

# THE MILITANT

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Youth defend Cuba, build 1997 world youth festival

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 31 SEPTEMBER 9, 1996

## Clinton signs bipartisan attack on workers' gains

Liberal Democrats tout president as 'lesser evil'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Just a few days after President William Clinton signed a package of bipartisan laws undercutting the basic social gains the working class has won over decades, unity was the theme as Democrats gathered for their convention in Chicago. Clinton's campaign was strengthened as a number of prominent Democrats, including Mario Cuomo and Jesse Jackson, promoted the arguments for "lesser-evilism" in calling for the president's reelection. The Democrats continue to face a challenge from the Republican contender, Robert Dole.

"Some of the president's choices have been more controversial than others," said former New York governor Cuomo in his speech the second night of the convention, August 27. "The welfare reform bill has been one of the most difficult. Many of us, and I among them, believe that the risk to children was too great to justify the action of signing that bill, no matter what its political benefits." The prominent liberal stated that he had spoken to Clinton and that he "is confident he can avert this risk by further legislation before children are actually harmed."

"We should all hope and pray that the president is right," Cuomo continued. "But we should do something more than hope and pray.... We need to give the president the strength of a Democratic Congress."

Speaking right before Cuomo, Jesse Jackson likewise called for party unity. He criticized Clinton's decision to sign the welfare bill, saying he and National Organization for Women president Patricia Ireland "even picketed the White House." Nevertheless,

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Thousands protested at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Above, immigrant rights fighters carry a banner — "Here we are! Here we stay! We're not leaving!"

## Protests greet Democratic meet

BY TOM ALTER AND BETSY STONE

CHICAGO — Thousands of young people and others converged here at the site of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) to protest attacks on working people carried out by the Clinton administration.

On August 25 close to 2,000 marchers took to the streets to protest attacks on immigrant rights. They chanted, "No human being is illegal," "Open the borders — close the INS" and carried signs blasting attacks

on immigrant rights, education, welfare, and jobs. One sign carried equations: "Democrats = Deportations, Republicans = Redadas" referring to the Clinton administration's intensification of raids (*redadas*) on factories with large numbers of Latino workers. Several of these raids took place in the Chicago area in the weeks leading up to the convention. The march and rally were organized by Coordinador '96, which is organizing participation in the October 12

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## Immigrants in France win solidarity

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Hundreds of cops armed with axes and other weapons stormed the St. Bernard church in Paris at dawn arresting over 200 people on August 23. The brutal police attack was aimed at 300 undocumented immigrant workers who have occupied the church for the last two months.

"I turned on the television and I saw a cop with an ax, chopping down the church door, then the cops broke all the stained glass windows," said one worker at the Renault auto plant, expressing the outrage of many working people toward the government action.

Widespread criticism of the assault has

led to debates on government policy concerning immigration and the causes and solutions of France's 12.5 percent unemployment rate.

This is the third time in five months that the police have intervened against the immigrants, mostly Africans from Mali, who have been demanding regular immigration papers. Ten of the protesters had been waging a hunger strike for 52 days when the police attacked.

By their intransigent determination, the 300 immigrants have broadened support in their struggle for democratic rights. Some 8,000 people had demonstrated in solidarity a few days before the cop attack.

The movement began in March, shortly after the strike wave which shook France in December. Three hundred immigrants occupied the St. Ambroise church but were soon evicted by the police. Before occupying the St. Bernard church, they were housed with the aid of some rail workers.

Two days after the police raid, four of those arrested were put on a plane with 52 other undocumented workers and sent back to Africa.

Ground workers at Air France and Air Africa refused to service the plane and military aircraft had to be used. Ground personnel at the airports in Dakar, Senegal, and in Bamako, Mali, refused to handle the plane as well, and a second French air force plane had to land in Bamako bringing a special ladder in order to unload the plane. Protests were reported to have taken place in Mali as the plane landed there.

In the following days judges in France ordered the release of all but 11 of those remaining in detention. The government has announced that it will issue immigrant papers to between 50 and 100 of the protesters.

"There is only one single struggle," declared Madyguène Cissé, representing the undocumented workers. "The shock of December, of the struggle against the Juppé Plan and of the other workers struggles are in the framework of the same resistance to the bosses."

The hunger strikers called for a major demonstration in Paris for August 28.

## War in Chechnya escalates turmoil for Moscow

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The latest episode in Moscow's bloody war against the Chechen people has escalated turmoil in Russia and deepened the fissures in the ruling caste there. "Russia will be consumed by war and revolution if it fails to settle the Chechen crisis soon," reported the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, describing a warning by Aleksandr Lebed, head of the Security Council.

Chechen and Russian military leaders signed a truce August 27 negotiated by Lebed and Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov. The agreement came after Chechen fighters humiliated Russian troops in Grozny during a major offensive launched August 6. The Chechens have consolidated their capture of the city, setting up their own checkpoints and their own municipal institutions.

The pact calls for withdrawal of Russian troops and Chechen fighters from Grozny, the Chechen capital, by September 1. The agreement, which also includes a referendum on independence in five years, has not been approved by Russian president Boris Yeltsin.

The latest crisis was exacerbated by the health problems of the ailing Yeltsin, described by aides as suffering from "colossal weariness." Several officials in the government and military, including Lebed, have engaged in a political dogfight during Yeltsin's long absence from public view. Lebed was appointed by Yeltsin as national security adviser after the recent presidential elections, where he won 11 million votes in the first round. For a time in mid-July,

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## Pathfinder Fund will help keep titles in print

BY TED LEONARD

September 1 marks the beginning of the 10-week-long \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund Drive. The fund is aimed at raising resources to ensure that the hundreds of Pathfinder books and pamphlets can be reprinted in a timely way so that they are available to fighters.

The reprint fund takes place as Pathfinder's editorial and printing production staff is taking conscious steps to get books back in action, some of which have been out of stock for some time. Maggie Trowe, director of the fund and business manager of Pathfinder's printshop, explained that so far in 1996, 26 books and 18 pamphlets have been reprinted, compared with 29 books in all of 1995.

Reprints include *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon, *Revolution and Counter-revolution in Spain* by Felix Morrow, the *History of the Russian Revolution* in Russian.

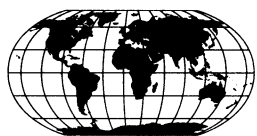
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### Campaign to get the socialist alternative on the ballot!

Where we stand:

Alabama — petitioning completed  
Colorado — on the ballot  
District of Columbia — preliminarily ruled on the ballot  
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Minnesota — on the ballot  
New Jersey — on the ballot  
New York — on the ballot  
Rhode Island — petitioning underway  
Utah — preliminarily ruled on the ballot  
Vermont — petitioning underway  
Washington — on the ballot  
Wisconsin — petitioning underway

Volunteers are still needed to help with ballot drives in Vermont. To help, contact the Socialist Workers Campaign in Boston, (617) 247-6772.



## IN BRIEF

### Jordanians protest bread prices

More than 2,000 people demonstrated in Karak, Jordan, in mid-August, burning four banks and government buildings over a nearly three-fold hike in bread prices. The price jumped overnight to 34 cents from the state subsidized 13 cents. The Jordanian government said the measure was needed to lower the budget deficit and bring down the foreign debt ratio — about 100 percent of Gross National Product — to meet demands from the International Monetary Fund.

The government unleashed riot police who tear gassed demonstrators, imposed a curfew, arrested some 300 people, and cut electricity in an attempt to curb the protests. King Hussein has vowed to quell further unrest with an "iron fist," while blaming the unrest on the Jordanian Arab Socialist Baath Party.

### Bavaria passes anti-abortion law

On August 7 the government of Bavaria, one of the 16 states in Germany, approved a new law that violates federal legislation on abortion in two key areas. Women will have to give a reason for seeking to terminate pregnancy. The law also sets a limit of 25 percent on the proportion of the income doctors can earn from abortions.

Women in East Germany won the right to state financed abortions in 1972. The procedure remained heavily restricted in West Germany. In 1992, following reunification of the country, months of discussions and demonstrations in favor of legalizing the abortion won a national abortion rights law. The Constitutional Court ruled in 1993 that abortion is *not* constitutionally legal, citing an 1872 law. Last year a second compromise was approved maintaining the overall unlawful status of abortion that still exists in the former West Germany. The law in Bavaria is due to take effect in September.

### Strikes in UK hit six-year high

According to figures published by the Office for National Statistics in Britain, the last year has seen the most working days lost to companies by striking workers in six years. The number of strike days since June 1995 totals 592,000. Official strike statistics in Great Britain only cover disputes that



Hundreds of peasants protest in the streets of in Puerto Asis, Colombia, demanding the government halt plans to destroy their crop.

are connected with terms and conditions of employment. The Liverpool dockers strike, which began last September, has not been recorded because the workers were locked-out. In June of this year alone, some 228,000 working days were withheld by strikers.

### De Klerk claims 'rogue cops' responsible for apartheid abuses

F.W. de Klerk, the former president of South Africa, formally apologized for human rights abuses and oppression of the Black majority carried out under his administration of the apartheid system. Speaking before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he said rogue security forces had committed atrocities, but that he himself had never issued an order for murder or torture.

He acknowledged that the governments of his National Party had authorized "unconventional" actions which "created the environment within which abuses and gross violations of human rights could take place." But, he said, "No president... can know everything which takes place."

### Cops attack Colombia farmers

Police attacked some 75,000 peasants in the state of Caquetá August 20 as the farm-

ers protested the government order to eradicate their coca crops by fumigation. The conflict extends through the states of Guaviare, Putumayo and Caquetá, where more than 100,000 peasants make their living on coca harvest that covers 40,000 hectares (1 hectare= 2.471 acres) of land. The confrontation with the army in these three states has left six dead and 120 wounded in the past 30 days.

In Mocoa, the capital of Putumayo, nearly 20,000 peasants occupied local government buildings, including the mayor's office. Representatives of the Colombian government and the peasants in Putumayo signed an agreement to substitute the coca plantations and end the protest against the destruction of that crop. The government says it will grant the peasants credit, farming land, and sustenance prices for the crops that would replace coca.

### Company to continue Cuba deal

Grupo Doms, a Mexican telephone company, defied a U.S. government warning August 21 to halt its investment plans in Cuba. The company stated it "will continue with its original plans respecting investment in Cuba." The Clinton administration said that about a half dozen executives of Grupo Doms will have their visas revoked unless Doms divests or complies with U.S. laws concerning investment in Cuba.

Under the so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, which was signed by Clinton in March, stockholders, executives and their families, companies that do business in Cuba on property confiscated from Americans after the Cuban Revolution in 1959, are no longer entitled to U.S. visas.

### Haiti gov't pushes privatization

Some 20 ex-members of Haiti's army were arrested in mid-August for the attack on governmental buildings and the assassination of two rightist politicians. Newly elected president Rene Preval said the at-

tacks were carried out in opposition to his proposals of privatization. The proposals include the privatization of several major state enterprises, cutting 15 percent of civil service jobs and a wage freeze for public service. Haiti already has a jobless rate of at least 60 percent.

In a show of force, Washington sent another 49 soldiers to Haiti August 21 for what it said were training exercises. Three hundred U.S. combat engineers are stationed in Haiti, along with a 1,500-member United Nations force installed following a 1994 U.S. invasion. U.S. Army Capt. Michael Doubleday said government opponents should realize Washington is "watching very closely what's going on."

### Racists pleads guilty to arson

Two former Ku Klux Klan members face up to 55 years in prison for torching two predominately Black churches last year. Gary Cox and Timothy Welch pleaded guilty August 14 for burning Mount Zion AME Church in Greeleyville, South Carolina and the century-old Macedonia Baptist Church in Bloomville, S.C. More than 70 predominantly Black churches have been arsoned since the beginning of 1995.

### N.Y. cop indicted in killing

On August 15, a Bronx grand jury has indicted a New York City transit cop on charges of first-degree manslaughter. Officer Paolo Colecchia is accused of repeatedly and deliberately shooting at an unarmed man as he fled down a deserted subway platform. Only moments before, Colecchia had frisked Nathaniel Levi Gaines Jr., 25, for weapons. Gaines died hours after the shooting. Colecchia, who has pleaded not guilty, said there was a struggle for the gun during the arrest and the gun went off. However, Gaines, who is Black, was shot in the back at six to eight feet away.

### Racist city ordinance challenged

A city ordinance that restricts the number of people, related by blood or marriage, who could live together has been challenged by the Justice Department. The ordinance permits only a husband and wife, their children and no more than two additional relatives to live in one home regardless of size. The Justice Department reported that Waukegan, Illinois city officials repeatedly made known their racist attitudes toward new Latino residents and "declared that they intended to prevent Latinos from 'taking over' Waukegan." Since it was enacted June 6, city records show that all those evicted under the ordinance have been Hispanic. City housing inspectors have repeatedly inspected the homes of Latino families in compliance with the ordinance, and these families have been required to sign pledges of future compliance.

— MEGAN ARNEY

Birgitta Isacson in Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this article.

## THE MILITANT

### Protest deportation of Irish activists

Washington's deportation of Irish activist Jimmy Smyth is a blow to fighters against oppression around the world. Defending democratic and political rights is a pressing issue for the labor movement. The 'Militant' brings you the news as protests develop against these assaults on the working class. Don't miss a single issue!



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# Yugoslavs remain unbroken in face of war

BY JAMES ROBB

SARAJEVO, Bosnia, Yugoslavia — "The war is over for now. But in a month or a year, or maybe 20 or 50 years, it's bound to start again. The Dayton accords make that a certainty." Edlin, a young Muslim, was speaking as he helped out in his family's business, a small cafe in old Sarajevo. He had served in the Bosnian army forces defending Sarajevo from the attacks by the Belgrade-backed chauvinist Serb militias. "For three years, we suffered losses, and

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

there were no accords. Then, we began to push back the Serbs, and the Dayton Accords were quickly signed. It prevented us putting an end to the war in a decisive way, so that all the peoples could live together in peace," he said.

This was just one expression of the sentiment among millions in Yugoslavia who resist the idea promoted by chauvinist forces that they must no longer live or work alongside those of different national origins, as they have done for decades.

Under the U.S.-dictated Dayton agreement, imperialist occupation forces claim the right to carry out patrols, inspections, and other probes to assert their military might in the country.

Amid the rubble and destruction of the past several years, commercial life is beginning again in Sarajevo today. In the old city, where the destruction was not as widespread as in some of the newer suburbs, shops and cafes are open, there are children on the streets, and the trams are running. Most basic commodities are available, though prices for food are high, and the water supply is frequently cut. The German mark is the principal means of exchange. Many farms throughout Bosnia lie abandoned, as there are still some 600,000 mines laid, making it dangerous to return. Industry remains more or less at a standstill.

There are still no commercial flights into Sarajevo, but several buses a day connect the city to Zagreb, the Croatian capital. A bus service runs to Belgrade from Lukavica, a village a few kilometers across the Dayton line in an area controlled by the Serb militias.

The NATO occupation forces, called IFOR, maintain a massive presence in Sarajevo. As well as operating checkpoints on the highways leading into the city, and roadblocks across the Dayton demarcation line, they run frequent patrols through the city streets in armored vehicles and, occasionally, tanks. Uniformed soldiers from France, Italy, the United States, Germany, Jordan, Indonesia, and many other countries, mingle with the crowds on the streets, along with many Bosnian police. There is a curfew from 11p.m. to 5a.m.

Most Bosnians this reporter spoke to expressed unease about the Dayton accords, or a guarded optimism at most. "It's a strange situation we're in now — not war, not peace," an office worker said. "I hope the cease-fire will hold."

Bitterness with the Accords runs deepest

among the Serb residents of Sarajevo. "With Dayton, we now have ethnic cleansing American-style," one told me. He reported several cases of the occupation forces' complicity with harassment of Serbs living in Sarajevo. "It's all a matter of real estate. They [the harassers] think, why should I pay ten thousand for this house, if I can get it for nothing by intimidating the occupants into leaving? So they throw stones and break windows, shout 'Bloody Serbs', and no one stops them, not the Bosnian police, not IFOR."

"Our family has been living here, in the heart of Muslim Sarajevo, for 400 years. But now we are going to leave. The multi-ethnic Bosnia the American government talks about is a fraud."

Under the imperialist-dictated accords, elections are scheduled to be held in Bosnia September 14. To vote, Bosnians must register in the region in which they intend to reside. For many refugees displaced by the "ethnic cleansing" terror of the chauvinist forces, this presents an impossible choice. Either they must return to their former homes, where their safety is still in doubt, or they must register in their place of refuge, and forfeit their right to return to their former homes.

Many Muslims from the territory in the "Serb Republic," the state set up by the chauvinist Serbian militias in Bosnia, and given de facto recognition under the Dayton accords, face this dilemma. As many as 120,000 Serb refugees living in the "Serb Republic" who left western Bosnia in the last few months of the war are in a similar situation.

There have been reports that the authorities in the "Serb Republic" are compelling these Serb refugees to register in that region, so as to assure a chauvinist electoral victory there. Anxious to project to the world the image of a "free and fair" election, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the body supervising the Bosnian vote, has been reluctant to acknowledge that such problems exist, reports the *International Herald-Tribune*.

PALE, Bosnia, Yugoslavia — A man in blue fatigues with a gun over his shoulder



Italian troops from NATO's implementation force (IFOR), top, patrol the streets of Sarajevo, but neither they nor the chauvinist forces can break the spirit and want for a multi-ethnic Yugoslavia as 3,000 strong Sarajevo youth demonstration, above, shows.



to strikes in Kosovo and protests against the removal of officials who were Albanian. Scores of demonstrators were killed, Kosovo's autonomy was revoked, and tens of thousands of Albanians were sacked from their jobs. Many have emigrated to Germany or other European countries, both to find work and to avoid being drafted into the Yugoslav army.

The intensified national oppression of Kosovo Albanians weighs heavily on the region. One visible sign of this is the large number of television satellite dishes one sees attached to

even modest homes.

"The government no longer permits television or radio broadcasts in our language, even though we are two million people. Even the television channel based in Pristina [the Kosovo capital] now broadcasts in Serbian," Armend, a restaurant worker, told me. "So people get the satellite dishes in order to receive broadcasts from Albania. The government tries to jam these signals, too."

"We live in my wife's family home, because almost all of her family lives abroad now. Her father and three brothers are in Germany, her two sisters and another brother in Switzerland. In a few years, we might have to follow them. That is when our oldest child turns eight. There is no schooling for Albanian children past the age of eight years — all the schools have been closed down. Our university at Pristina is closed, and occupied by the military."

"Some people try to educate their children at home themselves. But if the soldiers suspect that there is some kind of organized schooling going on — if they see children carrying books into a house, or a mosque, they raid the place and beat everyone up. Even the children."

"Our leaders have adopted the approach of passive resistance" Armend continued. "Nothing else is possible at the moment. But this situation can't go on."

The wedding procession served as a reminder to the occupiers that the Albanian nationalism of the toilers of this region has not been crushed.

BERAT, Albania — Albania today is a country transformed by emigration. With the collapse of the Stalinist regime in the early 1990s, many internal obstacles to Albanians wishing to emigrate were removed. Since that time some 300,000 people, mostly young men — 10 percent of the entire population — have left the country. Italy, Greece, and the United States are the most popular destinations.

