

Activism and Trade Union Education

Resource Guide

April 2008

Bastard boys. N.S.W.: Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 2007. [DVD] (220 min.)

Starring Colin Friels, Jack Thompson, Geoff Morrell. This is the story of the 1998 battle for the Australian waterfront spearheaded by the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), headed by John Coombs and their struggle against Patrick Stevedores headed by Chris Corrigan. **DVD 331.89/BAS**

Brave journeys: profiles in gay and lesbian courage by David Mixner and Dennis Bailey. N. Y.: Bantam, 2000.

From a top-gun pilot in the U.S. Navy to an authority on anti-gay violence, from a member of the President's administration to a leading Shakespearean actor, *Brave Journeys* tells the stirring stories of seven intrepid men and women who effectively challenged the status quo and thereby altered the political and societal landscape of the world we live in. **306.766/MIX**

Carrying the banner: leadership and activism in Australia edited by Joan Eveline and Lorraine Hayden. Nedlands, W.A.: University of Western Australia Press, 1999.

Carrying the Banner brims over with tales of courage, of political machinations and of strategies for leadership. **305.42/CAR**

Changing Australia: the union story. Sydney: Unions NSW, 2005.

For secondary school students. "A wonderful reminder of the achievements of working men and women...and their collective courage and commitment to fairness, peace and justice." – Sharan Burrow. Includes teacher's guide and student activity sheets. Available in book and CD-Rom formats. **331.88/CHA**

Constructing fear: Australia's secret industrial inquisition - a film by Joe Loh. [DVD] (40 mins.) [Melbourne]: Arcimedia/Film Victoria, 2007.

"In October 2005 an industry watchdog was established with powers to remove the basic civil rights of building workers. The aim was to frighten them out of being active members of their union. This is the story of what happened next." – Back cover. **DVD 303.3/CON**

Defining the enemy: adult education in social action by Michael Newman. Sydney: Stewart Victor Publishing, c1994.

This original and challenging book critically reviews some currently fashionable adult education theories; examines the ideas of a number of adult educators who have helped their learners confront exploitation, imposition and injustice; and suggests how we might help ourselves and others learn to define and then deal with our enemies. **374/NEW**

Education for changing unions by Bev Burke [et al]. Toronto: Between the Lines, 2002.

Presents a rich, stimulating, and provocative storehouse of practical and structured activities, ideas, and debate about union education. Written in a clear and accessible style, the authors have created a book to inspire working people and teachers in many settings and locations. All the exercises and activities have been widely tested. **374.971/EDU**

Fearless: stories from Asian women. [VIDEO] (4 x 26 mins.) Lindfield, N.S.W.: Film Australia, 2002.

Fearless examines the experiences of four women fighting for social justice. "Explosive devices": Doris Nuval is still trying to bring justice to the Philippines but where once she resorted to terrorism, she's now using television. "The price of freedom": Although she is living under a fatwa, nothing will stop Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin in her struggle against women's oppression and the forces of fundamentalism. "Breaking the caste": Fathima Burnad's aim is to empower the Dalit women of India but it means changing a caste system that's existed for 3000 years. "Heart on the sleeve": Hien Tran is the voice for thousands of Australian outworkers, whose financial needs leave them vulnerable to employer exploitation. **323/FEA**

Future strategies: unions working for a fairer Australia. [Melbourne: ACTU, 2003].

Seeks to identify some strategic directions for unions to build membership, strength and effectiveness. **331.880994/AUS**

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Global unions: challenging transnational capital through cross-border campaigns edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner. Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press [an imprint of Cornell University Press], 2007.

"...a series of essays that examine strategies for cross border union campaigns...Using well researched case studies, the book demonstrates the strongest case yet for a new praxis of global unionism." – Cover. **331.88/GLO**

How internet radio can change the world: an activist's handbook by Eric Lee. Lincoln, Neb.: iUniverse, 2005.

This book explains how to set up internet radio – and how to set up your own station. **331.88/LEE**

I just got elected - now what? A new union officer's handbook by Bill Barry. Baltimore, Md: Bill Barry, 2007.

