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Sweatshop conditions and child labor

Protest at the Disney Store December 7

A demonstration to protest sweatshops is being organized by a group of community, labor and solidarity groups in Fresno. The protest will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 12:00 noon. Participants will meet at the main entrance of Fashion Fair mall.

The demonstration will include leafleting and the display of a banner demanding that the Disney corporation stop exploiting workers in Burma, Thailand, and Haiti.

The Disney Store protest is part of an international week of action sponsored by the National Labor Committee (NLC). The NLC hopes to pressure Disney into ending the sweatshop conditions of the workers who make clothes for them.

Disney pays workers in Burma, Thailand, and Haiti \$.06 to .30 an hour, compared to Disney CEO Michael Eisner's hourly rate of \$96,000.00!

Human rights activists, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, have called for an international boycott of Burma. The National Labor Committee supports this boycott, and demands that Disney and other U. S.-based apparel companies pull all of their operations out of that totalitarian country.

In Thailand Disney makes extensive use of child labor, and in Haiti adult workers make too little to feed their children.

The National Labor Committee is calling for a week of protests and educational activities to pressure Disney to change their corporate practices and insist that all Disney products are made under humane conditions.

Fresno Bee Workers Have a Contract!

The Newspaper Guild, which represents about 100 employees in the Fresno Bee newsroom, signed a two-year labor contract with the Fresno Bee on Nov. 13, more than nine years after the previous one expired.

McClatchy Newspapers Inc., publisher of The Bee, and the Northern California Newspaper Guild-Communication Workers of America, Local 52, signed the agreement after Guild members unanimously ratified the tentative agreement reached Aug. 31.

The Bee and the Guild reached impasse in February 1987 after about a year of negotiations. The major sticking point had been The Bee's insistence on abandoning experience-based wage scales in favor of a "merit pay" based system using performance reviews.

The Bee declared impasse after Guild members unanimously rejected a "last, best and final offer" that included a merit-pay system. After impasse, the Bee "posted conditions," imposing their last offer as the newsroom work rules, and the Guild launched a campaign to bring Fresno Bee negotiators back to the bargaining table.

The campaign included a subscription boycott, billboards, radio ads, a rally and parade through downtown Fresno.

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DISNEY WEEK

The National Labor Committee announced "Disney Week, an International Week of Action"