Along with the old regime, a large proportion of Albania's heavy industrial facilities collapsed in the early 1990s. Travelers through the country today pass chemical plants, power stations, glass factories, some of them of immense size, abandoned and decaying. Eliat, a young man who ekes out a living selling paintings of Berat to the few tourists who visit the town, told me, "It's not enough to live on, what I make from doing this. But since the mill cut back, there are no jobs in Berat."

The main source of employment in Berat was once a colossal textile mill. Today it operates at 20 percent capacity. "They have old, poor-quality Chinese machinery. They can't compete," Eliat said with a shrug.

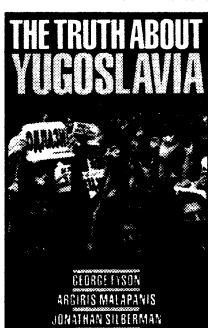
Remittances from emigrant workers are now Albania's chief source of foreign exchange. In place of the products of local manufacture, Albanian cities are awash with imported goods, from Mercedes cars from Germany to bananas from Ecuador. There appears to be little foreign investment in Albanian industry.

Yet, so liberating has been the removal of barriers to emigration, the young men I met at the bar think it is strange that I should ask whether life has got better or worse in recent years. "We weren't allowed to leave the country before," they say, thinking I must have misunderstood this point. "Of course it's better."

James Robb is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Auckland, New Zealand.

### further reading from pathfinder

#### The Truth about Yugoslavia



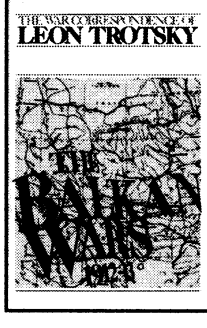
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George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman

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# Ballot drive successful in 9 states so far

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA

DES MOINES, Iowa — On August 16th, the Iowa Socialist Workers campaign was certified for ballot status for the campaign of James Harris and Laura Garza for U.S. president and vice president, Shirley Peña for U.S. Senate, and Richard McBride for Representative in the 4th Congressional District.

Supporters of the socialist campaign secured 1,968 signers for the Harris/Garza ticket, 1,696 for the campaign of Shirley Peña and 400 for the candidacy of Richard McBride. The state of Iowa required the socialist campaign submit 1,500 signatures for the two state-wide campaigns and 300 for the 4th C.D. campaign.

The socialist campaigners organized their petitioning effort to take advantage of every opportunity where crowds of people would gather — from the weekly Farmers Market in Des Moines to the Iowa State Fair annual parade. Throughout the course of the petitioning drive, campaigners ran into a large number of working people who remembered previous socialist election campaigns and were eager to see more socialist candidates on the ballot.

On August 3rd, a team of socialist campaigners traveled to Waterloo, Iowa to petition and speak to working people about a recent INS raid at the IBP pork processing plant.

When asked about the situation at IBP, one meatpacker, Salvador, explained that "IBP works with INS to pick out workers they don't like. They can't deport all of us, because if they did, they wouldn't be able to run the plant."

A group of Latino workers asked why it seemed that only Latino workers were targeted by the INS, why not Asian workers? The socialist campaigners explained that the rulers target Latinos because of their grow-

ing political weight in the US and the role they play in the strengthening trade unions today.

One Black couple became interested in the issue of Ireland, and purchased a *Militant*, following a discussion of the ways in which the capitalist class divides us as a class.

A retired John Deere worker who campaigners met outside K-Mart explained that he worked there now to pay for his wife's medical expenses — in spite of the fact that he had worked at Deere for a number of years. He expressed an interest in Cuba and their medical system after talking with the petitioning team.

Petitioners also spent a considerable of time petitioning at the Iowa State University campus. One youth sent in a coupon indicating an interest in joining the Young Socialists. They also met an agriculture major who wanted to know more about how Cuba organizes agriculture and attending the World Youth Festival in Cuba next year.

A highlight was petitioning on-the-job, which netted over 100 signatures at three workplaces. McBride, an IBP packinghouse worker said, "It was a challenge petitioning, at times, due to the fact that when you're working, it's difficult keeping blood off the petition sheets. This meant most of my petitioning had to be done in either the locker room or the cafeteria."

"One day a co-worker, Eduardo, who is seen as a fighter at the plant, volunteered to circulate my petitions in the cafeteria — especially among my Spanish-speaking co-workers. At the end of five minutes he returned the petition sheet to me with a dozen signatures on it."

Shirley Peña is a member of UAW 997 at Maytag in Newton.



SWP candidates Abby Tilsner and Eleanor Garcia (inset) campaign in New York state.

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

BOSTON — New England supporters of the socialist candidates are in the thick of a month-long campaign to place James Harris and Laura Garza on the ballots in Rhode Island and Vermont. One thousand signatures are required to get on the ballot in each state, and campaigners plan to turn in twice the amount needed.

Teams of petitioners in the area of Providence, Rhode Island, near Brown University report a lively response to the campaign. "Many people are expressing disgust with the course of the Clinton administration as it drives against working people, and are open to discussing an alternative, working-class perspective", campaign supporter Brock Satter reports. Satter traveled from

New York to help gather support for the socialist campaign and recruit to the Young Socialists. Several young people have already signed up for more information about the campaign, and the socialists aim to hold a meeting with them later in the week.

"Socialist campaigners aim to wrap up the drive in Rhode Island over Labor Day weekend and then we'll be moving on to open the campaign in Vermont" says Andrea Morell, the director of the campaign in New England. "Volunteers and funds to help this effort are urgently needed." For more information on how you can help, call the New England Socialist Workers Campaign Center at (617) 247 6772.

BY ABBY TILSNER

NEW YORK — The Socialist Workers campaign scored a victory against the onerous, reactionary, and undemocratic requirements for ballot status on August 19 when supporters turned in nearly 24,000 signatures to the New York State Board of Elections in Albany for James Harris and Laura Garza. This number far exceeded the required 15,000 signatures set by the state of New York and the goal of 22,700 set by campaign supporters.

The Socialist Workers campaign also succeeded in getting one of five candidates for U.S. Congress on the ballot. Campaign supporters in New York filed over 5,300 signatures for Eleanor Garcia, the Socialist Workers candidate in the 12th District. This again exceeded the state's requirement of 3,500 and campaigners' own goal of 5,000. The others will be running as write-in candidates.

The press conference at the filing in Albany was attended by WGY radio. WGY later aired Garcia stating that the Socialist Workers candidates are using their campaign to speak out against the bipartisan attacks on Social Security and that they look to the workers and farmers government in Cuba as a way forward in this country.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Socialist campaigners in Washington, D.C., filed over 4,100 signatures August 19 to put Harris and Garza on the ballot in the District of Columbia. They also turned in over 3,600 signatures for Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for delegate to the House of Representatives. "In the coming weeks we will be campaigning to build the national demonstration to demand equal rights for immigrants taking place October 12 in Washington, D.C.," said Manuel at a news conference when the petitions were submitted.

"To the Democrats' and Republicans' phony minimum wage workfare programs we call on the labor movement to lead an international movement for jobs at decent union scale wages for all; spread the available work around by instituting a 30-hour workweek with no reduction in pay; launch emergency public works programs to construct and repair schools, roads, bridges, and hospitals.

"To fund these projects we should tax the rich, not working people. This should be done with a steeply graduated progressive income tax that eliminates all the tax loopholes for the wealthy," Manuel stated.

## Illinois launches socialist campaign

BY STEPHEN BLOODWORTH

CHICAGO — On the eve of "Una Voz," a demonstration demanding equal rights for immigrants, and the arrival of many youth into the city to participate in protest actions during the Democratic National Convention, 21 delegates from the Chicago and Peoria branches of the Socialist Workers Party gathered here August 24 for an Illinois State Convention.

The delegates nominated and elected Frank Forrester as their candidate for U.S. Senate. Forrester is a member of the United Auto Workers employed at the Ford Torrence Plant on Chicago's Southside, and a leader of the Chicago Cuba Coalition. He is seeking to take several weeks off work from Ford to campaign full time in October.

The SWP is also running five candidates for U.S. Congress in Illinois. Angela Lariscy, a chemical worker from Peoria, is running in the 18th Congressional District (CD). Aislinn Pulley, a 17-year-old high school student and leader of the Chicago chapter of the Young Socialists and the Chicago Area U.S. Cuba Youth Exchange, is the candidate in the 9th CD. The party chose Kristin Meriam, a 28-year-old rail worker,

for the 4th C.D., and Tami Peterson, a 19-year-old steelworker and member of the Young Socialists, in the 5th CD. Reyes Gaona, 36, rounds out the ticket in the 7th CD. He is a food service worker active in Coordinadora '96, a group building the October 12 Civil Rights March in Washington, D.C. for immigrant rights.

Lariscy presented the main political report to the convention. She noted that President William Clinton had carried out his campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it," affecting public aid to 13 million families with dependent children and some 25 million receiving food stamps. Clinton, in his gutting of the social gains codified in the Social Security Act, let it be known that this is the "beginning, not the end" of the offensive.

While Clinton leads the bipartisan attack on working people, Lariscy pointed out, the Republican Party has seized the opportunity to present their alternative to the Democratic President's "stagnation" economics and budget cutting measures.

Surprising many, Dole chose as his running mate Jack Kemp, a former senator who backed Steve Forbes during the Republican state primary elections. Through this nomi-

nation, Dole introduced an economic program of tax cuts and "pro-growth" policies.

"Neither the Democratic or Republican parties has a way to reverse the declining rate of profits of the capitalist employers. This drives home the fact that downsizing is being exhausted as a remedy to this crisis," Lariscy said. "It leaves them with one road to go: attempting to achieve capitalist expansion through deepening the assaults on the world working class. Whether it's Clinton or Dole in the White House workers will go to the wall."

Citing the growing working-class resistance around the world to this road — from massive student demonstrations in South Korea calling for reunification with the North, to uprisings in the streets of Indonesia, the continued freedom struggle of the Irish people, the inability of the Yeltsin government in Russia to crush the Chechen people, and the fight of the Machinists at McDonnell Douglas in nearby St. Louis — Lariscy said, "this is not a good prospect for the rulers, but they have no alternative."

In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out how the "Kempized" Republican platform took the presumed uncontested victory out from under Clinton. Chicago delegate Joel Britton commented on what is at stake for the capitalist two-party system when no viable alternative is offered, saying, "The ruling class was confronted with the danger of millions of people opting out of the election and the possibility there would be no mandate for the winner."

This underlies the discussion about the "growth economy" versus "stagnation" and the decision to include Kemp, the "bleeding heart conservative," as he calls himself, in the elections.

The convention delegates voted to organize collecting 2,000 signatures on nomination petitions in the state of Wisconsin in a whirlwind effort to place James Harris and Laura Garza on the state ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president.

The socialists also adopted the goal of winning three new members to the Young Socialists during the protests at the Democratic Convention and one new member in the effort to win Wisconsin ballot status.

### Campaign for the socialist alternative

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009  
CompuServe: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504



# SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

*Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets*

BY SARA LOBMAN

The *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky; *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters; *Malcolm X: February 1965, The Final Speeches*; and *To Speak the Truth* by Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara were among the Pathfinder titles ordered in July at the request of professors who have adopted them as a text for one of their classes this year. They will quickly make it into the hands of young people at colleges and universities across the United States.

Sales of revolutionary books to non-Pathfinder bookstores, college outlets, libraries, and retail chains was up significantly in July with 2,106 books sold. Classroom adoptions were an important part of these orders. In June 1,512 titles were sold to these accounts, and in May 570. A college in New York City ordered 50 copies of *New International* no. 6 for use in a class. This is the issue that includes the articles "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop" by Steve Clark and "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation" by Larry Seigle.

The *Communist Manifesto*, written in 1848 to explain the line of march of the working class in the fight for socialism, is one of the most popular titles, with some 1,000 copies sold each year for classroom use. Like many other Pathfinder books, it is carefully annotated, with readable text and an attractive and sturdy cover.

## Winning new classroom adoptions

While most orders for classroom adoptions for the current semester have already been placed, now is the perfect time for volunteers to introduce professors to Pathfinder titles they may want to use in 1997. Orders for next semester are usually placed in October. Pathfinder supporters who are setting up literature tables on campus can leave some time to drop by professors' offices in the History, Political Science, Philosophy, Black Studies, Women's Studies, and other departments, as well as setting up appointments with buyers in the campus bookstore and library.

Professors who are interested in using a Pathfinder title in one of their classes can request a complimentary copy directly from the publisher. Such requests should be made on departmental letterhead, and should include the name of the course, and the approximate student enrollment.

In a round of sales visits in June, Los Angeles sales volunteers found that—due



Militant/Joel Britton

Pathfinder sales table in Chicago during protests outside Democratic convention

to budgetary restrictions—many college bookstores were not able to order books until July. They offered to take the orders anyway, and noted on each the date it should be filled. Four bookstores ordered a total of 125 books in this way.

Tony Hunt, from Pathfinder Distribution in London, reports that sales to non-Pathfinder bookstores in the United Kingdom were up substantially in June. Total sales to these accounts was £8,484 (U.S.\$13,210), with nearly £3,500 (U.S.\$5,450) of this resulting directly from sales visits by volunteer reps. Supporters in Sweden have already won orders nearly double the value of those obtained in all of 1995.

"Welcome to the inaugural issue of the monthly central Illinois Pathfinder Readers Club Newsletter," said a two-page flyer prepared by the Pathfinder bookstore in Peoria, Illinois. The newsletter reports on titles that Pathfinder has upgraded in June and July and announces local specials for Readers Club members in August. Angel Lariscy, who volunteers in the Peoria bookstore, reports that four orders were mailed in as a result of the newsletter.

Bob Miller, who works in the Ford auto assembly plant in Edison, New Jersey, reports that he's sold 10 books on the job in August. "With the Big Three auto contract expiring September 14, many workers here are discussing how to strengthen our unions," he said. One worker, who had almost finished reading *Teamster Rebellion*

by Farrell Dobbs, decided to get *Teamster Politics*, the second book in the series. Another, a member of the Readers Club, bought *The Wages System* by Frederick Engels and *The Last Year of Malcolm X* by George Breitman.

Pathfinder supporters from Greensboro sold 10 books and pamphlets to striking poultry workers and their supporters at a march and rally in Morganton, North Carolina. Two hundred workers, many originally from Guatemala, walked off the job August 8. Titles purchased included *Nueva Internacional* no. 2, *Che Guevara y la lucha por el socialismo hoy* (Che Guevara and the fight for socialism today), two pamphlets by Fidel Castro, and two copies of *Sendero Luminoso: Evolución de una secta estalinista* (Shining Path: evolution of a Stalinist sect) by Martin Koppel. One young person, at the rally as part of the AFL-CIO's "Union Summer," bought the *Communist Manifesto* and *Socialism and Man in Cuba*.

Jeff Jones, an airline worker from Twin Cities, reports that when he went into the breakroom recently to bring a co-worker the copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* she had requested, two other workers quickly pulled out money to buy the book as well. Since he only had one copy with him, he gave a catalog to one of the workers, took prepayment for the book, and promised to bring more copies in the next day.

"Participants in the recent United Steel Workers of America (USWA) convention in Pittsburgh bought \$170 of literature from the Pathfinder table set up outside the meeting," Peggy Kreiner and Bill Scheer report. A del-

## Sales to Non-Pathfinder Outlets

AREA	TOTALS
Atlanta	42
Birmingham	109
Boston	73
Brooklyn	0
Chicago	111
Cleveland	37
Des Moines	135
Detroit	38
Greensboro	1
Houston	56
Los Angeles	229
Miami	30
Morgantown	17
New York	521
Newark	0
Peoria	0
Philadelphia	66
Pittsburgh	0
Salt Lake City	155
San Francisco	246
Seattle	56
Twin Cities	58
Washington, D.C.	126
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2106</b>

egate from Chicago returned to the table after buying a catalog the day before. He joined the Pathfinder Readers Club and bought several titles, including *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, and *Nueva Internacional* no. 4 with the article "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War."

With the 1996 presidential elections heating up, several Pathfinder titles should be of special interest to readers. *Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the U.S. against the Vietnam War* by Fred Halstead has an excellent chapter on 1968 Democratic Party convention in Chicago. *Aspects of Socialist Election Policy*, an Education for Socialists publication, takes up the place of the two-party system in maintaining capitalist rule. It also includes a thesis adopted in 1920 by the second congress of the Communist International on the "Communist Attitude to Parliamentary Reformism" and communist participation in bourgeois elections.

## from the pages of *Modern Maturity*

The item below appeared in the September-October issue of the magazine of the American Association of Retired Persons, which focused on the upcoming elections. *Modern Maturity* has a circulation of over 20 million.



Doug Nelson  
THE IDEOLOGUE

As a Socialist Workers Party candidate, Doug Nelson has no illusions about winning his bid for a Minnesota Assembly seat. "I'm only running to popularize our ideas," concedes Nelson, 21, an assembly-line factory worker from

Minneapolis. His ideas follow general communist principles; i.e., to overturn capitalism by revolution. "I don't expect to get elected, and even if I was, it wouldn't solve a lot of problems. My campaign is about reaching people."

Nelson is an active member of the Young Socialists, an international youth group, and says his nascent political views stem from the works of Karl Marx and Malcolm X. "I'm inspired by the struggles of the oppressed."

Politically active only for the last year or so, Nelson, who still lives at home with his mother, views his youth as a campaign plus. "My generation has a great potential to change things, and we're open to new ideas," he says. "People have this stereotype of Generation X as a bunch of losers taking drugs, having sex, or watching TV. It's important to see someone my age who is serious."

He knows campaigning will be tough. "Being a communist, you get used to people disagreeing with you," Nelson says. "But I'm going to use this election to talk to as many people as possible. We're trying to build a movement."

## Miami: protest attacks on speech

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

The Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC), the Antonio Maceo Brigade, and the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba have called for a demonstration in defense of free speech and artistic expression on September 6 in Miami Beach. It is a counterprotest to an ultraright demonstration opposing the Miami Beach concert of Cuban singer Rosita Fornés.

Fornés, a popular entertainer in Cuba and among many Cuban-Americans, was born in the United States but resides in Cuba. Because she has not publicly denounced the government of Cuba, right-wingers here have organized a campaign against her. Fornés was originally scheduled to appear at Little Havana's Centro Vasco Restaurant at the end of July. This was canceled, however, after threats and a firebombing of the restaurant July 11.

She was soon rebooked to perform at the Jackie Gleason theater in Miami Beach on September 6. According to Miami Beach police, Cuban Unity, an umbrella organization of reactionary Cuban-American groups that support the economic blockade of Cuba, has applied for a permit to demonstrate outside the Fornés concert.

Some of the same groups from Cuban Unity were part of a violent protest against Cuban jazz pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba in April. Over 200 rightists spit and yelled rac-

ist epithets at the 500 who attended.

City government and police complicity with the rightists was clear as they were allowed near the entrance and no one was arrested. Metro Dade commissioner Javier Souto provided a bus to shuttle some of the protesters to the action.

Days later Miami's Center for the Fine Arts canceled an invitation for Cuban art critic Gerardo Mosquera to speak in Miami.

