a very interesting way. They pay them little enough to keep them shopping at Wal-Mart or K-Mart, but barely enough to keep them working. These employees receive no benefits other than a flaky health insurance plan, which seems to cover all medical conditions except illness, injury

or disease, and only after an 80% copayment. These companies create families who must rely on another facet of the Man, the U.S. Government, for food stamps and medical aid.

The Man has become fat on fast food. These restaurants rely largely upon part-time help, students, and full-time immigrants, all of whom will accept minimum wage, degrading and stressful working conditions and a total absence of benefits. These jobs do not create enough tax revenue to pay for the Man's government to build its weapons and bombs, which means it must entice the Man's big business to hire more part-time help by offering big business a tax break, or subsidies.

Which says nothing about the Man's desire to fuel the world on petroleum, a finite source of energy which he can easily control. Burning gasoline in our automobiles takes us from work to the markets, to home; burning diesel brings all the goods to market. The Man has even invented motorsports, motorboating, and all-terrain vehicles which entice many people into spending money on fuel for recreation.

I propose complete, comprehensive unionization of the world's workforce. This will drive wages and benefits up, which will provide a more stable tax base for the Man's government to alleviate its own debts with. Higher

wages increase the workers' buying power, which means they can buy the means of production, transportation and marketing from the Man. Big business which relies on a cheap labor force to strong-arm its smaller, not-the-Man competitors, will suffer and give independent owners a better chance at success. Reliable medical insurance from employers along with higher wages will radically reduce the workers' reliance upon the Man's government. There are many, many more benefits to the syndicate system.

However, there are also immediate drawbacks. For example, prices for most consumer goods would rise drastically, because the Man would hate to concede defeat and share even some of his wealth. Big business would fight the new unions from the beginning, planting corruption and offering bribes to union officials.

These drawbacks could lead into benefits as well, in the long term. Smaller, specialized businesses would rise, allowing customers to buy cheaper goods from a variety of vendors. Also, a successful fight from the start against such an impervious foe as the Man would bring forth very high morale and support for the union.

Next payday, consider the trade you make with the Man, and consider that a union could easily make the trade for money more favorable for you.

GALAB provides needed support

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

Gay, lesbian and bisexual rights at Clackamas Community College are important to the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students' Club (GALAB).

GALAB is a club formed three years ago to provide social help and support for gay, lesbian and bisexual students enrolled at Clackamas. GALAB also hopes to provide a forum in which to discuss issues relating to gay, lesbian and bisexual students.

"We provide an important service on campus, for a campus that supports diversity," said Kate Gray, English instructor and advisor of GALAB. Gray has been involved with the club for two years.

The club has two meetings during the week; one at 4 p.m., Thursdays, at the Oregon City Starbuck's on Molalla Avenue; the other at noon, Fridays, in Barlow 238. Up until a week ago, GALAB has usually just participated in a group discussion on how its members' lives are being affected by their sexual

orientation. The group also provides emotional and mental support for its members. As of this week, GALAB now has a weekly topic its members choose for discussion. This week's meetings will discuss the many stereotypes the general community has of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

"I want all possible gays, lesbians and bisexuals on campus to know there is a safe place for them in GALAB," Gray said. But GALAB's emergence on the campus has not always been easily accepted. In 1992, during voting on Oregon's controversial anti-gay bill, Measure Nine, GALAB advertised a public meeting on campus with the group Parents for Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). GALAB put up posters around the campus for the public, and most of the posters were destroyed. A swastika was drawn on one of the posters, along with the German National Anthem.

With all the current national attention to gay rights and the growing effects of national gay awareness, GALAB is trying to

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Strange laws still on the record

Many laws have stayed on because it is more expensive to change them than to keep them as is

Paul Ulmen, Staff Writer & Cori Kargel, Business Manager

There are some rather strange and weird laws still on the books in some states, so don't get caught! It's still against the law to---

---carry an ice cream cone in your pocket in Kentucky. In Utah, don't let your youngsters hitch their bikes to airplanes. Donkeys cannot sleep in your bathtub in Brooklyn, New York. You'll be in big trouble if you enter a restaurant in California---on horseback. Horse racing on the New Jersey turnpike can bring a hefty fine. If your goldfish is being rowdy and making a disturbance, it won't be allowed to ride the bus in Seattle. North Carolina will not allow you to plow a cotton field---with an elephant.

In another mid-western town, it's illegal to dye a rabbit

or a baby chick pink or purple. In a Louisiana town, a man cannot be on a public street in his bathing suit, but a woman can. In a southern Oregon town, it's illegal for a man to walk down the street with another man's wife. In an eastern state, it is illegal for a woman to wear a two piece bathing suit. In a beach town, a pregnant woman can't walk backwards on the beach---not while she's singing opera, that is. In an Oregon town, it is still illegal to carry a knife in the outside of your left boot. In a southern town, it's against the law to read a newspaper from back to front.

No matter how hungry you are, it's still against the law to take



a bite from someone else's hamburger in Oklahoma. Don't think of keeping pigs outside your kitchen window in Dover, North Carolina. Turtle auctions are still illegal in Kansas City, Missouri. If you plan to attend an outdoor concert in Green, New York, kindly control yourself by not walking backwards on the sidewalk while munching peanuts.

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