

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Fighter against cop brutality
framed up in Canada

— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 56/NO. 24 JUNE 19, 1992

SWP fights for ballot access in 25 states

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

From now until the November elections, supporters of the 1992 Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Estelle DeBates will be campaigning across the country to present the socialist alternative to the increasingly reactionary course of the twin parties of big business — the Democrats and the Republicans. The ticket is also campaigning against the so-called "independent" billionaire H. Ross Perot.

The SWP campaign is the only socialist voice in the 1992 elections and the only election campaign giving working-class answers to the real questions underlying capitalist politics today.

Collecting enough signatures to place the socialist candidates on the ballot is a central part of the political work and activity of the campaign. Unlike the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties, the socialists are denied equal access to the ballot. They must submit to a maze of rules, regulations, and procedures — all designed by the ruling parties to block challenges, mostly from the working class, to their uncontested predominance.

The SWP campaign is petitioning to get on the ballot in 25 states. The party is currently petitioning in Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. Soon the party will be campaigning to get on the ballot in New York and Massachusetts.

The heart of petitioning is organized by local supporters of the campaign. The party is also fielding a national petitioning team made up mostly of foot-loose young people.

An eight-person full-time team of volunteers is helping to lead the petitioning effort in Illinois. Petitioners have collected more than 12,000 signatures toward their goal of 30,000. They plan to finish by June 20.

Socialist campaigners in Michigan launched their petitioning effort in early June. Like the socialist campaign in Illinois, their goal is to sign up 30,000 by the filing deadline of mid-July.

Party presidential candidates have not been on the ballot in Illinois or Michigan since the 1984 election.

In Florida SWP campaign supporters successfully wrapped up their petitioning drive June 6. During this six-week effort

Continued on Page 8

Stop U.S. moves to war in Haiti and Yugoslavia

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

"My campaign is completely opposed to Washington's plans to use its military might in Haiti under the guise of an international peacekeeping force," said Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren in an interview in New York. "The announcement June 5 by administration officials that they are planning such action should be a warning signal to step up our efforts to organize meetings, pickets, and demonstrations to demand: No to U.S. Intervention! Open the Borders to Haitian Refugees!"

Warren said Haiti's president in exile, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in a bloody military coup in September 1991, should be allowed to return to his country. Aristide was elected in 1990, receiving 67 percent of the vote.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Haitian brothers and sisters in their fight to rid themselves of the bloody military regime," said Warren. "In recent weeks demonstrations, strikes, and other forms of resistance by students and working people are making their stamp on political life in Haiti. These developments are new and should be followed closely by working people."

Turning to Yugoslavia, the socialist candidate said the United States, after orchestrating United Nations sanctions against Serbia, is now threatening to intervene militarily in Yugoslavia. As with Haiti, he noted, the planned intervention is under UN cover.

"Other imperialist interventions — last year's U.S.-led war against Iraq, and earlier the Korean War — were also organized with UN cover," warned the socialist.

"Working people everywhere should oppose the Washington-led sanctions and steps towards military intervention in Yugoslavia. The dangers of imperialist wars in this part of the world will grow, not recede, in the coming months and years," added Warren.

The march of 50,000 working people in



Teun Voeten/Impact Visuals

U.S. Coast Guard ship at Port-au-Prince, Haiti. U.S. government has forcibly returned 37,000 Haitian refugees since October

Belgrade on May 31, the largest antiwar protest since the disintegration of Yugoslavia, "is a major world event pointing the way forward," said Warren. "There also, we stand with working people fighting to end the war."

"Workers and farmers in Yugoslavia will keep pressing their way into politics. The biggest obstacle in their path is the craven and reactionary bureaucratic layers who have fanned the flames of ancient ethnic divisions and have cut them off from politics. These corrupt layers — whether they are Serb, Croatian, or Muslim — are re-

sponsible for the slaughter of thousands of working people," said Warren. "The huge size of the march in Belgrade is an indication that there is deep opposition on all sides by working people to the war."

Warren demanded that Washington send emergency aid to the people of Sarajevo. According to recent news accounts, Serbian military forces continue to attack the city. Thirty people were reported killed on June 7. At least 6,000 people have been killed already in the conflict in Bosnia. "The senseless killing should be opposed

Continued on Page 9

Japan moves to allow troop use abroad

BY DEREK BRACEY

The Japanese government has taken a decisive step toward being able to use military force beyond the nation's borders. The parliament is debating a bill that would allow Japanese troops to participate in "peacekeeping" operations with the United Nations. Opposition parties accepted the bill promoted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) with a proviso that would place restrictions on the government's ability to send troops abroad in the immediate future.

The parliamentary agreement calls for a freeze on deploying armed troops into war zones for an unspecified period. To rescind the freeze would require a further act of parliament.

One example of Tokyo's attempts to expand its influence around the world is reflected by the fact that the head of the United Nations operation in Cambodia is from Japan. The parliamentary deal, however, essentially guarantees that Japanese troops will not be part of that mission.

The bill has passed the lower house and the Liberal Democrats are now pressing for a vote in the upper house, where they are a minority. A scuffle broke out June 5 in a key parliamentary committee as the panel chairman, Shinichiro Shimojo, moved to end the debate

and put the bill on the floor of the house.

Representatives from the Socialist Party, which is the largest opposition party and opposes the bill charged toward Shimojo's desk to try to prevent him from closing the debate. They were blocked by uniformed sergeants and the bill passed the committee.

The Liberal Democrats have been pressing for more than a year to lift the constitutional ban on Japanese troop deployments abroad. Their efforts to do this were quickened by the U.S.-led war against Iraq. Japanese rulers proposed sending forces to Iraq, but widespread opposition from the Japanese people made them hesitate.

The most they managed was to send a squadron of minesweepers to the gulf following the war's end.

The LDP attempt to modify the constitution imposed on Tokyo by Washington after World War II, has been a major debate for many months.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, a leader in the LDP, acknowledged that strong popular opposition was the major challenge before the LDP in making the changes. "The Cold War is over, and we need to begin to think about playing a different role in the future," he said. "But we have to do it in a way that allows Japanese public opinion to mature."

Continued on Page 3



Japanese parachute brigade on training maneuvers. Japanese government is moving toward being able to send troops abroad for the first time since World War II.

BRITAIN

You are invited to the
**Communist League
and
Young Socialists
fusion convention**

Sheffield

(location to be announced)

**Saturday, June 27
Sunday, June 28**

For more information: 742-73-8887
Direct flights from North America to
Manchester (close to Sheffield) are
available.



Students march in South Korea

About 50,000 students converged on Seoul, South Korea's capital, the last weekend of May to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the dissident student movement Chondaehop. The movement was born out of a wave of student protests in 1986 that challenged the U.S.-backed dictatorial regime of Chun Doo Hwan.

Nearly 30,000 students from 180 South Korean universities marched from an eastern Seoul campus to the center of the city May 31, breaking through police cordons in the largest antigovernment demonstration this year. The students chanted "Prevent the ruling party seizing power again!" and "Oust the Americans from our country. Repeal the National Security Law." Many waved the blue and white flag, symbol of unification of North and South Korea. Riot police blocked roads and blanketed the business district with choking clouds of pepper gas. Several students were bloodied by stone-throwing cops. The students stood their ground for two hours.

979 missing from Thai protests

The English-language *Bangkok Post* reported May 31 that 979 people are missing after the army and police cracked down on protests that forced Thailand's military ruler Suchinda to resign. The paper published a list with the names of the missing. The interior ministry, which controls the police, said the number of missing is about 500. Government reports put the number of dead at 48 and wounded at 600 during the anti-Suchinda actions.

Recession persists in Japan

Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said the recession in Japan is expected to last at least until the middle of next year due to weak demand and high inventories. Industrial and mining output for the first quarter of 1992 fell 3.1 percent from the prior quarter and 4.7 percent from a year earlier. Meanwhile, Japan's giant commercial banks announced that their unconsolidated pretax profits fell by an average of 14 percent for the fiscal year that ended March 31. The banks, afflicted by billions of dollars in bad loans, have begun to hold back on investments abroad. Individual bankruptcies in Japan rose to 23,491 in 1991, double that of the previous year.

Japanese, "honorary whites?"

South African president F. W. de Klerk, faced calls during his visit in Tokyo June 4 to formally scrap the "honorary white" status granted to Japanese in the 1960s. Human rights groups have demanded that Prime Min-



Students clash with police after a rally at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul May 26.

ister Kiichi Miyazawa discuss the "shameful" issue with de Klerk.

Rocket hits plane of Afghan chief

A plane carrying the new president of Afghanistan Sibgatullah Mojadedi and about 70 of his associates was hit by a rocket May 29 as it arrived in Kabul. Mojadedi, who escaped the attack, accused Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of an opposing guerrilla faction, and forces loyal to deposed former president Najibullah of conspiring to kill him. The two rival rightist guerrilla factions that overthrew the previous government, headed by Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Masood, had signed a cease fire May 25. A spokesman for Hekmatyar's faction denied Mojadedi's allegations. "If we had done it, we would have used at least 20 missiles and left no chance for survival," he said.

Iranian workers protest evictions

On May 30 as many as 4,000 angry Iranians protested the demolition of several shacks workers had built without government permits, in Meshed, one of Iran's biggest cities with 2.5 million people. Residents of Tolab, a Meshed working-class neighborhood, stormed and torched police stations to protest the demolition of their homes. Demonstrators set cars and municipal buildings

on fire, including the courthouse and the treasury, as the police surrendered their weapons to the crowd.

Residents had been warned to vacate their homes built on property owned by Astan Qods, Iran's most powerful religious establishment. Later government authorities rounded up hundreds of people and sealed off affected areas of the city.

A week earlier in Arak, a city about 150 miles southwest of Teheran, military forces had clashed with thousands of demonstrators who were protesting the killing of a 12-year-old boy in a confrontation with authorities over similar house demolitions. The events in Meshed, along with previous protests in Teheran, Khorramabad, Shiraz, and Arak constitute the most serious urban disturbances in Iran since the popular revolution that overthrew the shah in 1979.

Israeli elections near

Opinion polls in Israel show Yitzhak Rabin, candidate of the Labor Party and former army chief of staff during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as the most popular candidate for prime minister in elections set for June 23. Rabin boasts of his role in the 1967 war and says he would slow down settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and reach an agreement for interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories within six months.

His opponent, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, excluded Rabin from the list of speakers during the Israeli celebration of the 1967 annexation of East Jerusalem held on June 1. Housing minister Ariel Sharon pledged that day that he would settle Jews in every Arab district of the city. His ministry announced that the government will begin erecting 10,000 housing units in the occupied territories in 1992.

On May 30 the government extended the order barring Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip from entering Israel. Unemployment

in Gaza exceeds 30 percent. The order was issued after an Israeli teenager was stabbed to death in a Tel Aviv suburb May 24, allegedly by a young Palestinian. Israeli mobs took to the streets smashing cars with Arab license plates and shouting "Death to the Arabs!" following the killing.

O & Y bankrupt in Britain

Olympia & York, the world's largest real estate development company, was forced by its creditors to file for bankruptcy in London May 27, putting its \$7-billion lavish but unfinished Canary Wharf office tower complex under court administration. Following the announcement, American Express, a prospective tenant, said it was reconsidering its plan to move 1,500 London employees to Canary Wharf. Olympia & York had filed for bankruptcy protection in Toronto and New York in mid-May.

Danes reject EC unity treaty

A slim majority in a June 2 referendum in Denmark voted down ratification of the European Community's (EC) Maastricht treaty, which calls for closer political and economic cooperation among the 12 EC states. Technically the vote, which is binding on the government, had the effect of vetoing the treaty, since it cannot go into effect as planned on Jan. 1, 1993, unless all 12 members ratify it. The Danish government, all major newspapers, and most employers' associations and trade unions had backed the treaty, signed in the Danish city of Maastricht.

EC foreign ministers held an emergency session to discuss ramifications of the vote June 4. Opponents of the treaty were jubilant. Norman Tebbit, a former British cabinet minister, told the BBC that the vote "created a wonderful opportunity to renegotiate." Maastricht, he asserted, "is dead."

Antiabortion laws turned down

A California law requiring unmarried women under age 18 to get permission of a parent or a judge before having an abortion was ruled unconstitutional May 27. The law had been adopted in 1987 but never enforced. The same day, a judge in Ohio declared unconstitutional a state law that would have required women seeking an abortion to be told about fetal development and abortion alternatives and get counseling from a doctor. The U.S. Supreme Court is now considering a Pennsylvania law similar to Ohio's. — ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

'Militant' biweekly summer schedule

The next issue of the *Militant*, dated June 26, will be the first in our biweekly summer schedule. Closing news date for that issue will be June 15. The remaining biweekly issues will be dated July 10, July 24, and August 7, with weekly publication resuming with the issue dated August 21 (closing news date, August 10).

Subscribe now!

The Militant reports on:

- the fight against cop brutality
- Washington's drive to war
- labor battles worldwide
- the socialist alternative to war, racism, and depression



☐ Special introductory offer: \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$15 for 12 week renewal ☐ \$27 for 6 months ☐ \$45 for 1 year

Name

Address

City State Zip

Union/School/Organization Phone

Clip and mail to The Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A10 • Britain, £6 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £10 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,000 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr60

The Militant

Closing news date: June 8, 1992

Editor: GREG McCARTAN

Managing Editor: GEORGE BUCHANAN

Business Manager: Brian Williams

Editorial Staff: Derek Bracey, Estelle DeBates, Frank Forrester, Seth Galinsky, Martin Koppel, Paul Mailhot, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278.

Pacific edition printed in Wanganui, New Zealand, by Wanganui Newspapers, Limited.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (air-

mail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Belgium: BF 3,000 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kroner for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia. Philippines, Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

U.S. threatens to use force in Yugoslavia

United Nations sanctions against Serbia only worsen plight of workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Claiborne Pell stated June 4 that "the United States acting in the Security Council should consider immediate military action" in Yugoslavia.

The following day U.S. deputy secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger urged NATO foreign ministers to authorize the use of troops to accompany UN relief convoys and to reopen the Sarajevo airport.

"In the case of the former Yugoslavia, NATO should stand ready to support implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 757 as appropriate, and in coordination with other international organizations," Eagleburger said, referring to the UN sanctions resolution.

Meanwhile, opposition to the war continues to mount in Yugoslavia. A leader of the opposition in Serbia said that more rallies would be called within the next two weeks to demand a negotiated end to the war with Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and the resignation of the government of Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic.

On May 31, the largest antiwar protest since the start of the war took place in Belgrade. Workers and youth throughout the country from Sarajevo to Belgrade and Zagreb — Serbs, Croats, Muslim Slavs, Albanians, and others — have opposed the war between rival bureaucracies seeking to grab land and resources. More than 1.2 million people have been made refugees, 6,000 killed, and 22,000 injured since the war began.

Among soldiers in the Yugoslav Army, opposition to the war is also prevalent. Aleksandar Milicevic, wounded in the Yugoslav Army barracks in Sarajevo, under siege by Bosnian forces, told a reporter, "I don't understand the reason for the war."

"We are just a grain of sand in the middle of a desert," the 22-year-old soldier said. "I want to live. I want to go back to Belgrade and see my family."

Sanctions make situation worse

United Nations sanctions against Serbia, which were pushed by Washington and London to pave the way for direct military intervention, have only served to make the situation worse.

The price of fuel in Serbia has doubled. Cooking oil, sugar, and flour are scarce.

Those hardest hit by the sanctions are workers and farmers. The bureaucratic rulers have oil and weapons to continue the war. At the same time, interimperialist rivalries have kept the sanctions from being fully enforced. According to Associated Press, Greece, for example, has been permitting oil trucks to continue deliveries to the Serbian government.

The war in Bosnia has accelerated, with atrocities committed by supporters of each of the rival bureaucracies.

Muslim, Slav, and Croatian gunmen executed Serbian men in six villages and looted and burned their homes, reported the *New York Times* June 3.

The siege of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia,

Japan moves toward troop use abroad

Continued from Page 1

That, he said, will take several years.

The compromise was made in order to get support from two smaller parties, the Komeito and the Democratic Socialists. The LDP had already lost two votes on the bill. A third defeat could have led to the collapse of the government and new elections. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has declared passage of the bill one of his top priorities.

Many LDP leaders saw their inability to send troops to participate in the war against Iraq as a blow to Japan's position as a major world power. The government was obliged to instead make financial contributions to the war effort, paying the United States \$12 billion.

Governments of several countries in Asia, including China and Singapore, have expressed reservations over the bill, recalling the Japanese invasions of China, Korea, and elsewhere in the 1930s and 40s.

has continued unabated. Belgrade-backed Serbian forces almost constantly shell the city with mortars, tank fire, and rockets. Hospitals, overflowing with wounded, are running out of medicines and have themselves been shelled.

Debate on military intervention

Continuing to press for direct intervention, Britain sent a force of 250 soldiers as part of a medical unit to join UN "peace-keepers" in Croatia.

The push for military intervention has sparked a debate in Washington and London ruling circles.

Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer, in a June 5 column titled

"Too Soon for Intervention" admits that the debate has nothing to do with concern over the lives of Yugoslav working people.

"The only real question for us," he states, "is whether our vital interests are at stake."

Krauthammer worries that the situation is "a chilling echo of pre-World War I Balkan alliances, [with] Germany lined up with Croatia and Slovenia, while France was decidedly more pro-Serbian."

Although the *Post* columnist thinks intervention is "premature," he argues that if carried out, "it must not be passive (Beirut-style) or incremental (Vietnam-style). It must be decisive, gulf war-style. That means using air power rather than slugging it out on the ground against guerrilla forces." Noting that one mil-



Protesters holding mile-long banner for victims of the war at May 31 antiwar march in Belgrade.

itary option being considered by Washington is taking the Sarajevo airport, he says this would be "a monumental folly."

Krauthammer is not the only one worried about a Beirut-style disaster and an unending quagmire. Writing in the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*, David Fairhall says that "in a fragmented Yugoslavia the setting for military intervention could hardly be more different or more difficult" than the war against the Iraqi people.

"In straight military terms," he says "intervention presents a nightmare scenario — confused, risky, open-ended."

The British *Economist* notes another difficulty facing Washington and its junior partner in London. "Yugoslavia is not Iraq,

and the international unity was not all it seemed to be," it notes. France feels "touchy about German support for Croatia," the magazine states, while Russia has links to Serbia."