Since the Centro Vasco firebombing the right-wingers have stepped up their attacks with three more firebombings in less than a month. On August 1, the Westchester office of Marazul tours, which organizes travel to Cuba, was firebombed causing \$5,000 in damage. The Hialeah office of Marazul was also hit with incendiaries on August 17. Tu Familia Shipping Co., which sends packages to Cuba, was firebombed August 24, leaving major damage to the front of their office.

Most people in the Miami area including Cuban-Americans oppose these violent attacks. Despite this, the local police and government agencies have taken no serious steps to apprehend those responsible.

Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Dade County, has challenged the other candidates to speak out against the rightist violence. "We urge everyone who supports free speech to come to the protest on September 6 at the Jackie Gleason Theater in Miami Beach," she said.

# Young Socialists organize classes with fighters

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth, fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55114

BY VANESSA KNAPTON

SAN DIEGO — The Young Socialists recruited a new member and met several other young people interested in joining the YS while participating in the protests at the Republican convention here August 12-15.

In the week leading up to the convention YS member Jason Phelps worked with other Socialist Workers campaign supporters to put up tables of Pathfinder literature on campuses. One table at the University of California (UC) - San Diego especially attracted a lot of attention. Campaigners sold 23 issues of the *Militant* that day, and explained who the Young Socialists were and why they were coming to San Diego.

One of the most important parts of the week was the success of the Young Socialist class series. These classes were an important way of running with our recruitment campaign and drawing these young people to us. The classes were held every evening and were part of seeing that the hundreds of youth who had come to San Diego to demonstrate wanted to talk about politics, were attracted to defenders of the Cuban Revolution, and wanted to discuss how best to start fighting back against both the Republicans

and the Democrats.

The tables and meetings to have political discussions are powerful tools to meet the type of people that would be interested in joining the YS. Justin Beck, a University of California - Irvin student said, "I heard about the meeting at a table...Laura Garza [the Socialist Workers Party's vice-presidential candidate] gave a cool talk, awesome. The real politics is here. This is my kind of thing."

The first class, on the *Communist Manifesto*, attracted two young students who heard about it at a campus table. We discussed imperialism's drive towards war and how the revolutionary character of the working class will come through as it starts fighting back, and how the demonstrations we were participating in are a glimpse of the larger battles coming down the road. Cindy, a women's studies major at UC - San Diego, attended the class and joined us at 5:30 a.m. the following morning to be part of defense of an abortion clinic against a right-wing attack.

Brandi, an activist against police brutality from Pittsburgh, joined in all the events and talked to many youth about the work of the coalition that she is in. Brandi said that La Marcha, a march for affirmative action through the state of California, was the most thrilling part of the week. She is one of four Native Americans enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University. She had heard about La Marcha in Pittsburgh from a national poets group that had toured there.



Militant/ Ellen Berman

Young Socialists protesting at a Patrick Buchanan rally in Escondido, California.

Sandra Morales, a 15-year-old high school student, was at the campaign office the morning after Garza's talk, resting after protesting against anti-abortion thugs. When asked what she'd been doing the last few days she said, "Marching! I met you [the YS] at the march for affirmative action. Then I marched for abortion rights, and then for gay and lesbian rights. Then I went to a Young Socialists class and to hear Laura.

My friend and I want to join the Young Socialists." Sandra is now a member of the YS.

On Saturday the YS class was on *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. Two YS members and one of the Marchistas, all of whom had been on the Cuban Youth Exchange, reported on their trip. The Marchista, Ramon Muñoz, described the Cuban military base on the border next to the U.S.-held Guantánamo naval base. Muñoz was surprised and impressed that women made up many of the Cuban troops and were also officers. Monica, one of the three other Marchistas at the class, expressed earlier her appreciation that the Young Socialists had shown real solidarity for La Marcha by being on parts of the march every other day. One young Black worker joined the discussion and stayed for the social; another participant bought the *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Che Guevara after the class.

We also held classes on *The Politics of Chicano Liberation* and on "Buchananism, what it is and how to fight it." The final class we held was on "Cuba today and the role of Cuba in the world." Jesse, a young striker from Nassco shipyard, came to the class. He told the class about the struggle he and his 4,000 co-workers were involved in against the shipyard company — a fight to demand a contract. We spoke about the Central Organization of Cuban Workers congress last April and about the upcoming trade union conference and youth festival in Cuba 1997.

The Young Socialists in Los Angeles now have many people that we met to follow up on and advance our national recruitment drive. We held a Socialist Educational Weekend August 21-22 where 10 young people came, two of whom we had met in San Diego. It looks like three people will join the YS shortly here in LA and another person in San Diego.

## Harris, Garza meet many on the road

BY STEVE WARSHALL

CLEVELAND, Ohio — James Harris completed a successful campaign tour here August 1-3. The Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate and supporters met a number of members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers while campaigning at Hoover Corp. in North Canton, Ohio. These workers had recently rejected company demands for a third tier in the union contract, standing up to company threats of plant shutdowns and sending work to *maquiladora* sweat shops in Texas and Mexico.

On Saturday, the candidate and campaign supporters spent the day at the African-American Family Day picnic at Luke Easter Park on Cleveland's east side followed by a special Militant Labor Forum featuring Harris.

Two workers from the Youngstown area traveled to Cleveland to hear the candidate. It was their second trip to the Pathfinder bookstore. One of them, Pat Carey, had been introduced to the *Militant* newspaper and socialist ideas by a republican detainee in Long Kesh jail in Northern Ireland with whom she corresponds. "He told me if I wanted to find out the truth about Cuba and the United States I should see the folks down at the Pathfinder Bookstore," she explained to the candidate.

Another worker attending the forum was from West Africa. "I had the chance to hear Thomas Sankara when I lived over there," he explained, referring to the revolutionary leader who was president of Burkina Faso until his assassination in 1987. "I was so surprised to see supporters of that struggle here in Cleveland. He spoke for the oppressed around the world."

Another young woman, Virginia, decided to join the Young Socialists. She had been working at Oberlin College and met the Young Socialists during a recent international conference held there. "I've been in other socialist groups," she explained, "but they were just all talk. I like the Young Socialists because they take a position and then go out and defend it."



BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Socialist Workers vice-presidential nominee Laura Garza campaigned for five days here before going on to San Diego to join the protest forces at the Republican convention.

With supporters, she campaigned at shift changes at the McDonnell Douglas aircraft plant and the Chevron and Arco oil refiner-

ies. At the Northwest Airlines employees gate, a dozen workers stopped at a campaign table to meet Garza. Six bought copies of the *Militant*. At Hollander Home Fashions, a union garment shop, she had a lunchtime visit with one of her campaigners and a group of coworkers.

Traditionally, the media here has been particularly grudging in its coverage of socialist candidates. But the response to Garza's visit showed an improvement.

When she spoke at the Militant Labor Forum, the Associated Press sent a reporter who interviewed her before the meeting, and a photographer who shot pictures throughout the evening.

The UCLA campus paper, the *Bruin*, also had a reporter and photographer at the meeting. The paper carried the full text of a statement by Harris and Garza urging support for the Northern Ireland freedom struggle.

The AP interview was picked up and featured in the major Spanish-language daily, *La Opinion*, along with a photo of Garza speaking with a supporter during the pre-forum dinner.

Garza and presidential candidate James Harris, who was in town briefly, held a press conference at the downtown federal build-

ing which houses the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Both major Spanish language TV stations covered it as well as a reporter for *La Opinion*.

Earlier, she was interviewed by Carlos Quintanilla for his Spanish-language program on Pacifica radio station KPDK. The station also carried an English-language interview with Garza.



BY TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Harris accompanied by Ryan Kelly, a leader of the Young Socialists from Boston, participated in a meeting of 15 people at Auckland University. The gathering was hosted by Te Kawau Maro, a group of Maori rights fighters on the campus. Tauni Sinclair, the chair for the meeting, announced that he and three other members of the group planned to visit Cuba next January to see the realities of the revolution for themselves.

Harris held a discussion with a group of five airport workers at a house meeting, and spoke before two classes local technical institutes. At the tour's end, three young people said they wanted to join the YS.

## Pathfinder to launch \$125,000 fund drive

Continued from front page

sian, *Labor's Giant Step* by Art Preis, and Leon Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed*. *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*, which was reprinted last year after being out of stock for several years, sold out and was reprinted again in May. *The Communist Manifesto* and Leon Trotsky's *Marxism and Terrorism* were two other titles that sold out and were reprinted this year.

In the past year, teams of Pathfinder supporters have taken the books to fighters around the world: to the picket lines of McDonnell Douglas Machinist union members on strike in St. Louis; to protests by workers and young people in France against the austerity drive of the government; to activists at the "Nation on the Move" march in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this summer; and among Chicano and other Latino youth on La Marcha, the protest against attacks on affirmative action that included walking from Sacramento to San Diego, California.

Across the country and around the world, supporters and distributors of Pathfinder books have been meeting to discuss and adopt goals for their areas. In San Francisco, during a discussion among supporters on the

Northern California goal, members of unions met to work up sub-goals of books to sell to their co-workers, reports Jim Gotesky, a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-326.

Reaching out to the growing number of fighters who buy and read Pathfinder books to make the \$125,000 reprint goal fits well into the efforts of Pathfinder supporters to qualitatively raise the number of books sold to workers and fighting youth each month. Pathfinder supporters in 24 cities took time out last month to hold conferences to discuss ways to step up the study and sales of books through a broad spectrum of political activity among unionists, immigrants, students, and others fighting for their rights. They came back again in late August to discuss out how to set ambitious fund goals that can be met in full by November 10.

In Pittsburgh and Miami, supporters are planning programs this fall featuring Pathfinder authors and editors. Olga Rodríguez, editor *Politics of Chicano Liberation* and an airport worker in the Machinists union, will speak in Pittsburgh. In Atlanta volunteers at the Pathfinder Bookstore will be featuring the fund in a letter to Pathfinder Read-

ers Club members.

Supporters in Stockholm, Sweden, just e-mailed in their goal of \$400. And Michael Tucker in New Zealand reports that supporters in Christchurch and Auckland have taken a goal of \$4,220.

Supporters in Newark, New Jersey, volunteered to organize the fund drive, including doing all the record-keeping and organizing articles on the effort for the *Militant*. Newark-area supporters have taken a goal of \$8,500 at the same time as they are wrapping up fundraising and volunteer work for construction of their new storefront bookstore. They aim to get pledges from at least 70 people in northern New Jersey.

The fund was previewed at a spirited meeting at the Active Workers and International Socialist Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, in July, where an initial \$69,000 was pledged by conference participants.

Currently Pathfinder's printshop is reprinting *The History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky with a new cover. In this 1,400-page book the story of the social, economic, and political dynamics of the first socialist revolution is recounted by one of its central leaders.



# Hundreds protest Irish activist's deportation

BY NORTON SANDLER

SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. government officials whisked Irish freedom fighter Jimmy Smyth from a jail near here on August 17 and extradited him back to British-occupied Northern Ireland.

In a statement prepared in advance and released to the press by the Irish-American Unity Conference, Smyth said, "I leave this country full of thanks for the spirit and independence of the American people. Just as they have countless times in the past, they put aside the pro-British prejudices of their leaders and asked their own questions about human rights in Ireland. The conclusions they drew were obvious by their actions. The American people have sheltered me, supported me, fought for me and prayed for me. They have kept faith with another generation of Irish people who looked to them for sustenance in the long struggle for justice....

"Unfortunately," Smyth added, "the further up the political ladder we climbed the less the voice of the people was heard. The closer to the White House we climbed, the less concern we found for justice and the more concern we found for political gain and for the feelings of an ally condemned throughout the world for the abuse of human rights....

"There are many who will seek revenge against me because I spoke the truth about Ireland. But I promise the American people I will rejoin you as a friend in freedom," Smyth emphasized.

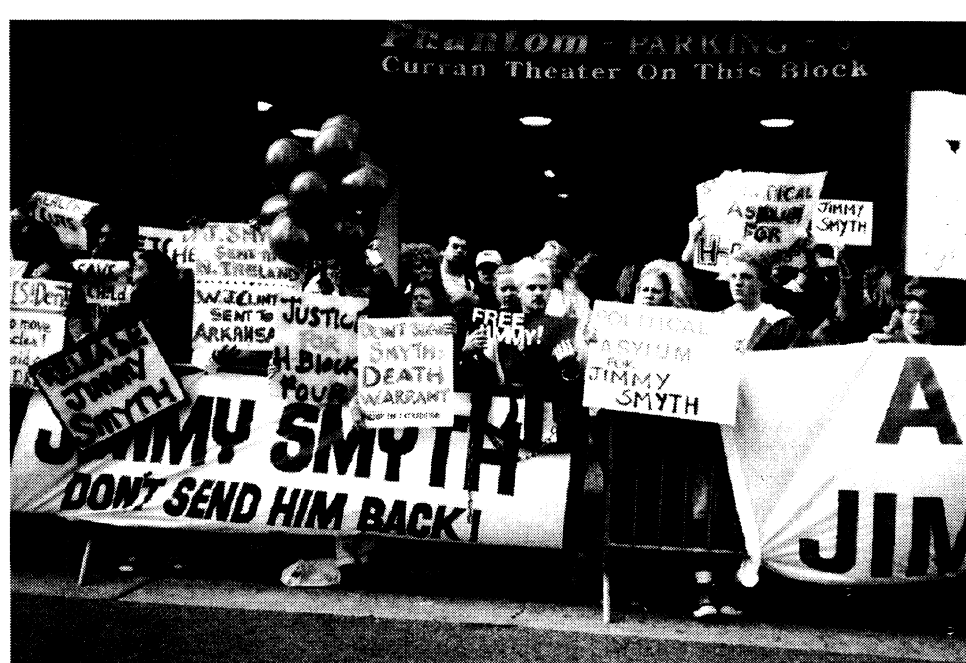
Smyth, 42, joined Sinn Fein in 1972. As an activist in the nationalist struggle, he became a frequent target for police interrogations. In 1977 he was arrested for the attempted murder of an off-duty prison guard in Belfast. Smyth's case was argued in a Diplock court in front of a specially appointed judge and without a jury. No physical evidence was presented linking Smyth

to what he was accused of. The only "eyewitness" to testify was a British soldier who claimed he could recognize the back of Smyth's head. Smyth has steadfastly maintained his innocence. Nevertheless, he was convicted and given a 20-year sentence. While in Long Kesh prison he participated in protests against prison conditions. Like many other nationalist fighters he refused to wear prison-issued garb and lived for a time with only a blanket for clothing.

Smyth and 37 other Irish Republican fighters broke out of Long Kesh in 1983. He lived in San Francisco working as a house painter until his arrest by the FBI in 1992. Long Kesh prison escapees Kevin Barry Artt, Terry Kirby, and Pol Brennan were also arrested. Together with Smyth they have become known as the H-Block 4.

The Clinton administration has pursued the extradition of these freedom fighters under the terms of a 1986 treaty with United Kingdom. In 1994 Federal Judge Barbara Caulfield barred Smyth's extradition, saying his life would be endangered if he returned to Northern Ireland. She then agreed to release Smyth on \$1.5 million bail. This decision was overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals, which reinstated Smyth's extradition. After the Supreme Court refused to review that decision earlier this summer, Smyth's bail was revoked.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher signed the extradition papers for Smyth's return on August 16. The Irish-American Unity Coalition (IAUC) has been



Militant/Barbara Bowman

July protest in San Francisco against extradition of Irish activist Jimmy Smyth

spearheading defense for the H-Block 4 here. Some 350 rallied at the Irish Cultural Center four days before his extradition. Speakers included San Francisco mayor Willie Brown; Jack Henning, former secretary-treasurer of the California AFL-CIO; Paul Cambell, who had spent six years in Northern Ireland's Long Kesh prison and later won asylum in the United States; and many others. The IAUC has also organized numerous actions in defense of Smyth and the others, including a rush-hour protest outside the Clinton re-election headquarters in San Francisco the day before Smyth's extradition.

Under the terms of their bail, Artt, Brennan, and Kirby are forced to wear elec-

tronic devices that monitor their whereabouts. They have extradition trials pending in San Francisco this fall. In the meantime, the Clinton administration is trying to revoke their bail. On August 15, a three-judge U.S. appeals court panel heard oral arguments on this with U.S. Assistant Attorney Sarah Cristatelli claiming that the three were a greater "flight risk" now following the Appeal's Courts decision to extradite Jimmy Smyth. A decision on whether their bail will be revoked is pending.

*Jim Altenberg, a member of the Oil, Chemical, Atomic Workers union, and Marklynn Wilson, a member of the United Transportation Union, contributed to this article.*

## Canadian companies to blame for flooding

BY MARIE-CLAIRE DAVID AND MICHEL DUGRÉ

LA BAIE, Quebec — "It's my future that is going away," said François Bergeron, 17, while his father's farm was being washed away by torrents of water on July 19. The disaster occurred after a barrier owned by Stone Consolidated paper company collapsed on Lake Ha! Ha!

The Ha! Ha! lake, with a 28 mile circumference, emptied in a matter of a few hours. Once the barrier broke, wave after wave destroyed everything downstream, including two small villages, Boilleau and Ferland. Hundreds of homes down the Ha! Ha! River were engulfed.

Eleven people died throughout the area, including two children in La Baie, who were buried alive after the house they were sleeping in was destroyed by a mud slide. More than 14,000 people were displaced during the storm.

In La Baie, Maurice Bergeron, François's father, and his brother René both lost their homes. They had to sell their 250 cows for lack of drinkable water in the following days. "At 57, whether or not I resume farming is an open question," said Maurice Bergeron.

Jules Poulin, whose farm was two kilometers up the river, lost his whole farm. All his farm buildings were destroyed by the water and almost half of his 110 cattle drowned. "We thought it was the end of the world," said his wife looking at the crater-

like scene of what was once green pasture with a small river.

In Chicoutimi, some 20 kilometers north of La Baie, a whole sector of the city was destroyed after the Kenogami reservoir overflowed. Five dams were damaged in these two days.

"Without the dam the water would have flowed in the normal river bed," said Jacques Duperré, 84, whose house was severely damaged in the flood. "Instead, the dam created an obstacle that forced water to flow into the city center." The dam, located in the middle of the city, is owned by Abitibi-Price paper company.

The Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean area is very rich in water resources. Paper companies, like Stone and Abitibi-Price use water for electricity and paper production. Alcan, an aluminum plant, has built itself a very advantageous position in the world aluminum market by getting control over cheap electricity. These and other companies have built dams since the beginning of the century.

More facts are coming out showing the total disregard of these companies for the well-being of human beings living below their dams. Fernand Lavoie ex-mayor of Boilleau said that for months city residents had warned Stone Consolidated that the water level in the reservoir was too high.

"In fact the water level in the two rivers down the dams was lower this summer, a heavy rainy summer, than during last summer's drought because the companies

were keeping the water in their reservoirs," said Louise Harvey, one of the displaced residents in Chicoutimi.

The flood provoked a big discussion among workers. At Alcan's plant in Jonquière, many of the 3,000 workers said that while the heavy rainfall on July 19-20 was exceptional, the dams were poorly managed. Others said that the disaster had exclusively natural causes. "Alcan is here because there is electricity. We have to live with this," said one worker, summarizing the opinion of many others. While many workers said that the paper companies need water and that jobs depended on the dams, others disagreed. "The companies are only there to defend their profits," said Germain Pelletier, who also works at Alcan. "The government is in bed with them. Now that the threat to our lives is over, we can begin looking more closely at what provoked the disaster."

