

NO SWEAT



About this story

This comic strip is based on real events. In 2001, in Puebla, central Mexico, hundreds of sweatshop workers took on the local police, judges, bosses and big corporations to fight for dignity at work and an independent union. They won.

Workers at the Kukdong factory (now called Mexmode) formed their own democratic organisation – an independent union - to try to change their working lives for the better.

The Kukdong workers produced clothes for the American market, for big brand names, including Nike.

They really were fed rotten food. They really were brutally attacked by the riot police. And the state was so corrupt that the judge who ordered the attack on the workers really was dead!

During their struggle the workers reached out to the Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador (CAT, a local workers' centre) for help. The CAT, in turn, reached out for world-wide solidarity.

When Nike tried to cut and run from Kukdong, because they were worried about bad publicity, and worried that the workers would win a union and become less easy to exploit, campaigners around the world picketed Nike stores and flooded the company with emails. Nike backed down, and so did the factory owners. The workers won their union, a pay rise and were served food they could eat. And they won an apology from the factory bosses, who no longer shout and swear at them.

Around the world, workers in the garment industry face poverty pay, forced overtime, unhealthy conditions, bullying and abuse. Often these workers are producing clothes for big transnational companies, some of the biggest (and most profitable) names on our high streets.

Workers in Mexico, and in the UK, and around the world, still battle for dignity and justice at work. Their friends in campaigns like No Sweat, and in trade unions and organising centres like the CAT, continue to support them in every way we can.

Join us. Help us.

Contacts:

Andy Vine, the artist who made this possible. Check out his site:

<http://www.avine.co.uk/>

CAT, the Mexican workers' centre in Puebla, can be contacted:

Avenida Reforma 903 – 3,
Colonia Centro, CP 72000,
Puebla, Puebla, México.

Email: catpuebla@yahoo.com.mx



NO SWEAT

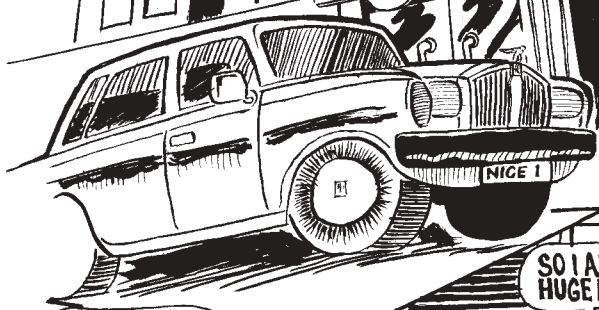
NEED MORE!

AT THE
NiCe
MEGA CORP.
SHAREHOLDERS
MEETING

NiCe SPORTS
WEAR

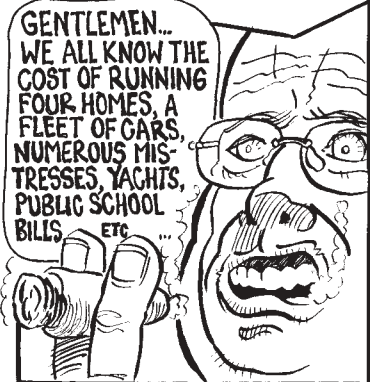


SPORTS SPORTS



SO I AM RECOMMENDING HUGE BONUS PAYMENTS..

NOW... WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO FINANCE THEM



WAYS TO INCREASE **NiGe** PROFITS

2. EXPLOIT CHEAP LABOUR

MAY BE BAD FOR THE COMPANY IMAGE!

NO PROBLEM! WE JUST OUTSOURCE THE WORK SO IT DOESN'T DIRECTLY LINK **NiGe** TO SWEATSHOP LABOUR



SO WE AGREE!

PROFIT

PROFIT

SWEATSHOP LABOUR EQUALS BIG PROFITS!

ROAD TO MEXICO

CONTRACT TO SUPPLY **NiGe** CLOTHING

SWEATSHOP

AND I'VE GOT PLENTY OF IT...

NEED WORK

NEED WORK

NEED WORK

NEED WORK!

BUT HEADS DOWN AND NO FUSS OR YOU'LL UPSET MY GOONS!

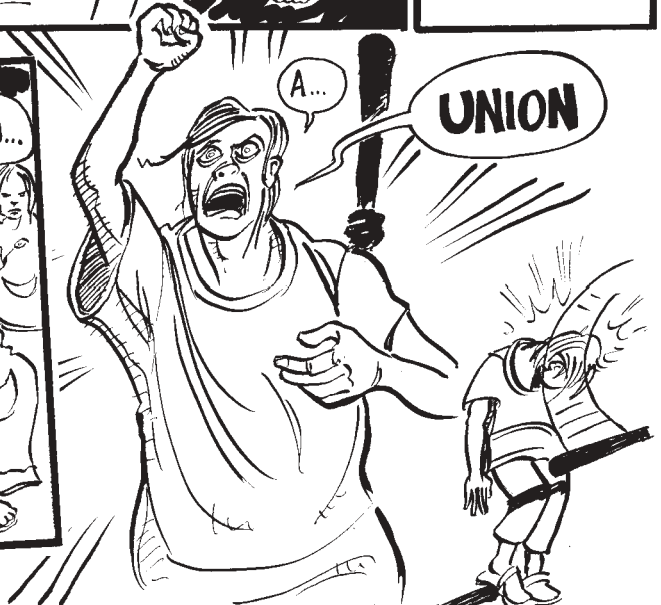
FASTER!

