XTRA TUF #5: The Strike Issue

Journal by Moe Bowstern chronicles the labor struggles of commercial fishing in Kodiak, Alaska

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Coast zine culture meets Alaskan commercial fishing lore in Moe Bowstern's book/zine Xtra Tuf #5. Subtitled "The Strike Issue", Xtra Tuf features stories, firsthand accounts, songs and poems from the front lines of labor struggles in the Alaska salmon and crab fishing industries. Xtra Tuf: The Strike Issue is a whopping 192 pages, complete with a hand letter-pressed cover by Third Termite Press and is chock full of vivid illustrations by crew-mates and collaborators.

Bowstern is an amazing storyteller and reveals much about the history of commercial fishing and labor disputes through a descriptive and informal writing style. The book is fascinating reading. Moe combines artistic and DIY/activist sensibilities with labor tactics to achieve the fishermen's goals and get everyone back to work!

Moe Bowstern has been a deckhand for fifteen years and has published her tales of thriving in the manly world of fishing since the first issue of Xtra Tuf in 1996. She has toured the West coast reading from her zine with Hip Mama editor Ariel Gore, and has presented shadow puppet shows based on her experiences of commercial fishing in Alaska.

"Commercial fishing seems to have a way of seizing hold of someone and not letting go. It gets in your blood, and next thing you know you're a lifer. That certainly happened to Moe Bowstern, and she's got the stories to prove it. Blessed with a wonderful gift for storytelling, Moe waxes poetic about the varied experiences she's had over the years of fishing for Kodiak salmon. (Xtra Tuf) is a collection that, despite not being written as a whole, flows seamlessly. I was lucky enough to hear Moe reading some of these stories at the Portland Zine Symposium, and I can say for sure that she's got a knack for bringing them to even larger life through spoken word. Highly recommended!"

-Sean Stewart, Thoughtworm

Product Details:
ISBN# 0-9726967-7-6
Category: US labor history/ feminist studies/ non-fiction
Format: paperback, 5” X 7”
Number of pages: 192, illustrated

Comparative Titles:

Sales Handles:
- Author is very active in local literary, art and activist community
- Unique perspective on labor and feminist issues
- Author self-published a fanzine for the last 10 years that is among the most famous in her genre and subculture.
- Featured "Fisher Poets Gathering" Artist

Marketing Plans:
- 10,000 postcards distributed to stores with book featured on them.