

Collaborating in Canvas Across Institutions to Support Primary Source Instruction

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Building a Partnership Across Institutions

- Teamwork: Combining Canvas know-how (Michelle & Aloha at Cabrillo College) with primary source content (Tanya at LARC)
- Working Meetings on Zoom to create space and time
- Using [Google Sheets](#) for outline & source descriptions
- One semester to build a module & one semester to pilot (it helps if one of you is on a sabbatical!)
- Partnering with faculty for feedback and topics

Using Canvas Across Institutions

- Export - Import across institutions: time consuming and did not allow for synchronous editing, our favored mode
- Collaboration in Canvas Free-for-Teacher:
<https://www.instructure.com/try-canvas>
- Using [Canvas Commons](#) (rather than SFSU/CSU Commons) to share publicly
- “Send To” to share with faculty at your institution

Our first Canvas Module:

The Watsonville Canneries Strike: Primary Sources

- Led predominately by around 1,000 Mexican and Mexican-American women, in 1985-1987
- They fought against the cannery owners, the powerful agribusiness machine, and their own union, the Teamsters, which had become entrenched and unresponsive
- After striking for 18 months, strikers' rejected an initial poor settlement negotiated by the union, pushing back against larger pay cuts and winning medical benefits for all workers, seniority rights, and striker amnesty
- They gained organizing and leadership skills, and a voice in the future of their community

THE FROZEN FOOD STRIKE

In Watsonville about 1,000 frozen food workers have been on strike for ten months. Most of us are Mexicanas and Chicanas and we went out on strike when Watsonville Canning reduced our wages from \$6.66 an hour to \$4.25 and gutted our benefits. Four months ago our brothers and sisters at Shaw Frozen Food accepted a contract that dropped their wages from \$7.06 to \$5.85 and reduced their benefits. Now, workers throughout the frozen food industry are being told to accept a wage somewhere between \$5.85 and the \$5.05 that Watsonville Canning is paying their scabs. And who knows how low the wages will fall after that?

We are struggling to maintain our wages and benefits at their previous levels. We are fighting against the scabs at Watsonville Canning and we are reaching out to other workers for support.

OUR LOSS IS YOUR LOSS TOO

Workers in the fields have also had their wages reduced. When the bosses in this area saw that Watsonville Canning was breaking our strike with scabs, they reduced their workers' wages too, figuring that workers were powerless to do anything about it. We will continue to see the material level of our lives fall until we unite together and win some major battles against the employers.

The scabs who are now working at Watsonville Canning are the enemies of all workers, especially those of us who work in the canneries and the fields. If you know someone who is scabbing, denounce them. We must let them know that our community can not tolerate those who break our strikes.

HOW CAN WE LIVE?

The bosses face their own crisis. The competition among them is worse and worse. They hope to solve their problems by reducing our wages and benefits.

But we have our own problems. How can we afford to accept these reductions when the cost of everything continues to rise? How are we going to live as our wages go down at the same time that food prices go up, rent goes up, the cost of everything goes up?

UNITED WE CAN WIN

Frozen food workers and farmworkers must unite. We are united in our language and in our culture, and now we must unite in our struggles. It doesn't matter what union we are in, or even if we are in no union at all. We can not let the bosses and some union officials divide us. Watsonville Canning can not run if farmworkers do not cut the brocoli and cauliflower that the scabs process. A victory for the workers at Watsonville Canning will be a victory for all of us.

Primary
Source:
Photograph



SE BUSCAN



ESQUIROLES

Por que han cometido crímenes

El esquírol rompe huelgas. Donde quiera que el esquírol camina hombres voltean la espalda, los angelitos lloran y el Diablo se esconde. Ningún hombre tiene el derecho de quebrar huelga mientras haya bastante agua para ahogarlo o mecate bastante largo para ahorcarlo. Judas fue hombre fino en comparación. El se ahorcó. Un esquírol no tiene vergüenza. Varios han vendido su dignidad por algún recompeso particular pero el estúpido esquírol vende la suya junto con su familia y sus amistades por las promesas falsas de la compañía.

Hay traidores de todas formas pero únicamente el esquírol traiciona a todos — a sí mismo, a su dios, su familia, su raza, su país y su clase.

¡¡Abajo con esquíroles!!

SCABS, the most selfish animals on earth, are trying to break our strike for decent wages and benefits. Scabs are working for the greedy company owners Mort Console of Watsonville Canning and Richard Shaw.

Pase esta hoja a amigos. Péguela en sitio público.

Primary Source:
Flyer

Primary Source:
Interview

QUESTIONS
ASKED
About
THE
STRIKE

By Mary S. McNamara
— 1986 —

Now available! An expanded version with deeper content: [Watsonville Canneries Strike, 1985-1987](#)



What is a Union?

⋮ ▾ What is a Union?

⋮ 📄 What is a Union?

⋮ 📄 White Collar

⋮ 📄 Types of Unions

⋮ 📄 Industrial Workers of the World-2

⋮ 📄 How to Start a Union

⋮ 📄 Warehouse Union Local 6

⋮ 📄 The Lusty Lady Union

⋮ 📄 International Ladies Garment Workers Union

⋮ 📄 United Farmworkers Union

⋮ 📄 Starbucks Workers United

⋮ 📄 Bargaining & Negotiating Contracts

⋮ 📄 Amazon Labor Union

WELCOME



PATR

To Warehouse Union Local 6

I. L. W. U. — C. I. O.

"I do most solemnly on my honor affirm that during my association with the Warehouse Union, Local 6, I will remain a true and faithful member, observe its laws, and labor as far as lies within my power to further the advancement of my trade so that my fellowmen can receive and enjoy with me the just fruits of our labor..."

—From the OATH OF MEMBERSHIP.

How to Form a Union

Community Involvement & Political Pressure

GRAPE PICKERS
SAY NO MORE DDT
HEAR Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta, Vice-President of the United Farm Workers will speak at a noon rally, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1969, on the speaker's platform, along with North Beach's, Cesar's Sextet.

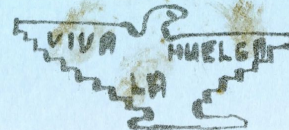
The strike and the grape boycott, now going into the fifth year of struggle, have been waged continually by the grape workers of Delano, California against grape growers in the area who have refused to meet with their workers. These workers, since they are non-unionized and have no labor legislation covering their many grievances in working and social conditions, have no alternative but an economic boycott of the product they pick, GRAPES.

The grape boycott has recently been waging it's attack against the Defense Department's, ludicrous buying of table grapes for "our boys in Vietnam". SINCE WHEN DID THEY BECOME HUNGRY FOR TABLE GRAPES!

In more recent developments, the Food and Drug Administration has taken no action, so far, against chain stores who continue to handle table grapes, which have been sprayed with poisonous insecticides.

Your support is needed to make this struggle become a reality for the rights of the grape pickers. Come to the rally and sign up at the FARM WORKERS TABLE if you would like to help more in the San Francisco area. For further information, please contact JAN PETERSON 647-7032.

POWER To The GRAPE STRIKERS!



Labor Donated

Available Canvas Modules:

- [The Watsonville Canneries Strike: Primary Sources](#)
- [Watsonville Canneries Strike, 1985-1987](#)
- [What is a Union?](#)
- [Filipino American Community and Identity in the Pajaro Valley](#)

Forthcoming Canvas Modules:

- Oral History Toolkit
- Artist Giacomo Patri
- Art of the United Farm Workers
- Bracero Program

Takeaways

