

Railroad Workers Bring Safety Conferences to the People

On two consecutive Saturdays in March, Railroad Workers United - together with other labor, community and environmental organizations - sponsored a conference entitled: *"The Future of Railroads: Safety, Workers, Community & the Environment."* In all, some 225 railroad workers, environmentalists and concerned citizens - many of them movers & shakers in their communities - attended the conferences.

The non-railroaders would come away with a better understanding of the conditions that railroad workers face everyday on the job, while the railroad workers gained insight into the concerns of community and environmental activists. Everyone who participated has learned a series of valuable lessons — that we can have “jobs and the environment”; that in face of the enormous power wielded over us by big business, workers and community are natural allies; that we have fertile common ground to build an alliance; and finally, that we can *and will* support each other in the struggles ahead.

For more information on the conferences, a complete listing of endorsing organizations, an explanation of workshops and discussions, and plans for future conferences and actions,



Railroad workers, community activists and environmental advocates join forces. The participants of the Olympia, WA conference gather here outside of the Longhouse Conference Center on the campus of Evergreen State College on March 21. Will these two west coast conferences pave the way for a new labor-community alliance? RWU has plans to make it happen nationwide.