



GSU News

In this issue:

Tentative agreement for GSU Unit 1A members ..	1
SFL Summer Camp for Teens	2
GSU 2004 Scholarship Application Form	3

2004 / Issue 2

Tentative agreement reached for GSU Unit 1A members

Agreement renewal bargaining between GSU and SWP ran into the early morning of April 16, when a tentative settlement was reached covering union members working in the Pool's agro, grain-handling, and related operations in Saskatchewan.



The settlement was reached at 12:35 a.m. on April 16 with the assistance of Federal Conciliator Tom Hodges.

The proposed new agreement is subject to approval by the affected GSU members and the Company's Board of directors. The previous collective agreement expired on January 31, 2003.

Details of the tentative settlement have been posted on GSU's website and sent to union members in the Operations bargaining unit by email.

Membership ratification meetings have been scheduled for 14 locations throughout Saskatchewan between May 3 and May 13.

The proposed new agreement would run from Feb. 1, 2003 to Jan. 31, 2006. General wage increases are provided in each year and retroactive pay will apply back to Feb. 1, 2003.

"Bargaining was not easy, and it took nearly 15 months to complete," said GSU bargaining spokesperson

Lawrence Maier. "When the difficulties that SWP and its employees went through in the beginning of 2003 are remembered, this settlement is a bit of fresh air."

GSU News reports the following proposed wage increases are included as part new three-year agreement. The wage increases provided are:

Administrative Assistants and Customer Services Rep classifications:

- Feb. 1/2003 - 2.75% across-the-board
- Feb. 1/2004 - 2.75% across-the-board
- Feb. 1/2005 - 3% across-the-board.

Other Classifications (excluding AARs)

- Feb. 1/2003 - 2% across-the-board
- Feb. 1/2004 - 2.5% across-the-board
- Feb. 1/2005 - 2.5% across-the-board.

Agri-Business Account Rep(AAR)

- Bargaining unit employees in the AAR classification will receive lump-sum payments instead of adjustments to pay rates equal to 2% for 2003 and 2.5% for 2004.
- The settlement provides for bargaining an incentive plan covering AARs by January 31, 2006. Failing that, employees in this classification will receive another lump-sum payment of 2.5% of their regular monthly pay.

"When we sat down with management and the conciliator last Wednesday afternoon we were still struggling with the Company's proposed zero for the first year of the contract," said bargaining-unit (Continued on page 2.)

Unit 1.45 faces uncertainty

The security of GSU's members working for Bear Hills Pork was dealt a setback on March 17 when the farrowing barn near Perdue, Sk., was destroyed by fire.



GSU has asked Sask. Wheat Pool whether the destroyed facilities were covered by an insurance policy rebuild clause or whether the operation will close. Sask. Wheat Pool's decision to seek protection from creditors in relation to hog

production operations has further complicated the situation.

GSU representatives are trying to get a clear picture from SWP so Bear Hills employees will be able to make informed decisions and plans.

What's new for the GSU?

Check it out at

www.gsu.ca



Scholarship application form inside - page 3



Upcoming Events

- ✓ **GSU 6th Biennial Convention** - April 30, May 1 and 2, 2004. Fort Qu'Appelle, SK.
- ✓ **Unit 1A Ratification meetings** - May 3 to 13, Saskatchewan.
Check the web page for details!
- ✓ **SFL/CLC Spring School** - May 2 to 7, Regina.

International Workers' Day



We've come a long way!
Let's continue to work together for better employment and trade union rights for all workers.

GSU News

- Our Email Address
gsu.regina@sasktel.net
- Our Web Page
www.gsu.ca
- Our Fax Number
306-565-3430
- Our Street Address
2334 McIntyre Street
Regina, SK S4P 2S2
- Our Request
Please notify us if you change your address!

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
CALM Union made!
OF LABOUR MEDIA

Sent to press April 23, 2004.

Labour's world

Super rich get super richer

According to Forbes magazine, the wealth of the world's billionaires grew by a robust 36 per cent in 2003.

The number of billionaires jumped from 476 to 587, and their net worth now equals a solid \$1.9 trillion U.S. Among the billionaires are five members of the Walton family, which controls Wal-Mart. *Labor Notes/CALM.*



Pulling up Roots

Roots Canada is closing its Toronto garment factory, leaving 200 workers out of work. Canada's best-known clothing brand will now subcontract all its apparel production.

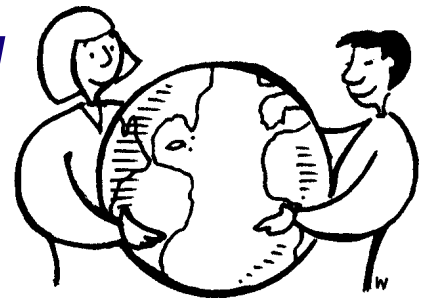
Roots, a supplier of the Canadian, U.S. and U.K. Olympic teams, claims its Olympic-brand products will continue to be made in Canada, but refuses to disclose the names and addresses of the subcontract facilities where its Olympic gear will be made.