In fact, Washington and London's push to intervene in Yugoslavia is motivated in large part by their desire to undercut German dominance in Europe.

Krauthammer, speaking what is on the mind of many in U.S. ruling circles, says events in Yugoslavia are proof of "Europe's impotence." The UN sanctions and plans for intervention, he says, reinforce "the cardinal rule of the new world order that nothing of importance gets done unless America does it."

Washington suspends Nicaragua aid

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. aid to Nicaragua was "temporarily" suspended in early June. The suspension deepens an existing governmental crisis in that country.

According to the *New York Times*, Washington and Managua are in "consultations" over \$150 million that had been promised to the government of President Violeta Chamorro. The U.S. government backed Chamorro's successful 1990 electoral bid against the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The decision by the Bush administration to suspend aid — made at the request of Senator Jesse Helms, a Republican, and Representative David Obey, a Democrat — was meant as a warning to Chamorro to reverse her collaboration with the FSLN, which has deepened in recent months.

Ever since Chamorro was elected, some forces in the U.S. government have pushed for her to take more decisive and rapid action to overturn the gains of the 1979 revolution, which overthrew the Somoza dictatorship and brought the FSLN to power. Congressmen who requested the aid cutoff have demanded compensation for U.S. citizens whose property was expropriated and the removal of Sandinista leaders who still head the army and the police.

They have become more outspoken as Chamorro and the FSLN strengthened their alliance. One act that incensed FSLN opponents was the participation of Daniel Ortega, an FSLN leader and former Nicaraguan president, in an official government delegation to Washington to ask the International Monetary Fund for more aid for the crisis-ravaged country.

A March 31 editorial in the pro-Sandinista *Barricada* reported that the FSLN was moving toward "a profound agreement with the government" on an economic austerity program.

FSLN is 'critical base' for Chamorro

"It is less and less appropriate to call us

an opposition party," Miguel d'Escoto, former foreign minister in the FSLN government told a recent Washington, D.C., press conference. "We are now the critical base of support for the Chamorro government."

While Chamorro moved to a closer alliance with the FSLN, her coalition was splitting.

An early defection was Alfredo César, who was elected to the presidency of the National Assembly with the votes of both Chamorro supporters and FSLN deputies and over the objection of rightist members of the National Opposition Union (UNO), which backed Chamorro's successful presidential bid.

Last year César broke with Chamorro by backing legislation that called for a more rapid return of land and property that had been confiscated during the revolution to its former owners.

In early April a key figure in the Chamorro government, interior minister Carlos Hurtado, was forced out. Hurtado was reportedly a César ally.

In a direct attack on the Chamorro government in May, César told Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and now a syndicated columnist, that "U.S. aid is financing Sandinista organizations in an increasing manner." César charged that Chamorro is in a "cogovernment" with the FSLN.

Worst economic crisis ever

Amid rumors of an impending cutoff of U.S. aid, César's comments, which were widely publicized in Nicaragua, sent the government into a panic.

Nicaragua is in the midst of perhaps its worst economic crisis ever. The Gross National Product in 1991 was only \$1.6 billion with most of this — some \$1.2 billion — coming from foreign aid and loans. More than half the population is unemployed. Nicaragua's foreign debt is a staggering \$9 billion.

Strife in the countryside has increased

as many soldiers discharged from the army have joined with former contras to demand aid and land to farm. Some 60,000 soldiers have been demobilized in the last two years.

Rearmed groups of soldiers and former contras, sometimes operating together, have temporarily taken over towns, highways, and farms to push their demands.

The Nicaraguan government has relied heavily on the FSLN, which is still the party with the most influence among workers and peasants, to try to stabilize the situation. Former president Daniel Ortega visited the town of Ocotal in early March to convince rearmed war veterans occupying the town to leave.

FSLN publicly divided

The FSLN itself, in crisis since its electoral defeat, is divided into public factions.

In recent months members of the FSLN's nine-member National Directorate have publicly and heatedly criticized each other over disputes ranging from control of *Barricada*, formerly the official organ of the FSLN, to relations with the U.S. government.

A small current within the FSLN, according to the pro-Sandinista daily *El Nuevo Diario*, seeks what it calls "capitalism with a human face." Several factions openly defend the idea of a coalition government between the FSLN and Chamorro.

The rank-and-file membership of the FSLN, the newspaper article states, basically favors a "socialist orientation" but has no leaders that fight for this perspective.

Virtually paralyzed by the crisis, the National Directorate has "collapsed" as have most of the party committees, the paper reports.

In the midst of the disintegration of the FSLN, the rupture in the Chamorro forces, and the worsening economic crisis, the U.S. attempt to meddle more openly and place conditions on aid will only increase the instability of the Managua regime. It will also create greater suffering for Nicaraguan working people.

Protests helped convict cop who killed 2 in Miami

BY JACKIE FLOYD

William Lozano is a Miami cop who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years in prison for killing Clement Lloyd and Alan Blanchard in 1989. The two young Blacks had just left a Martin Luther King Day parade when they became involved in a high-speed chase with the police.

Lozano, who was on the sidewalk on other police matters, stepped into the street, aimed, and shot Lloyd in the head as he raced by. Blanchard was killed when the driverless motorcycle ran head-on into a Buick.

AS I SEE IT

During three days of rebellion, the Black working-class communities in Overtown and other areas protested the killings. Both Lloyd and Blanchard lived blocks from the scene of the shooting.

Lozano claimed he shot to save his life because Lloyd was going to run him down. Dozens of witnesses on this crowded street said he shot as Lloyd passed and was not in fear for his life.

The prosecutor in the case, State Attorney Jane Reno, had a proven record of being incapable of convicting cops for crimes against ordinary citizens. Dozens of cops have gotten off for shootings and killings.

This is because of the working relationship between any prosecutor's office and the police. To demand that a cop be sent to jail is to demand that they punish one of their own.

How was Lozano convicted, given how the odds were stacked against the victims?

Protests that focused on the slogan "Lozano is a criminal! He should go to jail!" helped to force the system that protects the cops to convict Lozano.

A coalition called People United for Justice (PUJ) led this fight. Although the core of activists never reached more than a dozen people, the coalition carried out an effective political campaign that mobilized broader forces.

Almost all of the members of PUJ were veterans of a 1980 rebellion against the acquittal of the cops who killed another Black man, Arthur McDuffie. Among the PUJ members were a city building inspector, hospital workers, fire fighters, a secretary, a machinist, university students, and other workers. The group included members of the Haitian group Veye Yo, the Socialist Workers Party, and the International African Movement. One was a young activist minister, another a shop steward in the government employees union.

People United for Justice was committed to using open, legal, and ongoing political struggle to win the conviction of Lozano. There were always a million excuses not to do this, from "They're going to let him off anyway, why bother?" to "If they let him off we'll riot," or "Why beg a system that you're against to do something for you." We were hated by the official Black leadership as irresponsible elements fanning the flames of riots.

None of this deterred us from fighting for our demands: Lozano should go to jail; hold the trial in Miami; put Blacks on the jury; no turning the victims into the criminals; no justice, no peace.

Our coalition repeatedly picketed the Lozano trial with our demands. We printed leaflets with pictures of Lloyd and Blanchard to build the picket line. We involved the families of the victims of the cop. We organized a rally in a park. We gave stacks of leaflets to small store owners and posted them all over town. We welcomed the involvement of everyone who supported our demands.

As the verdict in the trial neared, we had won our demands on the conduct of the trial. It was held in Miami, Blacks were on the jury, and the jury foreman was a Black union steward. But every institution in Miami was cranked up to push the discussions onto "Will there be a riot?" and away from the real issue — sending Lozano to prison. We continued to picket and demand a conviction.

By keeping the political focus on the key question we had an important impact. On the day of the verdict December 7, 1989 the courtroom and the corridors were packed with cop supporters and the press. When the guilty verdict was read moans and groans rose from the procop crowd. But PUJ members present shouted, "Justice!" Residents of Overtown cheered the verdict and some marched through the streets to celebrate.

The fight for justice still goes on. Lozano was granted a new trial by an appeals court last year, which also ruled he could not get a fair hearing in Miami. A new trial is now set for Tallahassee, Florida.

Jackie Floyd, a former cochair of People United for Justice, is a member of the International Association of Machinists and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Houston, Texas.

Canada police push frame-up of antiracist fighter

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — The second session of a preliminary hearing for Dudley Laws, May 12-13, has disclosed a large-scale police frame-up operation aimed against anti-police-brutality activists in Toronto. Laws, who faces charges of conspiracy to smuggle undocumented workers between Canada and the United States, is the best-known fighter against police violence in Canada.

Laws was arrested Oct. 15, 1991 following a four-and-a-half month police investigation. Police testified at the hearing that the investigation involved more than 30 full-time officers and staff and cost the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the

Metro Toronto police, and the U.S. border patrol more than \$400,000.

Laws and an associate, Larry Motley from Michigan, were charged with several counts of conspiracy to violate the immigration laws of Canada and the United States, possession of proceeds of crime, and fraudulent concealment.

For many years, Laws has run a consulting business called Confidential Immigration Services that advises immigrants and refugees on citizenship and immigration matters.

As the preliminary hearing proceeds, it has become clear that the case against Laws comes down to the word of four cops against

Laws' word that he is being framed. Lawyers for Laws and Motley state that the two are victims of police "entrapment and abuse of process."

Despite months of wiretaps and 24-hour police surveillance, the prosecutor at the hearing has presented no evidence of any illegal activities by Laws except for the testimony of four undercover cops, who say they posed as "illegal immigrants."

Laws and Motley were arrested while Motley was in the process of transporting one of the undercover cops across the U.S.-Canada border to Laws' Toronto office. Police also allege that they found several hundred dollars on Laws' person and in his home that he had allegedly been paid to arrange the operation.

Laws is one of the founders of the Black Action Defence Committee (BADC) and its leading spokesperson. In the past four years the committee has initiated numerous actions against racist police brutality and violence.

Toronto police are on an obvious vendetta against Laws. In the early part of 1991, the Metro Toronto Police Association launched a libel suit against him, because he publicly stated that Toronto cops are the "most murderous in North America."

The police tipped off the media to be present for and to broadcast their arrest of Laws last October.

Although immigration offenses in Canada are the responsibility of the RCMP, the investigation of Laws was actually initiated by the Metro Toronto police. RCMP sergeant Andrew Rayne testified that he was called to a meeting at Metro Toronto police headquarters June 11, 1991, with U.S. border patrol police also present, which was organized by Metro Toronto staff superintendent Julian Fantino.

Metro Toronto police told the assembled cops that Laws' business card and his phone number were allegedly found on a couple of "illegal aliens" arrested with three others in Swanton, Vermont. A police informer was also allegedly claiming that Laws was running 15 to 20 "illegal aliens" per month across the border and making thousands of dollars doing so.

The RCMP set up 24-hour surveillance toward the end of June and sent an undercover cop to try to entrap Laws. When that yielded no results, they set up wiretaps of at least four phones and sent more undercover cops in mid-August.

The police claim they witnessed three or four incidents of "civilians" being transported to the border by Laws or Motley. They are named in the various counts of the indictment. But under cross-examination RCMP corporal Fred Bowen said they had not even interviewed those involved, even though their addresses are still known, because they would be "hostile."

When Bowen was asked why months of wiretaps did not intercept calls from peo-



Militant/Helen Nelson

Dudley Laws is a leader of the Black Action Defence Committee, which has led actions against police brutality.

ple wanting to be smuggled, he was forced to admit the police experience "did not agree with the information we had received."

And despite all the technical resources at their command, including video cameras and wiretaps, undercover police have testified that they made a decision not to wear "bodypacks" to tape what were supposed to be incriminating conversations with Laws and Motley while the undercover cops were setting up "smuggling" themselves and being transported.

Despite the police frame-up of Laws and Motley, the Black Action Defence Committee has continued to organize. Two demonstrations, each with up to 1,000 people, protested the acquittal of two Toronto-area cops who had shot and killed Wade Lawson, the acquittal of the Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King, and the latest Toronto police killing of a Black man, Raymond Lawrence, just two days after the acquittal in Los Angeles.

Letters of protest demanding that the charges against Laws and Motley be dropped should be sent to Howard Hampton, Attorney-General of Ontario, 720 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1. Send copies to the BADC, 393 Vaughan Rd., Toronto, Ontario M6C 2N8.

Atlanta picket line demands federal indictments of cops who beat King

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — Chants of "Bush, Bush, don't delay — indict the guilty cops today!" and "Justice, justice, justice!" rang out in front of the federal building in downtown Atlanta as several dozen protesters held a spirited noontime picket line May 29.

The action, heavily monitored by local police and assorted other government agents, was sponsored by the Justice for Rodney King Ad Hoc Committee. "No one seemed to be doing anything anymore about the issue of justice for Rodney King," said committee activist Jonathan Tyson. "They were focusing on everything else but that. This picket line is an effort toward justice, especially on the issue of police brutality. Two weeks after the Rodney King verdict, they're trying to get everything back to normal. That's why I decided to get involved. We can do something on this issue."

A number of the protesters wore "Remember Rodney King" T-shirts, produced by Tyson and his wife, Delphine, another activist in the committee. These shirts have been selling at a rapid clip, Tyson said.

"The Rodney King verdict was like a match that lit up for the whole world to see what the criminal justice system is really like in this country," said Delphine Tyson. She added that it is important to stress the double standard that's being applied in the criminal justice system in Los Angeles — one for the cops who beat King and another for the four Black men arrested for the beating of a white truck driver during the antiriot riot that followed the King verdict.

"The public needs to know the real issues in this situation," she added. "And that is to indict the guilty cops — all of them. Those who beat Rodney King to a pulp, those who stood around and did nothing, those who falsified the police records in the case, and all the others who tried to cover up what happened. We also need to free the nearly 17,000 people who have been picked

up for curfew violations and on other charges."

Unionists who built the picket line on the job at several factories in the Atlanta area received an encouraging response from many coworkers — Black, white, and Latino — who were glad some action was being taken to bring the injustice of the King verdict back into the spotlight.

"Everyone's looking at the riot now and not at what really started it all, said one Steelworker at the Snapper factory in McDonough, Georgia. United Steelworkers of America Local 3944, which represents the more than 900 workers at Snapper, agreed at their May union meeting to send a protest to President George Bush and the U.S. Justice Department demanding indictment of the cops who beat King under federal civil rights laws.

"I feel good, even though we didn't fill the whole plaza," Delphine Tyson told the demonstrators at the closing gathering. "What we're doing is important, because we're affected by this issue of police brutality in all our communities. It's important to show that we can protest in a peaceful fashion. This won't be the end. We're going to continue the fight, for Rodney King and for the Rodney Kings around the world."

Cleto Montelongo from the Native American Center and several others also spoke at the open mike.

Employees coming out of the federal building during their lunch hour and other downtown workers watched the picket line with interest. "We agree with you all," said one. Many passers-by took leaflets and one family walking by grabbed signs and joined the line. Drivers honked their horns and waved in support as the chanting pickets circled around the plaza.

Susan LaMont is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 3944 at Snapper Power Equipment in McDonough, Georgia.

'The Militant is the only source of news I trust'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Socialist campaigners are reaching tens of thousands of working people and youth with the ideas of the Socialist Workers election campaign as part of petitioning efforts to gain ballot status in 25 states. These stepped-up efforts this spring and summer present big opportunities for winning new readers to the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*.

Many of those signing petitions or campaign endorser cards to place the socialists on the ballot are eager to read further about the SWP candidates' answers to the capitalist drive toward more wars and deepening attacks on working people. Systematically organizing to contact these people for further discussions about the political perspective presented in the *Militant* can result in many new subscribers.

From Morgantown, West Virginia, Kenneth Knudsen reports: "Militant supporters sold seven subscriptions during the course of a two-day visit to the coalfields of southern West Virginia at the end of May. Three subscriptions were sold in the coal mining town of Smithers."

"A campaign meeting held in Charleston featuring Chris Rayson, SWP candidate for Congress, attracted several young people including two high school students who are active in the fight to defend abortion rights."

Carole Lesnick, a member of United Auto Workers Local 148 at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, California, writes: "In the week or so following the 'not guilty' verdict of the cops who beat Rodney King, workers at this UAW-organized plant of 14,000 bought 7 *Militant* subscriptions and 61 single copies. Here are a few impressions by some recent subscribers. Gina Butler: 'The articles were eye-openers to the current events around me. In short, the *Militant* tells the truth.'

"Thurman Tillman: 'I'm very pleased to see a paper put together by, about, and for working-class people of the world. Today when I want to know what's going on in the world I don't turn to the TV. Instead I turn to the *Militant*. The *Los Angeles Times* is

OK if I want to read the comics, but when I'm looking for real news about real events and real people I turn to the *Militant*. It's now the only source of news I trust. It's like a friend who has all the answers."

A team of four salespeople from the St. Paul, Minnesota, and Montreal faxed in the following report after spending two days in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, where 26 miners perished May 9 in an explosion at the Westray coal mine:

"To date we've sold 72 copies of the *Militant* and 3 introductory subscriptions. Six Westray coal miners have bought copies so far.

"Everywhere we go, a majority of people give us the same message: condemnation of the Curragh Resources company that owns Westray and the provincial government that has backed Curragh from the beginning.

"Three workers at the Trenton works told us they are sure that a cover-up is underway, that the company and the government will try to use the upcoming inquiry into the disaster to hide the truth and shirk any blame for running an unsafe mine.

"On seeing the *Militant* coverage of recent events in Los Angeles, several workers pointed to parallels. For instance, the importance of getting the inquiry to take place here in Pictou, not 150 miles away in Halifax as the government originally proposed.

"One new subscriber, Johanna, a single mother and part-time worker who is Black, explained how pleased she was to come across the *Militant*. 'I'm really glad to find a paper that talks about the workers, instead of that crap we get in the daily papers.'"

From Belgium where supporters have raised both their *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* goals this week, Eric Wils reports on sales from literature tables set up on the streets of Brussels: "A man born in Ghana bought a *Militant* subscription together with the Pathfinder book *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. A bus driver and coworker of one salesperson got out of his bus to buy a copy of *Nouvelle Internationale* on the war against Iraq. Ten *Militants*, 8 copies of *L'internationaliste*, and 1 *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold, as well as several books by Malcolm X."

