THE GLOO FACTORY PRESENTS:

WHY UNION?

Unions as we know them emerged in the mid-1800s to fight the excesses of the industrial revolution: 12-14 hour shifts, tiny pay, nonexistent safety and rampant child labor. It was a hard fight; strikers were shot, often by soldiers. Only a united front could prevail against such thuggery.

It took many bloody battles -- check out the 1914 Ludlow massacre, just as one example.

Unions finally forced worker's rights and reforms such as the weekend, an end to child labor, and widespread employer-based health coverage. Unions also spearheaded the Family and Medical Leave Act.

These Union-forced reforms created the middle class. And not incidentally, made the United States of America the most prosperous nation in history.

The 1% set in motion a decades-long campaign to weaken labor rights and destroy unions. Compounding this problem, the progress of technology, deregulation and international trade agreements allowed them to "outsource".

The threat of a strike means little if the owners can just pack up the factory and ship it out to a slave labor camp in China. Manufacturing jobs were the first hit, but are now joined by the loss of millions of office and professional jobs.

If one manufacturer "cheats" like this, he may gain a small advantage. But if everyone cheats, the game collapses. Fired American workers can't afford to buy these products.

Hard-fought union-negotiated living wages and health and retirement benefits are being eroded by this race to the bottom. As the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, unions are needed more than ever. Despite the freedom to organize being under serious legislative attack, union members remain steadfast.

How do Unions Protect Workers?

The Contract is the keystone:

The contract is the negotiated agreement between workers and management. The contract is the cornerstone of good employee relations. For the worker, it guarantees a voice on the job, better wages and benefits, and worker safety. Workers also gain clear policies to ensure fairness and dignity on the job.

For the employer, it guarantees: A more stable and productive workforce that will create better products and services. Also, a contract improves workplace standards and builds safer work environments.

The Union difference is real:

Despite the fact that Union memberships are at historical lows, millions upon millions of Union members are helping to lead a movement for social and economic justice, not just in America, but around the world. Workers need unions to be guaranteed a share in future prosperity.

Sweatshops benefit nobody but a tiny cadre of stockholders. Take a sweatshop-made shirt for example:

Buying/shopping Union makes a real difference!

Nobody wants to live like this. Don't support slavery!

Worker's rights are human rights!

Things may look bad right now, but don't despair! The 1% has lost battles before. They desperately need to be challenged before they crash the whole system. Strong, democratic unions are the only force with a hope of doing that.
You can do your part by supporting union workers and buying union made products.

Do you want to support worker's rights (and their families?)
Be sure to always look for the union bug!

Resources and websites on how to join or start a union:
National: www.aflcio.org Arizona: www.azaflcio.org
Pima Area Labor Federation (PALF):
Phone: 520-388-4139 Email: pimaalf@yahoo.com
Labor Heritage Foundation: www.laborheritage.org

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Proud member of CWA Local 7026