

# Solidarity Now!

## Communication Workers of America

Local 4730, Bloomington and Northwest Campuses, Indiana University

Poplars Building, Room 331, (812) 855-8508

<http://www.indiana.edu/~cwa/>

Summer  
 Volume 26, Number 2

### Parking Woes

by Jane Goldsmith

I work at the Wells Library, and this spring I watched crews drill core samples again in the parking lot for yet another building the administration and trustees are planning for this area. Current plans are for only one building, which will occupy about half the parking lot.

Of course, my first concern is how it affects me and the people I work with, as well as all the staff working in the buildings served by this parking lot. In many cases we do not have the flexibility to be a few minutes late to work. If a person has to be at work to open a department or front desk, excuses about inadequate distant parking or tardy shuttle buses aren't tolerated when complaints from customers come in. Since many of the people who work at IU have a commute of 25 to 45 minutes each way, adding 15 to 20 min-



utes at the beginning and end of each work day to get to your car is not appealing. According to the conversation that transpired at the trustees' meeting on May 7, 2009, the only thing they are concerned with planning is the building and the area surrounding it.

But this is not just a parking lot for the library employees. This lot is also used by outside patrons attending Auditorium events, going to the IU Art Museum, attending plays in the Theatre Department or events at the Neal Marshall Center. Inadequate parking will deter many people from attending events at these venues. The argument that the Jordan Avenue Garage would be adequate loses

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### CWA 4730 Supports Sam Lock

by Peter Kaczmarczyk

CWA Local 4730, representing support staff at IU Bloomington and IU Northwest, endorses Sam Locke in his bid to be elected Trustee of Indiana University. Sam has expressed several viewpoints which led to our support. He is committed to "resisting the persistence of the current board to outsource university jobs." Regarding setting IU staff wages, he has stated, "IU should be more aggressive out of not only a desire to do the 'right thing' but to be a leader in setting the example for other employers in the area regarding employee treatment, living wages, and other issues critical to the Hoosier worker." Sam believes in "insistence on fiscal responsibility in capital projects and executive compensation to ensure maximum return on taxpayer and private sector investment in IU." He has also stated that he can bring more needed balance to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, which in recent years has leaned heavily to the right and toward the belief that a university should be run on a business model.

We urge all Indiana University alumni who care about the integrity of the university, who believe IU really is a family,

and that all the parts, great and small, matter, to vote (<https://election.alumni.iu.edu/>) to elect Sam Locke as an IU Trustee.

### Labor Rally!

by Peter Kaczmarczyk

On Apr. 25, 2009, we held a labor rally, and a good time was had by all. The idea had been to talk about issues that are important to the lives of all workers, and we felt that the rally met this goal and was a great success. Seventy five to one-hundred people turned out, including State Senator Vi Simpson and State Rep. Matt Pierce.

Speakers included Representative Baron Hill, State AFL-CIO President Ken Zeller, Milton Fisk and Carven Thomas. They addressed a variety of issues, including single payer health care reform, the Employee Free Choice Act, IU wages, and the plight of GE and other factory workers.

Rather than try to describe or summarize what was said, I instead point you toward a number of resources (see below).

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## Labor Rally !

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Video of almost all of the speakers can be found on our Facebook page. WFHB Community Radio ran an hour long special on the rally, as well as news coverage. And of course various pictures can be found on our webpage

<http://www.indiana.edu/~cwa/>

If you were there, thanks for coming out. If you weren't, hope to see you next time.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47515380185&ref=ts>

<http://www.wfhb.org/news/overworked-and-underpaid-unions-unite>

<http://www.wfhb.org/news/daily-local-news-april-27-2009>

<http://www.wfhb.org/news/daily-local-news-april-28-2009>

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## Parking Woes

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some of its punch when you add the number of people who currently use the library parking lot who would probably start parking there. When the garage fills up, if you aren't familiar with the campus, you would not know where to go for overflow parking. And if patrons have a difficult time parking, they won't come back a second time. These departments rely on ticket revenues for their expenses. If the numbers drop, they will have to make cuts in what they do.