Mass picket stops scabs in Tasmania, Australia

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Picket line confrontations took place June 4 at the Associated Pulp and Paper Mills (APPM) plant in Burnie on the island of Tasmania. About 30 cops attempting to break through the line were pushed back by pickets. Later in the day 80 cops forced their way through the strikers to escort 18 scabs into the plant. One picketer was hospitalized and 41 arrested.

The following day, in the face of 300 still determined strikers supported by 400 sympathetic "onlookers" from the town, the company suspended its attempt to bring on the scabs.

Workers have effectively halted production with a 24-hour picket line since the strike began May 12. The Australian Council of Trade Unions is organizing a \$5 million fund to back the strike.

APPM unilaterally cancelled a series of local agreements on wages and conditions March 3 without consulting the unions and began employing security guards to enforce company rules in the plant. The 850 workers at the plant struck after the company called in the cops to arrest five workers who had refused to comply with a company directive. These workers have been charged with trespassing.

APPM is a subsidiary of North Broken Hill-Peko, one of the major mining companies in Australia. The miners' union has announced that a 24-hour protest strike in support of the Burnie workers will take place during the coming week.

Militant distributors from Sydney are organizing a special sales team to travel the 600 miles to Tasmania to circulate the paper among the strikers and at surrounding campuses and working-class communities.



Militant/Jay Ressler

Distributing 'Militant' outside grand opening of new Pathfinder Bookstore in Boston

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'inter-nationaliste		New International		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Des Moines, IA	130	93	72%	25	15	2	1	40	11	197	120
Los Angeles	180	122	68%	100	64	4	1	110	57	394	244
Seattle	120	78	65%	35	20	3	3	25	11	183	112
Salt Lake City	130	84	65%	20	8	2	0	30	9	182	101
Birmingham, AL	80	51	64%	5	1	2	0	40	2	127	54
Pittsburgh	90	55	61%	5	4	2	0	30	3	127	62
Washington, D.C.	130	78	60%	20	22	10	0	55	25	215	125
Philadelphia	85	48	56%	20	22	3	0	30	12	138	82
St. Louis	100	56	56%	5	1	2	0	25	1	132	58
Chicago	150	84	56%	35	15	5	0	70	14	260	113
Houston	80	44	55%	20	13	2	0	20	6	122	63
Morgantown, WV	80	43	54%	3	3	2	0	30	7	115	53
Twin Cities, MN	140	75	54%	20	11	2	0	30	6	192	92
Greensboro, NC	80	42	53%	8	6	2	1	15	0	105	49
San Francisco	150	77	51%	50	9	8	0	70	38	278	124
Portland	10	5	50%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5
New Haven, CT	10	5	50%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	6
Atlanta	90	43	48%	8	6	2	1	30	14	130	64
Boston	135	62	46%	40	29	15	2	50	22	240	115
Detroit	140	64	46%	10	3	2	0	30	17	182	84
Baltimore	110	49	45%	12	6	3	2	30	5	155	62
Newark, NJ	160	70	44%	50	9	15	4	70	22	295	105
Miami	110	37	34%	30	19	15	15	45	21	200	92
New York	250	84	34%	100	10	20	1	110	20	480	115
Cleveland	90	29	32%	10	1	2	1	20	8	122	39
Cincinnati*	39	11	28%	3	0	0	0	5	2	47	13
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Wilmington, DE	10	1	10%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,884	1,491	52%	636	298	125	32	1,013	333	4,658	2,154
AUSTRALIA											
NEW ZEALAND	45	25	56%	14	7	1	0	10	9	70	41
BRITAIN	6	3	50%	2	1	12	1	8	3	16	8
Sheffield	50	32	64%	3	1	2	0	25	8	80	41
Manchester	50	25	50%	2	0	1	0	30	14	83	39
London	80	39	49%	6	1	2	0	40	13	128	53
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	96	53%	11	2	5	0	95	35	291	133
CANADA											
Vancouver	90	68	76%	15	7	5	2	30	13	140	90
Montreal*	75	39	52%	20	16	30	12	60	30	185	97
Toronto	90	45	50%	20	13	5	2	45	8	160	68
CANADA TOTAL	255	152	60%	55	36	40	16	135	51	485	255
FRANCE											
ICELAND	5	1	20%	2	1	15	5	5	5	27	12
MEXICO	20	14	70%	1	0	1	0	5	1	27	15
NEW ZEALAND	1	1	100%	5	4	0	0	0	0	6	5
Wellington*	50	42	84%	1	0	1	0	10	4	62	46
Auckland	55	43	78%	5	1	1	0	13	3	74	47
Christchurch	40	27	68%	1	0	1	0	10	1	52	28
Other N.Z.	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
N.Z. TOTAL	149	116	78%	7	1	3	0	33	8	192	125
PUERTO RICO											
SWEDEN*	1	0	0%	5	4	0	0	2	0	8	4
TOTAL	70	61	87%	30	21	3	0	15	13	118	95
SHOULD BE	3,616	1,960	56%	768	375	205	54	1,321	458	5,898	2,847
DRIVE GOALS		2835	81%		608		162		1,013		4,617
*raised goal	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Militant* Sold	New Int'l Sold
UNITED STATES			
ACTWU	42	55	23
IAM	48	110	53
ILGWU	59	46	27
OCAW	85	39	33
UAW	73	75	55
UFCW	56	90	50
USWA	73	85	62
UTU**	90	60	54
TOTAL	64	560	357
SHOULD BE	81	454	149
AUSTRALIA			
MTFU	80	5	4
SHOULD BE	81	4	2
BRITAIN			
AEU	0	10	0
NUM	20	10	2
RMT	76	17	13
TGWU	47	15	7
TOTAL	42	52	22
SHOULD BE	81	42	19
CANADA			
ACTWU	100	8	3
CAW	33	15	5
IAM	80	5	4
USWA	25	16	4
TOTAL	48	44	21
SHOULD BE	81	36	15
SWEDEN			
FOOD WORKERS	50	4	2
METAL WORKERS	100	7	3
TOTAL	82	11	9
SHOULD BE	81	9	5

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MFTU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union; TGWU — Transport and General Workers' Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

** Raised goal

New Alliance Party's left-wing rhetoric hides rightist, anti-working-class politics

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The 1992 presidential campaign has drawn attention to a group called the New Alliance Party (NAP), whose candidate is Lenora Fulani. Newspapers from the *Los Angeles Times* to *New York Newsday* have written about NAP, noting that Fulani's campaign has raised \$2.2 million, nearly half of that in federal matching funds. As of February, her campaign had received more federal money than Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas, and Patrick Buchanan.

Most media accounts describe NAP as a "left-wing party." The group presents itself as a "Black-led, women-led, pro-gay, pro-socialist independent organization." It claims to be "America's fourth largest party."

NAP recently put out a slick, attractive booklet detailing its election campaign platform. It calls for reforms in health care, education, and housing to "rebuild America." Other points include support to the rights of Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, prisoners, women, gays, and workers; animal rights; and a foreign policy based on "commitment to democracy." A cover letter concludes with an appeal for a federally matched "generous donation for democracy."

Recently NAP has made the headlines for its legal moves to knock other candidates off the ballot. In New York the group filed a challenge to prevent Tsongas from appearing on the April 7 Democratic primary ballot, charging he did not have enough valid petition signatures. The state board of elections eventually denied the challenge.

In spite of its stated goals, the New Alliance Party concentrates its activity on attacking individuals and organizations that get in the way of its claim to represent the leadership of the oppressed.

Progressive-sounding demagoguery

The group uses progressive-sounding and radical demagoguery to appeal to middle-class layers discontented with the policies of the Democrats and Republicans. But NAP's actions are directed at reducing democratic space for free political debate and organization. It resorts to attacks on ballot rights, harassment lawsuits, disruption of political meetings, race-baiting, and physical threats in order to advance itself.

NAP has generous sources of money, with which it finances a \$3.5-million-a-year network of businesses and other operations — an ad agency, a law firm, several therapy clinics, a publishing house, a theater company, an accounting firm, and a music agency, among others. These include the Castillo Cultural Center Inc., People's Law Institute, East Side Center for Short-Term Psychotherapy, All-Star Talent Show Network, U.S.-Congo Friendship Committee, Ilene Advertising Inc., Fred Newman Productions-Budweiser Musicruise, Community Literacy Research Project, Automated Business Services, Lenora Fulani's Committee for Fair Elections, and *Probe*, described as "The Intelligence Magazine of the Working Left."

One of the most lucrative components of this financial empire is the Washington-based Rainbow Lobby, a corporation with nonprofit status that raised \$1.5 million in contributions last year, making it one of the largest lobbies in the U.S. capital.

NAP has become known mainly through its election campaign. In the 1988 presidential elections Fulani was on the ballot in 50 states.

This time she ran in the Democratic Party until the February 18 New Hampshire primary election, where she got only 402 votes. NAP dropped out of subsequent primaries, Fulani told *Newsday*, to avoid losing future matching funds. The group now continues to qualify for federal funds by running a third-party campaign.

NAP has also drawn attention through its collaboration with various political figures. It has prominently associated with Al Sharpton, who is now running for the U.S. Senate in New York as a Democrat, and with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Earlier in the primaries NAP latched onto the candidacy of Democratic contender Larry Agran, former mayor of Irvine, California. More recently the outfit has made overtures to Texas billionaire candidate Ross Perot.

What is less known is the origins of this group. The group's founder and chief is Fred Newman, described in its literature as a "Marxist activist and theoretician who has for the past two decades led the building of the new left political tendency of which NAP is the electoral wing." According to NAP newspaper *National Alliance*, "Newman and a handful of mostly Jewish followers began organizing in the Black community 20 years ago."

The outfit's real history is described in a 1987 report by journalist Chip Berlet, who works for a research group that disseminates information on right-wing organizations. He

During their membership in the LaRouche group, Berlet explains, the Newmanites were part of NCLC's well-documented collaboration with U.S. intelligence agencies, finking on political activists to the FBI.

After leaving NCLC in August 1974, Newman formed the International Workers Party but continued for a time to debate LaRouche over questions of shared political ideology. In 1979 he and his followers publicly announced the New Alliance Party.

NAP leaders claim to have tens of thousands of committed members, although the group's newspaper admits that its national

dorsed Fulani's campaign for New York governor in 1990 at a public NAP rally.

Sharpton and NAP have intervened together in numerous protests against police and racist violence in the New York area, such as the fight for justice for Yusuf Hawkins, a Black youth killed by a racist gang in 1989. Appealing to nationalist sentiments among fighters who are Black, they seek to channel these actions away from mass protests by working people against the government, toward relying on them as the individual "leaders" who will supposedly resolve the problems on behalf of the oppressed.

NAP also shares the race-baiting and anti-Semitism used by these forces. *Independent Black Leadership in America* carries anti-Semitic statements by an NAP leader and Farrakhan, who also goes on to denounce gays.

In speeches and interviews, Newman has characterized Jews as "the stormtroopers of decadent capitalism."

NAP also supports the vigilante group Guardian Angels. Lisa Sliwa, a leader of the procop group, was a featured speaker at a recent NAP forum that ended with chants of "Join the Guardians! Vote NAP!"

In a further example of the outfit's reactionary course, the May 26 *National Alliance* is headlined "Perot, Fulani: A Match Made in Crisis?" The paper enthusiastically supports Perot's "anti-establishment" candidacy and virulently attacks some of his critics.

In its efforts to build a base of support, NAP declares it will "take on the persons in our country who stand in our way," as Fulani puts it. In the last couple of years this has meant a campaign to restrict access to the ballot for anyone other than itself.

Attacks on ballot rights

In 1990 NAP — taking advantage of New York State's undemocratic ballot laws — went to court to challenge the nominating petitions of two candidates for New York governor, Jitu Weusi of the Unity Party and Joseph Mack of the United African Party. Fulani, also a gubernatorial candidate, labeled them "spoilers" trying to "deflect votes" from her campaign. Both were knocked off the ballot for insufficient signatures.

Earlier this year the group tried to bounce both Tsongas and Brown from the Democratic primary ballot and almost succeeded.

These reactionary moves strengthen the government's hand in curtailing the rights of working-class and other third-party candidates to run in elections against the Democratic and Republican parties.

NAP also targets its opponents with libel suits, smear campaigns, and harassment. Newman brought a \$2 million libel suit — later thrown out of court — against the *Jackson Advocate*, a Black-oriented Mississippi newspaper, for running articles critical of NAP.

NAP and its Rainbow Lobby continually attack Congressman Mervyn Dymally as a "jackal," "accessory to murder," and ally of Zairian dictator Mobutu Sese Seko because of a fact-finding trip he once made to that country. When Dymally defended himself and denounced NAP, they sued him — unsuccessfully — for libel.

Organizations such as the California Peace and Freedom Party, New Jewish Agenda, ACT-UP, and the Welfare Rights Organization in Mississippi have been disrupted by NAP attempts to take them over. When it can't take over an organization, NAP creates a group with a similar name — like the Rainbow Lobby, which mimics Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition — to cause confusion. Such maneuvers resemble LaRouche's front groups, which disrupt other organizations through their misleading names and misrepresentations.

Thuggish methods

NAP's tactics are becoming more thuggish. Newmanites, who brag that they are going "to teach the Democrats a lesson," shouted down Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown last month when they held campaign meetings in New York. As Fulani puts it, "We have to scare the daylight out of them."

Continued on Page 12



Front page of May 28 issue of New Alliance Party paper looked hopefully toward a Perot-Fulani ticket, with the heading 'Perot, Fulani: A Match Made in Crisis?'

has also written extensively on fascist Lyndon LaRouche.

LaRouchites

Newman and several followers first set up a political organization, known for its confrontational tactics, in New York in 1968. In the early 1970s, Berlet reports, he began to write favorably about Lyndon LaRouche and his National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). Newman had developed a theory of "social therapy" that was similar to some of the psychological theories espoused by LaRouche.

Newman himself admits his Centers for Change began discussions with NCLC in October 1973. In June 1974 he led about 40 of his followers into LaRouche's group.

Today NAP insistently downplays its previous association with LaRouche. Newman claims that at the time the LaRouche gang was "not notably crazier than other elements on the left" and that he and most of his followers left NCLC in 1974 two months after they joined.

This is a deliberate falsification, however. NCLC was far from being a left-wing organization, as Newman's group now pretends. In 1973-74, LaRouche was already propounding openly right-wing, racist, and anti-Semitic ideas.

From May to September of 1973, LaRouche launched the notorious "Operation Mop-Up," in which his followers physically assaulted meetings of the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party. Using bats, chains, and numchukas, NCLC's goons caused several people to be hospitalized with serious injuries.

Newman's group began collaborating with NCLC a few weeks after Operation Mop-Up ended and held joint forums with LaRouche's outfit in November and December 1973.

campaigning efforts are carried out by hiring college students at \$8 an hour.

In fact, it is a small outfit run by Newman, the "theoretician," and his clique of long-time lieutenants.

Dennis Serrette, a former NAP member who was its 1984 presidential candidate, described the group's internal functioning in a 1989 article published in *Radical America*. One of the ways NAP recruits and trains members, he explains, is through its network of "social therapy" clinics.

"Therapy, NAP style, is a method for recruiting innocent, vulnerable people, exploiting their vulnerabilities, and controlling their behavior," Serrette writes. "Every member is required to attend at least one social therapy (i.e. psychotherapy) session weekly, led by Newman's hand-picked, hand-trained therapists." The psychological techniques recall LaRouche's "ego-stripping" sessions, which ex-members call a form of brainwashing.

Convergence with other reactionaries

NAP also plays on the discontent caused by the capitalist economic and social crisis, attracting supporters through demagoguery, confrontational methods, and misrepresentations. In particular, it poses as the "real" leadership of the Black community.

Newman's group has put out a book, *Independent Black Leadership in America*, which features speeches by Lenora Fulani, Al Sharpton, and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. The book reflects the political convergence between NAP and other reactionary forces, particularly among middle-class layers in the Black community.

Until recently Sharpton wrote a weekly column in *National Alliance* called "The People's Preacher." He is featured at NAP forums.

Farrakhan, along with Sharpton, en-

Cover-up of Chernobyl disaster exposed

BY JON HILLSON

Newly published secret documents of the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party detail its central role in covering up the scope of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. They unmask the criminal conduct that put the lives of millions of people in the former Soviet Union in jeopardy.

The revelations, contained in minutes of the Communist Party's ruling Politburo, were published in the April 24 issue of the Russian daily *Izvestia* and reported on in several U.S. newspapers.

The meltdown of nuclear fuel in Chernobyl's number 4 reactor, and the subsequent explosion and fire, released 10 times the radioactivity of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima.

The site is in Ukraine near Belarus, both former Kremlin-dominated republics which declared independence in 1991.

In the wake of the nuclear catastrophe, then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev claimed only 32 had died. He won praise at the time for his supposedly candid approach to the crisis.

Ecology, antinuclear, and other activists in Ukraine and Belarus, along with a growing number of scientists worldwide, have long disputed the casualty figures and projected up to a quarter of a million deaths in the future.

The most recent official Ukrainian government announcement, made on the sixth anniversary of the meltdown, put the number of fatalities between 6,000 and 8,000.

Unprecedented cases of leukemia, other cancers, thyroid diseases, immune deficiencies, and fertility dysfunctions have been reported in Ukraine and Belarus, along with increased mental health disorders. Children have been particularly afflicted.

The horrors documented in the Politburo minutes indicate these calamities were a direct result of policy.

- As thousands of victims of radiation were being hospitalized, the Stalinist leadership issued grossly deflated figures of



Child watches as meter registers unhealthy level of radiation near Chernobyl. Children in Ukraine and Belarus were particularly afflicted by effects of 1986 catastrophe.

those receiving treatment, continuously deceiving Soviet citizens about the range and toll of the disaster.

- Two weeks after the Chernobyl explosion, the Politburo approved a 1,000 percent increase in the amount of radiation exposure considered "safe" for human beings. This dramatically slashed the number of people officially required to be examined, receive treatment, or be hospitalized.

The majority of these people, numbering untold hundreds of thousands, have not yet gotten full medical care.

- A similar, drastically lowered standard was used to determine safe habitation.

Under pre-Chernobyl measures, 1.5 million people would have been resettled from such contaminated areas. With the new officially approved criteria, only 166,000 people were moved.

- The Politburo likewise authorized reduced standards for measuring radioactivity in food for human consumption. This permitted the mixing of 47,500 tons of "dirty" meat and 2 million tons of milk into the national food supply between 1986 and 1989.

