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The Union Bug

B. D.
Writer

Dino,
Artist
The Union Bug

Abstract
A cartoon.

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The UNION BUG

EPISODE I: "HEROES ARE MADE, NOT BORN"

PODD IS MY NAME...

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS A COMMON LABOURER IN AN AVERAGE WAREHOUSE...

A FORKLIFT BRAKE FAILURE, A BARREL OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, AND A BITING INSECT COMBINED TO CHANGE ALL THAT...

I'M SOAKED IN IT!!

THIS APPEARS TO BE SOME THING YOU CONTRACTED IN A BUS STATION IN NO WAY ON THE COMPANY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE!

WHAT??!

GET OUT OF HERE PEEST!!

MY FURY BARTON ON BY THE FORCES OF CORPORATE NEGLIGENCE, INTENSIFIED THE CELLULAR METAMORPHOSIS I WAS GETTING A GLIMPSE OF MY NEW POWERS...

THAT NIGHT I MADE A VOW...

I COULD FEEL THE EFFECT THEY HAD TURNED ME INTO A MUTANT—HALF MAN, HALF BUG...

THIS POISONED EXOSKELETON WILL BE A WEAPON AGAINST THE FORCES OF GREED AND EXPLOITATION THAT LURED ME. I AM ... THE UNION BUG!

Labor Research Review Comix
The Case of Management Missing

Sure, I remember that case. Universal Screw Corporation was threatening to close their plant unless workers accepted a 40% wage cut. The corporation blames foreign competition, sagging productivity, and rising labor costs.

But our information points to four management types as the cause of the problem:

Raleigh Tycoon III
Chief Executive
Has a corporate car phone so he can play the commodities market on the way to the golf course. He doesn't have to know how things work—he owns them.

Fred Fortran
Expert Consultant
He may not know what a screwdriver is, but he knows what disk it's on. He doesn't have to think—he has mechanical intelligence.

Bud Barker
Plant Supervisor
Tries to abuse all his employees equally. Uses intimidation to hide ignorance.

Spud Barker
Bud's Nephew
Easy to see why nothing runs in this family. Each time he gets booked up the corporate ladder, incompetence reaches new levels.

Bod's Review
It's easy to see why this is such a great cartoon for labor research. Each character represents a distinct type of management that contributes to the problem.
I decided to put out a few feelers.
My first move was to Universal
Screw's corporate headquarters
where I used my insect
powers to shrink into the
surroundings.

I wanted to get in close.

Simply put, gentlemen:

One more quarterly report
like this and I'll sell this
miserable conglomerate and
buy a chemical plant in India!
Now, who can explain this?

Sir, a preliminary
readout summarized
the primary factor
as management
error.

That's impossible!!
If we blame
ourselves, who's
going to wind up
paying to get us
out of this slump?

Hmmm...
Looking now at
the broader
picture I project
a rise in our
rate of return
assuming
success in
renegotiating
the labor
contract.

Yes, well...
Do whatever it takes!
Squash any resistance!

Precisely.
We must
squash the
resistance!

Squash 'em,
Kid!

Squash??

Yipes!

Labor Research Review Comix
The disruptive elements have been squashed, sir.

Good job, Spud.

Fortran! What's happening??
Why did the monitor go off?

I don't know, sir. Everything suddenly went dark here. There must be a bug in the machine.

We won't be your scapegoats now, tycoon! We know who's to blame for Universal's troubles. We had your conference bugged!!

Thanks, union bug!