There's really no plan in the works about what to do with those pesky employees who think they should be able to park close to where they work. We all know that if a parking garage is built sometime in the future (the administration is aware that we need more parking on this side of campus, at least – they'll get around to it in three years or so), it will be A or pay. There have never been any other accommodations made when a garage was built. And it isn't like there are close surface lots where A spots can be converted to C spots, as they were when the Henderson Street Garage was completed. We will be forced to buy A permits (at approximately 3-4 times the cost of a C permit), or we can park north of 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the stadium parking lot and compete for parking and shuttle usage with the students. Of course there are restrictions on when we can park there – you can't park there after 6:00 pm the day before home football games or home basketball games. The entire lot needs to be clear the morning of a football game, but parking is allowed west of the football stadium the day of a basketball game. Right now it's only Saturday football games but Thursday night football games are in the works. Gosh, what will they do with those pesky employees and students who think they should have some place to park?

I know there are no easy answers to this situation. But the cavalier way parking concerns are dismissed or glossed over is disturbing, because it affects the morale of the people who work

here. There is a much stronger lure to be known as the administration that built buildings than being known as the administration that solved infrastructure problems. It's just not glamorous to build a parking garage or solve those kinds of problems.

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## Treated Like Support Staff....

by Bernadette Robinson-Kinzer

I've been a part of the IU community for over 1/3 of my life span. I am an alumna of IU's College of Arts and Sciences, I've taken post graduate classes, I've been employed in a P/A position and in a support staff position, and for 6 years now I have indirectly served the university as the Staff Representative for CWA, an affiliated organization of IU.

During those total 20 + years I have always believed every person involved in the university deserved to be treated with dignity and respect. Perhaps that comes from my upbringing and education prior to be accepted at IU, and it was most likely reinforced by the chair of my department for my undergraduate studies, Dr. R. Keith Michael. Dr. Michael would always listen to all viewpoints and never, to my knowledge, demeaned any professor, staff or student for expressing ideas or beliefs contrary to his own. I was young, so I assumed every department at IU was run this way.

Perhaps I am naïve and old fashioned, but I still embrace the philosophy that dictates gentility and civility for all. I have counseled support staff in the past 6 years to maintain a high level of professionalism at all times. More than once that advice has not been well received. I have received loud protestations from staff along the lines of, "Why should I? S/he always treats me like a second class citizen." I have gone on to explain that IU is not a social club. We all receive monetary compensation for the services and duties performed or rendered. While it can be a wonderful surprise to realize at a professor's or staff member's retirement that you are surrounded not only by colleagues but also by friends, it is not a given. To work alongside someone with the utmost professionalism does not require that you like or admire the person, but you do need to maintain a certain level of decorum, or propriety and decency. When you are underpaid and underappreciated for your contributions, it is difficult to maintain that standard of decorum.

For this reason I was simultaneously disturbed and, on behalf of the staff members I represent, somewhat vindicated by a conversation I had with a professional staff member (P/A) last month. She was using me as a sounding board as she expressed the frustration and anger she experiences when her supervisor, a P/A of a higher rank, regularly verbally abuses her and disrespects her contributions to her department. Then to sum up her situation and dissatisfaction with her predicament, she said, "I'm being treated like support staff!!!" After a moment of silence, I asked, "Do you think that is how support staff should be treated?" I could tell by the expression on her face she had forgotten in what capacity I currently serve the university. She lowered her eyes and then slowly said, "NO. No one should be treated that way!"

I hope it hasn't become acceptable to treat support staff with blatant disrespect, but if it has, I disapprove and disagree. If this behavior is now spreading through our ivy covered halls as

acceptable to treat P/A staff the same way, I can say definitively that Indiana University has not outgrown the need for labor unions. Being treated like support staff should mean you are regarded as a valued member of the IU community and treated with decency and respect.

My boss treats me like support staff, does yours?

**Real Life and the Movies**

by Linda Harl

I recently saw the movie *Milk* for which Sean Penn won the Best Actor Academy Award. I found it to be a very powerful movie, and I urge everyone to see it. OK, you ask, but what's that got to do with unions?