No studies have been made on the effect of ingesting these irradiated materials.

- To maintain operations at Chernobyl's

three functioning reactors, the Politburo gave a green light to resettlement of several thousand plant workers to nearby Slavutich, while knowing the town was contaminated by radioactive Cesium-137.

These criminal decisions were made by the Stalinist bureaucrats to avoid, *Izvestia* stated, "lost production."

Those who participated in the Politburo meetings "knew all the truth about Chernobyl, but chose to misinform and deceive the country and the world," Alla Yaroshinskaya wrote in her analysis of the once-secret documents.

"They invented different categories of truth," she stated, "one for the East, another for the West, yet another for the International Atomic Energy Agency, and quite another for us who in their view were not entitled to know anything at all."

Last October, a massive fire broke out in the generator room of Chernobyl's number 2 reactor, destroying 1,500 square feet of roof.

Earlier this year, a Ukrainian parliamentary commission blasted Gorbachev and leaders of the now defunct Soviet CP for "criminal disinformation which led to radiation exposure of hundreds of thousands of people in Ukraine."

The report termed Gorbachev's highly touted policy of alleged "openness"—*glasnost*—"an ideology of state lying."

The nightmarish human cost for Chernobyl has yet to be paid.

An additional 15 nuclear plants with Chernobyl-style reactors continue to operate across the former USSR. One, outside St. Petersburg, leaked radioactive gas in March. Russian officials said the emission posed no danger.

Chernobyl's burned-out, contaminated reactor hulk contains 30 tons of deadly, highly radioactive dust. The powder could be released through gaps in the building by any significant motion from the wreckage.

Scientists working there have issued repeated calls for emergency work on the menacing edifice and its lethal contents, to no avail.

In May, according to the Moscow-based ITAR-Tass news agency, brush fires caused by hot, dry weather have started in the Chernobyl area, a thorough decontaminating clean-up of which was never completed.

The blazes are stirring up dust deposited from the 1986 meltdown, the news agency stated, with breezes carrying flying ash "over significant distances, poisoning settlements and fields."

Texas workers raise funds to defend Curtis

BY WILLIE M. REID
AND PATSY BUTLER

HOUSTON — Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee here celebrated the May Day weekend at a back yard social.

About 30 people, mostly members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, the International Association of Machinists, and the United Transportation Union, had a chance to meet other supporters and friends, along with family and neighbors of Patsy Butler, an activist in the fight for justice for Curtis. Curtis is serving a 25-year jail sentence on frame-up rape and burglary charges.

The event capped a successful fund-raising raffle, which was launched following the favorable decision in Curtis's civil suit against the Des Moines, Iowa, cops who brutally beat him after he was arrested in March 1988.

The three raffle prizes were a VCR; a gift certificate for two at a favorite Galveston, Texas, hotel; and two videos and materials

that document Curtis's frame-up. The goal was to organize to reach coworkers, students, teachers, other activists, and friends to publicize the lawsuit victory and to raise money for the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund.

The design and reproduction costs of the raffle tickets and the English and Spanish versions of the brochure *Who Is Mark Curtis* were donated by supporters. The raffle campaign paralleled a mailing sent out by local supporters of Curtis to Texas and Louisiana endorsers and friends, which raised \$800, and a March 28 campus meeting where everyone present contributed to the fund.

All activities were publicized from campus and community tables, through meetings set up with past and potential endorsers of Curtis's fight for justice, and in discussions with coworkers on the job.

This was the first raffle fund-raiser by Curtis supporters here. Oil workers in one plant raised more than \$500. Almost \$280

was raised among coworkers at three other plants. Campus workers and students also purchased \$20 in tickets.

A total of \$632 was sent to the defense committee in Des Moines after raffle expenses.

At the social supporters watched the powerful video on the frame-up of Mark Curtis, which helped to drive home the reality of the injustice and brutality working people face from the cops and courts.

Mark Curtis: 'Free Cardiff Three, victims of police frame-up in Wales'

The message below was sent by Mark Curtis to the Cardiff Three Campaign in Wales. The Cardiff Three — Yusef Abdullahi, Tony Paris, and Steven Miller — were convicted in November 1990 for the February 1988 murder of Lynette White.

In a leaflet explaining the case, the Cardiff Three Campaign states that "these men are innocent." The group is organizing support for an appeal of the convictions and fighting for their release.

The committee points out that the prosecution ignored evidence that showed that none of the 145 sets of fingerprints and palm prints on the body belong to any of the three.

"Thirty to fifty witnesses," the committee reports, all saw Tony Paris at work the night of the murder. His supervisor verified that he stayed there with other staff after work. Coworkers of Yusef Abdullahi also stated that he was at work on the ship, the Coral Sea, that evening. A friend of Steve Miller said that he was with Miller all night.

"Why did the police suppress evidence until four months after the trial?" the defense committee asks.

* * *

Statement by Mark Curtis

It seems that people in the United States and Britain are getting clubbed by the same system of injustice. The innocent go to jail and the guilty are let free. In Los Angeles,

the cops beat Rodney King; in London, they beat Tony and Arnold Dean. In both cases the cops are set free by the courts. But Yusef Abdullahi, Tony Paris, and Steven Miller go to jail for a crime they did not commit.

I know this injustice firsthand. Four years ago I was framed up on charges of rape and burglary, beaten badly by the cops, and railroaded into prison with a 25-year sentence. But my supporters and I have not accepted this. We have fought and this year we won a big victory when a judge found two cops guilty of breaking my cheekbone with excessive force. I was awarded \$12,000 and attorneys fees.

The lesson is that we cannot wait for justice, we must fight for it. People around the world refused to accept the frame-ups of the Birmingham Six, the Guilford Four, and the Tottenham Three. By joining our hands across the oceans, we can educate and organize others to refuse to accept the frame-up in Cardiff. There is a growing fight against police brutality in the USA and the timing is good to take some ground in the struggle to free the Cardiff Three. I pledge to help these three brothers in any way I can.

FREE THE CARDIFF THREE NOW!

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY!

INDICT THE COPS WHO BEAT

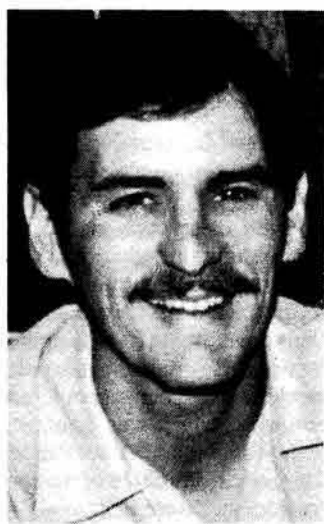
RODNEY KING! FREE THE 17,000

JAILED IN LOS ANGELES!

JUSTICE FOR ALL FRAME-UP VICTIMS!

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Materials available from Mark Curtis Defense Committee:



The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis by John Gaige. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis' case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$1.00

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis, a VHS video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. This effective 49-minute documentary has clips from TV news broadcasts on Curtis' fight for justice, scenes from the trial, and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Kaku, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. \$10.00

Justice for Mark Curtis: 'An injury to one is an injury to all.' Buttons. \$1.00

State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis. Transcript of September 1988 jury trial proceedings that found Curtis guilty of rape and burglary. 446 pp. \$30.00.

Order these and other materials from: Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695.

SWP fights for ballot access in 25 states

Continued from front page

campaigners collected 8,500 signatures to place on the ballot Laura Garza, SWP candidate for Congress in the 18th district.

The campaign set up tables and collected signatures in front of a number of grocery stores and inside a major shopping mall. Signs calling for justice for Rodney King and for opening the borders to Haitian refugees attracted the most attention and discussion during the past few weeks.

Decisions made by minority

The socialists take advantage of the elections, including the undemocratic ballot requirements, to help advance class consciousness by explaining revolutionary ideas. One of the things they point out is that genuine social change will not be brought about through elections.

Socialists explain how under capitalism, despite the forms of freedom and equality, all social, economic, and political questions are decided by a tiny minority, with total contempt and disregard for the rights and needs of the great majority.

The SWP has petitioned to get its presidential candidate on the ballot since 1948. Over the past four decades the party has been in the forefront of fighting undemocratic election laws. One of its election planks in 1948 said, "Liberalize the election laws. Lower the voting age to 18. Give minority parties equal time on TV and radio and in the columns of the public press."

In dozens of court cases, the party has challenged undemocratic election laws including exorbitant signature requirements, candidate filing fees, age and payment per signature requirements, and restrictions on write-in voting. In some cases the party has successfully struck down restrictions, thus strengthening the First and Fourteenth amendments.

Earlier this year, the SWP filed a brief in support of a suit filed by Alan Burdick, a resident of Hawaii, to end that state's ban on write-in voting. Edward Copeland, counsel for the SWP who filed the brief wrote, "The Socialist Workers Party has from its inception been opposed to restrictions on the franchise. It has both engaged in litigation and broader political action along with others to expand voting rights of all individuals in our society and to make meaningful the right to vote."

Because of restrictions on access to the ballot, many SWP candidates run as write-in candidates. Between 1988 and 1990, approximately 210 party candidates ran for office as write-ins.

The sheer volume of signatures required

for ballot status has the effect of automatically knocking many independent candidates off the ballot. In Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, and Texas, candidates are required to submit more than 50,000 signatures. In California 134,781 signatures are required.

Although the election laws are designed to keep working class parties off the ballot, capitalist third parties face similar obstacles. In 1980 the campaign of John Anderson, who ran for president as an independent, managed to get on the ballot in 50 states, though he had to file seven legal challenges to get there.

In this year's elections, the Perot candidacy has put a spotlight on what the socialists have faced in every election. The *New York Times* editors wrote, "The chances are Mr. Perot can avoid the sort of petition problems that nearly knocked Paul Tsongas off the Democratic primary ballot in New York. But the fact that he even has to worry about qualifying speaks volumes about the state's insane ballot access rules."

The *Times* continues, "Under present law, he'll need 20,000 valid petition signatures, including a minimum of 100 signatures from a least half of the state's 34 Congressional districts. That's a harder task than first appears. The most trivial petition errors provide grist for endless legal challenges that can result in disqualification." The editorial also explains that "voters who participated in the Democratic primary or signed President Bush's nominating petitions are barred from signing for Mr. Perot."

The *Times* has described New York ballot laws as the "most arcane and difficult in the nation."

In North Carolina a candidate is required to sign up 2 percent of the state's registered

voters, which is more than 70,000 people, and pay a filing fee of five cents for each signature.

Florida's prohibitive requirements

In Florida third parties are required to sign up 3 percent of the state's registered voters for each candidate. A separate petition must be circulated for each office, and a filing fee of 10 cents per name must be paid in order to have the signatures checked.



Militant/Dan Fein
Petitioning in Miami for socialist presidential candidates in 1992 contest.

The signature requirement for any statewide candidate, such as for Senate or President, is 60,000 for each candidate. If the SWP wanted to petition for a full slate of candidates in Florida it would need to collect close to 700,000 signatures, or something like 1 million to guarantee that enough valid signatures were collected. In addition, the party would have to pay \$100,000 in filing fees.

The party would also have to post a \$10,000 bond with the state and a \$5,000 bond with each county that has jurisdiction over that particular office.

The SWP will challenge these requirements in a lawsuit along with the Florida Green Party. Randall Berg, American Civil Liberties Union attorney, has agreed to file the challenge. Supporters are planning a special ballot rights fund to raise the hundreds of dollars needed to cover court and filing costs.

Twenty years ago, in the case of *Jenness v. Miller* the party successfully challenged the 10 cent rule, which was struck down as unconstitutional.

However, according to the *Ballot Access News*, it is unclear whether the above decision still holds today. "It will be interesting to see how the state [Florida] handles the SWP petition when it is submitted in July," reports the *News*.

West Virginia ballot fight

For more than a decade SWP election campaigns have challenged the extremely undemocratic election laws in West Virginia. The party has fought to end the requirement that signatures be gathered twice to get on the ballot. This is stipulated if the candidate cannot afford a filing fee. Petitioners are also required to tell signers that they lose their right to vote in primary

Continued on Page 9

U.S. socialist talks to youth in Britain

BY MARK MITHERING

LONDON — "It is wrong to blame things on white versus Black. It's about the haves and the have-nots, the oppressed against the oppressors. That's the cause of the violence."

This comment was made by Kim, one of 14 students from Southwark College in London who attended a meeting at the Pathfinder Bookshop here May 14 to discuss the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King and the social explosion in Los Angeles. The meeting was part of a speaking tour of John

Cox, a member of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

Sponsored by the Young Socialist Group (YSG) of London, Cox opened the meeting with a short talk. He said that a BBC local radio program in Manchester had asked him if the attack on King and the unjust verdict exonerating the cops could be considered an "isolated incident."

"Acts of police racism and brutality are by no means isolated, nor is it inconsistent with the U.S. criminal justice system that four cops would be acquitted for brutalizing a Black worker," said Cox. "The Los Angeles Police Department merely provides a particularly graphic example of the institutionalized racism and violence that can be found in any police department in the United States."

Cox pointed out that state-sanctioned brutality is not unique to the United States, nor is the existence of a court system hostile to the interests of working people. "In the last week, we have seen three examples of British 'law and order': the release of Judith Ward, wrongfully imprisoned for 18 years on bombing charges and accused of being an 'IRA terrorist'; the police attacks against youth in Coventry; and the violent rampage of the British paratroopers in Coalisland, Northern Ireland, where 25 British paratroopers, armed with batons, attacked civilians in two bars May 12.

"More importantly, we should see that racist attacks and attacks against the rights of working people are not isolated in a broader sense; they fit into a more general pattern in world politics today," Cox explained.

Rightist parties emerge

The economic depression that is gripping the imperialist countries of North America and Europe is accelerating a rightward trend in the policies and direction of the capitalist political parties, said Cox. An aspect of this has been the emergence of extreme right-wing and overtly fascist parties, including the British National Front, the National Front in France, and the German People's Union and the Republicans in Germany.

"The harsh nationalism and anti-immigrant, anti-Black racism of these parties can-

not be answered by the traditional social-democratic, liberal or conservative parties, as they themselves have promoted similarly reactionary policies," said Cox. "They operate within exactly the same framework — defending the so-called interests of 'the nation' and attempting to resolve the crisis of the capitalist system, demanding further sacrifices from working people, and telling us that immigrant workers are our enemy."

"In this sense as well, there is nothing isolated about the events in L.A.," Cox said, adding that it was the "shameful default of the union officialdom and civil rights leadership" and their refusal to help organize broad protests to force a serious prosecution of the cops that allowed the acquittal.

How to fight injustice

In the discussion that followed Cox's talk, an instructor from Southwark proposed that the four cops who were acquitted be "dragged out of their houses and killed" in order to rectify the unjust verdict. This provoked a debate on the merits of using this type of violence as a way of fighting racism and injustice.

One student, a young Black woman, replied that "it's the system that needs to be fought, not the four policemen as individuals. Even if they were out of the way, there would still be people oppressed."

Two students commented that, "violence is always wrong." Julia, a member of the YSG, referred to Malcolm X's position in defense of the right of oppressed peoples to self-defense.

"Dealing with these cops in the manner suggested would not only do nothing to advance a real struggle against police brutality and racism," Cox added, "it would hand the cops and their government an easy pretext for more repression." He pointed to the potential to unify workers and young people around political demands, which was demonstrated in the first few months after the beating of Rodney King, when a number of demonstrations and picket lines were held.

During his tour Cox also addressed meetings at Sheffield Polytechnic, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and meetings at Pathfinder Bookshops in Manchester and in Sheffield.

Join the socialist alternative in 1992

Help put the socialist candidates on the ballot

Contribute to the \$75,000 campaign fund

Come to the international youth and socialist campaign conference at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9



Michigan: June 1-July 14

Washington, D.C.: July 4-Aug. 4

New York: July 7-Aug. 1

Alabama: July 11-Aug. 1

New England: June 6-July 18

Petitioning volunteers are also needed in Iowa, Minnesota, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Oregon, Washington State, Delaware, Utah, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana.



- ☐ I want to join a petitioning team in _____.
- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.
- ☐ I want to attend the international youth and socialist campaign conference.
- ☐ I want to join the Socialist Workers Party.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Age _____

Clip and mail to: Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011.
Tel: (212) 675-6740. Or contact campaign supporters in your area. (See page 12).

Paid for by the Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign Committee

Communist League in Britain plans special congress to strengthen party

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

LONDON — A special congress of the Communist League is to take place in Sheffield June 27–28. The congress will discuss a proposal to fuse together the forces of the Communist League and groups of young socialists in London, Sheffield and Manchester.

Communist League leader Tony Hunt explained: "The purpose of this fusion is to enable communists to respond more effectively and rapidly to events in world politics. Over the past months it has become clear that more and more young people are reacting to the reality of depression, war, racism, and reaction. They are repelled by the face of capitalism and they are looking for answers. Today, many of these young people are open to being convinced that the per-

spective advanced by communists — a working class perspective toward taking state power out of the hands of the capitalist warmakers and opening the door to building a new society — offers the only way forward for humanity."

Hunt added, "This is a new factor in world politics. It is happening all around the world — from South Africa, to Thailand, to the republics of the former Soviet Union. We see it here in Britain in the fights of students in defense of their living standards and in the involvement of young people in demonstrations against police brutality and racism."

"We shouldn't exaggerate," Hunt said. "We're not yet seeing a broad political movement of young people. But the resistance that does exist is making young fight-

Stop U.S. drive toward war

Continued from front page

by working people everywhere," said Warren. "The people of Sarajevo have been without the basic necessities of life — food, water, electricity, and medicine — for more than two months."

The candidate also called for the United States and the governments of Europe to open their borders to the 1.3 million refugees seeking shelter from the brutal war, criticizing their "callously inadequate response to the refugees seeking shelter."

Open U.S., European borders

Warren said that demanding the opening of borders is an elementary duty of working people in the United States and Europe. During the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq, for example, socialist candidates called not only for "All foreign troops out of Iraq!" but also "Open the U.S. borders!" — to the Kurdish people and to all Iraqi, Kuwaiti, and other refugees fleeing the Baghdad regime and the al-Sabah monarchy in Kuwait.

"The recent developments in Yugoslavia and Haiti are yet another confirmation of the growing world disorder," said Warren. "The growing and unresolvable crisis of the world capitalist economies and of the entire imperialist system will keep driving the U.S. rulers and their allies to war."