"Alcan is now pouring 2 million dollars a day to rebuild its infrastructure, but they have no money for us when we ask for a 25 cents pay raise," said Rémy, a 52 year old mechanic.

Two committees have sprung up to make sure that the government inquiry on the administration of the dams and the safety of the water levels is public. Paul-Étienne Gilbert, spokesperson for the Committee of the Disaster Stricken in La Baie said "The government has a part in this as well as the owners of the private dams. Claiming as they do that this was an 'act of God' can only serve the interests of the insurance companies. We want the victims to be heard, to have a say in the inquiry."

While the Quebec government still refuses to launch an official inquiry, they have, however, instituted a scientific commission. Working people have reacted immediately to the disaster sending money, food, clothing, dishes or going up to the region to help.

Many unions have pitched in to help. The Communications, Energy and Paper Union started a \$50,000 fund. The Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) and the Quebec Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) have also launched fund appeals to their members. The Canadian Auto Workers Union announced it would donate \$50,000. The Steelworkers union gave \$150,000, while many other union locals initiated drives.

*Michel Dugré is a member of the International Association of Machinists at the JWI Johnson plant in Montreal.*

### U.S. Immigration stops Sinn Fein member at border

BY MARC LICHTMAN

U.S. immigration officials in Houston, Texas, detained Pat Rice, a Sinn Fein member of the Belfast City Council, on July 25, preventing him from attending the São Paulo Forum in El Salvador, a meeting of political parties from throughout Latin America. Rice had been assured by U.S. officials in Belfast that his trip was cleared.

Rice told the Sinn Fein newspaper *An Phoblacht/Republican News* that "the immigration officers at Houston, however, informed me that since 'unfortunately' there was no transit lounge at Houston Airport, I needed to enter the United States to catch my plane to El Salvador, and that they were not going to allow me to enter the United States. Handcuffed and brought to a cell, I was detained for 25 hours and then put on a plane back to London. There is no doubt in my mind that I was not allowed to transit the United States because the congress I was to attend was regarded as left-wing."

## Winnipeg strikers return to work

BY KATY LEROUX

MONTREAL — On August 16, over 800 of the 900 Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) Local 2169 members on strike against Boeing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, packed into a meeting hall to vote on the company's final offer. Many unionists were wearing T-shirts reading "assaulted and peppered," referring to the police attack on the picket lines minutes after the strike began on July 11.

After being on strike for 38 days workers voted 86 percent in favor of the contract. The company had threatened to shut down the plant for good if the contract was refused, after strikers voted by 67 percent to reject a previous proposal on August 8.

Under the terms of the agreement, 350 workers returned to work immediately, with other call-backs scheduled to continue through to November. More than 200 jobs have been permanently eliminated.

The contract also calls for government-funded retraining by the company of the 212 permanently laid-off workers. The company is required to give them preferential rehiring rights for possible new positions.

"We can go back in with our heads up high because we got a major concession with help from your tax dollar and mine. We failed on pensions and benefits but ... secured training for our laid-off members. Those jobs were going anyway. Their departure was maybe hastened by six months because of the strike," said Dale Walker, Local 2169 financial secretary, in a phone interview.

The three-year agreement increases the pension contribution by \$1 to \$30 per year of service. Pay raises will be 2 percent in each of the first two years, 1.5 percent in the third and an immediate 42-cent cost of living raise. Wages now range from \$11.83

to \$22.21(CAN) an hour.

"The company screwed us over," said another CAW member with 10 years service who asked his name not be used. "The company is punishing all of us who were with the union. We're not called back right away." His return is scheduled for late October. Strikers explain that since seniority is departmental, the company has used work reorganization to call back selectively.

"Boeing is always talking about the team concept. Why can't we just work together and everybody can make money. I just want to be comfortable. We weren't asking for a lot," said Zvonko Jovanovic. He had voted to reject the offer.

"It's a war zone in there," said Walker, describing life in the plant now. "Barry Hoepfner was fired for walking behind a scab and saying, 'I guess they hire scabs here.'"

# 'Cuba helped revolutionary movements'

## Cuban military leader explains why guerrillas launched campaign in Bolivia

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Ernesto Che Guevara "chose Bolivia because it is in the middle of Latin America, and Che had the intention of extending the struggle throughout South America or as he said in his 1966 Message to the Tricontinental, to 'create two, three... many Vietnams!'" The speaker, Leonardo Tamayo, spoke to a capacity audience of 150 people at the Waverley Library here June 29. He answered a question from a participant at the meeting of why he and Guevara went as guerrilla fighters to Bolivia in 1966-7 to help lead the fight to bring down the military dictatorship and imperialist domination in that country.

Tamayo, whose combat name in Bolivia was "Urbano," was on a speaking tour of Australia and New Zealand, at the invitation of Ron Lander, chief librarian at Waverley.

"As long as U.S. imperialism exists," he said, "the peoples of Latin America will be more and more exploited." The cause of the poverty and hunger and the "concentration of wealth in fewer hands," he said, was the "plundering" of Latin America by Wall Street.

Guevara also chose Bolivia, Tamayo said, because of the agreement of the secretary general of the Bolivian Communist Party, Mario Monje, to "give full support to the armed struggle" — support that "in the end, was not given." Asked why this didn't happen, Tamayo replied that "certain Latin American leaders had wanted to make guerrilla warfare from their armchairs."

However, in reply to a question about his Bolivian co-fighters, Tamayo pointed out that "among them was Inti Peredo, a member of the Central Committee of the Bolivian Communist Party." Inti Peredo was one



right photo: Militant/Russell Johnson  
**Che Guevara sought to reach out to fighters like the Bolivians miners above who tried to block a military coup in 1971. Right, Leonardo Tamayo, ex-combatant with Guevara in the Rebel Army and in Bolivia, speaking at Auckland University in New Zealand, June 6.**

of five survivors of the Bolivia guerrilla campaign along with Urbano. "People like Inti, like Coco [Peredo], like Nato [Méndez]," Tamayo said, referring to other Bolivian combatants in Guevara's force, "gave their lives fighting for a cause with honor."

Tamayo emphasized that "the revolution in Bolivia was not going to be made by the 15 Cubans including Che. It was going to be made by the Bolivians. What we were going to contribute was experience." He added later that in "our internationalism... we do not impose unilateral judgments,



and in particular, Che did not do this." He pointed out that they went to Bolivia on the initial understanding that "the Bolivian Communist Party was in agreement."

Tamayo described the last hours with Guevara at the Yuro Ravine on Oct. 7, 1967. This was a heroic, unequal battle in which 5,000 Bolivian soldiers, informed by two

deserters and directed by the CIA, surrounded the diminished guerrilla force of a couple dozen. "If Che had not been killed" in this premature confrontation, Tamayo confidently stated, he would "have gone on to liberate other countries."

Asked if the Cuban government had provided the necessary assistance to the guerrilla fighters, Tamayo replied that "Cuba has always helped revolutionary movements throughout Latin America... What's more, along with Che went some of us who were officers of the Armed Forces, of the Ministry of the Interior, and of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party."

Urbano finished this point by saying that "the relationship between Fidel and Che was like that between twin brothers — because they thought alike."

In a nationally televised interview on the Special Broadcasting Service program *Date-line* on July 27, Tamayo pointed out that the "rumors of an angry parting between Che and Fidel" were "fabrications spread by the enemy of the revolution, the United States," by the very same forces which "maintain the criminal blockade against Cuba" today.

Replying to a question, Tamayo expressed his optimism that "youth are the hope of humanity. Young people have to look to Che's example, not wait for it to arrive... Che is the teacher of the young people of Latin America. Che's thought should have good students... Che thought for all times, for all epochs."

Tamayo described how Guevara was both "very human" and "very demanding with himself in all his tasks. Che always knew how to make himself understood, both with words and with deeds, because he was always consistent in what he said and what he did."

## Ex-guerrilla slanders Cuban revolution with lies

*Vie et mort de la révolution cubaine (Life and death of the Cuban revolution)*, Fayard publishers, Paris, 1996, by Daniel Alarcón Ramírez "with the collaboration of Jean-Baptiste Grasset." 298 pages.

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

"Publication of this book is a political act; it marks my break with the regime of Fidel Castro." With these words Daniel Alarcón Ramírez opens his book, released in early May in Paris, and announces his defection from the Cuban revolution.

*Vie et mort de la révolution cubaine*, which has appeared only in French so far, seeks to capitalize on the credentials of its author. Better known by his nom de guerre *Benigno*, Alarcón is a veteran of the Cuban revolutionary war in the Sierra Maestra mountains in the late 1950s and one of three Cuban combatants to survive the 1966-67 guerrilla campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara.

In July 1957, as a 17-year-old peasant, Alarcón joined the Rebel Army, which under the leadership of Fidel Castro led Cuba's workers and farmers to topple the U.S.-backed Batista tyranny. Serving under commander Camilo Cienfuegos, Alarcón won the esteem of his comrades through the courage, tenacity, and self-sacrifice he displayed in battle. After the revolution's triumph in

1959 he continued working in the armed forces, reaching the rank of lieutenant in the Cuban army.

Today Alarcón is a resident of France, a bitter opponent of Cuba's socialist revolution and an imperialist power he praises as "a democratic country" (p. 295). As a justification for his defection Alarcón recounts a familiar stew of slanders, lies, and distortions taken straight from Washington's propaganda cookbook, plus numerous concoctions of his own.

For a brief period, Alarcón's book received extensive press coverage in France and in the Spanish-language media internationally. Apart from fleeting coverage in the *Miami Herald*, however, most of the major U.S. media has not publicized his defection and allegations, some of which are too patently false to serve as effective propaganda against the Cuban revolution. Alarcón's attempt to pose as a still-loyal admirer of Guevara while echoing the anticommunist ravings of Cuban-American rightists is a bit too contradictory for the enemies of Cuba.

The guerrilla campaign in Bolivia is one of Alarcón's main targets. This heroic effort to extend the Cuban revolution, build a continent-wide movement of fighting workers and farmers capable of contending for power, and, in the process, relieve some of the pressure from U.S. imperialism on the

revolutionary combatants in Vietnam, earned the fear and hatred of the U.S. empire. Since the October 1967 murder of Guevara by the CIA-directed Bolivian army, the U.S. government and its backers have churned out slanders against Fidel Castro and Guevara around these events.

### Familiar lie about Castro-Guevara rift

Alarcón echoes one of Washington's well-worn lies about the Bolivian campaign. According to his book, Guevara left Cuba following sharp political disagreements with the rest of the leadership. Cuban president Fidel Castro and armed forces minister Raúl Castro knowingly sent Guevara and the others to their deaths "in order to get rid of them" (p. 167). The campaign was a hopeless adventure that by the end turned into a nightmare of desperation. And, to top it off, Havana sealed the guerrillas' fate by agreeing to demands from Moscow to cut off all aid to them (pp. 8, 170).

There is one problem with this account. It is contradicted by Guevara's own diary of the Bolivian guerrilla struggle. It is also refuted by the two other surviving combatants of that campaign — Harry Villegas and Leonardo Tamayo, known as Pombo and Urbano, respectively. Villegas, now a brigadier general in the Cuban army, and Tamayo, a colonel in Cuba's Ministry of the Interior, have both recently carried out international speaking tours on their experiences.

### A vivid imagination

Alarcón throws in additional falsifications about the Cuban revolution every few pages of *Vie et mort*:

- "More than 90 percent of the Cuban armed forces do not support either the government or Fidel Castro" (p. 13).
- "Fidel and Raúl Castro organized the [1959 plane crash] disappearance of Camilo [Cienfuegos] because he was more popular than even Fidel" (p. 77).
- The war against the counterrevolutionary bandits in the Escambray mountains in the early 1960s was misguided. "These people had a clearer appreciation than we did of what was going to happen in Cuba; that is why they decided to take up arms against Fidel" (p. 97).
- The Cuban internationalists who fought

alongside Guevara in the liberation struggle in the Congo in 1965 were "mercenaries" (p. 111).

• Arnaldo Ochoa, the Cuban general executed in 1989 for drug trafficking and diamond smuggling in Angola, was only carrying out government policy in committing these crimes: "his orders were to obtain foreign currency by any means necessary" (p. 264). And the same was true of Ochoa's co-defendant, Col. Antonio de la Guardia, a Ministry of Interior officer executed for drug smuggling.

• "The Americans have frequently been charged with pillaging Cuba. But hasn't Fidel opened the doors to the Japanese, French, British, Brazilians, and above all, to the Spanish, to the point that we are once again under the whip of the Spanish colonizer?" (p. 276).

• In Cuban hospitals today, "80 percent of the nurses have walked off the job" and patients are routinely chucked out of hospitals four hours after surgery, major or minor (pp. 279, 280).

Some of the wildest claims are those Alarcón makes of himself: that he was at various times head of Guevara's personal escort, national prison director in Cuba, a member of Castro's personal escort, a fighter with Guevara in the Congo, and a combatant in Angola in the 1970s.

All these feats and titles, however, are true only in Alarcón's fevered mind, as Brig. Gen. Villegas — to cite one unimpeachable source — has noted (see interview with Villegas in the August 19 *Militant*).

One interesting biographical fact, reported in news accounts of Alarcón's defection, is that he is married to Ileana de la Guardia, Antonio de la Guardia's daughter, who joined him in France. *Vie et mort* describes his friendship with the Ochoa — De la Guardia gang.

Readers who want to know what really happened in Bolivia will find the story in Guevara's *Bolivian Diary*, published by Pathfinder. They will also get an accurate firsthand account in Villegas's new book, *Pombo: Un hombre de la guerrilla del Che* (Pombo: A man in Che's guerrilla army). Published in Cuba in February, it will be brought out in an English translation by Pathfinder later this year.

### For further reading by Pathfinder

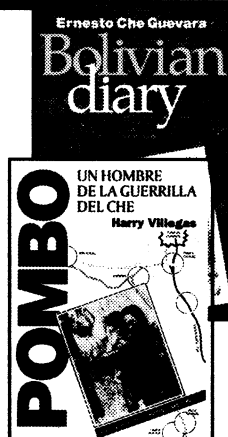
#### The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account of the 1966-67 guerrilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of seizing state power. Includes excerpts from the diaries and accounts of other combatants, including—for the first time in English—*My Campaign with Che* by Bolivian leader Inti Peredo. \$21.95

#### Pombo: un hombre de la guerrilla del Che

Harry Villegas

Pombo: A man in Che's guerrilla army. Editora Política. \$16.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.



# Youth defend Cuba, build 1997 world youth festival

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Around the country, in city after city, young people returning from the 1996 U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange have begun putting into practice the declaration they made in Cuba: to come back to the United States, tell the truth about the Cuban revolution, and build opposition to the U.S. government policy of aggression toward Cuba.

The Youth Exchange participants in several cities have continued working together in groupings or joined local coalitions. They have traveled to other cities and states, bringing their experiences to those involved in other struggles, looking to build solidarity with Cuba, and sign people up to go to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students set for summer 1997.

Ten young people from Seattle went on the exchange to Cuba, five of whom were high school students. Many of them are meeting every Wednesday to plan concrete activities to build next year's festival.

On August 14 the Seattle Cuba Friendship Coalition sponsored a report-back meeting at the Central Lutheran Church. Eighty people attended and six Youth Exchange participants spoke.

Karen Brunton, a student at Garfield High School and panelist at the meeting, said, "What struck me was that high government officials were concerned about issues like women's rights and racism, whereas politicians here don't even care about those things."

Naomi Grogan-Hurlich, also a Garfield student, was impressed with how eager Cubans were to discuss everything. "The conversations we had with the Cubans were amazing," she told listeners at the event. "[There is a] different culture as far as how youth are prioritized in Cuba. We in America have a lot to learn from Cuba."

Joy Patman, a young teacher at Garfield, pointed to Cuba's free education in her remarks. She compared it to the stark reality of massive cuts in education in this country. She also referred to the fact that while teachers are being laid off by the hundreds here, Cuba has a 12-to-1 student teacher ratio.

Melissa Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 7th District, also went on the trip and spoke at the event. Harris gave a picture of the modest economic recovery Cuban's fought to obtain over the past year, quoting Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly in Cuba, who said "We would not be able to do this without our leadership going to the masses."

Autumn Knowlton is an 18-year-old student at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and also one of the activists in that city organizing the report-backs and other events to build the World Youth Festival. In her remarks, she raised

the challenges Cuba faces on the question of gay rights, which were discussed several times over the course of the trip.

Amodee Weld a young worker said, "When we fight together here we are following the example the Cuban people set for us."

Fifteen people signed up at that event to go to the youth festival.

## Chicago youth take banner everywhere

Chicago participants in the Youth Exchange had a meeting a week after they returned to discuss what to do next after having been to Cuba. After agreeing that they wanted to continue to work together, they decided to make a banner to take to the Democratic Party Convention and to the march for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C. on October 12. The banner reads, "U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange demands an end to the U.S. blockade against Cuba — No to Helms-Burton." They also designed a leaflet announcing the World Festival of Youth and Students.

Six members of the Chicago delegation spoke at a report-back event at the Militant Labor Forum where some 90 people attended, including more than 40 members of the United Transportation Union who were in town for a meeting of socialist rail workers.

They were able to raise \$150, to help pay for the leaflets and materials for the banner. The banner was painted at a meeting of the Southwest Youth Collaborative, where 20 other youth were also making banners for the Democratic Party Convention protests.

Before the meeting and banner making, those who recently came back from Cuba gave a report on the trip. Seven people said they want to go to Cuba in 1997.

Marisol Morales, a 21-year-old, Puerto Rican student at DePaul University, went to San Diego a couple of weeks ago to the protests around the Republican Party Convention and to be on La Marcha, a march largely organized by Chicanos against Proposition 209 and other assaults on affirmative action. She then went to the Latina/Chicana Conference there in San Diego, where she made a presentation on Cuba.

Susana Ochoa, a 22-year-old Mexicana who recently graduated from DePaul, went

to Milwaukee for a report-back with youth exchange participants there. She brought the banner and youth festival leaflet along, and spoke at the meeting. When she talked about what Chicago young people were doing, it inspired the delegation from Milwaukee to begin to be more active and think of ways to get the word out the world youth festival.

## Speaking at poetry slams

In New York, some of the 17 participants meet weekly at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), together with other members of the New York Youth Exchange Committee.

