



I AM A MAN

Memphis, Tennessee became a junction point for the rights of public employees and a cross-road for the civil rights movement in 1968. In February 1,300 sanitation workers went on strike demanding their basic right to organize a union, to gain a living wage and to gain the simple respect and dignity entitled to any human being. The civil rights movement came to a cross road in Memphis as well when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to support the strikers and was assassinated.

Through these dramatic events there remained but one issue that still stirs passion among workers and civil rights leaders even today: the slogan from the strike, "I AM A MAN."

Wages and working conditions for Memphis sanitation workers were atrocious. The average pay was \$1.80 an hour. The wages were so low that forty percent of the workers qualified for welfare. They lifted leaky garbage tubs into decrepit trucks and were treated unfairly. During foul weather, black workers were sent home without pay while

the white workers were paid a full day. There were no benefits, vacation, or pension.

On a rainy February afternoon, two black sanitation workers sat inside the back of a garbage truck to stay dry. Old and poorly maintained, an electrical short in the wiring caused the compressor to start running. They were crushed to death. On the evening of February 11, T.O. Jones, president of Local 1733 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), held a meeting with sanitation workers to discuss the recent deaths.

They ultimately decided that enough was enough and voted to strike.

The strike began on a bitter note. Mayor Loeb declared the strike illegal, delivered a back-to-work ultimatum and refused to negotiate. National AFSCME officials poured into the city. President Jerry Wurf, P.J. Ciampa and William Lucy spelled out the union demands, which were basic bread

and butter issues: a pay raise, dues check off, a grievance procedure and union recognition. Loeb refused to listen. Concerned with growing racial tensions, a group of black and white

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jerry Wurf (right), president of AFSCME from 1964-1981 and P.J. Ciampa (rear), before a rally in support of the Sanitation Workers Strike in Memphis, Tennessee, 18 March 1968. Photograph by Richard L. Copley.



Strikers gather for a demonstration holding the now famous picket signs, January 1968.

New Collections

Service Employees International Union District 925

The Reuther Library is pleased to announce the acquisition of the records of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 925, formed in 1981 when Karen Nussbaum's Working Women and Jackie Ruff's SEIU Local 925 in Boston joined forces with the international union in a campaign to organize office workers nationally. Working Women (later, 9to5, National Association of Working Women), whose origins lie in Boston 9to5, co-founded in 1973 by Nussbaum and immortalized in the film "Nine to Five," used legal action and public advocacy to improve working conditions and build respect for women office workers. The collection is a rich source for research on labor feminism and includes 925 president Karen Nussbaum's files as well as those from 925 chapters across the country before the district merged with SEIU 1199 in 2001. ■

Margaret Raucher

National Policy Association



The National Policy Association (NPA) donated its records to the Walter P. Reuther Library this summer. The NPA was founded in 1934 by business and labor leaders who believed that the private sector should actively participate in the formulation of public policy. Since its founding the NPA became one of the nation's principal nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations, conducting informed discourse and research on major economic and social issues facing the United States. Through the years the NPA has had Walter Reuther and Albert Shanker sit on its Board of Trustees.

The collection is over 70 linear feet, which includes every single publication that the NPA has ever produced, minutes from various committees, Board of Trustees minutes, and international committee files covering Canada and Britain. The project files consist of the work the NPA did with Income Inequality, Affirmative Action, the Aging Workforce and Latin America. The collection contains materials from the 1930s but the bulk is from the 1970s to the present.

The Reuther Library expects to have portions of the records and publications open for research in 2005. ■

Dan Golodner

The David Bonior Collection

The Reuther Library is pleased and honored to announce that retired Congressman David E. Bonior has placed his historical papers with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs. Bonior left his office as the highest-ranking person from Michigan to serve among the Democratic leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives. Bonior is now beginning another career as a university professor. He will teach labor studies for the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University, beginning in the Fall 2003 semester.

