

# To fight DHL's plans, spreading the word

A group of local Teamsters that includes ABX Air pilots recently devoted a chunk of money to raising national awareness about the local plight. Reportedly, the money had been allocated to fund a strike if one ever occurred.

Thank you, Teamsters. 8,000 jobs gone from a community this small? Maybe it's not unheard of, but it should matter to a lot of people, especially in Washington. Washington should be careful, though, not to lump what's happening here into the general economic downturn. It may be hard to avoid doing that when one considers



**Brandon Smith**

Staff Intern

the jobs lost from the GM plant at Moraine and the cuts at Continental Airlines, among other grim predictions triggered by fuel prices.

But a quick search of YouTube.com using terms like "DHL UPS," "Frank Appel" and "DHL antitrust" will suggest something's fishy with this particular case.

We don't endorse any of the conspiracy theories, of

course. If we have a lead from a trustworthy source, we run with the story. So if you haven't read it here, it's probably just hearsay.

Still, the theorists raise some questions for us.

Shipping jobs overseas or to Mexico to lower costs is one thing. But a foreign company constantly shuffling around jobs *within* the United States, wreaking havoc wherever they do it, is another. It's an attack on our own soil, so to speak.

I can imagine it now: suits relaxing at some country club outside Bonn, considering the foie gras with greater diligence than the effects this decision will have on people.

We admit there's a fine

line. The United States should encourage foreign investment to a certain extent, but there should be greater oversight of that investment. Our legislators need to set some ground rules, and who better to start the movement than Turner, Brown and Voinovich?

Still — that's in the long run. Right now, our nation and its capital just needs to know what's going on.

Maybe just as much, the German population needs to know what's going on. DHL needs to be embarrassed on its own soil for the way it treats families and community. We think the average Deutscher would have compassion.

Luckily, the local

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Teamsters may pay for raising awareness in Germany, as well. Way to go.

The offices of Senators Obama and McCain should investigate the DHL situation more thoroughly. In the quest to become the most powerful person in the world, a candidate needs all the popularity he or she can muster — especially in the state of Ohio.

And if one candidate beats the other at getting to the bottom of this matter (are you listening, campaign staffers?) expect southwest Ohio to

notice.

We're hearing Obama plans to make a campaign visit to Wilmington.

A campaign stop in the area could help bring more national attention to DHL's plans and, potentially, to a candidate's views on corporate responsibility.

It's an issue that, in this community, is likely the most important one approaching November's elections.

Even more so than, it would seem, the economy in general.