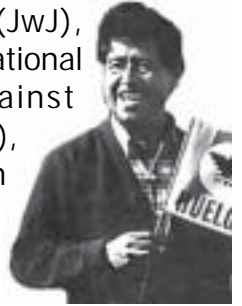


STUDENTS & WORKERS UNITE FOR JUSTICE

Highlights from the 2003 National Student Labor Week of Action



From **March 31st to April 4th**, over **280 events** were organized across the country to celebrate the National Student Labor Week of Action, which honors the lives of **Cesar E. Chavez** and **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** For the fourth consecutive year, the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), a project of the United States Student Association (USSA) and Jobs with Justice (JwJ), coordinated these national actions. Partnering organizations for the 2003 National Student Labor Week of Action included United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), National Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (MEChA), Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF), TransAfrica, Not With Our Money, and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Locally, unions involved included AFSCME, AFT, CWA, FLOC, HERE, ILWU, SEIU, Steelworkers, Teamsters, UFCW, UNITE, UFW and many Central Labor Councils and State Federations of Labor.



Palo Alto, CA

A few years ago, students at Stanford (a USSA school) formed the Stanford Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) to address labor practices on campus. They began a "Code of Conduct" Campaign, calling on the University to take responsibility for the working conditions of all workers, including sub-contracted and temporary labor. The campaign includes a call for wage parity and affordable health insurance for workers. On April 6th, Stanford's second annual Community Day, over 500 workers from SEIU Local 715/1877, UNITE, community members, and students from the SLAC and MEChA rallied for Stanford workers' rights. Speakers including Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, Cristina Vasquez, Vice President of UNITE, and Ana Rizo, National Coordinator of SLAP, reiterated the message that as long as workers at Stanford the anxiety of going without affordable healthcare and face the uncertainty of temporary employment even after years of service, it will continue to place a burden on the rest of society and surrounding communities.



Stanford students demand justice for campus workers.

San Francisco, CA



Dolores Huerta speaks in San Francisco.

On Sunday, March 30th, several MEChistas participated in the Cesar E. Chavez Celebration at the San Francisco Civic Center after the MEChA Conference. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the UFW, hosted this commemorative event full of fantastic speakers and dynamic performers, such as La Paz, an underground hip hop crew who will also be performing and presenting at the SLAP Pre-Conference to the Jobs with Justice Annual Meeting in Miami.

Denver, CO

Colorado Jobs with Justice, Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) Feminist Alliance, MSCD Student Government Assembly, Amnesty International Auraria, Student Association of Social Workers, Students for a Free Tibet, Auraria Queer Alliance, Youth Activist Project, Arab Student Association, Mountain West Regional Council of Carpenters, SEIU Local 105, and Young People's Socialist League organized for the entire week of action. On March 31, students organized an Economic Justice Festival with live music and activist student organization info tables. On April 1, they

organized "Students are Workers; Workers are Students" - free coffee and donuts for all campus workers and a presentation of the film "At the River I Stand" documenting the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Worker Strike. On April 2 at the MSCD Board of Trustees Meeting, students protested a policy revision that would have prohibited student fees from being used to fund "political, religious, or ideological activities or groups." On April 3, students organized an Anti-War Rally in the morning and a Justice for Janitors Action with SEIU Local 105 and Colorado JwJ in the afternoon. On April 4, students worked to provide a free lunch for workers at Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores.

Washington, DC

On March 31 DC SLAP mobilized to support a Justice for Janitors campaign with over 200 SEIU Local 82, UNITE, AFL-CIO, and DC JwJ activists. The rally was also organized in solidarity with students demonstrating to save affirmative action as a Supreme Court case began on April 1. Several speakers highlighted the importance of affirmative action, including AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, Fred Azcarate, Executive Director of National Jobs with Justice, Liz Tylander, American U. student and DC SLAP coordinator, and others before starting their march to the International Square Building. After marching through the courtyard of the building, protestors picketed outside the building. About 30 police officers lined up between the picket line and the street.



Linda Chavez-Thompson speaks out for workers' rights and affirmative action in Washington, DC.

Miami, FL

On April 3rd, South Florida JwJ hosted a screening of "At the River I Stand" documenting the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike of 1968 followed by a discussion on how students can support workers in Miami, both on and off campus. South Florida JwJ has been working on the Point Blank body armor factory campaign and brought a UNITE worker from the factory to the film showing to discuss their current struggle to win a voice on the job.