Bonior was born in Detroit and raised in Hamtramck and East Detroit, Michigan. After earning a degree from the University of Iowa in 1967, he served for six years in the U.S. Air Force, and completed an M.A. at Chapman College in 1972. Bonior began his political career in 1974 when he was elected to the Michigan Legislature. In 1976, he was elected to the U.S. Congress and served in that position until 2003. In 1991, Bonior was elected Democratic Whip.

During his time in Washington, Bonior was an outspoken proponent of a progressive agenda. He was a strong supporter of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994; a constant champion for Vietnam veterans; a leading voice for fair trade policies, rights for working men and women, and safeguarding the environment; and, a tireless advocate for civil rights. Bonior also made his mark upon history as the Democratic Party's primary foil against Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich.

The Bonior Collection contains over 1,000 linear feet of the Congressman's personal papers. His official papers are held by the National Archives. The Reuther library began surveying the collection this past summer and hopes to open the collection for research in the near future. ■

Mike Smith



Retired Congressman David Bonior speaks at the press conference to announce the Reuther Library's acquisition of his collection. Interim Director of the

Reuther Library, Mike Smith, and College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs Dean Alma Young look on.

Collections Open for Research

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

The records of the **Service Employees International Union (SEIU), International Executive Board** were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1997 by SEIU and opened for research in July of 2003. The Board's function and responsibility within the union are significant. Subject to action of the international convention, it is the final authority and the highest governing body of the union. It hears and rules on grievances and appeals of affiliates and their members or officers, protects the rights and privileges of its members, adopts, repeals and amends policies and procedures for the union, establishes and approves financial transactions, decides questions of jurisdiction, guides, manages and directs the activities and affairs of the union and its affiliates, takes legal action to protect or otherwise advance the interests of the union, invests the funds of the International union for the benefit of the union and its members, buys, rents, leases, or disposes of property, considers affiliations between SEIU and other organizations or bodies, amongst other matters. The Board holds periodic meetings to discuss matters of importance as outlined above.

The Service Employees International Union has been a continuously existing international union since 1921 when it was chartered by the American Federation of Labor. In its initial years it primarily organized janitors, window cleaners and elevator operators. Later it extended its base of membership to include a wide range of public employees, healthcare workers, stadium workers, security guards, amongst many others. With 1.5 million members, it is the largest union within the AFL-CIO.

Comprised of 11 linear feet, the records of the SEIU International Executive Board reflects the changes of the union from 1927 until 1996. Researchers should note, however, that records need to be at least ten years old before they can view them for research or other purposes. ■

In July of 1980, the International Jewelry Workers Union (IJWU) merged with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The merger allowed IJWU to place its members in a position where it could draw from the bargaining strength and extensive resources of SEIU. For SEIU, the merger enabled the organization to increase its membership while expanding into another area of the service industry. Former IJWU members included those employed in the retail jewelry trade as diamond cutters, watchmakers, crystal and dial repair professionals, optical technicians and dental assistants. **The Service Employees International Union/International Jewelry Workers Union Collection** documents the merger between these two

organizations and the way that former members of IJWU have become integrated into SEIU. Most of the collection, however, concerns a major portion of the history of the IJWU predating the 1980 merger. This collection, 3.25 linear feet of records, spans the year 1936 to 1991. ■

The Jewish Community Archives (JCA)

The JCA has added the official minutes and executive office correspondence of **Sinai Hospital** [7 linear feet, 1944-1996] to its holdings as well as several Small Collections [28.5 linear feet, 1868-2002], including the papers of **Emma Lazaroff Schaver**, the **Butzel family**, **United Hebrew Schools**, **B'nai B'rith** and the **League of Jewish Women's Organizations of Greater Detroit**. ■