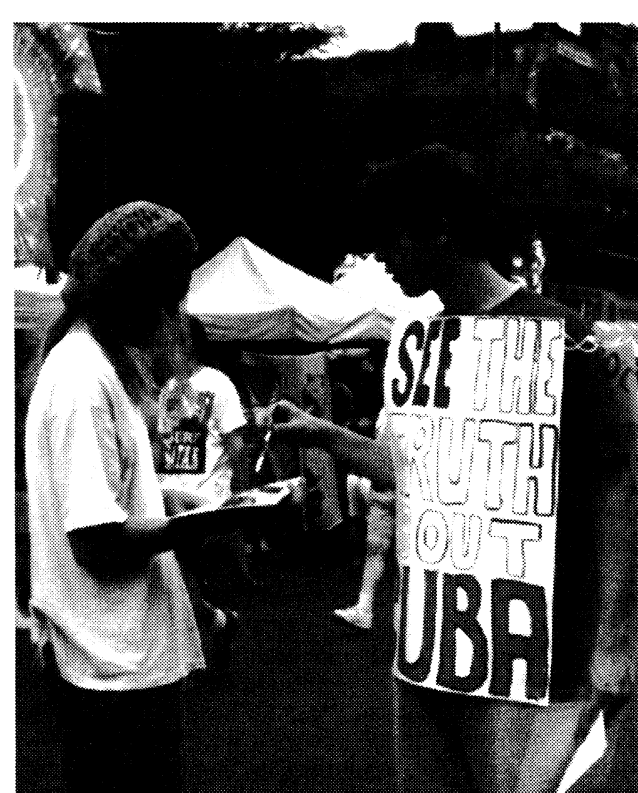
Since returning, participants have been interviewed on a campus radio station, CBS news, and two of the participants gave a report-back at a poetry slam. In addition a number of the participants have spoken to Militant Labor Forums.

The highlight event so far has been a report-back at Casa de las Américas. About 40 people attended the meeting. Three participants spoke; Laala Matias talked about the impact and importance of staying with Cuban families on the trip, James Hibber described his experience as a first time traveler to Cuba, and Brian Taylor spoke on the example Cuba sets for fighting youth in the United States and the attraction these fighters have to Cuba.

After that Pedro Nuñez Mosquera, the alternate ambassador to the Cuban Mission in the United States, addressed the meeting. "We followed your trip to Cuba very closely here with great interest.... I could not let this opportunity go by to meet some of the youth that went."

He ended his remarks by saying that there are things that have kept the Cuban revolution intact. "One of these," he said, "is our [Cuban] people.... And two is our friends, friends like you in this room."

In addition to report-backs, the Youth Exchange activists in New York have leafleted for next summer's youth festival and publi-



Militant/Sarah Katz

Youth in Minneapolis are organizing report-backs and building 1997 world youth festival in Cuba at events.

cized their weekly meetings at a Rage Against the Machine concert and at an Afro-Cuban music concert.

BY SARAH KATZ

MINNEAPOLIS—Riding on the momentum from their trip, participants of the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange from Twin Cities decided to take part in CedarFest, Sunday August 18. CedarFest, which happens annually, is a street fair with different booths and stages with bands.

On the Friday before CedarFest a group of 10 participants from the Youth Exchange gathered to make signs to wear as sandwich boards. Some of the slogans included: "US Hands off Cuba," "US Troops Out of Guantanamo," and "Join the World Youth Festival, Cuba '97."

Thousands of people flowed through the fair during the day. Our group of seven passed out 300 leaflets advertising a report-back meeting, Twin Cities Cuba Network meetings, and the youth festival in 1997. We also had sign up sheets for those who wanted more information about Cuba; 94 people signed up.

People were excited to see us out there; some walked by and gave us the thumbs up sign. Others want to set up report-backs for us at their churches and high schools.

# Labor Exchange builds trips to Cuba

BY JOE SWANSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — In a recent telephone interview Ignacio Meneses, national coordinator of the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, pointed to the importance of workers from the United States visiting Cuba and finding out for themselves the genuine situ-

ation and the character of Cuban unions. The Labor Exchange has coordinated regular exchange trips to Cuba over the last five years, including the most recent trip of over 50 unionists to attend the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) in April. Upcoming labor trips to Cuba include a November 23-December 2 seminar and an international labor conference there next summer.

The participants in the delegation to the CTC congress were rank-and-file workers, full-time union organizers, shop stewards, and retired officials from over twenty unions. The delegates came from more than two dozen cities from coast to coast. A number of those who attended the CTC congress organized report-backs to union locals or house meetings with fellow unionists. Many wrote articles for their union newsletters, were interviewed by local newspapers or radio shows, and worked through their local Cuba solidarity coalitions to speak at broader public meetings.

These experiences lay the groundwork for the next Labor Exchange trip. Meneses explained that unionists have begun sending in their applications for the November labor seminar later this year. The group will be hosted by the CTC and will stay at the Lazaro Peña school of the Cuban trade union federation. Participants will visit three Cuba cities so that they will have an exchange with rank-and-file Cuban workers and CTC leaders. U.S. workers on the trip will be visiting the Cienfuegos nuclear power plant, a factory that builds the Mercedes Benz engines for the sugar cane cutters, and will visit a hospital, as well participate in the family doctor program, Meneses said.

In addition, there will be a two-day meet-

ing in Havana with trade unionists from other countries who will be in Cuba to begin organizing for the International Labor Conference on NeoLiberal Economics and Globalization of the Economy, which the CTC will host in Cuba in late July and early August of 1997.

The Labor Exchange has published a booklet on the 17th Congress of the CTC. It is entitled *Se Puede Mucho Juntos! We Can do Much Together!* and contains the transcript of a meeting of the U.S. Labor Exchange delegation with Pedro Ross Leal, general-secretary of the CTC. The delegation was able to interview Ross a day before the CTC congress began. The booklet also contains excerpts of Ross's speech at the opening ceremony of the congress and major excerpts of the speech given by Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and first-secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba at the closing session of the CTC congress. Meneses said the Labor Exchange also has a video available that was filmed during the April trip. It features footage of the 17th CTC congress, May Day 1996 in Havana, and some of the factories, schools, and hospitals the delegation visited.

For more information about the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, or if you are interested in attending the November labor seminar in Cuba and need an application or to request a order of the booklet or video, contact the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, P.O. Box 39188, Redford, MI 48239. Phone: (313) 836-3752. Fax: (313) 836-3752.

Joe Swanson is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149, Perry, Iowa. He participated in the April Labor Exchange delegation to the CTC congress.

# Cuba demands return of hijackers

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — The government of Cuba is asking the U.S. government for the return of three Cubans who hijacked a Cuban plane to Florida on August 16.

The three residents of Havana — Leonardo Reyes Ramirez, Roberto Cuello, and Adel Regalado — boarded the plane at knife-point near Guanabacoa and ordered the pilot, Adolfo Perez Pantoja, to fly to South Florida.

The plane crashed 30 miles southwest of Sanibel Island where the pilot and hijackers were picked up by a Russian freighter and transferred to a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.

The pilot immediately requested to go back to Cuba, but was held in the United States for a week. Once back in Havana, Perez Pantoja told the press that he had been threatened with a pistol and a knife. Hijacker Reyes Ramirez had told Miami press they had threatened the pilot with a nail file.

The aircraft was being used to shuttle vacationers in Cuba along the northern coast.

Cuello boarded the plane pretending to be a Cuban tourist guide. Reyes Ramirez faked being a tourist from Columbia and Regalado worked for the Cuban tourist enterprise, the *Miami Herald* reported Au-

gust 22.

But the Cuban pilot told media in Havana that Reyes Ramirez also had said he was an "agent of the CIA" and the other two hijackers said they were "activists of a human rights group on the island," wrote *El Nuevo Herald* on August 24.

According to the *Miami Herald*, after hijacking the plane, "the three dropped 2,500 to 3,000 political pamphlets to protest the Feb. 24 downing by Cuban MIG's" of U.S.-based Brothers to the Rescue aircraft.

The pilot, Perez Pantoja, told the hijackers he did not have enough fuel for the mileage to Florida but they ordered him to fly nonetheless.

## Washington expels Cuban diplomat

Meanwhile, on August 19 the Clinton administration announced it was expelling José Luis Ponce, a Cuban diplomat at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington.

This followed the Cuban government's order that Robin Meyer, an officer at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, leave the country. Cuban officials charged Meyer with carrying out activities "incompatible with her diplomatic status," such as organizing meetings for opponents of the Cuban revolution.

# Clinton leads offensive

Continued from front page

he said, Clinton "deserves four more years." Sen. Daniel Moynihan told New York delegates at the convention not to expect a Democratic Congress to change the legislation. "It won't be reversed," he declared. "So we better learn to live with what is ahead of us. And it is going to be hell."

Unambiguously setting the framework for the Democratic convention, Clinton put his signature to legislation ending a piece of the 1935 Social Security Act, on August 22, days before the gathering opened in Chicago. The "welfare bill" ends Aid for Families with Dependent Children and sharply restricts eligibility for the Supplemental Security Income and food stamp programs. Earlier in the week he signed a so-called health reform bill that seeks to shift more responsibility for medical care onto individual workers, as well as legislation raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over the next year. These measures were adopted as a package supported by both Democrats and Republicans.

In California, Republican governor Peter Wilson seized on the anti-immigrant provisions in the welfare law as justification to immediately sign an executive order barring undocumented immigrants from access to everything from public housing to prenatal care programs. A state ballot referendum aimed at doing this, Proposition 187, was passed in 1994, but its implementation has up to now been blocked by a court order.

The federal law allows states to extend aid to undocumented immigrants only by enacting a new state law "which affirmatively provides for such eligibility." In addition, the law gives states the option to cut off Medicaid coverage to most legal immigrants, a provision Wilson has previously said he supports.

## Program for limits on health care

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the president's wife, addressed the convention to bolster the administration's social policies in a speech heavy on "family values." She praised the new health bill and laid out a program of legislation that, under the guise of helping working people, would codify limits on health care and attack the principle of overtime pay.

She promoted as a radical-sounding measure a new bill "that would prohibit the practice of forcing mothers and babies to leave the hospital in less than 48 hours" after birth, and called for another to help "unemployed Americans and their children keep health insurance for six months after losing their jobs." Such legislation would for the first time set time frames on these rights.

Hillary Clinton also pointed to a proposed "flex-time bill that would give parents the option to take overtime pay either in extra income or in extra time off depending on whichever is best for your family." The principle of extra pay for overtime work was an essential component of the labor movement's fight for the eight-hour day, which would be undercut by such a measure.

The line up at the Democratic Party convention was heavy on "law and order" and "family values," as Clinton pressed forward the ideological underpinnings of the bipartisan offensive.

The first night's speakers included a Chicago cop who had been shot, as well as Sarah and James Brady, major promoters of gun control laws. James Brady was an aide to Ronald Reagan who was shot during an assassination attempt on the former president. In his campaign stops on the way to the convention, Clinton promoted his administration's moves to increase the num-

ber of cops on the streets, and pledged to continue this course. Right before the convention the president announced plans to create a national FBI database of those convicted of "sex offenses."

## Election campaign heats up

Clinton went into this convention with the Dole campaign gaining momentum. With the nomination of Jack Kemp as his running mate just before the Republican convention, Dole has so far succeeded in making economic growth a central issue in the election. When Clinton signed the welfare bill, Dole described it as similar to "my welfare reform proposal." He then proceeded to portray the Clinton administration as representing the current situation of economic stagnation, and the Dole-Kemp ticket as the promoters of more rapid growth and the protectors of Social Security.

"The Democratic Party has opposed everything we want to do," vice-presidential nominee Kemp told a rally in Watertown, South Dakota, August 24. "They are the party of the status quo; we are the party of change." Kemp's revitalization of the Dole presidential bid is precisely what he had been selected to do.

A July 23 "policy forum" hosted by Republican Congressional leaders, where former senator Kemp played a prominent role, foreshadowed his nomination. The *Financial Times* commented that the politicians there "feel that [Dole's] only hope of averting a landslide defeat in November, which could even see the Democrats regain control of Congress, lies in announcing an eye-catching economic growth package, including a substantial cut in tax rates." Kemp has long been an advocate of such moves, as well as schemes like a flat tax and return to the gold standard.

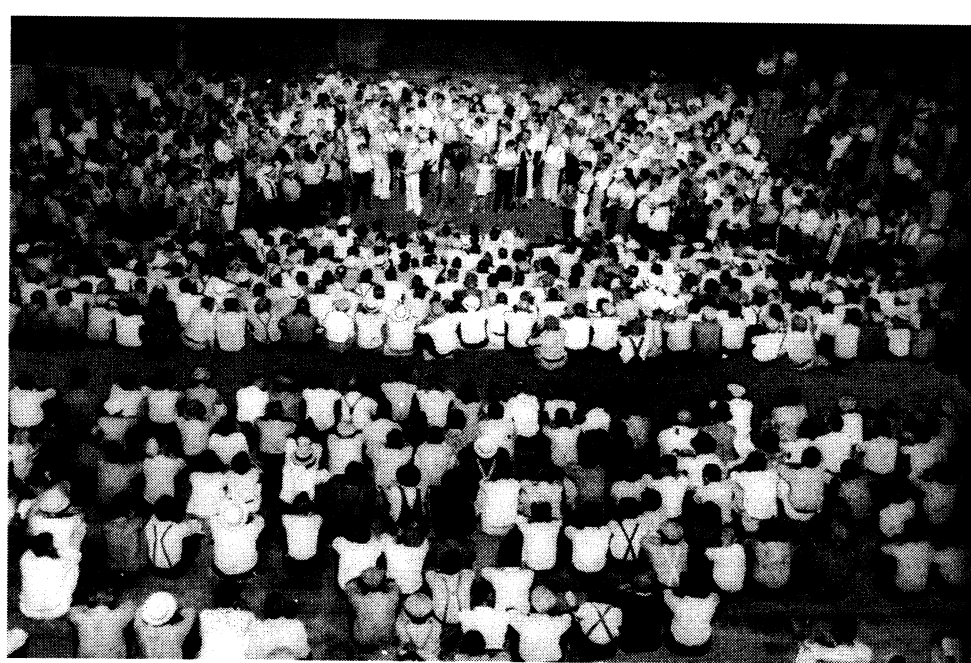
When Dole's running mate speaks now, he stands behind a podium that reads, "15 Percent = Jobs," referring to their vow to spur growth by cutting tax rates 15 percent.

While completely supporting the actual attacks on the foundations of the gains working people have fought for, Dole presents himself as a defender of Social Security. "We're going to balance the budget while cutting taxes," he said during a campaign stop in New Jersey. "And while we do this, we'll do this while preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare. Don't be scared by all the ads that are going to be coming at you from the Clinton campaign. They've got a lot of money."

When he addressed the Veterans of Foreign Wars August 20, Dole also promised not to touch veterans' benefits, though an aide quickly explained the candidate meant they wouldn't be cut disproportionately to other budget items.

The Republican contenders are also trying to get more votes from Blacks. Dole and Kemp both addressed the National Association of Black Journalists August 23, calling for what they termed "a new civil rights agenda." The presidential candidate said he "missed an opportunity" by not attending the convention of the NAACP earlier this year. "Our candidate for President in 1964, Barry Goldwater, missed an opportunity by opposing the 1964 Civil Rights Act," he added.

Dole spoke said he supported "aggressive, determined and persistent recruitment of minorities and women by business, government, and universities," but was against affirmative action "quotas and preferences and set-asides." He also said he did not support a plank in the platform adopted at the Republican convention that calls for ending automatic citizenship for children of immigrants who are born in the United



Unemployed workers in Works Progress Administration program strike during 1930s depression demanding end to cuts in relief and abuse by social workers. The gains codified in Social Security Act were won through such battles by labor movement.

States.

Meanwhile, Kemp appeared before an audience in the Black community of South-Central Los Angeles August 28, and declared, "This is not the Grand Old Party. This is a Grand New Party.... It's the Grand Opportunity Party.... Keep your eyes open, keep your ears open, keep your heart open to the possibility that if both parties are competing for every vote, it will be better for the Black community, the Hispanic community, the inner city community."

Since Clinton's signing of the recent social bills and the surge of the Dole-Kemp ticket, many who call themselves socialists have deepened their efforts to back Clinton. The *People's Weekly World*, newspaper of the Communist Party USA ran a front-page article by the party's chairman, Gus Hall, describing the Republican convention as a "four-day ultra-right ideological crusade" gathering with a "whiff of fascism." Actually both ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan and the Republican congressmen around Newt Gingrich were forced to take a back seat at the event.

## Welfare bill wedge against social gains

Despite the protests by some prominent Democratic Party liberals, Clinton's signature on the welfare bill was simply what he had promised to do in his 1992 election campaign and earlier. During his term in office, the president signed waivers for 41 governors to restructure their state welfare systems.

The act ends most federal funding for welfare programs, instead turning over block grants to state governments to use within strict guidelines. These include limiting benefits to no more than five years for most workers forced to rely on welfare, and denying aid to immigrants in most cases, even those with legal documents. Childless workers who are unemployed will be allowed to receive food stamps for only three months in any three-year period. The Supplemental Security Income program for children will be cut, denying benefits to an estimated 315,000 disabled children over the next six years.

The welfare act also stipulates an increase in the already humiliating degree of means testing and intrusion into individuals' lives by the government. Women will be required to identify the father of their children, or see their benefits cut by at least 25 percent. For noncitizens who still may be allowed to receive some form of aid, their sponsors' income will be counted against their eligibility. Those who have been convicted of a drug felony will be ineligible for cash benefits.

Reflecting the views of some top officials of women's and civil rights organizations, National Organization for Women president Patricia Ireland told the *Nation* magazine she was "bitterly disappointed" that Clinton signed the bill. "I will not lift a finger to campaign for him," she declared. However, "I want Bill Clinton to win," she added. "He is head and shoulders above Bob Dole."

## Health care for those who can pay

The health bill — introduced in Congress by Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy and Republican Senator Nancy Kassebaum and approved overwhelmingly in Congress — has been touted as a measure that would give at least a little more security to workers in need of medical care. Its main provisions, however, reinforce the idea of health care as an individual responsibility, not a social right.

The most publicized aspect of the legislation is so-called portable health insurance coverage for people who change jobs. There are a lot of ifs, though. If a worker has health insurance and changes jobs, the insurance company will be obligated to offer him or her an individual policy. There are no regulations on what the company can charge for this policy however. And the guarantee doesn't apply at all to the more than 40 million people who don't have health coverage to begin with.

Another major element is an "experiment" under which 750,000 people will buy catastrophic health insurance and set up tax-free individual accounts to cover routine medical expenses instead of buying into traditional health insurance plans. Such a plan can only benefit those who are in relatively good health and have thousands of dollars to pour into the savings accounts.

Furthermore, this measure comes in the context of bipartisan probes toward the privatization of Medicare and Social Security. A bipartisan Advisory Council on Social Security, appointed by the Clinton administration two years ago, is supposed to issue a report soon suggesting three options, all of which include putting hundreds of billions of dollars in Social Security taxes into

Continued on Page 14

## Capitalists' safety valve

Ross Perot, the billionaire who took 19 percent of the vote in the 1992 presidential race, announced August 18 he's in the running again. This year Perot will be the candidate of the Reform Party, which he organized following his last campaign, after a noncontest with former Colorado governor Richard Lamm for the party's nomination.

Perot's campaign has been pretty muted so far. He received a lukewarm response at the convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. One of his main points of appeal is that he presents himself as an alternative to the two parties, though his right-wing chauvinist rhetoric is entirely in the framework of defending the capitalist system. Clinton and Dole are "bought and paid for by these companies who want to take the jobs out of the U.S.A. and take it over to child labor in Thailand, make tennis shoes for \$5, pay 22 cents to ship them across the Pacific, sell them to our kids for 150 bucks and they kill one another on the street to get them," Perot told the veterans. "Is that what you fought for?" Ralph Nader also officially accepted nomination for president, as the candidate of the Green Party, though he says he will not join the party or run on its platform. His bourgeois reformist campaign is focused on nationalist opposition to "multinational corporations" and trade agreements such as NAFTA and GATT. In an interview in the July/August issue of *Mother Jones* magazine, Nader described the role he sees for his campaign. "Historically, the two parties have always been nudged into better directions by third and fourth parties, but right now we have a two-party convergence — one might call it a collaboration or a conspiracy — against the broader political wishes of the American people. The difference between the two parties continually narrows and moves toward being indentured to big business."