Warren said Washington is now greatly concerned that "the resistance to the bloody military regime in Haiti will spread to the borders of the United States. The Cedras military regime is beginning to come apart. Soldiers are revolting against their officers and students and workers are pressing their way into the streets, fighting for freedom. This is significant," said the candidate.

Warren denounced President George Bush's executive order blocking thousands of Haitians who are fleeing repression from entering the United States. "Bush claims that there isn't any repression inside Haiti," said Warren. "But every day there is evidence — in the papers, on TV, and from Haitians living in this country — that there are more killings, beatings, and torture going on."

"For months Washington has tried to cover up the ongoing brutalization of the Haitian people by the U.S.-backed Cedras regime. Washington has forcibly returned 37,000 Haitians since October, and more than 12,500 in May alone," said the socialist.

"It's outrageous what Washington is doing. Socialist Workers candidate Laura Garza, in Miami, who has been campaigning to open U.S. borders to the Haitian refugees, correctly said that what Washington is doing amounts to piracy on the seas. After forcibly returning Haitians to the murderous military regime, the U.S. Coast Guard routinely burns and sinks their boats," he said.

Warren said he looks forward to campaigning with supporters of the Garza campaign when he arrives in Miami in early June.

"I want very much to be a part of the protests and discussion in the city," said the socialist. "We call for opening the borders and we mean it. The idea that there isn't enough room or money in the United States is false."

"The rulers want us to fight over crumbs and to fight each other. They want us to blame Haitians, who are our fellow workers, instead of capitalism and its representatives," he concluded.

Alabama antiracists to demonstrate

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Support is growing here for a mass demonstration to take place June 13 in opposition to a so-called "celebration of Aryan unity," scheduled for earlier the same day by neo-Nazi skinheads.

The demonstration is being organized by the Coalition Against Hate Crimes (CAHC), a local group that came together to organize a protest against the April 17 murder of Black homeless worker Benny Rembert, killed by members of the same fascist-minded outfit that is calling the "Aryan unity" rally.

The Aryan National Front, the name by which local skinheads go, has called their June 13 wreath laying ceremony at a Confederate war memorial in Linn Park, opposite city hall here, as part of their "Operation Wolfpack" — ostensibly a summer drive to recruit area youth to the group.

SWP seeks ballot access

Continued from Page 8

elections for other parties if they sign the petition. Thus those who sign automatically disenfranchise themselves from the primaries.

In the process of fighting these reactionary laws, the SWP has won support from thousands of working people, the West Virginia ACLU, and other supporters of democratic rights. Although most of the restrictive laws remain, the party has chipped away at some of the more restrictive provisions and has forced the issue out into the open.

Through its efforts to get on the ballot, the party received extensive and often favorable media coverage. "The Socialist Workers Party is challenging provisions of the law, and perhaps it's time to take a hard look at those restrictions," wrote the *Register-Herald*, a daily from Beckley, West Virginia, in 1990.

"The law clearly gives Democrats and Republicans an extreme advantage over any contenders," continued the *Register-Herald* editorial. "That isn't surprising, because the law is the product of those two parties..."



Militant/Joyce Fairchild

March against cop brutality and frame-up of Tony and Arnold Deane in Britain. Communist League and young socialist groups have participated in fights such as this.

ers more open to the ideas of communism. We can register that by looking at the growth of the young socialist groups, at sales of the *Militant* newspaper and Pathfinder books, and at the growing numbers of young people attending meetings to discuss political issues from the events in Los Angeles, to the fight for abortion rights, to the ideas of Malcolm X.

"By fighting to win these young rebels to a communist perspective today, we can take some big steps in helping to prepare the kind of communist party working people will need for the major class battles shaping up in the coming years."

"The Communist League is a small working-class party. Its members are miners, engineers, rail and car workers. They seek to carry out political activity amongst their workmates and in the industrial trade unions which organize them. Over the last few years these communist workers have carved out the first genuinely communist organization to exist in this country, at least since the early 1920s. We don't see ourselves narrowly as part of the 'British left,' but as a part of the front ranks of the international

working class," explained Hunt.

Youth attracted over past months

Young socialist and Communist League leader Helen Warnock added, "We set up young socialist groups in three cities earlier this year. We did this to help reach out to the resistance we saw developing among young people as they began to confront the dead-end future capitalism holds in store for all working people. In a few short months we have proved that it is possible to attract young people to revolutionary ideas right here and now. All three groups have grown. They've drawn in young union fighters, Black youth, young women, and people from Ireland and Africa. But as we grew we began to realize that we were hitting up against a problem: how would we win these young people to a communist perspective and understanding of the world. We realized that to do this effectively, the whole of the Communist League had to be turned towards this task."

The proposed fusion of the young socialist groups with the Communist League, Warnock says, is "designed to do just that. It will allow us to build upon the proven and complementary strengths of different organizations. It will allow us to bring young fighters into membership in the League, and into its leadership at every level. It will enable us to participate more effectively in the battles that lie ahead and it will bring us more quickly to the point where we can launch an organizationally independent, communist-led youth group as the class struggle intensifies."

"The new fused organization will place a premium on the political education of its membership. This will enable the young rebels to get a grounding in the ideas of Marxism. And it will give older members of the League an opportunity to pass the tremendous wealth of political knowledge and experience which they carry, on to a new generation. Communist parties are a unique kind of organization in capitalist society. They can and must be composed of different generations of fighters working alongside each other as equals. They grow stronger by braiding together the different generations," stated Warnock.

Tony Hunt emphasized that the perspective of fusing communist parties with groups of young fighters is a genuinely international one. "Small communist parties, from the Socialist Workers Party in the United States to Communist Leagues around the world are faced today with very similar challenges and opportunities. We have all suffered from the grinding effects of the blows dealt to working people throughout the 1980s. But we have all been able to strengthen ourselves politically and to function as communist fighters within the front ranks of our class. Now we can all reach out to this new generation — a generation not weighed down by past defeats. A generation that was repelled by the slaughter of the Iraqi people. We are working this out together. There will be significant delegations from our sister organizations around the world attending our congress. And then we're planning to take as many people as possible from Britain to the international socialist education and campaign conference being held in Oberlin, Ohio, in the first week of August." (See advertisement on the front page for conference details.)

What's behind attacks on women's rights?

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women by Susan Faludi. 552 pp., Crown, 1991. \$24 hardcover.

The fight for women's rights recently scored a big victory in Buffalo, New York. Hundreds of young fighters from cities across the United States waged a well-organized and disciplined struggle in defense of abortion rights.

Young women and men mapped out and

BOOK REVIEW

carried out a head-on battle against the anti-abortion forces of Operation Rescue that had pledged to close down abortion clinics throughout the city.

Over the course of two weeks, the pro-choice forces prevented any of the clinics from being closed by Operation Rescue, who left town with their tails between their legs.

The battle of Buffalo drew strength from the countless defense actions in front of abortion clinics that have been organized in cities throughout the country over a long period of time, as well as from the recent fight in Ireland that won a 14-year-old the right to travel to Britain to get an abortion. It was reinforced by the half-million strong April 5 demonstration for women's rights held in Washington, D.C. It also drew lessons from what had happened last fall in Wichita, Kansas, where an effective fight was blocked by those who relied on the cops and the courts to stop the rightists.

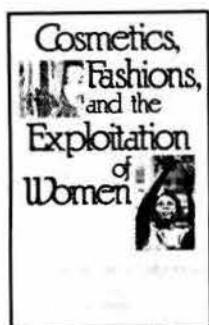
As thousands of those favoring a woman's right to choose abortion were mapping out their plan of action, a new book on women topped the best-sellers list: *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*, by Susan Faludi.

Reviews of the book, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, have appeared in major newspapers. *Backlash* is being read and discussed by young women in cities across the country.

Unfortunately, *Backlash's* 552 pages offer few answers for those seeking to understand what lies behind the recent attacks on a woman's right to choose abortion or what led to the Buffalo victory. The book does little to arm fighters on where to go from here in the struggle for women's rights.

FROM PATHFINDER

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women



By Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters

This volume contains a lively 1954 debate over the relation of the marketing of cosmetics and fashions to the exploitation of women. It discusses how the standards of beauty and view toward work are determined in capitalist society. 138 pp. \$11.95

Available at Pathfinder bookstores (see directory on page 12) or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Send \$3 for shipping and handling.



Clinic defenders in Buffalo, New York. Victory against Operation Rescue there was a lesson on how to fight for all those defending abortion rights.

In her book, Faludi, a Pulitzer Prize-winner and former journalist for the *Wall Street Journal*, describes a decade-long "powerful counterassault on women's rights, a backlash, an attempt to retract the handful of small and hard-won victories that the feminist movement did manage to win for women. This counterassault is largely insidious: a kind of pop-culture version of the Big Lie, it stands the truth boldly on its head and proclaims that the very steps that have elevated women's position have actually led to their downfall."

Faludi notes that since the 1970s, when big gains were made for women's rights, there has been an ongoing offensive to "halt or even reverse, women's quest" for equality and to blame feminists for the conditions faced by women today. The author cites the many studies and articles in the media that seek to undermine women's confidence in themselves, from those that sound the alarm on a "man shortage" endangering women's opportunities for marriage and the "infertility epidemic" striking professional women who postpone childbearing to those that warn of the "great emotional depression" and "burn-out" attacking, respectively, single and career women.

Backlash attempts to expose the faulty reasoning behind these studies and their distortion of the facts, by denouncing their methodology and by counterposing other studies that show the opposite.

To the question: Who is behind the ideological offensive against women? Faludi's number one answer is the "media," followed by "men," "the government," Reagan, and "the New Right."

"The press might have looked for other sources of women's unhappiness in other places," notes Faludi. "It could have investigated and exposed the buried roots of the backlash in the New Right and a misogynistic White House, in a chilly business community and intransigent social and religious institutions. But the press chose to peddle the backlash rather than probe it."

As Faludi points out, the news media — from women's fashion magazines, to newspapers, and television networks — play a big role in promoting and disseminating reactionary ideas about women. But who owns and controls these opinion-molding institutions?

The "media" is a multimillion dollar business run by and in the interest of those who own it. While documenting how the media perpetuates the myth of women's inferiority, Faludi does not answer the question of who stands to gain from the ideas they peddle?

Nor does Faludi attempt to place the gains made by women or the "backlash" against them within the context of what has been going on in society at each particular moment.

Gains made in the 60s and 70s

The important gains won for women's rights in the 1960s and 1970s, such as abortion rights and affirmative action programs, were the result of massive struggles that drew inspiration and strength from other struggles taking place in society. What is

referred to as the "second wave of feminism" came into being as part of the general upsurge for the rights of oppressed people that was taking place internationally.

The civil rights movement in the United States and the international movement against the Vietnam War contributed to the rise of the movement against women's oppression here and around the world.

Shortly after women won the right to abortion in 1973, the world saw the 1974-75 recession, followed by intensifying capitalist competition and a new reactionary ideological offensive. Both picked up steam with the 1980-82 recession. The many-sided character of this offensive is amply illustrated by Faludi.

Changing composition of work force

Backlash also gives an account of the growth and changing composition of the female work force since the massive influx of women into industrial jobs during World War II. The author traces the ups and downs of women's integration into the labor force and notes that, notwithstanding the "cultural images" promoted to cast women as homemakers and mothers, "the proportion of working women doubled between 1940 and 1950 and for the first time the majority of them are married" and that the "proportion of women in the paid labor force has been rising with little interruption since the Victorian era."

Faludi notes that these advances in the labor market have not brought women "full equality." She states that instead, "the culture simply redoubles its resistance, if not by returning women to the kitchen, then by making the hours spent away from their stoves as inequitable and intolerable as possible: pushing women into the worst occupations, paying them the lowest wages, laying them off first and promoting them last."

But the reader will have to look elsewhere for answers to questions such as *whose* "culture" is responsible for keeping women at the bottom? *Why* do they relegate women to the worst jobs and at the same time try to undermine their confidence? *How* can women achieve full equality?

Backlash not only fails to provide answers to these fundamental questions but gives a superficial view of how women made the gains they have today.

The author reduces the gains that came from the struggles by the tens of thousands who were involved in the women's liberation movement to achievements "made for women by the feminists" or won through the "lobbying efforts" of groups like the National Organization for Women.

In the chapter "The Wages of the Backlash: The Toll on Working Women," Faludi takes up the losses suffered over the past decade by women in the workplace.

After reviewing the effects of the ideological offensive on women employed in the news media and in sales jobs, Faludi takes up "women in the blue-collar world." Using the example of women who in the early 70s were able to break into skilled crafts previously barred to them, she tells the story of

Diane Joyce, who fought her way into a construction job in order to get better pay to support herself and her children.

Faludi details the many obstacles put in Joyce's way by the company, the foreman, and her male coworkers, including her having to sue to get a promotion. She also tells the story of a group of women bench workers in an AT&T electronics plant in Illinois who fought for their right to better paying jobs as testers, a job held only by men. Having gained the better jobs, and fearing layoffs, the women had to fight for their plant seniority to count in their new classification. The union did not back their fight, and after suing the company, they lost their case.

These accounts portray an important aspect of the uphill fight waged by women for jobs that were previously the sole domain of men. However, they do not tell the whole story of the important gains made from affirmative action and how the integration of women into jobs previously barred to them has deeply affected not only the way women workers felt about themselves but the way male workers viewed them as well.

Faludi fails to note that, while women who gained access to jobs previously held only by men have disproportionately suffered layoffs throughout this period, women's numbers in the work force as a whole have continued to increase. As a result it is harder today for the employing class to perpetuate division along sex lines among working people.

'The Invasion of Women's Bodies'

In the short chapter "Reproductive Rights Under the Backlash: The Invasion of Women's Bodies," Faludi takes up the attack on abortion rights. Her main contention is that the attack on abortion rights is promoted by men in the antiabortion movement frightened by "the speed with which women embraced sexual and reproductive freedom."

"Unlike the rise of the gender voting gap or the increasing number of women at work, this revolution in female behavior had invaded their most intimate domain," Faludi explains. "Men... couldn't halt the pace of women's bedroom liberation directly, but banning abortion might be one way to apply the brakes. If they couldn't stop the growing numbers of women from climbing into the sexual driver's seat, they could at least make the women's drive more dangerous — by jamming the reproductive controls."

But while right-wing outfits such as Operation Rescue no doubt include many who hold such beliefs, this does not explain the driving force of the antiabortion movement.

The antiabortion drive is part of the shift to the right in bourgeois politics, based on promoting "family, faith, and country." Reinforcing "women's place" as wife and mother whose "first duty" is to husband and children, is central to this rightist drive, which has the backing of very powerful forces including sectors of the ruling rich, of the churches, government, and the news media. Denying women's right to abortion is a key piece of this effort.

The handful of ruling families that own most of the wealth, not only in the United States but around the world as well, gain great advantages from the continued oppression of women, as well as of Blacks, and other oppressed nationalities. Paying lower wages to women and other oppressed layers in society enables the capitalists to hold down wages of workers in general.

As their market system falls more and more into crisis, threatening their continued ability to reap profits and stay ahead of their

Continued on Page 12

—CALENDAR—

NEW JERSEY

Glen Ridge

Fundraiser barbecue for the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund. The *Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* video will be shown. Sun., June 14 2-6 p.m. For more information: (201) 643-3341.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Socialist Workers Campaign Picnic. Sun., June 14, Noon to 5 p.m. Phalen Park. Donation: \$12. Tel: (612) 645-1674.

How Washington supported Israel's development of a nuclear arsenal

BY MARK CURTIS

The Samson Option: Israel's Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy by Seymour Hersh. New York: Random House, 1991. 345 pp., \$23 hardcover.

During the war on Iraq the U.S. government tried very hard to convince working people here that we should support the bombing and killing of Iraqis. One of the justifications was that Iraq was close to

BOOK REVIEW

building a nuclear bomb, which Washington said it had no right to do.

Since the end of the war the embargo on Iraq continues, and United Nations teams have destroyed Iraqi nuclear facilities. CIA director Robert Gates recently told congress that Iraq would have a nuclear bomb by now if it had not been for the Gulf War.

We are told to feel good about Washington's bloody war against Iraq because it stopped someone else from getting the bomb. If U.S. government propaganda is successful, we will be feeling good about the future wars they have coming.

The people of Korea are one target of the latest U.S. war threats. An editorial in the *New York Times* begins this way: "Nuclear renegade. That's what many feared North Korea would become — a nation capable of producing a nuclear bomb, yet so isolated and paranoid that it would not listen to the world's pleas for sanity."

How sincere is the U.S. government when it claims to be using its military might to make the world a safer place? A good answer is found in the book *The Samson Option* by journalist Seymour Hersh. Hersh rips the curtain off Israel's dirty little secret — that it is one of the world's most heavily armed nuclear powers. He also exposes Washington's hypocrisy in helping Israel keep its secret while screaming bloody murder when other governments do the same.

The state of Israel was created in 1948, at the end of World War II. The people of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Algeria and other countries in the Middle East were fighting for and winning their independence. Israel's creation was a help to the winners of the war — France, England, and the United States in their attempt to keep Arab colonies politically and economically subordinate. Israel's capitalist rulers, under prime minister David Ben-Gurion, began to build Israel into one of the world's strongest military powers.

There were two holocausts in World War II — the genocide of the Jews in Europe carried out by German imperialism and its allies and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, by the U.S.