Other Collections

Other collections recently opened for research include **Chris and Marti Alston** [1942-1996], 6 linear feet of papers documenting their experiences as community activists redeveloping a lower east side Detroit neighborhood and their involvement in various social justice and human rights causes; **David S. Burgess** [1936-1994], 3 linear feet of material related to his careers in the ministry, the labor movement and the U.S. Foreign Service and UNICEF in Asia; **Charles M. Dewey** [1951-1984], 3 linear feet of government surveillance files and records documenting his association with the Independent Skilled Trades Council and other UAW rank-and-file dissident groups; **Sidney Rosen** [1921-1980], 1 linear foot of records related to his involvement in fundraising for civil rights and civil liberties causes as well as his work for the Progressive Party of Michigan; and **Toni Swanger** [1951-1994], approximately 18 linear feet of audiovisual and manuscript material documenting her research, writing and speaking about feminist issues for the Detroit Women's Radio Workshop and the Metro Times, a Detroit alternative newspaper. A number of interviews have been added to the Reuther Library's oral history holdings as part of the **Polish-American Autoworkers, Labor Diplomacy and Society of Women Engineers oral history projects**. ■



Group photograph of the International Jewelry Workers Union's 11th Convention in Atlantic City, May 1947.

Audiovisual

The Virtual Motor City

In October of 2002, the Institute of Museum and Library Studies awarded a \$100,072 National Leadership Grant to the Virtual Motor City, a collaborative project between the Walter P. Reuther Library and the Digital Library Services team of the Wayne State University Library Systems. The 14-month project aims to digitize 15,000 images from the Detroit News Collection, a collection of over 800,000 historic photonegatives donated by the Detroit News to the Reuther Library in 1997. Each of the 15,000 images has been hand-selected based on historical significance and research value. The scope of the images ranges from the inception of the Detroit News by William Scripps in 1873 to roughly 1983, with the majority of the images focusing on the years between 1928 and 1970. They also include selections from the Detroit Times, a daily newspaper that was incorporated into the Detroit News in 1960.

In addition to the digitization of the images, the grant provides for the available information for each image to be enhanced through original cataloging. The metadata for each digitized image will be based on Library of Congress standards for Graphic Materials (TGM I). This additional cataloging will

allow for more complex searches, and will allow for search engines to pick up on the cataloged images. The metadata and the digital images will be made accessible on-line through DLXS software, a technology created by the University of Michigan Digital Library eXtension Services. The software provides both a powerful search engine, as well as the tools to create a digital library collection on the web.

The Virtual Motor City project marks the first time that a large collection of visual materials from the Reuther Library will be available for viewing on the Internet. It also makes the the Detroit News Database, the corresponding database for the collection and the most heavily used of the Reuther Library's research databases, available to researchers around the world, 24 hours a day.

The Virtual Motor City team gratefully acknowledges the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), who provided the initial funding for a demonstration grant of \$10,000 in which the DLXS software was tested and 500 endangered nitrate negatives were preserved and digitized.

The project will be completed and available for public use in January of 2004. For more information on the "Virtual Motor

City," please contact Elizabeth Clemens, Audiovisual Archivist, at (313) 577-1663 or ag5489@wayne.edu. ■

Elizabeth Clemens

The screenshot displays the 'WSU Virtual Motor City Collection' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'new search | libwebmaster@wayne.edu' and a search filter set to '1 to 20 of 27 hits'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Images with captions', 'images with full record', and 'captions only'. A 'sort by:' dropdown menu is set to 'Title / Subject'. The main content area features a grid of image thumbnails. Each thumbnail is accompanied by a title and a 'descriptive info' link. The first thumbnail on the left is larger and includes a detailed metadata box with the following information:

- Rights:** (c) 2003 Wayne State University. All images associated with the Virtual Motor City Collection are protected by United States copyright law. Duplication or sale of all or part of any of the data or images is not permitted without consent of the copyright holder.
- Title:** Ford, Henry; Groups; With Marx, Oscar Speaking to crowds for World War draft issue.
- Subject:** In draft parade
- Donor:** The Detroit News
- Film Size:** 4x5
- Record ID:** 21692

The grid contains 20 thumbnails in total, with titles such as 'World War 2; Detroit; Women; Industry', 'World War I; Army; Camp Scenes', and 'Detroit; History; 250th Birthday; Parade; Floats'. Each thumbnail has a corresponding 'descriptive info' link.