Sarasota, FL

The Student Farmworker Alliance organized a critical mass march to a Taco Bell where they protested Taco Bell's use of sweatshop labor to pick their tomatoes. The Coalition of

Immokalee Workers has organized a boycott of the fast food chain.

Atlanta, GA

In Atlanta, participants in the CWA Women's Conference joined local activists from Atlanta JwJ for a film screening of "At the River I Stand" and a discussion led by civil rights leader Rev. James Orange.

Chicago, IL

The Chicago Student Labor Action Project and Chicago JwJ rallied to demand Justice for Janitors on April 4 in downtown Chicago. Thousands of union members and activists listened to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney speak about the assault on working families across America by both the Bush administration and corporations. Other speakers included Becky Wasserman, Vice President of the USSA; Ella Hereth, U. of Chicago student and coordinator of Chicago SLAP; Tom Balanoff of SEIU Local 1; Dennis Gannon, Chicago Federation of Labor; & Rev. Calvin Morris, co-chair of Chicago JwJ.

Boston, MA

Boston College students organized several events throughout the week. On Monday, March 31 there was a talk on liberation theology in the first world led by Maria Teresa, a teacher's assistant, followed by a movie on Cesar Chavez. Tuesday there was a teach-in on the labor movement in the United States featuring Boston College professors Juliet Schor, David Quigley, and Paul Christensen. Thursday there was a lecture on Coca-Cola worker abuses in Colombia attended by 70 people. Boston College alumni led this lecture, including Patrick Keaney who is an activist on Colombia issues and Steve Hegee who is a Fulbright Scholar in Colombia.

Northampton, MA

The Smith College Student Labor Action Coalition organized a teach-in about sweatshops in the University and a presentation by the Chiapas Media Project on issues affecting indigenous peoples in Mexico on April 2nd. The Chiapas Media Project (CMP) in Southern Mexico is a bi-national collaboration that provides video and computer equipment and training to indigenous communities in Chiapas and Guerrero, Mexico.

Bronx, NY

On April 2nd, the Fordham Students Against Sweatshops Coalition (a USAS affiliate) held a rally that included a Colombian Trade Unionist on the campaign against Coca Cola, a Bronx civil rights/anti-war organizer, and speakers on a variety of current issues. On April 4, members of the Progressive Students for Justice Labor Solidarity Committee and a representative of University Student Government met with Fordham's president. After a three-year campaign, a one thousand-signature petition, and student government resolution, HE AGREED TO FORDHAM JOINING THE WORKERS RIGHTS CONSORTIUM!