— N.C.

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# Auto bosses seek concessions from UAW

BY MARK GILSDORF  
AND JOHN SARGE

DETROIT, Michigan — On September 14 the contracts between the United Automobile Workers (UAW) and the Big Three auto makers—Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors (GM) expire. This takes place at a time when the auto bosses are pushing to cut costs and worsen conditions of their unionized workforce.

The UAW represents almost 400,000 workers at the Big Three; 216,000 at 149 GM locations, 104,000 at 70 Ford plants and 66,000 at 45 Chrysler factories. For the past several decades the union has negotiated a contract at one auto company, then demanded the other two sign a similar agreement.

The big business press reflects the employers' desire for concessions. The August 23 *Wall Street Journal* reports that the companies aim to reduce the number of job classifications to have greater flexibility in forcing autoworkers to learn and do more jobs. They all want to contract parts manufacturing out to lower paid non-union parts suppliers to lower costs, a process known as outsourcing in the industry.

Early speculation in the union and in the press was that Chrysler would be the target for this year, but the *Wall Street Journal* reported Chrysler "made it clear that it wouldn't accept limits on its right to outsource parts."

The *New York Times* reported August 26 that the UAW "is leaning toward negotiating a new national contract first" at GM and Ford. The Big Three negotiators all want to write the first contract because it gives them a chance to structure it to meet their needs. "These talks are critical to improving GM's competitive position in the global marketplace," Gerald A. Knechtel, GM's chief labor negotiator, said in a August 23 statement.

What GM plans to do to become "competitive" is lower the cost of assembling vehicles. "GM poses the biggest challenge for the UAW," *Wall Street Journal* asserted. "The No. 1 automaker needs to cut thousands of jobs to be as productive as its rivals and it wants to buy more parts from cheaper, nonunion suppliers."

The bosses at GM have the highest production costs in the U.S. auto industry because they didn't slash their work-force in the 1980's like their rivals at Ford and Chrysler. They also seek to lower their labor cost per vehicle.

For the last three years each GM car and truck has averaged over \$2,000 in labor costs while Chrysler spent around \$1600 and Ford around \$1250. GM plans to cut another 70,000 workers in the coming years. This is on top of slashing 22,000 workers since the last contract in 1993 and 58,000 workers in the three years before that. In order to cut

70,000 jobs the company wants to shift more work to low cost parts suppliers and cut the wages of workers at the corporation's Delphi parts division.

An indication of what GM wants is found in the contract it signed with International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 801 in Dayton, Ohio in July. The union represents about 3000 workers at Delphi's Harrison Thermal plant, makers of auto air conditioning compressors. Starting pay for production workers has been lowered to 50 percent of the full wage of \$18 an hour and it will take fifteen years to reach full pay. Skilled trades workers, who up until now started at full pay, will come into the plant at 70 percent.

In return, Delphi promised to guarantee 1500 jobs for fifteen years and offered a \$15,000 retirement incentive. A lower starting wage is important to the owners of the auto companies because there are an expected 250,000 retirements in the next seven years. GM could have upwards of 15,000 workers retiring in each of the next few years.

The Big Three are facing growing competition. Not only do they challenge each other, but in the last 13 years Japanese auto makers have expanded their North American annual production from 33,508 in 1983 to a projected 3.2 million vehicles in 2000.

One response from the auto bosses has been to shift production to other parts of the world. On August 20 Chrysler announced a new factory in Brazil. But to make their North American operations more profitable the Big Three must extract more concessions from United States and Canadian workers.

Confronted with the drive by the auto makers the UAW leadership is not preparing the union ranks to respond. Many union locals at Big Three plants have not had union meetings since negotiations started in June. Even the strike authorization votes was done by ballot without organized discussion in many locations.

After a meeting on August 22 with 500 local union presidents and bargaining chairmen that was expected to set a target company in negotiations, UAW President Steve Yokich made his position clear, "Our mem-

bership didn't elect us to go out on strike. They elected us to get an agreement." No company was targeted.

Stock prices of the Big Three all rose that day, a result many *Wall Street* analysts attributed to Yokich's announcement.

There are reports that one consideration among UAW top officials is to avoid anything that may endanger the reelection of U.S. President William Jefferson Clinton. In the days leading up to the Democratic Party convention, UAW officials were actively trying to turn autoworkers out for planned appearances by the president.

The situation is somewhat different in Canada. The Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) contract also expires on September 14. The CAW President Buzz Hargrove told the press in July that a strike against GM "was very likely," because of the corporations here plan to cut the work force and push on outsourcing.

*John Sarge is a member of UAW local 900 and works for Ford, Mark Gilsdorf is a member of UAW local 247.*

## Poultry workers strike in N. Carolina

BY L. PALTRINERI  
AND DON MACKLE

MORGANTON, North Carolina — More than 200 striking poultry workers and their supporters rallied here August 17 outside the Case Farms Poultry Processing plant. Demonstrators then marched to the Court House as part of a seven day strike demanding a contract and changes in the working conditions.

"We want a contract," said Carlos Mathau, a 22-year-old Guatemalan born worker staffing the picketline the day before the rally. "The conditions of work are the most important thing for us in this strike. We want respect on the job. Right now we don't have the right to use the bathroom when we need to."

The majority of the 500 workers in the plant are Latinos, primarily from Guatemala.

This was the third strike in just over a year. After organizing a one-day strike in June, workers struck for a week in July 1995 after three workers were fired for protesting poor conditions in the plant. The workers returned to work after the company reinstated the fired workers and dropped charges against them. The ranks then voted to join the Laborers International Union.

"We had a meeting Wednesday night [August 7] and decided not to go back to work Thursday or Friday, and probably for the whole week after that," explained a Black woman who has worked at the plant for eight years. "We are trying to get the company to negotiate with us," she said.



Militant/L. Paltrineri

Striking poultry workers rally against Case Farms plant in Morganton, N. Carolina.

About half the workers in the plant were participating in the strike. They returned to work together August 20.

A delegation of religious leaders visited the plant in April, and documented many of the unsafe conditions workers face. Some of the problems include management's refusal to allow workers to go to the bathroom between breaks, and high line speed resulting in many injuries from carpal tunnel syndrome to knife wounds.

Case Farms deducts payments for all equipment employees use from their pay-

checks. They charge \$.50 for plastic gloves, \$13.50 for a safety glove and \$12.75 for boots. These deductions take a substantial bite out of the paycheck of workers who receive a top pay of \$6.85 an hour.

Case Farms workers Luis Alberto Gonzalez, 27, and Roberto Mendoza, who were in the fifth day of a hunger strike, spoke at the August 17 rally. They spent their days in a tent set up across the street from the plant.

Melissa Wicks, a 16-year-old senior at Eastburke High School, spoke saying she was proud to be counted among those supporting the strike. She has been explaining the facts of the strike to people at her school and local churches. She brought a delegation from her church youth group to the rally.

According to workers on the union organizing committee, 48 workers have been fired for their union activity. At the same time, Case Farms continues its ruthless attack, filing several legal challenges to the year-old union election.

One local church donated its space as a headquarters for the workers, and is soliciting donations of food and money. Striking workers received a boost when the United Mine Workers Union organized one semi-truck load of food. A union official said members returned to work determined to keep fighting and are taking their contract battle back into the plant.

## Bosses blame engineers for train wreck

BY JANE HARRIS

HOBOKEN, New Jersey — On February 9 a head-on train collision killed both engineers and a passenger, as well as injuring 162 passengers. The collision has given the green light to the media and NJ Transit, a commuter railroad, to scapegoat locomotive engineers rather than unsafe practices as the real danger to public safety.

The *New York Times* ran a nearly page-long article July 22 beginning on the front page of the Metro Report section headlined, "Few Engineers Commit Bulk of Rail Errors — Data on Commuter Lines Show Lax Monitoring." For their article, the *Times* obtained the records of all locomotive engineers in the metropolitan area.

Beginning a half hour after the February accident occurred, there has been an attempt to smear the eastbound train engineer, John DeCurtis. While the National Transportation Safety Board has yet to issue a report, that agency, as well as company officials and major news media, repeat DeCurtis's guilt.

Only the worker's union, the United Transportation Union, has pointed out that DeCurtis — far from being asleep — stayed in the control car when he could have escaped. DeCurtis was in fact trying to reverse the engine's motors to save lives.

The day after the *Times* news article, their lead editorial, "A Few Bad Engineers," put the challenge to area railroads to fire engineers like DeCurtis. "At a time when the

transportation industry is pondering hard choices in deciding how much money and passenger convenience to sacrifice in the name of safety, the commuter rail lines are being given a modest but important challenge," editorialized the *Times*.

A week later, New Jersey Transit officials responded, saying that while they hadn't disclosed it, they set a policy April 3 whereby any engineer cited more than once for running a red signal will be automatically fired. Many engineers here conclude that the company did not want engineers to know this before voting on their contract, which provides no job protection should this type of firing occur.

The *Times*, which interviewed no rank-and-file engineers for its lengthy piece, could have learned a lot by bothering to talk to a few. For one thing, when a railroad company claims an engineer ran through a red signal, it holds a trial and then is the judge, jury, and executioner. The idea that the signal system may be faulty, the rail conditions hazardous (fall leaves can create a treacherous greasy film that makes braking very difficult at times), or that the equipment is poorly maintained are all beside the point.

If the *Times* had chosen to review its own coverage, it could have pointed to the fact that NJ Transit has decided not to speed up the installation of automatic braking systems in the Hoboken division. They are scheduled to appear in 2005! It could have pointed

to the horrendous 14 and 1/2 hour night split shift DeCurtis had worked when he was asked to make an extra run.

One engineer pointed out that all the helicopters that came to rescue the passengers were piloted by not one, but two people. The firemen, or assistant engineers, who used to be assigned to every engine, never should have been taken away. One new engineer here said, "Even criminals get three strikes. We only get two."

*Jane Harris is a locomotive engineer at NJ Transit and a member of the United Transportation Union.*

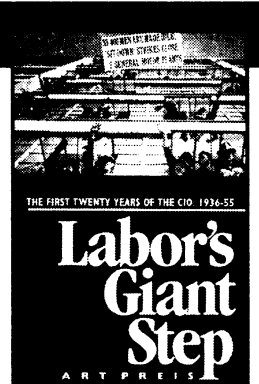
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## CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

**Socialist Educational Conference. Forum: The Capitalist Decline and the 1996 Elections.** Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party, and member of Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Sat., Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. Sessions: **Labor's Stake in the Fight to Defend Affirmative Action: Why We Need Quotas** by Susan Zarate, socialist Workers candidate for San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Ved Dookhun, Young Socialists. Sun., Sept. 8, 10 a.m. **Prospects for Socialism in the United States** by Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sun., Sept. 8, 1:30 p.m. All events will be held at 3284 23rd Street. (One block from the Mission and 24th Street BART stop). Donation for both days \$7. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

## FLORIDA MIAMI

**Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. President.** Presentation will be followed by a discussion period. Sat., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$5. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

## NEW YORK BROOKLYN

**Clinton Opens Bipartisan Assault on Social Security.** Speaker: Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 10th District in New York. Fri., Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 59 4th Ave. (corner with Bergen). Donation \$4. Tel: (718) 399-725

## MANHATTAN

**U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange Report-Back.** Fri.,

Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 214-16 Avenue A. (Between 13 and 14th Sts.) Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (212) 328-1501.

## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Labor and the 1996 Elections.** Panel discussion of activists in the labor movement and a candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## PITTSBURGH

**The Working Class Alternative to the Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression.** Speaker: Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Representative. 22 District. Fri., Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-

9785.

## AUSTRALIA SYDNEY

**The Fight for Democracy in Indonesia Today.** Speakers: Indonesian activist; Joanne Kuniansky, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 6, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 281 3297.

## BRITAIN

### MANCHESTER

**The Attacks on Women's Rights Today.** Speaker: Julie Crawford, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 6, 6 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

# Chechnya haunts Moscow

Continued from front page

right after his appointment, Lebed struck a hard line on Chechnya, saying it "is on the territory of Russia."

A former general who oversaw violent repression of popular uprisings in Georgia and Moldova, Lebed was tapped as "presidential envoy to Chechnya" on August 11 by Yeltsin to end the crisis in the bombed-out republic. Lebed balked at launching another military offensive, noting that "the beginning of a large-scale military operation" by Moscow would lead to a "social explosion and a national revolt" inside Russia.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the war, which began in 1994 when Yeltsin sent thousands of Russian troops to crush an independence movement.

### Divisions within officer corps

Divisions have developed among Russian military leaders on launching an assault to push the Chechens rebels out of Grozny. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Gen. Konstantin Pulikovskiy, deputy commander of Russian troops in Grozny, issued an ultimatum August 20 that he would launch an all-out offensive, giving residents until August 22 to leave town. "I see force as the only way out," he declared. "We do not intend to put up with brazen and barbaric actions of illegal groups who are continuing to shoot down our helicopters."

Gen. Igor Rodionov, defense minister and an ally of Lebed, condemned the ultimatum, stating Pulikovskiy "has no right to make such statements." Lebed blasted the ultimatum and Russian interior minister Gen. Anatoly Kulikov. Kulikov, appointed by Yeltsin on August 15, controls most of the Russian soldiers in Chechnya.

Kulikov told the Interfax news agency Lebed "is going to ruin more lives by his maniacal striving for power."

While Lebed presents his moves as an honest attempt to bring a peaceful solution to the Chechen crisis, London's *Financial Times* reports he attacked Kulikov as "being responsible for allowing the Chechen separatists to infiltrate Grozny and demanded he be sacked."

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the head of Russian forces in Chechnya, who launched an assault on the Chechen fighters right after the presidential elections, served as chief of staff of the 14th army in Moldova under Lebed.

On August 27, for the third day in a row, Yeltsin has rebuffed Lebed's attempts to meet with him. Yeltsin chided his national security adviser telling Russian television journalists, "I'm not completely satisfied with Lebed and his work in Chechnya."

### 'Russian army tired of war'

"The Russian army is tired of waging war," Russian military journalist Pavel Felgenhauer wrote August 22. "An increasing number of high-ranking military chiefs are openly questioning the 'seek and destroy rebels' policy that has dominated the Chechen war since the Russian army

marched on Grozny in December 1994." Igor Shevchenko, Moscow's military prosecutor in Chechnya, said at least 406 Russian soldiers have been killed and 1,264 wounded in the latest military battle.

The August 3 *Economist* asserted, "Most of [the Russian army's] 1.5 million soldiers are demoralized and ill-trained; they stay because they have nowhere better to go." Oleg Kirginsky, a 20-year-old soldier from Omsk told the *Financial Times* if it were up to him he would be willing to surrender and pull out of Chechnya with out a second thought. "We would be on our way home in a couple of seconds," he said.

The war in Chechnya cost Moscow nearly \$4 billion last year. "They have hungry miners they should be feeding. Why are they spending all their money destroying Chechnya?" asked Shamil Basayev, one of the Chechen commanders. In the Far East, more than 10,000 miners waged a strike in early August demanding back wages.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund released \$330 million for Russia August 21. According to the *New York Times*, officials of the imperialist financial institution said they were "pleased with steps taken to improve revenue collection."

"The real importance of the rebellious republic for Moscow is that it sits astride the oil pipeline best able to carry oil to and through Russia," stated the editors of the *Financial Times*. They called for "a solution that any foreign investor in the future oil fields would be looking for: guarantees of the free and unhindered flow of oil."



Chechen fighters' morale is high as they patrol district of their capital, Grozny.

### A major political blow to Moscow

Editors of the *New York Times* called the "explosive offensive by Chechen fighters" a staggering "blow to the Russian armed forces." The August 6 storming of Grozny by the Chechen guerrillas was timed to coincide with Yeltsin's inaugural ceremony. The military operation followed weeks of Russian attacks on Chechen villages.

By August 9, just as Yeltsin was being sworn in as president, the Chechens had corralled as many as 7,000 Russian troops in the center of Grozny. "Our units are totally surrounded in Grozny, and they are not even trying to defend themselves," a Rus-

sian military spokesman announced that day. Chechen fighters used captured Russian tanks and armored vehicles in seizing the city.

The big business media acknowledged that Russian bombardments have hardened the Chechen toilers' determination to resist Moscow's domination.

"Our boys are a lot more experienced about war, said Vakha Arsanov, field commander of one of four Chechen armies which now occupy the city. "The Chechen have morale and spirit. We know what we are fighting for and what we are dying for. The only thing they have is their weapons."

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# CALENDAR

## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Report from U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange.** Hear from five Philadelphia-area youth who just returned from two weeks in Cuba. Tue., Sept. 10, 7 p.m. Sponsored by Philadelphia Cuba Support Coalition. Friends Center, 15th and Cherry. For more information, call (215) 482-4685.



**Maybe it was immaculate conception** — A federal judge upheld the firing of an unmarried, pregnant teacher. He ruled that Harding Academy in Memphis, Tennessee,



Harry Ring

fired her not because she was pregnant but because she violated the school's ban on sex outside of marriage.

**The civilizers** — The Spanish government was forced to postpone the July 28 deportation of 16 Afri-

can asylum seekers when passengers on the Iberia flight protested the deportees being bound and gagged and guarded by a dozen rent-a-cops hired by Iberia. Earlier it was disclosed that sedatives had been secretly used to facilitate the departure of 103 refugees.

**Essence of management** — Workers at a TV assembly plant in Zhuhai, China, have coped with tight work rules imposed by the South Korean owners. But anger welled when the boss saw a few workers nod off during a break and forced 100 to kneel down before her. "It was the best way to make them understand they had done wrong," she said. "I didn't mean to demean them .... It was just a management strategy I had to resort to."

**Seemed clear enough to the jury** — A Liverpool jury cleared four women who broke into a British Aerospace hangar with a hammer and damaged a jet, one of 24 being shipped to the government of Indonesia. The women explained the jets were being used to bomb the people of East Timor, to break the independence movement there. An irate government official found the jury's decision "difficult to understand."

**Brass-knuckles seminar** — What with increasing social and economic woes, conditions for union organizing are the best in 20 years, warns Executive Enterprise, sponsor of a seminar on union-busting. Fee, \$1,195. Learn how to "identify and blunt the early warning signs of union activity." Record-

ing devices and unionists barred.

**Next they'll want them to be sober** — Texas has legalized concealed handguns, but still bars them in schools, churches and amusement parks. The Dallas area Six Flags park then said it would not admit armed off-duty cops. A cops' lobby bleated that Six Flags "apparently hates law enforcement officers."

**Check with Ticketmasters** — It's now open. The top-secret 1950s bunker built under the superplush Greenbrier resort in West Virginia as a nuke shelter for members of Congress. So many people lined up to see the site that the Greenbrier is restricting tours to resort guests — at \$25 a ticket. Public tours may resume in the fall.