Developed to help new union officers change both their unions and themselves for the better - through heart, spirit and belief in the union movement. **331.88/IJU**

I protest! fighting for your rights: a practical guide by Phil Thornton, Liam Phelan and Bill McKeown. Annandale, N.S.W.: Pluto Press, 1997.

I Protest! is a step-by-step guide to making your protest effective - whether you are fighting on your own, with others or with an organised group. Drawing from the experience of people who have successfully had their protests heard, the book includes ideas for dealing with the media, writing letters that get noticed, planning strategic campaigns and organising effective action committees. "*I Protest!* raises two defiant fingers against apathy. I love its unapologetic spirit, optimism and recipes for acting towards a better world". Bob Brown, Australian Greens Senator for Tasmania. **322.43/THO**

Integrating equity, addressing barriers: innovative learning practices by unions [Electronic Resource] by the Labour Education Centre in partnership with the Centre for the Study of Education and Work. Ottawa, Ont.: Work and Learning Knowledge Centre, 2007.

Electronic location for publication:
http://www.learningwork.ca/files/FINAL_REPORT_E_L_EC-CSEW.pdf

Kogarah High School: our struggle for quality education by Joyce Clarke. Campbell, A.C.T.: Doc Matrix, 2002.

Reader comment - "An inspirational read!" - Catherine Harrison, NSWTF member, 2002.

"A window falls from a classroom into the playground, water pours in through light fittings, teachers need umbrellas in their staffroom, teachers are transferred without warning. These are some of the challenges Joyce Clarke confronted when she became Principal of Kogarah High School in 1971. Mobilising students, parents, teachers and trade unions, she orchestrated a community campaign which overcame the Department of Education's neglect." – Cover. Joyce Clarke was awarded Life Membership of the NSW Teachers Federation in 1971. **373.944/CLA**

Maeler's regard: images of adult learning by Michael Newman. Sydney: Stewart Victor Publishing, 1999.

This original and challenging book contains stories of resistance, fear, success, and persistent application, as well as analysis of the ideas of activists, educationalists and social theorists. **374/NEW**

Max Graham and Jim Dombroski: Teachers Federation activists in the Illawarra by Bob Phillips. Sydney: Bob Phillips/NSW Teachers Federation, 2004.

"During the 1960's and the early 1970's when they were leading members of the Illawarra Teachers Association, Max Graham and Jim Dombroski became outstanding practitioners of rank and file organising. Occasionally their unconventional campaigns led to disagreements with the Federation's senior officers, some of whom were not comfortable with militant industrial action. But Max and Jim, supported by fellow activists, and overwhelmingly by rank and file teachers, were able to demonstrate that forms of mass action usually associated with blue-collar unionism could also be used effectively by teachers." – Cover. Max Graham, Jim Dombroski and Bob Phillips are Life Members of the NSWTF. **331.881137/PHI**

Memo for a saner world by Bob Brown. Camberwell, Vic.: Penguin, 2004.

Bob Brown's own account of the defining moments of his life of activism. Includes information about the Franklin River blockade; his parliamentary protest against U.S. President, George Bush; global warming; Styx Valley; Hyundai; Greens in government; Indigenous Australia. **320.58/BRO**

The no-nonsense guide to conflict and peace edited by Helen Ware. Oxford: New Internationalist, 2006.

"With tables, maps, case studies and quotes [this book] looks at how conflict escalates and ways it can be prevented. It examines the changing types of war, including the 'War on Terror' and ethnic conflict such as in Rwanda; the role of diplomacy and the UN, and what steps ordinary people are taking to re-build communities. It offers ideas and inspiration for creating lasting peace." – Cover. **303.66/CON**

The no-nonsense guide to human rights by Olivia Ball and Paul Gready. Oxford: New Internationalist, 2006.

"...examines important critiques of human rights, from feminists and Marxists to cultural relativists and tackles contemporary controversies making headlines. Should rights be sacrificed in the fight against terrorism? What do rights have to say about the misery and injustice caused by corporations? What about rights violated in the home? Do refugees have rights? Is a just peace possible? This guide for the 21st century examines the emerging terrain of global civil society, covering cutting-edge approaches to activism as well as the tried and true techniques - and their pitfalls. The text is enlivened with the voices of people living the daily reality of human rights violation and those who take on the abusers. An activist's and owner's manual of compelling importance to today's world." – Publisher's website. **323/BAL**

Organizing for social change: Midwest Academy manual for activists by Kim Bobo, Jackie Kendall and Steve Max. 3rd ed. Santa Ana, Calif.: Seven Locks Press, 2001.