Participating campuses in the 2003 Student Labor Week of Action

AR - Central Arkansas U. - U. of Arkansas - **AZ** - Northern Arizona U. - Arizona State U. - U. of Arizona - **CA** - UC Berkeley - Cal State Dominguez Hills - Chico State - Claremont Colleges - UC Davis - Cal State Fresno - UC Irvine - Cal State Long Beach - UCLA - U. of Southern California - Loyola Marymount U. - Cal State U. Northridge - Occidental - Cal Poly Pomona - UC Riverside - San Diego State U. - UCSD - University of San Diego - San Francisco State U. - DeAnza - San Jose State U. - Cal Poly SLO - UCSB - Santa Clara U. - UC Santa Cruz - Cal Lutheran U. - Stanford U. - **CO** - UC Boulder - Colorado College - Metro State College of Denver - Colorado State U. - **CT** - Fairfield U. - Trinity College - Central Connecticut - U. of New Haven - Connecticut College - Wesleyan University - Yale - U. of Connecticut - **DC** - George Washington U. - Georgetown U. - American U. - Howard U. - **FL** - Stetson University - University of Florida - Florida State U. - New College - U. of Miami - Florida International U. - Rollins College - **GA** - Georgia State U. - Agnes Scott College - Emory University - Valdosta State - **IA** - Grinnell College - U. of Iowa - **IL** - Heartland Community College - Loyola U. - DePaul U. - N. Illinois U. - Northwestern U. - Lake Forest College - UI Springfield - **IN** - DePauw - Indiana U. - Purdue University - Ball State U. - Earlham College - Notre Dame - Saint Mary's College - **KS** - Fort Hays State U. - Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy - **KY** - Northern KY University - Bellarmine U. - U. of Louisville - **LA** - Louisiana State U. - Tulane - Loyola University of New Orleans - **MA** - U. Mass. Amherst - Boston College - Harvard - Smith College - Brandeis - Mt. Holyoke - Clark University - Emerson College - **MD** - Goucher College - Johns Hopkins U. - U. Maryland College Park - St. Mary's College of Maryland - Towson U. - **ME** - U. of Maine Farmington - Bates College - U. of Maine Orono - **MI** - Grand Valley State U. - Alma College - U. of Michigan - Western Michigan U. - Michigan State U. - Central Michigan U. - **MN** - U. of Minnesota - College of St. Benedict / St. John's University - Macalester College - **MS** - Saint Louis University - Washington U. of St. Louis - U. of Missouri at St. Louis - Central Missouri State U. - **NC** - UNC Chapel Hill - Duke U. - Guilford College - North Carolina State U. - **NH** - Dartmouth - U. of New Hampshire - **NJ** - Rutgers U. - Brookdale Community College - Riverdell High School - Princeton U. - Montclair State U. - Bergen Academics High School - Ramapo College of New Jersey - Bergen Community College - **NM** - New Mexico State U. - U. of New Mexico - Albuquerque Academy - **NY** - Bard College - SUNY Binghamton - Buffalo State - U. of Buffalo - St. Lawrence - Cornell U. - SUNY Oswego - SUNY Cortland - SUNY Geneseo - Fordham U. - New York U. - Borough of Manhattan Community College - Columbia U. - Pace U. - Queens College - St. John's U. - Syracuse U. - U. of Rochester - **OH** - Baldwin Wallace College - Bowling Green State U. - Case Western Reserve U. - Ohio State U. - U. of Dayton - Ohio Wesleyan U. - Kenyon College - Kent State U. - U. of Akron - Oberlin College - Miami U. of Ohio - **OK** - U. of Oklahoma - **OR** - U. of Oregon - Lane Community College - Eastern Oregon U. - Western Oregon - Portland State U. - Reed College - **PA** - Moravian U. - Haverford College - Bucknell - Haverford College - Saint Joe's U. - Temple U. - U. of Penn. - Villanova U. - Carnegie Mellon U. - U. of Pittsburgh - Swarthmore College - **RI** - Providence College - U. of Rhode Island - **SC** - S. Carolina State Univ. - **TN** - U. of Tennessee - U. Memphis - Vanderbilt - **TX** - UT Austin - UT Pan Am - Texas A & M International - University of Houston - U. of N. Texas - Trinity University - **VA** - Radford College - James Madison U. - U. of Virginia - **VT** - Middlebury College - **WA** - Washington U. - East Washington U. - U. of Washington - **WI** - Marquette - Milwaukee Area Technical School - UW Milwaukee - UW Madison - **WV** - West Virginia U. - Wheeling Jesuit U.

sweatshops and labor issues and formed a strong coalition of 40 individuals and campus organizations ready to fight for labor issues. Students, FLOC, and JwJ also began to plan an action at Wal-Mart calling on them to stop selling Mount Olive Pickles.

Kalamazoo, MI

The Western Student Association (WSA), NAACP, Voices Against Violence, Western's Organization for Women, African Student Association, Amnesty International, AFSCME Local 1668, and the Kalamazoo Green Party organized a Human Rights Awareness Week for the Student Labor Week of Action. On March 31, WSA held an International Student Dialogue Forum. On April 1, Amnesty International held an Open House Petition Signing. On April 2, the NAACP organized an Affirmative Action rally. That night, Voices Against Violence organized Take Back the Night. On April 3, WSA organized a Human Rights Awareness Teach-in. On April 4, the Peace Poets Congress was held to serve as a forum for democratic expression with art, spoken word, and song. The NAACP held a showing of the film "At the River I Stand," which is about the Memphis Sanitation Worker Strike and the final days of Martin Luther King's life. On April 5, there was a Wal-Mart protest sponsored by the Kalamazoo Green Party. About 500 people participated in the week's events organized by the Progressive Student Alliance.

Portland, OR

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was there to support striking sanitation workers who had organized a fledgling AFSCME local union that the city refused to recognize. 35 years later, AFSCME organized a rally in downtown Portland with Portland JwJ to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King on April 5th. Hundreds of activists came out to the event, including Portland State University (a USSA member school) students. Bill Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) and secretary-treasurer of AFSCME spoke to the crowd, as well as Ana R. Rizo, national coordinator of SLAP.



Rally honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Portland, OR.