Claiming that "never again" would they allow one holocaust to be repeated, the leaders of Israel turned to the weapons of the second holocaust. They embarked on a crash program to develop the nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

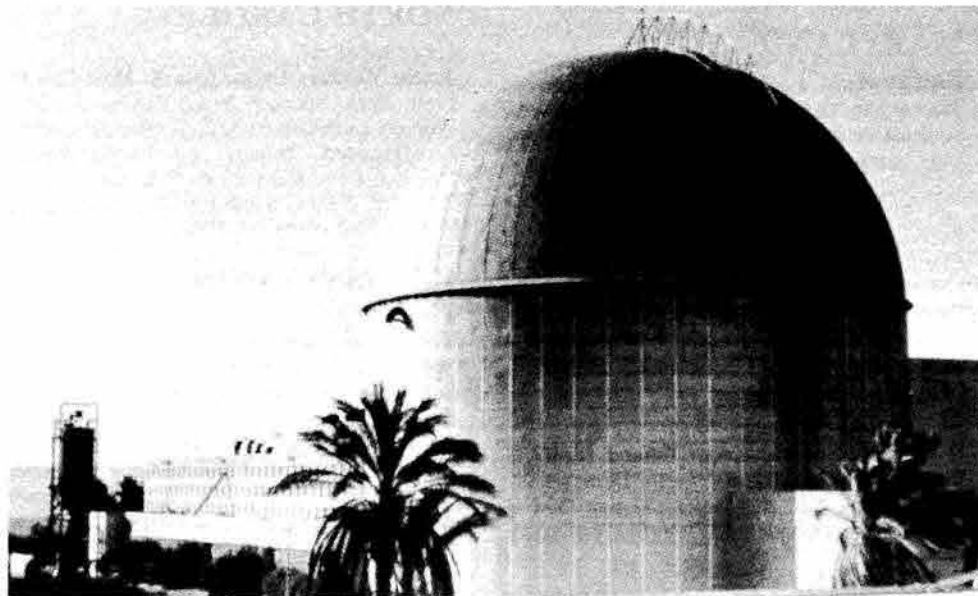
Ernst Bergmann became the head of Israel's nuclear program. Bergmann, like a number of other scientists who immigrated to Israel, had been involved in nuclear research in Germany, France, England, and the United States.

Dimona, located in the middle of the Negev desert, was the site selected to construct the facilities necessary to build the bomb. To maintain secrecy, the huge complex was built underground, a difficult and expensive project.

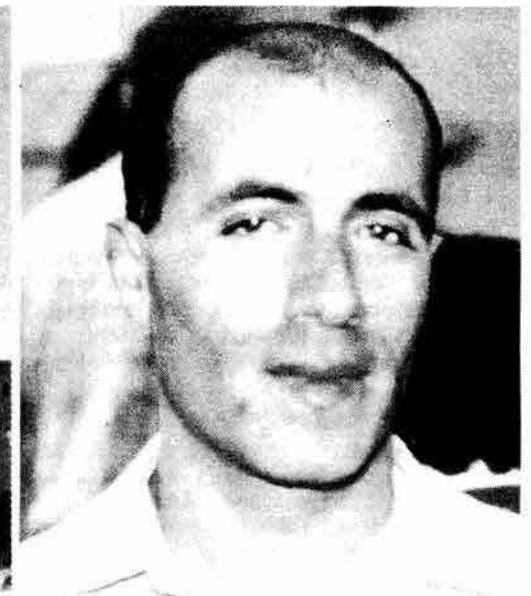
Two stages are necessary in the construction of a nuclear weapon. The first is the creation of plutonium, a highly radioactive element. Plutonium is a by-product of a nuclear reactor. This plutonium must then be reprocessed to make it usable in a weapon.

The government of France gave Israel the help it needed to make the bomb. In the 1950s Paris was fighting a losing war to maintain its control over Algeria and other colonial possessions and decided that an alliance with Israel would bolster its influence and business interests in the Middle East.

A French chemical company, Saint-



(Left) Israel's top secret nuclear weapons plant at Dimona in the Negev desert. (right) Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at Dimona who was kidnapped by Mossad in 1986 after revealing that Israel had more than 200 nuclear warheads.



Gobain Techniques Nouvelles (SGN), was contracted for the job, and hundreds of SGN workers, technicians, and engineers poured into the nearby town of Beersheba.

Sometime in the mid 1960s a successful nuclear test was conducted by the Israelis in the Negev desert. The reprocessing plant was completed in 1965 and fullscale production of nuclear weapons was taking place by 1968.

Israel has always denied its true nuclear ambitions. Publicly, Dimona was a nuclear power plant for "peaceful energy purposes only." In line with its ballyhooed campaign to "make the desert bloom," Israel's nuclear projects were touted as developments to desalinate water and produce energy for agriculture. However, as Hersh says, "the desert would glow before it bloomed."

The U.S. government first became aware of the Dimona plant in 1958 from photos taken by the U-2 spy planes. The photos revealed the huge cavern being dug and the construction of facilities in a pattern strikingly similar to the nuclear facility at Marcoule, France.

The U-2 photos were quickly taken to U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower. The CIA agents who reported to Eisenhower, however, were in for a surprise. There was "no request for details," the agent explained. "Nobody came back to me, ever, on Israel. I was never asked to do a follow-up on any of the Israeli briefings."

This was to be the pattern for the next 30 years as evidence of Israel's nuclear weapons program piled up through photos, defecting scientists, and purchases of equipment and technology. Publicly, the U.S. government denied knowledge of the Israeli bomb while it denounced nuclear proliferation in other countries. As a close ally of Washington, Israel was held to a different standard.

The political game became absurd. President John Kennedy's supposedly profound commitment to nonproliferation led to inspections of the Dimona facility to ensure that it was only a nuclear reactor and not a weapons plant. The Israelis played the game, laying bricks and a fresh coat of plaster over the bank of elevators that led to the reprocessing plant 80 feet below. A false control room was built, with computerized gauges measuring false readings consistent with a standard reactor.

Floyd Culler, the U.S. inspector, knew he was being duped, and he understood why. The inspections, he said, were "part of the game of... finding ways to not reach the point of taking action."

Finding ways of not taking action became a priority for the parade of U.S. presidents from Eisenhower to Bush, through Democratic and Republican administrations. According to Hersh, "Dimona became a non-place and the Israeli bomb a nonbomb." Washington became the largest supplier of weapons and economic aid to Israel, backing its wars against the Arab people.

In 1956 Israel, together with Britain and France, attacked Egypt for nationalizing the Suez canal. In what is now called the Six-Day War, Israel attacked its Arab neighbors in 1967 and siezed Egypt's Sinai Peninsula,

the Gaza Strip, Jordan's West Bank, Syria's Golan Heights, and the city of Jerusalem, bringing 1 million more Palestinians under its control.

In 1973, Egyptian and Syrian armed forces attacked Israel in an attempt to regain the lost territories. The first days were a stunning rout of the Israelis. Egyptian tanks rolled through the Sinai; Syrian forces reconquered the Golan Heights and moved to the edge of Galilee. Without arms resupply from the United States, Israel faced defeat. Israeli defense minister Moshe Dayan told journalists, "The situation is desperate. Everything is lost. We must withdraw." But they didn't withdraw. Instead, Israel called its first nuclear alert, armed its nuclear weapons, and pointed them at Cairo and Damascus. They were ready to exercise the Samson Option.

The name comes from the biblical myth of Samson, who, when captured by the Philistines and put on display in their temple, pulls the temple down, killing himself along with his enemies.

When Washington learned of Israel's nuclear threat, it quickly resupplied arms and ammunition. Israel then used its remaining weapons, not to defend its position, but to retake the territories. The blackmail worked.

Israel's nuclear capabilities became known to the public in 1986 when Mordecai Vanunu, a former technician at Dimona, defected and gave an interview to the London *Sunday Times*. Vanunu had once been fired for his pro-Arab views but won his job back through his union. He was again fired after speaking at a rally and supporting the demand for a Palestinian state.

Between firings Vanunu smuggled a camera inside the Dimona plant and took 57 color photographs. The photos revealed that Israel had more than 200 warheads and that it was able to make a neutron bomb, which kills humans and other living things within its range but does little damage to property.

Before the story was published, however, Vanunu was kidnapped by Mossad, the Israeli CIA. The Mossad was tipped off by agents working for the London *Sunday Mirror*, whose owner, now-deceased billionaire Robert Maxwell, personally called the Israeli embassy in London. Mossad agents lured Vanunu to Rome where he was kidnapped, drugged, and taken to Israel. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 18 years in a maximum-security prison.

The Samson Option makes it clear that the U.S. rulers' campaign against "nuclear renegades" is just a smokescreen to go after its enemies in the world. A government carrying out policies Washington approves of isn't likely to be taken to task by the U.S. government. Maybe the best example of this is shown in the way Washington handled the situation when Israel gave a helping hand to South Africa's nuclear weapons program.

On Sept. 22, 1979, clouds broke over the Indian Ocean and a U.S. satellite recorded two flashes of light a fraction of a second apart — strong evidence of a nuclear explosion. In fact, intelligence officials in Jimmy Carter's administration concluded that Israel and South Africa had just exploded an atomic bomb, and they were right.

Acknowledging publicly that both Israel and South Africa were working together on atomic weapons, however, didn't fit in with stated U.S. policy goals. If the White House admitted these two rogue governments had the bomb, it would have to do something about it. The South Africa apartheid regime, like Israel, was given political cover by Washington to shield it from world public opinion.

The rulers of Israel claim it is a homeland for the Jewish people. Supporters of Israel's nuclear weapons program argue that having the bomb is an unfortunate but necessary evil that makes Israel a more secure place for the people who live there. Is this really true?

Israel has fought five major wars with its Arab neighbors since 1948 and expanded its borders into conquered territory. Millions of Palestinians have been forced out as refugees and others remain there as second-class citizens, all in the name of creating and protecting a Jewish state.

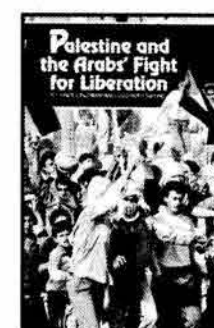
But every war there, from the creation of Israel to the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has made it a more dangerous, not less dangerous place to live.

In the Gulf War last year Israel again ordered its nuclear forces onto full alert, ready to launch them into Iraq on command. The Middle East remains an area of instability and war. The chances of the next war there becoming a new holocaust for the peoples of the region are higher, not lower, because of the nuclear weapons in the arsenals of Tel Aviv, Washington, London, and Paris.

Washington's complicity with nuclear-armed South Africa and Israel shows that its hypocritical campaign against proliferation is just another face in its march toward war.

Working people must be clear about the real nature of the U.S. government's political campaign around the issue of nuclear weapons. Workers and farmers, united around the world, are the only force capable of stopping the billionaires' march toward World War III.

Mark Curtis, a union activist and socialist, is incarcerated in Fort Madison, Iowa, on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.



Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation

A pamphlet by **Fred Feldman** and **Georges Sayad**. 62 pp., \$3. Available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014 or from bookstores listed on page 12. Include \$3 for postage.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

South Africa: A New Stage in the Freedom Struggle. Speaker: Tseke Morathi, African National Congress. Mon. June 15, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall, 67 High Street. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Free Leonard Peltier! Speakers: Ken Rhyne, southeast regional coordinator, American Indian Movement; Cleto Montelogo, American Indian Center; Bob Braxton, Socialist Workers Party and member United Auto Workers Local 882. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Attacks on women's rights

Continued from Page 10

competitors around the world, the employing class is pressed harder to try and make workers shoulder more of the burden of the capitalist crisis.

To this end they attempt to weaken the ability of working people to resist by promoting divisions, such as between male and female workers.

Women workers are different, they say, women are, or should be, wives and mothers. These ideas are promoted in a thousand different ways.

The rulers' ideological offensive along these lines is aimed not only at women but at men as well, as they attempt to undermine class solidarity and weaken the striking force of a united working class, the only class that can effectively challenge their rule.

As Faludi points out, women continue to join the work force. And through this process the division along sex lines is in fact further broken down, leaving the working class in a stronger position than ever to do battle against the bosses.

The battle-tested young forces, both male and female, being forged in the fight to defend abortion rights will have an important role to play in the struggles that are unfolding today and those that lie ahead for the labor movement. Through these fights working people will develop leadership and be able to wrest power from the ruling rich and open the road for the true emancipation of women and of humanity as a whole. By short changing them with the superficial observations in *Backlash*, Faludi does these young fighters a disservice.

New Alliance Party's rightist politics

Continued from Page 6

National Alliance recently devoted an entire issue to attack Ron Daniels, a former leader of Jackson's Rainbow Coalition who is now running a third-party campaign for president. The paper included the text of a "rap song" that "sends an unmistakable message to Ron Daniels and his bosses."

"You oreo token," it threatens, "mess with the girl [Fulani] and in your ass we'll be steppin'. We'll f — you up royally."

As their record shows, New Alliance Party is not a left-wing party. NAP shows unmistakable parallels with the rightist evolution of the LaRouche group. While the LaRouchites use right-wing demagoguery and NAP currently uses left-sounding demagoguery, the Newman-Fulani group plays on insecurities and prejudices to attract support by posing as an "independent leadership" that defends the "little people" against corrupt politicians and big government.

The key is not NAP's stated program, which changes according to need, but their actions and their political trajectory. They are a rightist, anti-working-class organization with clear elements of fascism.

IOWA

Des Moines

Embargo No Solution to Yugoslav War. Speaker: Chris Remple, Socialist Workers Party and member International Association of Machinists Local 254. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: John Powers, Socialist Workers Party and member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Can the Labor Movement Defend Itself? A Speak-Out against Northwest's Demand for Concessions. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Ross Perot: False Hope, False Promises. Speaker: Kim Kleinman, spokesperson 1992 Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Socialist Educational Weekend June 20-21. Farmers Face the Crisis of the '90s. Speaker: Doug Jenness. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. **The Origin of the Myth of Race.** Speaker: Doug Jenness. Sun., June 21, 1 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3 for each class or \$5 for both. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

The Socialist Alternative to War, Racism, and Economic Depression

Hear: **James Warren**
Socialist Workers candidate
for U.S. president

Miami, Florida

137 N.E. 54 St.
Sunday, June 14, 5:00 p.m.

A reception will follow the program.
Donation requested: \$3.00

Sponsored by: Florida Socialist
Workers Campaign

For more information: (305) 756-1020

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Come Hear Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. Fri., June 12, reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Textile Workers Under Attack: How Can We Fight Back. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union at Cone Mills-White Oak. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The Social and Political Crisis in Peru. Speaker: Bill Scheer, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 14, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

Abolish the Death Penalty. Speakers: Bruce Ledewitz, professor of law at Duquesne University; Arnold Weissberg, Socialist Workers candidate for attorney-general of Pennsylvania. Sun., June 21, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Abolish the Death Penalty! Free Ricardo Aldape Guerra. Video showing on the defense case and panel. Speakers: Alvaro Hernandez Luna, defense committee; Randy Warren, Socialist Workers Party and member International Association of Machinists. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Civil War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Steve Iverson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

Conversations with Japanese Workers. A U.S. Oil Worker Reports on a Fact-Finding Tour. Speaker: Joel Britton, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union in California. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$5. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Free Leonard Peltier! A showing of the film *Incident at Ogilala*. Speaker: Mary McLaughlin, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. Sat., June 13, 7 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$4. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Abolish the Death Penalty! Speakers: Janice Lynn, Socialist Workers Party; others to be announced. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Burnie Paperworkers Strike: An Eyewitness Account. Speakers: participants from *Militant* reporting team. Sat., June 13, 6 p.m. 66

Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

CANADA

Vancouver

Behind the Continuing War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Ned Dmytryshyn, Communist League. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

After the Fiji Elections — What Next? Speaker: representative from the Coalition for Democracy in Fiji. Sat., June 13, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Wellington

Protests Shake Thai Military. Sat., June 13, 7 p.m. 323 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Indict the Guilty Cops in Los Angeles. Justice for Rodney King. Speaker: Dechor Hien, Communist League. Sat., June 13, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Sanctions on Yugoslavia Will Not End the War. Sat., June 18, 7 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Come to Oberlin, Ohio August 5-9 for an international youth and socialist campaign conference

Join young people, students, workers, and others who are campaigning for the socialist alternative in 1992. Participate in discussions on Buchananism, the fight to prevent World War III, lessons of the Caterpillar strike, defending abortion rights, and more. Hear and meet candidates for U.S. president and vice-president James Warren and Estelle DeBates.

[] Yes, I want to attend the conference. Send me some information.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Age _____

Send to: Socialist Workers Party
406 West St., New York, NY 10014.

— IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP —

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 172 Trinity Ave. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: New York: 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip: 27406. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. Cleveland: 1863 W. 25th St. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8196. Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-928-7993.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal: 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Postal code: H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

MEXICO

Mexico City: Nevin Siders, Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico DF.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

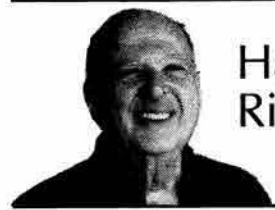
Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Gotcha — The census found that over the past decade, median (half over, half under) mortgage rates rose 27 percent to \$737 a month, and median rents jumped 16 percent to



Harry Ring

\$581. Meanwhile, 42 percent of households were scraping by with incomes under \$25,000. That's up from 31 percent a decade ago.

Next, a 'Good Bureaucrat' award — "A Good Employer award organized by Nelson trade unions has been mothballed because no nominations were received." — *The New Zealand Herald*.

Subversive Salvation Army — In New Zealand, the Salvation Army said government cutbacks in social programs had spurred demand for the organization's charity. The social welfare minister retorted that the cutbacks were not responsible. "Rather," she explained, "there has been an increasing response from organizations such as your own which has resulted in greater demand."

They all watch Murphy Brown — In Los Angeles County, the number of homeless people jumped as much as 16 percent last year. By the most conservative method of estimating, at least 38,400 people are without shelter any given night. Researchers said a more broadly based estimate indicates as many as 68,600 homeless.

Cruel and usual — The media made much of the fact that big-time junk bond swindler Michael Milken was assigned to a "country-club" type prison. But now it's disclosed that prison rules bar him from wearing his customary toupee.

He killed another cop? — The *Los Angeles Times* noted that some months ago, a TV station reported that an L.A. cop fired for brutality four years previous, had been rehired and given a desk job so he could qualify for pension benefits. That doesn't much surprise us. But we do wonder what the cop did to get fired for brutality.

Nothing's perfect — A growing number of businesses and government agencies are spreading the use of the "smart card," a computer chip embedded in a piece of plastic, and storing a multiplicity of information. The Army considered using them as dog tags but found out the

old metal ones hold up better under fire for identifying remains.

It's contagious? — A Los Angeles sheriff's deputy drew a fast four years as part of a ring of deputies which stole credit cards from elderly motorists and used them to purchase more than \$75,000 worth of goodies. A shrink testified that the deputy had suffered a head injury that impaired his sense of right and wrong.

"This oil and a better engine..." — Finding the claim "completely unsubstantiated," a federal judge ordered that Pennzoil revise its long-running ads which claim that their motor oil will prolong the life of your engine. Pennzoil said it will revise the ads.

Socialist unionists turn toward young fighters

BY JIM ALTENBERG

NEWARK, New Jersey — Socialist workers active in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) met here in mid-May to discuss the political opportunities for socialists posed by the deepening crisis of the market system and the continued instability, polarization, and danger of war that flows from it.