Well, there is an interesting piece of labor history mentioned in *Milk* – something I knew nothing about and decided to investigate. As you may know, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California. He ran for several offices in the mid-seventies and ultimately won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, representing a district called the Castro. What you may not know is that he did it with the help of the Teamsters.

Allan Baird was a Teamster activist and organizer of a beer distributor boycott in 1974. Most of the distributors had settled, but Coors Beer refused to even negotiate with the union. Baird, who has lived in the Castro district of San Francisco his whole life, knew that Milk was becoming known as the Mayor of Castro Street, and so he went to ask for his help with a boycott. This was Milk's response:

*"You've got to promise me one thing. You've got to help bring gays into the Teamsters Union. We buy a lot of beer that the union delivers. It's only fair that we get a share of the jobs."*

Baird was so impressed that Milk asked for jobs and not money that he agreed. With Milk's support, the Coors' boycott quickly took hold at gay bars and businesses in San Francisco. The boycott would continue for three years and spread across California. While the union ultimately decided to end the boycott in 1976, to this day many businesses in Castro refuse to serve Coors products. The union kept its word and hired gay drivers within a week after Baird and Milk made the pact.

Milk thought all along that if he emphasized everyday issues that affect all people, voters would support him, regardless of his sexual orientation. As George Evankovich, another union leader, said in 1975, "I know the guy's a fruit, but he shoots straight with us. Let's support him."

Unfortunately, Harvey Milk was assassinated in November, 1978. We will never know what he could have accomplished had he lived, but he quickly became a symbol of gay pride and is so even more than 30 years after his death.

Mr. Baird is still living and is still in the same area of San Francisco. And much to his delight, he played himself in the movie. An interview with him is included on the DVD release.

Hats off to a brave and farsighted Teamster – Allan Baird!



**LOCAL 4730**  
**Communication Workers**  
**of America, AFL-CIO**

I hereby request full membership, and all the benefits that go with it, in Communications Workers of America (C.W.A) Local 4730. I authorize with this form my membership and the deduction of dues from my pay as established by C.W.A.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

University ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

Room # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to CWA Local 4730,  
 400 East 7th Street, Poplars Bldg., Room 331,  
 Bloomington, IN 47405

## CWA Local 4730 Calendar of Events

| Jul 2009   | Aug 2009  | Sept 2009   | Oct 2009  | Nov 2009  |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Thursday, July 16, 2009</b><br>Members Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>5:30-6:30 pm<br><br>Executive Board Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>6:30-7:00 pm<br><br><b>Wednesday, Jul 22, 2009</b><br>WRCLC Meeting<br>840 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>Suite 9<br>7:00 pm | <b>Thursday, Aug 20, 2009</b><br>Members Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>5:30-6:30 pm<br><br>Executive Board Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>6:30-7:00 pm<br><br><b>Wednesday, Aug 26, 2009</b><br>WRCLC Meeting<br>840 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>Suite 9<br>7:00 pm | <b>Thursday, Sept 17, 2009</b><br>Members Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>5:30-6:30 pm<br><br>Executive Board Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>6:30-7:00 pm<br><br><b>Wednesday, Sept 23, 2009</b><br>WRCLC Meeting<br>840 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>Suite 9<br>7:00 pm | <b>Thursday, Oct 15, 2009</b><br>Members Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>5:30-6:30 pm<br><br>Executive Board Meeting<br>Poplars Bldg, Room 185<br>6:30-7:00 pm<br><br><b>Wednesday, Oct 28, 2009</b><br>WRCLC Meeting<br>840 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>Suite 9<br>7:00 pm | <b>TBA – depends upon winter break and members' vote at October meeting .</b><br><br><b>November meeting traditionally combines November and December meeting with pitch in dinner to kick off the holiday season. Members vote on this event annually.</b><br><br><b>Wednesday, Nov 25, 2009</b><br>WRCLC Meeting<br>840 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>Suite 9<br>7:00 pm |

For updates on union events as they happen, please check our online calendar at <http://www.indiana.edu/~cwa>.



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 Bloomington, IN 47505  
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