With the closure of the company's Toronto factory, it will be much harder to determine whether Roots "Made in Canada" Olympic products are also made under humane working conditions. *Update/Maquila Solidarity Network/CALM*

Reality TV

The New York Times reports that the

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees is pushing to organize Fear Factor and other reality television programs. "These shows are not paying actors, except for a host," explained one IATSE organizer. "[Their] success is not getting passed on to everyone who makes the show happen."



According to the Times, industry experts believe that if the shows are unionized, "there may be less eating of crickets and fewer tear-filled rejections broadcast into North American living rooms." *Labor Notes/CALM*

Tentative agreement for GSU Unit 1A

(Continued from page 1.)
Chairperson Rick Eisnor. "This settlement is much better. More importantly, however, the settlement terms go back to the members for a vote. They will decide whether to accept or reject the proposed new agreement."

By the end of the proposed new collective agreement, the average annual wage of an Operations bargaining unit employee will rise by \$3,000 per year.

The tentative settlement is posted on GSU's web page - www.gsu.ca



SFL Summer Camp for teens

This year's camp runs from August 1 to 7 in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The camp offers a fun and safe environment where 13- to 16-year-old campers experience active learning based on cooperation, equality, social justice - and a lot of plain fun!

Register early! This popular camp fills up very quickly! Deadline for registration is June 1.

Draw for free registration!

GSU will make a random draw to cover the registration cost for one GSU camper.

To be entered in the draw, you must be the child of a GSU member, and registered and accepted as an SFL camp participant.

For more information on the camp, contact the GSU office or visit the SFL web page at www.sfl.sk.ca.



GSU 2004 Scholarship Application Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION OF APPLICANT

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Birthdate _____

I am applying for:

Henry Lamontagne Scholarship Barry Melz Memorial Scholarship

Bill Gilbey Memorial Scholarship

INFORMATION ON MEMBER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Name of Member or Parent or Guardian (who is a GSU member)

Place of Employment _____

Union Local _____

Job Title _____

Years of Service _____

Number of Dependents _____

ACADEMIC DATA

School(s) attended _____

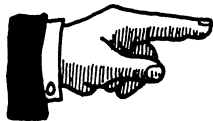
Extra-curricular and community activities _____

What university, college, technical institute, trade school or other public training institution are you registered to attend? _____

What course do you plan to take? _____

Length of course _____

Don't forget to include these **two things:**



1.) a letter of reference from a non-family member describing how your participation in school, extra-curricular, and/or community activities make you a strong candidate for a GSU Scholarship; and,

2.) your essay on ONE of the following topics:

"What do unions mean to young people?"

"How can unions involve people under the age of 30?"

(Details on reverse).

Return this form to the Grain Services Union no later than July 1, by mail to 2334 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2S2 or by fax to 306.565.3430.

Grain Services Union is offering three \$1,000 scholarships in 2004.

Who qualifies?

The scholarship competition is open to GSU members and their dependent children who have not previously won. Dependent applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and studying at any public educational institution in Canada. For example, attending a technical institute, trade school, community college or university would qualify.

How are they awarded?

Applicants must complete the form on the reverse of this page. Scholarships are awarded based on merit - specifically defined as scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activity, and, most importantly, community involvement/volunteerism.

- All applications must include a letter of reference from an educator, employer, or community leader.
- Applicants must submit a one- to two-page essay on ONE of the following topics:
 - “What do unions mean to young people?” or
 - “How can unions involve people under the age of 30?”

Scholarship winners will have excerpts of their essays reproduced in the *GSU News*. The winning scholarship applicants will be asked to submit a photograph and a short, written biography which will be published in the *GSU News*.

The scholarship categories are:

Henry Lamontagne Scholarship: Open to Sub-Locals 1A and 1B (SWP) members and their dependents only;

Bill Gilbey Memorial Scholarship: Open to Union members and their dependents in all locals based on financial need. Applications will be accepted on the honour system;

Barry Melz Memorial Scholarship: Open to Union members and their dependents in Units other than Sub-Locals other than 1A and 1B (SWP).

When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for receipt of applications is July 1, 2004.

Who are the scholarships named after?

Henry Lamontagne was the president of Local 1000 (SWP) from 1987 to 1989. Henry is a fearless, straight-talking unionist who led Local 1000 in many major disputes, including battles over hours of work.

Bill Gilbey was the GSU's first secretary-manager (the equivalent of today's general secretary). He led the Union from 1968 to 1977. As one of the thousands of young unemployed Canadians in the 1930s, Bill helped organize unions in the relief camps to better the appalling living and working conditions. His commitment to improving workers' lives was unrelenting, as his lifelong dedication to the trade union movement illustrated.

Barry Melz was president of Local 4000 (AgPro Saskatoon) from 1986 until his untimely death in 1997. Barry was a natural leader and devoted his time and energy to building his local and the Union.

The GSU 2004 Scholarship Application Form is printed on the back of this page.

This form is also available on GSU's web page - www.gsu.ca