In a report to the meeting, *Militant* editor Greg McCartan explained that the capitalists in every country have no answers to this crisis. Everything they have tried, from the war against Iraq to the effort to impose capitalism in Eastern Europe, has only led to greater instability and new problems for them.

This crisis, McCartan said, is part of the normal workings of the capitalist system. These new conditions provide significant opportunities and challenges to working-class fighters who are seeking a way out of the crisis. Important struggles are already taking place, from defense of abortion rights such as in Buffalo to protests against cop brutality, and it is essential that fighters in the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and others turn their attention toward youth who have begun to participate in and lead many of these. The SWP, McCartan said, must take every measure to recruit young people and give them space to play a part in leading the party. The 35 socialist unionists at the two-day meeting adopted a number of proposals aimed at advancing this process.

Participants decided to place campaigning for the Socialist Workers 1992 candidates at the center of all of their political activity. The socialist election campaign is a big opportunity to talk politics with co-workers and youth, explained Joel Britton, a member of OCAW Local 1-547 and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California who gave a tasks report.

Workers are frustrated with the capitalist candidates, and there is no step anywhere in the labor movement toward independent po-

litical action, he said. The campaign provides a means to answer the right-wing proposals of the capitalist candidates and parties, all of whom promote a program of "family, faith, and country" and talk about working people as something the middle class should fear.

Outrage at police violence

A good example of the political openings that exist was provided at the Newark Militant Labor Forum held the same weekend. Eli Green, Socialist Workers candidate for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 2nd District and a member of OCAW Local 1-128, spoke about the antipolice riot in that city. The socialist campaign, he said, is getting a good hearing from young people outraged by the day-to-day experience of police violence and looking for a way to fight back.

Green said that the cops who beat Rodney King should be indicted on federal civil rights charges now. None of the capitalist parties agree with this, he explained. All seek to divert the discussion away from police brutality and from the mass arrests that took place in Los Angeles. Socialists in that city immediately hit the streets to discuss the Rodney King verdict, Green said. The socialist campaigners pointed to the fact that no sustained political fight was waged to remove Police Chief Daryl Gates a year ago after King was beaten and it was this failure that led to the antipolice riot.

Although the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore was burned down during the riot, work on a new bookstore is proceeding, and socialists in the OCAW voted to raise \$1,000 from co-workers in the refineries and plants toward rebuilding it. Participants also voted to take a goal of winning 30 endorsers for the socialist campaign in the OCAW by the time of the international youth and socialist campaign conference set for August in Oberlin, Ohio. Nearly \$5,000 was pledged toward the \$75,000 Socialist Campaign Fund.

Circulation of the *Militant* newspaper, Britton pointed out, is the main and most effective means of campaigning. The meeting adopted a goal of selling to fellow oil workers 42 *Militant* subscriptions, 3 subscriptions to the Spanish-language publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 17 copies of *New International*, a Marxist journal.

Pathfinder building reconstruction

A highlight of the meeting was a tour of newly reconstructed floors in the Pathfinder building, where the *Militant* newspaper and Pathfinder books are published and where the Socialist Workers Party national offices are located. Over the past year, the SWP has been working on an ongoing project to thoroughly redesign the building into an efficient, professional facility for writing and producing the literature and political materials working people need as weapons of struggle. This effort has been accomplished by the voluntary labor of the party's supporters, who have worked full-time for months-long stretches on various parts of the project. Central to the facility is a completely reconstructed library, which contains thousands of indexed and easily accessible archives, books, notes, and reports discussing the experience of the workers' movement around the world.

This reconstruction project has been funded by contributions of \$1,000 or more to the party's Expansion Fund. These contributions have largely come from workers who have received sums of money such as insurance settlements or inheritances, which



Militant/Tim Elliot

Socialist campaigners and candidates in Los Angeles. Eli Green (back right), said SWP campaign is winning a good hearing from opponents of cop violence.

they contribute to the SWP. Although most people cannot count on getting such "windfalls" the socialist OCAW members voted to raise \$30,000 for the fund. Britton explained that the money could also be raised through bonuses that some oil workers will get, early retirement, and the fact that many OCAW members make sufficiently high

wages that contributions of \$1,000 or more could be stretched out over the months between now and Jan. 1, 1993. Twenty-four thousand dollars were pledged toward the Expansion Fund goal at the meeting.

Jim Altenberg is a member of OCAW Local 1-5 in Martinez, California.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
June 19, 1967 Price 10¢

In a gloating pro-Israel editorial on June 9, the *New York Times* described the Israeli attack on the Arab countries as a "blitzkrieg" — Israel's "own version of Pearl Harbor."

In the section of Jordan now occupied by the Israelis, reports place the number of Jordanian dead between 10,000 and 25,000.

The June 13 *Christian Science Monitor* reports: "A team of 24 doctors from the American University Hospital in Beirut, which has returned here from the Syrian and Jordan fronts, estimated that napalm bombs were responsible for 75 percent of the casualties."

As the Jordanian army and civilians retreated, the June 13 *Times* reported: "On Wednesday morning, after the Israeli forces had taken Jerusalem, their Mirage jets streaked over the Judean hills and down the length of the road [from Jericho into Jordan] bombing everything that moved."

Just as in Vietnam, such terror is producing new refugees. The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that the first wave of refugees streaming into Jordan is more than 100,000 in spite of Jordanian pleas that they stay in their homes.

The Israelis are also forcibly driving out those who do not flee. The *Times* reports on June 12: "Senior United Nations officials who have sifted many reports from the refugees believe that a pattern of expulsion is emerging. They say the Israelis appear to be concentrating on pushing out the inhabitants of the big refugee camps..."

"In the frontier villages, they say, soldiers have ordered people out of their homes to police stations, where they have been picked up by buses, bound for a place called Wadi

Baden. From there they have been obliged to walk to the river, the officials said.

"In some other places, they added, loudspeakers warned the inhabitants: 'You have two hours to leave. After that we cannot guarantee your safety.'"

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

June 20, 1942

The federal government agencies are in the throes of an extensive witch-hunt, with the Army and Navy Intelligence, the FBI, Secret Service, and Civil Service investigators combing the ranks of government employees and giving the axe to every person suspected of having even the remotest connection, past or present, with liberal, labor or radical organizations and ideas.

Already up to 200 individuals are known to have been dismissed. Most of them have not even been told why although they have strong suspicions. The liberal New York newspaper *PM* last week carried a list of questions which the government investigating agents ask their prospective purge victims. Here are a few:

"Have you any reason to suspect Mr. X of being un-American? Is he a Jew?"

"Is Mr. ... an atheist?"

"Did you ever belong to the League Against War and Fascism, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Peace Mobilization?"

"Did you ever work for Loyalist Spain?"

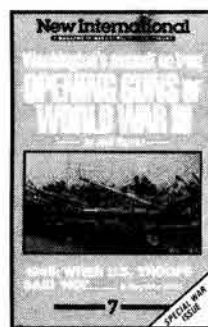
"Do you consider Nazism and Fascism a greater menace to the country than Communism?"

"Is it true that you favor the CIO over the AFL?"

"What is your favorite reading matter?"

"Why did you register American Labor Party in the last elections?"

Pathfinder presents Books for fighters



New International No. 7 featuring:

The Opening Guns of World War III

by Jack Barnes, 333 pp. \$12

The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels

47 pp. \$2.50

Malcolm X Speaks

hardcover only, 233 pp. \$16.95

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: The Proletarian Party and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes, 346 pp. \$18.95

Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or write Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Enclose \$3 handling, 50 cents each additional copy.

Denmark vote exposes rivalries

The European Community, led by the capitalist rulers of Germany and France, has been seeking to end internal barriers to trade, labor, and capital movement by the end of 1992 and present a common front against other imperialist rivals. The vote in Denmark against the Maastricht European Community (EC) unification treaty registered a blow to this quest.

Parallel to the EC unification moves, the United States and Canada have taken steps to create a similar bloc, although trade rivalries between the North American imperialist powers have also grown. The Australian and New Zealand capitalists have formed their own "free trade zone" as well.

This growing protectionism increases the economic devastation of the semicolonial countries, by further closing markets to them. It is coupled with steadily growing attacks in all imperialist countries against the rights of immigrant workers from the Third World. In Britain, the notorious Asylum Bill was signed into law with the support of the Labour Party. In France, Jean-Marie Le Pen's fascist-like calls to expel African immigrants from France gain strength from the anti-immigrant policies of the Socialist Party government. Australia, too, has recently taken steps to restrict refugee rights.

"In Belgium and Luxembourg, with large immigrant populations, there is consternation over a provision of the [Maastricht] treaty which empowers non-nationals to vote in EC and municipal elections," said a June 4 article in the British daily *Independent*.

At the same time, the divisions within the imperialist trading blocs themselves have become explosive under the pressure of the worldwide economic depression.

Bonn has achieved even greater political, economic, and military dominance with respect to its European rivals, despite the battering its economy has taken from the attempt to absorb the workers' state in the east. Politicians in Germany have declared the goal of achieving parity in living standards throughout EC countries as a "dangerous illusion," reacting to the possibility that Germany might have to foot the bill for improving living conditions in less developed countries like Portugal or Greece.

Applications by Malta, Cyprus, and Turkey to join the EC are likely to be turned down. The German rulers are not keen on the idea of accepting any Eastern European

countries into the EC fold. Another sign of the deep divisions within the EC was the recently announced creation of the Franco-German military corps, which aroused fears in London and Washington that it could challenge the military predominance of NATO in Europe.

The British rulers, and increasingly those in Sweden, are relying on their special relationship with Washington to counterbalance the dominance of Germany and the continuing decline of their former empire. Many among the capitalist politicians in Britain were vocally jubilant at the results of the Danish vote. Maastricht "is dead," declared former cabinet minister Norman Tebbit.

In a May 15 speech at The Hague, former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher dismissed EC institutions as "yesterday's solutions, becoming tomorrow's problems." Referring to EC officials' demands for more powers for the European Commission, Thatcher said, "A half-Europe imposed by Soviet tyranny was one thing; a half-Europe imposed by Brussels would be a 'moral catastrophe.'"

It was vital, said Thatcher, to keep a U.S. presence in Europe. "It reassured the rest of Europe in the face of Soviet power yesterday and it provides similar comfort against the rise of Germany today."

The mounting interimperialist rivalries will lead to further trade wars and shooting wars. This is what the increased calls for military intervention in Yugoslavia are all about.

Steps for EC unification, already faltering, have nothing to do with defending the standard of living and rights of workers faced with a deep economic crisis.

Working people need unity among ourselves to fight the capitalist rulers' onslaught, no matter what trading bloc they belong to. The rivalries between the imperialists will lead us to World War III if the employers succeed in inflicting crushing blows against working people, in Europe and elsewhere.

A fight for working-class unity should begin by demanding jobs for all by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay, affirmative action programs, and cancellation of the foreign debt that devastates Third World countries. The labor movement should oppose all restrictions on immigration and travel.

Japan rulers' military drive

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has won parliamentary acceptance of the principle that Japan's military may be used abroad. Despite legislative "safeguards" supposedly postponing implementation to a dim distant future, the direction Japan's rulers wish to move is unmistakable: towards the ability to use their power to guarantee stability for their interests in Asia. The latest mass demonstrations by students and workers in Thailand underline their concerns.

Led by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese imperialists are acting on the lessons they learned from the U.S.-led war drive on Iraq. Along with Germany, Japan paid billions of dollars to the United States, one of its chief rivals, for a war that was fought for Washington's interests.

Japan has a large and modern standing army. The country spends around \$30 billion a year maintaining a force of 247,000 soldiers in uniform. Miyazawa now seeks to transform this army into a force capable of taking decisive action in the world. The Japanese rulers have every intention of acting as a military power in Asia.

Ridding themselves of the constitutional restriction on the use of their military has been on the Japanese rulers'

agenda since the end of the war against Iraq.

They are working overtime to get around the strong antiwar sentiment among Japanese working people and youth.

As the imperialists in Japan, as well as in Germany, take steps to wield military power, the dangers facing the world become clearer.

Utilizing their military might around the globe will result in misery and devastation for the world's working people, just as the destruction wrought against Baghdad by the United States, Britain, France, and the other "allies" brutalized first and foremost the people of Iraq.

This destruction — and the ultimate nightmare of a serious military confrontation between imperialist powers — can only be prevented if the imperialists are disarmed. This is the fight for workers in every country. We must fight to take away their ability to wage war.

In the end this will require workers and farmers taking power out of the hands of the imperialists, and creating a society free of the inexorable drive to war that is built into capitalism.

Fight undemocratic ballot laws

Since its founding in 1938, the Socialist Workers Party has had a proud history of fighting undemocratic election laws. These laws are designed to keep parties independent of the Democrats and Republicans out of politics. Such laws show the true face of capitalist society.

The SWP has been involved in dozens of legal battles to protect its rights, often expanding democratic rights and political space for others in the process. The socialists turn the restrictive rules — in particular the requirement to collect thousands of signatures in order to appear on the ballot — to their favor by reaching out with petitioning efforts to discuss politics with working people and youth who are looking for a political way forward.

This year's election period takes place at a time of the most extensive political debate in U.S. politics since the presidential election of 1968. More working people realize that a social catastrophe has begun. This catastrophe is caused by the normal workings of the capitalist system. The wars, the sharpening interimperialist conflicts, the opening of a worldwide depression, and the crisis of the international market system that the socialist election campaign of 1988 explained was fast approaching, have be-

come a reality that touches the lives of millions of working people around the world.

The sharp debates in capitalist politics in this year's election reflect the impact that depression-like economic and social conditions are having on working people and the middle class.

There has been a steady bipartisan shift to the right in capitalist politics for a number of years. But this shift does not automatically mean that there is also a narrowing of the political space for discussion and debate in the working class. If anything, the space to argue, protest, and discuss politics has grown since the U.S.-led war against Iraq. This has been proven this year as supporters of the socialist campaign have fought to get their candidates on the ballot.

In this situation the fight for ballot status that socialists are waging takes on even more importance. It is connected to asserting the legitimacy of working-class political parties, and making use of the democratic rights that have been won by previous generations. Establishing and defending ballot rights for socialists helps defend the democratic rights of all.

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

The "Discussion with our Readers" column in the May 29 *Militant* covered some of the questions that have arisen out of the Los Angeles antipolice riot.

One related question Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren and other party candidates have often been asked is what is the role of gangs in Los Angeles?

Warren responded to this question at a socialist cam-

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

paign rally in Chicago, May 16.

"The gangs played a role, of course, but that's not what we need to concentrate on," Warren said. "The responsibility for the antipolice riot had more to do with the misleadership of the Black and labor movements."

"The liberals and their hangers-on blocked off any genuine political action—like demonstrations—directed against the cops and the government," Warren said. "When the verdict came down, there wasn't any ongoing political work to take advantage of. They had channeled the movement away from political initiatives by workers and youth. For over a year there was nothing for young people to grab a hold of."

"One of the most popular pastimes of Black elected officials and civil rights leaders is to lament the lack of enthusiasm amongst Black youth to go to school and get out and vote," continued the socialist candidate. "They ignore the fact that these youth have very little to look forward to."

"They point to these youth and blame them and their lack of initiative for the conditions their generation faces today. Nothing could be further from the truth," said Warren.

Misleaders are responsible

"These so-called leaders are directly responsible for refusing to lift a finger to mobilize potentially massive political forces into the streets demanding jobs for these youth and the right to a desegregated education."

"They refuse to provide Black youth with the political alternative they were presented with in their own youth during the rise of the civil rights and Black nationalist movements in the 1960s and early '70s."

"Those movements pointed toward realizing our worth and humanity through struggle as well as getting concrete and measurable results out of these struggles."

"Instead, these youth today are offered the 'alternative' of voting for these angle merchants or opting for gang membership."

"The vast majority of Black youth are not members of gangs. But this does not negate the fact that around the country tens of thousands of Black youth find themselves tied into these outfits."

"Where do these gangs come from? What are they a product of?" asked the presidential candidate. "First and foremost they are a product of the absence of political struggle against the crisis-ridden capitalist system," explained the candidate. Warren said this crisis has deepened over the last 16 years. "The social conditions that exist today," said Warren, "are even more segregated — by race and class — than the late 1960's."

"In most major cities in this country almost two generations of Black youth have in their vast majority been iced out of any hope of getting a job," said the socialist. "Under these conditions, a layer of these youth will join youth gangs."

Lives 'worthless'

Gang members have had their "humanity assaulted," living their lives as if "they weren't worth a dime. It's as if the gangs have internalized the idea that under capitalism their lives are worthless," continued Warren. This is codified by the courts and the prison system.

Warren pointed to the positive development that these youth have stopped shooting each other. "But the gangs and their leaders do not have progressive ideas," he said. They are repeating what liberals like Jerry Brown are saying, which is mostly calling for federal aid. They have also asked for reactionary workfare programs in place of welfare and the elimination of busing in some instances.

"We don't hold these youth responsible for their lack of political clarity. How could it be any different?" Warren asked.

"In the weeks since the riots, an all-out assault has been waged against the people of Los Angeles. The FBI is there in force."

"A terrible defeat has been set up by the rulers in Los Angeles. Thousands of people have been rounded up and thrown in jail. Frame-ups will go on for months. The assault on democratic rights will get worse not better."

"This is why a fight must be organized to indict the cops who beat Rodney King simultaneously with a fight against the massive frame-ups. Out of such a fight thinking youth who are Black can and will come to realize their worth and their ability to change the world. It is this we can look forward to," emphasized the socialist candidate.

Ravenswood Steelworkers discuss proposed pact

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

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers

The proposed settlement would put union members back to work and force the company to fire 1,300 scabs who have been working at the plant, according to union officials. Some 1,500 USWA members would be eligible to go back if they pass the company physical, including 12 employees fired for "strike misconduct." However, two workers who have been convicted of felony charges will not get their jobs back. The company has threatened to close the plant unless union members ratify the pact.

The company is offering \$2,000 in back pay instead of the \$80,000 many workers believe they are

Strikers picket Kroger shareholders meeting

"What do we want? A contract. When do we want it? Now!" and "No more scabs!" were the rallying cries of more than 100 trade unionists who gathered in Cincinnati, to send a clear message to a Kroger shareholders meeting there.