An example of a screen from an image search of the Virtual Motor City Collection.

Faces of Detroit: Visualizing History in the 20th Century

Throughout its history, Detroit has set the stage for the nation as an example of the major forces which defined the 20th century: immigration, assimilation, industrialization, urbanization and the organization of labor. "Faces of Detroit" aims to examine not only the different aspects of social change which ultimately shaped both the city and the nation, but also identifies them with the everyday citizens who participated in them. Rather than focusing on the famous names and faces of history, the images selected depict how the extraordinary events and movements of the 20th century affected the lives of the people of Detroit. The exhibit was created with the specific aim of giving students a chance to experience history on a more personal level, helping them to visualize its events, understanding that history is more than written words, but rather a collection of experiences.

The images which have been selected for "Faces of Detroit" originate from The Detroit News Collection, a collection of nearly 800,000 vintage film and glass plate photonegatives which chronicle the growth of Detroit from

1873 to 1984. Though all of the negatives used for this exhibit were shot with the intention of being used within the daily newspaper, many were not, and may be viewed publicly for the first time.

"Faces of Detroit" will be available for viewing in the Woodcock Memorial Gallery from October 9th through the Spring of 2004. The exhibit will also be available for viewing online at <http://www.reuther.wayne.edu> in the Winter of 2004. For more information on this exhibit, please contact Elizabeth Clemens at (313) 577-1663 or ag5489@wayne.edu. ■

Elizabeth Clemens



(Above) Women workers employed during World War I take a break from assembling cars, 1918.



(Right) The Polish in Hamtramck make donations in a grocery store for Poland's war effort, 14 September 1939.

The Reuther Library at the 2003 CBTU Convention

Reuther Library staff members Mike Smith, Carrolyn Davis and Karla McLaurin, along with Alma Young, dean of the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, attended the 2003 Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Convention (CBTU) in San Francisco in May. Over 1,400 leading African American union members attended this annual event, which featured numerous workshops and sessions, and speakers such as Jesse Jackson, San Francisco mayor Willie Brown, activist Dick Gregory and Ron Gettelfinger, president of the United Auto Workers. The Reuther Library provided an exhibit based upon the CBTU Collection held in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, and conducted a series of oral histories with convention attendees. ■



Reuther Library's Interim Director, Mike Smith, CULMA Dean, Alma Young, and CBTU president Bill Lucy pose for a photograph at the 2003 CBTU Convention in Las Vegas.



"The Dramatics" perform for the convention guests.

Dedication of the Michigan Labor Legacy Monument

The Michigan Labor Legacy Project dedicated its monument “Transcending” on August 20th, 2003 at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. The sculpture, designed by Michigan artists David Barr and Sergio De Giusti,

honors laborers past and present, and tells future generations that labor will continue to be at the forefront of the struggle for economic and social justice here and throughout the world. The dedication ceremony included songs from the labor movement, and speeches from the artists, labor dignitaries and local political leaders. The ceremony ended with the sealing of the monument’s time capsule followed by a group rendition of the song “Solidarity Forever.” ■



Members of the Detroit Federation of Musicians, Local 5, play the Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark Trumpet Fanfare to open the dedication ceremony.



The new Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark at Jefferson and Woodward. Photograph by Shawn D. Ellis.



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano speaks at the dedication ceremony.

The Detroit African American History Project Interviews Jesse Jackson

With funding from the Van Dusen Endowment, Louis Jones (left), Co-director of the Detroit African American History Project (DAAHP), conducted a videotaped oral history interview with Jesse Jackson, about important African-American figures shaping metropolitan Detroit. DAAHP Co-director, Darryl Shreve (right) was in charge of the crew that videotaped this and other interviews.

The Detroit African American History Project (DAAHP) is a growing website designed to provide students with insights and facts regarding the rich history of Detroit’s African-American community. It is jointly created and sponsored by Wayne State University’s College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs (CULMA), the Walter P. Reuther Library and Educational Technology Services. Located at



Louis Jones, Jesse Jackson, and Darryl Shreve pose for a photo after the interview.