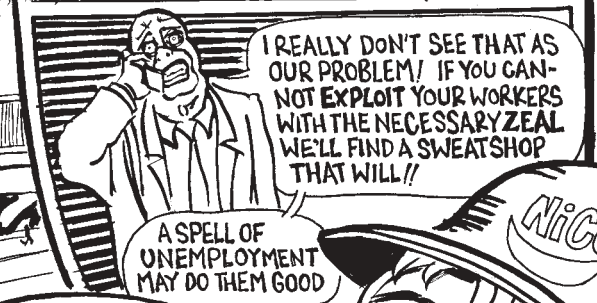
FASTER!

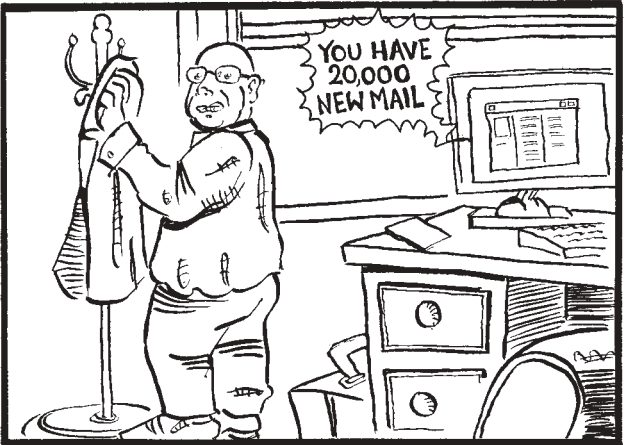












NOASWEET!



NICE WILL DONATE
FREE SPORTSWEAR TO
THE LOCAL SCHOOL...



AT A SUBSTANTIAL COST
TO SHOW OUR COMMITMENT
TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY...



AND YOUNG PEOPLE!



NO SWEAT
NICE exploits
CHILD LABOUR

RUBBISH!

YOU PROFIT FROM SWEAT-
SHOP LABOUR! OUR SCHOOL
DOESN'T WANT YOUR CHARITY!
WE WON'T WEAR CLOTHES
STAINED WITH THE SWEAT
OF KIDS!!!



DON'T BUY NICE



UM
IS THAT
RIGHT SIR...
DOES NICE
EXPLOIT
CHILD
LABOUR?

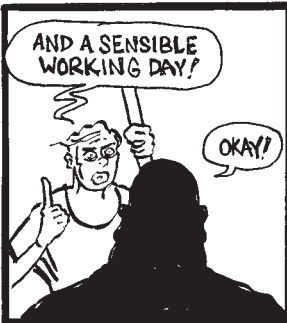
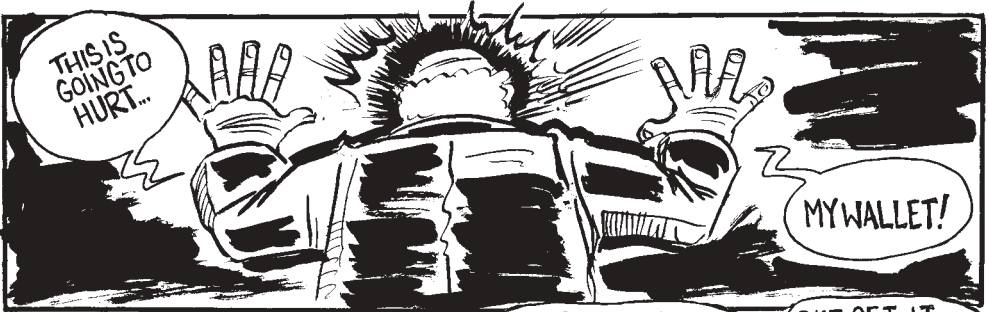


