

# class struggle

NEWSLETTER OF THE SYNDICALIST EDUCATION UNION - LA TROBE UNI, BUNDOORA  
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## WE ARE BEING ROBBED!



**M**OST people will spend most of their lives working for someone else.

Obviously our work will make money for our boss. And obviously we'll get some money back as wages. The fair thing would be if we got paid what our work was worth. If we made \$100 for the business, our work is worth \$100. So that would be a fair amount to pay us.

But if that happened, then the boss wouldn't make any money out of us.

So what they'll do is pay us less than the fair amount - less than what our work is worth, or in other words less than what we make for the business.

One of my friends who worked in a call centre was told that every time someone called in sick, that cost the business \$1000. That means that her work was worth about \$5000 a week. Of course she wasn't getting \$5000 a week, or anything like it.

Say we get \$600 a week before tax. Our work is probably worth at least \$6000 profit for our employer, less our \$600 wage.

In other words, they don't pay us \$600. We pay them \$5400, for the privilege of working for them! To put it another way - we probably earn our pay by lunchtime on Monday. The rest of the week we're being ripped off.

This is a great system if you're a boss. You get to make money out of other people's work. You also get to be important and tell people what to do. It's not so good if you're a worker like most people. We get to spend most of our life working, we get to be told what to do for the whole time, and we get to be robbed every time we go to work.

If you don't think this is fair, then get in touch with us.

We're anarcho-syndicalists, which means we think everyone ought to have an equal say in things which affect them, and an equal right to contribute to society and share in the benefits: under anarchism there'd be no government, no rich or poor, no unemployment, and no discrimination.

### About the SEU



The **Syndicalist Education Union** was formed on 18 March 2000 by members of the Melbourne ASF studying at the Bundoora campus of La Trobe University, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. At a meeting of the Melbourne ASF local soon after it was sponsored as a provisional affiliate to the ASF, to be ratified at the congress in June.

The purpose of the SEU, as it has been discussed so far, is to bring education workers and students together to practise solidarity, direct action and cooperative decision-making according to the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

The creation of the SEU at La Trobe has thus far met with an extremely positive and friendly response. To add to the bright picture, the creation of a second SEU branch at the Clayton campus of Monash University seems likely to take place in the not too distant future.

Activities that the La Trobe branch of the SEU plans for the near future include the publication of a newsletter, the creation of a dossier containing information relating to the current state of the education sector, affiliation to Clubs and Societies, and the production of literature related to the Free Schooling ideas developed by the Spanish free educationalist, Francisco Ferrer Y Guardia.

<http://seu.does.it>

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