"We're gonna win!" said Don Rough, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 227 in Louisville, Kentucky, who joined Kroger workers from Detroit at the protest.

Thousands of Kroger workers in Michigan have been on strike since April 13.

The pickets are determined not to buckle to Kroger's takeback demands. The Detroit strikers were joined by three Cincinnati Teamster locals and UFCW workers from Cincinnati, Louisville, and Columbus, Ohio.

Members of UFCW Local 227 in Louisville expressed great concern about the fight in Detroit because their contract will be coming up for negotiation in October. The Louisville local has been sending four of its members to Detroit every week to help its union brothers and sisters.

"The money they're using for scabs... they should be putting in your pockets!" said one of the strike leaders at the end of the picket. Kroger has hired an estimated 2,500 replacement workers and spent \$300,000 on security guards since the strike began.

Teamster strike shuts Pittsburgh newspaper

On May 17, 600 drivers and route managers who belong to Teamsters Local 211 walked off the job at the Pittsburgh Press. The strike came after Press management began implementing its new newspaper delivery system, which will eliminate 450 Teamster drivers

and helpers and all 4,300 youth carriers within two years. Drivers had been working without a contract since January 1.

In response to the strike, Press management locked out all union employees on May 18, including typesetters, printers, reporters, advertising personnel, and others. Only the nonunion editorial staff remains on the job. Under a federal joint operating agreement the Press prints and distributes Pittsburgh's other major daily newspaper — the Post-Gazette. The lockout has halted production of both newspapers.

The 11 unions who organize workers at the Press and Post-Gazette have joined together in the Pittsburgh Newspaper Unions Unity Council. Members of the Unity Council, as well as other unionists and supporters, rallied May 18 in a park across from the downtown headquarters of the Press. The "Stop the Press" rally, numbering between 2,000 and 3,000 participants, called for unity in the strike against the Press and demanded that management return to the bargaining table.

The Unity Council has been distributing a fact sheet on the strike which explains that the lockout is Press management's first step in a drive to replace 1,200 union workers with "low-wage, part-time hourly workers who get no health insurance, no vacation, no nothing."

On May 28 the nonunion editorial staff of the Press produced the first issue of a 28-page newspaper, the Allegheny Bulletin, which was printed by an outside contractor and mailed out. The newspaper unions are threatening to organize boycotts of the businesses that advertise in the Bulletin. The unions are also considering publishing their own paper during the shutdown.

Pittsburgh bus drivers still without a contract

Six weeks after they returned to work, Pittsburgh transit drivers are still without a contract. Bus and trolley drivers in Pittsburgh ended their four-week strike April 13 after a court injunction ordered them back to work. The 2,700 members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 85 went on strike because Port Authority Transit refused to grant raises and pension improvements recommended by its own fact-finding commission.

The injunction was sought by the City of Pittsburgh, which presented 30 witnesses over several days of hearings to testify to the hardships and safety hazards allegedly caused by the transit strike. The ATU did not argue against the injunction because union officials thought any back-to-work order would include sending the conflict to binding arbitration, which was their goal. The judge, however, did not order binding arbitration, but instead ordered the union and management to return to negotiations.

Most drivers saw no alternative to accepting the union officials' proposal to obey the injunction and continue to fight for binding arbitration through the courts. But a few weeks later the court rejected the request for arbitration.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Linda Joyce, member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627 in Fairmont, West Virginia; Tom Nichols, member of International Association of Machinists Local 298 in Morgantown, West Virginia; Mark Gilsdorf in Cincinnati; Joanne Kuniansky and Lorraine Starsky in Pittsburgh; and Matilde Zimmerman, member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Pittsburgh.

ON THE PICKET LINE

around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other Militant readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

A tentative agreement has been reached between Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC) and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). More than 1,000 members of USWA Local 5668, locked out of the plant for the past 19 months, met in Charleston, West Virginia, May 30 to discuss terms of the proposed contract. Voting is taking place by mail and will be tallied June 12. If the pact is approved, Local 5668 members would return to their jobs June 29. The agreement was reached after marathon bargaining sessions throughout May, which followed the shake-up of top management at the end of April and the reopening of negotiations.

owed and a 10 percent after-tax profit-sharing plan. Other terms include a \$1.25-an-hour wage increase over three years, cost-of-living raises, and improved pensions. The company will maintain job restructuring that has been implemented in the plant. According to RAC officials, 1,000 replacement workers have been doing the work formerly done by 1,700 Steelworkers.

Many union members were glad that the company had been forced to settle. But some expressed anger at job eliminations and other contract terms. "We expected more after all we've been through," explained union members Diana Talbert and Carolyn Reed. "If we've won, it's not what we've been fighting for."

Ernie Cobb, a worker with 28 years at RAC, said, "I feel it's a victory even though it's not a good contract. We have to go back and fight the battle inside the plant. We've had 19 months of a real education—an education that didn't come cheap."

LETTERS

Ramona Africa

Ramona Africa was released May 13 from the State Correctional Institute in Muncy, Pennsylvania.

Africa is the only adult who survived the brutal 1985 police bombing of a house belonging to MOVE, an organization in the Black community in Philadelphia. The bombing, which started a fire that eventually destroyed more than 60 adjoining houses, was ordered by then mayor Wilson Goode. Heavy police gunfire prevented five other adults and six children from escaping the flames. They were burned to death.

Arrested immediately upon her escape, Ramona Africa was sentenced to between 16 months and seven years on charges of conspiracy, riot, and assault.

Authorities offered to release her on parole after the first 16 months of her sentence if she would renounce her association with MOVE. Because she refused to give up her right to freedom of speech and association, Ramona Africa was forced to serve out the maximum term of her sentence.

Africa used the wide media attention surrounding her release to demand freedom for 12 other MOVE members who are still in prison.

Nine of the 12 are serving 30 to 100-year sentences on frame-up charges in connection with the 1978 death of Philadelphia policeman James Ramp.

Africa encouraged people to write letters to local, state, and federal officials demanding freedom for the MOVE prisoners.

"We want people to know that this is not an issue of MOVE alone.

It is an issue of injustice. An injustice affects everybody. It is a threat to everybody. I know Rodney King never thought that he would be the victim of the injustice he was," she noted.

Henry Hillenbrand
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Planning to subscribe

I received a sample copy of the Militant newspaper and found it very informative, interesting, and provocative. The articles are local, national and international; and you give a perspective that's usually denied and overlooked in the majority of controlled state media in this country.

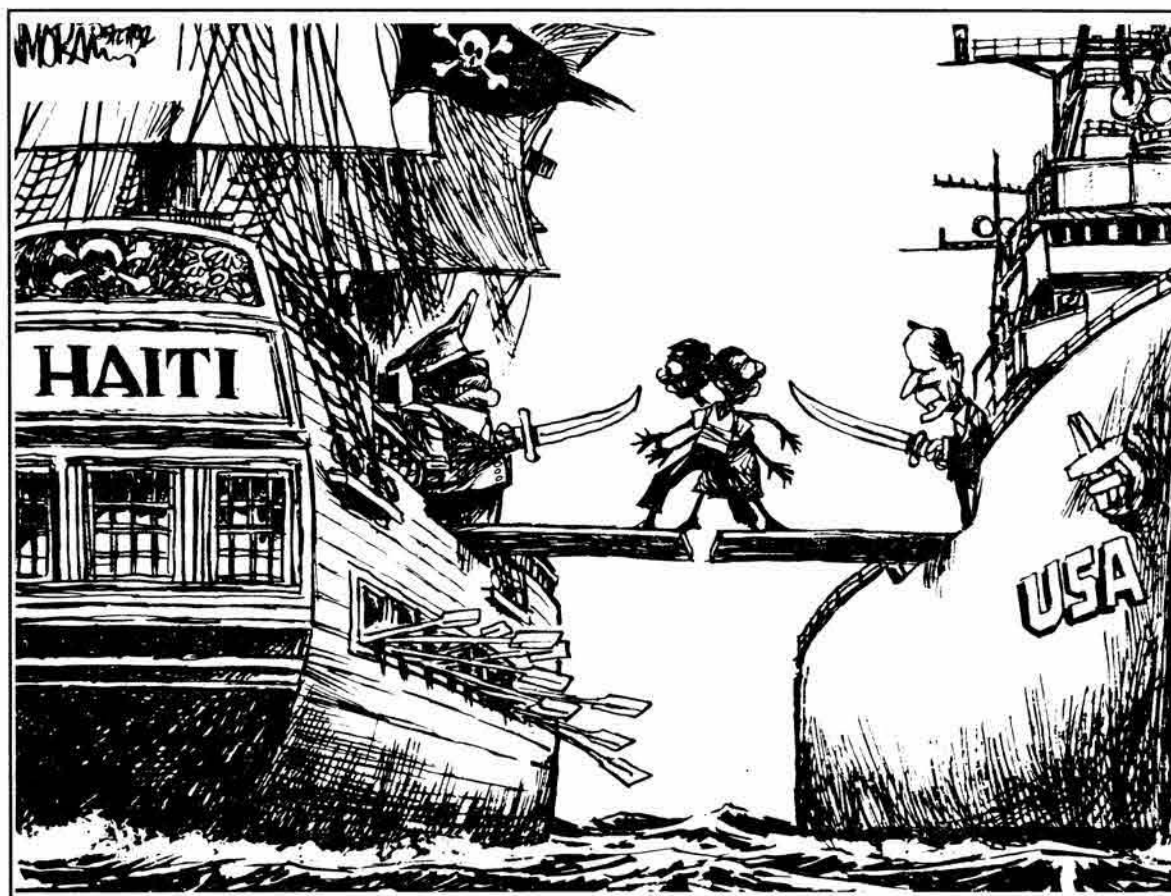
I'm sorry to say we don't even have a library here (or anything else other than cells which they're still building), so I can't ask them to subscribe to your paper. But I have the "discount prisoner subscription form" you sent and will hold on to that until I can subscribe myself. So you can look forward to my subscription hopefully in the near future.

A prisoner
Jessup, Maryland

Iowa cop brutality

A protest of about 25 people against the brutal police beating of John Isley was held May 9 on the courthouse lawn in the Iowa town of Albia. The demonstration was organized by relatives and friends who carried handmade signs. One sign read, "This is not L.A.," in reference to the beating of Black worker Rodney King.

Isley, a 23-year-old unemployed



warehouse worker, was out mushroom hunting when he accidentally splashed some mud on a cop. "The cop then began kicking me," said Isley. "He kneed me in the face and when I looked up I could see another one laughing. I passed out and woke up in a jail cell."

Larry Burk, Isley's stepfather, forced the cops to take him to the hospital. The doctor X-rayed his hand although he complained about head injuries. Isley said the doctor told him, "Looks like you were drunk and fell down," without ask-

ing him any questions about his head injuries. "I was not drunk, and the cops did not even conduct a breathalyzer," he said.

Isley later pleaded guilty May 13 to one count of public intoxication, two counts of criminal mischief, and two counts of interference with official acts.

Monroe County Attorney William Owens said Isley was sentenced to six months in county jail and fined \$100, but was placed on probation. As part of the court proceeding Isley signed a statement releasing officers from

any wrong doing in his arrest, however, County Attorney Owens said he would continue to investigate Isley's arrest.

Maurice Williams
Des Moines, Iowa

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.

Nova Scotia miners vote to join union

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Miners at Curragh Resources Inc.'s Westray coal mine in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, have voted 81 percent in favor of joining the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union.

"This is a big win for humanity," miner Gordon Walsh told the *Militant*. "It makes us unified and stronger."

The unionization vote is the latest development in a political and legal battle against Curragh and the Nova Scotia government by miners and the families of the victims of the terrible explosion that ripped through the Westray mine on May 9. The blast killed all 26 miners who were on shift.

The miners are demanding a full investigation into the May 9 disaster. They want formal recognition of participation at the judicial inquiry that has been established by the Nova Scotia government and to be provided with the necessary legal counsel. They are demanding the same thing for the families of the victims.

To date the government has not responded to their demands.

"Right now there's a lot of uncertainty over our future," said Walsh. "We feel we have no control over what the company or the government does. Without the union we might be overlooked at the inquiry into the explosion at the mine."

Miners expose safety violations

Testimony by Westray miners about horrendous violations of safety conditions in the mine continue to fill newspaper, radio, and television news reports in Nova Scotia. On May 28, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation televised a 40-minute documentary during its prime-time national news broadcast in which miners detailed the safety violations at the mine.

Their testimony describes a mine with excessive methane gas and coal dust accumulations; inadequate methane gas detectors, ventilation, and training; unsafe work procedures underground; and frequent rock falls. Coal dust was ankle-deep or deeper,

said one miner. "It was like walking on the moon."

The documentary also explained how Nova Scotia premier Donald Cameron and Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney — who represented Pictou County in the Canadian parliament in the mid-1980's — successfully lobbied to override the safety concerns about reopening the mines there. Both their governments provided substantial subsidies to the Westray mine, which began production in July 1991.

A federal government study in 1988 made no mention of the long history of methane gas explosions in Pictou County coal mines. Some 250 miners have been killed there in the past century. The United Mineworkers union (UMWA) in Nova Scotia had argued against reopening a mine there. The last Pictou County mine before Westray closed in 1967.

Curragh is pressing ahead to reopen the mine. The company began recalling miners to restore the mine less than two weeks after the explosion. A group of 70 miners pro-

tested this decision, warning that the mine was too unsafe to permit work inside.

The miners also said that restoration work would amount to tampering with the physical evidence of the explosion. They warned that a cover-up of the unsafe conditions that prevailed in the mine was under way. Miners also released an internal company memorandum which detailed procedures for a massive document-shredding operation being undertaken by Curragh.

On May 26, Leroy Legere, the provincial labour minister, announced that the government had received a request from Curragh to permanently seal off the portion of the mine where the explosion and the deaths occurred. Legere said he saw no problem with granting the request.

The following day, a portion of the mine's roof collapsed and there was a large leak of methane gas.

"The mood in Pictou County is changing," Rennie MacDonald, a member of USWA Local 1231 at Trenton Car Works and a vice-president of the New Glasgow and District Labor Council, told the *Militant*. "People are getting more and more angry. Nobody trusts what the company says. Everyone I talk to is saying, 'Cover-up, cover-up.'"

"What people want to know is how in the hell can the company get into the mine, then talk about sealing it or flooding it, before the inquiry or any other independent body has even had a look in there?"

The first official report of the May 9 explosion was released by the government on May 26. It was produced by Donald Mitchell, a Pennsylvania mining engineer hired to advise the government.

Mitchell says there were two explosions that occurred on May 9. A methane gas explosion at one of the mine work faces killed 11 miners working there. The gas explosion then touched off a much larger coal dust explosion that ripped through the rest of the mine and killed the other 15 miners who were working in a different section.

Government: 'typical explosion'

Mitchell, who did not observe the mine himself, then went on to tell reporters, "I would say that, based on what we know today, this is nothing more than a typical explosion where a number of regrettable things all came together."

The report did not address the controversy surrounding the Westray mine's safety record. Curragh received at least four formal warnings by provincial government mine inspectors after the mine went into operation in July 1991 about violations of the provincial Mine Safety Act.

New revelations show that Curragh received important exemptions from the Mine Safety Act after construction of the mine began in 1989. It was exempted from provisions that call for a certified coal examiner to ensure safety at the mine and that require all coal miners to be certified, that is, thoroughly trained.

Joe Parker of Upper Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, told CBC Radio May 17 that when he was hired at Westray he received only an eight-hour classroom training course.

Parker is an experienced hard-rock miner and recalled being surprised at receiving so little training. Like many other Westray workers, he soon quit the job out of fear for his safety.

Collections of money for the families of the dead miners continue to pour into Pictou County. According to Brendon MacIntyre, a member of Local 2501 of the UMWA in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, tens of thousands of dollars have been collected among the several thousand coal miners there who are members of the UMWA. Miners at the Phalen mine at New Waterford contributed \$10,000 at one plant-gate collection.

Roger Annis is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal and works at Alcan Aluminum.

Australia gov't restricts refugee rights



Cambodian refugees facing deportation from Australia participate in protest action. Gerry Hand is the Australian immigration minister. Some 300 boat people from Cambodia and China are being imprisoned in detention centers in Australia.

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — The Labour Party government dealt a blow to democratic rights May 5 when it rushed legislation through Parliament restricting the rights of refugees. The hastily drafted amendments to the Migration Act block legal appeals by people seeking release from detention while their applications for refugee status are being reviewed.

The amendments were introduced and passed less than 48 hours before a federal court was to hear the case of 37 Cambodian refugees who have been imprisoned for two and a half years awaiting an administrative decision on their applications.

The 37 are among some 300 so-called boat people from Cambodia and China incarcerated in detention centers. The prisons are located at Villawood, in Sydney, and at Port Hedland, in Western Australia. The Port Hedland facility has been described as "a concentration camp" by the archbishop of Perth.

In a cynical effort to mask its intentions, the government's amendments set a nine-

month limit on detentions. However, the "clock" is suspended for the period that refugees use the courts to appeal administrative decisions.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Gerald Hand, the minister for immigration, told Parliament that the amendments were "designed to send a clear message to current and future boat arrivals that migration to Australia may not be achieved by simply arriving and expecting to be allowed into the community."

Eve Lester, a lawyer for the 37 refugees, described the government's action to the *Herald* as "a shameful attempt to deprive these people of their fundamental right to court access."

Prominent civil libertarians, and even the government's own human rights commissioner, Brian Burdekin, have spoken out against this violation of due process.

Government officials point to the imperialist-organized Cambodian "peace" plan imposed by the United Nations as evidence that Cambodian refugees no longer have a "genuine" claim. Gareth Evans, Australia's

foreign minister, developed the plan and hundreds of Australian troops are now in Cambodia to help enforce it.

On May 10 activists from the Sydney-based Action Committee for Refugees in Australia organized a protest of 150 outside the Villawood Detention Centre. Cambodian refugees facing imminent deportation participated from behind the barbed-wire-topped fences. Speakers included John Newman, a Labour member of the New South Wales state parliament, along with a city council member from a nearby municipality who emigrated from Vietnam. The action followed a similar one that drew 60 people in April.

That same day 10 Chinese people in a wooden boat were escorted into Darwin Harbour in Northern Territory by government officials. They seek to join relatives living in Darwin. They are being detained at a former leper colony and were given 28 days to file their immigration applications.

The Action Committee called another protest for June 6.