This book describes tools to help develop a strategic framework for successful citizens' organizations and active participation in a democracy. **322/BOB**

Organising our future: what Australian unionists can learn from US labour's fight back by Barbara Pocock and John Wishart. Adelaide: Centre for Labour Research, University of Adelaide, 1999.

Some large unions are committing a growing proportion of their resources to organising new members, while attempting to develop new ways of looking after existing members. Includes case studies of individual unions on the move. Implications for Australian union strategy. **331.478/POC**

Power, profit and protest: Australian social movements and globalisation by Verity Burgmann. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2003.

Verity Burgmann argues that corporate globalisation has threatened or transformed established social movements, and sparked powerful new forms of social protest. She analyses the emergence of anti-capitalist and anti-corporate activism and the profound challenges posed by this newest of social movements to the state, to society in general and to the labour movement in particular. **303.484/BUR**

Redefining activism: gender perspectives in union participation by Sui-Linn White. Surry Hills, N.S.W.: New South Wales Teachers Federation, 2004.

The purpose of this study is to examine the strategies and practices used by union organisations to maximise the participation of their members. Includes reports from Australia, Canada, the United States, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Sui-Linn White was the 2003 recipient of the Eric Pearson Study Grant. **331.478/WHI**

Reveille for radicals by Saul D. Alinsky. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1946. Alinsky turned his back on a brilliant, secure, professional criminological career and went to work with, organise, and fight for the workers in Chicago's notorious Back of the Yard. He set out to help the common people through their own democratic organizations, to stake out a definite claim in the future of America. Chapters include "Organizational tactics". **303.484/ALI**

Rules for radicals: a practical primer for realistic radicals by Saul D. Alinsky. New York: Vintage Books, 1989. [Originally published: New York: Random House, 1971.]

"Counsel to young radicals on how to effect constructive social change and know the difference between being a realistic radical and being a rhetorical one." – Cover. **303.484/ALI**

Sexual politics and greedy institutions: union women, commitments and conflicts in public and in private by Suzanne Franzway. Annandale, N.S.W.: Pluto Press, 2001.

Based on a study of committed and contentious women union officials describing and reflecting on women's everyday experiences of becoming involved and working in unions. The book analyses their strategic dilemmas, political doubts and pleasures as well as their emotional labour, housework and self-care. **305.42/FRA**

Strife: sex and politics in labour unions
edited by Barbara Pocock. St. Leonards,
N.S.W.: Allen and Unwin, 1997.

Foreword: "The writers in this book argue that unionism is of central significance to the quality and rewards of working women's lives around the world. This is certainly true in Australia as we fight for a living wage and some semblance of a decent public sector. ...traditions must continue to change if women members are to become active unionists and be effectively represented." Jennie George, President, ACTU, September 1996. **331.478/STR**

Sweatshop warriors: immigrant women workers take on the global factory by Miriam Ching Yoon Louie. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press, 2001.

"Through community-based workers' centers, ...Chinese, Korean and Latina immigrants are challenging not only the corporate economy but also the traditional model of union organizing - as well as gender relations in their families and class dynamics in their ethnic communities." – Cover **331.4/LOU**

Teaching defiance: stories and strategies for activist educators: a book written in wartime by Michael Newman. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.

Renowned Australian adult educator Michael Newman writes passionately about the role of the activist educator in achieving personal and collective change, and explores theoretical and practical aspects of learning to resist imposed controls. **303.48/NEW**

Teaching for change: popular education and the labor movement edited by Linda Delp and others. Los Angeles, Calif.: UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, 2002.