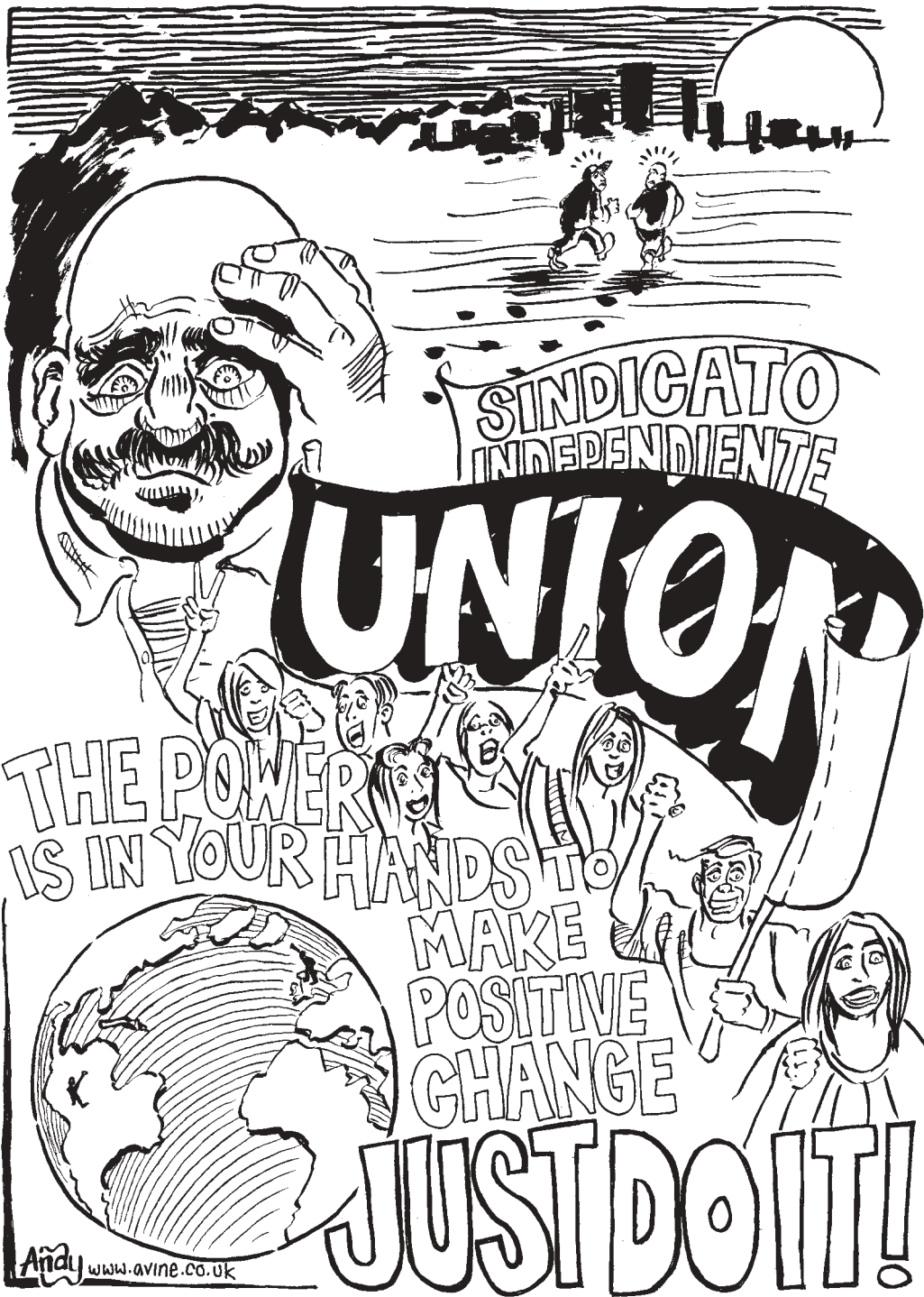
SOME OF OUR WORK...
ERM... IS OUTSOURCED...
BUT... ERR... WE HAVE
NO EM... CONTROL OVER
WHO THEY EMPLOY...



DON'T YOU THINK THAT
NICE HAS A SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT THE RIGHTS
OF THE PEOPLE WHO
MAKE YOUR PRODUCTS

I ERR...
UM...
GOODBYE





Andy www.avine.co.uk

About No Sweat

No Sweat is an activist, organisation, opposing sweatshop bosses, and in solidarity with workers, worldwide.

Sweatshop labour is modern, global capitalism stripped bare. From the small, backstreet sweatshop to some of the biggest corporations in the world - child labour, forced overtime, poverty wages, unsafe conditions, harassment of women workers and intimidation of trade unionists are commonplace.

No Sweat is for:

- A living wage
- Safe working conditions
- Independent trade unions

All workers, in every country, deserve and need these rights. In order to enforce these rights, workers need to be free to organise - the stronger the union, the safer the workplace!

We aim to:

- Make solidarity with sweatshop workers and their organisations
- Help unionise sweatshops in Britain
- Publicise, expose and help stamp out sweatshop employment.



Come and join us, help us, get active!

- I want to join No Sweat and enclose a cheque for £2, payable to "No Sweat"
- My group/school/college society wants a speaker
- My union/group wants to affiliate, please send details
- I would like to donate regularly to No Sweat by standing order, please send me a form

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Email: Mobile:

Union/School/College:

**No Sweat, PO Box 36707, London SW9 8YA.
07904 431 959 admin@nosweat.org.uk
www.nosweat.org.uk**