



the journal for academic labor

a publication of the [Graduate Student Caucus](#),  
an allied organization of the [Modern Language Association](#)

## FOREWORD

by MARC BOUSQUET

"The degree holder is the waste product of a job system that produces Ph.D. holders but does not use them. In language and literature more than any other field the teaching machine runs on non-degreed labor...."

## features

### [What Hath English Wrought](#)

by CARY NELSON

"As I sit at my computer thinking about the future of higher education, I have before me the final version of a collaborative document with its stunned, startled gaze fixed on the past. It is the Modern Language Association's report from its Committee on Professional Employment, issued in December 1997. The astonished gaze its collective author casts on recent history suggests the windswept visage of a profession no longer in control of its fate. Eyes bulging, the figure is nearly swept away by forces it cannot comprehend. In stark terror at their oncoming fury, it dares not turn to glimpse their destination...."

- [Unionizing Against Cutbacks](#) by PAUL LAUTER
- [What is an Organization like the MLA?](#) by STEVE WATT
- [The Future of an Illusion](#) by CHRISTIAN A. GREGORY
- [Jobless Higher Ed: an interview with Stanley Aronowitz](#) by ANDREW LONG
- [Resistance is Fruitful: Coalition-Building in Ontario](#) by VICTORIA SMALLMAN
- [This Old House: Renovating the House of Labor at the City University of New York](#) by BARBARA BOWEN

### **This Life of Labor: Personal Criticism**

- [Looking Forward in Anger](#) by BARBARA WHITE
- [Performing Shakespeare: Writing and Literacy on the Job](#) by LEO PARASCONDOLA
- [The Good Professors of Szechuan](#) by GREGORY MEYERSON

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"ORGANIZING OUR ASSES OEF"

## ORGANIZING OUR ASSES OFF

- [Cannibals, Star Trek, and Egg Timers](#) by KATE BURNS and ANTHONY M. NAVARRETE
- [Critical Year](#) by ED FOX and CURTIS ANDERSON
- [What's Next?: Organizing After the COGS Union Affiliation Vote](#) by JULIE MARIE SCHMID
- [7,500 Down; 200,000 to Go: Organizing the City University of New York](#) by ERIC MARSHALL
- [Unions, Universities, and the State of Texas](#) by RAY WATKINS and KIRSTEN CHRISTENSEN
- [Organizing Democracy: a Response](#) by KAREN THOMPSON
- [Beyond the Campus Gates: the Personal is Still Political](#) by VINCENT TIRELLI
- [Institutional Memory and Changing Membership: How Can We Learn From What We Don't Recall](#) by ALAN KALISH

## CONVENTION REPORTS

- [Report on the 1997 MLA Convention](#) by MARK KELLEY
- [Report on the "Changing Graduate Education" Conference](#) by ALAN KALISH

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## books

### BOOK REVIEWS

- [Michael Denning's \*The Cultural Front\*](#) by DEREK NYSTROM
- [Staughton Lynd's \*Living Inside Our Hope\*](#) by PAUL MURPHY



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## dates

Politics just got real personal -- the Workplace Dates Section contains classified ads that will help you find a date, a job, a couch, an apartment, or the answer to a literary conundrum. What else do you need?

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