The first book to capture the stories and experiences of popular educators in the U.S. labor movement. From the Highlander Center in Tennessee to the Justice for Janitors campaign in Los Angeles, from the National Labor College in Maryland to the Avondale Shipyard workers of Mississippi, popular education has played a critical role in organizing workers, developing new leaders, and strengthening labor and community alliances. While drawing from the rich history of popular educators nationally and internationally, popular educators today are forging a new path based on the changing needs and conditions of workers and unions. **370.115/TEA**

The third contract: theory and practice in trade union training by Michael Newman. Darlinghurst, N.S.W.: Stewart Victor Publishing, 1993.

Through the use of case study, anecdote and analysis, this book celebrates the rich and colourful field of trade union education. **331.8807/NEW**

Unions and learning in a global economy: international and comparative perspectives edited by Bruce Spencer. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, c2002.

Explores issues and initiatives in labour education, with examples from eight different countries. **331.88/UNI**

Transforming teacher unions: fighting for better schools and social justice edited by Bob Peterson and Michael Charney. Milwaukee, Wis.: Rethinking Schools Ltd., 1999.

"Social justice unionism views itself as part of a broader movement for social progress rather than merely focused on narrow self interest. It calls for participatory union membership, education reform to serve all children, collaboration with community organizations, and concern for broader issues of equity." Bob Peterson, founding editor of Rethinking Schools Journal. Chapters include: "Promising practices" and "Organizing for the future". **331.88/TRA**

A troublemaker's handbook 2: how to fight back where you work edited by Jane Slaughter. Detroit, Mich.: Labour Notes, 2005.

Troublemaker's 2 is full of ideas and tools activists can use to build a stronger, democratic union and win more rights on the job. A must-read for leaders who are rank-and-file unionists. **331.89/TRO**

Uncharted waters: social responsibility in Australian trade unions by Greg Mallory. Brisbane: Greg Mallory, 2005.

Foreword by Jack Munday. Examines two instances of union involvement – the 1938 Waterside Workers Federation of Australia refusal to load tin clippings and pig-iron on the Dalfram at Port Kembla and the early 1970s action by the NSW Builders Labourers Federation in refusing to demolish buildings, destroy parkland or build high-rise buildings in some parts of Sydney. **331.88/MAL**

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The union steward's complete guide: a survival manual edited by David Prosten. 2nd ed. Annapolis, Md.: Union Communication Services Inc., c2006.

"...a great tool for working peoples' frontline defenders. Its proven commonsense advice and tactical wisdom are a big help for union activists in tipping the scales toward workplace fairness." – Back cover. **331.88/UNI**

Unions and legitimacy by Gary N. Chaison and Barbara J. Bigelow. Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press, 2002. [ILR Press is an imprint of Cornell University Press].

Through case studies, the authors "show the need for unions to move beyond pragmatic concerns and link their activities to the broader interests of their constituencies, demonstrating not only that they offer something tangible in return for support (pragmatic legitimacy) but also that they are doing the right thing (moral legitimacy). Chaison and Bigelow's work has practical implications for the management of unions' core activities - organizing, collective bargaining, and political action." – Cover. **331.8/CHA**

Working stiffs, union maids, reds and riffraff: an expanded guide to films and labor by Tom Zaniello. Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press, 2003. [ILR Press is an imprint of Cornell University Press].

This book is global in scope, with examples of labor films from around the world. Viewers can turn to this comprehensive, annotated guide for films about unions or labor organisations; labor history; working-class life where an economic factor is significant; political movements if they are tied closely to organised labor. Each entry includes critical commentary, production data, cast list, MPAA rating (if any), and suggested related films. **791.43/ZAN**

A world without walls: freedom, development, free trade and global governance by Mike Moore. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

"Mike Moore's reflection on his time as Director-General of the World Trade Organization is an important addition to the great globalisation debate. Moore explains how a boy who left school at fourteen to work in a slaughterhouse came to head an organisation charged with bringing rules and order to the world's trading system. Moore rebuts the attacks against the WTO, and argues that the WTO's promise of rules-based free trade offers the best hope for lifting millions of the world's poorest citizens out of poverty. *A World Without Walls* examines our interdependent world which is now just beginning to integrate, and offers refreshing perspectives on an emerging global civil society and the challenges of global and corporate governance." – Cover. **382.71/MOO**