**There's a limit to suffering** — International Paper exec David Oskin went to New Zealand to head up the IP subsidiary, Carter Holt Harvey. At \$1.5 million a year (about \$1 million U.S.), he topped the country's corporate salary list. But, for a U.S. biggie, the money was apparently too piddling. So he's back wielding the whip at the main office.

**Terrorists?** — To ensure a quality refurbishing of its 26-year-old Boeing 747-100 jet, the French line, Corsair, hired top-rated British Airways. When it was ready, Corsair officials were on hand to take the plane home. But, sadly, as it was being towed from the hangar, the landing gear buckled and the plane flipped back on its tail.

# Black party charted course for workers

BY SARA LOBMAN

Pathfinder is reprinting two Education for Socialists bulletins on the struggle to chart a course in the fight for Black rights and against racist discrimination, one that relies on the independent mobilization and organized struggles of the oppressed and exploited toilers.

These publications—*Independent Black Political Action, 1954-78: The Struggle to Break with the Democratic and Republican*

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

*Parties and The National Black Independent Political Party: An Important Step Forward for Working People*—will be particularly useful in sorting through the claims today by various individuals and organizations to offer a road forward for working people in the 1996 U.S. elections.

On July 18, for example, Benjamin Chavis announced plans for an African-American Leadership Summit in August. "What comes out of the hearing will be our national agenda, and we aim at pushing it at all parties—Republican, Democratic, and Reform," Chavis said. The summit is also expected to call a national convention to be held September 20-22 in St. Louis, Missouri.

And in June, Labor Party Advocates sponsored a founding convention of the Labor Party. The new party aims to pressure the Democratic and Republican parties. It will not run candidates of its own. "If we are a unified voice, maybe one of those other parties would listen to us," one participant said.

### Break with the capitalist parties

The articles, resolutions, and other documents reprinted in these two publications take on such a class-collaborationist approach and put forward the need for independent working-class political action. They are drawn from the pages of the *Militant* and from resolutions of the Socialist Workers Party from the beginning of the civil rights movement in 1954 to 1980.

"The Socialist Workers Party contends that racism, like unemployment, exploitation and war, can be abolished in this country only by independent political action aimed at taking control of the government out of the hands of the capitalists and their parties," a 1963 resolution reprinted in *Independent Black Political Action* states. "As a step in this direction, we have advocated that the unions break from the Democratic Party and form an independent labor party that would seek to politically unite workers, farmers, and Negroes and elect their representatives to office. In addition, and for the same reason, we have also endorsed and supported representatives of the Negro community whenever they have run for office independently of and in opposition to the old parties."

"The job of the militant Negroes and their white allies is to break with the capitalist parties, not to infiltrate those parties in the illusion they can be reformed," the *Militant* emphasized in another article on the 1954 fight to get Harry Hazelwood, an independent Black candidate, elected as councilman-

at-large in Newark, New Jersey. The Stalinist Communist Party, fearing the prospect of Blacks deciding "to go it alone," had urged an alliance with the Democratic Party. A break by Blacks with the capitalist parties would, in fact, "have thoroughly progressive consequences" for all working people," the article added.

Farrell Dobbs explains in a 1959 discussion that independent political action is not the same as supporting any candidate who runs outside one of the two capitalist parties. The Los Angeles branch of the party had decided to offer critical support to Edward Atkinson, a Black candidate in the non-partisan election for city council. Dobbs, writing for the SWP Political Committee, noted that Atkinson was associated with internal factional squabbles within a wing of the Democratic Party.

We must be careful, Dobbs said, "about rushing to characterize as independent a campaign where there is evidence it may in fact represent an attempt to play a greater role within a capitalist party.... Our aim is to lead the fight for independent political action. For us two criteria are paramount: the nature of a given movement; and the direction in which it is going."

Nearly 20 years later, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes made a similar point in reference Charles Evers, who ran for U.S. Senate in Mississippi against the Democratic and Republican candidates. Evers's campaign, Barnes explains in the final selection in *Independent Black Political Action*, "reveals the decisiveness of program on the electoral front. Independence is a programmatic question.... As the pressure mounts to break out of the framework of capitalist politics, the rulers are going to make more and more of an effort to come up with safety valves that keep the exploited and oppressed stuck in lesser-evils."

### From Freedom Now to NBIPP

At a convention in Philadelphia in November 1980, some 1,500 delegates launched the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). The new party, which existed for more than half a decade, built on experiences of almost twenty years to forge an independent Black political party. These earlier efforts are documented in *Independent Black Political Action*. They represented an important step forward in the fight for independent Black and working-class political action.

A call for the Freedom Now Party was first made in August 1963 to the quarter million participants in the national civil rights March on Washington. While many people supported the call, it was only in Michigan that the new party mounted a serious electoral effort, running a slate of 39 candidates in the 1964 elections. Two years later, in 1966, Blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama, who had been working on voter registration and protesting inadequate educational facilities, organized the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO). *Independent Black Political Action* includes a speech given by LCFO chairman John Hulet at an anti-Vietnam war rally in Los Angeles, as well as two on-the-scene reports by two leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The same year as the LCFO was formed in Alabama, activists in Oakland, California organized the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The Black Panther Party platform and program, and article on their 1968 cam-

paign for the Washington state legislature, and analysis of the party's retreat from a strategy of mass political action are included in *Independent Black Political Action*.

The NBIPP broke sharply with the Democratic and Republican parties. Noting that "both major parties have betrayed us because their interests essentially conflict with ours," its charter explained that the decision to form the party "was not just a decision to found a new organization, but to unleash an organized political movement for Black self-determination in the United States, and to affirm, once again in our lifetime, the reality that we ourselves must make the critical contribution to our own liberation."

"The National Black Independent Political Party aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-economic order," the charter, reprinted in *The National*

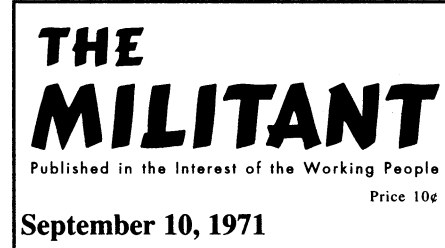
*Black Independent Political Party* said. "That is, to achieve self determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalist exploitation."

The NBIPP, as an article reprinted from the *Militant* notes, remains an example, not only in the fight for Black rights, but for the entire labor movement. "The NBIPP charter points in a different direction from all [the] misleaders—away from reliance on the Democrats and Republicans, and toward the mass of the Black people; away from the bankers demanding handouts for the rich, and toward the poor of all races; away from the Pentagon's military drive, and toward the liberation struggles of the oppressed of the world."

It is the direction that the entire working class must travel in order to take political power out of the hands of the ruling rich.



## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



NEW YORK — For the second year in a row, women around the country demonstrated for equal rights on August 26, the fifty-first anniversary of the women's suffrage victory. The most significant action in size and scope took place in New York City, where over 10,000 women marched.

As the marchers assembled, police insisted that the demonstration could only take half of the avenue. The march was delayed as the participants chanted, "We want the whole avenue." By the time the marchers reached 49th Street, the entire avenue was taken, and police were forced to reroute traffic.

Banners urging women to participate in the Nov. 20 demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco for abortion law repeal were also highly visible in the crowd.

The dominant theme of the demonstration, injected by the leadership of NOW, whose main spokeswoman was Betty Friedan, was for "political power." However, the primary means projected for winning political power was through gaining influence in the Democratic and Republican parties. This approach is self-defeat-

ing, since these parties are incapable of representing the interests of women.



September 7, 1946

The American Imperialists, who are supposed to be "uprooting feudalism" and "bringing democracy" to Japan, revealed their true reactionary face when on August 29 an order was issued by Gen. MacArthur in Tokyo prohibiting "strikes, walkouts or other work stoppages which are inimical to the objectives of the military occupation."

In accordance with this dictatorial decree, MacArthur directed the puppet Japanese authorities to break a three-day strike of seamen at Sasebo. This was coupled with a threat to use American occupation troops if Japanese authorities found "police force" necessary to man the five ships that were tied up. The order and the threat sufficed to smash the strike.

On August 28, MacArthur had issued another decree banning "noisy, disorderly demonstrations" and threatened to put them down with American troops if this were deemed "necessary."

The Japanese Government immediately got tough with unionized employees threatening railway workers with "serious results" if they tried to demonstrate "the union's strength."

# Help build October 12 march

Now is the moment when all those who believe in equal rights for all — those involved in struggles to uphold our dignity as workers, youth, and citizens of the world — should turn their attention to building the largest turn out possible for the October 12 immigrant rights march in Washington D.C. The demands for the demonstration include: end the deportations, human and constitutional rights for all, equal opportunities, defense of affirmative action, a call for free public education, expansion of health services, and an end to police brutality.

These demands have a very broad reach and can attract many fight-minded people. Youth returning from the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange can be approached to go to Washington and bring their friends. The many thousands of trade unionists who will be out marching on Labor Day will take interest in and want to discuss this demonstration.

This march comes in the context of a bipartisan assault on the rights of immigrants. Democratic president William Jefferson Clinton took the lead in this offensive against immigrants when he signed the federal welfare bill, which denies most immigrants, documented and undocumented, any social entitlements. The Republican governor of California, Peter Wilson, has already used the bill as an open-

ing to try to implement parts of the anti-immigrant Proposition 187. Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole, though distancing himself from some anti-immigrant planks in his party's platform, touts the welfare bill as a G.O.P. creation.

These attacks, however, are met time after time by droves of young people and immigrants demanding their rights. "We're here and we're staying here" was the spirit of nearly 2,000 demonstrators the day before the Democratic Convention opened in Chicago, for instance. This resistance gives momentum to the efforts to the build October 12 action.

In many cities, coalitions have already formed to build the march. Rallies and public forums are being organized to let people know about the action, and sign them up to go. We urge *Militant* readers to join in this effort. If there's not a coalition in your city yet, you can take the opportunity to find and link up with others to initiate building, organizing transport, and raising money for a delegation to be there. For information about the march you can contact organizers in New York at (212) 473-3936 or in Los Angeles at (213) 268-8472.

Let's pull out all stops to smother Washington D.C. with people demanding equal rights for immigrants.

# Foreign troops out of Cyprus!

The recent killings of two Greek-Cypriots by Turkish occupation forces and their supporters have once again given the world a glimpse at a prospect that a few years ago would have been unthinkable: war within NATO's southern flank.

Earlier this year the governments of Greece and Turkey came within minutes of declaring war over an uninhabited island in the Aegean sea.

The rulers of Greece, faced with a deep economic crisis, are betting their economic survival on expanding their role throughout the region of the Balkans, the Middle East and the Caucasus — i.e. getting their pound of flesh from the labor of the workers of the region. In their attempts at economic expansion, Athens comes up not only against its imperialist rivals, but also the capitalist rulers of Turkey. They have used this recent episode to whip up nationalist anti-Turkish sentiment and attempt to rally working people around their massive militarization and austerity program.

Twenty-two years ago the military dictatorship then running Greece staged a military coup in Cyprus with the aim of annexation. The rulers of Turkey responded by occupying the island's northern third, allegedly to protect the Turkish-Cypriot minority, and installed a puppet military regime. Greek and Turkish rulers are both responsible for partition, as well as British imperialism, which maintains two bases there, and Washington.

The recent Greek nationalist flag-waving affairs that led up to the killing of the two youths have nothing to do

with the just cause of putting an end to the Turkish occupation and reunifying the island of Cyprus. They reinforce divisions between Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot working people and play into the hands of the annexationist aims of Greek imperialism. They come at a time when Greek capitalists are playing an ever greater role in the island's economy, using it as an export platform and as a base for their offshore companies. The working people of Cyprus have not yet spoken, neither through the demonstrators draped in the Greek flag asking for the Greek army to intervene, nor through the actions of the Gray Wolves and other armed fascist gangs brought in from Turkey to beat them up.

Working-class forces on both sides of the buffer zone must begin to answer the Greek and Turkish rulers' chauvinist campaign, which leads only to war and permanent partition. Such a united answer can begin to give lie to the rulers' claim that "Greeks and Turks cannot live together."

All foreign troops deployed in Cyprus are on obstacle to reunification and independence. British, UN and Greek imperialist troops, as well as Turkish occupation forces, must be removed from Cypriot soil.

The right to return of all refugees forcibly removed from their lands through the occupation and its aftermath — 200,000 Greek- and 30,000 Turkish-Cypriots — must be guaranteed.

Unification can only be achieved on the basis of respect for the rights of the historically oppressed Turkish-Cypriot minority, including that of self-determination.

# Clinton signs attack on gains

Continued from page 10

the stock market. Two of the three plans would have individuals invest some or all of their social security taxes directly in individual accounts. This is the opposite of the conquest of the labor movement codified in the Social Security Act — of some measure of social entitlements as a right to all.

Dole's top Social Security advisor, Carolyn Weaver, is one of the members of this panel. She compared the proposal to the "privatization" of the social security system in Chile, which was carried out under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. There "ordinary working men and women in huge, huge numbers have taken on that risk, and they're not at all terrified," she declared. A similar probe against Medicare was part of a bill vetoed by Clinton last year.

While the U.S. rulers are nowhere near carrying out a "Chileanization" of Social Security and Medicare, the new health bill is part of laying the political foundations for

doing so.

The third piece of legislation signed by Clinton was a bill raising the minimum wage by 90 cents an hour over a year's time. This will be the first minimum wage raise in more than five years.

When the first 50 cents of the raise goes into effect in September, it will bring the minimum wage up from 35 percent of the average manufacturing wage to about 40 percent. This is still extremely low, considering that throughout the 1960s the minimum was at least 50 percent of average wages, and in the 1970s it hovered around 45 percent.

Employers are allowed to exempt whole categories of workers from the new minimum wage as well. Employers will be allowed to pay \$4.25 an hour to youth under 20 for the first 90 days on the job. And workers who receive tips will still see a minimum wage of just \$2.13 an hour, unless they can show they don't collect enough gratuities to bring them up to the new wage.

# Chicago protests

Continued from front page

immigrant rights demonstration in Washington, D.C.

The march stepped off from two starting points, one on Chicago's northside near a large Puerto Rican community and another at Benito Juarez High School in the southside Latino community of Pilsen. The two marches met up at Teamster City where a contingent of 50 Teamsters, who had helped organize the protest, joined the marchers. One member of Teamsters Local 714 in Chicago told the *Militant*, "I'm glad we are here. I think the Mexican workers deserve a living wage too."

The march continued on to the "legal" demonstration area by the United Center, site of the DNC, where a rally was held. Speakers condemned the Democratic Party's attacks on immigrant rights and affirmative action and measures like the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in California.

## Activists protest Washington's anti-Cuba policy

A contingent of youth who participated in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange marched in the action with a 12-foot banner proclaiming, "End the blockade of Cuba, No to Helms- Burton" and support for Puerto Rico's independence struggle. They passed out hundreds of leaflets advertising next summer's 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba. Participants of the exchange along with a number of mainly Latino youth, some of whom are members of Jovenes Rebeldes (Rebel Youth), packed the Pathfinder bookstore in Chicago the night before the demonstration for a poster making party sponsored by the Young Socialists. Jovenes Rebeldes is a youth organization fighting for immigrant rights.

Members of the Chicago Cuba Coalition marched carrying signs condemning the Helms-Burton Act aimed at strangling Cuba's trade with other countries. Supporters of the Cuban revolution confronted reporters for the pro-Washington Radio and TV Marti while they interviewed right-wingers by standing in front of their cameras and microphones chanting pro-revolution slogans and carrying a giant banner of Che Guevara.

There have been dozens of rallies, marches and political meetings occurring throughout the week. An anarchist counter-convention attracted hundreds of youth from around the country. A "Festival of Life" is being held daily at Grant Park in downtown Chicago taking up issues including workers rights, political prisoners, and the environment. Nearly a hundred hospital workers came to a rally sponsored by the Rainbow Coalition and Jesse Jackson the night of August 25 calling, as their leaflet put it, to "Reverse the Democrat's Decision to Drop Universal Health Coverage from their platform."

That same night at a Rock the Vote event sponsored by MTV at a northside cafe, nine young people, five of whom participated in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange from Chicago, Minnesota, Philadelphia, and New Jersey intervened with a banner demanding the end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Twenty young people also arrived carrying banners calling for the liberation of Blacks and all oppressed peoples and demanding freedom for Fred Hampton, Jr., son of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, who was killed by Chicago police in 1969. Both groups were interviewed by MTV. The Cuba activists passed out 70 leaflets for the world youth festival in Cuba.

Monday, August 26, saw three demonstrations totaling more than 2,000 people in a one-block area in downtown Chicago. Around 1,000 members of local firefighters unions encircled the Cook County building with a moving picket to protest the city's attacks on their pensions. Across the street at the State of Illinois building, nearly 1,000 people attended an AFL-CIO-sponsored rally for a "living wage." AFL-CIO president John Sweeney spoke at the rally, which in contrast to other actions during the week was used to support the Democratic presidential ticket of Clinton-Gore. A few members of the firefighters union across the street carried Dole-Kemp signs.

Meanwhile, inside the Cook County building around 70 gay rights activists gathered in the marriage license bureau chanting, "Hey Clinton, hey Gore, same sex marriage is what we're fighting for," to protest Clinton's opposition to same sex marriages. One protester carried a sign reading, "It takes gay marriage to build a village."

## No to death penalty, cop brutality

The biggest demonstration on Tuesday, August 27, was the Not on the Guest List Coalition rally and march on the DNC, attended by between 700 and 800 predominately young people. The coalition organized the march around the demands: Stand up against the racism of the criminal "justice" system, Free all political prisoners, Stop police brutality, and Abolish the death penalty. The coalition included various anarchist and socialist organizations, anti-racist and death penalty groups, Puerto Rican independence groups, and defense committees such as those for Native American activist Leonard Peltier and Black death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Another defense committee present was that of Aaron Patterson, who currently sits on death row here in Illinois. Patterson was convicted of homicide only on the evidence of an unsigned "confession." Patterson says he was tortured during his interrogation, and in fact Chicago police officer Jon Burge, who conducted the interrogation, was fired from the police department in 1993 for torturing more than 40 Black men. Joanne Patterson, Aaron's mother, spoke at the rally calling for a September 23 demonstration to free her son.

Shari Gilbert and Aislinn Pulley contributed to this article.



# Toronto hotel workers defeat strike-breaking

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about

strike. Several hundred strikers maintained 24-hour round-the-clock picket lines, in many cases up to six or eight hours a day—five or more days a week.

Under the new contract housekeepers will have to clean 16 rather than 15 rooms a day and face disciplinary action up to firing if they

wife, in the face, breaking her jaw. Eyewitnesses said that he laughed about it afterwards.

Reginald Floyd, the cop, claims that he punched the woman after she charged at him, but the videotape, shown on local news, does not support his story.

"The tape shows that a police officer was holding her while the other policeman punched her," John Elash, Kotts' attorney, told the *Tribune-Democrat*. "Floyd had this woman being held in a position of total compliance and he broke her jaw for no reason at all."