Providence, RI

Rhode Island JwJ, Rhode Island Student Labor Action Project, Brown Student Labor Alliance, Brown MEChA, Resist, Brown CVSA, HERE Local 217, AFSCME Council 94, Comite de Progreso

Toledo, Ohio

On March 31, students organized a protest against Disney Sweatshop Labor. Information and support for this action came from the National Labor Committee. Students tabled all day, and during a Disney College Internship presentation students protested and got a petition signed. The goal was to make Bowling Green State University take a stand on labor issues, confront Disney with their misuse and abusive of workers at home and abroad, inform future Disney employees about exploitation of their workers, and ask them all to take a stand against it. Students also began planning for further informational events on the subject of

Latino, Providence ANSWER, Direct Action for Rights and Equality, Providence Youth-Student Movement, and Comite at St. Theresa's Church organized two events for the Week of Action. Students, immigrants, activists and youth walked a "Trail of Displacement" to highlight anti-immigrant legislation and attacks on civil liberties and to protest deportation. In a solidarity action in support of hotel workers' right to organize at the Courtyard Marriott in Providence, a delegation of college and high school students along with representatives from HERE Local 217, delivered over 600 signed cards of support asking the general manager of the Courtyard Marriott to sign a card neutrality agreement.

Austin, TX

On April 9, UT Austin students and Texas JwJ joined Texas State Employees Union/CWA Local 6186 members and community allies to march, rally, and lobby to fight back against the crippling cuts to the social service network being debated in the Texas Legislature. 1,500 traveled from cities across the state to Austin to stand up for their jobs and for client services. Despite being one of the wealthiest states, Texas ranks last in the nation in revenue raised per capita and in per capita expenditures on citizen services. A regressive tax structure accompanied by huge loopholes and breaks for corporations and the wealthy have led to a \$9.9 billion budget deficit looming over state finances. Students and workers are fighting back in Texas!

Laredo, TX

The Student Coalition for Democracy and Human Rights at Texas A&M International University organized a rally on April 4 to raise awareness about sweatshop issues and to convince Texas A&M to join the Worker Rights Consortium. Speakers included representatives from the Central Labor Council of Laredo, USAS, Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, SOA Watch, and the National Labor Committee. All of the labor leaders in the community were present, which sent a very strong message to the university. In general, the rally had a good turnout, was lots of fun, reached new people, and made the voices of students and workers heard loud and clear on campus.

Seattle, WA

Over 100 boisterous student and community protesters descended on buildings owned by Equity Office Properties and

cleaned by anti-worker contractor Allied Building Services to "End Racism, End the War, and End Poverty," on April 4th. These themes were the goals of the campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated 35 years ago. Low-wage mostly immigrant janitors are struggling against illegal firings and intimidation just to earn a living wage, healthcare, and have a voice at work as part of SEIU Local 6. Rousing speeches by Alicia Briones of UW MEChA, Emily Reilly of Students for Fair Trade, and Alonso Alvarado of Seattle Young People's Project fired up the rally and got the whistles and garbage lids going. A big purple janitor puppet in Elvis shades caused traffic to slow in the wealthy corporate center of Bellevue. The protest culminated a series of events started with an educational forum titled "Labor, War, and the Civil Rights Movement, 35 Years Since Martin Luther King Jr" hosted by the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at UW. At the forum on April 3, participants watched the documentary "At the River I Stand" and interacted with a panel of movement leaders from the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, SEIU Local 6, UW MEChA, ILWU, and Washington State JwJ.



Students rally for Justice for Janitors in Seattle, WA.

Madison, WI

On April 2nd students at UW Madison (a USSA member school) passed out flyers in front of the University Bookstore to protest the fact that they sell clothing made in Burma (Myanmar). On April 3rd, several people dropped a banner during rush hour traffic. On April 4th, about 20 students drove to Jefferson, Wisconsin to join UFCW Local 538 workers on strike against Tyson foods. Students picketed with the workers and displayed their discontent with the attitude of Tyson Foods towards the workers on strike. On Friday evening, there was a Memorial Union Labor Organization (MULO) party attended by temp workers from around campus and from AFSCME. The party was organized to begin networking and organizing future actions as a part of the LTE justice campaign on campus.

Student Labor Week of Action Coordinating Organizations



AFL-CIO

SAF

TRANSAFRICA FORUM

Contact the Student Labor Action Project coordinator Ana Rizo at:

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