<http://www.daaHP.wayne.edu>, the site uses multimedia techniques to display photos, streamed videos, text and other graphics to illustrate this important history. ■

Louis Jones

I AM A MAN

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ministers urged the mayor to return to the negotiating table but were rebuffed as well.

On February 23, fifteen hundred strikers and their supporters arrived at City Hall to hear the city council vote on a resolution from the committee of public workers that would recommend union recognition. The council ignored the resolution, voted to support the mayor and then quickly adjourned. Betrayed and angry, union leaders got permission to have a peaceful march to a nearby church. A police cruiser ran over a woman's foot, which angered the marchers. Police responded by spraying mace on the demonstrators, and anyone in the vicinity -- ministers, union officials, strikers, and supporters. The march ended in chaos and brutality.

Memphis ministers formed a group to support the strikers called the Community on the Move for Equality (COME). COME called for a boycott of all downtown businesses and the two daily newspapers. COME also brought the strike to the



Jerry Wurff, AFSCME president and officers of Local 1733 celebrate the contract ratification vote, April 1968.

attention of national leaders. Roy Wilkins, President of the NAACP, Bayard Rustin, labor and civil rights leader, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. arrived to lend support.

Dr. King led a demonstration on March 28th that quickly got out of hand and looting erupted. In response to the violence 4,000 national guardsmen patrolled the

streets of Memphis. Dr. King vowed to return to direct a peaceful march in support of the strikers.

Dr. King returned on April 3rd and gave the famous "Mountain Top" speech at the Mason Temple Church.. It was the last speech Dr. King would deliver. On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated.

Under national and local pressure, Mayor Loeb and city council settled the strike on April 16th. The agreement included a 15-cent hourly wage increase, dues check off, memorandum of understating, promotion and an end to racial discrimination.

The Walter P. Reuther Library is proud to present an exhibit on this historical event. The exhibit explores the drama of a simple slogan: "I AM A MAN." The exhibit will be open from October 10, 2003 thru May 2004. ■

Whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Daniel Golodner

(Right) Bill Lucy speaking during the strike. (Below) strike supporters carrying signs and marching through the streets of Memphis (Both images taken from the film "I AM A MAN.")



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Former Reuther Archivist Receives Recognition Award



Standing with Valerie Gerrard Browne, Pat Bartkowski proudly displays her MAC Emeritus Award.

At the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Spring meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, MAC and its Membership Committee presented retired Wayne State University Archivist, Pat Bartkowski with the 2003 Emeritus Award for her two decades of important and visionary contributions to the organization.

She served as MAC Vice President and as member of many MAC committees, chairing three of them. Pat frequently shared her expertise as a program participant, workshop leader, and contributor to the newsletter. She was also instrumental in instituting the mail-in ballot for MAC elections. ■

Calendar

2003

OCTOBER

- 9 **Images from the Detroit News Photonegative Collection**
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery
- 9 **I AM A MAN Exhibit Opening**
Reuther Library Main Gallery
- 10 **I AM A MAN Public Forum**
David Adamany
Undergraduate Library Auditorium, WSU
- 16-18 **North American Labor History Conference**
McGregor Memorial Conference Center, WSU

2004

FEBRUARY

- 1 **DAAHP Art Contest**
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery

MARCH

- 2 **Virtual Motor City Launch Reception** (see article on p. 4)
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery

APRIL

- 2-3 **46th Annual "Michigan in Perspective" Local History Conference** McGregor Memorial Conference Center, WSU

SEPTEMBER

- TBD **Hear Me Roar: Women & Economic & Social Justice Exhibit**
Reuther Library Main Gallery
- TBD **Bernie Firestone Exhibit**
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery



GENERAL INFORMATION

Reading Room hours:
Monday-Tuesday - 11a.m.-6:45 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday - 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Business hours:
Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF URBAN, LABOR AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
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