The strikers voted down a second contract offer from Sani-Dairy August 21. Letters of support for the strikers can be sent to Striking Sani-Dairy Workers, USWA District 10, 519 Somerset St., Johnstown, PA. 15901



Militant/John Steele

Six hundred Westin Hotel strikers rally against union busting tactics in Toronto July 29. Many strikers said the main gain of strike was using union power to fight.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

TORONTO — Six hundred Westin Harbour Castle hotel workers voted by 95 percent on August 5 to end their two-month walkout after beating back the company's attempt to use several hundred scabs and security guards to break their strike. The company sought to impose piece work, undermine seniority, and other rights and benefits.

Daphne Mills, a kitchen worker, pointed out that the hotel's managing director, "was very serious in his determination to break our union. He gave us no alternative [but to strike]. We had to fight to keep everything we had fought for before. But he also underrated us. He thought we wouldn't be able to last more than two weeks on the picket line."

The *Globe and Mail*, Canada's main big-business daily newspaper, had emphasized that "all eyes are on (a) strike" that was seen as "the first major testing ground for the use of replacement workers since a law banning them was repealed late last year" by the Ontario Conservative government of Michael Harris.

The hotel — part of a chain with hotels in the U.S. and Canada — had sought to cut its labor costs by millions of dollars each year by paying housekeepers piece rates of \$6.50 per room instead of their hourly rate of \$12.50 an hour. They also wanted to deny workers a minimum of four hours pay each day and instead send them home if there wasn't enough work.

The workers, members of the Textile Processors Union (which is connected to the Teamsters Union) voted over 99 percent to go on

cannot maintain the pace; the minimum shift will be reduced from four hours to three; and management will be given greater "flexibility" in assigning workers in one department to work in another for short periods of time. Workers will receive either 1.5 percent wage increases in each year of the three-year contract or, in several job categories, no wage increase at all.

Despite these concessions, workers were convinced that they defeated the most serious company attacks — piece work and union busting. Many said the main gain of the strike was that it showed what can be accomplished when workers use union power to defend their rights.

Mike, from the banquet department, declared, "This is proof that the poor people have power too, not just the rich. By getting together, staying out longer, and keeping a strong mind we showed we have very strong power."

### Dairy workers defy union busting in Pennsylvania

JOHNSTON, Pennsylvania — Some 250 dairy workers, members of United Steelworkers of America Local 12755, have been on strike since August 1 against Sani-Dairy of Johnstown. The main issue in the strike from the beginning was Sani-Dairy's drive to replace union drivers with nonunion workers.

Sani-Dairy had advertised in the *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat* a few days before the strike began for replacement workers. On the night of August 1, strikers and their families attempted to prevent scabs from leaving the Sani-Dairy plant in trucks.

The Johnstown police arrived and attempted to clear a path for the scab drivers, and workers resisted the police. During the confrontation, a policeman was videotaped punching Deborah Kott, a striker's

### Toledo glass strikers demand right to safety

TOLEDO, Ohio — Workers at Tempglass here set up picket lines August 9, two days after union officials informed the company of its plans to strike. That night the company shut down operations and sent workers on the midnight shift home early claiming they had received a bomb threat.

The 200 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12 are conducting an unfair labor practice strike over the company's refusal to allow a UAW safety representative to enter the plant. "We're the people that have our sweat and blood on the floor that built this company," said John Seawater, an official of the striking local.

The strike puts everything on the table since the company has refused to negotiate a contract. The workers voted to join the union in 1994. The company has challenged the election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The average wage is \$8.15 an

hour but pickets report most workers make less around \$7.50. Barb Hoffman, the recording-secretary of the union's bargaining committee and one of only about 20 women employees, told *Militant* reporters, "I've worked here for three years and never got a raise." Hoffman explained that the company wants to institute a "merit pay raise" system in which workers are periodically reviewed by their foreman to determine whether or not they will get a raise.

As part of this scheme, the company has said that it would only guarantee the raises to 70 percent of the workforce. About 40 workers crossed the picket lines, most of whom were temporary workers employed by one of two temporary agencies that supply the plant.

According to Hoffman, when a union representative called Express Personnel, one of the agencies, to explain that the local was walking out, he was informed that the agency was telling people that if they didn't want to cross the picket line they would place them at another job. If, however, the temporary workers crossed the picket line, the agency would pay them more. Tempglass has said it plans to continue to operate the plant, but wouldn't say whether replacement workers

would be brought in.

The company has received willing support from local cops. On August 9 at 5:01 a.m., when the union set up pickets at the two entrances to the plant, they were met by police from Perrysburg Township, neighboring Rossford and Perrysburg, and the Wood County sheriff's department S.W.A.T. team. Three pickets were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and criminal damage after some vehicles crossed through the picket line. The company later obtained a temporary restraining order limiting picketing to five people at each entrance.

The strikers are determined. Hoffman pointed out that with the conditions in the plant workers were forced "to take a stand and we will win." She urged others to come by and show solidarity.

Steve Penner, member of the United Steelworkers Local 5338, Rosemary Ray, and John Steele in Toronto; Nicholas Brand in Loretto, Pennsylvania; Mark Gilsdorf, member of UAW Local 247 and John Sarge member of UAW Local 900 in Detroit, and Alan Epstein, member of UAW Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio contributed to this column.

## LETTERS

### How do we take up crime?

We're two young people who recently had a heated discussion on what position should be taken by the working class on criminal justice under the current capitalist system. Our conversation began out of the recently released movie "Dead Man Walking," which focuses on the life of a man on death row who is a white supremacist. We talked about the ultrarightist militia groups that have been growing in the U.S. over the last couple of years, the potential danger that these groups pose to people, and the seeming necessity of measures that would curb their activities. However, we are concerned that any measures taken against potentially dangerous groups could be used to restrict freedom of progressive organizations like the Young Socialists.

We recognize that the capitalist system needs to be overthrown and replaced by a more just system. But what position do we take on curbing criminal activity under the current system without opening the door for the U.S. government to bend the laws to persecute working people, youth and activists?

Corin Lonsdale  
Joya Lonsdale

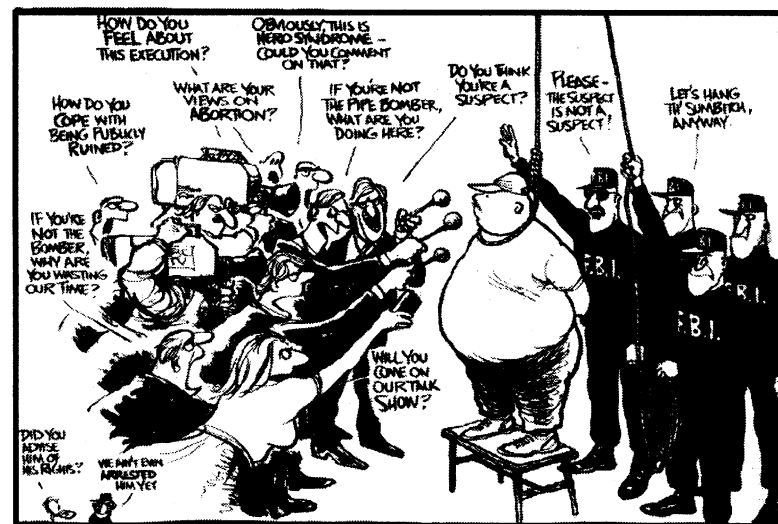
Rochester, Vermont

### Bosses and 'teamwork'

The common English meaning of "team" today is taken as being a sports team, where individuals, with their individual skills, and strengths and weaknesses, make a collective effort under a coach and/or team captain to work together to a common objective. This of course, is what the bosses would like us to think of when they talk of teams and teamwork.

But as a unionist here pointed out a while ago in a TV interview, there is another (now slightly archaic, in the motor transport era) meaning of "team," which is a team of horses, or other beasts of burden. This team, of course, is harnessed, blinkered, and driven as hard as necessary to get the job done. It is at the whim of the driver for the rest, food, and water, and the decision on who isn't making the grade and due to be petfood instead of being "on the team."

I think this is the meaning working people should think of when the boss starts talking about "teamwork" and we should think about who's holding the whip, and how



close the petfood factory is.  
Colin Parker  
Auckland, New Zealand

### Stalinism is a danger

After reading Adam Levenstein's letter in the August 19 *Militant*, I felt compelled to answer it. His letter ends, "The policies of the CPUSA are of interest to no one, as they are no danger to the working class."

I must disagree with him. The

petty-bourgeois misleadership of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) is in fact a serious threat to true revolutionary movements worldwide. Its chauvinistic rhetoric prevents us from uniting with our potential allies outside the United States, and its record of opportunistic collaboration with the class enemy threatens the entire Marxist movement. Unfortunately, hundreds of workers have been led astray by the counterfeit Marxism of the CPUSA.

Mr. Levenstein seems to feel that your August 4 article encourages sectarianism. However, it is the CPUSA which truly threatens to divide the working class on an international level, and only by exposing the errors in their Stalinist approach can we keep the workers of the world united. I hope you will continue to expose the errors like these in the future.

Loren Meyer  
Helena, Montana

### New 'Militant' reader

I am a new *Militant* reader. Yes, as you say, there is class struggle in the USA. I am a militant socialist. My wife Judy is a shop steward. We do not want to lose our sub to your paper. Our 14-year-old son Jon reads your paper and is writing you a letter.

Nicholas Brand  
Loretto, Pennsylvania

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Korea youth demand reunification

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Thousands of students in South Korea engaged in a nine-day confrontation with the government authorities, demanding reunification of the Korean peninsula. The protests began with a demonstration of 7,000 students in Seoul August 12.

The rally was a commemoration of the 51st anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in throwing off the yoke of Japanese colonial domination. Such annual celebrations have been organized for decades, but South Korean authorities declared them illegal under the "National Security Law," which forbids any political activity favorable to the North or in support of reunification. Every year Korean youth refuse to accept this rule and see it as their right to express pride in their fighting history.

The government deployed up to 10,000 police — in riot gear, equipped with tear gas, batons, and armored vehicles — to break up the activities. The cops were met with airborne firebombs, slabs of stone, and lead-pipe-wielding students. During one particular assault, 100 riot police were "overpowered and pummeled by angry students," one Associated Press journalist writes. "Several [cops] were beaten unconscious, while 30 were held hostage and stripped of their padded fatigues, helmets, shields, and clubs before being freed."

A group of at least 1,000 students occupied a science building on the Yonsei University campus where the conflict took place. They held their ground by bringing out a propane tank, which they threatened to set on fire if police tried to storm the building. After a stand off they slipped by the police blockade of the building. The cops said they let the youth pass for fear the students would use toxic chemicals from the lab against them.

Vowing to crack down on such demonstrations, especially after a cop was killed in one of the clashes with protesters, the Seoul regime authorized the police to use guns instead of batons. So far, nearly 6,000 students have been detained for questioning. Some 3,300 are still in custody, with 460 placed under arrest. Reuters reports that cops continue to search campuses all over the country. They say they have seized seven truckloads of "leftist leaflets," gasoline bombs, iron pipes, and other items used in the face off.

The rulers of South Korea also face resistance from workers. Government authorities arrested 54 people July 4 who were participating in a march of workers and youth, demanding the reinstatement of fired workers and a wage increase.

Reunification has been a central demand of working people and youth in Korea ever since the partition of the country by Washington and Moscow following World War II. The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the North, founded in 1948, has consistently declared as its goal the reunification of Korea.

The U.S.-backed South Korean regime in Seoul, however, has striven to halt even the most minimal political contact by students, workers, and other political activists with the North. South Korean president Kim Young Sam insists that "peace is maintained only by strength" and "unification is only possible under the free democratic system."

Some 37,000 U.S. soldiers accompany a South Korean army of 650,000 troops deployed near the "demilitarized zone" (DMZ), an area that separates the DPRK from South Korea. This line was drawn in 1953 based on a stalemate in the U.S.-led Korean War.

Launched by the administration of Democratic president Harry Truman in 1950, that war left 4 million people dead, some 13 percent of the entire Korean population. Washington's bombers leveled Pyongyang and other cities in the north with napalm, and even threatened to use atomic weapons on North Korea, while a brutal campaign was being carried out to suppress the reunification forces below the 38th parallel. The U.S. government, to this day, remains



7,000 South Korean students hold rally demanding reunification and U.S. troops out.

officially at war with the DPRK.

Washington currently has 100,000 troops stationed in Asia. They train F-15 pilots and do war simulations based on combat against North Korea. Gen. Richard B. Myers, assistant to Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. John Shalikashvili said, "quite often the scenarios used by our F-15s will be threats that replicate what the North Kore-

ans have and the tactics we've seen them execute." Shalikashvili maintains that North Korea is the region's biggest security threat and calls for having "a high state of preparedness." U.S. secretary of defense William Perry admitted last year to planning military strikes against North Korea in 1994. A U.S. helicopter was shot down last December for crossing into North Korean ter-

ritory.

Washington has also sabotaged and withheld United Nations food relief that helps to offset the recent floods that destroyed North Korea's rice crops. Kim Kwang Jin, first vice minister of the DPRK armed forces, said the South Korean government viewed the natural catastrophe as, "a chance for northward invasion and to spread false rumors about 'collapse' in the north."

The Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in Pyongyang issued a statement August 2 protesting Seoul's repression of pro-reunification activists. It condemned the arrests in July of Yi Sung-hwan, vice-chairman of the South Korean Council of Democratic Youth Organizations, and Cho Song U, chairman of the Policy Committee of the National Congress for Independent and Peaceful Reunification. Yi Sung-hwan was charged with having met with activists from North Korea while abroad in order to plan events calling for reunification. Cho Song U is accused of having arranged contacts for the meeting.

This repression, the statement said, is "a downright challenge to the nation's desire for reunification and an unpardonable anti-national, anti-reunification crime aimed at stifling the pro-unification forces of South Korea." It continues, "The patriots and other people of South Korea who fight for national reunification will never yield to separatists' crackdown but will fight more courageously to accomplish national reunification."

## Troops stir volatile tensions in Cyprus

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece — Turkish military forces occupying the Northern third of the island of Cyprus killed a second Greek-Cypriot August 14. Solomos Solomou was part of a group of people who entered the buffer zone that divides the island. He was shot in cold blood while climbing up a flagpole to take down the Turkish flag.

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean with a population of around 730,000, about one fifth Turkish. It won its independence from Britain in 1960. London, however, maintains two large bases, and along with the governments of Greece and Turkey, signed on as a "guarantor" of the new state. The Cypriot government began to play a role independent of its sponsors as part of the non-aligned movement. This came at a time of rising struggles of the oppressed in the region, as well as intense exploration for oil.

In 1974 the military dictatorship then running Greece organized a coup d'etat against the Makarios government in Cyprus with the aim of annexing the island. Five days after the coup the Turkish government dispatched an invading force that occupied the Northern third of the country on the pretext of defending the Turkish-Cypriot minority. A history of discrimination helped make this pretext stick. Some 200,000 Greek-Cypriots fled from the North and 30,000 Turkish-Cypriots were forced to leave from the South. The question of the ability of the refugees to return to their land and homes remains an open wound.

With 30,000 soldiers on the ground, the occupying forces set up a military state and declare the North independent in 1983, an entity presently recognized only by the Turkish government. Travel from North to South across the Green Line is prohibited. The buffer zone is guarded by 1,200 UN troops and cuts right through the capital city of Nicosia. Other forces occupying the island include 1,000 Greek officers in command posts in the Cypriot National Guard, and 3,000 British troops. All of these forces help maintain the division of the island.

Per capita income in the North is today one third of that of the South. Many Turkish-Cypriots have emigrated to Turkey or other countries in search of a better life. Meanwhile, an estimated 80,000 people from destitute regions of Turkey have been

encouraged by Ankara to settle on the island. Thousands of Turkish day laborers illegally cross the Green line each day to work in Greek-Cypriot-owned factories, fields, and hotels, along with immigrants from throughout the Mideast, for cheap wages. Many of the "offshore companies" on the island represent Greek capitalist interests.

In early August several hundred motorcyclists, including dozens who were not Greek, left Berlin for Nicosia, in a ride with the stated aim of drawing international attention to the occupation of Cyprus by Turkish troops. The event, whose goal was to cross the buffer zone, was organized in collaboration with the World Federation of Motorcyclists and encouraged by the Cypriot and Greek governments.

On the last day the Cypriot government canceled the permits. However, around 200 right-wingers waving Greek flags crossed into the buffer zone on August 11. The Cypriot police did little to enforce the ban, and the UN troops looked on.

The bikers wore T-shirts that said "Defeatism does not help our nation" — a slogan used by far right groups here. Meeting the incursion on the other side were hundreds of rightist thugs, many brought from Turkey, called the "Gray Wolves," with iron bars and very large sticks. The Turkish army had left their side of the buffer zone open. With the Cypriot, Turkish, and UN forces standing aside, the two groups clashed, resulting in the death of one Greek-Cypriot, Tassos Isaak. It was after his funeral that the second killing occurred, this time a deliberate shooting by the Turkish occupying forces.

Thousands at the funeral of Solomou, whose body was draped in the Greek and not the Cypriot flag, sang the Greek national anthem. "The objective has been achieved," said Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus at the memorial service. "To awaken the conscience of the world to the injustice that has been going on in Cyprus."

A central theme of the flurry of statements by bourgeois politicians has been that Greeks and Turks cannot possibly live together. Greek defense minister Gerasimos Arsenis said the recent events illustrated the "unbridgeable gap... between barbarians and civilized peoples." The Cypriot daily, *Simerini*, identifying the Gray Wolves with Turks in general, declared that the "beating

to death of a defenseless demonstrator... by a Turkish mob" has "awakened Greek-Cypriots to the need to demand their rights."

Two days after the killing of Solomou, demonstrators outside the Turkish consulate in Komotini, a city of Northern Greece, went on a rampage against the Turkish minority that lives there, beating people and breaking shop windows.

"Strong armed forces," said Greek prime minister Kostas Simitis on his way to Cyprus, "are a guarantee for our policy of peace, friendship and cooperation in the area." In power for less than a year, Simitis has aimed to smooth relations with Balkan nations and increase Greek capitalist expansion there. As Simitis arrived in Cyprus prominent signs among the crowd read "Turks out of Cyprus" "Greek Troops Here and Now" and "Freedom or Death." In the past year the governments of Greece and Cyprus signed a mutual defense pact.

"We won't allow any violation of the border lines," declared Turkish foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, making it clear that the Turkish rulers consider North Cyprus part of their territory. "Where we come from nobody lays a finger on the flag," she said at rally in Cyprus August 15. If anyone dares that, we'll break their hands, she added. Greek consulates around Turkey were targeted by right-wing demonstrators.

All major parties in Athens have rallied around the call for stronger armed forces. "Our main priority is to build up our defense," declared Miltiades Evert, the head of the rightist New Democracy Party. "There must be no more lost land," he said, referring to Greece's defeat in Asia Minor (Turkey) in the 1920's.

"Everyone, here in Athens and in Washington and Europe used to preclude up until now the possibility of a general confrontation between the two countries," said Arsenis during a meeting with the military commanders right after the two killings. "Today nobody rules this possibility out any longer."

The Greek rulers have seen this recent crisis as a opportunity to advance on the massive program of militarization to the tune of \$12 billion in arms spending and their economic austerity plans. Early elections have been called for September 22 in Greece, taking advantage of the Cyprus events to strengthen the government's mandate.